



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

September 2016

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Calendar

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Voter registration training day

County Elections Department

Santa Cruz

To sign up, see page 2.

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

10 a.m.-Noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Thursday, September 22, 2016

7-9 p.m.

The Future of Transportation in SCC

Live Oak Senior Center

1777 Capitola Road

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Free and open to the public

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

National Voter Registration Day

Locations throughout SCC

See page 2 for more information

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, CA 95062

A moderated forum sponsored by the

LWVSCC and the AAUW

Free and open to the public

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

10 a.m.-Noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Measure D:

The Future of Transportation In Santa Cruz County

*A moderated forum
with speakers for and against Measure D*

*Thursday
September 22, 2016
7-9 p.m.*

Free and open to the public

Live Oak Senior Center
1777 Capitola Road | Santa Cruz

*Sponsored by
The League of Women Voters
of Santa Cruz County*

On November 8, county voters will weigh in 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 to fund transportation projects in Santa Cruz County. At a free public forum on Thursday, September 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Live Oak Senior Center, 1777 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz, representatives on both sides of the issue will present their case and audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions about the measure.

Speaking in support of Measure D is Casey Beyer of “[Get Santa Cruz County Moving](#)”. Beyer is executive director of the Santa Cruz County Business Council.

Rick Longinotti, representing “[The Campaign for Sensible Transportation](#)” will present arguments opposing Measure D. Longinotti, a local marriage and family therapist, co-founded Santa Cruz Desal Alternatives.

Continued on page 5

November Ballot Pros and Cons

This November, California's state ballot includes propositions on everything from plastic bags to the death penalty. Do you want to understand more about the 17 measures to be voted on in November? The League can help you cut through the rhetoric and get to the facts at our pros and cons presentation on Wednesday, October 5, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Live Oak Senior Center, 1777 Capitola Road in Santa Cruz. This non-partisan, educational event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women.

Voter Registration Events: Volunteers Needed!

Again this year our League is coordinating voter registration events in September with the County Elections Department. We are requesting volunteers for both Cabrillo College (mid-Sept.-Welcome Week) and UCSC (Sept. 16 to Sept. 19).

On National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 27, the County Elections Department and the League will be hosting registration tables with Starbucks at locations throughout the county, including Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz, Capitola, Aptos, and two in Watsonville. The County is also promoting online registration and onsite registration at Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

If you can volunteer to register voters and want more information about times and locations, please contact Dottie Fry at 831-688-9234 (email:fryfrydl@comcast.net) or Sue Becker at 831-462-4160 (email:suebecker108@sbcglobal.net). There will be a voter registration training day at the County Elections Department on Wednesday, September 7, at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Dottie or Sue to sign up for the training.

—Dottie Fry, Voter Services Co-Chair

Be sure to check the League's [Voter's Edge California](#) website for information about your ballot.



President's Message



In September and October, I look forward to attending our League's two informative programs aimed at educating voters about state and local ballot measures to be decided in the November 8, 2016 election.

Our September program focuses on Measure D, the local transportation measure put on the ballot by the Regional Transportation Commission. At this moderated forum, attendees will hear speakers from both sides of the issue. (Details on page 1.) Thanks to program chair Jan Beutz for making arrangements for the room and speakers and to Dottie Fry for helping to find a moderator and with the event.

In October, our voter service team will present the pros and cons of the state ballot measures. Dottie Fry, our voter service co-chair, has been meeting with two representatives from the American Association of University Women, Lynn Cummins and Kit Hein, to coordinate the program. We are doing co-sponsorship as part of our community outreach goal for 2016-2017. (Details on this page, opposite column.)

Further thanks to Jan Beutz for offering to chair our transportation mini-study, voted on at our annual meeting, to consider expanding the local transportation position to include additional sources of funding for transportation improvements. This should include a meeting for our members in November at her home, as well as the September 22 forum.

We are currently seeking members to participate in the committees for the transportation study and for the sea level/climate change study (see page 3 for details). We're also looking for volunteers for voter registration in September. I encourage members to take advantage of the many opportunities for being involved in our League activities this year.

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

LWVSCC Studies Transportation Funding and Sea Level Rise

At our annual meeting in June, members voted to study whether we should make changes to our local positions with regard to sea level rise and transportation funding. The studies will involve informational meetings, such as the one scheduled in September on transportation, committee meetings to evaluate materials, and a consensus meeting where members will decide if and how positions should be changed.

Committees are forming now for each of these studies. If you would like to participate, read on for more details on how to do so.

Transportation Study

The transportation mini-study will consider updating our League's Transportation Position in response to concerns about how our [Transportation Position](#) (originally adopted in 1986) may not reflect the current situation for providing adequate funding for transportation improvements. Item 6 of the position seems to limit our support to a "local tax on gasoline for road improvements." The position does not mention the possibility of additional local revenue sources to help fund transportation improvements. This study will consider whether there are additional local revenue sources that our members would support for funding transportation improvements in Santa Cruz County.

To participate in this study, contact the committee chair, Jan Beautz, at 831-476-3748.

Sea Level Rise Study

The sea level rise study was proposed in response to our January meeting on sea level rise (members may read about the meeting in our [February 2016 VOTER](#) (page 3) or view a [video of the presentation](#) at lwvsc.org/videos).

The January presentation emphasized the need to prepare for inevitable sea level rise from a minimum of three feet up to as much as nine feet by the end of the century. The speakers challenged us to consider how to respond, suggesting the need to plan for managed retreat by stepping back

gracefully from areas of highest risk. Consideration will have to be given to both public infrastructure and private property that will be inundated and abandoned. This study will examine our current positions, such as [Land Use](#) and [Transportation](#), to see whether they should be updated to consider the effects of climate change and adapting to sea level rise.

To participate in this study, contact committee chair Pam Newbury at pknewbury@earthlink.net or 831-423-6904.

Voter Service Report

We have already had a busy summer planning and actively working on the important 2016 election cycle. We registered voters on August 2 for the National Night Out community events in Capitola and Watsonville. We also participated in a candidate forum on August 25 for the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board sponsored by the Association of Mexican-American Educators. There were three incumbent candidates for Areas II, III, VI, and one challenger for Area II. The League provided a moderator, Dinah Sapia, question sorters, and a timekeeper.

—Dottie Fry, Voter Service co-chair

Thanks to Our Generous Donors

The League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County thanks its many donors for their contributions during our 2015/16 fiscal year. In order by date received, donations came from Barbara and Bob Lewis, Dee Takemoto, Judy Orbach, Pam Newbury, Laura Grossman, Stephanie Harlan, Jan Karwin, Morgan Rankin, Whole Foods, Dorothy Fry, Rusty Bowman, Paul Fleischman and Patricia Brown, Caroline Elam, Sue Becker, Eloise Graham, Jan Beautz, Pamela Peterson, Robley Levy, Kathy Van Horn, and Candace Walker. Our appreciation for helping to keep our League up and running!

LWVUS Annual Meeting Report

In June the National League held its 52nd annual convention in Washington, D.C. Delegates to the convention heard from Executive Director [Wylecia Wiggs Harris](#) and incoming president [Chris Carson](#) ([videos of their talks](#) and other convention speakers can be viewed on the [LWVUS YouTube channel](#)).

In addition to electing a new [president and board of directors](#), members adopted the budget and the [national program](#), modified our [bylaws](#), approved [six resolutions](#), and adopted two positions by concurrence.

The national program for 2016-2018, Campaign for Making Democracy Work, will focus on voter protection and mobilization, election reform, money in politics, and redistricting.

One proposed bylaws amendment to remove the citizenship requirement for League membership was adopted as proposed. Another bylaws amendment proposed removing the age requirement for League membership but was modified to reduce the age requirement to 16 years of age.

Two gun-safety resolutions passed. One supports restoration of funding for gun violence research at the Center for Disease Control. Another resolved to continue our longstanding position on Gun Control as previously adopted.

The third resolution supports full rights for the people of the District of Columbia and makes statehood for the people of the District of Columbia a legislative priority.

Using our position on climate change, the delegates voted to consider supporting the 21 youth plaintiffs from Our Children's Trust who are pursuing a lawsuit against the federal government "for violating their constitutional rights to life, liberty and property, and their right to essential public trust resources, by permitting, encouraging, and otherwise enabling continued exploitation, production, and combustion of fossil fuels."

Two other climate change resolutions passed to support the United States ratification of the UN COP 21 Paris Agreement and to continue working for full implementation of the EPA Clean Power Plan.

Delegates at the convention voted to adopt by concurrence the LWV of Colorado position on [Behavioral Health](#) and the LWVUS Redistricting Task Force [position on redistricting](#).

More information on the convention can be found at [forum.lwv.org](#).

LWVC Opposes Constitutional Convention

The League of Women Voters of California opposes Assembly Joint Resolution 30 (Grove), a resolution calling for a federal constitutional convention under Article V of the U.S. Constitution. The convention would propose amendments to the Constitution that impose fiscal restraints and limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government.

In a [letter to Assembly Member Mark Stone](#) opposing the resolution, the LWVC wrote:

"The League of Women Voters completed a national study of amending the Constitution and the Article V convention process in 2015 and reached consensus on many of the issues involved. The League believes that a convention should be called only if certain conditions are in place. Among them, we believe representation at the convention must be based on population, rather than one state, one vote, and that delegates should be elected, not appointed, as they represent citizens. Voting at the convention must be by delegate, not by state. Delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes. The League believes the convention must be limited to a specific topic; it is important to guard against a "runaway" convention which considers multiple issues or topics.

"Regarding constitutional amendments, the League believes a matter addressed by a proposed amendment must be of acute and abiding importance and make our system more representative, democratic, or protective of individual rights. It should not be a topic that would be more likely to succeed through legislation or political action.

"...In addition, the resolution does not meet the League's criteria for potential constitutional amendments, as it fails to make our system more representative or democratic, and it does not protect individual rights. It also addresses a topic more appropriately dealt with through legislation, analysis by committees in Congress, and public political debate than by a constitutional convention."

To learn more about why the LWVC opposes the resolution, read the [entire letter](#) online. A group called Citizens for Self-Governance (CSG) called for the convention, which they call the Convention of States Project. For more about the Convention of States, see their website, [www.conventionofstates.com](#) (this is for information only; the League does not endorse CSG or the COSP).

Measure D

Continued from Page 1

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women age 16 and up. 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 _____

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*League of Women Voters
of Santa Cruz County*
 PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010
 (831) 325-4140
 Editor: Pam Newbury
 President: Barbara Lewis
 Membership: Peggy Marketello
league@lwvsc.org | <http://lwvsc.org>

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.

If passed, Measure D funds, expected to raise a total of \$500 million over 30 years, will be spent to support a variety of transportation needs. According to the [Santa Cruz County 2016 Transportation Improvement Plan](#), thirty percent (\$150 million) per year will go to local roadway pavement repair and improvements, safety improvement projects, and bicycle and pedestrian projects. This includes \$10 million for improvements on Highway 9 in the San Lorenzo Valley and \$5 million for a wildlife crossing under Highway 17.

Twenty-five percent (\$125 million) will be spent on highway corridor projects. The main projects will add auxiliary lanes (dedicated merge lanes) on Highway one between Soquel Drive and 41st Avenue, between Bay/Porter and Park Avenue, and between Park Avenue and State Park Drive. Additional projects would include bicycle/pedestrian bridges near Chanticleer Avenue and in Aptos near Mar Vista Elementary School. Some funds will also go to highway safety and congestion reduction programs (such as Cruz511 and programs to promote ride sharing and alternative transportation) and safety programs (such as roving tow trucks).



Twenty percent (100 million) will go to transport for seniors and those with disabilities. Seventeen percent (approximately \$85 million) will go to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (Coastal Rail Trail) bike and pedestrian trail construction. Eight percent (\$40 million) will be used for preservation of the Rail Corridor infrastructure and analysis of its future uses.

Anticipated annual revenues will be \$17 million (in 2016 dollars). If any projects use bonds to advance implementation, finance costs will be paid from the designated funds.

Currently and prior to this proposed increase, local sales tax rates are: 8.75% within the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, and Scotts Valley; 9.0% within the City of Watsonville; and 8.25% in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Read complete text of the measure at www.votescount.com.

