



# League of Women Voters North County San Diego **VOTER**

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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## League of Women Voters North County San Diego **SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **Looking for Justice in Misdemeanor Land** General Meeting September 9, 2021

The combined San Diego and North County San Diego League of Women Voters invite you to a program on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-7:00 pm via Zoom that will begin with the 36 minute film *Racially Charged America's Misdemeanor Problem* followed with discussion by a panel of experts in the field.

*Racially Charged America's Misdemeanor Problem* explores the racial prejudices in the U.S. misdemeanor system. The film dispels the belief that systemic racism in the judicial system does not exist in modern times by juxtaposing historical and contemporary racial discourse.

Our speakers will be Stephanie Sontag, retired Superior Court Judge and LWVSD member; Michael Ruiz, Supervising Attorney, Misdemeanor Unit, San Diego County Public Defenders; and Rachel Solov, Chief Deputy District Attorney. After their comments, there will be a question and answer period.

Registration is required for this event. The registration link is below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kde6tpz4vHNESiBGBA9bk7-bSIHkuxBey>

## California gubernatorial Recall Election September 14, 2021

### What's it all about?

The California recall process allows voters to decide whether to remove elected public officials from office before their term is over. A petition to remove California Gov. Gavin Newsom from office began circulating in the state in the Fall of 2020. Organizers of the recall campaign submitted more than 1.7 million valid signatures by the March 17 filing deadline - more than enough to trigger a recall election.

Forty-six candidates are running in the election, nine Democrats and 24 Republicans with the remaining candidates having a third party or no party affiliation.

### What happens next?

If the majority of voters who participate in the September 14<sup>th</sup> election vote to remove Governor Newsom from office, the candidate who receives the most votes to replace him will be elected. The replacement candidate does not need to receive a majority of the votes to be elected to succeed Governor Newsom.

Your Voice Matters – Get additional information about how to register, how to vote, and the candidates, at [VotersEdge.org](https://www.votersedge.org) and [SDVote.com](https://www.sdvote.com).

## September Meetings and Events – All Meetings Via Zoom

### Thursday, September 9, at 5:30 pm

**General Meeting – Looking for Justice In Misdemeanor Land**

Registration Required – See Page One

### Tuesday, September 14, at 5:00 pm

**LWVNCSD Board Meeting**

### Thursday, September 17, at 10:00 am

**Carlsbad Unit Meeting**

### Monday, September 21, at 1:00 pm

**LWV Book Club** - We will discuss The Constitution of the United States of America. In October, we will discuss The Bill of Rights.

### Tuesday, September 22, at Noon

**Oceanside Unit Meeting** – The SURJ group will speak about the work they do. SURJ stands for “Standing Up for Racial Justice”.

### Thursday, September 23, at 10:00 am

**San Dieguito Unit Meeting** – Continuing discussion on the unbanked project – how to help the underbanked population.



**Message from  
President  
Karen Sutton**

As we begin our new year, I feel privileged to begin my term as President of the North County League. Although summer is often considered a quiet time for League, this summer has been an exception!

At our annual meeting, the membership approved an ambitious program for North County with an emphasis on Social Justice and Equity, Natural Resources and Water, and Gun Violence. Specific projects are in the works related to homelessness, criminal justice, equity in education, and banking services for the unbanked among others. In addition, our members have been working to educate and inform the community about the upcoming recall election and the decennial redistricting process.

You may ask, "What do these various issues have to do with League?" Each of these areas touch our lives daily and are driven by government regulation and allocation of resources. Our role as League members to educate our community and encourage active participation and advocacy in our government has never been more important.

At our first meeting of the new year, the incoming board reaffirmed our commitment to expand the diversity of our League to ensure that our membership is reflective of our community. To paraphrase the League's vision, we believe that creating a more perfect democracy is dependent on engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers. We are committed to creating the programmatic and organizational infrastructure to achieve that vision. I am grateful for the opportunity and am looking forward to working with the board and the membership as we move forward.

*Karen*

**LWVNCSD Officers & Directors 2021-22**

**Officers**

President	Karen Sutton
1st VP Advocacy	Rosette Garcia
2nd VP Program	Veronica Seay
Secretary	Nancy Sublette
Treasurer	Rinkie Pollack

**Directors**

Diversity	Meg Thode
Gen Z	Brittany Engel
Membership	Rita Soza
Natural Resources	Carol Parker
Social Policy	Bill Loftus
Voter Service	Jill Levitt
Water/At Large	Anne Omsted
Ways & Means	Sandra Sweet
Webmaster	Susan Connell

**Unit Chairs**

Carlsbad Unit	Open
Oceanside Unit	Open
San Dieguito Unit	Rita Soza

**Committee Chairs**

Behavioral Health	Liz Kruidenier
Civil Engagement	Mary Thompson
Education	Claudine Jones
Health Interest Comm.	Jane Dunmeyer
Observer Corps	Connie Ulrich
Social Media	Suzanne Carneiro
Community Safety & Gun Violence Prevention	Open

VOTER Editor	Veronica Seay
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## **Matters of Social Justice**

by Bill Loftus, Social Policy Director

### **Police Study**

Despite the fact that the calendar says “SUMMER,” eighteen League members from San Diego and North San Diego County showed up for the first meeting of the group on July 15 to, hopefully, be engaged in a formal study of police practices in San Diego County. Jeanne Brown provided a presentation, walking committee members through the process along with the intended product that will allow both Leagues to advocate on behalf of a locally adopted Position.

Stephanie Sontag, a relatively new League member and a retired Superior Court judge, volunteered to co-chair with Jeanne and the group began the challenging task of identifying the scope of the study. This is a difficult task since there seems to be so many issues regarding policing including training, accountability, de-escalation, and the inordinate number of stops by police of Blacks and people of color.

A second meeting was held on July 28 to address details associated with filing research articles that will be part of the package presented to members along with consensus statements further down the road. The committee embraced the idea of a volunteer “consultant” from Santa Monica, Kay Ragan, who will fully participate remotely from her new home.

### **Policing - A Bit of History**

We can trace police militarization to the same era in which President Johnson declared his War on Crime in the 1960s. The first U.S. SWAT raid took place by the LAPD against the Black Panther Party's Los Angeles headquarters in 1969.

In the 1990s, the concept of militarization grew exponentially when a federal government program known as the 1033 program was introduced during the peak of the War on Drugs. This program initially authorized the transfer of equipment that was “suitable for use by such agencies in counterdrug

activities.” Since then, 1033 has provided more than \$7.4 billion worth of surplus military equipment to state and local police – at no cost to them and at high cost to communities.

After September 11, the militarization of local and state police saw an even bigger increase through 1033 and other programs such as Byrne JAG grants.

Over the past two decades, the DOJ and DHS have granted hundreds of billions of dollars of federal funds to state and local law enforcement for “counter-terrorism” in addition to “counterdrug activities” – both of which has perpetuated not only violence, but racial profiling, xenophobia, and Islamophobia in policing.

### **California’s Water**

When you turn on the tap in your home, where does the water come from? Where does it go? The answers may surprise you.

The California water system is bewildering in its complexity. Some water rights date to the Gold Rush and are held jealously. Our population and economy grew as they did because we engineered dams, viaducts, channels and more that move water from hundreds – sometimes thousands – of miles away.

Giant water projects have allowed us to build an agricultural juggernaut that demands water, even when the rivers and aqueducts run dry. Local rivers and streams are an important source of water for many communities and farms in Northern and Central California. When surface water is not available, we turn to groundwater, but that resource is being overdrawn.

Water is important to all aspects of life – ours, and that of plants and other animals. Water and water policy also have influence on and are influenced by many other aspects of natural resources – climate change, forests, sea level rise, land use, and many more.

The League of Women Voters of California has more than 30 members dedicated to understanding California’s water.

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## Climate Solutions Corner - Action on Climate for Hope

By Carol Parker, Natural Resources Director

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)\* released its 6th report in August that said some disturbing things: the extreme weather events and fires we are observing now have been made worse by the earth's warming climate and that according to scientific models, the earth is going to continue to warm with the carbon that is already in the atmosphere. It also said that we can still save ourselves from worse outcomes if we act now to lower green house gas (GHG) emissions. While this is daunting, Katharine Hayhoe, a leading climate scientist said "We don't need to have hope to begin to act. Instead, action engenders hope."

<https://time.com/6089999/climate-change-hope/>

We can do our parts in our own lives to reduce our carbon footprints, but we need our government to enact energy policies that will drastically cut GHG emissions.

Luckily, Congress and President Biden have a chance to pass impactful climate legislation in the reconciliation package that is expected this month. At the time of this writing, it is unclear what will be included in this package. We as individuals can help shape the content by letting our representatives know that "***we want measures in the reconciliation bill that will fight climate change.***"

While LWV always speaks with one voice, you as an individual can call:

President Biden (202)456-1111.

Sen. Diane Feinstein (202)224-3841

Sen. Alex Padilla (202)224-3553

Rep. Mike Levin (202)225-3906

The representative's office wants to know that you are a constituent and your zip code or city where you live. It should only take a minute or two to speak with someone or leave a message. You may simply say what is italicized above or whatever you want. One measure that both LWVC and LWV US encourage is putting a price on carbon that many economists agree is an effective way to reduce GHG.

Let's all become more hopeful on climate change by taking action for our world.

\*The IPCC is an independent body founded under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It assesses the scientific literature and provides vital scientific information to the climate change process. The UNFCCC (**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**) has met with its 197 member countries 25 times. This year the meeting or the Conference of the Parties, COP26, is in Glasgow November 1-12. I am thrilled to be attending as a LWV US observer for the first week, and will update you all afterwards.

## Redistricting Update

by Mary Thompson

The redistricting process is well underway across the state. Based on the most recent census data, redistricting will determine political representation for the next ten years. Geographic areas that are included - and excluded - from these districts impacts which communities will have a voice in selecting their representative.

The long-awaited census data are “this close” to being ready for use in redrawing political boundaries in our region and the state. Since the August 12<sup>th</sup> release from the Census Bureau, staff at the California Statewide Database is incorporating data to reallocate people currently in state prisons to their home districts. The final results are due on September 20.

This release of data affects all of us. Hundreds of government entities throughout the state will begin the process of redrawing their lines ahead of the 2022 elections.

In the San Diego region that includes boundaries of Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly and State Board of Equalization districts, supervisorial districts for the County of San Diego, cities from Oceanside to Chula Vista, the county board of education, school districts, community college districts, and special districts such as water, health care and fire.

Public forums, town hall meetings, and public hearings about fair districting are happening right now. Most of the forums are being conducted virtually or in “hybrid” mode, with many options to give input. We strongly encourage people to participate in these meetings and talk about their communities’ needs. You might talk to your neighbors over the fence or on *Nextdoor* to get their take as well. Was there a line drawn last time that you felt would have been better for your community if it moved a block or two one-way or another? Was your community kept intact? If not, now is the time to be heard. Check for meeting times [here](#).

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission’s timeline gives the big picture:

Sept – Oct	Census Data Expected; Public Input Meetings continue
Oct – Dec	Public Input Meetings / Line Drawing Sessions
Nov – Dec	Draft District Maps Released
Dec – Jan	Public Input Meetings / Line Drawing Sessions
Dec – Feb	District Maps Released

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## California’s Water (continued from p. 4)

The **Water Committee**, co-chaired by Jane Wagner-Tyack and Roberta Borgonovo, has members from all across California with both scientific and policy expertise on California’s unique water supply and distribution systems.

To help share our information, the Water Committee is planning a series of articles on California’s water to inform you, to intrigue you, and to share the team’s expertise. The articles will be offered about once a month to Local Leagues for possible publication in their VOTER newsletter, and accessible online.

*Dr. Diz Swift, LWVC Natural Resources Director*

*Check out the LWVC webpages on water:*

<https://lwvc.org/californias-water-and-our-league>

## LWVNCS Board Report

The August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Board meeting was held via Zoom.

**Oceanside City Council Workshop on Homeless Shelter Contract – June 23,** President Karen Sutton spoke at the Oceanside City Council Workshop supporting the Planning Department's recommendation to award a contract to provide a homeless shelter to Interfaith Community Services.

**San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission – July 29, 2021** Member Mary Thompson, who has been monitoring and reporting on the critical redistricting process, submitted and read a statement on behalf of the League to the San Diego County Independent Redistricting Commission supporting flexibility and increased accessibility to the public during the pre-mapping hearings.

**Carlsbad City Library Board of Trustees – June 21, 2021** A letter was sent thanking Library staff for their work ensuring that Library services were available and accessible during the pandemic closures.

**Financial Report** Treasurer Rinkie Pollack reviewed the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The board discussed the timing of membership dues and the per member payments that are paid to the State and National League.

**Administrative Transitions** The board approved the appointment of the Executive Committee of the Board which includes Karen Sutton (President), Rosette Garcia (Vice President), Roni Seay (Vice President), Rinkie Pollack (Treasurer), and Carol Parker (Natural Resources Director).

The board also approved updated signatories on the League's bank accounts and discussed the administrative duties that need to be reassigned.

### Ongoing Business and Portfolio Updates

• **Voter Service** – The Voter Service Committee is busy preparing for the Recall Election on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Registration and voter education materials have been developed and members are preparing tables at CSUCM, Palomar College, local libraries, and farmer's markets.

• **Social Equity** – The board discussed the joint Police Study being undertaken by the San Diego League and our League.

• **Observer Corps** – Connie Ulrich spoke about creating a role for members within the Observer Corps who would provide more frequent updates to the board to support timely action. This would not replace the formal Observer Corps but would provide flexibility to be responsive to current issues the League is following.

• **The closure of San Pasqual Academy** was brought to the Board's attention by Liz Kruidenier as it relates to the health and well-being of the foster youth who attend the Academy. Liz will provide additional information to the board to determine what action the board can take consistent with our positions.

**New Board Meeting Time and Date** Ongoing board meetings will be held the second Tuesday of the month at 5:00 via Zoom.

### Annual Board Planning Retreat – August 10, 2021

Following the regular board meeting, the board reconvened for their Annual Planning Retreat. Due to Covid-19, we were unable to meet in person and missed the opportunity to gather for lunch and meet in real life – some for the first time! However, we carried on via Zoom and had a lively and thought-provoking discussion about our governance responsibilities, our joint vision for our League, and our upcoming program and event schedule. We look forward to updating the membership as we refine our plans, and how together we can fulfill the League's vision of empowering citizens to shape better communities throughout North County.

# Please Welcome our New Members!

- Suzanne Hume - Oceanside - joined 3/15/21
- Judy Malkemus - Oceanside - joined 3/27/21
- Anne Fragasso - Encinitas - rejoined 4/29/21
- Michelle Howard - Oceanside - joined 5/6/21
- Fawn Hemphill - Oceanside - joined 6/6/21
- Karen Hershman - Escondido - joined 6/23/21
- Shary Kee - Solana Beach - joined 7/17/21
- Art Cohen - Solana Beach - joined 7/17/21
- Karen Miller - San Diego - joined 7/27/21
- Katherine Witmeyer - Carlsbad - joined 8/3/21
- Carol Guenther - Vista - joined 8/4/21
- Elaine Godzak - Oceanside - joined 8/5/21



## Renew Your Membership!

Membership renewal time is here. Thank you to those members who have already renewed! We accept renewal payments beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> for the upcoming year. While dues are payable by October 1<sup>st</sup>, payment now facilitates our important work and the League of Women Voters at all levels. Your ongoing support is critical.

Please note there are only two ways to pay your dues directly to our local League:  
 1) mail a check with the form below, OR 2) pay online at [www.lwvncsd.org/join](http://www.lwvncsd.org/join).

Name _____	<b>Annual Membership Dues</b>
Address _____	\$ 70 Individual Member
City _____ Zip _____	\$120 Two Members, Same Household
Phone _____	\$100 Suffragist
	\$200 Activist
Email _____	\$300 Advocate
	\$500 Founders Circle
	\$ 35 New Members
	Free 50-Year Member & Students

**P. O. Box 131272 • Carlsbad, CA 92013-1272 • 760-736-1608 •**  
**[www.lwvncsd.org](http://www.lwvncsd.org)**

The League of Women Voters North County San Diego is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

**\*\*Tell your friends that dues for a First Year Membership are only \$35.\*\***