



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

April 2016

Volume 50, Number 7

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Lilly Ledbetter and the Battle for Equal Pay



Attorney
Ashley Wheelock

**Tuesday
April 12
6:30 p.m.**



Attorney
Syda Kosofsky Cogliati

Featuring

*Peace United Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall
900 High Street | Santa Cruz, CA 95060*

*Free and open to members of the public of all genders.
Reservations required: league@lwvsc.org 831-325-4140
Continuing Legal Education credit available (details below).*

Calendar

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

10 a.m.-noon
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7-8 p.m.
Lilly Ledbetter and the Battle for Equal Pay
Syda Kosofsky Cogliati and Ashley Wheelock
Peace United Church, Fellowship Hall
900 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Sponsors: LWVSCC & Women Lawyers of SCC
Reservations required: league@lwvsc.org.
Free and open to the public

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

10 a.m.-noon
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

11:30 a.m. lunch/program at noon
Money in Politics.
Community Foundation Santa Cruz County
7807 Soquel Drive, Aptos 95003
Helen Hutchison and Helen Grieco
Co-sponsors: LWVSCC and Common Cause
See [flyer](#) for lunch options at lwvsc.org
Free and open to the public.

Sunday, June 5, 2016

10 a.m.-noon
LWVSCC Annual Meeting
Seascape Golf Club
610 Clubhouse Drive
Aptos 95003

In honor of women's equality activist Lilly Ledbetter's birthday, our April program will examine her struggle to be paid an amount equal to men doing the same job. Speakers Syda Kosofsky Cogliati and Ashley Wheelock will detail Lilly Ledbetter's fight, point out where more progress is needed for pay equality, and discuss ways in which we can advocate for fair pay.

The Supreme Court denied Ledbetter's pay discrimination claim against her employer because she did not file suit within 180 days from her first pay check, even though she was unaware of the gradually widening gap between her salary and her male co-workers until much later. In 2009, Congress passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to loosen the timeliness requirements for the filing of a discrimination suit.

Attorney Syda Kosofsky Cogliati, past president and current board member of Women Lawyers of Santa Cruz County (WLSCC), works as a senior appellate research attorney at the Sixth District Court of Appeal. Ms. Cogliati received her B.A. from UC Santa Cruz and her Juris Doctorate from UC Hastings College of Law. Ashley B. Wheelock, also a WLSCC past president and current board member, is the principal at the Law Office of Ashley Wheelock, opened in 2014, which primarily focuses on civil litigation. She received her J.D. from George Washington University Law School in Washington, DC, and received her B.A. from UC Berkeley. The two attorneys co-teach a course in advanced legal writing at Monterey College of Law.

All genders are welcome at this free public event. Reservations are required: e-mail league@lwvsc.org or call 831-325-4140. For attorneys, Continuing Legal Education credits in elimination of bias can be purchased (\$10 for WLSCC members and \$20 for non-members) ahead of the event online at wlvsc.org or at the door (cash or check only). [Flyer](#) to print and share at lwvsc.org/calendar. Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County and Women Lawyers of Santa Cruz County.

Voter Service Report

Spring Volunteers Needed

Our local League is cooperating with the county elections office on voter education in the local high schools and Cabrillo College. We are calling for volunteers to teach a 50-minute class to high school students in government and economics classes during the last two weeks in April and voter registration at Cabrillo in May. Volunteers would teach from a lesson plan developed by Helen Ruiz-Thomas, the county's program coordinator for voter education and outreach. The county has contacted teachers by e-mail, and they are asking for volunteers to call the teachers who do not respond. This outreach also includes a voter registration drive.

This is a great opportunity to reach out to young voters, some of whom will vote in June for the first time. We need volunteers for each of these three services: contacting teachers, teaching classes, and voter registration. Please call Sue (831-462-4160) or Dottie (831-688-9234) or e-mail us (elections@lwvsc.org) if you can help with this very important service.

The deadline to register for the June Primaries is May 8. Remember, if you have changed your address or want to change your party affiliation, you must re-register. You can register, change your address or party preference, or check your registration status at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration or at the county elections office at 701 Ocean Ave, room 221.

There is only one statewide ballot measure, proposition 50, on the June Primary ballot. Prop 50 proposes the suspension of pay of any legislator who has been suspended by the Assembly or the Senate. Note that the League now uses the more generic term "propositions" for all ballot measures, which include initiatives, constitutional amendments, referenda, and bond measures.

Continued on page 7



President's Message

This year's local program planning session and our legislative interviews with Assemblyman Mark Stone and State Senator Bill Monning were the most interesting of any I have attended, which includes a large number of such meetings over the years.

A big thank you to Sandy Warren for hosting the program planning meeting on March 3, and to Marcia Minnihan for serving as recorder. I led the discussion at the well-attended meeting where participants endorsed two mini-studies and three areas of emphasis to be included in the Annual Meeting Kit, which will be presented to members to be voted on at our June 5 annual meeting.

Our League, along with other local Leagues, participated in legislative interviews with Assembly Member Mark Stone on February 19 and with State Senator Bill Monning on March 4. The topics for both interviews were: voting and elections, housing, climate change, and a general question on their legislative and personal priorities. We had a full house at both interviews.

The interview with Mark Stone resulted in such clear communication from start to finish that I did not need to cross out or rewrite my notes, and approval was given that day to submit the notes to our state League of Women Voters well before the February 29 deadline. League participants on February 19 were: Morgan Rankin, Sue Becker, Dottie Fry, and myself, representing Santa Cruz County, and Marie Arnold and Paula Radzinski, representing San Jose/Santa Clara. (see article in this issue, page 4, for the report on this interview).

LWVC granted a two-week time extension for submitting results from the interviews, which allowed us to include an interview with Senator Bill Monning on March 4 (look for a report on Monning's interview in our May VOTER). Participating in the interview, which lasted a full hour, were members Marcia Minnihan, Coleen Garde, and myself from our Santa Cruz County League, with the San Jose/ Santa Clara League represented by Judy Chamberlin, Marie Arnold, and Claire Benson. San Jose/Santa Clara was the lead group for this interview. Notes, taken by Judi Chamberlin, will be released pending Senator Monning's review.

Our March 23 program dealing with Affordable Housing in Santa Cruz County expands on the subject covered in these legislative interviews, which was voted in as a topic for emphasis at our June 2015 Annual Meeting. Our featured speaker in March, Julie Conway, Santa Cruz County Housing Manager, is very knowledgeable on this topic.

Be sure to review the calendar in this issue listing our upcoming programs. I encourage you to attend as many as possible.

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

Membership Report

As March is Women's History Month I thought this would be an appropriate time to highlight two prominent members of our local League who have each served four terms as mayors of their respective cities: Cynthia Mathews of the City of Santa Cruz and Stephanie Harlan of the City of Capitola.

These two ladies have attended many of the community events the League has sponsored over the years on key issues in our community. I was honored recently in being able to question them as to their motivations and longevity in sustaining their energies and dedication when others have become frustrated, disenchanted and have quit. It is a marvel to me that they have chosen to remain in their roles as long as they have. In hearing of their dedication and outlook, it becomes easier to understand.

Stephanie Harlan moved into Capitola in 1972 after accepting a job as a junior high school teacher in Watsonville. Later, after attending Cabrillo's nursing program, she began a career in nursing from which she has recently retired. Service to others seems paramount to her. She was elected to the City Council of Capitola in 1984 where she has served a total of 26 years, including four terms as mayor, with the distinction of being Capitola's first woman mayor.

Cynthia Mathews had long been involved with various community issues and local organizations. After the devastating 1989 earthquake, she was appointed to Vision Santa Cruz, a group that guided Santa Cruz's earthquake recovery process. By then her children were older and she felt she could make a good contribution to the city at a challenging time, so she chose to run for the city council, was elected in 1992, and is now serving in her fifth four-year term.

Stephanie has also served on many committees and commissions, including the Capitola Museum, the library, and as chair of the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District.

Both ladies have been highly instrumental in historic preservation, the maintenance and development of their towns' infrastructures and neighborhood parks, water issues, and many other concerns beneficial to the people in their communities. Both support Measure S on the June ballot, which proposes a bond to repair and upgrade the Santa Cruz Public Library System's ten branches

in their commitment to literacy for all. The League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County supports this measure (see page 7 for more information).

Stephanie says, "I am especially proud to have been part of the city Council that developed a stable tax base allowing the city to provide excellent services to residents, businesses, and visitors." She is looking to see the roads and sidewalks of Capitola repaired, the garden of Rispin Mansion restored, the opening of a new park on McGregor Drive with a skateboard park, dog park, and bicycle pump track (a bike trail with slopes and jumps sculpted from packed earth).

When asked how she sees the League serving the community, Cynthia responded, "The League has always been the gold standard when it comes to public policy and electoral integrity. The League's focus on key issues and its voter information activities are so trusted—a real civic contribution these days."

When not in the Mayor's office, Cynthia enjoys time with her family, gardening and "the Santa Cruz tapestry in all its glory."

What keeps these women going is probably best expressed in Cynthia's articulation of what inspires her in remaining an elected official, "...the strong sense of community and high degree of personal engagement—people being so willing to give their time, resources and talents for the benefit of the common good, in whatever field resonates with them, whether it is education, environment, economic opportunity, housing, health or countless other causes, people are really willing to get involved, work together and get results. It's a defining quality of our local culture."

This recognition and appreciation of the positive power of community spirit, and the commitment and dedication of both Cynthia and Stephanie as community leaders, is a testament as to why they get results and why we can consider ourselves lucky to have these two ladies in our midst.

Thank you, Stephanie and Cynthia for your time in letting the League membership know a little more about both of you and for being a strong and distinguished part of women's history in our county.

—Peggy Marketello, *Membership Chair*

Legislative interview: Mark Stone

On February 19, members of LWVSCC and the San Jose/Santa Clara League interviewed Mark Stone, who represents District 29 in the California Assembly.

On improving voter turnout, Stone supports any method of encouraging more people to go to the polls, including same-day registration and weekend voting. He's interested in online voting for the future when security problems have been resolved. He emphasized the need to stop disenfranchising voters, and expressed concerns about the top-two primary system silencing the voices of minor parties in politics.

Asked about increasing the availability of affordable housing, Stone asserted the need for a stable and dedicated source of funding. Currently, an Assembly task force is looking at the issue, with bay area legislators taking the lead. He emphasized that the role of the state is to provide resources for helping local government provide affordable housing.

Regarding climate change priorities and policies, Stone co-chairs the Environmental Caucus along with Fran Pavley, which is looking at what is being done in districts throughout the state. He says oil companies have too much power and are obscuring the truth.

Stone lists his other priorities as the environment, child welfare, and prison reform. Environmental justice is a major issue; poor communities should not be subject to low water quality. We need to come down hard on water polluters.

—Barbara Lewis

Introducing the *Talk About It* Campaign

Join Community Prevention Partners for a Town Hall meeting focused on the impacts of underage drinking, substance use disorders, and shifting community perspectives. The county will unveil its *Talk About It* campaign with an evening of community resources, personal stories, a youth discussion group, insights by Capitola Police Chief Rudy Escalante, and personal actions you can take. The event takes place in the Aptos High Auditorium from 5-8 p.m. on Thursday, April 28th. For more information, contact Teela Williams at twilliams@unitedwaysc.org or phone 831-212-0804.

Board Members Wanted

Share your talents with the League! Interesting work, great people to work with; learn to make things happen for our local Santa Cruz County League of Women Voters and for your community. Help set the direction for League, and expand your commitment to helping our efforts in Santa Cruz County.

The Nominating Committee is seeking members to serve on the board of directors and other committees. The term of office is one year, and officers to be elected include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, members of the nominating committee, and other committees. No experience is necessary.

The election will be held at our June 5 Annual Meeting. Nominations will be presented at the meeting by the committee, and nominations may also be made at the meeting by any member. Contact me if you are interested or want to learn more: phone 831-475-7184 or e-mail slharlan@sbcglobal.net

Consider working with this dynamic group of people. This is going to be an exciting year!

—Stephanie Harlan, Chair, Nominating Committee

Antidote to Dark Money

Learn about efforts to help California voters “follow the money” and shine a light on who funds political activity in our state. On Tuesday, May 17, Helen Hutchison, President LWV of California and Helen Grieco, Northern California organizer at California Common Cause will discuss voter initiatives and legislation in process and what advocacy is happening at state and national levels.

Co-sponsored by Common Cause and LWVSCC, this meeting is free and open to the public. Lunch starts at 11:30, the program begins at noon. Attendees may bring their own lunch, order a box lunch for \$15 per person, or join us at noon for the program. Reservations and pre-payment required for those who wish to order lunch; please complete and return the order form on the [flyer](#) at lwvsc.org/calendar.

Affordable Housing Benefits All

In March LWVSCC presented a discussion of affordable housing in Santa Cruz County with Julie Conway, housing manager at the county planning department. Conway began by pointing out that the lack of affordable housing in our community affects everybody, even those who own a home or have secure housing.

Housing affordability and affordable housing are separate issues. Affordable housing is designated and deed-restricted to be affordable through the life of the project. As an example, Conway pointed out the Aptos Blue project, a rental project in which the county was deeply involved. Aptos Blue units will remain affordable for many years to come. Measure J units are deed-restricted so that they will remain affordable every time the units are bought and sold.



Aptos Blue: affordable rental housing in Aptos

Housing affordability refers to the affordability of market-priced housing. In our housing market, the high price of housing means many people who work in our community cannot afford to live here. When that happens, large portions of our workforce drive long distances to get to work, causing clogged freeways. This means people who work in our community aren't invested in community activities, such as schools and other local organizations. Working far from where your children are in school creates anxiety and problems, such as when a child is ill. Conway emphasized, "It makes our community poorer if the people that work in our community can't live in our community."

The high price of housing also constrains movement, which is bad because as people move through their lives, they have different housing needs. Young people need to move away from home to a small apartment. Eventually they have families and need a larger home. Seniors don't need large yards and multiple bedrooms, but they can't move out of their large homes because of the lack of smaller, affordable housing. This leads to many empty bedrooms around the county, which would help solve the problem if we could match up empty bedrooms with those who need them.

Many who make a decent living are overpaying for housing, which is bad for them, and worse for those with lower incomes. When those with lower incomes overpay for housing, they are, by definition, unstable, because it doesn't take much to dislodge them from that housing. The standard is that 30% of gross household income should go to housing costs. The county has a very active housing section working to change things for the better. The staff are busy with grant programs, down payment assistance, mobile home change-out programs, measure J home sales, developing new affordable housing, and protecting existing affordable housing stock. They've been creative with their remaining housing resources to make sure that they don't lose the 500 measure J units and the three to four hundred deed restricted units in the first-time homebuyer's programs.

In 2011 when the state dissolved the redevelopment agency fund due to AB 26 the county lost eight million dollars a year targeted for affordable housing, a devastating loss. The county committed all of its redevelopment dollars into enforceable contracts in June of 2011. Housing production has more than doubled in the last five years from the previous 15, thanks to [MidPen](#)



[Housing](#), an organization dedicated to providing safe, high-quality affordable housing. Redevelopment reuse funds, past loans that are now being repaid, are being passed on to help develop new projects.

Some of the programs that would have benefited from redevelopment funds were instead financed through grants that must be matched with local dollars both from the county and private investors. One project, the 88-unit Shapiro Knolls project in Watsonville, cost \$42 million, \$10 million from the county, \$16 million from federal low income housing tax credits (the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, known as LIHTC), and over half came from private investors. Qualifying for LIHTC credit is complicated and labor intensive: a project must meet every possible criterion, it must be shovel-ready, and it must have local dollars invested in it. The application process is lengthy and extremely competitive; Shapiro Knolls applied five times before getting approval.

Two projects starting this month are the St. Stephens Senior 40-unit Housing project on Soquel Avenue and the 46-unit Pippin Apartments, which straddles the boundary between the city of Watsonville and Santa Cruz County. Both projects are a mix of incomes (with minimum and maximum income limits) and will set aside a few units for those with special needs.

Conway stressed the importance of developing “best practice” affordable housing with partners who have the capacity to finance properties in a way that provides for ongoing management and support, including many services for residents such as an after school and summer program for youth; financial literacy courses; tax preparation assistance; vocational development; computer lab assistance; health and wellness programs; and access to other community resources. “Over the years this field of community development has really gotten very smart,” Conway said, “Well designed, well managed, service-enriched housing is what works well in our communities.” Having someone on site to keep track of how things are going is a key part of avoiding problems often associated with low-income housing.

To address the bigger issue of land use patterns in our community we need to increase the number of small, affordable one-person housing units to accommodate this fast-growing demographic. Locating these units in mixed-use developments along transportation corridors would make them ideal for singles, seniors, and students, and help improve congestion as well. The planning department is working to update the code to make these smaller units more affordable and allow construction of

multi-story developments, which would be a more efficient use of land and make it more attractive for builders to make smaller, less expensive apartments. Current code encourages single-family homes. Because builders can’t make as many as they would like, they’re going to make them as expensive as possible.

Measure J was a voter initiative passed in 1978 to protect open space, agricultural land, and draw an urban services line to identify areas for housing. It required that for developments of five or more units, 15% of those had to be affordable, deed-restricted units. A 2015 update allowed a two-year trial period where, instead of requiring the affordable units to be on-site, the developer could pay a per square foot fee to generate local dollars to build more housing elsewhere. They are currently collecting data to present to the board of supervisors in 2017 so they can determine if this should be a long-term policy. Median annual income for a family of four in the county is about \$86,000, and you have to be at or below 120% of median income to qualify for a measure J home.

The county’s challenge is to be creative in developing new funding from a variety of sources.

—Pam Newbury, *Editor*



Julie Conway answers questions about affordable housing.

Editor’s note: A video of the entire program, including the extensive question-and-answer session, can be viewed at lwvsc.org/videos.

Our thanks to the Community Foundation Santa Cruz County at the Jack and Peggy Baskin Center for Philanthropy for the use of the Richard & Mary Solari Community Room for this meeting.

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.

Thanks to Donors

LWVSCC thanks those who have generously donated to our local League and the education fund this year so far. Our appreciation goes to Laura Grossman (who made a donation in memory of Janet Welsh), Stephanie Harlan, Jan Karwin, Barbara Lewis, Judi and Michael Orbach, and Dee Takemoto. To find out how you, too, can support our League, go to lwvsc.org and click on the “[Donate to us](#)” link.

League endorses Library Bond

In March the board of directors of LWVSCC voted to endorse Measure S, the Library Facilities Bond Measure slated for the June ballot that proposes to fund much-needed capital investment in the Santa Cruz Public Libraries. The system’s ten branches have wonderful programs, resources and staff, but the facilities themselves are in serious need of repair, upgrades and expansion to meet growing demand, increasingly diverse use, and requirements of modern technology.

The bond would seek approval from voters to levy a special tax annually for the next 30 years on parcels within the Community Facilities District (which includes northern Santa Cruz County; Watsonville is not included as it has a separate library system). The tax’s annual cost to property owners would be \$49.50 per unit for residential property and \$86 per parcel for agricultural, commercial, and recreational land. The money will be used to fund projects envisioned in the 2013 [Library Facilities Master Plan](#). For more information about the Master Plan and library needs, see our December 2013 VOTER article “[Santa Cruz Libraries in the 21st Century](#)” at lwvsc.org/voter. More details about the measure can be found on their website www.ourlibrariesourfuture.org or their Facebook page, [Our Libraries Our Future 2016—Yes on S](#).

Voter Service Report, continued from page 2

There are also some important local issues to be voted on besides the BIG one for president. The Library Facilities Revenue Measure proposes a parcel tax that will require a 2/3 majority to pass (see article on this page). The funds will go only for facility upgrades and in some cases, new buildings.

Cabrillo College is proposing Measure Q for the June ballot. This is a \$310 million bond to maintain campus facilities. It would be a 30-year annual property tax of \$23 per \$100,000 of taxable property (i.e., the price homeowners originally paid, not the current market value). A 55 percent vote is needed to pass the measure.

Three incumbent county supervisors are being challenged: John Leopold in the first district, Zach Friend in the second district, and Bruce McPherson in the fifth.

— Sue Becker and Dottie Fry, Voter Service Co-Chair