



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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Money in Politics

Tuesday, May 17, 2016 11:30 a.m.

Featuring

Helen Hutchison
LWV California
and

Helen Grieco
California
Common Cause



Community Foundation Santa Cruz County
7807 Soquel Drive, Aptos 95003

Order a box lunch (\$15 per person; [RSVP](#) required: go to lwvsc.org/calendar.html for reservation form) or bring your own lunch. This free, public event is co-sponsored by LWVSCC and Common Cause.

Calendar

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, LWV, and Helen Grieco, Common Cause
Co-sponsors: LWVSCC and Common Cause
Order a box lunch (\$15 per person; [RSVP](#) required) or bring your own lunch
Free and open to the public.
More info: 831-325-4140

Tuesday, May 24, 2016 | 7:00-9:30 p.m.
20th Congressional District Forum
Louden Nelson Center
301 Center Street, Santa Cruz

Sunday, June 5, 2016 | 10 a.m.-noon
LWVSCC Annual Meeting
Seascape Golf Club
610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos 95003
Women in Politics
Stephanie Harlan and Cynthia Mathews
Hot breakfast buffet: \$20 per person
RSVP and Prepay by Saturday, May 28 to:
LWVSCC | P.O. Box 1745 | Capitola, CA 95010
Annual meeting kit at lwvsc.org

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 | 10 a.m.-noon
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

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.

Helen Grieco joined California Common Cause as an organizer in 2010. Common Cause works to create open, honest, and accountable government that serves the public interest; to promote equal rights, opportunity, and representation for all; and to empower all people to make their voices heard in the political process. Grieco founded Our Media Voice, BRAVE People, Defending Ourselves Self-Defense School and SHE Academy. She also is a former executive director of the California National Organization for Women.

Helen Hutchison joined the League in 1969. She has been active at local and state levels in strategic planning, initiative and referendum reform, human resources, training, legislation, ballot measures and redistricting.

Co-sponsored by Common Cause and LWVSCC, this meeting is free and open to the public. Lunch starts at 11:30 a.m.; 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.html. For more information, contact league@lwvsc.org or 831-325-4140.

Voter Service Report

May is a busy month for Voter Services! Volunteers are needed for voter registration and primary information for our Senior Outreach Program. We have contacted the senior facilities in our county and will be going to Dominican Oaks, La Posada, Driftwood, and Sunshine Villa in May. We also will need volunteers at Cabrillo College for voter registration in May. Please call Sue (831-462-4160) or Dottie (831-688-9234) or email us (elections@lwvsc.org) if you can help with this very important service.

Our local League has moderated a candidate forum on April 26 in San Lorenzo Valley for the 5th District Supervisor seat. Also included in the program were speakers for both Measure Q (Cabrillo Bond) and Measure S (Library Facilities Bond). On May 24 the League will moderate a candidate forum for the 20th Congressional District from 7:00–9:30 p.m. at the Loudon Nelson Center in Santa Cruz.

The deadline to register for the June 7 Primary is May 23. 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 210. Our local League's website also includes voter registration links at lwvsc.org/elections.html.

—Dottie Fry and Sue Becker
Voter Service Co-Chairs

President's Message



Our April 12 event honoring the birthday of women's equality activist Lilly Ledbetter and her battle for equal pay, co-sponsored with the Women Lawyers of Santa Cruz, was inspiring and successful. Our speakers, League of Women Voters member, attorney Ashley Wheelock, and prospective member, attorney Syda Kosofsky Cogliati, gave a dynamic and outstanding presentation following my welcome and an introduction by Judy Orbach, which Pam Newbury [recorded on video](#) (available for viewing on our website at lwvsc.org/videos.html.)

In addition to thanking our speakers, I want to thank our local League of Women Voters for funding food and supplies as well as the cost of the Fellowship Hall at Peace United Church of Christ, Whole Foods for the donation of additional food for the reception, which was solicited by Dottie Fry's son-in-law, James Parker, a produce broker for them; Judi Orbach and her son Matt Orbach, Dottie and John Fry, and Audie Henry, as well as the church staff, who helped with the room set up and service of food and drinks, and the Women Lawyers of Santa Cruz County for donating the wine.

*Equal Pay
event
attendees
enjoy
refreshments.*



We look forward to another important program on May 17, with the subject to be Money in Politics, co-sponsored by Common Cause. We will welcome the current president of our state League of Women Voters, Helen Hutchison, and Common Cause's northern California organizer, Helen Grieco, as our speakers for this lunch program at the Community Foundation. You are encouraged to come, if possible. Details about this coming event are in this VOTER on page 1.

Sue Becker has been working to coordinate this program, which will include information on the results of our national League study of Money in Politics.

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

Membership Report

LWVSCC welcomes new member Denice Lucy of Watsonville, Lucy, a strong believer in education, joined the League because she found the group to be intelligent and interesting.

Lucy came to California from Boston in 1966 to work at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View as a financial analyst. After retiring in 1980, she worked at Apple, Intel, Cisco, and other high-tech companies. In 2001 she escaped to Watsonville because of its affordability and enjoyable people and environment, with the bonus of less traffic and being close to beaches. She's had her real estate license since 1986, but is not currently active.

Lucy likes the outdoors and walking in the woods; she takes regular nature walks with friends and works as a docent at the Watsonville Wetlands Watch. On Fridays she works with a group to maintain a demonstration native plant garden and propagation group. The group organizes field trips for elementary students that are led by high school mentors to teach them about water quality and birding. Lucy says, "It's worthwhile to see the youngsters look up to the high school mentors and interact. The older students learn about leadership and the youngsters learn about the environment." Lucy finds it to be a fulfilling activity.

Currently she is looking forward to the upcoming election. She met with Anna Caballero (candidate for the 30th district seat in the California Assembly) at a meet-and-greet and was very impressed with her credentials. Lucy attended the swearing-in of the new police chief in Watsonville, and appreciated the turnout of police from Redwood City, Menlo Park and Monterey as well as others. Lucy feels Watsonville is changing in a positive way from when she first moved here.

Lucy is helping LWVSCC's Voter Services to register residents at Senior Centers in May. She attended our March program planning meeting and was impressed with the level of involvement she saw there. She looks forward to learning more about the League.

—Peggy Marketello, Membership Chair

LWVSCC Annual Meeting

It's not too early to make reservations for our annual meeting coming up on Sunday, June 5, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Seascape Golf Club, 610 Clubhouse Drive, in Aptos. Capitola Vice Mayor Stephanie Harlan and Santa Cruz Mayor Cynthia Mathews will discuss what it's like to be women in politics in Santa Cruz County. Hear about their experiences as politicians, and what unique challenges and perspectives they bring to the job.

The cost, \$20, includes admission and a hot breakfast buffet. To reserve your place, send your check for \$20 per person, payable to LWVSCC, to LWVSCC, P.O. Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010 by Saturday, May 28. For more information, call 831-325-4140 or email league@lwvsc.org.

The [annual meeting kit](#) is now available on line to download and print at lwvsc.org/calendar.html. At the meeting, members will vote on next year's slate of officers and the proposed program for 2016/17. Program recommendations include retaining all existing positions (a complete listing of LWVSCC's local positions can be found online at lwvsc.org/positions) and a study on the possibility of expanding our transportation position to include additional sources of funding for transportation improvements. An additional study is proposed to consider updating local positions, such as *Land Use* and *Transportation*, to include consideration of effects of climate change and adapting to sea level rise. Other recommended topics include: an update on the status of juvenile justice as a result of prison realignment, an update on library system plans, and a speaker from the drug and alcohol anti-stigma campaign.

There **never** will be
complete equality
until women themselves
help to make laws
and elect lawmakers.

Susan B. Anthony

Speaking up for Equal Pay

Each year on April 12 we mark Equal Pay Day by remembering the story of Lilly Ledbetter, whose name has become synonymous with women's fight for equal pay. Her story serves to remind us that, while we've come a long way, much still needs to be done to achieve equal pay for women.

Lilly Ledbetter started working at a Goodyear tire plant in Alabama in 1979. Due to negative performance reviews by male supervisors, she was the lowest paid worker in her position by 1997. In 1998, she filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and a federal lawsuit, claiming she was evaluated unfairly because of her sex. Her case went to trial, and the jury found that Goodyear had paid her less money because she was a woman. Lilly Ledbetter was awarded \$3.8 million in back pay, compensation for mental anguish, and punitive damages.

Then, Goodyear appealed. Goodyear argued that



Activist Lilly Ledbetter seeks to level the playing field between men's and women's wages.

Lilly Ledbetter had brought her lawsuit too late. Lilly Ledbetter had to file her EEOC claim within 180 days after the discriminatory employment action in order to bring a lawsuit based on that same discriminatory action. Although she had filed an EEOC claim right after Goodyear denied her a raise, the court held that her claim was timely filed only as to the very last discriminatory employment decision about her pay.

The Lilly Ledbetter case then went up to the United States Supreme Court, which found, 5-4, in favor of Goodyear. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, the only woman on the court at the time, wrote the dissenting opinion. She would have allowed Lilly Ledbetter's lawsuit to include all of the employment decisions that resulted in her being paid less than men doing comparable work.

Justice Ginsberg's dissent ended with a call to Congress. In response, the 111th Congress enacted the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which became effective on January 29, 2009, when President Obama signed the bill into law, the first of his presidency. The law now provides that the statute of limitations for filing an equal-pay lawsuit resets with each new paycheck that is affected by the discriminatory action. And although this didn't help Lilly Ledbetter, she has indicated she does feel vindicated, saying, "I'll be happy if the last thing they say about me after I die is that I made a difference."

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act has begun helping women achieve some equality in the workplace, but our fight for equal pay is far from over. Women today are paid, on average, only 77 cents for every dollar paid to men. Many higher-paying types of jobs are still held predominantly by men, and women are still actively discouraged from pursuing some of those jobs or are subject to harassment on the job. But there are efforts underway to address the problems, including two proposed federal laws: The Paycheck Fairness Act and the Equal Employment Opportunity Restoration Act.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would punish employers for retaliating against workers who share wage information, put the burden on employers to justify paying a woman less than a man, and allow workers to sue for punitive damages for wage discrimination. The bill would also fund programs to train women to better negotiate their wages.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Restoration Act would allow an employee to bring a group action for sex discrimination. This law was proposed in response to another United States Supreme Court case, *Dukes v. Walmart*, in which several female employees sought to bring a class action against Walmart for pay discrimination on behalf of all female employees. The court did not let the class action go forward because, the majority

held, the female plaintiffs did not show that all of Walmart’s female employees had a common claim that was capable of class-wide resolution. With the new law, it would be easier to bring a class action. This is important because group actions reduce the likelihood of retaliation against a single employee. Also, lawyers are more likely to take class action cases, since they can recover fees on behalf of the group. And, when a group action is successful, the benefits are greater.



Speakers prepare to present their talk to attendees celebrating Equal Pay Day.

On another positive note, in the case of Peggy Young v. United Parcel Service, the United States Supreme Court found favor of women in the workplace. Peggy Young was a UPS driver who became pregnant. UPS required drivers to lift up to 70 pounds, but Young’s doctor told her that she should not lift more than 20 pounds during the first half of her pregnancy, and no more than 10 pounds during the second half of her pregnancy. Young wanted to be assisted by coworkers or given a temporary alternative work assignment. UPS refused to make such accommodations, even though the company accommodated other UPS drivers who had lifting restrictions caused by conditions other than pregnancy. So Young sued UPS under the 1978 Pregnancy Discrimination Act. And the United States Supreme Court agreed that UPS had violated that law. The majority—which included all three female justices—found it was unlawful for UPS to treat pregnant women as different from other workers who needed lifting accommodations.

There has also been some equal pay progress in California. California has had an Equal Pay Act since 1949, but the old law had some loopholes. For instance, the old law required wages to be compared at the “same establishment,” but that meant a woman working at a company’s Santa Cruz location could not compare her wages to those of a man working in the exact same position at the company’s San Jose location. The new California Equal Pay Law requires equal pay for “substantially similar” work, no matter where it is performed. In addition, the new law protects an employee from retaliation for trying to get information about other employees’ pay.

Although changing the laws is extremely important, women need to also remember that we can speak up and not accept that we are being paid less than men. We can remind ourselves and each other that we are just as valuable as men. Perhaps in our lifetimes, with more legislative action and more women speaking up for equal pay, like Lilly Ledbetter, we will see equal pay for women become a reality.

—Attorneys Syda Kosofsky Cogliati and Ashley Wheelock



Editor’s Note: On April 12 the authors presented a talk about the fight for equal pay, co-sponsored by LWVSCC and Women Lawyers of Santa Cruz County. A [video of their full talk](#), including questions and answers, can be viewed at lwvsc.org/videos. April 12, Equal Pay Day, was the date in 2016 that represents the extra days a typical woman working full-time would have to work just to make the same as a typical man did in the previous year.

Measure S to Strengthen Local Libraries

Here in Santa Cruz County, we're fortunate to have an excellent Santa Cruz Public Libraries system (SCPL) serving most of the county through its ten branches, book mobile, community partnerships, and virtual services. (The City of Watsonville has its own stand-alone system.)

Today, our libraries serve an increasingly diverse group of patrons—young children, teens, seniors, and community members of all ages. In fact, library use is actually increasing due to the breadth of programs and resources.

What's not so obvious to the casual observer is that our actual library facilities are seriously outdated and in need of major repairs. They need to be modernized, upgraded, and expanded to accommodate a growing variety of uses such as story-time, teen homework areas, quiet areas, computer use, and community activities.

Many local seniors, students, and people on limited incomes count on the library's electronic media and computer access—yet most of the branches have wiring that pre-dates the computer age, completely inadequate for modern usage.

Several branches have roofs that are old and leaky; they need to be replaced before library materials are ruined. In addition, many libraries have antiquated plumbing and heating systems. One branch (Felton) is located in a leased building that dates from 1893; another (Capitola) is located in temporary modular structures. Both branches need to be replaced.

Because of urgent capital needs throughout the system, the SCPL governing board recently voted to place a Library Facilities Bond measure on the June 7 ballot. Measure S, requiring 2/3 majority to pass, will fund improvements including:

- Upgrade inadequate wiring
- Replace worn out roofs
- Provide adequate program space for all ages
- Improve resources for underserved communities

Measure S has earned broad community support, and no opposition argument was filed. The League of Women Voters has long valued the role of public libraries in supporting equal access to information

and an informed public; LWV Santa Cruz County has endorsed Measure S.

For more information: SCPL website, www.santacruzpl.org or the campaign website, www.ourlibrariesourfuture.org.

—*Cynthia Mathews, Santa Cruz Mayor/LWVSCC member*

The League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County endorses Measure S, the Library Facilities Bond. Measure S seeks 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](#).

New One-Stop Shopping for Voters

Voters can get the facts before they vote on June 7 by visiting Voter's Edge, the League's new voter information website. The LWV of California Education Fund and [MapLight](#) have teamed up to create [VotersEdge.org](#), so that voters can get more information in one place than ever before.

At [VotersEdge.org](#), voters can:

- Use their address to get a personalized ballot.
- Get in-depth info on candidates, measures, and who supports them.
- Check where, when, and how to vote.
- Keep track of their choices and use them to vote.
- Share and start the conversation!

Find out more about how knowledge can empower you at [Voter's Edge California](#).

Legislative Interview: Senator Bill Monning

In March, members of two local Leagues interviewed State Senator Bill Monning (district 17), at his Santa Cruz office. Judy Chamberlin, Marie Arnold, and Claire Benson represented the San Jose/Santa Clara League. Barbara Lewis, Marcia Minnihan, and Colleen Garde represented our Santa Cruz County League.

Asked about increasing voter turnout in California, Monning expressed support for online registration (which is now available) and same-day registration. He opposed automatic registration when getting a driver's license out of concern for undocumented individuals who might inadvertently register, an offence that could subject them to deportation.

He would also support voting on a non-work day, such as a Sunday, or creating a paid holiday for voting. He would support mandatory voting, but does not see it happening in the U.S. Monning appreciates the benefits of voting by mail, which changes the face of campaigning. Online voting may be considered in the future, after concerns about fraud and hacking have been addressed.



Standing (left to right): Barbara Lewis and Coleen Garde (LWVSCC), Judy Chamberlin (San Jose/Santa Clara League), and Senator Bill Monning. Seated (left to right): Marcia Minnihan (LWVSCC), Marie Arnold, and Claire Benson (San Jose/Santa Clara).

Senator Monning supports the Disclose Act's strict requirements on new PACs, stating his concern that money in politics has expanded the voice of the billionaires.

Turning the discussion to funding affordable housing, Senator Monning acknowledged that housing is more than a home, it underlies bonds between people and the neighborhoods where they live. He sees affordable housing as a complex problem with no good answers that is exacerbated by the shrinking middle class.

He would like to see prosecution of financial firms that contributed to the financial debacle and foreclosures: fines should go into zero- and low-interest loans to help keep people in their homes.

Senator Monning considers climate change the biggest threat to humanity in the long run, with more immediate short-term issues such as public health, coastal flooding. Some effects are already being experienced by his constituency along the coast.

He co-authored SB350, now signed into law, which mandates an increase of California's renewable energy use to 50% by 2030 and a doubling of energy efficiency over that same timeline. Unfortunately, big oil blocked the mandate to reduce petroleum use by 50% over the next 15 years. He's very proud that countries all over the world look to California because we have taken the lead in reducing carbon dioxide gases and using renewable energy. The largest venture capital initiative in the U.S. is renewable energy in California.

He supports high speed rail, noting the immediate benefits for Cal Train and other transportation authorities.

The interview finished with a look at Monning's personal priorities. He is proud of repurposing some of the money from the Managed Care Operators Tax to leverage federal money and increase funding for the developmentally disabled and support Regional Centers.

Senator Monning's current challenge is passing a balanced budget on time while keeping up with the changes in economic forecasts.

—Judy Chamberlin (edited by Pam Newbury)

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____

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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.

LWVC Supports Proposition 50

Slated for the ballot in the June 7 primary, Proposition 50 would amend the state Constitution to give the California Legislature clear authority to suspend members of the Senate or Assembly without pay. The League of Women Voters of California recommends a [“Yes” vote on Proposition 50](#).

Currently, the California Constitution does not make it clear that the Legislature can suspend its members without pay. Legislators may be suspended, but their salary and benefits continue. This measure would allow, but not require, the Legislature to suspend a member and deem the salary and benefits forfeited.

This issue came to light in 2014 when three state senators—all charged with criminal offenses—were suspended by a resolution of the Senate. But those members continued to receive their salaries—more than \$95,000 a year—because it was not clear that the Senate had the authority to suspend their pay.

The incident frustrated lawmakers who wanted to hold their own members accountable, and angered the public, which saw it as another example of how lawmakers are shielded from the consequences of their own actions and play by a different set of rules than everyone else.

Proposition 50 would give the Legislature clear authority to discipline Senators or Assembly Members by suspending them without pay. Lawmakers should be able to hold their own colleagues accountable if they breach the public’s trust. This commonsense measure was placed on the ballot with strong bipartisan support. Share our [Vote-with-the-League](#) flyer with your family and friends and [learn more about Prop 50 from the LWVCEF](#).



Forum for Congressional District 20

On Tuesday, May 24 LWVSCC will moderate a forum for the five candidates running for the open 20th Congressional seat: Jack Digby, Barbara Honegger, Casey Lucius, Jimmy Panetta, and Joe Williams. The forum will be held at the Loudon Nelson Center, 301 Center Street, Santa Cruz, from 7:00–9:30 in the evening. Sponsors for this free public forum are the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and the Resource Center for Nonviolence.