



League of Women Voters  
of Sonoma County

# THE VOTER

Volume 29, issue 13

Visit us at [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)



## Two Centennials to Celebrate

One hundred years ago, in June 1919 the U.S. Senate passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, commonly known as the Susan B. Anthony amendment. It would take until August 26, 1920 for three-quarters of the state legislatures to ratify it and finally grant women the right to vote after a 72-year campaign. Six months earlier on February 14, 1920, Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters so that American women could prepare for their new role as voters. Catt had been instrumental in the campaign to pass the constitutional amendment. She wanted an organization to encourage women to learn about the issues in order to be active and informed citizens. LWVUS President Chris Carson shares "Over the nearly 10 decades of our existence, the League of Women Voters has applied the lessons learned in our earliest days to engage and empower all voters."

How will we celebrate these two momentous birthdays? We have an opportunity to share our history and the history of the American Suffrage movement. We are the only organization founded before the 19th amendment that is still in existence today. Our league formed a centennial committee that welcomes your input. We are planning a special program in February 2020 for the 100th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. LWVUS has declared February 14th a "day of action." Our committee is collaborating with museums, libraries, and other organizations to offer a full year of activities beginning in August 2019 (the start of the final ratification campaign) and ending with the ratification in August 2020.

Our committee welcomes your suggestions and your skills. We also welcome donations to help pay for speakers and venues. Consider renewing your membership at the centennial level and the extra money will stay with our local league.

And absolutely buy a locally made centennial T-shirt!

-- *Susan Novak*, Centennial Committee Chair

## LWVSC Calendar

### Coming Events

For for more information and links, visit our [website](#) or go to [Voter's Edge](#).

**Forum on Homelessness in Sonoma County:** Monday, July 15th. 2:30-4:00pm  
Spring Lake Village

**Board Transition Meeting:** Monday, July 29th, 6:00 – 8:00  
Annadel room at Spring lake Village

**LWVSC Booth at Wednesday Night Farmer's Market:** Wednesday, July 31st, 4:00 – 8:45 Santa Rosa (see article for signup info)

**Outreach Committee Meeting:** Monday, August 12th, 2:00 – 4:00

**LWVSC Booth at Wednesday Night Farmer's Market:** Wednesday, August 21st, 4:00 – 8:45 Santa Rosa (see article for signup info)

**Voter Services Committee Meeting.** Thursday, August 22nd, 10  
Santa Rosa

### Standing Meetings

**Board Meeting:** No July meeting

**Advocacy Committee Meeting:** No July meeting

**Outreach Committee Meeting:** No July meeting

**Book Club:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 10:30-noon.

**Voter Service Committee Meeting:** No July meeting

LWVSC meetings are held in the third floor Conference Room at the LWVSC office  
555 5th Street, Santa Rosa.

LWVSC Board meetings are open to all LWVSC members, and to the public upon  
request.

All other meetings are open to all.

Visit our [website](#) for updated calendar information.



## President's Message

I am honored to be your president in such a historic year. 2020 is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment which acknowledged women's right to vote in the U.S. We have already formed a Centennial Committee to decide how we will honor and celebrate this historic event. If you would like to be a part of this effort contact Susan Novak. And there is more to celebrate -- Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 is the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the National League of Women Voters. You only turn 100 once, so we need to party!

A leader is only as strong as the members of an organization. At our program planning meeting in January 2019 and our annual meeting this June, the membership chose an important set of priorities, including Making Democracy Work, the 2020 Census Complete Count, and Criminal Justice Reform. Our Advocacy Committee can lead the way on some of these priorities, but they cannot move us forward alone. Now we all begin the work to carry out our vision.

Elections will be key in the upcoming year. In 2020 we have important local races such as Santa Rosa City Council district races and the Board of Supervisors elections, which will call for candidate forums. Voter Services will also be busy with a Presidential primary in March 2020. And the 2020 General Election will not be far behind. This promises to be one of the most consequential Presidential elections in the history of the United States. So, if you care about our future, please consider contacting Donna Roper or Leona Judson to join the Voter Service Committee to help citizens make informed choices.

One of the priorities adopted at the National, State, and local League levels is ensuring all residents are counted for the 2020 census, as is called for by our constitution. Our League is a member of the Sonoma County Complete Count Committee and will be working with other agencies to make sure no one is missed. Also, this fall the Outreach Committee will launch our High School Voter Registration campaign, and this committee is always ready to welcome new members. Contact DeeDee Bridges or Nancy Richards.

So how will we do all this? How will we continue to be an effective organization, making a difference in our community? The old phrase "Many hands make light work" is still true. If everyone pitches in, we can accomplish much. As we take a break in League activities this summer, please think about how you personally can make a difference -- Join a committee – Make a donation – Register voters --- Run or walk the Human Race to raise money for the League -- Help with a fundraiser – Learn how to be a time keeper or moderator for the forums – Sell Centennial T-shirts to friends – Help with one Program or Event. Together we can do great things! But it depends on all of us pitching in to help.

– *Debbie McKay*, President

## A Woman's Place is in the Polling Booth Wear that Slogan Proudly!



Models wearing their Centennial T-Shirts at the SR Wednesday Night Market

As many of you know in 2020 we are celebrating the 100th birthday of the League and the 100th anniversary of ratification of the 19th amendment, which recognized Women's Right to Vote. To let the community know about these important events we are inviting you all to purchase and wear our new Centennial T-Shirts (\$20 including tax). The color is LWV royal blue.

The front says “A Woman's Place Is in the Polling Booth.” Several other groups are participating—The American Association of University Women (Petaluma), The Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women, the Petaluma Museum Association and the Petaluma Arts Center and the West County Historical Society and Museum and are listed on the back of the T-shirt with a picture of Suffragettes from the early 1900s and the tag line: “Celebrating 100 Years of Voting.”

Come to the SR Wednesday Night Market on July 31st to purchase a T-shirt. **Or order Your Centennial T-Shirt(s) today by using the order form on page 11 of this newsletter.**

## LWVSC Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 8, 2019**

**Susan Novak Presiding**

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. with the presentation of our speaker, Ann Hancock, Executive Director of the Center for Climate Protection. During an interesting interactive talk, she made the following points about countering the negative effects of climate change:

- Our brains are not wired to think about “thorny wicked problems” like climate change where so many interacting systems produce many unintended consequences

- We can take some lessons from organized religion by bringing people together to vent about the problem and build community to work for change
- Because of the present situation our response to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions has to be with speed and scale (BIG AND FAST)
- Rather than using “shame and blame” we need to change the pricing system. People will respond to market initiatives that make things cheaper
- Activists need to push on our elected officials to advocate for policies that influence monetary incentives

**President’s Report:** Susan’s report recalled some of the activities of the year:

- We gained new members to reach a total membership of approximately 170
- The Outreach Committee added a new member to the Board, with the group being headed by Debbie McKay and Judy Levy. A new canopy increased our visual presence at tabling events.
- The Voter Education committee, headed by Donna Roper and Leona Judson worked primarily on voter registration and education through seven (7) candidate forums, four (4) pros and cons presentations (aided by a PowerPoint presentation), door to door voter registration with Burbank Housing, and Bumper stickers and signs in both English and Spanish (YOUR VOTE MATTERS) placed in strategic locations. Anita Lytle’s Voter Registration Card distribution group placed 2,755 cards in 110 sites.
- Anita also produced the new Government Guide
- Leona Judson wrote and distributed memos encouraging members to apply for government advisory groups and commissions
- Marie Wardell coordinated Voters Edge
- Susan Rouder coordinated the issue forums at Spring Lake Village
- The Advocacy Committee recommended several issues: The Santa Rosa Housing Bond, the completion of the Jennings rail crossing and the support for local government to move to 100% green power
- A subcommittee is working on a civics education curriculum to be presented in the high schools in spring 2020.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Juanita Roland supplied data on the present financial position and the proposed budget for 2019-2021 (See annual meeting kit). Although we had a small deficit in 2018 - 2019 we still have significant reserves. There will be no raise in dues suggested for 2019 - 2020 but we may need to consider it in the future. It was emphasized how much of our dues income is sent on through our per member payments (PMPs) to the State and US offices. It’s an aspirational goal to do more fundraising in the coming year. The budget proposal omits a line item for member directory expense and other ways of supplying that information to the membership are being explored.

**Program Emphases:** Susan reported on the January Program Planning meeting that resulted in the choice of a total of eight (8) areas for emphasis statewide and locally: Under the umbrella of “Making Democracy Work: Voting Rights, Election Reform, Expanding the Electorate, Redistricting, Money in Politics and the 2020 Census. Local emphases were chosen as **Climate Change** and **Criminal Justice Reform**. LWVC has a new position on Criminal Justice Reform (See CA website positions). Judy Levy gave an update on Bail Bond reform. A referendum has qualified for the November ballot to overturn the passage of SB10. Judy has been in contact with the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office to request data on the success and costs of the Sonoma County Pretrial Assessment Program. They responded that they do not have records about non-court appearances or parolee commission of crimes. She is hoping to obtain more information that can inform those advocating for bail bond reform.

**New Board of Directors:** Carrie Anabo, Chair of the Nominating Committee, introduced the new slate of directors. One Committee Chair post for Outreach remains unfilled. Thanks, and recognition of service were offered to Nancy Burrington and Anita Lytle who are leaving the Board.

**Remarks of President Elect:** Debbie McKay gave an energetic talk about taking the League forward. We will celebrate 100 years of suffrage next year on Valentine's Day. With the primary moved to March, Californians will be given more attention by the national candidates. It will be a big election year for local city council and supervisorial races. The Schools and Communities First initiative (reform of Prop 13) and the census will engage our time. We will need to invite and engage new members. Wearing and selling our T-shirts will increase our visibility in the community as we register and educate voters and **get them to the polls.**

**Convention Report:** Marie Wardell and Iris Levitis, our delegates, gave a report on some issues addressed at the June California Convention. It was voted to retain all positions with the addition of fundraising. No new studies will be done or updated in 2019 - 2021. Census work will be added under the emphasis umbrella of "Making Democracy Work."

The Schools and Communities First initiative, which reforms Prop 13, posits the idea that commercial properties have been undervalued and under-taxed. The change would not affect agriculture or small businesses. It would be estimated to bring in 8 - 11 billion dollars in new revenue. There was some conflict in the discussion about implementation, with the suggestion of seeking endorsements from local school and elected officials. Tax assessments would create more work and expense for local tax officials. The language in the new electoral process position elicited the response that some did not have a good understanding of the issue.

**Outreach Committee Report:** Debbie McKay reported on the ongoing activities of the committee:

- They continue to collect signed postcards advocating for 100% green power to be given to the Santa Rosa City Council
- They are taking orders for T-shirts, which should result in a \$10 profit per shirt
- Three tabling events are scheduled at the SR Wednesday night market
- Experience has shown how little H.S. students know about the voting process, so outreach to the schools for civics education needs to be emphasized.

**Question: Does anyone want to volunteer to head up a "climate change" subcommittee?**

**Voter Service Committee Report:** Leona Judson reported on the ongoing activities of the committee:

- They are working in partnership with the Sonoma Valley Action Coalition to provide citizen education to new citizens
- They are planning to provide a training to membership on how to organize a candidate forum
- They hope to create a video to be used for ballot pros and cons that could be shown to interested organizations in the 2020 election year (?)

**Announcements:**

- Anita Lytle has an opening for a person to distribute voter registration cards in the Cloverdale area.

-- *Nancy Burrington*, Retiring Secretary!!



## Voter Service Project

The voter service committee is currently on Summer break, gathering energy for the upcoming election season, which could shape up to be a busy one. There are three County Board of Supervisor seats up for re-election, although it's too early to know how many will be contested. Many city council members are also up for re-election. Then there is The Schools & Communities First initiative, which will be on the ballot for November 2020. This is a measure that the LWV strongly supports. It's about addressing inequities in our property taxes. Read more about this here at <https://lwvc.org/our-work/issues/government/schools-and-communities-first>.

The VS committee will resume in August to start planning our Fall strategy. This will include helping the Outreach committee with the high school voter project, plans for more training in the art and science of organizing election forums and more.

All old and new members are welcome to join us in August.

--*Leona Judson*, Voter Service

## An Opportunity to Profoundly Impact Our State's Future

Once every ten years, California goes through a process called redistricting, which involves redrawing political districts at the federal, state, and local levels. This process is important to our lives as Californians because it helps ensure that we have a chance of electing political representatives who will be responsive to our needs and concerns.

In California, we redraw federal and state districts through the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC). The CRC is an independent commission of 14 Californians who are neither legislators nor public officials. Through a public process and technical assistance from the state, the CRC develops and approves new maps that reshape the districts of our congressional representatives, state senators, state assembly members, and members of the Board of Equalization.

We need to ensure that commissioners truly reflect the demographic and geographic diversity of our state and that they ensure a fair line-drawing process that strengthens the representation of communities, especially traditionally marginalized and underrepresented communities. **Do you know at least one person that would be ideal to apply?** If so, please send their name and contact information to [President@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:President@lwvsonoma.org), and feel free to nominate yourself.

The initial application window is June 10, 2019 through August 9, 2019.



## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

*If you joined after January 1, 2019, you're covered! No renewal payment is necessary.*

Our new MYLO (my league online) website isn't up and running just yet, MEANWHILE, you CAN RENEW AND PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW ONLINE. Just follow the link below to the Join page on our website. You are able to pay with a check by downloading the form and sending it by mail. You may also click on "Join" and pay online via PayPal. Please be sure to make any corrections to your contact information. We will be sending an interactive membership Interest Survey after MYLO is launched.

### [JOIN](#)

In honor of the centennial of the passage of the 19th amendment and founding of the League of Women Voters, we hope you will consider joining at the Centennial, Elizabeth Cady Stanton or Carrie Chapman Catt level this year.

We are planning extra community involvement to make this year special, as well as gearing up for the 2020 election, and would appreciate extra financial help to make the year a memorable one. And one that puts spotlight on our local League and the many contributions we make toward a more informed, active and empowered electorate.

Your membership makes it possible for us to support the League's Making Democracy Work efforts with:

- Election Forums and Pros and Cons presentations
- Get out the vote efforts through tabling and community engagement
- Voter registration throughout the county
- Immigration reform support
- Affordable housing, homelessness, climate change and other advocacy efforts
- Presentations at citizenship classes and local schools

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED JUST AS MUCH AS \$\$\$ SO GET INVOLVED!**

**JOIN ONE OF OUR COMMITTEES:**

- ADVOCACY
- VOTER SERVICE
- OUTREACH
- PROGRAM
- MEMBERSHIP



## Local Issues Forum Speakers will Focus on Sonoma County's Homeless LWVSC

League Members are invited to attend the Spring Lake Village Local Issues Forum on Homelessness in Sonoma County. It will occur on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 pm, in SLV's Montgomery Center, facing 5555 Montgomery drive, SR. Several League members help plan and participate in these forums. Two speakers will address the subject of Homelessness in Sonoma County. **The question is, how can we provide shelter for the approximately three thousand people in Sonoma County, who are homeless?** According to a recent federal government analysis (HUD), this is the largest (per capita) suburban homeless population in the nation. This is serious!

Our two speakers probably confront this problem every day of their professional lives. They are among Sonoma County's most experienced authorities on homelessness, a major problem that exists right here among our picturesque wineries and safe neighborhoods.

**Jennielynn Holmes is the Director of Shelter and Housing for Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa.** The name of this organization is prominent in any article you read in the Press Democrat about affordable housing and homelessness. They manage or administer services for twelve different shelters, support centers, temporary and/or transitional housing locations in Santa Rosa. They recently received nearly \$2 million dollars in state money to continue their work.

**Tom Schwedhelm, our second speaker, is not only the Mayor of Santa Rosa** and a City Council member, **he chairs the Sonoma County Leadership Council.** This is the primary decision-making body for the Sonoma County homeless system of care. They and their staff not only monitor the shelters, residences, and services provided in the County, the council also recommends to the Board of Supervisors project funding. Just last month, the council recommended to the Supervisors, how to distribute locally more than \$14 million in one-time state funding. This is more than seven times what the county currently spends annually. It could have a significant impact on the size of our homeless population.

This forum is the fourteenth, planned and presented by the SLV Local Issues Planning Group, in cooperation with the Sonoma County League of Women Voters. Come and bring questions to ask. Try to carpool.

## Join Us at the Wednesday Night Market

Last year we had great interactions with folks at the Santa Rosa Wednesday Night market, so we are at the Market this summer for three nights – June 26th, July 31st and August 21st. We will be doing voter registration and education. Additionally, we are selling T-shirts celebrating 100 years of Women Voting!

There will be two shifts each evening: Early shift 3:45 – 6:15 pm. Later shift 6:15 – 8:45 pm. Either shift gives you time to check out the market too. To sign-up go to the links below or just send an email to [tabling@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:tabling@lwvsonoma.org) with the date(s) and shift(s) you want. Feel free to sign up for more than one date.

July 31<sup>st</sup> <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0945a4ae2aa3f49-may29th>

August 21<sup>st</sup> <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0945a4ae2aa3f49-august>

## Book Club Reads

**July 18--Moderated by Juanita Roland**

***Leadership in Turbulent Times***, by Doris Kearns Goodwin, 473 pages, 2018

Doris Kearns Goodwin (Pulitzer Prize- winning author) offers an illuminating exploration of the early development, growth, and exercise of leadership. Are leaders born or made? Where does ambition come from? How does adversity affect the growth of leadership? Does the leader make the times or do the times make the leader? In *Leadership*, Goodwin draws upon the four presidents she has studied most closely--Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Lyndon B. Johnson (in civil rights)-to show how they recognized leadership qualities within themselves and were recognized as leaders by others.

**August 15--Moderated by Carole Sunlight**

***Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice***  
by Bill Browder, 416 pages, 2015

“Part John Grisham-like thriller, part business and political memoir.” This is a story about an accidental activist. Bill Browder started out his adult life as the Wall Street maverick whose instincts led him to Russia just after the breakup of the Soviet Union, where he made his fortune. Along the way he exposed corruption, and when he did, he barely escaped with his life. His Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky wasn't so lucky: he ended up in jail, where he was tortured to death. That changed Browder forever. Browder succeeded in having a law passed in the United States— The Magnitsky Act—that punishes a list of Russians implicated in the lawyer's murder. Putin famously retaliated with a law that bans Americans from adopting Russian orphans.

The 2019 Reading list is at <https://my.lwv.org/california/sonoma-county/calendar/monthly-meeting>

Please join us.

# Centennial T-Shirt Order Form



[Color of shirt](#)



Price \$20 each, including sales tax.

Payment is due at the time of your order.

Please list the **Quantity in each Style & Size:**

Example:   0   Small   2   Medium   1   Large   0   X-Large

**Women's V-Neck:** Size:      Small      Medium      Large      X-Large

**Women's Crew Neck:** Size:      Small      Medium      Large      X-Large

**Men's Crew Neck:** Size:      Small      Medium      Large      X-Large

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_      # street      City      State      Zip  
code

Phone #s \_\_\_\_\_

**Total # of T-Shirts**      X \$20 = \$                     

**Please make checks payable to LWV of Sonoma County:**

555 5th Street, Suite 300 O  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

# Connect with the League

## LWVSC

### Board of Directors

Debbie McKay, **President**

Carrie Anabo, **VP Administration**

Gene Zingarelli, **VP Advocacy**

Marie Wardell, **Secretary**

Juanita Roland, **Treasurer**

Gayle McKinney Peterson,

#### Membership

DeeDee Bridges & Nancy Richards,

#### Outreach

Donna Roper & Leona Judson, **Voter**

#### Service

Mary Virdeh, **Program**

Iris Levitis, **Editor**

Susan Novak, **Member at Large**

Because of privacy concerns, we do not include email addresses for the Board in the Voter. Readers can find email addresses in the directory or they can send email to Board Members from the contact us page of the LWVSC website. [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)



LWVSC [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty](https://www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty)

LWV of Bay Area <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

LWV of California [www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org)

LWV of the United States [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters>

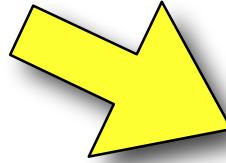
Voter's Edge <http://votersedge.org/en/ca>

Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

*Remember to sign up for email alerts and newsletters when you visit these websites.*



*Become a Member of the  
LWV of Sonoma County*



or

**Make a  
DONATION**

Fill out the form below and mail it to us at:

League of Women Voters Sonoma County  
555 5th Street, Suite 300 O  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Memberships Levels**

<i>Susan B. Anthony</i> Individual Membership	\$65
<i>Student/ Limited Income</i> Individual Membership	\$40
<i>Amelia Bloomer</i> Household Membership	\$100
<i>Elizabeth Cady Stanton</i> Membership	\$100
<i>Centennial 100</i> Membership	\$100
<i>Carrie Chapman Catt</i> Membership	\$200 or more

**Membership dues and donations  
are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law**

Please circle any topics you are interested in knowing more about.

- |                      |                    |                  |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Voter Registration   | Candidate Forums   | Transportation   |
| Housing/Homelessness | Climate Change     | Immigration      |
| Newsletter           | Website Management | Local Governance |

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

555 5th Street, Suite 300 O  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401 (707)  
546-5943

The Voter is published nine times a year by the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County.