



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities

www.LWVSSMC.org

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April 2018

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The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose candidates or political parties.

HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT IS TRUE THESE DAYS?

Learn strategies, tips and tools to gauge the credibility and accuracy of information from experts at Snopes, Data for Democracy, Google, Facebook, Stanford University, and the Institute for the Future.

Democracy requires well-informed voters to thrive. Yet truth and facts are under assault from misinformation, disinformation, propaganda and fake news. Do YOU know how to assess what's true and accurate?

The event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters South San Mateo County, the LWV Palo Alto and the Palo Alto PTA Council. Registration (free) and more information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-do-we-know-whats-true-anymore-tickets-43815568545>

Monday April 9 at 7 pm

Palo Alto High School Performing Arts Center, 50 Embarcadero Road

Contact: Lisa Peschcke-Koedt lisa_peschcke_koedt@hotmail.com

Join other community members to meet for lunch and hear the Mayor of Redwood City

Tuesday, April 17, 11:30 am

Perhaps you live in an adjacent community to RWC or right in the middle of this lovely city. Either way you must be noticing many changes in the community. Come and join us at the Crouching Tiger restaurant and meet Ian Bain, the mayor. You can either enjoy the buffet lunch starting at 11:30 or join us for his talk at 12:15.

Please use our tear off below to mail in to register.



**LUNCH WITH THE MAYOR
The League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County**

Cordially Invites You to

Meet The Mayor of Redwood City, Ian Bain

**on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
at Crouching Tiger Restaurant, 2644 Broadway, RWC**

Non-members welcome. Members \$20. Non-members \$25.

Please RSVP by April 13th and make check payable to LWVSSMC and mail to: Meet The Mayor, League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County, P.O. Box 2244, Menlo Park, CA 94026-2244.

Your Name _____ email _____

Number/name of LWV Members @ \$20 each _____

Number/name of non LWV Members @ \$25 each _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Those unable to attend buffet lunch are welcome to attend the Mayor's talk at 12:15 There is metered parking in front and at the rear of the restaurant.

Any questions please contact Joyce Shefren jshefren@gmail.com 650-380-4293

Meet your candidates for **County Sheriff** and get informed before you vote this June!

2018 SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATE FORUM with

Carlos Bolanos
Mark Melville

Wednesday, April 25 at 7 pm

Woodside Road United Methodist Church, 2000 Woodside Road, Redwood City

Moderated by the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County and co-sponsored by many local organizations

Audience members will have the chance to ask questions of the candidates at this forum. The candidates will get to hear your concerns and demonstrate their understanding of the local community and issues such as public safety, civil rights, immigration policy, money bail, and evictions. **This is a non-partisan event.**

Reception to follow

Spanish Translation Available * Childcare Provided * ADA Accessible

Please RSVP and share this event at:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/SMCSheriffCandidate>

You may also RSVP or send questions to Sarah Lee at slee@im4humanintegrity.org

Meet your candidates for **County Superintendent of Schools** and get informed before you vote this June!

2018 SAN MATEO COUNTY SUPT OF SCHOOLS CANDIDATE FORUM with

Nancy Magee
Gary Waddell

Saturday, April 28, 3:30 - 5 pm

Woodside Road United Methodist Church
2000 Woodside Road, Redwood City

Presented by the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County

From the President (Shirley Des Marais)

Each year the State League asks local Leagues to interview their legislators. The League then uses their responses to help plan their legislative activities and lobbying efforts for the coming year. This year Ann Draper led the team meeting with Jerry Hill, Lisa Conrad participated in Marc Berman's interview, and I joined the North and Central League to interview Keven Mullin. Look for our reports in this and future editions of THE VOTER.

We have been very active preparing for the June 5 primary. Geoff Ryder, gryder@gmail.com has organized his voter registration team and our League had a table at the March For Our Lives Rally in Redwood City. Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com has taken over the planning for Pros and Cons presentations. Watch your email for information about dates and venues.

Tracy Clark, tracy@acuitytx.com has organized candidate forums in the races for San Mateo County Sheriff and County Superintendent of Schools. We've also been asked to monitor a forum at Stanford discussing the Santa Clara county ballot initiative to recall Judge Aaron Persky. Margaret Marshall has agreed to monitor it. Linda Atkinson, leatkinson@comcast.net is organizing her team to educate our voters about the County's new Voters Choice election system.

Many League and community members attended a meeting at Lucile Spurlock's home to introduce us to the State League's petition drive to get the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act on the November ballot. If you'd like to help by gathering signatures or just adding yours to a petition, contact Lisa Conrad darnoc@earthlink.net

Redwood City residents, don't miss the opportunity to **Meet Your Mayor!** Look for the registration form in this edition of the VOTER, on page 2. We have many other interesting programs planned and being planned for the next two months. Be sure to check the Calendar on page 10, and watch for email updates.

And finally, Debby Maio is putting the finishing touches on our new website. Watch for an email announcing its rollout soon.

Special Election Edition of BA Monitor just out!

<http://bayareamonitor.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/apr18.pdf>

Legislative Interview with Assemblymember Marc Berman, Feb. 16



Question 1: Money Bail Reform

Currently, release pending trial is based on an arrestee's capacity to post money bail. Do you support legislative changes to a risk-assessment based system, so that release is contingent on preventing violence in the community, rather the arrestee's finances?

Yes. Voted for AB42. Was pleased that Gov. Brown made SB10 a two-year bill and hopes Brown's support will give the boost to make needed improvements and get the bill passed. Noted that the Assembly tends to be more conservative than the Senate these days. (Capitol joke; "If you are on life-support, join the Senate because nothing ever dies there.")

Question 2: CEQA Reform

What is your view regarding the use of CEQA to delay affordable housing projects? While recent legislative changes have streamlined the CEQA process for in-fill projects, do you think other legislative changes to CEQA are needed?

Does support SB35. Believes CEQA is critically important, has very positive environmental and transparency benefits, but is also subject to abuse that has stopped some worthy projects. Introduced AB404, which would have provided CEQA exemption only in unincorporated urban in-fill situations, such as in the North Fair Oaks section of Redwood City, but it died in Senate Appropriations. Has resubmitted this as AB1804, in the form it passed the Assembly, with requirements for housing and mixed use. There is a new chair in Senate Appropriations, so hopeful it will get through to floor. Sees this as a CEQA "tweak," notes that it is essential to get buy-in from environmental groups.

Says last year's housing bills were only a down payment, hopes SB827, 828 will evolve.

Question 3: Sea Level Rise

We need a regional, coordinated effort of several state agencies. And since the threat is swift in terms of typical infrastructure projects, we need to coordinate now. What is the path forward to assure continuity of infrastructure as we approach 2050 and beyond? What can be done legislatively?

This is a critically important “slow-moving emergency.” AB184 was his first bill, building on efforts by his predecessor Rich Gordon to establish a statewide data base, which had barely begun before hitting its sunset clause. Sought to make it a permanent project, but had to accept a sunset clause with a 3-year extension. Currently a group at UC Berkeley is building a data base of what is being done on sea level rise by different authorities around the state so that agencies can find out what others are doing (cities, airports, regulators, etc.). A report is due soon (in March), and the Governor has said there could be administrative actions based on possible recommendations. This is a good example of cooperation between academia and government, could also spur coordination among authorities.

Q4: Local League Question(s) about issue(s) of particular local concern.

Given time limits and the fact that Assemblymember Berman is chair of committees on the Census and the Master Plan for Higher Education, which are of interest to us, we chose to combine this question with #5.

OPTIONAL Question 5:

What other major issues do you think the legislature must deal with in 2018? What are your personal priorities?

Census

Newly appointed chair of Assembly Select Committee on the 2020 Census. (Also Chair of the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee.) California currently receives about \$76 billion in federal moneys - or \$1958 per resident - per year. A correct count of **all residents**, as required by the Constitution, is essential for California to get its proportional share of funds and seats in Congress. CA now has 53 seats in the House; population projections show one seat may be at risk to be taken away if the population is undercounted.

Worried about counting the immigrant community, whether documented or not. Referred to a story in the San Jose Mercury where an immigrant family moved between attempts by a census worker to contact them. With the ICE crackdown, we have been telling people if the “government” comes to the door, don’t answer - and now we will want them to open the door.

We need early and better funding and coordination. The budget has an allocation of \$40.3 million, and the state will seek another \$40 million from philanthropic sources. Also hope to use non-profits for outreach to “hard to count” communities. (Lisa Ratner noted that the League at the local and county council level could do public education and outreach on this issue and Assemblymember Berman indicated that could be part of the nonprofit effort.) The Senate may also set up a Select Committee, and Secretary of State Padilla is monitoring what can be done. Estimates are that CA was undercounted by 1.5 percent in 2010, but the state’s investment was down because of the economic downturn.

Master Plan for Higher Education

“Love these bigger efforts” - more than “just” bills. The promise of the Master Plan 58 years ago was access to affordable high-quality public higher education for every CA high school student who qualified. Has produced a quality work force and much innovation, but now while we have quality, we have gotten away from access and affordability. Population has doubled; students are far more diverse; many more are meeting the A-G requirements- and the Master Plan has not really been updated.

A main reason is that it can’t be done in a year or two, which has been the planning horizon in the Assembly. It’s easy to kill efforts if you go too fast. Really glad that now he can plan (voters willing) on spending 12 years in the Assembly, thanks to term limit reform. You can take 8 or 10 years to develop something properly. His counterpart in the Senate is talking about 6-8 years for a Master Plan overhaul. A major goal would be to educate more students faster, with less debt, so students can make the life choices they actually want, rather than on the basis of how much money they can earn to pay off debt.

Five hearings have been scheduled for 2017-18 (3 in Sacramento, one at San Jose State, one in Fresno), and then other locations will be added. This will be a listening process. So far the turnout has been good. People appreciate the deliberate pace and that there are no preconceived ideas. “You are less likely to drill a hole in the boat if you are on the boat - so get people on board!”

Note: There are tabs on his website for both the Census Committee and the Master Plan.

Youth/Student Suicide Prevention

Wants to identify the best training for schools and make it available, via press releases and website. There is some politics on this issue, needs to do some groundwork, explore other ideas. Supports providing funding for voluntary training for health care professionals. A press release is available on his website with more information.

His AB1957 would streamline access to social services such as CALfresh, CALworks, allowing use of e-mail or texting rather than requiring postal mail and maximize technological

efficiency while making information secure. Provide service in multiple languages, cooperate with non-profits such as Second Harvest, Western Center on Law and Poverty

Elections

Loves being chair of this committee! Especially concerned with secure voting systems, including security of electronic poll books. Joint hearings with Senate Elections Committee on cybersecurity will be held in March to hear from registrars and other experts. Also wants to revise ballot format to be more user friendly, easier to understand (e.g., making it clear when you can vote for more than one person for city council). Los Angeles is working on a new plan. Committee can survey best practices to scale up. Videos are available on his website.

HIGHLIGHTS from the March 8th BOARD Meeting:

Your Board

- Approved purchasing two more tables and chairs to assist with Voter Registration activities; approval up to \$100.
- Approved a sum of \$1,000 to record our public forums via the Media Center

Discussed

- Increasing our presence in the community by doing Voter Outreach and Voter Registration.
- Having one main candidates forum to cover the election of the sheriff for our county.
- Possibility of having a candidates forum for the position of County Superintendents of Schools
- Planning underway for state ballot propositions Pros and Cons presentations.

Learned

- A digital projector is needed for presenters regarding the Voters Choice voting system. Our county's primary ballots will be using this new plan.
- Our state LWV would like our help getting signatures to place the Schools and Communities First proposition on the state ballot.
- Patti Fry continues to work on details surrounding the conversion of our League and Education Fund into one entity.
- Lunch with the Mayor of Redwood City is set for April 17th at Crouching Tiger restaurant on Broadway in RWC.

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST

Restores Over \$11 Billion a Year for our Schools and Communities Services Does NOT Raise Taxes on Homeowners, Renters or Small Businesses

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 is supported by LWVC and other organizations

Join the LWVC and other groups 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.

Closing California's commercial property tax loophole could restore \$11 billion annually to education, first responders, healthcare, and community services such as:

- Schools and community colleges
- Parks
- Roads and bridges
- Firefighters and first responders
- Affordable housing and homeless services
- Libraries
- Public transportation
- Health clinics and trauma centers

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 is the only fair way to restore billions of dollars of reliable revenue every year for our schools and local communities without raising taxes on homeowners, renters, or small businesses.

Join a growing statewide coalition of community groups, educators, parents, local community leaders and more than 250 organizations that are supporting this commonsense and desperately needed reform.

UPCOMING EVENTS		
APRIL		
7 Sat	1 - 4 pm	CIVIL DISCOURSE FACILITATOR WORKSHOP. Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, 726 Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale. Contact: m.shovlin@comcast.net
9 Mon	7 – 9 pm	HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT IS TRUE ANYMORE? Assessing the credibility and accuracy of information in our world. Palo Alto HS Performing Arts Center, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Contact: lisa_peschcke_koedt@hotmail.com
12 Thurs	7 - 9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock’s house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Lucile caspurlock@aol.com
17 Tues	11:30am –1:30pm	LUNCH WITH THE MAYOR featuring Redwood City’s Ian Bain. Crouching Tiger Restaurant, 2644 Broadway, Redwood City. Contact: Joyce Shefren, 650-380-4293, jshefren@gmail.com
25 Wed	7 pm	CANDIDATE FORUM: SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF. Woodside Road United Methodist Church, 2000 Woodside Road, Redwood City. RSVP and info: http://www.tinyurl.com/SMCSheriffCandidate
26 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting. <i>The Circle</i> , by Dave Eggers. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net 650-342-5853.
28 Sat	3:30 – 5:30 pm	CANDIDATE FORUM: SAN MATEO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS. Woodside Road United Methodist Church, 2000 Woodside Road, Redwood City. Contact: Tracy Clark, tracy@acuitytx.com
MAY		
4 Fri	10 am – 12 noon	TALK WITH NATIONAL LEAGUE MEMBERS. Contact: Kathleen Weisenberg, 650-232-7146, davkatweisenberg@att.net
12 Thurs	7 - 9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock’s house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Lucile caspurlock@aol.com
15 Tues	6:30 – 8:30 pm	GENERAL MEETING WITH MARC DUGGIN. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, 650-868-0320 safouche@comcast.net

Save the Date—Hear from the National League!
Staff will be here in Silicon Valley to tell us what they are doing to
Defend our Democracy
Friday, May 4, 2018
10 am – 12 noon
Stay tuned for additional details—Contact Kathleen Weisenberg
Also, our Annual Meeting is Thursday, June 7, 6 – 9:30 pm