



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.

September 2020

Proposition 15, Schools & Communities First

Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Initiative

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

12 Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Proposition 15, "Schools & Communities First," will be on the November ballot in California. If passed, it means a significant change to the state's property tax structure that has prevailed for the past 42 years. It would amend the way that large commercial properties are currently assessed.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear this panel of Distinguished Speakers:

- Ted Lempert, President, Children Now
- Nancy Magee, San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools
- Mike Callagy, County Manager, San Mateo County

Please join us for our online meeting. [Register using this link:](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZYrd-GsrDoqHtGAaEwH32W6sLasJEa4zev7)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrd-GsrDoqHtGAaEwH32W6sLasJEa4zev7>

Everyone is welcome! Share this information with others.



Contents: President's Message, p. 2—Board Highlights, p. 2—Welcome to Our New Members, p. 5—Join Us for the Wednesday Morning Caucus, p. 6—We Need Your Support, p. 7—Mark Your Calendars, p. 7—Order Your LWVC Voter Facemasks Now, p. 8—Census 2020, p. 8

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



The right to vote appears in the Constitution more than any other single right. It is mentioned five times in five different amendments. The freedoms of speech, religion, and assembly are all mentioned just once. Voting is often treated as a privilege, not a right. Laws have proliferated across America which erected hurdles between citizens and the voting booth. They do not respect voting rights' difficult road throughout our history.

President Johnson warned us that "every device of which human ingenuity is capable" has been used to deny this right. The 1965 Voting Rights Act, which prohibited discrimination in voting, was passed five months after the President's words, but his warning has unfortunately proved prophetic 55 years later.

Dozens of states added new voting restrictions before the 2016 presidential election. Many states enacted these laws after the U.S. Supreme Court's 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* including forcing discriminatory voter ID, proof-of-citizenship restrictions on eligible voters, and reducing polling sites and hours. Studies of such laws show they adversely affect people of color, students, the elderly, and people in rural areas. Today, spreading disinformation is a clear tactic, instilling fears of voter fraud with no evidence to discourage vote-by-mail. There is also the alarming attempt to slow down the US Postal Service with the objective of reducing the number of eligible, countable ballots.

As November's presidential election approaches, we must continue to do all we can to ensure the voting process is fair and accessible. Tuesday, September 22nd is National Voter Registration Day, a nonpartisan civic holiday in celebration of our democracy. Nearly 3 million voters have registered on this holiday since it was first observed in 2012. National Voter Registration Day is a day of civic unity. It's an opportunity to set aside differences, enjoy the rights and opportunities we all share as Americans, and celebrate our democracy. **Spread the word, voting by mail is easy, safe, and secure; every vote must be counted and every vote counts.** Without regard to our political likings, all eligible voters should be able to vote and more people should be encouraged to register and vote. Voting should be easier, not harder. Too many people fought for too many years to have this right.

Marie Baldisseri, President

Board Highlights

At the August board meeting, our board

- Approved the Executive Committee that includes President **Marie Baldisseri**, Vice President **Patricia West Smith**, Secretary **Nicole Niederer**, Treasurer **Betty Fleming**, and Director **Ann Kuchins**
- Marta Bookbinder will speak at Women's Equity Day sponsored by Supervisor Carole Groom on August 26
- Discussed activities to promote voter registration activities
- **Kristi Denham** will coordinate an informal monthly one-hour monthly meeting in a casual, conversational format

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 of these measures, please visit [VotersEdge.org](https://votersedge.org/ca) (<https://votersedge.org/ca>) or the San Mateo County Elections web site (<https://www.smcacre.org/current-election>).

Kathee Tyson

Candidate Forums, Pros & Cons Presentations



Our Voter Service Co-Directors, Kathy Wheeler and Margie Gater, are talking with several groups about candidate forums and Pros/Cons ballot proposition presentations. We are going to be very busy, and will need all the help we can get. We will need virtual presenters and question organizers for Pros/Cons. We'll also need virtual moderators, question sorters, and timekeepers for forums. How will it all work? Well, we're organizing that too. We will train all volunteers.

We will be reaching out to previous volunteers in a separate email. If you can help, please make sure you are on our list! Drop us an email: kathy.wheeler@gmail.com and <mailto:margie.gater@sbcglobal.net>.

Margie Gater

My Summer With the League



Hello! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Rachel Callegari. I'm a sophomore at UC Davis and I'm pursuing a degree in Political Science. I got involved with the League last fall in Davis registering voters. Initially, I volunteered because I had to complete community service hours for my sorority; however, I quickly realized my experience would be much more meaningful after meeting the Davis members. I was drawn to how driven and intelligent the women were while also being friendly and uplifting. Sadly, I did not have a lot of time to participate in the Yolo County chapter as I came home for spring quarter due to the pandemic. After my spring classes ended, I decided that I wanted to have an enriching summer and participate in my community with my increasingly free time. I emailed the League and got a reply from Linda Jansen, and boy did I get what I wished for after that! Linda has kept me pretty busy this summer, but I'm very grateful to be able to say that.

So far this summer I have worked with Linda on disseminating information about Prop 15, helped create content ideas for the League's social media, and contacted the city clerks within our chapter to schedule candidate forums. These are three very different tasks but they have all taught me something unique. To learn about Prop 15, I attended a training seminar led by a representative from Schools and Communities First. The seminar opened my eyes to how important this measure is and how it can benefit students like me.

Collaborating with Margaret Lukens has taught me the importance of marketing. Our budget meeting had an excellent turnout rate, which I attribute to our extensive advertising. We created social media posts, put an announcement in the *Daily Journal*, and reached out to other organizations. The culmination of our effort allowed for non-League individuals to hear about the meeting and learn about the California budget. This experience taught me it is essential to ask external groups to share the details of your event to have a high attendance rate. Needless to say, I've learned so much this summer and I look forward to applying my knowledge to future jobs and to my education.

To conclude, I just want to say thank you to **Linda, Margaret, Marie Baldisseri, Kathy Wheeler, and Margie Gater** for working with me and helping me to grow as a person. I have been so impressed by how hardworking and passionate the whole chapter is. You all have inspired me to be driven in my professional life, and to seize every opportunity possible. I look forward to continuing my work with the League in Davis and hopefully with the state League in Sacramento. I want to thank you all for letting me be a part of your chapter, and I wish you all the best!

Rachel Callegari

Welcome to Our New Members!

Glenna Auerback
Sasha Korellis



Join us for the Wednesday Morning Caucus

What is a **caucus**?

It is a conversation among people with a common set of beliefs, usually about political issues.

What is **The Wednesday Morning Caucus**?

It is a conversation among people who believe, along with the League of Women Voters, that democracy is not a spectator sport. It's a group of people who want to share information, camaraderie, and courage.

I'm honored and excited to have been asked to host our newly formed group, The Wednesday Caucus, beginning this September 30, at 10 a.m. I'm relatively new to the League board and am hungry to get to know more folks who are passionate about our democracy and willing to do the footwork to support and save it. I joined the board in June and have attended a few annual meetings over the years. But I still don't know very many folks, and I realize I know very little about all the amazing work the League has been up to and is doing right now in our community to ensure that our elected officials live up to their commitments and our elections are fair and fully participatory.

I have always found small group environments to be perfect for building understanding and deepening relationships. Whether it be book groups or discussion groups, I have loved meeting new people, listening to stories, discovering our differences, and our shared values. Now I am happy to begin building better relationships with our LWV friends and associates.

You don't have to be a member of the League to participate, but you do have to register so we can send you the link to our Zoom meeting.

Will you join us?

Bring your coffee and come for a small-group online discussion.

- Learn from League members and guests
- Bring your questions about the League's work in all its policy and program areas
- Contribute a resource you've found helpful
- Gather energy and enthusiasm for the democracy-strengthening work YOU want to do

Join me online online on the **last Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. for a lively hour. Our first meeting will be September 30, 2020.**

Everyone is welcome but you must register to receive the Zoom meeting link. Register here:

https://bit.ly/LWVNCSMC_Wednesday_Caucus

See you at The Wednesday Morning Caucus!



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Your gift to the League of Women Voters of North and Central San Mateo County will unleash dedicated volunteers who will

- Organize candidate forums
- Register voters
- Observe public meetings
- Research key issues
- Deliver accurate and nonpartisan information to the voters of San Mateo County

Your donation is a defense of our democracy; your gift will empower and educate voters by connecting them to the vital, nonpartisan information they need to claim their voice in the democratic process. Act today to create a more vibrant, inclusive, and effective democracy.

Thank You!



Mark Your Calendars!

Date	Time	Description	Place
Tuesday Sept. 8	12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Schools and Communities First – Prop 15! Guest speakers: Ted Lempert, President, Children Now; Nancy Magee, San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools; Mike Callagy, County Manager, San Mateo County	Zoom Meeting See Page 1 for registration
Wednesday Aug. 2	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting All members welcome! Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82650715838?pwd=MFhmTjlxGcvdDNPNHpXMk5TUGRNUT09	Zoom Meeting
Wednesday Sept. 30	10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	The Wednesday Morning Caucus. Register here: https://bit.ly/LWVNCSMC_Wednesday_Caucus	Zoom Meeting
Tuesday Oct. 20	12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Pros and Cons	Zoom Meeting

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.

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>.



Census 2020

The League of Women Voters participated in a census car caravan organized by Katherine Blandon of the City Manager's Office, South San Francisco. Participants decorated their cars and drove around honking their horns in downtown South San Francisco for an hour late one morning in August. At certain locations, there were people and children cheering the census.



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.*)

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