



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



The

VOTER



Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / April 2018, Volume 90, Number 7

Wednesday, 11 April, 2018

"Eleven Roundabouts for Highway 68?"

Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) representatives Rich Deal and Grant Leonard will present the current planning process for the future of Highway 68 between Salinas and Monterey. They will provide an overview of the recently completed SR 68 Scenic Highway Plan and what to expect next for Highway 68.



Rich Deal, TAMC Principal Engineer, was project manager for design and construction of the Holman Hwy 68 Roundabout Project. Rich has a degree in Civil Engineering from Cal Poly Pomona and Professional Civil Engineer, Traffic Engineer, and Traffic Operations Engineer licences. Of his 33 years of experience, 23 were for the City of Monterey as City Traffic Engineer. Rich is a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the American Public Works Association, and serves on both the National Committee for Uniform Traffic Control Devices and Transportation Research Board.

Grant Leonard, TAMC Transportation Planner since 2012, specializes in highway planning, motorist assistance, and construction-related public outreach. He managed development of the Hwy 68 Corridor Plan, and currently manages the San Miguel Canyon Road Corridor Plan in North Monterey County and the County Regional Transportation Plan 2018 update. Grant has a BA in Human Communication from CSU Monterey Bay, an MA in Urban and Regional Planning from San Jose State University, and is a member of American Institute of Certified Planners.

Janet Brennan, Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

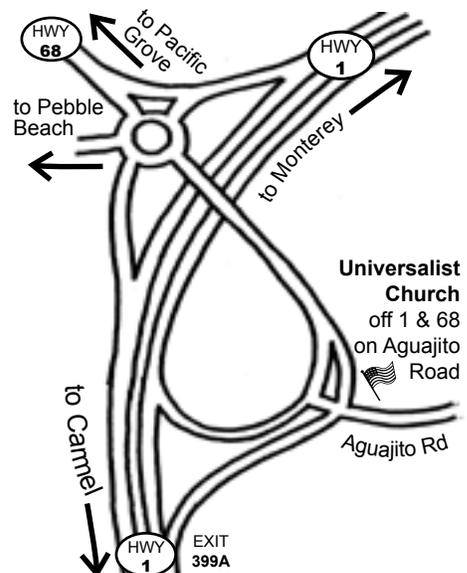
LWVMC April 11, 2018 General Meeting

12 noon Lunch / 12:30 to 1:30 Presentation (Lunch \$17 per person: main course, salad, beverages, & dessert by The Valley Grille).

Reservations are a must for lunch! Contact Bev Kreps by Sunday, April 8.

(phone 224-3192 or e-mail bkreps1017@gmail.com) Pay at the door for lunch; meeting/presentation is FREE. Reminder to Members: The League pays the caterer in advance for everyone who makes a luncheon reservation, and guarantees a minimum of attendees.

L&L meets at: Unitarian Universalist Church http://uucmp.org 490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404





VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE



The LWVC Board took final positions on the measures scheduled for the June ballot. Look for our **"The League Recommends"** flyer (aka **"Vote With the League"**) in early April. Here's a summary of the League's positions:

PROPOSITION 68 - California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act (SB 5) SUPPORT

This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. The water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking, and are a key part of our state response to climate change.

PROPOSITION 69 - Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes (ACA 5) SUPPORT

If passed, this constitutional amendment would ensure that the existing transportation revenues we pay at the pump and when we register our vehicles can ONLY be used for road and transportation improvement projects. This amendment protects these transportation funds by prohibiting the state legislature from using these revenues for non-transportation purposes. ACA 5 protects existing taxes and

fees we are already paying. It does not raise taxes one cent. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services, including safe roads and good public transportation.

PROPOSITION 70 - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund (ACA 1) OPPOSE

This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB (California Air Resources Board) of Cap-and-Trade allowances after 2024. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions.

PROPOSITION 71 - Effective Date of Initiatives (ACA 17) SUPPORT

Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after election day, that is not always the case. Prop 71 would provide that an initiative would take effect 5 days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results. This is a common-sense measure, ensuring clarity about what is – and is not – California law.



PROPOSITION 72 - Property taxation: new construction: rain water capture system SUPPORT

This measure would allow an exclusion from additional property taxes for construction or installation of rain water capture systems. These systems capture, store and use otherwise wasted rain water for landscape irrigation and similar uses, saving more conventional water for personal use. With traditional water sources becoming less dependable, this is one more way we can diversify sources of usable water.

LWV California

lwvc.org/vote/elections/2018-06-05-000000

★ DONALD P. GAVER, JR. ★

Don died February 11, after almost 92 years of life. He and his wife **Fran**, both longtime **LWVMC Members**, were married for 65 years. Don taught in the operations research department at the **Naval Postgraduate School**. He was named a **Distinguished Professor** by NPS in 1983, and continued with his academic research projects until very recently. His obituary can be found online. A summary of his professional career is described at faculty.nps.edu/dgaver/.

MAJOR CHANGE TO PROP 13: FIRST STEP TOWARD 2018 BALLOT

Proponents of making a dramatic change to California's landmark **Proposition 13** property tax restrictions took their first step to getting a measure on the November 2018 statewide ballot. The change would allow the state to receive more tax dollars from commercial and industrial properties by assessing them at their current market value, an effort known as "split roll" because existing tax protections on homes would remain in place.

Advocates of the measure, including the **League of Women Voters of California** and community organizing nonprofits **California Calls** and **PICO Network** said the change could raise billions of dollars that could be spent on public schools and community colleges. *"I think the cumulative effects of the unfair tax system have gotten to the point where it's created crippling economic impacts on the state,"* said **Melissa Breach**, Executive Director, LWVC

Make It Fair is a constitutional amendment to reform commercial property taxes, while guaranteeing existing protections for residential property and agricultural land. Make It Fair will close the millionaire, billionaire, and big corporation tax loophole by requiring all commercial and industrial properties to be assessed at fair market value, putting California on par with how the vast majority of the country assesses these properties. California's commercial property taxes will still be among the lowest in the country because of Proposition 13's limits on property tax rates, which

Make It Fair does not change.

Make It Fair will restore over \$9 billion a year for services that all Californians rely on. Roughly half of the new revenues, \$3.6 billion, will support schools and community colleges. The remainder will be shared by counties, cities and special districts to support community services, including health clinics, trauma care and emergency rooms, parks, libraries and public safety.

Make It Fair mandates full transparency and accountability for all revenue restored to California from closing the commercial property tax loophole.

Make It Fair also benefits small businesses in three ways: it exempts owner operated small businesses from reassessment until they are sold, it levels the playing field so small businesses can compete more fairly with big corporations, and it reduces their taxes by eliminating the property tax on fixtures and equipment (the business personal property tax) for all small businesses.

Make It Fair is a common-sense reform – it puts California on par with how the vast majority of states treat commercial property by assessing them at fair market value. Make It Fair only affects undervalued commercial properties, creating a level playing field for those businesses that already pay their fair share.

League of Women Voters California

<https://lwvc.org/news/major-change-proposition-13-takes-its-first-step-toward-2018-ballot-0>



VACANT POSITION:

VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR, SALINAS VALLEY

We need someone to cover Voter Service for the Salinas Valley area! It's a part time but crucial position especially as we ramp up for June & November elections. The job entails organizing candidates' forums, Pros & Cons presentations, and other duties related to encouraging Salinas citizens to vote. Contact **Jeanne Turner, Voter Service Director Monterey Peninsula** jturner215@comcast.net or any Board Member for more information.





LWVMC 54 YEAR MEMBER: PHILOMENE SMITH



Philomene Smith has been a member of our League since 1964, following in the footsteps of her mother, the late **Philomene Reed**, who belonged when Phil (as she's known to family and friends) was in high school.



"I diagnosed, treated and set up individual education plans for students with learning disabilities. These students have average or above average intelligence, but aren't doing well in school, basically achieving below their ability." Until she retired in 2000, she worked with the school psychologist, the testing system and the students' parents to design a plan for each student.

Phil has now been continuously active in the League for more than half a century, working particularly on Social Policy and voting issues. *"I was on the **Juvenile Justice Commission** and eventually became Chair," she says. "I remember the League discovered that the county juveniles were housed in a small brick building in the middle of a field south of Salinas. The juveniles were left unsupervised at night while the staff went home. So the League did a big justice study and a member presentation and took positions on the matter. Action followed."*

Among Phil's memories of her years in the League, several stand out. *"The League sent me to the national convention in Washington, D.C., in 1970," she says. "That was during the Kent State shootings. So the League got together and demonstrated on the steps of the Capitol Building."*

Since her family moved to the Monterey Peninsula in 1952, when Phil was a sophomore in high school, she's loved living here. *"This is a great place," she says. "I didn't want to leave for college, so I went to **MPC**. Then I moved down to Los Angeles to go to **UCLA**. After one year, I took a semester off and got married."*

She also particularly remembers working with the late **Eleanor Ziel**. *"She was an elementary school teacher, then Principal at **Thomas O. Larkin**," Phil recalls. "We would call on department heads in Monterey County and tell them we were interested in their programs and activities. We asked questions about how they managed things and then we would go back and present our findings to the League. We would develop a position and take a vote—basically the same thing we do now." Action followed their efforts.*

Phil's husband **Hank**, a Pacific Grove native, lived parts of his life here and taught music at MPC. Hank died in 2016. The Smiths' two daughters live in Sacramento and Wilmington, Delaware.

Outside of the League, Phil volunteers as a field worker for the **Fort Ord National Monument** and monitors State and Federal archeological sites.

Phil finished her BA at **San Jose State**, later went to graduate school there and at **Sacramento State**, and earned her MA at the **University of Northern Colorado** in Greeley.

Phil agrees with LWVMC's goal of recruiting younger members. *"I think we're on our way to doing that," she says. In her work at the National Monument, she sees interested CSUMB students helping with its projects and adds that the League "needs to make connections with CSUMB students in the fields of politics, voting and sociology."*

After she and Hank moved back to this area, Phil says, *"I was a resource specialist and math teacher for the **Monterey Peninsula School District**, teaching students who had difficulties learning."* She worked at both **King Middle** and **Juan Cabrillo Elementary Schools** in Seaside.

Nancy Baker Jacobs
Nancy@NancyBakerJacobs.com

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

REMEMBER that any person of voting age, male or female, may join our League! A single annual membership is \$65, and a household (two people, one address) is \$95. If you want to join, or make a donation to our league, local scholarship fund or LWVC education fund, contact me and I'd be happy to help. Checks are payable to **LWVMC**: mail to PO Box 1995, Monterey CA 93942.



Thank you! **Lisa Hoivik**, 375-7665,
LHoivik@comcast.net

FORUM MODERATORS NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CANDIDATE DEBATES



We need some extra help to run local candidate forums in the upcoming Monterey Peninsula elections. If you can keep time, organize and read question cards, and do general clerking chores, please contact

Jeanne Turner,
Voter Service Director Monterey
Peninsula jturner215@comcast.net.

League of Women Voters of Monterey County

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LWVMC 2018 Calendar



APRIL

LWVMC Board Meeting

Monday, 9 April, 3:00 pm

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
contact Judi Lehman jlehman@redshift.com

Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Thursday, 12 April, 12 noon

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
contact George Riley
GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

Lunch & Learn with the League

Wednesday, 11 April, 12 noon

"11 Roundabouts for Hwy 68?"

Speakers: Richard Diehl & Grant Leonard, TAMC
contact Janet Brennan
Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

Special Events Committee Meeting

Date & Time to be Announced

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
contact K. Eoyang
Kemay.Eoyang@gmail.com

MAY

Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Thursday, 10 May, 12 noon

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
contact George Riley
GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

LWVMC 91st Annual Meeting

Saturday, 12 May, 10am to 12 noon

Guest Speaker to be Announced

Unitarian Universalist Church

contact Judi Lehman
jlehman@redshift.com

Special Events Committee Meeting

Date & Time to be Announced

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
contact K. Eoyang
Kemay.Eoyang@gmail.com