



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

# VOTER



**FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY**

**September 2016**

## Forum Schedule 2016



### Friday, September 16

7:00 P.M. Washington Hosp. Board  
8:00 P.M. Fremont City Council  
Fremont Council Chambers  
3300 Capitol Avenue, Fremont

### Friday, September 23

7:00 P.M. Fremont Mayor  
8:00 P.M. Fremont Unified School Dist.  
Fremont Council Chambers  
3300 Capitol Avenue, Fremont

### Wednesday, October 5

7:00 P.M. Union City Mayor  
7:45 P.M. Union City Council  
Ruggieri Senior Center  
33997 Alvarado-Niles Rd, Union City

### Wednesday, October 12

7:00 P.M. Alameda Co. Water Dist.  
8:00 P.M. New Haven Unified S.D.  
New Haven Administrative Offices  
34200 Alvarado-Niles Rd. Union City

*We need help with timers and pages  
Contact Marilyn Singer at  
singer756@comcast.net*

## Bond Measure Discussion Monday, September 19th

3375 Country Drive, Fremont  
Join us for a discussion  
of the two Bond Measures RR and A1

### 7:00 PM - BART Measure RR

This measure seeks to upgrade the system,  
make it safer and more reliable

### 8:00 PM - Alameda County Measure A1

This measure seeks to provide  
funding for affordable housing in the county.  
Speaker: Dave Brown

Chief of Staff at Alameda County Supervisor Wilma  
Chan

*Come at 6:45 to share refreshments*

*For more information contact:*

*Alex Starr at [apstarr@ix.netcom.com](mailto:apstarr@ix.netcom.com)*

*Miriam Keller at [miriamkel@comcast.net](mailto:miriamkel@comcast.net)*

## Election Related Events

Tuesday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>

National Voter Registration Day  
*LWVFNUC members will be at Union City &  
Fremont BART stations from 4-7 P.M.*

Saturday, October, 1<sup>st</sup>

Fremont Main Library 3-5 P.M.

*What Does the FPCC Do  
During this Election Cycle?*

Speaker: Phillip Ung

Director, Legislative and External Affairs  
Fair Political Practices Commission (FPCC)

*Co-Sponsored by*

*Alameda County Library*

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



### Protect the Right to Vote

The right to vote appears in the Constitution more than any other single right. It is mentioned five times in five different amendments. The freedoms of speech, religion and assembly are all mentioned just once.

Voting is often treated as a privilege, not a right. Laws have proliferated across America which erect hurdles between citizens and the voting booth. They do not respect the arduous road of voting rights throughout our history.

President Johnson warned us that 'every device of which human ingenuity is capable' had been used to deny this right. The Voting Rights Act, which prohibited discrimination in voting passed five months after his words, but Johnson's warning has unfortunately proven prophetic 50 years later.

Seventeen states have new voting restrictions for the 2016 presidential election. Many states enacted these laws after the U.S. Supreme Court's 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*. Early studies of such laws show they more adversely affect people of color, the elderly and people in rural areas. A 2016 study of voter ID laws by the University of California, San Diego found the gap in voter turnout between white and both Latinos and blacks in states requiring voter IDs is twice as large as states without the laws. Nearly one in five citizens over 65, about 8 million, lack a current, government-issued photo ID.

The issues of new voting laws are working through several courts and will find their way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Congress has produced bipartisan bills to restore stronger oversight to the Voting Rights Act, but they have not been given a vote.

As November's presidential election approaches, we must continue to do all we can to ensure that the voting process is fair and accessible. Without regard to our political proclivities, all eligible voters should be able to vote and more people should be encouraged to register and vote. Voting should be easier, not harder. Too many people fought for too many years to have this right.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

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Editor Alex Starr

## *Letter from LWVUS President Chris Carson*

Dear Member,

As I write this, it's mid-August and just plain hot. It's the time of year when people relax and avoid hard work if they can. But the League isn't relaxing as we head into the last stretch of the presidential election frenzy. Leaguers are registering voters, prepping for candidate forums, working on voter guides, engaging exciting partners and posting away on social media. We're all changing the way we do the work of informing and empowering voters, whether it's moving to online registration, increasing our electronic voter information work with VOTE411 or adding more social media content to our efforts. In a huge move, we are thrilled this week share with you news of a major undertaking with Google, which will likely result in tens of millions more people seeing our voters' guide content this year. There will be much more information about this exciting partnership coming, but as a first step, [read the letter sent to state and selected local Leagues this week](#).

Just as we are adopting new ways to engage voters, we're also looking at the way we run the national League to see if there are better, newer ways to make us more effective. In that spirit, the previous board examined how we run the organization and decided that the administrative structure was creaky and possibly holding us back. So the new board took the recommendations given by the previous board and shook up the entire administrative structure to make it more effective in accomplishing our mission. We're knocking down silos, consolidating functions and envisioning how we can work better. One result was a complete

restructuring of Board committees and a decision to invite our members to participate in more and different ways, [including by asking you to serve on LWVUS/EF governing committees](#).

It isn't easy, working differently. The old ways were comfortable. But we believe that the new structure, challenging to us as it is, will result in greater flexibility and ability to accomplish our mission.

And that's the important thing we should all focus on – accomplishing our mission to inform and empower voters. How our League – national, state and local – runs itself while doing that is not our mission. It's oh so comfortable to run meetings, organize projects and communicate the way we have for the past 50 years, simply because that is how it has always been done. And in far too many cases, how we've been doing the administrative 'stuff' has eclipsed the mission itself. When a board meets, how an agenda is constructed, or how committees are structured runs the risk of becoming 'The League Way', and too often we have seen attempts to change dismissed as "un-Leaguelike". This mindset could well be holding your League back in its mission to engage voters in your community. So take some time this month to ask - "Why are we doing this?" "Is there another way?" - And if members step forward and suggest changes, try them. Don't turn them down – or even away – with "NO; that's not the League Way." Empower them, and focus on the voters, to help your League grow and thrive.

Chris

### **The 2016 EdSource Symposium**

**Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Oakland Convention Center from 8:45 AM to 4:00 PM.**

***"Making it Work: Implementing California's New Vision for School Success."***

**Register by going to the EdSource website at**

**<https://edsource.org/2016-edsource-symposium>.**



**CALIFORNIA HEALTH ADVOCATES**  
Medicare: Policy, Advocacy and Education

**Title: Building Your Own Safety Net**

Do you want to “age in place”? Surveys reveal that most Americans want to “age in place,” but what does it mean? And how do we make it happen?

Statistics show that 70% of Americans who reach 65 need long-term care for 3 years (average). What is long-term care? Who pays for long-term care and how much does it cost?

The presentation will discuss long-term care, aging in place as well as health care costs in retirement.

The session is presented by California Health

Advocates, an independent 501(c)(3) organization that provides quality Medicare and related healthcare coverage information, education and policy advocacy. California Health Advocates supports the work of service providers, including HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program), the Medicare benefits counseling program.

**Where: Fremont Main Library  
2400 Stevenson Boulevard  
Fremont, CA 94538**

**When: Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>  
12:00-1:30 pm**

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**How to Evaluate Initiatives**

Who are the real sponsors and opponents of the measure? Investigate the names of groups with which you are not familiar.

Does the measure deal with one issue that can easily be decided by a “yes” or “no”? Or is it a complex issue that should be thoroughly examined in the legislative arena?

Is it well written? Are there conflicts in the measure that may require court resolution or interpretation? Is it “good government” or will it cause more problems than it will resolve?

If the measure amends the State Constitution, consider whether it really belongs in the Constitution. Amending the Constitution is cumbersome and costly and requires a vote of the people. Would a statute accomplish the same purpose?

Does the measure create its own revenue source? Does it earmark, restrict, or obligate a specific percentage of General Funds revenues? Consider the effect on the overall flexibility of the budget?

Examine the measure by its merits. During the campaign, be wary of distortion tactics and commercials that rely on image, but tell nothing of substance about the measure.

Finally, remember you do not have to vote on every issue. If you do not feel comfortable voting on a measure or initiative, then don't. This holds true for candidates also. If you do not feel you know enough about candidates for a specific office, then do not vote for anyone for that office.

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
**RECOMMENDS**  
**November 8, 2016 GENERAL ELECTION**  
**More info: [bit.ly/LWVCBallotRecs](http://bit.ly/LWVCBallotRecs)**

**PROP 51 YES**

**School Bonds: K-12 and Community College**

All California's schoolchildren deserve school facilities in good repair and equipped to provide all students a 21st century education. In a perfect world with adequate funding, we wouldn't need to borrow to build. However, this is not a perfect world, and our facilities needs are massive and require a large infusion of funding. It has been eight years since the last statewide bond measure was passed. Chronic underfunding from the state leaves most public school communities unable to adequately address their needs, increasing the danger of greater disparities among them. Many have passed local bonds but due to insufficient state matching funds, that money remains unspent—a situation this bond measure will help remedy.

**PROP 54 YES**

**California Legislature Transparency Act**

Prop 54 will make our state government more open, honest, and accountable. With this common-sense reform, every bill must be in print and posted online for at least 72 hours before it may pass out of either house—preventing last-minute, closed-door changes. A video recording of every public meeting of the Legislature must be posted online in a timely way. Our democracy is stronger when more people participate, and this measure empowers all people to review, debate, and contribute to the laws that impact us all.

**PROP 55 YES**

**Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act**

Proposition 55 is key in maintaining economic recovery and growth in California by continuing the current income tax rates on the wealthiest two percent of Californians, established by the voters in 2012. That measure, Prop 30, has moved California toward financial stability and adequate funding for education and other services we depend on like health care. Without Prop 55 we will be back to the days of pink slips for teachers, overcrowded classrooms, and community college students waiting years for the classes they need.

**PROP 57 YES**

**Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act**

This measure restores the authority of judges, not prosecutors, to decide if juveniles as young as 14 should be tried in adult court, a right judges had until 2000. The prosecution may file a motion, but the court decides. Proposition 57 will also reduce the state prison population and costs by allowing earlier parole of nonviolent felons, with sentence credits for good behavior and rehabilitation or education. This measure could save tens of millions of dollars.

**PROP 58 YES**

**English Proficiency. Multilingual Education**

Proposition 58 repeals the most restrictive parts of Proposition 227, a 1998 initiative that limited the methods California schools can use to teach English to students who are not native English speakers. This measure addresses the inequity of Prop 227 and frees parents and their schools to provide the best educational opportunities for all California children regardless of their first language. The League opposed Prop 227 nearly 20 years ago and urges your support for this change.

**PROP 59 NO**

**Constitutional Amendment  
Advisory Measure**

Eliminating the corrupting influence of money in our democracy is a vital concern. Unfortunately, this vague, poorly drafted ballot measure is not the solution. A constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United may have appeal as a quick fix, but in reality it is a slow, laborious, costly, and potentially unsuccessful strategy. A poorly written amendment could have significant unintended consequences—not the least of which is squelching actual political speech. Voters deserve a fair election system today, not years or decades from now. Instead of looking to an imagined silver bullet, we need to take broad action now, including fixing our Federal Elections Commission, expanding disclosure laws, overturning California's ban on public financing of elections, and asking a new Supreme Court to revisit the ruling.

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 8!**

## **PROP 62 YES**

### **Justice That Works: Death Penalty Abolition**

Proposition 62 will abolish the death penalty, replacing it with life without possibility of parole. It will ensure time in prison is spent in work, with an increased portion of wages going to restitution to victims' families. Families deserve restitution, not endless legal appeals, and closure through knowing these worst criminals will never be released. California has spent more than \$5 billion to execute 13 people since 1978. Nothing indicates this has been effective in reducing crime, while the risk of executing the innocent remains.

## **PROP 66 NO**

### **Shortening Death Penalty Appeals**

This poorly written measure would greatly increase California's risk of executing an innocent person by shortening the time for appeals and limiting the prisoner's ability to present new evidence of their innocence. Raising significant constitutional issues, this could cause more delays, increase taxpayers' costs, and add layers of bureaucracy. It is estimated the state would need as many as 400 new taxpayer-funded attorneys to meet the demand. The wise choice is NO on 66 and YES on 62 to save costs, provide restitution, and prevent executing innocent people.

## **PROP 63 YES**

### **Safety for All Act**

The facts are sobering. From 2002 to 2013, 38,576 Californians died from gun violence, including 2,258 children. In the U.S., more than 300 Americans are shot each day, more than 80 of them fatally. Prop 63 helps counter those statistics by strengthening background check systems and ensuring that California law enforcement shares data about dangerous people with the FBI. It ensures that dangerous criminals and domestic abusers sell or transfer their firearms after they're convicted. This measure requires businesses that sell ammunition to report lost or stolen ammunition, requires people to notify law enforcement if their guns are lost or stolen, and ensures that people convicted of gun theft are ineligible to own guns.

## **PROP 65 NO**

### **Sowing Confusion about the Plastic Bag Ban**

Don't be confused by this deceptive measure—vote NO. Large players in the plastic bag industry spent millions to put this disingenuous initiative on the ballot, creating a distraction that could thwart California's efforts to rein in plastic bag waste and litter. The plastic bag industry wants to use this measure to damage the hard-won agreement between environmentalists and grocers that made the plastic bag ban possible. This is not about helping fund environmental programs but is simply intended to cause enough voter confusion that the more significant environmental measure, Proposition 67, fails. Don't be confused; Vote NO on 65 and Vote YES on 67.

## **PROP 67 YES**

### **Protect California's Plastic Bag Ban**

The League urges a YES vote on Proposition 67 to retain California's plastic bag ban. The question on a referendum is not intuitive; you are being asked if you want to retain the new law. Vote YES to keep the 2014 statewide law prohibiting single-use carryout bags. These plastic film bags pollute our oceans, pose a deadly threat to marine wildlife, clutter our landscapes, create toxic byproducts when manufactured, and are very difficult to recycle. California grocers and other retailers support the ban, and many cities and counties have local measures that are working. Don't let out-of-state plastic bag industry players stop our progress!

## **PROP 56 NEUTRAL**

### **Cigarette Tax**

Proposition 56 establishes an increased tax on cigarettes, with the money collected from this tax earmarked for health care and tobacco use prevention. The League does not generally support earmarks but is neutral on this measure because of the benefits from reducing smoking and the increased funding for health care.

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*Because League positions do not cover the issues in the following measures, the LWVC is taking no stand on **Prop 52** (State Fees on Hospitals. Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds), **Prop 53** (Revenue Bonds. Statewide*

*Voter Approval), **Prop 60** (Adult Films. Condoms. Health Requirements), **Prop 61** (State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards), and **Prop 64** (Marijuana Legalization).*

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 8!**



## **First Ever U.S. Naturalization Ceremony at the Fremont Main Library**

It used to be that naturalization candidates had to travel to San Francisco to be sworn in as new U.S. citizens. I remember that my own naturalization ceremony was held in the SF Masonic Auditorium, with hundreds of candidates squeezed into one big hall. I could only bring 2 friends with me, because there was very limited space for accommodating friends and relatives of hundreds of new citizens.

This year, on August 2, 2016, all that was changed. The Fremont Main Library became the first ever location in the City of Fremont to host a U.S. Naturalization Ceremony. This special event was sponsored by the U. S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS), and it was held in the Fukaya Room of the Fremont Main Library. It was a simple, dignified ceremony held in a very friendly, intimate, and familiar place....at our very own public library! The 24 new citizens invited their relatives and friends to witness the swearing-in ceremony. Others who came to celebrate this important event included the volunteer instructors who taught the Citizenship/Civics classes, the Library staff who provided support to the Citizenship classes held in the library, the leaders of the Alameda County Library system, members of the League of Women Voters, the USCIS staff members, the Boy Scouts, and even a U.S. Congressman!

The Naturalization Ceremony on August 2, 2016, began at 1:00 pm with the singing of the National Anthem, The Star Spangled Banner. Welcoming remarks were made by the Deputy Director of USCIS, and by the Alameda County Librarian to the 24 naturalization candidates who came from 11 different foreign countries. Then, all 24 candidates stood up, held up their right hands, and took the Oath of

Allegiance to become U.S. citizens. The Oath of Allegiance was administered by the Deputy Director of USCIS.

Congressman Mike Honda, U.S. Representative for California's 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, gave the keynote speech in which he congratulated the new citizens, discussed the importance and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, and the significance of swearing allegiance to the United States. A videotape of President Obama's congratulatory remarks was played, followed by the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance by all attendees at this ceremony. Then, each of the 24 new citizens walked up to the front of the Fukaya Room to receive their individual Certificate of Naturalization from the Deputy Director of USCIS. After concluding remarks by the Deputy Director, a beautiful rendition of "America the Beautiful" was sung by a local artist, and the official Naturalization Ceremony was over.

After the ceremony, besides the delightful refreshments provided by the Fremont Library, there were three separate tables at the back of the Fukaya Room which drew the attention of the 24 new citizens. These 3 tables were staffed by the USCIS representatives, and they provided the new citizens with the opportunity to (1) immediately apply for their U.S. passport, (2) register to vote in the upcoming elections, and (3) update their Social Security information. It was wonderful to see these important services being provided to the new citizens in such a thoughtful, timely, and efficient manner.

Written by Sophia Liu

## September 27, 2016

### National Voter Registration Day

Another chance to register voters and provide voter education!!!  
Join the Fremont Family Resource Center, the Registrar of Voters,  
Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL), and the League  
Fremont Resource Center Pacific Room, H800  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

*The ROV will have touch screen machines, voter registration forms, poll worker information and a mock election between 12-1. Seniors and people with disabilities are encouraged to attend.*

## Calendar

Thurs., Sept 8	Action Group	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Fri., Sept 16	Candidate Forums	Washington Hospital - 7:00 PM Fremont City Council - 8:00 PM Fremont Council Chambers 3300 Capital Avenue, Fremont
Mon., Sept 19	Bond Measure Meeting	Bart Measure RR – 7:00 PM Alameda County Measure A1 – 8:00 PM Meeting Room 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Tues., Sept 20	Board Meeting	6:45 PM League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Fri., Sept 23	Candidate Forums	Fremont Mayor – 7:00 PM Fremont Unified School District – 8:00 PM Fremont Council Chambers 3300 Capital Avenue, Fremont
Tues., Sept 27	Voter Registration Day	4:00 PM to 7:00 PM Fremont BART Station Union City Bart Station
Wed., Oct 5	Candidate Forums	Union City Mayor – 7:00 PM Union City Council – 7:50 PM Ruggieri Senior Center 33997 Alvarado-Niles Rd, Union City
Wed., Oct 12	Candidate Forums	Alameda County Water District – 7:00 PM New Haven School District - 8:10 PM New Haven Admin Offices 34200 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City
Thurs., Oct 13	Action Group	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Monday Oct 17	Board Meeting	6:45 PM League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fremont



**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 Evelyn La Torre, Membership Chair, for information.

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

New Member       Renewal  
 Transfer from \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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***OR GO ONLINE AT LWVFNUC.ORG!***

*LWVFNUC is a 501 (c) (3) Organization. Please make your check payable to: LWVFNUC and mail it with this form to:*

LWVFNUC-MEMBERSHIP  
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Fremont, CA 94539

Individual Membership—\$60  
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Donation      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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