



League of Women Voters Berkeley Albany Emeryville

LOCAL BALLOT RECOMMENDATIONS November 2, 2010 General Election

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Measure H Funding for Maintenance of Berkeley Schools YES

The League of Women Voters Berkeley Albany Emeryville (LWVBAE) supports adequate funding for the operation of school facilities. Clean, healthy facilities in good repair make a significant contribution to the learning environment benefiting both students and teachers. Inadequate state funding, makes increased local revenues all the more necessary for these purposes. Without the funds generated by this tax, the School District would have to pay for maintaining school buildings, classrooms, playgrounds, roofs and electrical systems, and addressing fire and safety hazards with dollars badly needed in the classroom. LWVBAE supports citizen participation in schools; the standing Facilities Safety and Maintenance Oversight Committee, which helps to develop the annual expenditure plan for the funds in Measure H and oversees their use, provides a valuable service to community and to the School Board. In addition, and in keeping with LWVBAE's support of accountability for spending tax payers' dollars, an independent auditor reviews the records to ensure that funds generated by this Measure are allocated and expended in compliance with its provisions.

Measure I A \$210 Million School Bond YES

The League of Women Voters supports bond financing for capital projects and the repair and retrofitting of public facilities. Measure I fits that description. It would enable the School District to replace classrooms at the high school, construct other new classrooms to accommodate growth in enrollment, complete seismic upgrades, construct science labs, upgrade computers and educational technology, renovate playgrounds, replace restrooms, cafeterias, roofs, heating and fire safety systems, remove hazardous materials, and improve energy efficiency. The Bond Project List is in the text of the Measure, and it reassuring to know that there will a citizen oversight committee to monitor how the funds are spent, as well as an annual independent audit. Measure I part of the School District's ten year Master Plan for major construction projects. We can all be pleased that with Measure I the District is meeting one of its goals: to keep the tax rate for all BUSD bonds at or below the maximum amount reached in recent years (2003-2004 at \$172.80 per \$100,000 of assessed value).

Measure R A Green Vision for Downtown YES

LWVBAE supports Measure R, a set of policies to guide the revitalization of Downtown. Its directives are in keeping with the League's positions on sustainable development, housing, transportation, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The policies proposed in Measure R would lead to high density housing, which would accommodate people of all ages and income levels, near jobs, public transit, retail businesses, cultural attractions, and other amenities, including open space. The policies are based largely on the detailed plan developed by the Downtown Area Plan Advisory Committee (DAPAC), a 21 member citizens' committee. Among the differences between the policies in Measure R and what DAPAC proposed are that the policies would allow lower building heights for the tallest buildings (2 buildings at 180'—think the Wells Fargo Building—rather than 2 buildings at 225'); would allow lower heights in the buffer zone where existing residential buildings are adjacent to or face proposed new buildings; offers a streamlined permit process, "the green pathway," for buildings providing public benefits that could not be obtained otherwise. Firm believers in public participation in governmental processes, the League knows that there will be ample opportunities for the public to be heard as all proposed zoning changes or new projects move through City Commissions and the City Council.

No Recommendations on the Other Local Ballot Measures

LWVBAE has no recommendation on the other local ballot issues in Berkeley, or Albany and Emeryville. Most of our positions do not apply to Albany or Emeryville. The Alameda County Council of Leagues has yet to make its decision on Measure F, the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Measure, which establishes an annual \$10.00 Vehicle Registration Fee and raises \$11 million a year to fund repair and maintenance of local streets and roads and other transit projects.