



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.

August 2020

Creating a More Perfect Democracy: Our Centennial Celebration

Creating
★ A MORE PERFECT ★
Democracy



“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

-19th Amendment, United States Constitution

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote in all elections. The battle to achieve women’s suffrage started 72 years earlier and was fought by three generations of courageous and tenacious suffragists, both women and men. On February 14, 1920, the League of Women Voters of the U.S. was founded to ensure that the newly enfranchised voters received the information and education they would need to make informed decisions when exercising their new power.

We honor the suffragists and the founders of the League of Women Voters of the United States by continuing to push our democracy forward so that every voter can play a critical role in shaping our country.

The League of Women Voters of North & Central San Mateo County
Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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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



We were all stunned and disappointed when Marta Bookbinder announced her resignation as our Local League's President; however, we respect Marta's decision and support her difficult choice.

In response, the Nominating Committee stepped-up to a tough challenge with the following recommendations approved by the Board during its July 13, 2020 meeting:

President: Marie Baldisseri (2020 -2021)

Directors (2020 – 2021):

Kristi Denham

Gayle Hardt

Since Kristi, Gayle, and I were serving on the 2020 – 2021 Nominating Committee, the following Nominating Committee recommendations were also approved by the Board:

Chair: Kathleen Tyson

Off Board Members:

Susan Raye

Diana Stephens

Kristi Denham and Linda Jansen will remain on the Nominating Committee representing the Board.

Please join us in the year ahead; your input and your participation are vital towards fulfilling our mission to make democracy work. The hallmark of the League of Women Voters has been grassroots participation and empowerment; this is what got us the vote 100 years ago and this is what will ensure we continue the fight and much needed work towards a healthy democracy.

The November 2020 Election will require a lot of volunteers to ensure our League can meet the Voter Service requests for candidate forums and Pros and Cons presentations from the communities we serve. In addition, we anticipate calls for speakers regarding Schools and Communities First, which will be on the November ballot as Proposition 15. If these activities sound like something you would like to do, please contact us at 650-342-5853 or lwvnscmc@sbcglobal.net.

The work of the League, with authoritarian regimes flourishing and attacks on civil rights increasing, is needed now more than ever. Please join us to make an impact and safeguard our democracy.

Marie Baldisseri, President

Board Highlights

At the June board meeting, our board

- Thanked outgoing board members for their help during the 2019-2020 year and welcomed the incoming Board for the 2020-2021 year
- Learned that the big membership renewal surge in June is going very well
- Discussed goals and plans for an upcoming board retreat in July
- Was updated on the Schools and Communities First campaign moving into their next phase as the proposal is now a Proposition for the November ballot
- Reviewed delegates selected for the upcoming (virtual) National Convention
- Discussed activities to recruit and engage new (and existing) members

At the July board meeting, our board

- Approved the nominating committee's proposals to fill remaining board vacancies for 2020-2021 created by recent resignations and to adjust the nominating committee membership
- Finalized new bank signatories for the coming year
- Was presented with the End of Year Financial Statement which showed a net positive for the year due to robust contributions and expense reduction stemming from moving activities online
- Considered actions to support Proposition 15, which is the Schools and Communities First measure
- Reviewed statistics about social media engagement and activity and strategies to increase its reach and impact

Nicole Niederer

Welcome to Our New Members!

Sarah Fields
Ruthellen Harris
Mary Ogden



It's official! Schools and Community First will be on the ballot in November as Prop 15! Thousands of people across California have worked to make this happen; our Local League among them. Our volunteers gathered some of the 1.5 million signatures the measures received.

Most recently, in June, our former League President Marta Bookbinder, wrote a powerful letter to the editor and submitted it to ten local papers. The text is as follows:

The League of Women Voters of North & Central San Mateo County requests your support for the Schools & Communities First Initiative. We are at a moment of transition, challenged to extend our hands across social distances in wealth, health and educational status.

The people's vote and victory for this Initiative on November 3rd. means:

- *\$12 billion every year for critical local services like hospitals and schools --while protecting homeowners and residents, small businesses, and agriculture from any tax changes*
- *94% of the revenue would come from only 10% of the most under-assessed commercial and industrial properties in the state.*
- *A fraction of large corporations would finally pay their fair share by closing their corporate tax loopholes.*

The economic crisis is impacting everyone in California. Local governments and school districts could face more devastating budget cuts affecting historically underfunded areas and particularly disadvantaged communities of color.

Voters can create a revenue source of \$12 billion for California's budget; designate the funds to benefit our communities; and close the tax loopholes enjoyed by some big corporations for many years.

In November, we can make a change for the better!

YES on Schools & Communities FIRST!

NO more Corporate TAX Loopholes!

What you can do!

ACTION ALERT

1. We will be building awareness and getting out the vote. Join the team that will help make this once in a generation opportunity a reality. Write to Linda Jansen at ljansen0@gmail.com to see how you can help.
2. If your neighborhood association, church, or club, etc. has room on an upcoming zoom meeting, Linda would love to speak to them about Prop 15.
3. Become an advocate – go to <https://www.schoolsandcommunitiesfirst.org/> for everything you'll need to know to be a positive voice for this Proposition.

Linda Jansen

Census Update

The plan was that the Census would end July 31 but a worldwide pandemic brought an end to years of planning. The following updated timeline is from the US Census Bureau:

- **July 1 - September 3:** Census takers will work with administrators at colleges, senior centers, prisons, and other facilities that house large groups of people to make sure everyone is counted.
- **August 11 – October 31:** Census takers will interview homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.
- **December:** The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.

Census takers will follow the following public health guidelines and are trained to do the following when visiting:

- Wear a mask
- Conduct the interview outside a home in an open, well-ventilated space, when possible
- Allow 6 feet of space between them and the person they are interviewing
- Not allow anyone else to handle Census Bureau equipment
- Follow healthy hygiene habits for frequent hand-washing, avoiding contact with high-touch surfaces, avoiding touching their face, etc.

If a census taker comes to your door and you do not want to conduct the interview in person, you can provide the census taker with a phone number.



San Mateo Census Snapshot

As of July 16, San Mateo County matched its 2010 response rate of 73.2%! The top 3 self-response cities as of July 24 in San Mateo County are as follows:

- San Carlos: 81.7%
- Hillsborough: 79.3%
- Belmont: 78.7%

To see the response rates for all cities and towns in San Mateo County, go to

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16ZZoCKIcPWaXU4dFu41volbLyW0B1yeP_ph-N2mpjJk/edit#gid=0.

Ann Kuchins, External Relations

LWVUS: 100 Days and 100 Ways to Get Ready for Election Day!

Wondering what you can do to get ready for Election Day while sheltering in place? Check out the LWVUS list on their website: https://www.lwv.org/blog/100-days-and-100-ways-get-ready-election-day?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=072620



Missed It? Zoom in our Next10 Budget Challenge Meeting

If you were unable to attend the Next10 Budget Challenge Zoom meeting, you can view it at https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/vpd4f-6rqTo3E9eU5QSDCvAoW468Kq2sgSUYq_YizUuzVyELMQauMORAY7S_ijAVRvVbsQya50-wD-xJ. No password required!





Mark Your Calendars! 2020 General Meeting Planner

Date	Topic
Tues 9/8 12noon-2pm	Schools and Communities First – Prop 15! Guest speaker, Ted Lempert
Tues 10/20 12noon-2pm	Pros and Cons

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.

Summer Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Wednesday Aug. 5	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Board Meeting All members welcome! If interested in attending, please contact Nicole Niederer by emailing the League office: lwvnscmc@sbcglobal.net . She will send the Zoom link.	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>.

