

DIALOG ABOUT OAKLAND'S POLICE PRACTICES

By Louise Rothman-Riemer

The League of Women Voters of Oakland opened its 2017-2018 Speakers Series with Chief Anne Kirkpatrick, Oakland's newest police chief. Chief Kirkpatrick is Oakland's 10th Chief of Police since Chief Joseph Samuels in 1999. In June of 2016 Oakland had four chiefs in eight days, after which City Administrator Sabrina Landreth became acting Chief until Kirkpatrick was appointed. Chief Kirkpatrick has a very challenging job as the City's top police officer. However, when asked about the historical difficulties and scandals faced by the Department, she was quoted in the San Jose Mercury News as saying the job of chief was "the greatest opportunity in policing today."

Oakland has had a challenging time with its police department. In the 1970s, as a result of multiple police shootings of civilians, the Citizens' Police Review Board (CPRB) was established. For many years it was quite biased in favor of the police. That began to change in the 1990s

when PUEBLO (People United for a Better Oakland) and the ACLU challenged the actions of the CPRB in Court. In early 2000, the infamous "Rider's" case rocked the police department and resulted in a court mandated Federal Monitor. Although Judge Felton Henderson anticipated that the Federal Monitor would complete its job in five years, after ten years the job was not complete and the department continues to be monitored. Police chiefs have come and gone. Then in 2016 the department was again rocked, this time by a sexual abuse scandal which resulted in four police chiefs in eight days. In the November 2016 election, voters mandated a new "Police Commission" to replace Oakland's Citizens' Police Review Board.

It was only last month, October 2017, that the Police Commission members were finally approved by the City Council. The Commission will have seven members and

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Feb. 3

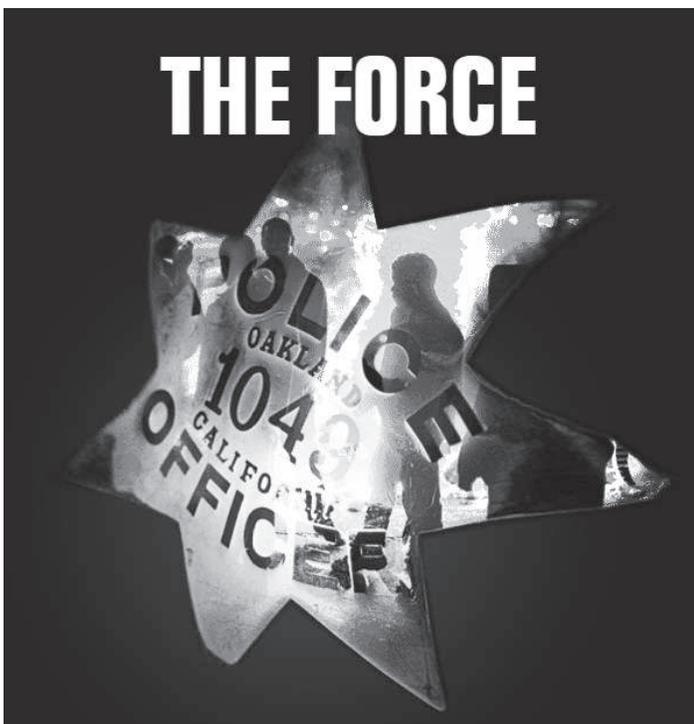
BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY!

This year's annual League of Women Voters Bay Area conference, hosted by Laney College, will explore the theme: Winds of Change: Regional Government Today and Tomorrow. Stay tuned for more details.

POLICE PRACTICES *Cont...*

two alternates. Four Commissioners and one alternate were recommended by the Community and the rest by the Mayor's office.

Oakland's Police Department is the subject of a documentary film "The Force" directed by Peter Nicks, who embedded with OPD for two years. His resulting film won a Best Director award in the documentary category at this year's Sundance Film Festival. "The Force" is the second film of a trilogy about Oakland. The first film, 2012's "The Waiting Room", was about Oakland's Highland Hospital. The third film in the trilogy will be about Oakland's public schools.



According to a story in Mother Jones, Nicks said that a *"core theme that threads through the films is how our public institutions impact communities that have lived under generational inequities, be it through a visit to the emergency room, or being treated unjustly by a police officer because of implicit bias, or being suspended from school for being unruly. We wanted to unearth that deep history in a three-dimensional way, especially in these environments where there's a lot of divisiveness between cops and communities. Who are these cops? Who becomes a cop and why? How are they serving or not serving the community? And to try to unpack that."*

LWVO's **September Hot Topics meeting** took a look at recommendations by the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles to address police community relations. Our Action Committee believes that these recommendations are well worth considering for Oakland. Among ideas we have reviewed and discussed are the following:

- Utilize state-of-the art technologies for data gathering and data analysis to provide fact-based evidence, regarding what works and what doesn't.
- Encourage community policing, de-escalation strategies and anti-bias training. Create a climate of trust so that people are not afraid to report crime or cooperate with law enforcement investigations. Ensure that officers whose use of excessive force is deemed to be out-of-policy are appropriately disciplined.
- Solicit community feedback so that police-sponsored programs can be tailored to community needs.
- Provide programs that increase safety, e.g. Neighborhood Watch, Community-Police Advisory Board, community mediation, youth activities (Summer Night Lights), reentry services for formerly incarcerated.
- Protect the privacy of financial disclosure and personal data of officers and civilians.
- Maximize recruitment outreach efforts that result in the hiring of more women and in a department that reflects the community. Recruit people who have the qualities required for relationship-based policing.

As a result of that evening's discussion, LWVO agreed to take a more in-depth look early in 2018 at how these issues impact Oakland and what role the League might wish to play in our City's ongoing police practices dialogue.

Are you interested in participating in this important discussion?

Please email
president@lwvoakland.org
or contact the League
Office at 510-834-7640.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Louise Rothman-Riemer

Hi Folks, Welcome to our Fall VOTER. This year seems to be flying past faster than a Hogwarts' witch on a quidditch broom. And Harry Potter's magic wand isn't much help either. It is November and that means before we know it the holidays will be upon us and then it will be 2018!

2018 is going to be an important year, with elections in both June and November. That means we Leaguers have a lot to do in preparation for the Primary and of course for the big November Mid-Term General Election. We want Oakland to vote and to vote informed and that means we have a lot of outreach to do! And that also means we will need you to make that happen. Are you ready? Well, are you at least ready to get ready?

At each election we hope as many people as possible vote and in doing so, cast their ballots for good government and for thoughtful open-minded and color-blind elected officials. It will be important to adopt ballot measures and elect people who will strengthen the rights of women, immigrants, minorities, and for the right for everyone's voice to be heard and their vote to be counted.



NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR

In Oakland we will again be launching our Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Oakland Votes Informed Campaign. Please start thinking about when you would like to call your neighbors in to go over ballot measures at your house. We will have materials prepared for you to give

you a head start. If you don't want to do that in your home, how about meeting your friends for coffee or at your favorite watering hole? It could even be at work, at your place of worship, or at a meeting of your favorite organization (besides the League of course).

We also encourage you to ask your friends to join the League and make our voice louder and stronger! Join using our website at www.LWVOakland.org. The more of us there are the more impact we will have. We are collaborating with other organizations to get out the vote and to work on issues that the League and these other organizations agree we can support. Among those we will be working with are 100 Black Women and the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center where we will work with their young people to help other young people register to vote.

In the meantime, we have a new Fire Chief in Oakland, lifelong Oakland resident Darin White, who spoke at the League's Speaker's Series meeting on Wednesday, November 15th. By the way, if you missed the October Speakers Series you missed a great opportunity to learn about what is going on in Oakland public schools. Our Hot Topics on the 25th covered the same topic.

In December on the 6th we will have a Hot Topics discussion on Make It Fair, Prop 13 Reform. Currently many corporations that owned property when Prop 13 was passed in the 1970's have been able to keep their property tax base low and as a result California has millions less for schools and other public works that benefit all of us.

December will also feature our Holiday Party on Friday Dec. 8th at my house. Please consider yourself invited. We will have more on that in upcoming e-blasts. So "Save the Date" December 8th starting at 6pm at 5560 Harbord Dr. in Oakland.

Before I close, I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving. Keep your eyes open for one of those Hogwarts witches on a quidditch broom, they fly fast.

**Be Bold! Be Active! Be the Most You Can Be!
Be a Leaguer!**

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

We welcome the following new and returning members who have joined (or rejoined) LWVO since mid-April

Hafeezah Abdullah	Bettina Flores	Suzanne Loosen	Lisa Saxe
Jacqueline Arnoldy	Pamela Hall	Elaine Lovett	Maggie Sheldon
Amy Baker	Marcia Hodges	April Madison-Ramsey	Debby Sorenson
Suzanne Barba	Cameron Hub	Mary Lu McGuire	Luan Stauss
Rene Boisvert	Andrew Hub	Malia Obillo	Douglas Stone
Karen Bohlke	Ted Hullar	Manisha Patel	Elnora Webb
Wanda Dabkoska	Jan Legassick	Rachel Perkins	Roy Wilson
Melissa Eisenberg	Tom Leibowitz	Anjie Rosga	
Jeff Fearn	Peggy Lipper	Gina Sanfilippo	

We mourn the passing of LWVO members Robin Goodfellow and Pat Monson.

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Check your mailing label; if the date on it is lower than October 2017, your membership has expired. **Please RENEW today!**

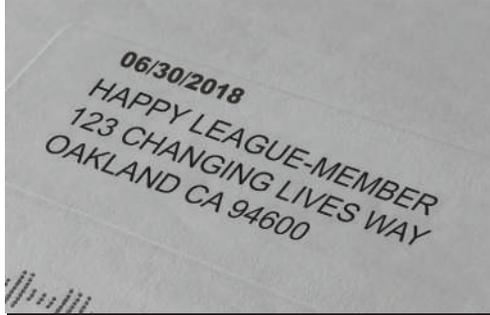
Cut out the membership form in the middle of this VOTER. Fill it out, turn it over and use the Interest Survey, then mail it with your check to:

**League of Women Voters of Oakland
436 14th Street, Suite 1213
Oakland CA 94612-2723**

Or you can pay by credit card by going to our website, www.lwvoakland.org, clicking on "JOIN/RENEW" and following instructions for joining or renewing online.

Many members choose to support the League only with their annual dues. Your membership alone gives us the political influence needed to build a voice for citizens and a force for change. By becoming a member, you automatically become a member of the Bay Area Inter-League Organization, LWV California and LWV of the United States. You are adding your voice to a powerful force of members from all 50 states, Washington DC, the Virgin Islands, and Hong Kong.

Are you a member?



06/30/2018
HAPPY LEAGUE-MEMBER
123 CHANGING LIVES WAY
OAKLAND CA 94600

If there is no date on the mailing label then you are not a member of the League of Women Voters of Oakland.

Join Today!

Visit LWVOakland.org and click the JOIN/RENEW button on any page.



**League of Women Voters of Oakland
Membership Statement July 2017 – June 2018**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ Cell phone _____

Some of the above information has changed in the last year.

***I understand my annual dues are payable in July and are not tax deductible.
I enclose a check, made out to LWVO for:***

Regular membership **\$70 for one year** \$ _____

OR I am setting my dues at _____ (minimum \$10) and requesting
the balance from the Dues Assistance Fund \$ _____

Additional household members **\$35 for one year** \$ _____

Name(s) _____
(Consider spouse, partner, children. We welcome men.)

Student membership for **\$25 for one year** \$ _____

Susan B. Anthony membership - \$100 \$ _____

Elizabeth Cady Stanton membership - \$250 \$ _____

Cary Chapman Catt membership - \$500 \$ _____

Here are dues for a gift membership! Please welcome:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

as a _____ Regular (\$70), or _____ Student (\$25) Member \$ _____

Here's an additional amount for the Dues Assistance Fund because I want
League to be accessible to all. \$ _____

Here's an extra contribution to LWVO's General Fund. I know that only a small part
of my dues stays in Oakland. The rest goes to the Bay Area, CA and US Leagues. \$ _____

TOTAL dues and non-tax deductible contributions: \$ _____

.....
I also want to make a tax deductible contribution to LWVO with this 2nd check
made out to the LWV Education Fund: \$ _____

***We know you're busy, so we tailor League jobs for busy schedules. Whether or not you
are able to be involved at this time, please complete the Interest Survey on the other side!
Or, go to our website and fill out the online survey at
http://www.lwvoakland.org/interest_survey_link.html***



2017-18 LWVO Member Interest Survey

(Name) _____

(online interactive version http://www.lwvoakland.org/interest_survey_link.html) Email _____

LWVO's priorities for the coming year include:
Addressing Public Safety Issues
Establishing an Observer Corps

Following City Boards and Commissions Meeting Basic Human Needs (healthcare, housing, transportation)

WE ARE ACTIVE ON MANY ISSUES

CIRCLE ANY THAT INTEREST YOU

Voter Service and Education:

- Register Voters Help at Candidate Forums Distribute Voter Guides Distribute Voter Registration Forms
- Present the Pros/Cons of Ballot Measures Help with Votersedge.org (formerly Smartvoter.org) website

Social Issues:

- Civil Rights Healthcare Environmental Justice Violence Prevention
- Education Housing Juvenile Justice

Environment:

- Air Quality Water Land Use Waterfront/Port
- Climate Change Energy Transportation Waste Management

Local Government/Reform:

- Budget Election Systems Open Government Public Safety
- Campaign Finance Lobbying Reform Public Ethics

Civil Liberties:

- Voter Rights & Empowerment Reproductive Choice Death Penalty

Other: _____

PARTICIPATE IN LWVO PRIORITY ACTIVITIES: (check all that apply)

- Follow Issues of Public Safety
- Learn about Boards & Commissions
- Get Out the Vote/Civic Engagement
- Web Management/Social Media
- Luncheon/Special Event Planning
- One Shot Jobs
- Follow the Issue of Affordable Housing in Oakland
- Observe City Council, Committee & Commission Meetings
- Membership: Tabling and Member Engagement
- Join the Outreach Team of Speakers
- Help Maintain LWVO office systems, databases & forms
- Voter Service/Education (indicate how in section above)

HOW ACTIVE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE CONTACTED?

- Frequently (weekly)
- Occasionally (monthly)
- Once in a while (a few times a year)
- Just in the month or so before an election
- I do not wish to/cannot be active at this time
- Call home phone _____
- Call work phone _____
- Call or text cell phone _____
- By email _____
- By Emailed Newsletter

YOUR BACKGROUND AND SKILLS

1. How did you learn about and/or come to join the League? _____
2. Your business/professional experience/skills? __Database Mgmt __ Marketing/Fundraising __ Social Media
__ Finance/Accounting __ Website Mgmt __ Nonprofit Board __ Office Mgmt __ Graphic Design
3. In what other community/school organizations are you active? _____

The League of Women Voters of Oakland • 436 14th St., Suite 1213 • Oakland, California 94612-2723
Phone & Fax: (510) 834-7640 • Email: info@lwvoakland.org • www.lwvoakland.org • [Facebook.com/lwvoak](https://www.facebook.com/lwvoak)

BIG WINS!

LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP FROM LWV CA

The 2017 California legislative session is a wrap, and thanks to you, we have new laws addressing many of the critical issues we face in California. Because so many of you took action, we're celebrating major legislative victories:

SB2 & SB3

The passage of SB 2 and SB 3 will generate about \$5 billion for more affordable housing over the next five years.

Disclose Act

Campaign ads will have to identify their big money donors prominently on tv, radio, online, and in print with the passage of the Disclose Act.

California Values Act

The California Values Act passed, ensuring state and local resources are not being used to fuel mass deportations, destroy families, and cripple our economy.

AB 705

Community college students will be assessed more fairly, creating a clearer path to success and preventing them from being tracked into unnecessary non-credit remedial classes.

AB 918

The passage means the millions of voters with limited English skills will have access to more information in their language—a critical step to ensure all voices are heard on election day.

In addition to the many action alerts we sent, the League was also advocating for other bills at the Capitol. This year, Governor Brown signed ALL of the bills supported by the League that came across his desk! California now has 27 new League-approved laws, improving California's policies on the environment, education, voting rights, and more.

Unfortunately, our efforts to reform California's broken bail system were stalled, but we'll have another chance to

fix that when SB 10 is taken up again next year. We're also looking forward to ongoing efforts to address the housing shortage and progress on key higher education bills. The League is also ready to take action on campaign finance reform and any legislative responses to new federal activity.

*Helen Hutchison
President, LWVC*

34 Bills!

To read more about the specific measures/bills enacted into law that LWVC supported, go to this link on the LWVC website:
<https://lwvc.org/take-action/legislation>

The status summaries of the 34 bills featured cover (in alphabetical order) air quality, campaign financing, climate change, coastal issues, education pre K-12, hazardous materials, higher education, housing, immigration, juvenile justice dependency, local League bills, redistricting, selection of President (electoral college), sentencing policy, state and local finances, voting rights, and water.



The League of Women Voters of Oakland
 436 14th Street Suite 1213
 Oakland, CA 94612-2723

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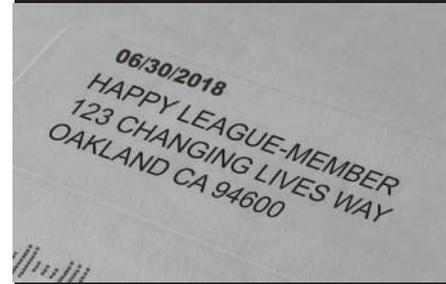
UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC 6
 Hot Topics: Advocacy on the Make It Fair Campaign
 6:00 pm - 7:30pm at Laurel Bookstore

DEC 8
 Holiday Party
 Look for more details in our e-blasts.

JAN 23
 New Member Dinner - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Please RSVP to megbowerman@gmail.com

Are you a member?



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Join Today!

Visit LWVOakland.org and click the **JOIN/RENEW** button on any page.