



# The Voter



## League of Women Voters of North & Central San Mateo County, California

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

October 2020

### Pros & Cons

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

12 Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Join us for one of the most popular meetings of the year, our review of all the California State and San Mateo County measures that will be on the November Ballot.

Support for informed voting is a 100-year old hallmark of the League of Women Voters. Join us in learning about the 12 state and one county-wide measure. This ballot includes measures related to voting rights, criminal justice, affirmative action, and commercial property tax reform. There is a lot to take in – let us help you sort it out.

Please join us for our online Zoom meeting. Register using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckcOirrD0jHd1RPX7amzF6rd6dqGtLRtYB>

Everyone is welcome! Share this information with others.



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

Marie Baldisseri, President • Marie Baldisseri, Membership Chair • Ann Kuchins, Editor

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## President's Message



Has America abandoned civility and good manners? And if it has, should we care? Civility, after all, means being a good citizen. Civility and good manners are not about which fork to choose for the salad. They're about how we treat one another in everyday life. And how we treat one another determines the strength of our society.

Boomers were the first generation to be fed oversized portions of self-esteem and self-entitlement. We must not be so self-absorbed that we forget the value of restraint and use it when called for. To survive, a society needs an amount of goodwill—people willing to treat others with respect and to give of themselves to the community. Civility is the lifeblood of a society.

The Internet has depersonalized our relationships. We email, instant-message and make anonymous comments online. We live in a time when anyone can say anything about anybody. The shrillest voices are the ones that get the most attention. We shout our opinions because the media seems to tell us that's the way to be heard.

Bipartisan conflict is part of democracy. It's healthy. It's important to leave enough space for the other's opinion.

Today some politicians use nothing but tactics of attack or obstruction. Too often we have rigid adherence to a party line. Common sense, compromise and goodwill are vanishing.

If we cannot be civil, our quality of life deteriorates, society itself begins to fray and democracy is weakened. We get to the point where incivility escalates and crosses into violence. We all have an incentive to foster civility because the higher the level of civility, the lower the level of violence in a society.

In the past few years, hundreds of projects have sprung up across the country to foster civility. And more school districts are including manners and civility in their lesson plans. These are all attempts to improve the quality of life by increasing the quality of human interactions. They are small but important. I believe the best place to learn civility is by example from the older members of the family – ideally in the home. When we are young we pursue beauty, success. The young tend to be idealists. They feel people should behave the way they were taught by parents, schools, faith-based organizations and other influencers. Their idealism helps push society forward and helps us grow by opening our minds to new ideas and points of view often with positive results. Seniors may be more mature and have more wisdom about life in general, but we can be obstinate curmudgeons who don't accept change well.

Civility means we listen to and hear one another, and that we be willing to strike a balance to reach a compromise. After all, how well we treat other people is the basis of every ethical system.

*Marie Baldisseri, President*

## Board Highlights

At its September meeting, our board

- Heard from guest speaker Linda Craig about Measure RR, which provides funding to Caltrain and opted to join the Bay Area League in supporting the measure
  - Thanked our summer intern, Rachel Callegari, for her contributions to the League
  - Ratified the purchase with the South County League of prerecorded Pros and Cons videos
  - Discussed alternative voter registration efforts, such as postcard campaigns and working with partners
  - Reviewed the purpose of our restricted funds and developed some ideas to put them to use
  - Began a process to gather input to update and improve the League website
  - Was updated on the upcoming busy schedule of Pros and Cons presentations and candidate forums which will require training of volunteers
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## Welcome Our New Members!

Elizabeth Brown  
 Tina Doede  
 Rachel Callegari  
 Eddie Flores  
 Victoria Kline  
 Mary McDougall  
 Jean Perry  
 Kathleen Warmoth

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## New (& Not So New) Member Orientation

**Saturday, December 5, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Mark your calendars! Zoom session – Registration email to follow**

Whether you're a new member or have been a member for a while and feel you would like a refresher on how the League of Women Voters works, I hope you'll plan on attending. The meeting will be an opportunity to learn about the League - its mission, policies, positions, areas of advocacy, and more. In addition, it's a great opportunity to meet other League members and discover how you can get involved.

*Marie Baldisseri, President and Membership Director*

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## 19th Amendment and Founding of League Celebrations

August was a month full of celebrations commemorating the 100th anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment to our Constitution giving women the right to vote and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters on February 14, 1920.

On August 22, a lecture sponsored by the Foster City Library and hosted by our League's VP **Patricia West Smith** featured author Dr. Ellen Carol du Bois who spoke of highlights from her new book, *Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote*. The Zoom webinar had 200 registrants.

During this exciting year celebrating women's right to vote, League members appeared by Zoom to receive proclamations from many jurisdictions recognizing and celebrating the anniversaries. Proclamations have been received from the U.S. House of Representatives (Congresswoman Speier), California State Legislature (Senator Hill and Assemblyman Mullin), towns of Hillsborough and Colma, cities of San Carlos, Pacifica, Burlingame, San Mateo, South San Francisco, Millbrae, Daly City, Belmont, and Foster City.

On Women's Equality Day, August 26, sponsored by County Supervisor Carole Groom, our Past President **Marta Bookbinder** was honored.

*Pat West Smith, Vice President*

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## LWVNCSMC Candidate Forums

Forum	Date	Time	Online Registration
San Bruno Park School District Board of Trustees	Fri. Oct 2	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82118595796?pwd=YnFTZEIDUXFVOFE2ZUFDDUkxQ3ZGQT09#success">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82118595796?pwd=YnFTZEIDUXFVOFE2ZUFDDUkxQ3ZGQT09#success</a>
Millbrae City Council	Sat Oct. 3	4:00 p.m.	Details: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/926550864495185">https://www.facebook.com/events/926550864495185</a>
San Bruno City Council	Mon Oct. 5	6:30 p.m.	Register <a href="https://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/gov/city_departments/city_clerk/elections.htm">https://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/gov/city_departments/city_clerk/elections.htm</a>
San Carlos City Council	Tues Oct. 6	7:00 p.m.	Register: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wPN8jQ7oSHmN5_E-BMbvWQ">https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wPN8jQ7oSHmN5_E-BMbvWQ</a>
Brisbane City Council	Thurs Oct. 8	7:00 p.m.	Register: <a href="https://www.brisbaneca.org/citycouncil/page/2020-candidates-forum">https://www.brisbaneca.org/citycouncil/page/2020-candidates-forum</a>
Hillsborough City Council	Sun Oct. 18	10:00 a.m.	Zoom Link: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/92667316739?pwd=bGVsZWlhNHB5V0tjV0JrMkMwTEZJUT09">https://zoom.us/j/92667316739?pwd=bGVsZWlhNHB5V0tjV0JrMkMwTEZJUT09</a>
Pacifica School Board	Wed Oct. 21	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Link: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/92667316739?pwd=bGVsZWlhNHB5V0tjV0JrMkMwTEZJUT09">https://zoom.us/j/92667316739?pwd=bGVsZWlhNHB5V0tjV0JrMkMwTEZJUT09</a>

## San Mateo County Ballot Measures

### November 2020 Election

There are eleven local ballot measures on our ballots this November. Only one of them is countywide and will be voted on by every voter in San Mateo County. The other measures will be voted on only by residents of specific local cities and school districts. Measure V affects only the City of East Palo Alto.

City/County/School District	Measure	Summary
County	Measure RR	This a county-wide measure to ensure funding for CalTrain. Voters in Santa Clara and San Francisco counties will also be voting on this measure. The measure would levy a 1/8 cent increase in the sales tax for the next 30 years. The approximately \$100 million raised would be used to preserve CalTrain service and add capacity and frequency of trains among other things. This measure must pass by a 2/3 majority of votes.
San Mateo – Foster City School District	Measure T	Measure T is a bond measure for the San Mateo-Foster City School District. It would authorize the K-8 district to purchase bonds in the amount of \$409 million to be used for such things as upgrading classrooms for STEM, providing art and music classes, repairing deteriorating infrastructure, and adding safety measures and equipment such as hand washing stations. It must pass by 55%.
Jefferson High School District	Measure Z	For residents of the Jefferson High School District, Measure Z is a bond measure in the amount of \$163 million. Money would be used to improve student safety, campus security, and to renovate/construct classrooms at the district's 6 sites. It must pass by 55%.
Daly City	Measure Q	For residents of the Jefferson High School District, Measure Z is a bond measure in the amount of \$163 million. Money would be used to improve student safety, campus security, and to renovate/construct classrooms at the district's 6 sites. It must pass by 55%.
Half Moon Bay	Measure U	The City of Half Moon Bay is asking to raise its transient occupancy tax (commonly known as a bed tax, the tax guests in hotels pay per night) from 12% to 14% beginning on 1 July 2021 and to 15% on 1 July 2022. Funds garnered would be used for emergency services, disaster preparedness, supporting local businesses, and keeping public areas healthy and safe. It needs to pass by a majority of votes.
San Bruno	Measure S	The City of San Bruno is asking passage of an ordinance that would impose an additional business license tax of 10% of gross sales receipts on cannabis businesses within the city ... if and when cannabis businesses are permitted within the city limits. Currently there are no cannabis businesses within San Bruno. It passes by a majority vote.
	Measure X	Measure X is asking to raise its transient occupancy tax from 12% to 14%. If passed, the measure is estimated to raise an additional \$370,000 per year for the city. It requires a majority vote for passage.
San Mateo	Measure W	Measure W would raise the transient occupancy tax within the City of San Mateo to 14%. It requires a majority vote for passage.
	Measure Y	This is a citizen's initiative placed on the ballot in the City of San Mateo. It would amend the City's General Plan to maintain for 10 years voter-enacted policies limiting building heights, residential density, and

City/County/School District	Measure	Summary
		nonresidential building intensities. It would modify and maintain for 10 years an inclusionary housing requirement for residential projects. A majority vote is required for passage.
	Measure R	Measure R was placed before the City of San Mateo’s voters by the City Council. It would create affordable housing near the three San Mateo CalTrain stations and on industrial/commercial lands. Preference would be given to nurses, teachers, public safety personnel, health care workers, and retail clerks. It would continue the height and density limits in single-family neighborhoods. It needs a majority vote for passage. Measures Y and R are competing measures.

For more complete information on all these measures, please visit [VotersEdge.org](https://votersedge.org/ca) (https://votersedge.org/ca) or the San Mateo County Elections website (<https://www.smcacre.org/current-election>).

Kathee Tyson

## Alert: USPS Vote by Mail Postcard Incorrect for Voters in California

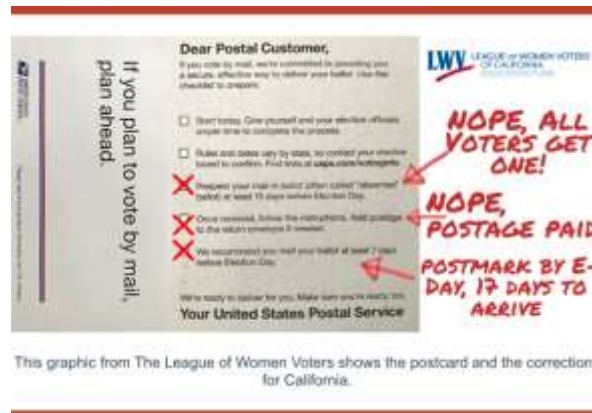
**Note:** The following alert was published in the Thrive Alliance newsletter.

All Californians received a postcard from USPS that has **inaccurate** information regarding how to vote in California. Please help us spread the word that this is not correct.

To clarify:

1. If you are a registered voter, there is no need to request a mail-in ballot. Starting October 5, a ballot will be mailed to you. If you have not registered, do it before October 19 to receive a ballot in the mail. And you can always register to vote and vote at any Vote Center, up to and including Election Day.
2. Return postage is pre-paid - first class.(Bonus: your *I Voted* sticker comes with your ballot!)
3. Ballots postmarked by Election Day will count if they arrive within 17 days.

Please visit <https://www.smcacre.org/smcvote> if you have questions.





## Mark Your Calendars!

### 2020 General Meeting Planner

Date	Topic
Tues 10/13 12 noon-2 p.m.	Pros and Cons <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9311796264?pwd=T2Qybkt1UjRuY3hUK3NhYVltWTdFQT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9311796264?pwd=T2Qybkt1UjRuY3hUK3NhYVltWTdFQT09</a>
Tues 11/17 12 noon – 2 p.m.	November Election Debrief – Guest speakers: Jim Irizarry, Asst. Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder & Asst. Chief Elections Officer and representatives from The Leadership Now Project

**Please note:** In compliance with San Mateo County's COVID-19 guidelines, all general meetings will be hosted on Zoom, a teleconferencing tool that enables you to watch and/or call from your computer or phone to participate. This tool is free.

## October Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Wednesday Oct. 7	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting All members welcome! Zoom link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82650715838?pwd=MFhmTjlxGcvdDNPnHpXmk5TUGRNUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82650715838?pwd=MFhmTjlxGcvdDNPnHpXmk5TUGRNUT09</a>	Zoom Meeting
Wednesday Oct. 28	10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	The Wednesday Morning Caucus. Register here: <a href="https://bit.ly/LWVNCSMC_Wednesday_Caucus">https://bit.ly/LWVNCSMC_Wednesday_Caucus</a>	Zoom Meeting

## Order Your LWVC Voter Facemasks Now!

Get on board with Linda Jensen and order your LWVC Voter Facemask now from the LWVC Café Press website: <https://www.cafepress.com/lwvc/17149956>.



**JOIN THE LEAGUE!**

*Where new members just like you are taking advantage of leadership opportunities and making an impact.*

Name(s)

Address

City

Zip Code

Phone Number (daytime)

E-mail address

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$75 one member; \$115 two members, same household; \$40 each additional member, same household. *Dues are tax deductible.*)

Mail to: LWVNCSMC 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo, CA 94401