



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.

February 2018

County League Day

Saturday, February 24

9:30 a.m. – Noon



Woodside Road United Methodist Church
2000 Woodside Road at Alameda de Las Pulgas
Redwood City 94061

Schedule

9:30 Registration, coffee, and refreshments

10:00 Join us to hear about the state of transportation in San Mateo County. A SamTrans speaker will address the Get Us Moving Outreach, the general state of transit, and funding needs in the County.

11:00 County-wide League Business Meeting

The business meeting will set the League’s priorities for 2018 – 2019. Please bring your handbooks with the county positions. We will review, discuss, and adopt our county- wide positions and priorities.

Contents: President’s Message, p. 2— Board Highlights, p. 3 — Volunteer and Help the League, p. 3 — Action Report, p. 3 — Get US Moving - San Mateo County Town Hall Meetings, p. 4 — Floods, Drought, Rising Seas, Oh My!, p. 4 — **Event Coordinating—Volunteer with Us!**, p. 5 — **Announcement to Local Leagues: June 2018 Ballot Measures**, p. 6 — Civil Discourse: Conversation Agreements, p. 7 — February Calendar, p. 7

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.

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

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

President's Message



In February, we have Bay Area League Day and County League Day. Both events provide opportunities to meet members of other Leagues in addition to participating in the programs offered. The deadline to register for Bay Area League Day at the \$35 rate is Feb. 2 but you can register at the door for \$40. Lunch is included. (<http://lwvbayarea.org/event/bay-area-league-day-2018>.)

LWV South San Mateo County is hosting County League Day this year. Next year it will be our turn. After the program on Get Us Moving, we will review, discuss, and adopt our county-wide positions and priorities. I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to interact with bright, articulate, and thoughtful men and women at one or both events.

This month I attended two meetings on the Voter's Choice Act and people are getting fired up and ready to take action to inform voters on the changes in voting in San Mateo County. **Jackie Jacobberger** and I participated in a well-attended meeting sponsored by the Thrive Alliance, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and Voter's Choice California to review the draft Election Administration Plan (EAP) draft. **Gayle Hardt, Pat Smith** and I attended the public hearing of the EAP on January 18. Mark Church, Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk- Recorder and Jim Irizarry, Assistant Chief Elections Officer, conducted the meeting. After a presentation on the VCA and questions, the meeting was opened up to comments from the public on the EAP. A shoutout to two ACLU People Power groups, SF Peninsula People Power and Belmont People Power, who worked together to present thoughtful and insightful comments. (In early January, Linda Liebes, LWVSMC, and I presented a VCA overview to the SF Peninsula People Power group, and they ran with it.)

For a successful implementation of the VCA, we need the help of many individuals and organizations to get the word out. The model may not be perfect, but it is flexible and addresses many of the obstacles to voting. Getting out the vote is the essence of the League's mission. We hope to be involved in a wide-range of activities, such as presenting a 15 minute overview to groups, tabling at community events, and yes, even going door to door. LWVC received a grant from the Irvine foundation for the VCA that we can use to reimburse our VCA expenses, such as translation equipment. If you can't attend meetings but would like to be on the email list, please let me know. (president@lwvncsmc.org; 650-342-5853.) If you have any contacts with community groups who you think we should contact, we would love to hear from you.



We had an excellent meeting on the climate crisis with speakers Gary White and Jodi Cahn. They discussed the causes and consequences of climate change that was easy to follow and very interesting. Mr. White was optimistic about the future and discussed some solutions that are available now. They included the expansion of wind and solar energy, but some of the lesser know technical innovations are solar thermal using mirrors to reflect the sun; a floating PV farm in China; tidal and wave energy; biofuels using algae; green roofs; vertical gardens; fog capture; artificial trees that double as wind turbines; solar freeway (Paris, China); and solar paint. Mr. White recommended Paul Hawken's book, [Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Climate Change](#).

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to **Marieann Shovlin**, LWV Sunnyvale-Cupertino, who conducted the stimulating Focused Discussion Group workshop. Also, a huge thank you to **Mary Nobriga** who hosted our holiday pot luck and program planning meeting at her condo clubhouse!

Ann Kuchins, President

Board Highlights

At the January board meeting:

- Heard that Ann Kuchins will give a presentation on the Voters Choice Act to People Power, a subgroup of the ACLU
- Heard that a draft of the Elections Administrative Plan to implement the Voters Choice Act in San Mateo County will be available shortly and discussed at a meeting on January 8th
- Agreed to act as inspector of elections for the Shelter Creek HOA
- Approved the Programming Planning Recommendations for 2018-2020
- Heard a report on the proposed mixed-use development at Oyster Point
- Agreed to have a direct appeal fundraiser for our February 14th birthday
- Discussed joining the *Make It Fair* coalition which seeks to change the commercial property tax structure

Jean Johnson, Secretary



Volunteer and Help the League

The League has been asked to serve as Inspector of Election for Shelter Creek Condo Owners Association on Tuesday, February 13. This is the eleventh year that we have been asked to provide this service for the association and it is an important fundraising project for our League.

We need six people to open and count ballots for about two or three hours beginning at 6 p.m. that evening. Shelter Creek is in San Bruno so it is a chance for those in the northern part of the county to help with a project. Fundraising projects like this allow the League to continue its community service. 2018 is another major election year and we will provide *Pros & Cons* on the state ballot

measures and other important information to help voters make wise decisions.

Please contact Jackie Jacobberger if you can help (office@lwncsmc.org). Or e-mail the League office, lwncsmc@sbcglobal.net, or leave a message on the League phone (650-342-5853).

Jackie Jacobberger

Action Report

LWVUS

The EPA has extended the deadline to comment on the planned rollback of the Clean Power Plan. Interested parties now have until April 26, 2018 to submit comments regarding what the League considers a misguided action. The proposed rollback will greatly weaken the requirements to curb greenhouse gas emissions. All concerned Leagues and members are urged to submit comments opposing the weakening of this US climate policy.

(<https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0355-0002>)

LWVC

Starting April, 2018, citizens renewing a driver's license or state identification card by mail will be able to register to vote or update voter registration. In 2015 violations at the DMV of the National voter Regulations Act were noted. There was a lawsuit. The new procedures are part of the New Motor Voter Act, also known as AB1461, which requires that eligible citizens get registered to vote during their DMV transactions (in person, e-mail, or postal mail) unless they opt-out of voter registration.

LWV Bay Area

It is not too late to register for Bay Area League Day on February 3, in Oakland at Laney College.

(<http://lwvbayarea.org/event/bay-area-league-day-2018>)

Diana Stephens, Action Director

Get US Moving - San Mateo County Town Hall Meetings

Traffic? Potholes? Bike Paths? Tell us YOUR transportation funding priorities.

Join a Get Us Moving San Mateo County Town Hall to tell us what you think are the County's critical transportation needs. If you haven't done it yet, you can still participate by taking the short survey at www.GetUsMovingSMC.com.

Get Us Moving is a collaborative effort between community organizations, SamTrans, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, and partner agencies and groups to develop a San Mateo County Transportation Funding Plan. As reported in the January *Voter*, Jackie Jacobberger and Barbara Wallis are representing the county Leagues on this group.

Town Hall Meetings

Pacifica – Thurs. February 1, 6:00 p.m.
Auditorium, Pacifica Community Center, 540 Crespi Drive,
Pacifica

South San Francisco – Thurs. February 22, 6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers, Municipal Services Building, 33 Arroyo
Dr., South San Francisco

Menlo Park – Thurs. February 15, 6:30 p.m.
Ballroom, Menlo Park Senior Center, 110 Terminal Ave.,
Menlo Park

Floods, Drought, Rising Seas, Oh My!

When: Friday, March 30, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to Noon

Where: Cañada College
4200 Farm Hill Boulevard
Redwood City, CA 94061

Challenges and Opportunities for Water Management In San Mateo County

Please join San Mateo County Board of Supervisors President Dave Pine and C/CAG Chair Alicia Aguirre for an engaging discussion on water management issues in San Mateo County and an opportunity to connect with others in the community working on these issues. Speakers include Assemblymember Kevin Mullin, Senator Jerry Hill, and Grant Davis, General Manager, Sonoma County Water Agency.

For more information, go to https://www.eventbrite.com/e/floods-drought-rising-seas-oh-my-tickets-42299235151?ref=enivtefor001&invite=MTM3MzQxNzUvc3JheWU5NDQwMkY5YWhvby5jb20vMA==&utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=inviteformalv2&utm_term=attend.

California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 is an initiative that will restore over \$11 billion per year to California's schools, community colleges, health clinics, and other vital local services.



Join the League of Women Voters California, PICO California, California Calls, Advancement Project California, Evolve California and a growing coalition of organizations to fund California schools by closing the Corporate Property Tax Loophole in Proposition 13 while continuing to guarantee protections for homeowners, residential renters, agricultural land, and small businesses.

We can no longer afford to keep giving billions of dollars in tax breaks to millionaires, billionaires and big corporations. Closing California's commercial property tax loophole restores \$11 billion for schools, community colleges and other vital community services, including emergency responder services, parks, libraries, health clinics, trauma centers, affordable housing, homeless services, and roads.

Sign up to help: <http://makeitfairca.com/join/>

Event Coordinating—Volunteer with Us!

We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate our events and general meetings, which range from speaker panels with inspiring local figures to membership celebrations. These events help us educate the public on political issues, create networking opportunities for members, and get volunteers involved!

We need assistance with:

- Coordinating with speakers, panelists, and venues
- Identifying venues for events
- Developing promotional materials; graphics experience a plus
- Greeters
- Event/meeting set-up and take-down

If you are interested in helping in any of the ways listed above, please email us at lwvnscmc@sbcglobal.net or give us a call and leave a message at 650-342-5853.

Marie Baldisseri, Membership Director

Announcement to Local Leagues: June 2018 Ballot Measures



The LWVC board took final positions on the measures scheduled for the June ballot. We'll have a **The League Recommends** (a.k.a. Vote With the League) by early April. Meanwhile, here's a quick summary of the League position on each measure:

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund (ACA 1)

This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB of Cap-and-Trade allowances. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions. **The LWVC opposes this measure.**

Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes (ACA 5)

If passed, this measure would raise excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel, provides for regular increases to those taxes based on inflation, establishes a new fee on zero-emission vehicles, and raises vehicle registration fees. The new revenue from these taxes would be used for transportation-related purposes -- repairing streets and bridges, addressing deferred maintenance on highways and local roads, improving public transit, and investing in needed transportation infrastructure to benefit all Californians. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services, including safe roads and good public transportation. **The LWVC supports this measure.**

Effective Date of Initiatives (ACA 17)

Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after election day, that is not always the case. Prop cc would provide that an initiative would take effect 5 days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results. This is a common-sense measure, ensuring clarity about what is – and is not – California law. **The LWVC supports this measure.**

California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act (SB 5)

This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. The water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking, and are a key part of our state response to climate change. The LWVC supports this measure.

How does the League make ballot measure endorsements?

We only take positions on ballot measures based on current policy [positions](#) and [League principles](#). Positions are developed based on grassroots member [study and consensus](#).

Civil Discourse: Conversation Agreements

Thank you to the LWV Santa Clara County Council Civil Discourse Committee for sharing these guidelines.

Be curious and open to learning.

Conversation is as much about listening as it is about talking. Enjoy hearing all points of view. Maintain an attitude of exploration.

Show respect and suspend judgment.

Human beings tend to judge one another; do your best not to. Setting judgments aside opens you up to learning from others and makes them feel respected and appreciated.

Find common ground and note differences.

Look for a common ground you can agree on and take an interest in the differing beliefs and opinions of others.

Be authentic and welcome that from others.

Share what's important to you. Speak authentically from your personal experience. Be considerate of others who are doing the same.

Be purposeful and to the point.

Notice if what you are conveying is or is not pertinent to the topic at hand.

Own and guide the conversation.

Take responsibility for the quality of your participation and that of the conversation. Be proactive in getting yourself and others back on track if needed.

You are entitled to your own opinion, not your own facts.

There is an objective standard for facts that relies on demonstrable, provable evidence. "Fake news" and hearsay do not meet this standard.

Livingroomconversations.org

February Calendar

| Date | Time | Description | Place |
|---------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Saturday Feb. 3 | 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Bay Area League Day | Laney College 900 Fallon St. Oakland 94607 |
| Monday Feb. 5 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. | Board Meeting All members welcome | 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401 |
| Wednesday Feb 14 | Noon – 1:00 p.m. | Brown Bag Lunch with the League Electoral College | 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401 |
| Saturday Feb. 17 | 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Voter Registration at the CSM Farmer's Market | CSM Farmer's Market 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd, San Mateo |
| Saturday Feb. 24 | 9:30 a.m. – Noon | County League Day Get Us Moving: San Mateo County Transportation | Woodside Road United Methodist Church Woodside Road & Alameda de Las Pulgas Redwood City |

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
Of North & Central
San Mateo County
444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1
San Mateo, CA 94401-1679

