



Vol. XXVI No. IX

The Palo Alto *VOTER*

The League of Women Voters of Palo Alto

August 2012

Lunch with the League: Palo Alto Happenings

Ray Bacchetti: Recommendations of the Palo Alto Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission

Friday, August 17, 11:45 am to 1:00 pm

More info on page 3.



Join us for LWVPA's

Annual Summer Social!

Professor Barbara Babcock

Judge John Crown Professor of Law, Emerita, Stanford Law School, and author of

Woman Lawyer

*The Trials of Clara Foltz**

will speak about Clara Foltz and suffrage in California

Thursday, August 23, 7 - 9 pm

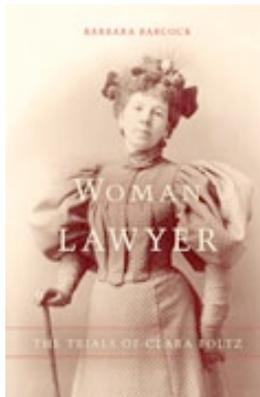
Garden Court Hotel

520 Cowper Street, Palo Alto

Bring a friend to enjoy this fascinating talk, summertime desserts and good conversation!

RSVP to lwvpaoffice@gmail.com or 327-9148

*Some copies, autographed by Professor Babcock, will be available for sale!



Save the Date - Tuesday, September 11, 7 - 9 pm

for our Fall Kick-Off - a Double Feature with

Barry Garner, Registrar of Voters for Santa Clara County and

a LWVPA Education Committee presentation on the two education tax initiatives on the November ballot.

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The League is a broadly based, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and involved participation in government through voter service, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Message from our President



Every two years the LWVUS holds a convention, and each Presidential Election year the convention is in Washington, D. C. The theme this June was **“Power the Vote: Imagine, Commit, Act!”** There were delegates from 45 states plus the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands. There were 25 caucuses and more than 15 hours of plenary sessions, plus delegate briefings and numerous workshops. There were three major speakers whom I highlight in a separate article on pages 6 and 7. And, for fun we packed the plenary room for an evening of hilarity by The Capitol Steps: “Political Satire At Its Best” that was a fundraiser for the local hosting leagues.

I want to bring home the theme of the convention to Palo Alto. **We, the League here in Palo Alto, need to “Power the Vote: Imagine, Commit, Act!” There will be City Council Candidates Forums, a School Board Candidates Forum, many Pro and Con Presentations, and Voter Registration drives to fulfill our mission of engaging the voters in informed and active participation in government.**

The Board needs your help as we cannot do it alone. We need many members to volunteer beginning in September for this busy election year. We will train speakers in the Pros and Cons of 12 ballot measures. We will need your help at candidates forums, to hand out and collect cards, to be question sorters, timers, moderators, and greeters. We need members to register veterans at local hospitals and high school seniors who have turned 18 over the summer. Your board will be fully participating in all Voter Service activities, but **we need you, too.**

Please call the League office at 327-9148 and leave us a message about how you can imagine, commit and act this fall to Power the Vote. If you don’t call us, we will call you.

Mary Alice Thornton

We Need You!

Eleven ballot measures and counting! That's what's ahead for our November ballots. The League receives many requests from community organizations to present the **Pros and Cons on those ballot measures.** As Mary Alice says above, **we NEED speakers in order to fulfill those requests and maintain the reputation of the League.**

Will you join our Speakers Bureau? We will have a training session and provide all the information you need. New people will be paired with "veterans" or if you're shy, just come and learn more about it.

For more information, call the League office, 327-9148, and leave a message for Veronica or email us at lwvpaoffice@gmail.com - subject: Speakers.

Submitted by Veronica Tincher



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Join us for the **FIRST**

Lunch with the League: Palo Alto Happenings

Friday, August 17, 11:45 am to 1:00 pm

at Doris Peterson's home

\$10.00 for lunch

Recommendations of the Palo Alto Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission

Ray Bacchetti, Co-chair of the Palo Alto Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission

Some of these recommendations are controversial, like returning Cubberley Community Center to the school district to avoid the costs of maintenance, and some are physically hard to do, like moving the Municipal Service Center. It all costs lots of money.

Gather at 11:45 am; at 12:00 noon, eat and listen.

The talk will be about 20 minutes. The remainder of the time will be for questions.

As something new for our League, the Board has decided to offer a simple "lunch and talk" with a variety of community leaders, in an informal setting, to learn about the important issues affecting Palo Alto. The goal is to keep the meeting simple. Lunch will be purchased and served buffet. You may bring your own lunch if you prefer.

Come join us as we try something new. We will try to meet once a month, likely the third Friday. Adjustments to time and venue may need to be made. **Join us on August 17 at 11:45 am for our first meeting.** Please RSVP to lwvpaoffice@gmail.com or 327-9148.

Submitted by Phyllis Cassel

Education Tax Initiatives Qualify for the November Ballot as California Sinks to 47th in Per Pupil Spending!



The question: "How Did
We Get Here?"

The **LWVPA Education Committee** is preparing a PowerPoint presentation on the two education tax initiatives along with background information on how education is funded in California.

- Temporary Taxes to Fund Education. Guaranteed Local Public Safety Funding (aka Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012) is supported by Governor Brown and the California Federation of Teachers (**Proposition 30**)
- Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs (aka Our Children, Our Future: Local School and Early Education Investment and Bond Debt Reduction Act) supported by Mollie Munger and the California PTA (**Proposition 38**)

The Education Committee plans to offer this 30-minute presentation to Leagues and community groups throughout the area during the months of September and October. If you are interested in arranging for a presentation, please contact: Carole Stein at 223-7071 or steingroup89@gmail.com or Liz Russell at 326-2260 or efrussell@gmail.com



Professor Barbara Babcock

Judge John Crown Professor
of Law, Emerita, Stanford Law
School,
to speak at our Summer
Social, August 23, 7 pm

The first woman appointed to the regular faculty, as well as the first to hold an endowed chair and the first emerita at Stanford Law School, Barbara Babcock is the author of *Woman Lawyer: The Trials of Clara Foltz*, published in 2011 by the Stanford Press. The book has notes and indexes online with extensive materials on early women lawyers at the Women's Legal History website: <http://wlh.law.stanford.edu/>.

In addition to her pioneering research on women in the legal profession, Babcock is also an expert in criminal and civil procedure and has taught courses and published in both fields. Before joining the Stanford faculty in 1972, she served as the first director of the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia. On leave from Stanford, she was assistant attorney general for the Civil Division in the U.S. Department of Justice in the Carter administration. Professor Babcock is a distinguished teacher, being a four-time winner of the John Bingham Hurlbut Award for Excellence in Teaching at Stanford Law School. Upon her graduation from law school, she clerked for Judge Henry Edgerton of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and worked for the noted criminal defense attorney, Edward Bennett Williams.

June and July Board Meeting Summaries

At its June meeting, the board took the following actions:

- Accepted the May minutes with amendments, the special meeting minutes of May 12 and the Treasurer's Report.
- Elected a Permanent Emergency Action Committee.
- Ratified EAC approval of a letter to Palo Alto Planning and Transportation Commission on the Housing Element.
- Ratified EAC approval of LWVPA co-sponsorship of "Just" California event at Beth Am.

The Board also learned that

- The top 3 priorities for LWVC are fund-raising, leadership development and multi-age levels of communication, as presented at the May LWVC Leaders Council in Sacramento.
- The date for Board Retreat will be Saturday, July 21.
- Plans for the Summer Social and for the September Kickoff are underway.
- The Castilleja High School Voter Registration and citizenship presentation was very successful.
- The Education Committee is working on a presentation on the two ballot initiatives on the state budget and education.
- The membership renewal mailing went out on June 1.
- Publicity will be needed for League upcoming events and voter service events in the fall.



Submitted by Bonnie Packer for Gretchen Hillard

At its July meeting, the board took the following actions:

- Accepted the June minutes with amendments and the Treasurer's Report.
- Appointed a committee to set the agenda for the Board and Off-Board Retreat to be held July 21.

The Board also learned that

- The delegates to the LWVUS convention had a very stimulating and educational experience.
- The Education Committee is refining its PowerPoint on the two school financing initiatives on the November ballot and will present this at the Fall Kick-Off event.
- Voter Service is beginning to plan its activities for the November election and needs volunteers.
- In mid-July, Veronica Tincher and Bonnie Packer will talk with high school students in the Palo Alto Housing Corporation Resident Services program, Digital Leaders, on civic responsibility and engagement.
- Plans for the Summer Social are on track.
- Barry Garner, Registrar of Voters, Santa Clara County will speak at the Fall Kick-Off on September 11.
- A date has been set for the first "Lunch with the League" on August 17.
- As of July 3, 120 members had sent in their renewals.

Submitted by Veronica Tincher, acting secretary

Rosalie Dinkey

April 27, 1928 - May 29, 2012

At the Celebration of Ro Dinkey's life on June 23, Mary Alice Thornton shared our League's memories of Ro:

It is my privilege to honor and remember more than 50 years of service by Rosalie Dinkey to our League, including a two-year term as our President from 1987 to 1989. Ro joined the LWVPA in 1963 and she was awarded a Life Membership for her many years of outstanding leadership and service.

Because I am a newer, 16-year member of the League, I did some calling around to talk with longer-term former Presidents. They are the ones that deserve to be up here speaking of their fond memories of Ro.

Geri Stewart remembers Ro as a very intelligent and independent thinker who asked BIG questions. Ro was a dedicated participant in the League process of thorough studies of issues before we reached consensus on a position. Geri remembers the League National Convention in San Francisco in 1976. The big issue was "Should we open the membership to men?" This issue had failed four years earlier because many women were afraid that the men would take over if they were allowed to join. You can be certain that Ro and Geri knew better! The nine Bay Area Leagues led the charge to bring it to the Convention floor again. After at least two caucuses it was time to vote and it passed and the Bay Area Leaguers went bananas! The National President, Lucy Benson, called her husband from the stage and informed him that he had the honor of being the first male member of the League.

Nancy Olson remembers Ro Dinkey as one of the early members of the League whom she met in 1973. Ro and Nancy served on a couple of committees and became good friends. Nancy recalls that Ro was dedicated to the League because of its non-partisan stance and thorough studies. Nancy and Ro served on the Baylands Study and both were very proud of the results. Because of Ro's attention to detail she was an excellent proofreader. And, she served for 7 years as our Membership Records guru before we had computers and databases. Nancy was our Membership Director, so she and Ro served as a hand-in-glove team. Ro always had a great sense of humor whether they were at work or play.

Sally Probst remembers when she was beginning her first term as President from 1994 to 1996. Ro

Continued on page 5

Annual Meeting featured Marian Lee on Caltrain Electrification

At our Annual Meeting on May 12, we gathered to adopt our Program for 2012, to vote on the budget for 2012-13, and to elect our Board. The new roster is on page 2 and we elected our newest Board member, Chris Logan. We also honored Marilyn Wiebenson as a Life member.

We were treated to an excellent talk by **Marian Lee, Director of the Caltrain Modernization Program.**

Ms. Lee addressed the Caltrain plan to electrify this commuter rail system which carries 45,000 riders per day through three counties. Electrification is greener; it uses lighter-weight trains; and it allows for more trains, thus providing more service. More trains means more revenue from more fares - so Caltrain can become more financially sound. Caltrain needs \$1.5B for electrification and Ms. Lee

hoped that a partnership with High Speed Rail (HSR) to use a blended two-track system would allow

Caltrain to realize its electrification project. A blended system would allow 6 Caltrains per hour and either 2 or 4 (using passing tracks) HSR trains.

[*Editor's note:* Since Ms. Lee's talk, the California legislature voted to fund HSR and the electrification of Caltrain!]

Thanks to **Luise Maier, Liza Taft, Doris Petersen, Phyllis Cassel, Bonnie Packer, Trina Lovercheck, and Rosalie Lefkowitz** for all their work in making the Annual Meeting a great success, to **Dave Thornton**

for his wonderful photographs, and to **Mary Alice Thornton** for running the meeting so well!

Submitted by Bonnie Packer



Your LWVPA Board from left to right: Chris Logan, Veronica Tincher, Liza Taft, Mary Alice Thornton, Trina Lovercheck, Bonnie Packer, Gretchen Hillard, Doris Petersen and Phyllis Cassel. (Betty Gerard is not shown)

Welcome Chris Logan to our Board!



Chris Logan, Membership Chair, is our newest Board member, but she is not new to the League. Chris has decades of League leadership experience having served as President of the LWV in Kansas City, Missouri, in the early eighties. Chris was also on the leadership committee that brought the Reagan/ Mondale Debate to Kansas City in 1984. Chris remembers, "Planning and coordinating the debate was the opportunity of a lifetime. As a volunteer, I was able to be part of the team of local leaders, national leaders and the media to bring the spotlight to Kansas City in a very special way.

Hosting a live TV broadcast with 2000 guests and an additional 2000 media reps was unique to say the least!"

The Logan family relocated to Palo Alto in 1991 when Dan was hired as the Executive Director of the Palo Alto Family Y. The family has been active in community activities including Leadership Palo Alto/Midpeninsula, Grace Lutheran Church, the Y and school activities. Both of the Logan children graduated from Gunn High School.

Chris retired in 2011 after 35 years in education and nonprofit fund raising. Her most recent job was as the Major Gifts and Planned Giving Officer for Abilities United (formerly CAR) where she had been for 10 years. She and Dan enjoy traveling and entertaining. They also participate in many Continuing Education Programs at Stanford. Chris observed, "The League will give me an opportunity to keep learning and provide me with an opportunity to take action at the local, state, and national level."

Ro Dinkey, continued

organized a lovely luncheon of former Presidents to kick off Sally's term. Sally said that luncheon was so helpful and so wonderful of Ro to do such a thoughtful thing. This was so characteristic of Ro's generous spirit. When driving became more of a challenge, Ro continued to drive, and Sally remembers that Ro made right turns only, because it was safer. Ro continued to attend League events even when others had to do the driving.

Veronica Tincher said when she met Ro she was deep into the old Mac computer and Ro was the computer guru for the League. She kept track of the Membership and League-a-thon records and faithfully kept everything up to date. Veronica remembers Ro as a former Treasurer, and Ro continued as an alternate signer for checks and always filled in when the Treasurer went out of town. Yes, we do manage to go on trips.

I remember Ro with a twinkle in her eye and a smile on her face. I never heard her complain about any of her physical challenges. We are so very thankful of Ro Dinkey's many years of leadership and service to the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto.

LWVUS 2012 Convention: Power The Vote!



In June, three of us were your delegates at the LWVUS 50th National Convention in Washington, D.C. These are my impressions of this, my third national convention. All League conventions I have attended, both state and national, have always been stimulating and powerful. This convention was different in a very positive way. While other conventions are often marked with thought provoking controversy as different League groups lobby and caucus seeking delegates' votes for a particular position, program, or resolution, this convention was more subdued in that respect. Replacing that kind of energy was a more powerful and focussed direction aimed at dealing with serious national problems of voter suppression laws and the fallout of the *Citizens United* decision. I was impressed with the energy and success of other Leagues in addressing these issues. I am immensely proud to be a part of the League.

I was also impressed by the re-launching of the Leadership Fund as the **Fund for Local League Growth**, which solely supports the Membership and Leadership Development Program. We raised more than twice the amount of the LWVUS board's original goal to develop stronger Leagues throughout the country.

Below are articles from your other two delegates. Be sure to go to the LWVUS website for more information on **Power the Vote!** <http://library.lwv.org/events-series/convention-2012>. *Submitted by Bonnie Packer*

At the LWVUS 2012 Convention

"Power the Vote" was the theme during the four days, June 9-12, of the LWVUS Convention in Washington, D.C., including workshops, caucuses, speakers, panel discussions, and in the adoption of our Program for the next biennium. In addition to the new education and privatization positions, the following were included in the National Program:

LWVUS Board recommended a comprehensive program to educate members and communities on the issue of **campaign finance** in order to inform our education and legislative efforts as needed:

Resolved: we, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2012 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for all appropriate, duly-considered measures which may include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which: are consistent with our current position on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters.

POWER THE VOTE
IMAGINE, COMMIT, ACT!

A concurrence with the **Sentencing Policy** position of the LWVDC as follows: The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

An update/study of the LWVUS **agricultural position**, approved in 1988 was adopted. Such a review would investigate genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process, and the consumer's right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling.

I attended several **workshops**. One was on continuing the efforts of the LWVUS to promote, based on our position, single payer universal health care, known as "Medicare for All." We were encouraged to use online resources for health care education and advocacy and join the LWVUS listserv on health care. I also attended a workshop on "Power the Vote," and the Federal Role in Public Education Caucus that was held after the new Education Position was adopted by the convention. Eighty-two delegates attended the caucus expressing enthusiasm for action on the position, especially in the area of early childhood education

Submitted by Doris Petersen

Highlights from three LWVUS Convention Speakers

Eleanor Holmes Norton, D. C. Delegate to the U. S. Congress, made a plea for **Home Rule for the District of Columbia** so they can vote for President and have a Representative in Congress. They want to be self-governing and have control over their own budget. They do not want to be shut down when the Federal Government shuts down, and this past Congressional year it was past midnight when an agreement was reached to keep the shutdown from happening. She invoked us to email our representatives and senators to allow D. C. to be self-governing. If you believe the citizens of Washington, D. C., should have the rights of other American citizens then email your representative in Congress today.

Go to <http://library.lwv.org/events-series/convention-2012> for videos of Norton, Jamieson, and Holder's speeches.

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Professor of Communication, University of Pennsylvania, said that in this election year, more than ever, **we need a vigilant electorate that checks the facts**. The battleground states will be inundated with third-party advertising funded by Super PACs. But she pointed out that broadcast stations do not have to accept ads that contain deception and untruths. For help in deciphering ads go to <http://www.flackcheck.org/> for more information on deceptive advertising; it uses parody and humor to debunk false political advertising, poke fun at extreme language, and hold the media accountable for their reporting. You may also go to <http://www.factcheck.org/>, also sponsored by the Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania. Radio and TV Station managers need to hear from us if we see or hear something deceptive, and thank stations that are tracking deceptive ads.

Attorney General Eric Holder thanked the League for our history of 92 years of fighting for voting rights for all American citizens. He highlighted three areas where public support will be crucial in driving progress – and advancing much-needed reforms. The first involves **deceptive election practices** – and dishonest efforts to prevent certain voters from casting their ballots.

The second area for reform is the **need for neutrality in redistricting efforts**. Districts should be drawn to promote fair and effective representation for all – not merely to undercut electoral competition and protect incumbents. If we allow only those who hold elected office to select their constituents – instead of enabling voters to choose their representatives – the strength and legitimacy of our democracy will suffer.

One final area for reform that merits our **strongest support** is the growing effort – which is already underway in several states – to **modernize voter registration**. Today, the single biggest barrier to voting in this country is our antiquated registration system. Holder believes these modernization efforts would not only improve the integrity of our elections, they would also save precious taxpayer dollars.

Submitted by Mary Alice Thornton

Voter ID Laws = Voter Suppression

By Helen Hutchison, LWVC Second Vice President for Program and Advocacy



The LWV is all about voting: encouraging voting, educating voters, helping people make their voices heard by voting. We educate and advocate about voting. Then why do we protest so loudly about voter ID laws? Because these laws are a form of voter suppression; they are a solution to a problem that doesn't exist.

Supporters of voter ID laws point to charges of voter impersonation or voter fraud. The facts simply do not support this charge. Despite many allegations and frequent careful examinations of voting records and patterns, **little or no evidence of voter fraud has been found**. When studies are done, they consistently point at vote by mail (absentee) voting as the place where most voter fraud might occur. Voter ID laws deal only with voters at the polls, and not vote by mail voting.

What has been shown, repeatedly, is that **voter ID laws reduce access to voting** and do this disproportionately among the elderly, students, women, people with disabilities, low-income people, and people of color. In a study commissioned by the Brennan Center for Justice, eleven percent of those surveyed did not have a government-issued ID that would be required for voting. Using census data, this means approximately 21 million otherwise qualified voters who would be turned away at the polls. Of these 21 million:

- more than 70 percent are women

- over one-third are seniors
- approximately 20 percent are between 18 and 24 years old.

Even among those with a government-issued ID, many do not have an ID that shows their current address. This is even more likely among those who earn lower incomes and young people, regardless of income level, because they tend to move more frequently than average.

These same groups of people—women, the elderly, students, people with disabilities, low-income people, and people of color—also are more likely to have difficulty obtaining the required photo ID to be able to vote. They may not have the required back-up documents, and they may have more difficulty taking time off work during business hours, getting transportation to the government offices that issue the IDs, and finding the money to pay the application fees.

Voting is a fundamental right. The League of Women Voters stands with those who protect access to voting rather than those who would disenfranchise eligible voters. **The impact of voter ID laws is to restrict voting, especially among certain groups of voters.** We do not need to protect ourselves against a problem that doesn't exist. **We do need to ensure that the greatest number of people possible is offered the chance to exercise their right to vote.**

For more information on voter ID laws: Project Vote: www.projectvote.org; The Brennan Center for Justice: www.brennancenter.org; LWV Minnesota: www.lwvminn.org



Advocacy Report

Palo Alto

The long awaited update of the **Housing Element** and its technical documents reached **City Council** on July 9. LWVPA submitted a letter to City Council stating that the Housing Element should be designed to zone for a balance of housing units that will welcome a range of household types into our community. We expressed our concern about the attempts to design a Housing Element that would allow as few children as possible to live in new housing units built in this city. Ironically, we do need to zone for smaller housing units to meet the needs of the many small households that wish to live here and I think creative incentives and regulations are needed to make that possible. The draft Housing Element was reluctantly approved by the City Council on July 9, and next it goes to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for review. The EIR must still be completed, and the HCD will likely make comments that will require adjustments. Final approval is expected next spring.



In response to a LWVUS action alert, our League sent letters to both Senators Feinstein and Boxer and House Representative Eshoo in support of their respective **National DISCLOSE Act bills**.

California

The LWVC has been supporting passage of the **DISCLOSE Act** which is sponsored by the Clean Money Campaign. Trudy Shaffer, our LWVC lobbyist, testified at the Assembly Appropriations Committee hearing. The bill passed out of committee but unfortunately has not yet made it to the floor of the Assembly. It needs a two-thirds vote to pass and avoid being placed on the ballot. It needs a majority vote to be placed on the 2014 ballot without a petition campaign. It needs to go to the floor of the Assembly for any vote to happen at all. **Please call or e-mail Speaker John Perez and ask him to support this bill. Please call your friends and relatives in Republican districts and have them call their Assembly members to support this bill.**

National



The LWVUS has been busy, busy, busy with advocacy issues. Besides health care, they have been supporting the **EPA rules for clean air**, fighting voter suppression laws and other restrictive voter registration laws in conjunction with State Leagues. Following the

Citizens United Supreme Court decision they are supporting the **National DISCLOSE Act bills**. LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara was a guest on *MSNBC PoliticsNation* on June 1 to talk about voter suppression.

The LWVUS issued a press release after the U.S. Supreme Court decision on the **Affordable Care Act** stating: "Upholding the ACA brings our nation closer to the goals of this law: to provide universal health care for all Americans. There are still threats to these critical reforms and the League will continue its work fighting for progress on many fronts."

Hours after the favorable Health Care decision, an **Arizona Voter Registration law** requiring documentary proof-of-citizenship was blocked by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Gonzalez v. Arizona*. It was found to be in violation of the National Voter Registration Act. The LWV Arizona was a plaintiff and the LWVUS had filed an *amicus curiae* brief.

Noted in the June 2012 *LeagueVoice* was this report:

"League Challenges Illegal Purge: The Florida League, with the LWVUS and the Brennan Center, filed this [amicus brief](#) in support of the U.S. Department of Justice suit **challenging the illegal and inaccurate voter purge initiated by the state of Florida**. Since the state of Florida promised to stop the program, the judge did not issue a restraining order. The Florida League and Brennan Center also sent this [letter to the FL Secretary of State](#) outlining in greater depth the problems with Florida's illegal systematic purge program." [Editor's Note: Please see the LWVC article on Voter Suppression on page 7.]



Over two months ago, LWVUS began imploring members to submit comments to the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** in support of their proposed regulation to limit carbon pollution from new power plants. They reached nearly a million comments within two weeks, then surpassed a million, and then surpassed TWO million!

In this day of blogs, Facebook, Twitter, e-mail and e-newsletters it is hard to know if the LWVUS is doing more or if its activities are being reported better. Either way, this is a particularly busy season, especially as we are actively fighting various kinds of restrictions on voter registration and participation, as well as some of our usual issue advocacy.

Submitted by Phyllis Cassel, Advocacy Chair

The **VOTER** welcomes articles from you. Please submit them to: lwvpaoffice@gmail.com or bbpucker@comcast.net. **The deadline for the September VOTER is August 22!**

Thank You!

Thanks to **Charlotte Epstein, Deborah Martin, Bonnie Packer and Doris Petersen** for donating to LWVPA their pay for working for the Registrar of Voters for the June 5 primary election.

**Welcome New Member
Patricia Trumbull**

We are delighted that you have joined our League!



Thanks to **Mitzi Henderson** for organizing the **Channing House mailing party** for the June/July *VOTER* and to **Isabel Arabian, Jean Colby, Janet Creelman,**

Mitzi Henderson and Leila Shohet for helping fold and seal that issue.

Also thanks to all the Board and off-Board members who reviewed this *VOTER* and a special thanks to **Ellen Forbes, Betty Gerard, Sally Probst, Alice Smith and Trina Lovercheck** for their extra careful and invaluable proofreading.

Submitted by Bonnie Packer, VOTER editor



**Have you sent in your dues renewal yet?
Do it now!**

Please be sure to update information about your address, phone number and email address *for the new 2012-2013 membership handbook.*

Please send your renewal check and statement to the League office as early as possible but certainly by **August 15** so you will be current in the new membership handbook. **There is no increase in the dues this year.**

Thank you!

Chris Logan, Membership Chair

The LWVPA Book Club's next selection is

"Voyage of the Turtle: In Pursuit of the Earth's Last Dinosaur"



by environmentalist and biologist **Carl Safina**. It is an intriguing story about the revival of sea turtles.

The meeting will be **Friday, September 21**, 10 am, at the home of Doris Petersen, 1803 Edgewood Drive, Palo Alto.

The Peninsula Chapter of the World Affairs Council invites LWVPA

members to its

**Kickoff on Sunday,
September 23**



Karl Eikenberry, former military commander and Ambassador to Afghanistan.

For more information on time, cost and location, call Carol Stevens 494-0757

Thanks to **Chris Logan, Ellen Forbes, Betty Gerard, Bonnie Packer, Janet Peacock, Pat Saffir and Mary Alice Thornton** for helping us get out our membership renewal mailing on June 1.

Submitted by Chris Logan, Membership Chair



It's easy to join the LWVPA —Do it now! You will be glad you did.

Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels:

National, State, Bay Area and Palo Alto.

Men are encouraged to join. Dues grants are available.

For more information, call the League office (650) 327-9148.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____ email _____

Annual membership: \$70. Additional membership, same address: \$35. Student membership: \$35.

Mail check with this form to LWVPA, 953 Industrial Ave., Suite 113, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Membership dues to the LWVPA are not tax deductible.

League of Women Voters of Palo Alto
953 Industrial Avenue, Suite 113
Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 327-9148

Address Services Requested

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How to contact your elected officials:

UNITED STATES

President Obama (202) 456-1414
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/>

Senator Feinstein (415) 393-0707
<http://feinstein.senate.gov> - click "email me"

Senator Boxer (415) 403-0100
<http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/email/policy.cfm>

Rep. Anna Eshoo (650) 323-2984
<http://eshoo.house.gov/>

CALIFORNIA

Governor Jerry Brown (916) 445-2841
<http://gov.ca.gov/interact>

Senator Joe Simitian (650) 688-6384
<http://www.sensorsimitian.com/main/contact>

Assemblyman Rich Gordon (650) 691-2121
<http://asmcd.org/members/a21/>

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Supervisor Liz Kniss (650) 965-8737
liz.kniss@bos.sccgov.org

LWVC GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT

Locate your elected officials with your street address
<http://www.guidetogovernment.org/>

CALENDAR

Sat, July 21, 9 am - 2 pm
Board Retreat
Moldaw

Tue, Aug 7, 7 - 9:30 pm
LWVPA Board Meeting
Petersen

Fri, Aug 17, 11:45 am - 1 pm
Lunch with the League
Petersen

Wed, Aug 22, noon
VOTER Deadline

Thu, Aug 23, 7 - 9 pm
Summer Social
Garden Court Hotel

Tue, Sept 4, 7 - 9:30 pm
Board Meeting
Hillard

Wed, Sept 5, noon
VOTER Deadline

Tue, Sept 11, 7 - 9 pm
Fall Kick Off
Location TBD

Fri, Sept 21, 10 am
Book Group
Petersen

Tue, Oct 2, 7 - 9:30 pm
Board Meeting
Petersen

Tue, Nov 6
ELECTION DAY

Wed, Nov 7, 7 - 9:30 pm
Board Meeting
Thornton

Tue, Dec 4, 7 - 9:30 pm
Board Meeting
Packer