



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.

May 2020



CANCELLED

General Meeting Tuesday, May 19, 2020

The health and well being of the communities we serve remains of paramount importance to the League of Women Voters. In response to the San Mateo County Health Department's recent guidance "to cancel or postpone all non-essential gatherings... and those over the age of 60 should avoid gatherings to the extent possible," we are cancelling the May General Meeting.

Thank you for your understanding, the LWVNCSCMC Board Members

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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

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President's Message



Annually during the month of April, we celebrate Earth Day. This year, we also prepared to count how many people live in our communities through the 2020 Census. However, due to a state of emergency, we have been challenged to respond, act differently, and listen. The bustling sounds on the streets are lessened as we shelter in place and reflect on what is most important in everyday life. In the quiet moments, we hear the natural songs of birds, the wind rustling the leaves of trees, and the gentle sounds of rain as it falls to sustain our planet. We can take this opportunity to be mindful about our health and protect our lives by the choices we make. Protecting Mother Earth from a climate and global crisis is a priority.

This year everyone will count by doing their part with the census. The LWV commits to continue helping citizens vote. Each person can make a decision to support their local businesses during the current crisis; thus, you choose with your dollars. It's time to prepare to vote for leaders at the state, local, and federal levels in November, 2020.

The LWVCSMC will continue to serve our members and is planning to hold our Annual Meeting in June via remote audio / visual communication. Our Board held the April monthly meeting using computer/phone-in tools successfully.

If you are interested in following the information from the LWVUS or LWVC, please let me know. A number of webinars are planned to keep us informed and to find out what we can do to contribute... as expressed by Virginia Kase, CEO, LWVUS: **"We find ourselves in a moment of critical decision-making that requires us to be bold, courageous, and steadfast in our resolve to ensure the American public is put first."**

We send you our message of hope for all of your families to keep safe and healthy.

Marta Bookbinder, President

P.S. Keep informed directly via the San Mateo County resources.

Connect with **San Mateo County** - COVID-19 Non-Emergency Non-Medical Hotline – **DIAL 211**.

Register with SMC Alert to receive urgent or emergency alerts: www.smcalert.info.

County of San Mateo District Attorney's Price Gouging Hotline – **(650) 363-4403**

You can find more information for the County of San Mateo at their website or by following them on social media:

<https://www.smcstrong.org/>

Twitter @SanMateoCo

Facebook @CountyofSanMateo

Board Highlights

At the April board meeting, our board discussed the following:

- Heard the Nominating Committee report on the proposed slate of officers and directors for the 2020-2021 year
 - Reviewed the proposed budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and approved submitting it to members at the Annual Meeting
 - Updated on the progress on the Members-Only section of the League's website, which is now available for member registration and for viewing
 - Learned of the current status of plans for the Centennial Gala in August
 - Was presented with the final financial report for the Voter Girl event and discussed plans for future events
 - Discussed the impact of Covid19 measures on future meetings and League business as required by our bylaws and the limits and best practices of virtual meetings
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Virtual Annual Meeting

Mark Your Calendar, Plan to Join Us!

Saturday, June 6, 2020 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Guest Speaker: Supervisor Carole Groom

State of the County



“There is something in the human spirit that yearns to be a part of a greater effort, to move a community forward.”

— SUPERVISOR CAROLE GROOM
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

In response to the San Mateo County Health Department's recent guidance “to avoid gatherings to the extent possible”, our Annual Meeting will be hosted virtually, by the means of a free-to-you teleconferencing tool that enables members to watch or call from their computers or phones to participate.

Members will receive their Annual Meeting Kits by mid-May; most members will receive their kits by email. We will send an email with the link to the meeting and instructions on how to join the meeting around the beginning of June.

Schools and Community First – Onward to November

Congratulations to our local League members who canvassed for signatures to get this important measure on the ballot in November. Two weeks ago the coalition supporting this measure submitted 1.8 million signatures, over twice the required number to qualify and the largest number for a measure in California history!

Now we begin the next phase – advocacy!



Schools and Community First (SCF) is expected to deliver \$12 billion annually to schools and local communities through a change in collecting commercial property tax. Commercial property (office buildings, hotels, etc.) values will be reassessed for property tax purposes every three years, marking their value to the current values for similar properties. By way of example, the Chevron headquarters and Disneyland, are paying taxes based on a 1978 assessment. There will be no change to residential or agricultural property tax assessments.

A crucial element in our strategy to win in November is helping voters see why this measure will make a difference in their communities. It is essential that we help voters understand how SCF will benefit them. To that end, we know that stories are the most powerful way of communicating. Every culture throughout all human history has used stories to find common ground.

The campaign is collecting personal stories that will reflect personal values and diverse communities from across California. We want our local communities and neighborhood stories to be included. Sharing your story is the most effective way to convey the importance and impact of SCF with voters in a memorable and relatable way. In thinking about whether you have a story to contribute, you might consider what changes you hope to see with the investment of \$12 billion a year in our schools and local communities or what experiences have led you to commit to this issue.

If you would like to participate, email Linda Jansen at lwncsmc@sbcglobal.net. Linda can provide details and answer your questions. The process of recording stories is pretty simple and can be a lot of fun.

The following links provide examples of stories already being used by the campaign:

- <https://www.facebook.com/Schools1stCA/videos/2585248004938037/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Schools1stCA/videos/282630762715489/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Schools1stCA/videos/545830479591135/>

Linda Jansen

Voter Service

Although there are no current Voter Service activities, the VS team is thinking about the upcoming fall election season. We assume we'll be busy with voter registration, local candidate forums, and Pros and Cons presentations. We will need lots of help! We will do trainings this summer when it is safe to do so or perhaps virtually, if needed. If you are interested in helping with candidate forums or Pros and Cons, please contact Margie Gater and Kathy Wheeler. If you want to help with voter registration, please contact Joyce Delyani. Email the League office: lwncsmc@sbcglobal.net.

Margie Gater, Voter Service Director

Census Snapshot

The Census Bureau provides each county with a report on how well their residents are responding to the census.

As of April 27, the highest responding cities in the county are (drumroll):

- San Carlos and: 73%
- Belmont and Hillsborough: 72%
- Foster City, Millbrae, Pacifica, and Portola Valley: 69%

The cities with the lowest response rates are:

- Pescadero (includes La Honda, Loma Mar + Other Unincorporated): 22%
- Montara (includes Moss Beach, Princeton by the Sea, Seal Cove + Other Unincorporated): 34%
- El Granada (Includes Miramar, + Other Unincorporated): 36%
- East Palo Alto: 47%



If you want to check out how all cities in San Mateo are doing on a daily basis, see the spreadsheet at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16ZZoCKIcPWaXU4dFu41volbLyW0B1yeP_ph-N2mpjK/edit#gid=0.

Ann Kuchins, External Relations Director

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 \$ _____	
<small>(\$75 one member; \$115 two members, same household; \$40 each additional member, same household. <i>Dues are tax deductible.</i>)</small> Mail to: LWNCSMC 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo, CA 94401	