

VOTE

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We attended “Baffled by the Ballot” organized by National Women’s Political Caucus “ and co-sponsored by AAUW, BWOPA, Wellstone Democratic Club, AC Democratic Lawyers Club and League of Women Voters, a splendid presentation with much vocal audience participation. We strongly recommend you try to attend in the next election cycle.

What we learned: you must do more than vote. Study the long and complicated ballot to be able to assist others in understanding the issues. For help, you can access the League of Women Voters’ website smartvoter.org for most of the propositions, but steer clear of Prop 11 (Redistricting). LWV. president, Helen Hutchison, advocating for this measure failed to mention that it was financed by Republican money and opposed by all of the minority groups plus the Democratic Party until she was called on it by Gia Daniller, a forceful advocate for the NO side. However, all opposition arguments are on LWV’s website, including a diagram of the unwieldy process----SCARY!

Many of the **propositions** racked up NO votes for misleading information, faulty premises or cost. We all learned a great deal more about Bonds from LWV pro/con presenter Nikki Harris, e.g. we have a backlog of bonds that are waiting for the right fiscal market, so if any of these pass, they would go to the end of the list.

On the National scene: Be assured NOW is still with Obama despite Shelley Mandell’s bloop, as was immediately announced by **CA NOW’s new president, Patty Bellasalma:** “As President of California NOW and as a member and officer of Los Angeles NOW, I can assure you that there is no local or state affiliate of NOW, including LA NOW, which endorses or supports the McCain/Palin ticket. John McCain and Sarah Palin oppose many of the rights and freedoms we have fought for throughout NOW’s 42 years, and we will not be pushed back to the days of back-alley abortions, forced pregnancies, and pay discrimination without remedy.”

National’s Recommended Action -- VOTE only for advocates of ERA, CEDAW & CHOICE.

CA NOW is working to defeat both Prop 4 (Parental Notification) and Prop 8 (Annuling Same Sex Marriage). Visit their www.canow.org for talking points, and locally, join us in working with ACLU at their Berkeley phone bank on Tuesdays, 6-9pm, BAE-UDC, 1941 University Ave. RSVP to volunteers@aclunc.org

In Alameda County we have two extraordinary women running for the vacated at-large seat: Kerry Hamill who has an impressive record on the Oakland School Board and Rebecca Kaplan likewise on the AC Transit Board. Chapter no longer has a PAC, so cannot endorse either.

County Measures :VV: a parcel tax for AC Transit and WW a bond for Eastbay Regional Parks. Three sponsoring groups had no position, two supported. Not mentioned was a \$120 per parcel tax (Outstanding Teachers for All Oakland Students) but the Tribune reports that teachers now oppose it for both fiscal concerns and for not covering other school personnel. League also opposed Measure 00 to increase funds for children’s activities at the expense of other programs.

HAPPY VOTING & VOTE EARLY!