

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ALAMEDA
BOARD MEETING MINUTES, January 24, 2026
Alameda Hospital Conference Room A

Board members present: Anna Crane, presiding; Keasha Martindill, Genevieve Yuen, Susan Hauser. **Other members present:** Li Volin, Jeff Cambra, Betty Henderson, Karen Bullard, Megan Spence, Karen Butter, Melanie Beckwith, and Liz Rogers

Call to Order: Anna Crane called the meeting to order at 9:38 am.

Program Planning for 2027: We went over the national league program (voting rights, improving elections, campaign finance money in politics), and reiterated our stance on defending democracy and protecting our right to vote under the current constitutional crisis. Karen Butter (from the Alameda County Elections Commission) spoke about potential challenges to the voting process. She emphasized the importance of early and in person vote to prevent attempts at discounting votes.

LWVC Key Issues for Education and Advocacy: We reviewed the current state league positions (making democracy work, housing and homelessness, climate change and sustainability, criminal justice reform), and Anna reminded the league to reprioritize our stance on civil rights issues with rising concerns of threats to our democracy. We also spoke about the various endeavors and past events of the league, including the youth council's involvement with 16 vote, Verify It!, voter registration, and the upcoming speech contest.

LWVA Program 2025-2026: The league discussed our proposed program for the 2026 year, including free speech, electoral reform, civics education and voter engagement for youth, and transparency and good government. Anna spoke about electoral reform, including ranked choice voting and campaign finance. In this regard, Karen presented Alan's proposal of public financing for campaigns (interviewing the city clerk about the legality of campaign financing, meeting with the mayor, reviewing data, and developing a recommendation to the LWVA Board of Directors, and providing eligible voters democracy dollars to give to different candidates). The board unanimously approved and endorsed this proposition; Li moved, and Keasha seconded. Additionally, it was proposed to include immigration rights within our board's positions, and Genevieve seconded support and offered to bring up the issue to the next youth council meeting. Furthermore, Anna also proposed providing a forum for discussion of the importance of protecting immigrant rights in AUSD, and Susan encouraged the league to work with other groups to engage with immigrant rights. Melanie stressed the impact of voter education and advocated for a candidate forum to be provided. It was suggested to remove the position on climate change and sustainability to refocus efforts on civil rights protection, in which the league voted and agreed to place this position on pause for the time being.

LWVA Proposed Program 2026-2027: The proposed new Program for 2026-2027 contains these issues for emphasis: Voter Education and Protection; Immigrant Rights; Free

Speech; Electoral Reform, including campaign finance; Civics Education and Voter Engagement for Youth; and Transparency and Good Government

Open Floor: No comments were made.

Anna Crane adjourned the meeting at 11:33am.