



Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation

CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 1

Meeting: LWV Piedmont Board
14 Mesa, Piedmont • 9am

Saturday, February 4

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY
See article on page 2

Tuesday, February 7

MUNICIPAL ELECTION
See article on this page



Election Forum is Online

The election forum hosted by LWV Piedmont on January 12, at which all candidates for city council and the school board presented their statements and answered questions, followed by the pros and cons of the sewer surtax Measure A, is available for online viewing at

<http://www.ci.piedmont.ca.us/video/index.shtml>

Type "forum" in the Search Archives box.



MUNICIPAL ELECTION TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

The City of Piedmont will hold its General Municipal Election on **Tuesday, February 7**. All Piedmont voters have good reasons to participate. Vote-by-mail ballots are already in the hands of those who requested them. The polling places will open at 8am for those who like to hand-deliver those ballots, or cast their votes on that day. The *Voter* offers this summary of the ballot, with candidates listed in alphabetical order:

CITY COUNCIL Five council members serve, without compensation, for four-year terms. There are two seats up for election. Candidates are:

- Bob McBain, Retired Financial Executive
- Margaret Fujioka (incumbant running for a second term)
- Tim Rood, City Planning Consultant

BOARD OF EDUCATION Three seats on the board are up for election from a field of five candidates:

- Nancy "Sunny" Bostrom
- Jon F. Elliott, Environmental Consultant, Educator
- Sarah Pearson, Pediatrician
- Rick Raushenbush, (incumbant running for a second term)
- Andrea Swenson, Retired Financial Executive

MEASURE A: SPECIAL 10-YEAR MUNICIPAL SEWER SURTAX

also appears on the ballot, and requires two-thirds approval to pass. Arguments FOR the surtax, written by Mike Rancer, and arguments AGAINST the surtax, written by Rick Schiller, can be read at <http://piedmont.patch.com/articles/pro-con-on-measure-a-the-sewer-tax-surchage>

On election night, the City will post election results citywide and by precinct as provided by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters.

If you have questions regarding Voter registration, voting by mail, or the location of your polling place, please contact the Alameda County Registrar of Voters at (510) 272-6933.

If you have questions about the Special Municipal Sewer Surtax or need general information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (510) 420-3040.

"Should things go wrong at any time, the people will set them to rights by the peaceable exercise of their elective rights." —Thomas Jefferson



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“The lifeblood of a democracy, in the real world, is volunteering, community service, civic engagement, and citizen participation.”

—*Democracy Is Not A Spectator Sport*, by Arthur Blaustein, 2011

The Election Forum held on January 12 truly demonstrated the above quote. It was nonpartisan, informative and encouraged citizen participation and engagement. The community had the opportunity to meet candidates running for the Piedmont City Council and Board of Education and to hear pros and cons on the Sewer Tax Measure. Thank you to Tracy Kirkpatrick and Elizabeth Shook for their excellent work in organizing and publicizing the forum. We were very fortunate to have Dale Rogers Marshall as our moderator. Tam Hege as timekeeper, and Carole Levenson and Ward Lindenmayer as question screeners, contributed to an outstanding event. Thank you also to Marella Guigou, our greeter.

Our Program Planning Soup Lunch provided stimulating conversation. I'm sorry that more members were not able to attend. There were no new studies proposed, but we reviewed both the LWVUS and LWV Bay Area policies. Next year we will review both state and our own local policies. If anyone is interested in participating in the study on privatization, please let me know by Feb. 15.

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON FEBRUARY 7!

Sue Kawaichi, *President*
League of Women Voters of Piedmont

Erratum

We regret to report that the *Annual Fiscal Report to Members* printed in the January *Voter* was not a perfect job. Although the overall figures are correct as reported, there are several errors in the details. Please note that the Treasurer is in no way responsible; the errors were entirely due to over-hasty formatting by this editor. A corrected version is available on request: cdinnean@mac.com. My apologies. —CD

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PIEDMONT

2011–2012

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Sandy Rogin
Smart Voter

Kim Ellis
Great Decisions

Gayle Sells
City Council Observer

Ann Trutner
School Board Observer



Bay Area League Day

Housing and the Bay Area's Future

Saturday, February 4 • 9am – 2pm

First Unitarian Church, 658 14th Street, Oakland

KEYNOTE: David Rosen, a leading expert in the field of affordable housing, finance, policy, land use, lending and investment planning. With nine other speakers.

Panels will consider • sources and uses of public money • difficulties of community support • meeting regional housing needs • difficulties of financing affordable housing • how to serve the hardest to house

Register: <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>



America is a place where we all come together. It is a place of consensus. —Martin Luther King, Jr.

LWV UNITED STATES PRIVATIZATION STUDY

At the 2010 National Convention, LWVUS adopted two studies: 1) a study of the federal role in public education and 2) a study on privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector. LWV Piedmont participated in the education study and came to consensus on the issues raised.

PRIVATIZATION of government assets, services and functions has been occurring for decades at all levels of government. The purpose of the second study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good. The study materials, including the consensus questions, are available on the LWVUS website at <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization>

There are five articles on different areas of privatization. The national committee will provide a history and background of privatization, a glossary of terms, legal issues to be considered when privatizing at different levels of government, current state regulations on privatizing, and case studies on successful and unsuccessful privatizing efforts. Finally, the committee will provide suggested policies and parameters to be considered when privatizing.

Because the materials were not available until January, the Piedmont League has not scheduled a presentation and consensus meeting. But members who would like to consider the issues and help to reach a consensus by the May 1 deadline should contact Sue Kawaichi, LWVP president; with sufficient interest, we will hold a meeting at Sue's home on February 22.

Alternatively, we are invited, with other Bay Area Leagues, to attend the Oakland League's meeting on Saturday, March 24, at the César Chávez Public Library, 3301 East 12th Street (near BART station and parking lot), from 9:30–12.

CAPITALISM VS. THE CLIMATE

Americans who believe that burning fossil fuels would cause the climate to change:

2007	71% of Americans
2009	51%
2011	44%

These statistics have energized a group of Leaguers from LWVC, LWV Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville and LWVBA, to add stories to the LWVC website, to encourage members to write letters to the editor, and to formulate questions for candidates. There is a lot of momentum, and many scientists are on board.

For an excellent article on this topic, read *Capitalism vs. the Climate*, by Naomi Kline, in *The Nation*, available at <http://www.thenation.com/article/164497/capitalism-vs-climate>

LWV Piedmont seeks technical skills

As we're all aware, our culture is rapidly adapting itself to new technologies – and that includes our own League. The Board would like to find those members with an enthusiasm for using skills already in hand, or for learning new uses for your computer. First, consider volunteering to be the next editor of the *Voter* – Cathy Dinnean, the current editor, will work with you as needed to get you up and running. Or consider working on the League's web site, or helping to bring the League archives to online storage. Please email Marlene Sakol at msakol@sbcglobal.net to discuss your interest.

Update



The Piedmont Avenue Branch Library

The Piedmont Avenue Branch continues to be open its regular hours at its long time location on 41st Street. The public will be notified when the situation changes.

The future of the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library has been uncertain since a new owner purchased the building from Citibank and the rent that the City pays for the branch went from \$1 to \$4,250 per month. The Oakland Public Library has been working with Oakland Unified School District officials on an agreement to allow the branch to relocate to a modular unit located at Piedmont Avenue Elementary School. No agreement has been announced and for now the branch is staying on at the current location on a month-to-month basis.

LEAGUE OPPOSES OVERTURNING ADMINISTRATION ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

To Members of the U.S. Senate

January 19, 2012

The League of Women Voters urges you to oppose efforts in the Senate to overturn Administration initiatives that protect public health and the environment such as the new mercury and air toxics rule and the recent decision to block the Keystone XL pipeline.

In December, the Administration promulgated the first ever rules under the Clean Air Act to cut power plant emissions of mercury, arsenic, acid gases and other toxics. Even in small amounts these pollutants are linked to cancer, heart disease, neurological damage, birth defects, asthma attacks and premature death. Delayed for decades, these rules are about protecting people's lives.

We understand that there are efforts in the Senate to use the authority provided by the Congressional Review Act to void the mercury and air toxics rule. This would be a public health disaster. Each year, the new regulations could prevent 4,700 heart attacks and 130,000 asthma attacks among children – and save 11,000 lives. Mercury particularly harms children, including effects on IQ, learning, and memory. In addition to protecting kids and saving lives, updating older power plants with new air pollution control technology will support 46,000 new short-term construction jobs and 8,000 new long-term jobs at power plants.

The Administration also recently rejected the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline, which would carry tar sands oil from Canada across the U.S. The League of Women Voters opposes the pipeline since it is a threat to the drinking water of millions of Americans. Putting the pipeline over the Ogallala Aquifer, which provides agricultural and drinking water to so many in the Plains states, is too big a risk. Moreover, the majority of any jobs created would be short term and short lived. The damage to such an important water supply would last for centuries. The League is also concerned that the life-cycle greenhouse gas pollution from Canadian tar sands is much greater than from conventional sources. Approval of this pipeline would be inconsistent with meaningful action on climate change.

The League of Women Voters is pleased that the Obama Administration has chosen the health of children and families instead of giving in to the lobbying of big polluters, the oil industry, coal companies and power plants. We urge you to do the same.

Elizabeth Maenama President, League of Women Voters United States

It's Easy to Join the League of Women Voters

Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. Members under 18 years old, or who are non-citizens, are non-voting Associate Members. Annual dues are \$65, or \$60 for seniors, or \$100 for two members at the same address. Membership includes participation in Piedmont, Bay Area, California, and United States Leagues.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____

Email _____

New member Renewal Transfer

Please mail your check payable to

**League of Women Voters
8 Abbott Way, Piedmont, CA 94618**

For further information or dues assistance, call Marella Guigou, 835-4241

**DIVERSITY
STATEMENT**



The League of Women Voters of Piedmont, in both its values and practices, affirms its recognition of diversity and pluralism as realities which need to be embraced. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVP on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, creed, sexual orientation or disability.