



SPECIAL ELECTION RESOURCES ISSUE – SEPTEMBER 2014

LOOKING AHEAD

**SEPT. 23, 2014
NATIONAL VOTER
REGISTRATION DAY**

LWVFNUC will host registration for the community at Fremont Main Library, Newark Library and Union City Library from 3-7 P.M.

League encourages other civic groups to join in this national drive to register voters. League can provide registration affidavits and other assistance.

Who needs to register to vote?
Newly eligible – those turning 18 and new citizens
Currently registered voters who have moved

Let's change these June Primary Election numbers for Alameda Co:
25.7% turnout with
78% of eligible Alameda Co. residents registered to vote.

Don't let others make important decisions for you!

REGISTER and VOTE!



KICK OFF MEETING

**September 15, 2015
7:00 PM
Fremont Main Library
2400 Stevenson Blvd**

***Guest Speaker
Helen Hutchison
LWVC President***

Helen will cover campaign finance, ballot measure and other election issues of importance to League members and the general public.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



Welcome to the beginning of our 2014-2015 year for League of Women Voters Fremont, Newark, Union City. We're beginning with a very busy and informative month of September.

The first big event is our Kick Off meeting on Monday, September 15, at the Fremont Library. We're so fortunate to have Helen Hutchison, the new President of the League of Women Voters of California as our speaker. She will be open to many questions. Read the article by Miriam Keller for the complete story.

Since so many people vote early by mail-in ballot, September will be the month of many public forums. Ending October 1, our League will have organized and held thirteen candidate and issue forums in the Tri-Cities area. Tremendous thanks to Marilyn Singer, Sets Amann, and Miriam Keller for planning these. An explanation of the state measures will be held later in October.

National Voter Registration is September 23. Our League will be registering voters at the three main libraries in the Tri-Cities. In addition we are helping other community groups in their voter registration activities that day. Read Voter Service VP Mary Miller's article inside.

Be an informed voter. Attend the appropriate forums for where you live.

Sam Neeman and Carolyn Hedgecock

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Candidate Forums for November 4th Election

<p>Friday, September 12 Fremont Council Chamber 25th Assembly 7:00- 7:30 <i>Bob Brunton-Kansen Chu</i> 10th Senate 7:40- 8:10 <i>Peter Kuo-Robert Wieckowski</i> FUSD 8:20- 9:20 <i>Daxesh Choksi-Hiu Ng-Moina Shaiq</i></p>
<p>Thursday, September 25 Union City Council Chamber Union City Council 7:00-8:00 <i>Emily Duncan-Lorrin Ellis-Pat Gacoscos</i> <i>Amit Salwan-Kashmir Singh Shahi</i> Measure KK Pro/Con 8:10-9:00</p>

<p>Friday, September 19 Fremont Council Chamber Ohlone Board 6:45-7:20 <i>Jan Giovannini-Hill-Joseph Lonsdale</i> <i>Garrett Yee</i> 20th Assembly 7:30- 8:00 <i>Jaime Patino-Bill Quirk</i> Fremont Council 8:10-9:30</p>
<p>Tuesday, September 30 Newark Council Chamber Newark Mayor 7:00-7:30 <i>Al Nagy-Ray Rodriquez</i> Newark Council 7:40- 8:30 <i>Mike Bucci-Jack Dane-Mark Gonzales</i> <i>Michael Hannon-Frankie Preciado</i> <i>Elisabeth Reid-Gonzalez-David Rogowski</i> NUSD 8:40-9:30 <i>Elizabeth Brazil-Tom Huynh</i> <i>Nancy Thomas-Christopher Weeks</i></p>

<p>Wednesday, October 1 New Haven Board Room NHUSD 7:00-8:00 <i>Linda Canlas-Sarabjit Kaur Cheema</i> <i>Gwen Estes-Lance Nishihira</i> ACWD 8:10 <i>Judy C. Huang-Paul Sethy-Eric Tsai</i></p>

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Fremont Newark and Union City

Questions for the candidates may be submitted online:
Fremont questions go to singer756@comcast.net
Newark questions go to miriamkel@comcast.net
Union City questions go to setsamann@pacbell.net

SEPTEMBER 23rd - NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Our League, along with AAUW, will participate in National Voter Registration Day and host Voter Registration tables in the TriCities. Volunteers are still needed to staff tables at the Fremont Main, Newark and Union City Libraries from 3pm until 7pm on September 23rd. Several shifts are available. AAUW will host voter registration at the Fremont Family Resource Center that same day. National Voter Registration Day, now in its third year, was initiated by several organizations, including the League of Women Voters, Voto Latino, Nonprofit Vote, the Bus Federation and others to address the mutual concern that in every

election there are people who cannot vote because they did not register. These organizations coordinated efforts to celebrate voter registration and the opportunity to vote by creating National Voter Registration Day. NRVD provides information and resources to local organizations to help them get people registered and understand the voting process. A wealth of information at www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org. Direct any local organizations that you think may want to participate with us in NVRD to Mary Miller at (510) 706-0911 or mmiller1948@gmail.com. Also contact her to volunteer on September 23rd.

How To Evaluate Ballot Propositions

- Examine what the measure seeks to accomplish. Do you agree with those goals? Is the measure seeking changes that are consistent with your ideas about government? Do you think the proposed changes will make things better?
- Who are the real sponsors and opponents of the measure? Check where the money is coming from with Maplight's [VotersEdge](#) campaign finance website.
- Is the measure written well? Will it create conflicts in law that may require court resolution or interpretation? Is it "good government," or will it cause more problems than it will resolve?
- Does the measure create its own revenue source? Does it earmark, restrict or obligate government revenues? If so, weigh the benefit of securing funding for the measure's program against the cost of reducing overall flexibility in the budget.
- Does the measure mandate a government program or service without addressing how it will be funded?
- Does the measure deal with one issue that can be easily decided by a YES or NO vote? Or, is it a complex issue that should be thoroughly examined in the legislative arena?
- If the measure amends the Constitution, consider whether it really belongs in the Constitution. Would a statute accomplish the same purpose? Remember that all constitutional amendments require voter approval: what we put into the Constitution would have to come back to the ballot to be changed.
- Be wary of distortion tactics and commercials that rely on image but tell nothing of substance about the measure. Beware of half truths.





Vote YES on Propositions 2 & 47!

We support [these statewide propositions](#) on the November ballot:

- **Prop 2** takes an important step toward fiscal discipline in our state government. It requires the state to make contributions to its rainy day reserve fund and pay down debts and liabilities when times are good, with increased contributions in years when revenues spike upwards. In bad times, those reserves can be used to reduce cuts in spending on schools, health care, public safety, and other vital services. Prop 2 requires joint action of the Governor and the Legislature to reduce the amount put in or to take money out of the rainy day fund.
- **Prop 47** will ensure that prison spending is focused on violent and serious offenses and will maximize alternatives for non-serious, nonviolent crime. The savings generated will be invested in prevention and support programs in K-12 schools, victim services, and mental health and drug treatment. Prop 47 will change low-level nonviolent crimes such as simple drug possession and petty theft from felonies to misdemeanors; sentences for people convicted of dangerous crimes like rape, murder, and child molestation will not be changed. We believe alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime.

NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT

PROP 1 - Water Bond

The Legislature and Governor have placed this water bond on the ballot, replacing an earlier measure that was numbered Prop 43. We are analyzing Prop 1 and will decide whether to take a position on it.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Propositions 45, 46, and 48, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT BALLOT MEASURES CHECK OUT THESE WEB SITES:

www.SmartVoter.org

www.easyvoterguide.org www.cavotes.org www.seepolitical.com

HOW DOES LEAGUE COME TO A DECISION ABOUT WHICH BALLOT MEASURE TO SUPPORT/OPPOSE/REMAIN NEUTRAL?

The League of Women Voters takes stands on ballot measures based on current program [positions](#) and/or on [League Principles](#). Most League members know about the link between League positions and League decisions on ballot measures. Many forget that League also takes in consideration League Principles. Below is a list of League Principles that apply to every level of League action.

Principles are concepts of government, supported by the League as a whole, which constitute the authorization for adoption of national, state and local Program.

The League of Women Voters believes...

- In representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.
- That democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.
- That responsible government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems which affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy, and adopt domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.
- That efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.
- That cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.
- That every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.

FAQS ABOUT VOTING - MONEY AND POLITICS

editor's note: *information obtained from multiple sources; much of this information reinforces what voters long suspected that money and politics are more intertwined than ever.*

More money is being spent on US politics than ever before

A chart from the Center for Responsive Politics drives home the most salient fact about money in politics: there's more and more of it. This is true for both elections and lobbying. According to the [Center for Responsive Politics](#), which compiled many of the statistics that made this feature possible, total federal election spending in 2012 was over \$6.2 billion — double the \$3 billion spent on the intensely competitive 2000 campaign. Federal lobbying spending has also doubled in the same period. And these are lowball estimates. Political ads airing months before an election that don't expressly advocate a certain vote, and lobbying firms' spending on PR, consulting, and "grassroots" organization, aren't even included in these totals.

0.26% of the population gives 68% of the money

Very few people account for the vast majority of political donations. An infographic from Good Magazine shows that in 2010, only 0.26 percent of the US population — about 800,000 people overall — donated more than \$200 to congressional campaigns. These donors provided more than two-thirds of all donations to those campaigns. So politicians end up reliant on a very tiny group of Americans to fund their campaigns — and that gives those Americans a lot of power over the political system.

Small donors don't add up to very much

The Internet age allows candidates to raise significant sums from small donors. Yet, for presidential

candidates from both major parties, larger contributions remain more important. In 2012, President Obama raised only 28% of his campaign funds from donors who gave less than \$200 overall, and Romney raised merely 12% from those donors. Both candidates got more of their money from donors giving at least \$1,000 — in Romney’s case, much more. Obama got 39% of his funds from those donors, and Romney got 66%.

The most active political givers are very polarized

The biggest political givers tend to be party loyalists. The Sunlight Foundation examined donations from the top 1,000 overall givers to federal campaigns and PACs in 2012, and found that 744 of them gave their money to only Democrats or only Republicans. Of those who did give to both parties, almost none were about equally split — for the vast majority a preference was clear. We can also see in the chart that, of these top donors, most of the largest donors favored Republicans (658 gave more to Republicans, 360 to Democrats, and 2 were even).

How often does the bigger spender win a Congressional race?

Consistently over the past decade, the Congressional candidate who spends the most money is more likely to win the election. But the causality isn’t entirely clear. Most House and Senate races are uncompetitive, and incumbents are reelected easily. Additionally, donors will often give money to the candidate already favored to win, and not to someone they expect to lose. Still, it’s clear that it’s not all that common for little-funded candidates to defeat heavily-funded ones.

The average cost of getting elected to Congress is soaring

As the battle for the Senate in 2014 heats up, it’s worth taking a look at just how much more expensive these races have gotten in recent decades. In the 1980s and ’90s, Senate seat winners spent around \$6 million in average — yet in 2012, the average was above \$10 million. The average cost for a House seat has soared even more, quadrupling since 1986. And these numbers include completely noncompetitive races — the average for competitive seats is actually a good deal higher. Overall, it’s become clear that if you want to get into Congress, you probably need to raise a lot of cash

Sept. 15	Kick Off Meeting	Helen Hutchison, LWVC Pres.
Sept. 22	Board Meeting	7 PM League Office
Oct. 20	Board Meeting	7 PM League Office
Oct. 27	Election issues - General Meeting	Fremont Main Library
Nov. 10	Board Meeting	7 PM League Office
Nov. 17	WATER!!! General Meeting	Fremont Main Library

ACTION GROUP meetings are the 2nd Thursday - held at League Office – 11A.M.-1P.M.
ALL MEETINGS ARE FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WHEEL CHAIR ACCESSIBLE

SAVE THE DATE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 3:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY
SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER AT ONE OF OUR 3 LIBRARIES
CONTACT MARY MILLER

Mission

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

LWVFNUC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of our communities in our membership and actions. We believe diverse views are important for responsible decision making and seek to work with all people and groups who reflect our community diversity.

Join the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY!

Any person, man or woman, who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League may join. To be a voting member, one must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. Members under 18, or non-citizens, are welcome as non-voting Associate Members. Dues include membership in LWVFNUC, Bay Area League, and the California and National Leagues. Financial support for dues is available through our scholarship program. Contact Sets Amann, Membership Chair, for information.

Name (s) _____

New Member Renewal

Transfer from _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

*Please make your check payable to:
LWVFNUC and mail it with this
form to:*

LWVFNUC-MEMBERSHIP

P. O. Box 3218

Fremont, CA 94539

Individual Membership—\$60

Household Membership—\$90

Donation to LWVFNUC

\$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

LWVFNUC
P.O. BOX 3218
FREMONT, CA 94539

