



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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Calendar

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

6:30-8:30 p.m.

State Ballot Measure Pros and Cons
Live Oak Senior Center
1777 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz, 95060
Co-sponsored by LWVSCC and AAUW
Free and open to the public

Monday, October 10, 2016

1:30-3:30 p.m.

Voting Rights: From Selma to Santa Cruz
Temple Beth El Jewish Comm. Center
3055 Porter Gulch Road, Aptos, CA 95003
See page 8 for more information
Free and open to all
Hosted by Temple Beth El's Senior
Connections

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

10 a.m.-Noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Thursday, October 13, 2016

**6:45 p.m. (seating) 7:15 p.m.
(program)**

Mothers of Men
Del Mar Theatre
1124 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, 95060
A 1917 silent film exploring women's role
in politics (see page 7 for details)
Cost: \$10.50 (\$1.00 service charge)
Purchase tickets in advance at
landmarktheatres.com/santa-cruz/del-mar-theatre/private-screenings

STATE BALLOT MEASURE PROS AND CONS

*AN UNBIASED LOOK AT ALL 17
PROPOSITIONS ON THE STATE BALLOT*

**Wednesday, October 5, 2016
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Live Oak Senior Center

1777 Capitola Road

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Free and open to the public

Ban the bag ban and fund the fund for fish? Temporarily extend the temporary income tax? Tax cigarette packs? Learn English the hard way, or the easy way? Can we amend our way out of Citizen's United? Can condoms cure sensuous cinema? Should criminals be required to check their guns at the gun store, and should gun stores be required to check their criminals at the door? Is lighting up a joint for fun OK if we tax and license it? Confused yet? If so, mark your calendar for our Pros and Cons presentation on this November's 17 state ballot measures: Wednesday, October 5, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Live Oak Senior Center, 1777 Capitola Road in Santa Cruz. Come ask your questions and we'll help you straighten out the twists and turns of this year's ballot choices.

This free, non-partisan, educational event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women. Light refreshments will be served. Donations accepted to help defray costs.

Download a [flyer](#) at to share with friends at
lwvsc.org/calendar.

For a complete list of state ballot measures go to cavotes.org.

President's Message



Since being an informed voter is so important to the success of our democracy, the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County will be providing a

program on October 5 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the state ballot measure pros and cons, which will be co-sponsored by the American Association of University Women and take place at the Live Oak Senior Center. I want to thank Dottie Fry and Sue Becker for all their efforts in making this program happen and for coordinating our voter registration efforts and our State Ballot Measure Pros and Cons programs, including three presentations to other groups in addition to the October 5 public presentation.

Our Voter Service team also played a role in the Future of Transportation in Santa Cruz County program on September 22, moderated by League member Ashley Wheelock. Thank you to Pam Newbury for producing a video of the September program which can be viewed at lwvsc.org/videos or on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) (search "Measure D Santa Cruz").

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

Membership Report

We welcome our newest member to the League's board of directors, Nancy Litvak, who takes over the reins as secretary from Marcia Minnihan. I first met Nancy on various workshop committees beginning in the 1980's and thereafter during our days as county educators. For 32 years she was a teaching librarian, mostly in the high schools. After her retirement, she managed to continue her love of books and teaching by leading a book club for young adult literature at Bookshop Santa Cruz.

When I asked Nancy why she became a member of the League, she recalled another high school teacher who praised the work of the League in getting good work accomplished. Also, Sandy Warren, her good friend and a past LWVSCC board member, felt Nancy and the League would be a good mix.

Nancy said that politics and women's issues have always been strong interests of hers and are "... almost a family hobby." Even when she was pregnant with her second daughter, she walked precincts for Robley Levy, our League's first president, when Robley ran for county supervisor. When the baby Nancy was carrying grew up, at age 24 she continued the tradition of walking precincts in Iowa and Ohio for President Barak Obama. (Her daughters now live in NYC and LA).

Nancy's community concerns are "the lack of mass transit and people's reluctance to engage with it, the housing costs here, the effects of stagnant wages on the middle-class and those at the poverty levels."

When her husband, Rabbi Richard Litvak, recently retired after 40 years with Temple Beth El in Aptos, she felt it was like a second retirement for her as well from all her accompanying commitments and busy weekends. In addition to her work with the League, she looks forward to her full-fledged retirement with interests in yoga, 5-mile daily walks, her book club, monthly trips to LA to visit her granddaughter, and playing bridge. For purposes of this article, she has even made a call for a bridge-playing member or friend to help in her wish to improve her game. (Nancy, my bridge playing stopped over 40 years ago, but, perhaps someone reading the VOTER would be interested? Interested parties can contact Nancy through the VOTER Editor at <mailto:newsletter@lwvsc.org>)

I am very pleased, after all these years, to be working again with Nancy on issues of importance.

—Peggy Marketello, Membership Chair

Voter Service Report

Election update

Thank you to all the League members who made the September 22 Measure D forum at the Live Oak Senior Center a success. Jan Beautz organized the program, Ashley Wheelock was our very capable moderator, Dee Takemoto kept us all on schedule as timekeeper, Sue Becker and Dottie Fry were question sorters, Eve Roberson and Kathy Donovan were the ushers who collected the question cards.

We have 17 state ballot propositions from plastic bags to the death penalty to be voted on in November. The League can help you get the facts at our pros and cons presentation on October 5. See page 1 for all the details on when and where. This non-partisan, educational event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women.

The 16 local measures include four on cannabis, three school district bond measures, three on fire district parcel taxes, one county-wide transportation sales tax measure, three local tax measures, and two measures that amend the Santa Cruz City Charter. To get the full list of state and local measures that will appear on your ballot, enter your address at [VotersEdge.org/ca](https://votersedge.org/ca).

—Dottie Fry, Voter Service Co-Chair

More information about the November election can be found at these websites:

votescount.com—Local election information for candidates and county measures

cavotes.org—Information about your ballot including candidates and state and local measures

easyvoterguide.org—State propositions and voter information for new or busy voters

voterguide.sos.ca.gov—Official voter information guide from the California Secretary of State

Registration Update

September has been a busy month, with National Voter Registration Day on Sept 27. We again worked with the county elections office to have volunteers at six Starbucks locations in the county. Dottie Fry and I are grateful to our wonderful team of volunteers, many of whom showed up at 8 a.m. to catch the coffee drinkers at Starbucks. Our thanks go to those who staffed the tables along with Dottie and me, including eight League members: Kathy Donovan, Paul Fleischman, Eve Roberson, Karen Smith, Dee Takemoto, Dottie Speidel, Dorrie Kennedy, and Susan Shane. We were also blessed with help from nine women who are not (yet) members of the League: Margit Aramburu, Maggie Smith, Kate Pohl, Penelope Kenez, Margaret Morrison, Sue Brennan, and Lydia Parker. Two volunteers from AAUW also lent a hand in Watsonville: Kit Hein and Lynn Cummins.

In addition to Starbucks, we have two of us registering Sunday mornings at the farmers' market at Portola and 15th Avenue. We were on deck for Sept 18 and 25, and will be there through October 23. Besides Sue and Dottie, hats off to Margit Aramburu, Maggie Smith, Lydia Parker, and Karen Smith for their service at the Sunday Farmers' Market.

To all seventeen of these faithful volunteers, we give our hearty thanks along with a big hug.

The deadline for registering to vote is Monday, October 24. In addition to our voter registration outreach events, you can register to vote online at registertovote.ca.gov.

—Sue Becker, co-chair, Voter Service Co-Chair

Vote with the League!

A [flyer](#) with the League's recommended votes on ballot measures is available online at lwvc.org. In-depth information on LWVC recommendations can be found at bit.ly/LWVCBallotRecs.

See page 4 for a brief summary of all LWVC ballot recommendations.

State League Ballot Measure Recommendations

The League of Women Voters of California supports or opposes ballot measures that, after careful scrutiny, are found to be in line with League positions. The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. This November the League supports eight measures, opposes three, and is neutral on one.

The LWVC takes no stand on five measures not covered by League positions: Prop 52 (State Fees on Hospitals. Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds), Prop 53 (Revenue Bonds. Statewide Voter Approval), Prop 60 (Adult Films. Condoms. Health Requirements), Prop 61 (State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards), and Prop 64 (Marijuana Legalization).

Measures supported

Prop 51: School Bonds: K-12 and Community College. LWVC supports this bond measure that will relieve the chronic underfunding of California's schools.

Prop 54: California Legislature Transparency Act. This commonsense reform helps make our state government more open, honest, and accountable, requiring posting of bills online at least 72 hours before passage and timely postings of online video recordings of public meetings of the Legislature.

Prop 55: Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act. Continues current income tax rates on wealthiest two percent of Californians established by Prop 30 in 2012, which has moved California toward financial stability and adequate education and health care funding.

Prop 57: Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act. Restores the authority of judges, not prosecutors, to decide if juveniles should be tried in adult court. Also reduces state prison population and costs by allowing earlier parole of nonviolent felons.

Prop 58: English Proficiency. Multilingual Education. Repeals restrictions, imposed by prop 227 in 1998, on methods California schools can use to teach English to non-English speakers.

Prop 62: Justice that Works: Death Penalty Abolition. Abolishes the death penalty and replaces it with life without the possibility of

parole. The death penalty is ineffective in reducing crime and risks executing the innocent. *Yes on 62. No on 66.*

Prop 63: Safety for All Act. Reduces gun violence through strengthened background checks, ensuring sharing of data between California law enforcement and the FBI, ensures criminals sell or transfer firearms after conviction, makes those convicted of gun theft ineligible to own guns, and requires reporting of lost or stolen ammunition and guns.

Prop 67: Protect California's Plastic Bag Ban. Vote yes to protect California's plastic bag ban, a statewide law passed in 2014 prohibiting single-use plastic bags that are difficult to recycle, pose a hazard to marine wildlife, and clutter our landscapes. Having two measures about plastic bags on the ballot is meant to confuse voters. *Yes on 67. No on 65.*

Measures opposed

Prop 59: Constitutional Amendment Advisory Measure. This vague, poorly-drafted ballot measure won't eliminate the corrupting influence of money in our democracy and could have significant unintended consequences, such as squelching political speech.

Prop 65: Dedication of Revenue from Disposable Bag Sales to Wildlife Conservation Fund Initiative. This deceptive measure, put on the ballot by the plastic bag industry, could thwart California's efforts to rein in plastic bag waste and litter. It is more about causing confusion around the more significant Prop 67 than helping the environment. *Vote yes on 67, no on 65.*

Prop 66: Shortening Death Penalty Appeals. This poorly-written measure would greatly increase California's risk of executing an innocent person by shortening the time for appeals and limiting the prisoner's ability to present new evidence. It raises significant constitutional issues, creating delays and requiring up to 400 new taxpayer-funded attorneys to meet the demand.

Neutral

Prop 56: Cigarette Tax. This proposition earmarks money from a cigarette tax for health care and tobacco use prevention. The LWVC is neutral because it does not support earmarks but does support the benefits from reducing smoking and increased health care funding.

Measure D: Choices in Transportation

On September 22, the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County held a public forum, moderated by League member and attorney Ashley Wheelock, on Measure D, the “Safety, Pothole Repair, Traffic Relief, Transit Improvement Measure,” which aims to use funds from a 30-year, half-cent sales tax for transportation projects in Santa Cruz County. If passed, Measure D, expected to raise a total of \$500 million over 30 years, will fund a variety of transportation projects in the county. (For a list of how the revenue will be spent, see our [September VOTER](#) newsletter at lwvsc.org/voter.) LWVSCC does not have a position on Measure D.



Moderator Ashley Wheelock poses a question to the panel

Rick Longinotti, representing “[The Campaign for Sensible Transportation](#),” presented the case for a “no” vote on Measure D. While in agreement with much of the spending, he was not willing to back a measure that wastes 22% of the funds on adding auxiliary lanes to Highway 1, which would drain money away from other less auto-centric modes of transportation. (Auxiliary lanes as proposed in Measure D would add a third lane to Highway 1 between exits from Soquel to 41st, Bay/Porter to Park, and Park to State Park.)

Longinotti referenced the Caltrans Environmental Impact Report, noting that it predicts that the Transportation System Management (TSM) alternative (a much larger project than is proposed in Measure D) would result in “a very slight improvement in traffic congestion when compared to the no-build

alternative.” He also pointed out that the report says total accident rates would remain the same compared to the no-build alternative (making no changes) and that the TSM would not divert vehicles from the local street system. Longinotti asserted that highway expansion doesn’t work for long and will increase vehicle miles traveled.



Panelist Rick Longinotti

Instead, Longinotti supports a transportation system that will reduce our dependency on autos and oil, with public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian alternatives, including bus rapid transit on Soquel, rapid transit on the rail line, and a bus-on-shoulder route on Highway 1. Longinotti also advocated getting employers and schools to support public transit.

Longinotti proposed taking the next two to four years to study other alternatives to determine what would bring the most benefit to get a transportation measure that works without wasting money.

Casey Beyer of “[Get Santa Cruz County Moving](#)” advocated in favor of a “yes” vote. Beyer



Panelist Casey Beyer

emphasized that the half-cent sales tax increase for Measure D would be partially offset by a quarter-cent reduction in the tax rate as a result of the phase-out of a previous statewide tax in

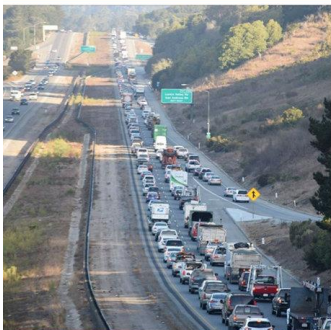
Continued on page 6

January of 2017 (the funds from that Prop 30 sales tax, passed in 2014; went to the state). Measure D's half-cent increase, if passed, would start in April of 2017. However, because of the sunset of Prop 30, the effective sales tax increase from Measure D would be only a quarter cent, and those funds would all be spent locally.

Beyer listed the benefits to county residents from Measure D, which he described as twelve years in the making, the result of a broad-based coalition within our community, and receiving wide support from many community organizations and leaders.

In addition to the auxiliary lanes, 30% goes to fixing potholes and road repair. Beyer contended that Santa Cruz County has some of the worst roads in the state. Two bicycle/pedestrian bridges would be built across Highway 1, one at Mar Vista in Aptos, the other at Chanticleer in Santa Cruz. These bridges would promote bicycle and pedestrian travel by shortening the time needed to travel from one side of the highway to the other. Twenty percent would go to the Santa Cruz Metro Transit District and Lift Line. Some of the funds would be used to build a wildlife crossing under Highway 17 at Laurel curve, protecting wildlife and reducing accidents. Other funds would go to carpool/vanpool coordination and to completion of sections of the Coastal Rail-Trail through the county and study of its future uses. Beyer asserted that highway improvements would increase safety by allowing emergency responders to travel to and around the hospital and other emergency centers.

Don't Cherry pick from a Draft EIR



"Traffic delay in the northbound direction during the morning peak hour is expected to average 22 minutes per vehicle, which is a **decrease of 54 percent** compared to the No Build Alternative."

"Compared to no-build conditions, traffic performance under the Tier I Corridor TSM Alternative would **improve during the morning peak hour in both the northbound (42 percent reduction in travel time) and southbound (59 percent reduction in travel time) directions.**"



Caltrans EIR according to Get Santa Cruz County Moving

Beyer pointed out that the environmental impact report referenced by Longinotti is still a draft, and that taking the entire report into account gives a different picture. Beyer asserts that the report indicates travel times at peak hours would be improved by 42 to 59%.

Will it reduce congestion?

According to the Caltrans Environmental Impact Report: "The TSM Alternative would result in a **very slight improvement in traffic congestion** when compared to the No Build Alternative."

"In the evening principle commute direction (southbound)... the average travel speed would slightly decrease (10mph) due to the **severe breakdown of State Route 1 by year 2035.**"



The Campaign for Sensible Transportation

Caltrans EIR according to The Campaign for Sensible Transportation

Throughout the forum, Longinotti and Beyer went head-to-head on the issue of changes to Highway 1. Longinotti asserted that widening was included to appease powerful special interests. A main concern, he said, should sales tax revenue decrease in the future, would be the need to borrow from funds earmarked for other uses to pay for the auxiliary lanes. Longinotti predicted that dependence on automobiles could create problems when future gas increases make car travel more expensive. He sees Highway 1 changes as a down payment that paves the way for bigger projects to come. Longinotti feels that the Regional Transportation Commission hasn't made a case for the Highway 1 projects. Our public transportation is at a tipping point where, he asserts, if we have funding to provide adequate public transportation that is efficient, safe, and comfortable, people will use it. "That's why I hate to see something going for 30 years that doesn't include that vision," Longinotti said, "If we had two more years to get that vision, we could get somewhere."

Continued on page 7

Beyer focused on the need to move forward immediately as tax measures are only passable during presidential election years, and if this measure isn't passed now, the chance for any future measure could be "lost at the bottom of a policy heap of a lot of other issues." According to Beyer, not passing Measure D this year means we could miss an important window of opportunity to receive matching federal and state money. Twelve other counties have transportation tax measures on the November ballot that will compete for available funds. Unless we practice what Beyer referred to as "self-help," meaning generating local funds for projects, we could not expect to receive any funding help from Washington or Sacramento. Waiting even two years to come up with another measure could mean further drastic cuts in bus service and losing Lift Line entirely. Beyer concluded, "If we wait, we fail our community."

—Pam Newbury, VOTER Editor

Editor's note: Many questions were answered at the forum that we don't have space to cover here. You can watch a video of the entire forum online on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) (search Measure D Santa Cruz) or at lwvsc.org/videos

City and Partners host showing of 1917 silent film shot in Santa Cruz

The City of Santa Cruz hosts a showing of "Mothers of Men," a restored feature-length silent film shot in Santa Cruz in 1917, on Thursday, October 13th at the Del Mar Theatre. Seating begins at 6:45 PM, and the program begins at 7:15 PM. The film, which explores some of the most contentious issues surrounding women's suffrage, will include live musical accompaniment by the Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra and introductory comments by the film archivist and historians.

"Mothers of Men," penned by notable playwright Hal Reid (father of silent film actor Wallace Reid), depicts the first woman to be elected governor in the United States. Dorothy Davenport stars as Judge Clara Madison, who sentences a murderer to death, paving the way for her election. As governor she is faced with a difficult dilemma: She has the power to pardon her husband who has been falsely convicted of a serious crime, but to do so she'd be using her office for her own personal gain. "I must find some way to realize my ideals without sacrificing my husband. I must struggle on somehow for the sake of womanhood!"

Made just three years before the 19th Amendment was ratified, granting women the right to vote, "Mothers of Men" attempted to enter into the suffrage campaign by showing the nation how strong women can be if allowed to hold political office. Filmed in Santa Cruz, the movie showcases many local landmarks, including the Cooper Street Courthouse and Natural Bridges.

The showing will be presented by the City of Santa Cruz with sponsorship from Landmark Theatres, UC Santa Cruz, the Museum of Art & History and the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz. It is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County, the Santa Cruz Film Festival, and the Downtown Association. Tickets for \$10.50 per person (plus \$1.00 service charge) can be purchased at:

landmarktheatres.com/santa-cruz/del-mar-theatre/private-screenings

Additional showings of the film, without live orchestra, include:

Turner Classic Movies, October 4th (10 p.m.)

Museum of Art & History, November 4th (First Friday): Program with talk and film begins at 5 p.m., film then on continuous loop from 6:30 pm on throughout the evening.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to LWVSCC, Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

____ \$65 Individual annual membership
____ \$100.00 Two members in a household
____ \$30.00 Student membership
____ Contribution \$ _____

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWV Education Fund.
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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Voting Rights:

From Selma to Santa Cruz and Beyond

On Monday, October 10th, Temple Beth El in Aptos will present "Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot," a moving new documentary featuring students and teachers during the 1965 voting rights demonstrations. The 40-minute film will be followed by an interactive discussion and brief presentations by representatives of the Santa Cruz NAACP and Temple Beth El's Social Action Committee. County Elections Clerk Gail Pellerin will provide voter registration and election information.

Following the program, attendees can visit with representatives of the NAACP, Elections Department and Temple Beth El for more information about volunteer opportunities at the local, state and national level.

The event will be held at the Temple Beth El Jewish Community Center, 3055 Porter Gulch Road, Aptos, CA 95003 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and is free and open to all. For more information about the program, contact Maria Gitin: msgitin@mariagitin.com or 831-334-6176.

Ready for November 8?

Want to prepare for the general election coming up on November 8, 2016? At Voter's Edge California you can enter your address for a complete list of what will be on your ballot. You'll also find in depth information about candidates, measures, and who supports them.

When you've decided, you can keep track of your choices for use on election day.

