

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA



VOTER DECEMBER, 2009

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* BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY, SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2010

Attached separately is the updated flier for BALD. Feel free to use it in your Voters and urge your members to send in reservations.

* INFORMATION ABOUT NEW STATE WATER PLAN

While the LWVC was not actively involved in lobbying on the latest round of water legislation, members of the LWVC legislation team continued to monitor the major package of bills that passed the state legislature late last month. The Governor signed the four policy bills and an \$11 billion bond act in press conferences around the state. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has published summary at www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/. The LWVC will analyze the bond measure and consider action on it as it goes before the voters in 2010. If you want updates you can subscribe to a weekly newsletter at http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/docs/enews/2009/cwp_e-news111809.pdf.

Linda Craig, Regional Government, Land Use Chair

* HOST A PRESENTATION ON AIR QUALITY

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District provides air quality-related presentations to community, civic, educational, and health-based groups. Local Leagues interested in presentations on local air pollution, climate change, sparing the air, and environmental stewardship are encouraged to contact Jim Smith at (415) 749-4631 or jsmith@baaqmd.gov for more information.

* AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATES

As a result of the economic downturn, for-profit developers have mostly withdrawn from new projects in the Bay Area. However, non-profit developers and redevelopment projects continue to be active. Recent examples are projects in Fremont, San Leandro, San Bruno and recently approved in Palo Alto to mention a few. Many cities have turned to foreclosure prevention programs and housing rehabilitation projects in an effort to maintain affordable housing for their residents.

Most of the cities have submitted their Housing Element Proposals to the State for certification. Those cities missing the June deadline have applied for extensions. Presently cities are revising their General Plans to match their Housing Elements.

This is an opportunity for the League to support smart growth (SB375) before City Councils as they review their General Plans. In the meantime over 100 cities have joined the ABAG's FOCUS program in establishing Priority Development Areas for transit oriented development. There is increased support for jobs/housing/transportation projects.

One possible obstacle for affordable rental units is the Supreme Court decision to refuse protection for local inclusionary housing ordinances.

Patty Boyle, LWVBA Housing Chair

* LWVBA CALENDAR FOR YEAR

December 2, Wednesday – 12:30 to 2 pm, InterLeague North, Berkeley

January 14, 2010, Thursday – 12:00-1:30 pm Interleague South, Palo Alto

January 30, 2010, Saturday – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Bay Area League Day, Oakland

February 24, 2010, Wednesday – 12:30 to 2 pm, InterLeague North, Berkeley

March 11, 2010, Thursday 12:00-1:30 pm Interleague South, Palo Alto

May 29, 2010, Saturday – LWVBA Convention