



# 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 2018

### General Meeting

Sunday September 30, 2018

2 - 4 p.m.

William E. Walker Recreation Center (Foster City)  
650 Shell Blvd. Foster City CA 94404

### Implementing the California Values Act (SB 54) - Engaging with Local Government

The League of Women Voters of North and Central San Mateo is cosponsoring a program with the Foster City Library on the California Values Act aka the "Sanctuary State" bill. When Governor Brown signed SB 54, he said "This bill strikes a balance that will protect public safety while bringing a measure of comfort to those families who are now living in fear every day." The question many of us have is what exactly does the controversial California Values Act do to ensure this balance? Our main speaker, **Raquel Ortega** from the ACLU in San Francisco will clarify the specifics of this act and provide some context both past and present to understand why we are where we are today. She will also talk about strategies to implement this act on the local level by engaging with local government.

A panel of speakers representing local government will explain what is happening at the local level on immigration. The speakers include:

- **Carole Groom**, Vice President San Mateo Board of Supervisors, District 2
- **Ann Schneider**, Millbrae City Councilmember

In July 2017, the League of Women Voters of California led an action campaign to support SB 54 to "create landmark protections for immigrant families living in California."

This meeting is open to the public.

For more information, contact us at [lwvncsmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvncsmc@sbcglobal.net) or leave a message at 650-344-5853.

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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.

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

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## President's Message



As the fiery days of summer ease into autumn colors, several members have been busy getting ready for the Fall and 2019. The Program Committee met in late July and included **Susie Raye, Sheila Musselman, Diana Stephens, Gayle Hardt, Marta**

**Bookbinder, Betty Bernstein, Linda Jansen, Kathee Tyson, Marie Baldisseri, and me.**

I am very excited about September's meeting on the California Values Act as it will provide us not only with information on what is happening with immigration on the local level but also how to interact with local government officials on this issue and any other issue. It's important that League members and the public know how to express their voices at the local level.

Other program topics that we are working on are as follows:

- On October 16 at 1:00 p.m. at the San Mateo Public Library, we are cosponsoring a meeting on Pros & Cons with AAUW (American Association of University Women).
- College Promise – A program that begins this Fall at the community colleges where students can attend the community college for a student's first year and can receive up to \$750 for textbooks. This is not a need-based program; anyone can apply.
- Transit-oriented Development – Is it working? – This program combines speakers on housing and transportation.
- Human Trafficking

At the LWVUS convention, **Susie Raye** learned of the Voter Girl Project where the League teams up with the Girl Scouts to help them earn citizenship badges. The League provides workshops on citizenship, voting, advocacy, civic responsibility, and leadership. There was quite a bit of enthusiasm at our Program Planning Committee meeting when Susie brought this up, and you will be hearing more about this program from her.

Our Voter Service Director, Gayle Hardt, just held an excellent training for those interested in participating in candidate forums as moderators, ushers, and timekeepers. Members who have signed up to help with forums and Pros & Cons events include **Marie Baldisseri, Betty Bernstein, Karen Bertrand, Beth Bhatnagar, Chelsea Bonini, Carolyn Crow, Leslie Crews, Joyce Delyani, Betty Fleming, Patricia Fuetsch, Sarah Funes, Margie Gater, Pedro Gonzalez, Julie Hitchcock, Don Jacobberger, Jackie Jacobberger, Jackie James, Jean Johnson, Ann Kuchins, Georgie La Berge, Ann Loper, Judy Mitchell, Anastasia Morrison, Sheila Musselman, Mary Nobriga, Kathy Parmer-Lohan, Laura Parmer-Lohan, Susie Raye, Shirley Roberson, Sherrean Rundberg, Allison Ryan, Afsoon Shahrardar, Diane Silven, Diana Stephens, Kathee Tyson, Sarah Tyson, Pat West, Kathy Wheeler.** If you could not attend the meeting, be sure to stay in contact with Gayle at [hardtlaw1@aol.com](mailto:hardtlaw1@aol.com) if you are interested in participating in a forum. If you are interested in Pros & Cons training, see Voter Service, [p. 3](#).

Our first voter registration drive was at Skyline College on August 30. **Monique Ray**, a recent graduate of El Camino High School, who is working as a summer intern in the City Manager's Office of South San Francisco organized the event. I would like to thank **Joyce Delyani** for organizing this tabling event and to **Arlene Kace** and **Patricia Fuetsch** for registering voters with Joyce. September 25 is National Voter Registration Day and we have one venue set up at the Martin Luther King Community Center in San Mateo and hope to have at least one more.

*Civic participation over a lifetime, working in neighborhoods and communities and service of all kinds - military and civilian, full-time and part-time, national and international - will strengthen America's civic purpose. – John McCain*

*Ann Kuchins, President*

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## Board Highlights

At the August board meeting:

- Learned that we will work at the Woodlake HOA election
- Decided to continue the Brown Bag Lunch meetings and possibly add webinars or Ted Talks to the discussions
- Voted to support the ½ cent increase in sales tax for transportation in San Mateo County
- Learned that we will host County League Day on February 23
- Heard the results of the program planning meeting and plans for the rest of this year

*Jean Johnson, Secretary*

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## Voter Service

Various organizations have contacted the League about holding Pros & Cons presentations for the state measures on the November 5, 2018 ballot. The voter service committee will have a seminar on the state ballot measures for those interested in being a presenter as soon as we receive the pros & cons information from the League of Women Voters California. The training will be on **Saturday, September 15** beginning at 10:30 am at the League Office, 444 Peninsula Ave. Suite 1, San Mateo 94403. These presentations are an opportunity for our League to connect with the community and to educate them about the November 2018 ballot. It is also a great way to learn about the state ballot measures. Please consider attending this seminar and volunteering to help. Please mark your calendars.

### Candidate Forums

If you are interested in signing up for a candidate forum as a moderator, timekeeper, or usher/greeter, please contact Gayle Hardt at [hardtlaw1@aol.com](mailto:hardtlaw1@aol.com). As of this date, we have been contacted to assist with three Candidates' Forums; we will let you know when others are scheduled.

Foster City City Council Forum	September 24 6:30 p.m.	Council Chambers, 610 Foster City Blvd, Foster City, CA 94404
Half Moon Bay City Council Forum	September 27 7:00 p.m.	Emergency Operations Center, 537 Kelly Ave, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
Belmont City Council Forum	October 2 7:00 p.m.	Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont, CA 94002

*Gayle Hardt, Voter Service Director*

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## San Mateo County Ballot Measures

There are 29 San Mateo County measures on the November 5 ballot. This may be an all-time high. The following list of county ballot measures gives you an idea of what is trending in the county. For more information, go to <http://votersedge.org/ca>. We are going to discuss state and local ballot measures at our next Brown Bag Lunch with the League on September 12 at noon. See September Calendar, [p. 5](#).

<b>Countywide</b>	Measure W: Transportation Tax	<b>Half Moon Bay</b>	Measure MM: Advisory Measures C
<b>Belmont</b>	Measure K: Hotel Tax	<b>Millbrae</b>	Measure II: Bond Measure
<b>Belmont</b>	Measure CC: Appointed City Clerk	<b>Redwood City</b>	Measure DD: Cannabis Business Tax
<b>Belmont</b>	Measure WW: Appointed City Treasurer	<b>Redwood City</b>	Measure RR: Sales and Use Tax
<b>Brisbane</b>	Measure JJ: General Plan Amendment	<b>Redwood City</b>	Measure OO: Charter Amendment Measure
<b>Colma</b>	Measure PP: Transient Occupancy Tax	<b>San Carlos</b>	Measure QQ: Transient Occupancy Tax
<b>Daly City</b>	Measure BB: Business License Tax	<b>San Carlos</b>	Measure NN: Cannabis Business Tax
<b>Daly City</b>	Measure UU: Cannabis Business Tax	<b>South San Francisco</b>	Measure FF: Transient Occupancy

<b>Daly City</b>	Measure VV: Transient Occupancy Tax	<b>South San Francisco</b>	Tax Measure LL: Cannabis Business Tax
<b>East Palo Alto</b>	Measure HH: Commercial Office Space Parcel Tax	<b>Jefferson Elementary School District</b>	Measure U: Bond Measure
<b>Foster City</b>	Measure TT: Transient Occupancy Tax	<b>Jefferson Union High School District</b>	Measure Y: Parcel Tax
<b>Half Moon Bay</b>	Measure AA: Cannabis Business Tax	<b>Portola Valley School District</b>	Measure Z: Bond Measure
<b>Half Moon Bay</b>	Measure GG: Commercial Cannabis Activities	<b>San Bruno Park School District</b>	Measure X: Bond Measure
<b>Half Moon Bay</b>	Measure EE: Advisory Measures A	<b>San Mateo – Foster City Schools</b>	Measure V: Parcel Tax
<b>Half Moon Bay</b>	Measure SS: Advisory Measures B		

*Kathee Tyson*

## Action Report

### LWVUS

- The League has joined advocate groups to denounce intimidation and violence by white supremacists.
- The League has been working with students to register new voters at their school walkouts, marches, and other events across the country.

### LWVC

The Schools and Communities First Funding Act, the Prop 13 reform petition, has collected enough signatures to qualify the initiative for the 2020 ballot. The local county elections offices must first verify the signatures. The League will regroup after the November 2018 election to do significant community outreach and education during 2019 and 2020. If you would like to help, contact [lwc.org](http://lwc.org) or stay tuned to this space.

The League has taken positions on seven propositions for the November general election:

<b>Prop 1</b>	YES	Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond
<b>Prop 2</b>	YES	Homeless Housing Bond
<b>Prop 3</b>	NO	Water Bond
<b>Prop 4</b>	NO	Children’s Hospital Bond
<b>Prop 5</b>	NO	Property Tax
<b>Prop 6</b>	NO	Gas Tax Repeal
<b>Prop 10</b>	YES	Repeal Costa Hawkins

Prop 9 was removed from the ballot. The League has not taken a stand on the following propositions because the League has no position on these issues: Prop 8 Dialysis; Prop 11 Ambulance Drivers; and Prop 12 Farm Animals.

For more information on the League recommendations, go to <https://lwc.org/news/our-voting-recommendations-november-ballot-measures>. Our local League will hold a Pros and Cons meeting on the propositions on October 16 at the San Mateo Public Library from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

*Diana Stephens, Action Director*

The San Mateo County Elections office is recruiting workers for four seasonal extra-help positions:

- Election Materials Proofreader (Spanish and Chinese)
  - Election Worker – Office Assistant
  - Election Worker – Office Specialist
  - Vote Center Representative
- Full job descriptions are available at <http://www.smcacre.org/hiring>. For more information on specific positions, contact the staff liaison coordinator at 650-312-5222 or email [registrar@smcacre.org](mailto:registrar@smcacre.org).

## Welcome Back to Our Members!

Linda and Wally Jansen

### Voter's Choice Act: Preparing for November and Beyond

On August 14, I travelled to Sacramento for a meeting hosted by the Secretary of State's Voter's Choice Act Task Force. There were election officials from the five counties that participated in the VCA (Madera, Nevada, Sacramento, Napa, and San Mateo) and representatives from the other Leagues, disability groups, underrepresented voter groups, and other organizations that were involved in the VCA for the June election.

David Becker, Executive Director of the Center for Election Innovation and Research, presented some early research findings. A more in-depth analysis is in progress. Becker stated that the success of the VCA is not based on turnout; real success is whether the system added convenience for voters, is more efficient, and is more cost effective. Some of the early findings include the following:

- Vote method results:
  - Dropbox: 23.1%  
Based on other states with a similar voting system, ballot drop-box numbers will probably go up. Research indicates that people trust dropboxes.
  - Mail: 53.52%
  - Vote Center: 23.13%
  - Fax: .04%
- A small number of ballots, 7,170, were rejected and that was mostly because they came in late.



Some of the suggestions and results that I found interesting were as follows:

- Shorten time for vote centers. Instead of opening so many centers 11 days before the election, open most of them 4 days before the election because they were used mostly in the last 4 days.
- Many people did not realize that they could vote early.
- Because the term early voting seems to turn people off, use a different term such as extended voting or weekend voting.
- Improve the vote center experience with better signage and dedicated greeters standing outside the vote center to manage lines, help with ballot drop-offs, and answer questions.

*Ann Kuchins*

### September Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Tuesday Sept. 4	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Board Meeting All members welcome	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Wednesday Sept. 12	Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Brown Bag Lunch with the League Topic: State and Local Ballot Measures	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Saturday Sept. 15	10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Pros and Cons Seminar for Presenters	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Saturday Sept. 22	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Voter Registration at the CSM Farmer's Market	CSM Farmer's Market 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd, San Mateo
Sunday Sept. 30	2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	General Meeting Implementing the California Values Act and Engaging with Local Government	William E. Walker Recreation Center 650 Shell Blvd, Foster City 94404

**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

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