



League of Women Voters Eden Area

**V O T E R**

Vol.63 #10 *Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation* October 2020

## League Plans Election Season Events

**Join us for these Zoom Pros and Cons and Workshops**

Thursday, Oct. 8 6pm Pros and Cons

The League of Women Voters Eden Area will offer a nonpartisan look at the ballot measures (also known as Propositions), giving the Pros and Cons of each measure. Registrar to receive the Zoom link: <https://hayward.libcal.com/calendar/onlineprograms/votingworkshop1>

Monday, Oct. 12 6pm Pros and Cons

The League of Women Voters Eden Area will offer a nonpartisan look at the ballot measures (also known as Propositions), giving the Pros and Cons of each measure. Registrar to receive the Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_dGZLt8NWSni55tMqmv2OIA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dGZLt8NWSni55tMqmv2OIA)

Thursday, Oct. 15 6pm Voter Information Session

The League of Women Voters Eden Area will offer nonpartisan information on mail-in ballots, where to find information on your registration status and ballot, pros and cons on the propositions, and other information on the voting process. Resources such as Voters Edge and Easy Voter Guide will be shown. Register to receive the Zoom link: <https://hayward.libcal.com/calendar/onlineprograms/votingworkshop2>

### **Other Resources:**

Pros and Cons Online: <https://lwvc.org/vote/elections/ballot-measures>

Ballot Measure Recommendations from the League:  
<https://lwvc.org/news/VOTEwiththeLeague>

Easy Voter Guide: [www.easyvoterguide.org/](http://www.easyvoterguide.org/)

# President's Report



2020 will go down in the history books as a year like no other! All of us have encountered challenges in our daily lives as well as traumatic events throughout the world. It is certainly

understandable to want to isolate yourself and gather your family close.

Given these challenges, I am so proud of the work being done in our community by the Eden Area League of Women Voters. Our members have continued the work of our founders to educate, register and assist voters in many ways. Our outreach efforts are allowing many community members to have access to information on candidates and issues in a variety of avenues.

Voter Services has sponsored Candidate Forums for our local elected positions that are usually limited in scope. By having virtual events, LWVEA has enabled many people to attend and submit questions to learn more about the candidates for school boards, city councils, Oro Loma, BART, HARD, Fairview Fire and Eden Township. Many thanks to the volunteers who produced professional level events.

Voter Registration is delivering affidavits to public sites to facilitate registration. They

have even organized some in-person registration drives. A program in conjunction with AAUW is posting frequent social media information on voting. Two libraries have requested and received training on voting for their communities from a League member.

Historically, people look to the LWV for nonpartisan information on the ballot initiatives. Our Pros & Cons team has been organizing and is poised to start presenting in a wide variety of venues. They are utilizing video, PowerPoint, in-person, and virtual platforms to reach the most citizens. It is exciting to know that they will be offering a Spanish translation for one too. LWV California has produced a nonpartisan guide for California Voters that is available on our website.

Voters Edge is up and featuring candidates' information for our local races. Voter's Edge is a great way to review and compare candidates for your local elections. The information is provided by the candidate and vetted by League volunteers prior to posting.

My thanks to the many volunteers who have made voting rights a priority in their lives!

Please join us for this important work as we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of empowering voters and defending democracy.

*Jo Loss, LWVEA President*



# Membership Report

We are pleased to welcome four new members this month: Winny Knowles, Jacquelyn Diaz, Ma'lia Leines and Helena Liu. We hope to meet you on Zoom or in person soon.

As of 9/23 we have 111 Members (86 Primary, 10 Additional Household, 9 Student and 6 Life). We still have 23 members who have not renewed this year, so if you have not sent your renewal in, please do so soon. We don't want to lose you. If, by chance, you renewed online, please send an email to [lwveapresident@gmail.com](mailto:lwveapresident@gmail.com) with the payment details.

The Membership Committee is planning a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter all member event to debrief our election cycle efforts and talk about plans for 2021. Hope to see you then.



Welcome to our new member Ma'lia Leines! Ma'lia, please introduce yourself:

“Thank you so much! I'm very excited to be a part of the League

of Women Voters! I was born and raised in Castro Valley. I went to Saint Mary's College of California, where I got my BA in Communications in 2016. Currently I'm working as a 911 dispatcher for the Alameda County Fire Department, where

there's never a dull moment. I'm really looking forward to serving and educating the community, and myself, through the LWVEA. A special thank you to Linda Foster who introduced my Mom and I to the League of Women Voters, and sponsored me!”

*Carolyn Darcey, Membership*

## Check Voters Edge and Easy Voter Guide for Election Information



Voters Edge is a website maintained by our League volunteers; it contains information on your ballot. Go to the website and enter your

address, and the candidates for office on your ballot are listed:

<https://votersedge.org/en/ca>. It is easy to use and can help you prepare who you plan to vote for but does not endorse candidates. The information for each candidate is entered by the candidate and reviewed by a League member to make sure it is factual.

Another helpful resource is the Easy Voter Guide, which is free for download: [www.easyvoterguide.org/](http://www.easyvoterguide.org/). It is available in several languages and gives basic information on voter registration deadlines and voting procedures. It also lists the California League's opinion on the statewide Propositions; although the League does not endorse candidates it may take a position on statewide Propositions.

# NANCY VAN HUFFEL

If Nancy Van Huffel had been born a hundred years ago, she would have been marching for women's right to vote along with other female activists. She would have stood at the gates of President Wilson's White House and demanded that the government grant suffrage and other rights to women.

Nancy has always supported doing what is right for those who cannot speak for themselves, or those who speak but are unheard. That is why she joined the League of Women Voters 30 years ago. Although she won't be renewing her LWVEA membership, she will join the Oakland League where she has lived for over four decades. She loves and respects the League and the League loves and respects Nancy.

Nancy has done so much for the LWVEA it is hard to begin the story of her years of dedication, hard work, and support for the organization that has meant so much to her. Although she served as President of the organization for three years, she also served as Treasurer for almost all her 27 years in the League.



*At the age of 3, Nancy was already collecting and counting money for all kinds of causes.*



In addition to Treasurer, she was always recruiting for new members,

serving on or leading every other committee, signing up new voters, interviewing candidates, setting up candidate forums, recruiting speakers for forums, planning and participating in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner, designing the new membership brochure, and tackling the Bay Area Leagues' voter registration effort for the County Registrar of Voters. She also formatted the monthly VOTER newsletter and made sure it got to all members, and kept the membership list up to date.

She also helped with the planning and execution of most of the events, forums, and speakers. No matter what needed doing, Nancy was there doing it.

And while she was doing this extraordinary job, she was also working full time as the Administrator of the San Lorenzo Village Homes Association for 23 years. She was honored by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for her many years of dedicated service to the Association and to the community. She was also honored by Gail Steele as a Hayward Star at the annual Volunteer Dinner.

Nancy is one of a kind. Her contributions to the League of Women Voters leaves a legacy that will be difficult to fill. Thank you, Nancy, for all your hard work and dedication to the Eden Area League of Women Voters and the community it represents. Thank you for being you and sharing your dynamic personality with all of us!

*by Suzanne Barba*

## VOTER REGISTRATION EFFORTS CONTINUE

Special thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers for reaching out to register voters! They have appeared at several events and are refilling paper affidavits at various locations. Below are photos from an event at the REACH Center in Ashland. You can see that our new volunteer Pat Payne is practicing social distancing.



## CLIMATE CHANGE and GLOBAL WARMING

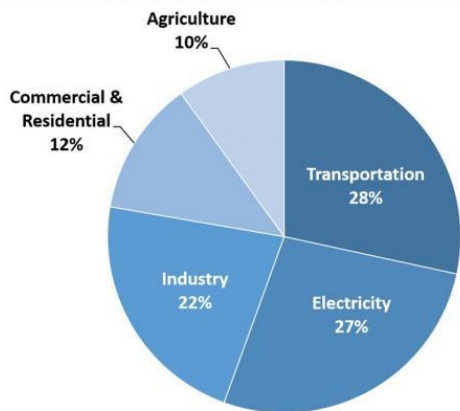
by Richard Maurer  
Part 9

Last month I presented how we, as individuals and companies, need to reduce our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions if we are going to limit the consequences of global warming and climate change. We presented a pie-graph (see below) from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which displays the distribution of GHG emissions coming from several sectors of the U.S. economy. Then we considered the largest piece of the pie, the GHG emissions produced by the use of fossil-fueled vehicles, accounted for by the **Transportation** sector. I proposed a bold

means of rapidly reducing this country's use of gasoline and diesel-powered cars and trucks by switching to electric-battery-powered vehicles with direct government help.

I didn't mention fleets of government and commercial vehicles, but the thrust of our suggestion also applies to them: government agency cars and trucks, delivery trucks and vans used by the military, U.S. Postal Service, UPS, FedEx, Amazon, you name it. The point I made is that, if we're serious about reducing GHG emissions, we shouldn't wait for the market or limited government rebates to coax us to shift to electric vehicles; instead we should use our government effectively and decisively to make a rapid switchover to electric vehicles. This could cut the GHG emissions from the **Transportation** sector in half in the first half of this century instead of waiting for the market to maybe do this in the second half of this century. Our California governor has recently shown real leadership by taking action to end the sale of new gas-powered cars in California by 2035. And as mentioned last time, all new trucks sold in California by 2045 are also to be zero-emission powered.

Total U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector in 2018



This time, I will look at the equally large piece of the U.S. GHG emissions pie, the generation of **Electricity** by-the-burning-of-fossil-fuels sector. But first we need some background because the electricity generation sector is complex, and the national picture looks different than the California picture which affects us most directly and on which we have more influence.

For many decades the U.S. has obtained electrical energy primarily from fossil fuel burning power plants (which generate GHG emissions), and many nuclear power plants and many renewable energy power plants (which do not). The renewable energy type power plants included primarily hydroelectric power plants and, in California, also geothermal power plants. In recent years, wind turbine power plants and solar-thermal power plants have greatly added to the renewable energy sector. These are all central station type facilities.

Over the last ten years, solar photovoltaic panel (PV) systems have become very popular, especially in California. Several large solar PV central station type facilities have been built in remote areas of southern California and connected to the energy distribution grid. And tens of thousands of small solar PV systems have been installed around the state to serve individual or small groups of buildings. In fact, the combined energy production from solar PV systems in California has risen about 3,000% since 2010. This technology has had a significant effect on electricity generation for our state and, beginning in 2020, all new homes built in California must have solar in addition to connection to the grid. Currently, solar power (both in-state solar and imported solar) generates almost 20% of electricity for California. As of 2019, total solar generated power exceeded wind-generated

electricity and hydroelectric to become the largest percentage of reliable annual renewable energy generation for California.

So again, the electricity generation picture is complicated and currently is also in a state of flux. Many different natural resources and technologies contribute to provide electricity for California. Much of our electricity is generated in California, and much is generated outside the state and imported via the grid. The relative percentages of the different technologies are changing as renewable energy systems gather momentum and fossil fuel technologies (coal and natural gas) continue the transition out of favor. Google the California Energy Commission for summary reports on the different power generation technologies.

Of course, California's largest percentage by far of in-state electricity generation (43% as of 2019, according to the California Energy Commission) is still from natural gas fueled in-state power plants. Another 10% of power generation comes from out-of-state natural gas fueled power plants. But because California also imports power generated by other sources (primarily hydroelectric plants, nuclear plants and wind turbine "plants"), burning natural gas still accounts for about 35% of all power supplied to California.

The Russell City Energy Center in Hayward is a large natural gas fueled power plant built in 2013. Luckily, burning natural gas produces less GHG emissions than burning coal, but this plant still contributes to global warming. Burning natural gas has been called the "transition fuel" as we increasingly change to more renewable energy because it is not as bad as burning coal as far as GHG emissions is concerned. But that's a little like saying that hitting your

head with a small hammer is better than hitting it with a large hammer. That's true, but ... And natural gas wells and piping and compressor stations leak natural gas directly into the atmosphere. This is even worse than burning the gas because raw methane (i.e., natural gas) is a more powerful GHG than carbon dioxide. (More on that another time.)

The good news is that California's non-carbon dioxide emitting electric generation categories (nuclear, large hydroelectric, geothermal, wind and solar) accounted for 57% of power generation in 2019. And so, in California we are well on our way to minimizing the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity. But we need to do more. The California Renewable Portfolio Standard requires that 60% of California energy come from renewable resources by 2030, and 100% by 2045. In other words, we must increase the use of wind and solar for generation of electricity to replace the use of so much natural gas. The power industry and the government should be encouraged by all of us to support the development of more central station wind and solar power plants, the addition of battery storage to these plants, more residential and commercial solar PV panel systems, and more energy efficiency in building construction and electrical systems operation to encourage getting off non-renewable power.

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I will also argue that we need to encourage the development of a new generation of nuclear power plants to further reduce our use of fossil fuels because it may prove very difficult to approach 100% renewable power generation nationally using just renewable energy sources. Nuclear plants have a tremendous potential to deliver electricity and replace the use of natural gas for power generation, while emitting no

GHGs. Yes, nuclear power is a controversial subject but it is overdue for a serious and open reevaluation. Large nuclear power plants have had their problems but the industry has learned several important lessons, and the latest nuclear plant designs attempt to avoid critical vulnerabilities which plagued older and large plant designs. (More on this another time.)

In summary, the electricity generation sector is complex (because of the many sources and types of power generation and their economics) and is currently in a long-overdue state of transition from primarily fossil fuel produced energy to primarily non-fossil fuel produced energy. California is well positioned to make this transition successfully because we already have large renewable energy resources (large hydroelectric and geothermal power plants), because Californians have embraced wind and especially solar power generation in an individual and growing way, and because our political leadership and regulatory agencies have seen the “handwriting on the wall” and are committed to addressing global warming and climate change.

The League of Women Voters has accepted the fact of threatening global climate change and supports efforts to reduce it. As members, and as citizens of the world, we know that means making individual efforts and political efforts to reduce the causes of global warming. This must include how we generate power and how we otherwise use fossil fuels. This time, I looked at how we generate power. Next time, I will turn to other uses of fossil fuels and how we can reduce that contribution to global warming.

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### ***San Leandro Public Library to Host League of Women Pros and Cons Voter Education Session***

The San Leandro Public Library invites the community to attend a virtual voter information session presented by the Eden Area chapter of the League of Women Voters. The presentation will cover the *Pros and Cons* of the measures on the upcoming November 3rd ballot, with the purpose of preparing voters in our community. Please call (510) 577-3971 or email [LibraryInfo@sanleandro.org](mailto:LibraryInfo@sanleandro.org) for details.

- What: Voter Information Session: “Pros and Cons” of ballot measures
- When: Monday, October 12, 2020, at 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Where: Zoom via the San Leandro Public Library

This workshop is free. Registration is required. Please register at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_dGZLt8NWSni55tMqmv2OIA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dGZLt8NWSni55tMqmv2OIA)






**League of Women Voters of Eden Area**  
 P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/826-6674  
 Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro and  
 unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,  
 Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo

Just cut out and mail this coupon with your check to:  
 League of Women Voters of Eden Area Treasurer  
 P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues:** Regular \$70,  
 2<sup>nd</sup> member same household  
 \$30, Student free



*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of the public in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

**For our Calendar of upcoming events, go to:**  
<https://my.lwv.org/california/eden-area>

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