



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 2018

General Meeting

Tuesday May 15, 2018

1-3 p.m.

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

1300 South El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94402



Census 2020

Speaker: Perla Ni

CommunityConnect Labs

The job of the Census is to count the entire United States population every ten years. The data collected by the census determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities. Counting everyone in our community is vital whether you are a citizen or not as this will determine funding for many federal programs in San Mateo County.

San Mateo County is working with CommunityConnect Labs, along with partner agencies and non-profits, to expand the list of addresses for Census 2020. Currently, the county is hiring local community members to canvas neighborhoods looking for addresses to add to the Census Master Address File. Later, the Census will be hiring enumerators to knock on doors to take the census.

Join us to learn more about Census 2020 and how you can be part of this important process.

This meeting is open to the public. Contact Susie Raye, Program Director, for more information:

program@lwnvncsmc.org or leave a message at 650-342-5853.

Contents: President's Message, p. 2 — Board Highlights, p. 3 — Ballot Measures on the June 2018 Ballot and the Voter's Choice Act, p. 2 — Pros and Cons and Voter's Choice Act 101 Presentations, p. 3 — The Observer Corps – Building Communities Together, p. 4 — Welcome to Our New Member! p. 5 — Local Jurisdictions Consider District Elections, p. 5 — Annual Meeting, p. 6 — Action Report, p. 6 — Volunteer Corps, p. 6 — Get Us Moving (GUM) San Mateo County, p. 7 — May 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.lwnvncsmc.org.

President's Message



The June 5th primary may seem distant but voting begins on May 7. On May 7, a mail-in ballot will be sent to every registered voter and the first four Vote Centers open in East Palo Alto, Redwood City, San Mateo, and South San Francisco. Three days before Election Day, all 39 Vote Centers will be open. On May 8, 29 drop-off ballot boxes will be open. What probably won't be open is the neighborhood polling place where you last voted. However, there are more options and more flexibility for you to determine how, where, and when you want to vote.

Change does not usually come easily, so we are incorporating Voter's Choice Act 101 at several public Pros & Cons events, which are listed below in Pros and Cons and Voter's Choice Act 101 Presentations, [p. 3](#). If you would like to discuss the issues with other members, please attend our Brown Bag Lunch with the League on May 9 at noon in the League office.

It's hard to believe that counting people can become a controversial issue, but already the 2020 census is becoming a hot button issue. Even before the proposal to put a citizenship question on the ballot was raised, Assemblymember Marc Berman, chairman of the Assembly Select Committee on the Census, expressed concerns of getting an accurate count of the immigrant community. The state budget has allocated \$40.3 million and Assemblymember Berman hopes to raise another \$40 million from philanthropic sources. This is where the League can come in. At the local level, the League can provide education and outreach on this issue. In response to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross' decision to include a question pertaining to citizenship in the 2020 Census, LWVUS President Chris Carson wrote:

For more than 200 years, the Census has collected information about the geographic distribution of our population so we can provide representation and invest in our communities equitably. A fair and accurate Census is essential to the way the federal government allocates resources for infrastructure, education, and transportation. Census data is critical when determining resources for fire, water and trash collection. Without a complete count of our nation's people, businesses will not have the tools to make sound investment decisions that keep our communities thriving.

At our May 15 meeting on the 2020 Census on, we hope to lay the groundwork for taking action and providing a valuable service to our San Mateo Community. One or two of you may even want to take a leadership role on this issue and spearhead this project.

A big thank you to all who have turned in your petitions for the Schools and Communities First Funding Act, but guess what? The deadline has been extended! The powers to be decided that it would be better to have this initiative on the November 2020 ballot because the higher turnout in a presidential year would make its passage more likely. This will also allow more time to fundraise. See Schools and Communities First Initiative, [p. 6](#) for more information. So keep gathering signatures and we will keep you informed.

But, you know, I'm sorry, I think democracy requires participation. I mean, I don't want to proselytize but I do feel some sort of duty to participate in the process in some way other than just blindly getting behind a political party. – John Cuzack

Ann Kuchins, President

Board Highlights

At the April board meeting:

- Heard that several VCA and Pros & Cons presentations are scheduled
- Heard that two candidate forums have been scheduled
- Discussed setting up a Volunteer Corps to encourage members to sign up to help at specific League activities
- Heard that the Youth Commission is looking for mentors to help develop leadership skills in high school girls
- Learned the Observer Cops has approached 3 organizations about observing them; feedback has been very positive.
- Learned that the speaker for the June 2nd annual meeting will give an update on the Generation Citizen project
- Approved the 2018-2019 proposed budget submitted by the Budget Committee

Jean Johnson, Secretary

Ballot Measures on the June 2018 Ballot and the Voter's Choice Act

In the June 5, 2018 primary election there are five State Ballot Measures and one Regional Ballot Measure on our ballots. All of them have been placed on the ballot by the California State Legislature.

- Proposition 68 is a bond measure that would raise approximately \$4.5 billion to fund various water projects including coastal protection, parks and climate change among others.
- Proposition 69 requires that certain new transportation revenues be used for transportation purposes only.
- Proposition 70 requires a legislative supermajority vote to approve the use of the cap-and-trade reserve fund beginning on July 1, 2014.
- Proposition 71 would change the effective date of ballot measures and referenda approved by a majority of voters to be the fifth day after the Secretary of State files the "statement of the vote." In past elections this has taken an average of 37 days.
- Proposition 72 would exclude newly constructed rain capture systems from property-tax reassessment beginning January 1, 2019.
- Regional Measure 3 would increase the toll on the seven state-owned bridges, excluding the Golden Gate Bridge, \$1.00 in 2019, \$1.00 in 2022 and \$1.00 in 2025 to be used for specific transportation projects.

The June 2018 primary election will also be the first election where San Mateo County will implement the *Voters Choice Act* (VCA). The VCA will give residents more ways and more days to vote. All registered voters will receive a postage paid, mail-in ballot this May. You can mail it in, take it to a secure Drop-Off Box or visit any Vote Center to drop it off or vote in person. Most neighborhood polling places will no longer be used for voting.

Gayle Hardt, Voter Service Director

Pros and Cons and Voter's Choice Act 101 Presentations

The League of Women Voters North and Central San Mateo County will be presenting the Pros & Cons for the ballot measures and information regarding the Voter's Choice Act at several locations throughout the County. Please check your calendar to see if any of these dates and locations are convenient for you to learn about these important issues.

Date	Event and Time	Address
Wednesday, May 2	Foster City Library 7:00 pm	Wind Room 1000 E Hillsdale Foster City CA
Monday, May 7	San Mateo Library 7:00 pm	Oak Room 55 W 3 rd Avenue San Mateo
Thursday, May 10	Martin Luther King Community Center 7:00 pm	725 Monte Diablo Avenue San Mateo
Friday, May 11	SSF Library, Grand branch 7:00 pm	306 Walnut Avenue SSF
Monday, May 14	San Carlos Library 7:00 pm	610 Elm Street San Carlos CA
	SSF Library, main branch 2:00 pm	840 West Orange South San Francisco
Thursday, May 17	Half Moon Bay Library Ted Adcock Community Center 6:30 pm	535 Kelly Avenue Half Moon Bay

The Observer Corps – Building Communities Together

Our League's Observer Corps has completed its review of the City of Burlingame. The review focused on access and transparency, and it assessed the following:

- How successfully the public can engage, connect with their local government
- What are the current strengths and obstacles in successfully communicating with the City to find the right department, obtain information, and solve a problem
- What are best practices achieved that can be shared with other public agencies
- How can the public help by understanding their role and becoming informed meaningful contributors

The Observer Corps Team found the City of Burlingame excellent in meeting its residents' access expectations with transparency and accountability. The City achieved a 99% rating based on the actual findings gathered from observation and documentation. The City of Burlingame was congratulated by the League of Women Voters on an excellent performance! The openness and honesty assured the team the City's approach was based on a shared governance belief with those who reside in the City. It is hoped the City of Burlingame benefitted from the corps' report, and that they shared it with their City Council and staff who demonstrated a very inclusive leadership approach and a cohesive performance in their service to residents.

The Observer Corps will be doing similar observations during the upcoming weeks of the following governmental agencies: the San Mateo County Harbor District, the South San Francisco Unified School District, and the San Mateo County Community College District.

The Observer Corps members are: **Marta Bookbinder**, Chairperson; **Ann Loper**; **Diana Stephens**; **Maxine Turner**; and **Marie Baldisseri**. If you are interested in joining the Observer Corps, please contact Marta Bookbinder at martaine@gmail.com.

Marie Baldisseri, Membership Director

Welcome to Our New Member!

Genevieve Bantle

Local Jurisdictions Consider District Elections

Many local cities, school districts and other government jurisdictions in California have received a legal threat alleging that their at-large election systems violate the California Voting Rights Act. The letters were sent by a Southern California attorney, Kevin Shenkman, representing the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. The letters threaten legal action if the jurisdictions do not voluntarily adopt district elections. The proponents of district elections argue that this system impairs minority groups' ability to elect their preferred candidates, and campaigns for smaller areas are less expensive and encourage greater participation.

Two cities in our League's area, South San Francisco and Half Moon Bay, are the latest to receive these letters and their city councils are considering the shift to by-district elections. Establishing these elections requires that officials draw electoral maps dividing the city into districts of approximately equal populations. Council members must live in the district and would be elected by the voters in that district.

South San Francisco adopted the resolution of intent at its April 11 meeting, thus protecting the city from expensive litigation. Hearings to receive public input on the districts are scheduled for April 25 and May 9, with hearings to comment on the proposed maps on May 23 and June 20. A hearing on the ordinance will be held on June 27, with adoption of the ordinance scheduled for July 11.

The Half Moon Bay city Council has until April 20 to adopt a resolution of intent to switch to district elections and until July 19 to adopt the ordinance declaring the district maps.

Other Bay Area cities are in the process of transitioning or have switched to district elections including Menlo Park, Concord, Fremont, Martinez, Antioch, and San Rafael. Other jurisdictions that have adopted or are considering district elections are the San Mateo Community College District and the San Mateo County Harbor District and some school districts in other counties in California. The voters adopted elections by district for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in November 2012.

Watch for developments in your city or school district and attend public hearings. The League does not have a position on any of these changes and members cannot speak using the League's name. However, members are always encouraged to be informed, involved, and to speak as individuals about issues in their local communities.

Jackie Jacobberger



Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! LWVNCSMC's Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 2**, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

- 9:30 Brunch Meet & Greet
- 10:00 Speaker: Caitlin Paul, Generation Citizen Update
- 11:00 Break
- 11:10 Business Meeting

Look for the Annual Meeting Kit in the mail!
Community Learning Center, 520 Tamarack Lane, South San Francisco 94080

Action Report

LWVUS

A big concern is the census. Getting an accurate count is critical, for the count determines how many representatives each state gets, how some federal funds are distributed, and many other things. Even people who are not citizens, people who are not registered to vote, people who do not vote, and all children should be included. Everyone needs services of one kind or another. We need to know each individual who exists and where they are. That is why asking whether someone is a citizen should not be included on the census form: it will affect the count and lead to an undercount. Noncitizens fear that the census answers will not remain confidential either through hacking or sharing with other agencies. The League is asking that we let our federal representatives know that we want an accurate count of all the people who live here, regardless of their citizenship status. The Constitution does not specify that citizens should be counted in the census; only persons.

LWVC

The Legislature has put five propositions on the ballot. The League supports four and opposes one. You can find information on the propositions and the pros and cons at lwvc.org. The website has been redesigned and is very user friendly.

Schools and Communities First Initiative

The League and coalition members' proposition, Schools and Communities First, is out to the public for signature gathering. However, the target for the initiative is the November 2020 ballot. The proponents of the initiative feel that they will benefit from a larger voter turnout in a presidential election year and this also provides more time to raise money. The opposition has about \$100 million to spend defeating this initiative. The deadline for returning initiative forms is extended to July or August.

How many signatures are needed to qualify? This year, the answer is 585,407 for an initiative constitution amendment. But some signatures will be invalid, so campaigns usually try to collect up to 30% more than this number. At this date, more than 300,000 signatures have been collected. So keep talking to people and getting signatures!

Diana Stephens, Action Director

Volunteer Corps

In this day of activism, we are getting more requests to participate in different events, such as voter registration or tabling. Recently, on a Tuesday we were invited to register students at El Camino High School on the Friday of that same week. We would like to send an email to people who are interested in participating in events like this that come

up on the spur of the moment. However, we know that many of you do not want to receive so many emails and we want to respect that.

To be more nimble in recruiting volunteers, we are forming a corps of volunteers who would not mind receiving the email requests to volunteer on short notice. The email would link to a Doodle signup which is convenient as you do not have to register. If you cannot participate in that event, you just delete the email. You can withdraw from the group at any time. If you would like to be added to this email list, please respond to president@lwnncsmc.org. On your membership renewal form, you can indicate whether you would like to join the Volunteer Corps. You would probably receive less than 10 requests a year.

Ann Kuchins

Get Us Moving (GUM) San Mateo County

Transportation Funding Priorities in San Mateo County

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. Although the League has taken no position on this effort, Jackie Jacobberger (North & Central SM County) and Barbara Wallis (South SM County) attend the meetings to represent the League.

Early this year, San Mateo County residents received a survey asking about transportation needs and over 14,000 people responded either by mail or online.

Now it is time to move forward, based on the survey results, and develop the funding priority plan. You can help again. Attend a town hall meeting to express your views about how transportation needs should be prioritized. You can also participate by taking the new survey at www.GetUsMovingSMC.com.

Town Hall Meetings

North County – Thursday, May 3, 7 p.m.	Doelger Senior Center, 101 Lake Merced Blvd., Daly City
Central County – Thursday, May 17, 6:30 p.m.	Lane Room, Burlingame Library, 480 Primrose Rd., Burlingame
Coastside – Thursday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.	Ted Adcock Community Center, 535 Kelly Ave., Half Moon Bay
South County – Thursday, May 31, 7 p.m.	Fair Oaks Community Center, 2600 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City

Jackie Jacobberger

May Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Tuesday May 8	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Board Meeting All members welcome	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Wednesday May 9	Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Brown Bag Lunch with the League Topic: Pros and Cons	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Saturday May 12	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Voter Registration at the CSM Farmer's Market	CSM Farmer's Market 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd, San Mateo
Tuesday May 15	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	General Meeting Census 2020	Silicon Valley Community Foundation 1300 South El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94402

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

