



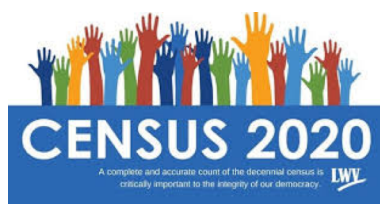
The Voter



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.

January 2020



Census Ambassador Training

Saturday January 11, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Redwood City Main Library

1044 Middlefield Road

Redwood City 94063

This is a joint meeting with League of Women Voters of South San Mateo. For more information, go to p. 3.



Pizza, the Popular Vote, & Program Planning

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

1300 South El Camino Real, San Mateo, California 94402



Program is the League's "reason for being." It's the basis for education and action. This is your annual opportunity to choose the issues you believe the LWV California as well as our local and county Leagues should focus time, talent, money, and reputation on. For more information, go to p. 3.

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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.

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

Office: 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo CA 94401 • Phone: 650-342-5853 Email: LWVNCSMC@sbcglobal.net • Web site: www.lwvnscsmc.org

President's Message

Dear LWV Members:

I hope that you were able to watch our LWV members marching in Pasadena on the first day of the New Year 2020! We deserve big congratulations for our pursuit, activism, and presence as voters since 1920. We are looking good!

With pleasure, I inform you that I have begun to receive responses to my letter sent to each library director in our LWVNCSMC area, asking them to collaborate with us in celebrating 100 years of women being able to vote in the USA, and the birth of the League of Women Voters to assist in implementing the 19th Amendment.

Now, I ask you, my fellow members, what you can do for our country. We are facing a historic year:

- Questioning our government and our role in the defense of democracy
- Counting accurately how many people are living in the United States
- Electing possibly the first woman president of the nation
- Adding the 28th amendment to the Constitution: ERA

Call me, and if not, I will contact you! This is my Ad in 2020 for you.

Needed to: Help as a volunteer, work as a citizen, celebrate as an American.

Our future is here. In a very old museum housing the memorabilia of the Suffrage, next to a very big, old KEY inside a glass box on the poster are the following words: "The young are at the gates". WELCOME!



Marta Bookbinder, President

Board Highlights

At the December board meeting, our board

- Planned a board retreat in January 2020
- Reviewed the financial information related to Voter Girl and discussed other event budget items
- Distributed petitions and information on the Schools and Community First initiative and discussed upcoming information sessions and outreach activities
- Considered the option to join the Thrive Alliance to support networking with other nonprofits and whether the organization's resources would help the League's mission
- Heard about the successful November activities, including the housing panel at the November general meeting and Seniors on the Move, with some follow-up actions
- Was updated on the Observer Corps, which has produced a draft of initial questions and comments for follow-up with the Burlingame School District's Bond Oversight Committee; also learned that Maxine Turner has joined the community college district's Bond Oversight Committee

Nicole Niederer, Secretary

Census Ambassador Training

You're at the hair salon or barbershop and you mention something about the census to your hair stylist. You start talking about the census and then someone across the room joins in and before you know it, all six people in the room are talking about the census. This happened to me. Fortunately I had gone to the Ambassador Training at Peninsula People Power to see what would work for the League's Ambassador Training so I had my 30 second elevator speech on the census ready to go and tons of facts at my fingertips. This is one way that you can benefit from attending census training on Saturday January 11 from 10:30 – 12:30 at the Redwood City Library – becoming a trusted messenger on Census 2020.

Debby Maio from South County LWV and I have been working with Aparna Ramakrishnan, Census Coordinator for the San Mateo County Office of Community Affairs. Aparna is the trainer who will cover the following topics:

- Census basics
- Census 2020 Outreach including key points (the what, the why, and the how) and 5 common barriers and how to address them
- Messaging that includes security of personal information
- Communication principles for census outreach

Much of the time will be spent interacting in a Q & A format. It's fun, easy, and you'll learn a lot!

The goal of the training is to provide you with the tools to:

- Talk about the census with your circle of friends and family that might extend to your work colleagues, faith-based groups, and other groups that you belong to, such as a book club
- Table at League events, usually combined with voter registration
- Solicit pledges from people to complete the census
- Become part of a group of volunteers who will go out to hard to reach population groups coordinated by Thrive Alliance

Having a complete count is crucial to every person in America and there is a role for everyone to ensure its success. Please invite friends or family who you feel might be interested. I will send an Evite so we can get a ballpark figure of how many people are coming. Aparna is preparing booklets and has a surprise for everyone.

Ann Kuchins, External Relations Director



Pizza, the Popular Vote, & Program Planning

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.

Silicon Valley Community Foundation, 1300 South El Camino Real, San Mateo, California 94402

Join us for pizza, enthusiastic discussions and member recommendations:

- ✓ Why we should abolish the Electoral College and how to do it vs. the merits of retaining the Electoral College created by the framers of the Constitution
- ✓ Program Planning. Your opportunity to be heard regarding the education and action priorities for the LWV of the United States as well as our local and county

Leagues. Where should the League focus time, talent, money, and reputation?
Where can the League be most effective? What activities best serve our mission,
and are they supported by our positions?

You will get the most from the program planning by reviewing our League's county and local positions found in your Member Handbook and on our website, www.lwvnscmc.org, as well as the LWVUS's positions posted at <https://lww.org/our-work/positions>.

If you have questions, please contact Marie Baldisseri at mbaldisseri@att.net or leave a message at 650-342-5853 (League office).

Marie Baldisseri, Membership Director

Welcome to Our New Member!

Amy Radovich

Getting Ready for the March 3 Primary: Political Parties

When you vote in a presidential primary election, it's important that you get a ballot for the political party that you support. This can be confusing as there are many political parties but only the following six parties are qualified parties in California:

- American Independent

NOTE: If you identify as an Independent/No Party Preference, chances are you do not support the American Independent party. An Independent voter is a No Party Preference voter. The American Independent Party is a conservative party.

- Democratic
- Peace and Freedom
- Green
- Libertarian
- Republican

So how do you make sure that you receive the correct ballot? The following guidelines will be in the *County Sample Ballot* that will be sent between Thursday, January 22 and Tuesday, February 11. This guide is mailed to each voter who is registered at least 29 days before the election.

Political Party Ballot Guidelines for the Presidential Primary

1. If you are registered with one of the above mentioned qualified parties, then you will receive a ballot for that party.
2. If you are a No Party Preference voter (Independent), then you can choose a nonpartisan ballot or a ballot from one of the following political parties:
 - American Independent
 - Democratic
 - Libertarian

These three political parties have opened their presidential primary to No Party Preference voters. This does not change your registration as a No Party Preference voter.

To request one of these three ballots:

- Vote by Mail voters can request their ballot choice in advance in writing or by returning an unvoted ballot.
 - Voters can request a ballot at a Vote Center on or before Election Day.
3. If you are No Party Preference voter and want a ballot from one of the following parties, then you must reregister with that party:
 - Green
 - Peace and Freedom
 - Republican
 4. If you are registered with one of the six qualified parties but you want a ballot from a different party, then you must reregister.

The deadline to reregister is February 18. However, you can register conditionally up to and including Election Day at a Vote Center. To reregister online, go to <http://www.registertovote.ca.gov>.

Simple, right? Maybe not. If you have any questions, contact the San Mateo County Elections Office at 650-363-4500.

Ann Kuchins

In Memoriam - Lifetime Members
Jonnie Stahl
Masako Nagumo





Observer Corps Report

Broadcasting of the San Mateo Community College Board Meetings

Background - At the June 12, 2019 SMCCD Board meeting, the presidents of both San Mateo County Leagues sent a letter to the Board of Trustees stating their concerns regarding the proposed modification of Board meeting minutes from detailed to action, without providing a live visual or an online video archive of each board meeting as most other county government agencies do. As the Leagues' letter noted,

..our nation's access laws are only as good as we, the people, demand that they be. Protecting the public's access to information, either written public documents or access to governmental meetings, is fundamental to the League's mission and, we believe, fundamental to the health of our democracy.

Three members of the Board, President Goodman and Trustees Holober and Manelkern supported the League's position and agreed that the public's perception of transparency and access were key objectives. Board President Goodman directed staff to immediately maintain audio recordings of meetings for longer than 30 days and to livestream audio recordings and make them available on the District website. See also Observer Corps Report, July/August Voter.

Status - The audio recordings are now maintained indefinitely; however, the public must call the Board Secretary to request a copy, usually created on a CD. Online audio recordings are not yet available to the public on the District website, but appear to be available to staff in a Dropbox account. Observer Corps member, Maxine Turner, has been unsuccessful at finding out why these recordings are not publicly available on the District's website as per the Board's direction. Phone calls and emails to responsible staff have not been returned.

At the October 10 Board meeting, under public comment, Maxine, on behalf of the Observer Corps, requested an update on the status of broadcasting meetings. As a result, a follow-up discussion of broadcasting Board meetings was held on the October 23, along with a discussion of utilizing the former KCSM-TV space for public/local access broadcasting. Prior to this meeting, staff ran a test broadcast of a Board meeting using Zoom Conferencing. Trustees felt important functionality was not available using that format. They wanted the camera to be able to pan and focus on the speakers, be searchable, and have closed-captioning. President Goodman said he hoped staff would have this action item on the next meeting agenda. Staff said they would list various options and costs and bring them back to the Board for direction. To date neither of these items have been placed on an agenda.

Follow-up - Progress has been exceedingly slow on increasing the transparency and accessibility of Board meetings. It's now been over six months since the Board requested action on this item. The League's involvement was critical in helping the Board recognize the public's interest in making meetings available on-line to facilitate public participation and in retaining the audio of meetings. Online access to meetings will be especially important as the District is beginning the search process for hiring a new Chancellor. The Observer Corps will continue to monitor this issue, but it will require active public involvement to make action on this item a priority.

Maxine Turner, Observer Corps Member

Homeowner Association Elections Help the League

Volunteers are needed to count ballots on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 when the League will serve as Inspector of Election for Shelter Creek Condo Owners Association in San Bruno. This will be the thirteenth year that we have provided this service for the association and shows the confidence they have in the League.

It is ideal to have eight people to open and count ballots. It requires about two or three hours of your time that evening.

Fundraising projects like this allow the League to continue its work of informing the community. People will look to the League for materials and services to help them make decisions before the 2020 primary and general elections. Please contact Jackie Jacobberger if you can help (jhjacobberger@att.net or 650-871-6357). You may also e-mail the League office (lwwncsmc@sbcglobal.net) or leave a message on the League phone (650-342-5853).

Jackie Jacobberger, Treasurer

January Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Monday January 4	10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Board Retreat	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Monday January 6	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Board Meeting All members welcome	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Saturday January 11	10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Census Ambassador Training	Redwood City Main Library 1044 Middlefield Road Redwood City 94063
Tuesday January 21	Noon – 2:00 p.m.	General Meeting: Pizza, the Popular Vote, and Program Planning	Silicon Valley Community Foundation 1300 South El Camino Real, San Mateo, 94402



2019 – 2020 General Meeting Planner

Date	Topic
2020	
Tuesday, Feb. 18	Celebration of Members and the 100 th anniversaries of the 19 th Amendment and the League of Women Voters
Tuesday, March 17	Fire Risk in San Mateo County
Tuesday, April 21	Schools and Communities First Initiative
Tuesday, May 19	Immigration/Human Trafficking!
Date TBD, June	Annual Meeting. Plus, The State of the County

Note: Meeting times and locations to be announced

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

League of Women Voters
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