



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

February 2018

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Calendar

Thursday, February 1, 2018

6:30-9 p.m.

Local Water Forum: Connecting the Drops
New Brighton Middle School Auditorium
250 Washburn Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010

Saturday, February 10, 2018

Noon-2:00 p.m.

Prop 13 and Beyond
Speaker: Helen Hutchison
Scotts Valley Library
251 Kings Village Road, Scotts Valley, CA
For RSVP details, see article this page.

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

10 a.m.-noon

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

Thursday, March 8, 2018

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Local Program Planning
Home of Sandy Warren
150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

10 a.m.-noon

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

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Noon-2 p.m.

Media Influences on Voters
Details TBA

Saturday, June 9, 2018

10 a.m.-noon

LWVSCC Annual Meeting
Seascape Golf Club
610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos 95003
Hot breakfast buffet: \$20 per person
RSVP with payment to: LWVSCC
P.O. Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010

Proposition 13 and Beyond

Featuring

**Helen
Hutchison**

President

LWV of California

**Saturday
February 10
Noon-2:00 p.m.**

Scotts Valley Library

251 Kings Village Road, Scotts Valley, CA 95066

Free and open to the public. RSVP by Tuesday, Feb. 6

RSVP details are on the lunch order form included with this VOTER



Efforts to close a loophole in Proposition 13 that keeps too many corporations from paying their fair share of property taxes will be the key topic at a talk by Helen Hutchison, president of the League of Women Voters of California.

Forty years ago, California voters passed Proposition 13, a law intended to protect homeowners from rising property taxes. The LWVC, together with Make It Fair (a broad, grassroots coalition including PICO California, California Calls, Advancement Project California and Evolve California), have started the process of putting "The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018" on the November 2018 ballot. This proposed initiative would fund California schools and local governments by closing the corporate property tax loophole in Proposition 13 while continuing to guarantee protections for homeowners, residential renters, agricultural land, and small businesses.

The measure will restore over \$11 billion per year to California's schools, community colleges, health clinics, and other vital local services. California communities are chronically underfunded, which has hurt our public schools and resulted in cuts to essential funding from emergency responder services, parks, libraries, health clinics, trauma centers, affordable housing, homeless services, and roads.

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Membership Report

On January 11, I met with a group of interested members to discuss the annual timeline for LWVSCC membership information, recruitment, and renewal. Several good ideas came out of the discussion. One such idea was to establish a Membership Committee to collaborate on the tasks needed to keep our LWV membership up-to-date and to encourage participation throughout the year. That one meeting reminded me of how satisfying it is to work in a collaborative group of people who like to get tasks accomplished! Many thanks to Barbara Lewis, Jan Karwin, and Karen Smith for attending.

If any member would like to be a part of our Membership Committee, please contact me at membership@lwvsc.org and put "LWV Membership Committee" in the subject line. The tentative date for our next meeting, is Thursday, March 15, at 1 p.m.; location to be determined. Please let me know you can attend; I would love to hear from you!

—Lydia Nogales Parker
Membership Chair

President's Message



LWVSCC held a meeting on January 23 to consider our recommendations to the LWV of the United States on National Program Planning; I would like to thank our hostess, Sandy Warren, and all who participated. Dottie Fry reviewed national positions on representative government positions, Karen Smith reviewed international relations, Sue Becker reviewed natural resources, and I reviewed social policy.

The group unanimously supported the continuation of The Campaign for Making Democracy Work® as a national League focus, which currently encompasses voting rights, improving elections, campaign finance/money in politics, and redistricting. Most of those present supported a [proposal by the Illinois League](#) to add the existing LWVUS position to abolish the [Electoral College](#) as an additional focus for The Campaign for Making Democracy Work®. We reviewed the League position on the Electoral College in detail, including the [National Popular Vote Compact](#) option. There were no recommended changes to existing positions or additional studies supported at our meeting.

In the social policy discussion, Susie Shane introduced information on economic inequality; we considered the conclusions of the national League's 2011 study on the role of the federal government in education and how affordable, accessible quality education correlates with upward mobility. We are going to recommend LWVUS be more action-oriented in applying existing positions on achieving less expensive education, housing, and health care.

Our group did not support undertaking the study of Artificial Intelligence, as proposed by LWV of Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro, at the current time. We also focused on the immigration position and others adopted in recent years as well as doing an extensive historical review in all areas. To my amazement, we finished our National Program review and discussion shortly before 3 p.m.

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

Connecting the Drops—Working Together for Water

League members are encouraged to attend a public forum on local water resources entitled "Connecting the Drops—Working Together for Water" on Thursday, February 1, 2018, 6:30 to 9 p.m. at New Brighton Middle School Auditorium, 250 Washburn Avenue, Capitola. Keynote speaker is Taryn Ravazzini, Deputy Director, California Department of Water Resources, who will talk about "Sustainable Groundwater Management, A Renewed Commitment".

A panel discussion moderated by John Ricker, Water Resources Director, Santa Cruz County, will feature local water district managers and water resource planners. In addition, there will be opportunity to browse information stations and speak with representatives. Information stations open at 6:30 p.m.; speakers and panel discussion begin at 7:15 p.m.

Download an agenda at lwvsc.org/calendar to share with friends. More info is available at santacruzirwmp.org/DROPS

Voter Service Report

2018 ELECTIONS

We will have a busy year planning and actively working on the important 2018 election cycle. The primary election on June 5, 2018, will include county- and state-wide offices, four state ballot measures, and city/county measures (no local measures so far, but filing deadline is March 9). The June 2018 ballot will include candidates for governor and the US senate.

The June 5 election will be a top-two primary, where voters may cast one vote for any candidate, even those not in their own political party. The top two candidates (no matter what party—even if both candidates are from the same party) who receive the most votes will compete in a runoff election on the November 6 general election ballot. The top-two primary system became law in 2010, was implemented in 2012, and applies to all statewide offices, including members of the state legislature, governor, and the State Board of Equalization as well as to US Senators and Congressmembers.

In 2018, five California counties will implement election reforms mandated by the Voter's Choice Act (SB450), which was signed into law in 2016, as part of a pilot program (Santa Cruz County will participate in 2020 or 2022). The new law states that all voters will receive ballots by mail 28 days before election day. Voters may cast their ballots by mail, at a drop-off location, or in person at a vote center (replacing polling places; vote centers will open 10 days before election day). There will also be same-day voter registration with a provisional ballot at the vote centers. Already in effect is automatic voter registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles. The new Motor Voter Act was signed in 2015.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

There are nine county-wide offices on the June 5 primary election ballot, including sheriff-coroner, district attorney, county superintendent of schools, and county clerk. No city or county measures have been filed so far. We will provide more detailed information on local elections in future VOTER newsletters. For current local election information on candidates and measures, go to the website for the County Elections Department at votescount.com.

VOTER OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Again this year, our League is coordinating voter registration/education events this spring with

the County Elections Department. We will need volunteers for High School Education Week the last two weeks of April (4/16–4/30) where we will be doing both education and registration. We also will be doing voter registration and candidate forums at various venues in the county in April and May. There will be a voter registration training day at the County Elections Department in the spring. If you are a new member, this is a great way to get involved with the League.

If you are interested in volunteering 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).

—Dottie Fry, Voter Service Co-Chair

Prop 13 and Beyond

Continued from page 1

The proposed initiative would create a “split roll” for property taxes, with non-residential, non-agricultural commercial property being reassessed on a regular basis, while homeowners, residential renters, agricultural land, and small businesses would continue to be protected as they are now under Proposition 13.

Helen Hutchison, LWVC president since 2014, and has been involved with the League since 1969. She has served on local LWV boards in a variety of roles, and was president of the Oakland LWV from 2003 to 2007, and has been active in state leadership since 2008.

To attend this free, public event on Saturday, February 10, 2018 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Scotts Valley Library, 251 Kings Village Road in Scotts Valley, RSVP by email league@lwvsc.org or phone (831)325-4140. Attendees may order a box lunch or bring their own lunch. To order lunch, send a check for \$15 per person to LWVSCC P.O. Box 1745, Capitola 95010 with your order by Tuesday, February 6. Indicate number of lunches being ordered, and your choice of turkey, roast beef, or vegetarian (gluten-free bread available on request). Please also include contact information. Lunches include chips, fruit salad, and a cookie. Coffee, tea, and water will be served. More information and a lunch order form can be found at lwvsc.org/calendar or use the order form included with this VOTER.

LWVC Positions on June Ballot Measures

The LWV of California board has announced final positions on the measures scheduled for the June, 2018, ballot. Here's a quick summary of the League position on each measure:

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund

The LWVC opposes this measure that would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale of cap-and-trade allowances by the California Air Resources Board. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions.

Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes

The LWVC supports this measure that, if passed, would raise excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel, provide for regular increases to those taxes based on inflation, establish a new fee on zero-emission vehicles, and raise vehicle registration fees. The new revenue from these taxes would be used for transportation-related purposes—repairing streets and bridges, addressing deferred maintenance on highways and local roads, improving public transit, and investing in needed transportation infrastructure to benefit all Californians. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services, including safe roads and good public transportation.

Effective Date of Initiatives

The LWVC supports this measure to postpone effective dates for approved ballot measures until election results are certified. Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after election day, that is not always the case. This proposition would provide that an initiative would take effect five days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results. This is a common-sense measure,

ensuring clarity about what is—and is not—California law.

California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, And Outdoor Access for All Act

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



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 _____

LWVC Convention 2017 Highlights

The LWV of California held its biennial convention in Sacramento last June. LWVSCC delegates Dottie Fry and Pam Newbury attended the convention; this is the third and final article recapping convention highlights. See the other articles in the [August](#) and [October](#) 2017 VOTERS. More convention materials can be viewed [online](#).

Keynote speaker Celinda Lake spoke about what resonates with voters and took us through some interesting voter statistics. In 2016, people who disliked both presidential candidates voted for Trump: she pointed out that women candidates have to be likeable as well as competent, while the same is not true for male candidates. Of voters who disliked both, most of those who disliked Trump more and thought he was less qualified voted for him. While voters overwhelmingly felt Clinton had the right experience and good judgement, they felt Trump was the candidate most likely to bring about change (how right they were), and that was the quality that mattered most. She emphasized that in the 2018 election, we should mobilize voters by focusing on solutions to the problems that concern them. For more on voter motivation, view her [PowerPoint presentation](#) online.

Almost 40% of the California state budget comes from federal funds, much of which could be impacted by changing federal policies, according to Chris Hoene of the California Budget and Policy Center, and there are no extra funds available to fill the gap. Most federal funding goes to health and human services, including 22 billion in funds from the Affordable Care Act that has been used to cover many low-income Californians under MediCal. In eighteen of California's 58 counties, over 40% of residents are enrolled in MediCal; in two counties the percentage is over 50%. Much of California has yet to completely recover from the 2008 recession, even in places where job gains have been strong. Without significant new revenue sources, gaps in funding for many state programs could occur. With elections coming up this year, Californians should consider how our state budget reflects our values

and priorities. For more on the California budget, view the [PowerPoint presentation for this speech](#) online.

Both LWVSCC delegates were highly impressed by Michael Tubbs, a last-minute substitution for the keynote speaker at the Saturday evening banquet. Tubbs, who was elected mayor of Stockton at age 26 after four years on the city council, spoke to the theme of making democracy work. He emphasized the need to participate in democracy. Don't just vote, vote and...work like crazy to make something happen; get involved with your community. Our policies should reflect our values, not a person or personality or a party. Be true to your values, don't be distracted by divisiveness, understand what's going on, get to know people, educate yourself, and be an active voter.

He left us with the question, what are you prepared to do today to make sure that 50 years from now we're not still having the same conversations about issues that should have been decided long ago? The question and answer session yielded a very interesting story of the role Oprah Winfrey played in his campaign for mayor (the video of his speech is well worth watching just for that story alone). We were left hoping to see more of Michael Tubbs in the future, and highly recommend watching the video of [his inspiring talk to the LWVC convention](#) on YouTube (Note: his talk, including Q&As, is the first 45 minutes of the video.)

—Pam Newbury, Editor

League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County
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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.

Proposition 13 and Beyond

Closing California's corporate property tax loophole will fund our schools and local services.



Prop 13 protects homeowners from rising property taxes, but corporations and big business get the biggest tax breaks of all.

Helen Hutchison, president of the League of Women Voters of California, will discuss the proposed ballot initiative that will fairly assess commercial property while continuing protections for homeowners, agricultural land, renters, and small business.

Saturday, February 10, 2018

Noon to 2 p.m.

Scotts Valley Library | 251 Kings Village Road | Scotts Valley

This program is free and open to the public. Use the form below to order an optional box lunch or RSVP by email (league@lwvsc.org) or phone (831-325-4140) by Tuesday, February 6.

For more information or to download and print this flyer and order form, go to lwvsc.org/calendar

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Detach and use this form to order lunch for Proposition 13 and Beyond, February 10, 2018

Select a lunch option for each attendee and indicate how many of each type of sandwich you would like to order. Gluten-free bread option available (indicate number of GF sandwiches for each type).

_____ **Oven roasted turkey**, brie cheese, thinly sliced green apples, and light mayonnaise on sliced sourdough bread. _____ on gluten-free bread.

_____ **Sliced roast beef**, Havarti cheese, lettuce, tomato, red onion, mayonnaise and BBQ sauce on a sourdough roll. _____ on gluten-free bread.

_____ **Vegan**: roasted red bell pepper, hummus, cucumber, tomato, red onion, avocado and Mickey's creamy balsamic dressing on a whole wheat roll. _____ on gluten-free bread.

Lunches include chips, fruit salad, and a cookie. Coffee, tea, and water will be served.

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Guest Name _____ (more guests may be listed on back)

_____ # of lunches ordered x \$15.00 per person = \$ _____

Send this completed form, with your check payable to LWVSCC, to arrive by **Tuesday, February 6** to: League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County | P.O. Box 1745 | Capitola, CA 95010-1745