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# August 2021 League Newsletter

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## **Important Announcement**

## **RECALL ELECTION WEBINAR: September 14, 2021**

Mail-in-Ballots will be sent out starting the week of August 16. To learn fact-based, unbiased information about the upcoming recall election, <u>REGISTER HERE</u> for our League's Webinar on **Saturday**, **August 14 at 10:00 AM**.

Our Vice President of Program, Ann Ravel, will present an overview of the recall election, including how a petition can be filed and qualified for the ballot, some historical perspective, costs involved, and how the vote will be calculated. Shannon Bushey, Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters, will also show a sample ballot, explain the two questions on the ballot, and reinforce how you can submit your ballot.



## President's Letter

Dear Friends and Members of the League,

After many terrific years under the leadership of fabulous leaders and mentors, I have some big shoes to fill. **Thank you, Eleanor, and all the other members of the board, for everything our League has accomplished.** Our online voter service programs have extended our reach to inform more voters about the elections than ever

before. We also take pride in our strong and dedicated committees who have worked on many local and state issues.

I am honored to serve as your new president and plan to work with other board members and League leaders to enable our members to be more effective in pursuing projects that you think will make our community and nation stronger.

The recent surge in Covid cases is impacting our planning for this coming year. Currently, wanting to also be extremely cautious, we plan to continue our program events and workshops through the online Zoom webinar platform. Our newly formed Racial Justice

series in September with an overview of Racial Justice definitions and issues. In alignment with this theme, our League sent a letter to the Los Gatos Town Council supporting their efforts to promote Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in our community. Another new program is also being planned to address the need for more civic education. A series of Civic Education classes will also be rolled out starting in the fall. Volunteers will be needed to assist with these presentations. If interested, please contact Aileen Kao at aileenkao95070@yahoo.com.

During the Annual Board Meeting, the members voted to convert our SWSCV League's status from a dual 501(c)4 to a total 501(c)3. Big thanks to our board member Tom Picraux for orchestrating this large effort. The paperwork is being submitted, and once it is approved, which could take anywhere from 6 weeks to a year, all donations, including membership dues, will be tax deductible. The conversion will also streamline the work of our financial team significantly.

It has been over a year since we have had any in-person events. Whether you are an old friend of our League or are just interested in learning more about our work, you are cordially invited to join our **Summer Social Event on Sunday, Aug 22 @3-6pm** to meet our board members and to learn about our League. Please <u>register here</u> in advance so we may be better prepared to serve you.

Wishing you and your family a great summer.

Sophia Kao, President

# **League News**

## 2020-2021 LWV-SWSCV Annual Meeting Highlights

The 2020-2021 Annual Meeting was held on June 26, 2021. 24 League members attended the meeting.

- The following items were approved at the Annual Meeting:
  - o 2021 Program Planning Recommendations
  - o Conversion of League tax-exempt status to 501(c)3
  - o Amendment of League By-Laws to reflect National League's DEI policy
  - o Proposed budget for 2021-2022
  - Nominated officers and directors for 2021-2022
- State Senator Dave Cortese presented a brief update on current legislation re: the state's economic recovery, natural resources, and housing.
- Meg Giberson and Sophia Kao received this year's Helga Ruby Award.



#### LWV-SWSCV Received "We Are the League" Award in LWV CA Convention

At the 2021 LWVC Convention, it was announced that our League's Chinese Translation of the Pros and Cons Project won a LWVC award in the "We Are the League" category. The winner in this category was selected for "their effective use of promoting the League's mission and work through increased public awareness using various communication platforms or other innovation means." Our project involved engaging collaborative Chinese-speaking partners, with the use of the translated League Pros and Cons materials and securing Chinese language media involvement resulting in a long-term pan that will serve our League well into the future. Read more about our application here.

## LWV-SWSCV is Converting to a 501(c)3 Organization

The Board discussed this change in past years and decided that the time had come to make this conversion. Some 37 of 61 Leagues in California have converted to 501(c)3 status, including our neighboring Leagues of LWV San Jose/Santa Clara and LWV Los Altos/Mountain View. Feedback from the leaders of Leagues who have converted has been positive and their League advocacy work is reported to be unaffected. A designated 501(c)3 League can continue its advocacy work as long as total advocacy expenditures do not exceed 20% of its budget.

The change will make our treasurer's job much easier, because the treasurer will no longer have to manage two separate accounts—a 501(c)4 general account and a 501(c)3 education fund included under the umbrella of the LWV California—and our League will have local access to all our funds.

Membership fees and contributions will all become available as tax deductible to members and donors. The League will also be able to participate in workplace giving and corporation charity-giving programs (PayPal, etc.), and to apply for grants only available to 501(c)3

A set of FAQs and additional documentation about this conversion can be found on our League's google drive in the folder 501(c)3 Conversion:

 $\frac{https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kR2XheQEWIi5PBfB2iPKMZI-aFeys9wy?}{usp=sharing}.$ 



The recall has been part of California's political system since 1911. It provides a mechanism for the public to attempt to remove elected public officials from office before the end of their term of office. During these controversial times, it appears that more and more petitions for recalls are being submitted. Here in our local area, besides the California Governor recall, some local school district trustees and city council members are being subject to recall petitions. Before a recall election can be initiated, a certain number of voters must sign a recall petition within a specified amount of time and meet a number of other requirements. Make sure you can vote when you receive your ballot by:

- Making sure you are registered by checking your voting status at https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov
- Checking where your mail-in ballot is being sent to the same website. You must reregister if you have moved or changed your name when you got married.

Read more on the recall election from the California Secretary of State at <a href="https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/2021-ca-gov-recall">https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/2021-ca-gov-recall</a>. Check out more information about the <a href="https://example.com/elections/2021-ca-gov-recall">Recall Election</a>. Compiled by LWV CA.

#### The LWV Does Not Endorse or Oppose Any Recall Election! Why?

"A recall is a valid electoral pathway and therefore the League cannot comment as per our non-partisan policy." In other words, members acting in their capacity as League members are advised to stay neutral on the recall.

"A recall is different from a referendum, in that referendums deal with an issue and is a space that the League is allowed to take a position on. We don't engage in recalls because they deal with candidates, and the process is legally valid. The League would only comment if the process were not valid or if the campaign engaged in questionable practices to qualify."

It is known that "many of you feel strongly that you need to take a position on one or more of these campaigns. This guidance and clarification are not meant to dissuade you from participating with other organizations or in your individual capacity as a constituent and voter. \* You are just not able to advocate, support, or oppose the recall on behalf of the League or when speaking as a League member."

Ashley Raveche, League of Women Voters of California Deputy Director of Social Policy

# **SCC ROV Voter Language Workshop Series**

The Registrar of Voters will be hosting a variety of language workshops (Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Korean, Khmer, Japanese, Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, and Nepali) to assist all members of the community in familiarizing themselves with the

welcome to attend these workshops which will mainly focus on the following:

- · Voters Choice Act
- What's on the Ballot?
- Vote Center Information (Dates and Hours)
- Recall Updates

The workshops will also cover different ways for people to get involved in the election process. Each workshop will have the appropriate bilingual speakers available either for the entire presentation or to provide interpretation services. Email us for more information at <a href="mailto:outreach@rov.sccgov.org">outreach@rov.sccgov.org</a>.

Check out the PDF below or <u>click here to visit the Outreach website</u> to select a language workshop.



Thank you,

SCC ROV Outreach Team

# Redistricting

## The League Opposes Gerrymandering!

Congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. The League opposes partisan and racial gerrymandering that strips rights away from voters. The results of the 2020 Census are being used to redraw voting districts. In our local community, the SCC Board of Supervisors has formed an Advisory Citizens' Group to help with this process. The LWV Santa Clara County Council, composed of the 5 League presidents in SCC, is proud that Katie Zoglin (LWV Los

voting districts, along with the Campbell Union Elementary School District, the Campbell Union High School District and the Moreland Elementary School District, also has to redraw voting precincts. League members who reside within the boundaries of these governmental entities should check on the redistricting work being done in each of these entities and participate, if possible. Read here to learn more about the League's work on redistricting: <a href="https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/redistricting">https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/redistricting</a>

#### **Fighting Voter Suppression**

Every day we hear of ballot measures being submitted in various states across the nation that will suppress voting rights. Although California is not one of those states, we all need to be concerned about protecting every citizen's right to vote because election outcomes impact us all. The League challenges all efforts and tactics that threaten our democracy and limit the ability of voters to exercise their right to vote. Read here about the League's work: https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/fighting-voter-suppression

Eleanor Yick, (VP/Admin & Voter Services Director)

## Healthcare

### What is the Child Tax Credit and how can a family obtain it?

Families can get up to \$250 or \$300 per child up to 17 years of age.



In March 2021, the American Rescue Plan passed a historic one-year expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) that has the power to significantly boost income security, reduce child poverty, advance racial equity, and create a public investment for the good of all children. This temporary expansion is not perfect and is not permanent. We still need a permanent inclusive universal child allowance. Check this link to find out about the CTC expansion and how it can be obtained.

Most families with children qualify for the newly expanded CTC. Married Couples filing jointly making up to \$150,000, single Head of Households making up to \$112,500, and everyone else making up to \$75,000 will receive the monthly payment of the CTC from July 15 to December 2021. In a change from the current law, the expansion of the Child Tax Credit in the American Rescue Plan means that parents do not have to be employed to receive the benefit, and even families who have no income at all are eligible.

For more information, click on https://www.irs.gov/childtaxcredit2021

#### **HEALTH CARE AROUND THE WORLD** - Second in Series



primarily through the country's 13 provinces and territories which receive funds from the Canadian government on a per-capita basis. Benefits and delivery approaches vary with the province or territory. All citizens and permanent residents, however, are covered. There is no charge for a medically necessary physician or hospital services, no co-pays, no deductibles, no premiums. Outpatient prescription drugs, vision, and dental care are not covered. About 2/3 of Canadians have private insurance to cover these; and depending on income, dependency, etc., the provinces and territories provide some coverage. Most physicians are self-employed and are reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis. Fee schedules are negotiated with medical associations so may vary with the province or territory. Patients can choose their doctor. Long-term care, depending on the province or territory, varies both with cost and what is provided. The majority of elders stay at home or with relatives and receive in-home care.

For more information, go to <a href="https://www.elderguru.com/comparing-long-term-care-in-canada-and-the-united-states/">https://www.elderguru.com/comparing-long-term-care-in-canada-and-the-united-states/</a> and also <a href="https://hillnotes.ca/2020/10/22/long-term-care-homes-in-canada-how-are-they-funded-and-regulated/">https://hillnotes.ca/2020/10/22/long-term-care-in-canada-how-are-they-funded-and-regulated/</a>

For more information on the Canadian Health Care system in general, go to <a href="https://www.commonwealthfund.org/international-health-policy-center/countries/canada">https://www.commonwealthfund.org/international-health-policy-center/countries/canada</a>



#### CHINA by Barbara Lea

China pays about 6.6 percent of its GDP on health care, with access to both Western and Chinese medicine. One of the results of the one-child policy is that there is both a shortage of funds and young people to care for an aging population—especially with costly chronic illnesses and the problems of long-term care. The custom is to provide medical care at hospitals rather than in physicians' offices or small clinics, which makes the system very expensive to maintain. As in many countries, there is not enough medical care in rural areas. Not much is being done about needed mental health care which, along with other areas, has little innovation. But China provides access to health insurance for 1.4 billion people, serving more than one-sixth of the world's population; and 95% of its people have some form of health insurance.

For more information: <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Healthcare">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Healthcare</a> in China

Barbara Lea, Healthcare Director

# Natural Resources: Water 🕌

Feeling thirsty yet? The Bay Area received just 39% of its normal rainfall this season, with California and the Bay Area together having the driest rainy season ever. (Source).

The Department of Water Resources overestimated the snow water equivalent in April. (Source)

As a result, according to Jeffrey Mount (emeritus UCD professor and water expert at the nonprofit PPIC), reservoirs have been drained in order to serve the agricultural contractors of the Fed's Central Valley Project. "I'm not overly sympathetic to the statements that (say), 'We were surprised," Mount said. "The fact of the matter is we released a lot of water out of our reservoirs, particularly on the federal side, through April and May when ... not a lot was flowing in. And none of it was to support the environment. This was just to meet basically farm demand." (Source)

Drought has been called "the everything disaster" because vegetation dies, fire risk increases, wells, and reservoirs go dry, toxic algal blooms increase (killing pets and sickening people), and ecosystems collapse. (Source)

See next month's water article for some proposed solutions from a Stanford expert and LWVC-sponsored webinar.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources Director

## **Racial Justice Committee**

Late last year, as approved by our Board, a Racial Justice Committee was formed. Barbara Lea is chairing the committee along with members Wade Ellis, Nora Mason, Marian Schain and Eleanor Yick. The Committee is planning a fall Kick-off Meeting to introduce this year's theme of Racial Justice. The title of the event will be the Racial Justice Questions: (1) How do you define racial justice? And (2) What are we doing to solve racial problems? If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Barbara Lea at: barbara.lea@comcast.net

Barbara Lea, Racial Justice Director



# 2021 LWV CA Convention Highlights

The 68th Convention of the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) was held virtually from June 7 to June 13. There were discussions and workshops on topics such as criminal justice, climate change, water, housing and homelessness..etc. Please check out the <a href="LWVC Convention"><u>LWVC Convention</u></a> website to access the recordings of the workshops. Toolkits on criminal justice, housing, homelessness action, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are found within each workshop entry.

The main sessions were attended by 214 voting delegates representing 58 local Leagues, 3 inter-League organizations (ILOs), and the LWVC Board of Directors. LWV CA President Carol Moon Goldberg welcomed the delegates and guests to this first ever Virtual Convention of LWVC. Guest Speakers included Dr. Shirley Weber, California Secretary of State and Dr. Deborah Turner, LWVUS President.

### LWVC Program Approved for 2021-2023:

- Retained current positions
- Adopted Making Democracy Work in California, including Civic Education, as an issue for Education and Advocacy

- Adopted Housing and Homelessness as an Issue for Education and Advocacy
- Adopted Criminal Justice Reform as an Issue for Education and Advocacy.

## **Election of LWVC Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee Officers:**

- President: Carol Moon Goldberg (LWV Sacramento County)
- 1st Vice President: Tracey Edwards (LWV Cupertino/Sunnyvale)
- 2nd Vice President: Gloria Chun Hoo (LWV SJose/Santa Clara)
- Secretary: Caroline de Llamas (LWV East San Gabriel Valley)
- Treasurer: Frances Carrillo (LWV San Diego)

#### **LWVC Convention Awards Presented to Local Leagues:**

- We are the League of Women Voters LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley
- Next Gen Leader LWV San Diego
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion LWV Santa Monica
- Making Democracy Work LWV Oakland

#### Announced Awards to LWVC from the Public Relations Society of America:

- Silver Anvil Use of Micro-Influencers to Build Awareness
- Silver Anvil Multicultural Public Relations
- Bronze Anvil Tik/Tok Influencer Campaign
- Commendation Creative Tactics

# **Observer Reports**

## **Campbell City Council**

The City will provide a senior nutrition program for the Fiscal Year 2021-22, continuing a program with the County it has had since 1975.

The Council declared June LGBTQ Month, recognizing the valuable contributions of LGBTQ individuals across Campbell and reaffirming Campbell's commitment to standing in solidarity with LGBTQ persons in their ongoing struggle against discrimination and injustice.

An armored car rescue vehicle for the police department was included in the 2022 - 2026 Capital Improvement Plan.

Council authorized the City Manager to execute a one-year professional services agreement with HouseKeys, Inc., to serve as the City's Below-Market Rate Program Administrator.

Jackie Costanzo

## **Los Gatos City Council**

**Los Gatos General Plan-** The Draft 2040 General Plan strives to show the Town's commitment to environmental sustainability, community health, and social equity.

During the preparation of the Draft 2040 General Plan, the community requested that the General Plan address new topics, such as climate change and increased risk of wildfire; lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic; and justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

There is still time to share your thoughts regarding the Draft General Plan! Visit <a href="https://www.LosGatos2040.com">www.LosGatos2040.com</a> and find the following:

- Newsletter with Key Proposed Changes
- Draft General Plan
- June 29, 2021 Community Meeting Recording
- Comment Form

Some of the key proposed changes include:

- New Racial, Social and Environmental Justice Element;
- Increased housing opportunities for mixed use developments in commercial areas and missing middle housing in neighborhoods with design requirements;
- New Community Place Districts to provide move objective design standards and focus on community form for all development;
- Shift in focus of transportation policies to street design, connectivity, and mobility for all users (bicycles, pedestrians, vehicles, etc.) to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled;.
- New goals in the Environment and Sustainability Element; and
- Expanded policies to prepare for wildfire, climate change, and community health threats.

All community members are encouraged to be involved in the General Plan update process. Your input on the Draft Plan is important as the Town Council will consider potential revisions prior to adoption later this year. Your engagement helps the Town ensure that the General Plan continues to serve the needs of everyone that lives, does business in, or visits Los Gatos. The Draft 2040 General Plan can be accessed from the project website: <a href="https://www.losgatos2040.com">www.losgatos2040.com</a>.

Barbara Lea, Observers Director



# Board Bytes - June 2, 2021

- 1. The proposal to convert our League's tax status to 501c3, which the Board approved in May, will be brought to the Annual Meeting for member approval. If approved, next steps will be to file an application and make adjustments to the Articles of Incorporations and League By-laws.
- 2. The Board approved the formation of the Racial Justice Committee.
- 3. \$2,896.14 was received for the Education Fund, and \$1,091.91 was received for the General Fund in the Finance Drive.
- 4. A Legislative Update with Evan Low co-sponsored by Terraces Los Gatos and our League was held on May 21. The Brave Blue World water program was held on May 26. Both events were well attended.
- 5. The Chinese Pros and Cons project has been selected as a winner of the League of Women Voter Awards by the State Convention.
- 6. The Annual Meeting kit will be ready and sent out soon. Eleanor is in the process of inviting a speaker to the meeting.

Date: Saturday, August 14, 2021, 10 AM-11:30 PM

#### Registration link.

Come learn fact-based, unbiased information about the upcoming recall election.

Our Vice President of Program, Ann Ravel, will present an overview of the recall election, including how a petition can be filed and qualified for the ballot, some historical perspective, costs involved, and how the vote will be calculated. Shannon Bushey, Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters, will also show a sample ballot, explain the two questions on the ballot, and reinforce how you can submit your ballot.

#### Summer Social Event!! Afternoon Tea Time with the League

Date: Sunday, August 22, 2021, 3 PM-6 PM

Who should attend? LWV-SWSCV League members, friends and guests.

Registration is required: <a href="https://forms.gle/Mze45ZYX8bc7LCgs7">https://forms.gle/Mze45ZYX8bc7LCgs7</a>

Location: Outdoor venue near Saratoga. The address will be sent to those who registered.

Please come join us for an afternoon outdoor social event for league members and friends. To protect the privacy of the event host, please register by August 20; and the address of the event will be sent to you separately. Look forward to meeting many old and new friends of the League this summer!



The next Zoom Meeting of our League Political Book Club will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 21, to discuss **A Promised Land** by Barack Obama. Please contact Wade Ellis, <a href="mailto:wade25@sbcglobal.net">wade25@sbcglobal.net</a>, if you would like to join the group.

#### **Donate**

We rely on dues and donations to support our programs. Please consider making a donation to our local League of Women Voters general fund now. If you prefer to donate to our 501(c)3 tax-deductible account please indicate that.

League of Women Voters SWSCV Donation

## Join Us

Come to a LWV-SWSCV team meeting and learn about important issues affecting you and your community. You can make a difference! **Learn More About Our Work and Programs** on our Website!

#### LWV SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Check out events hosted by our sister leagues in Santa Clara County <a href="https://my.lwv.org/california/santa-clara-county/calendar">https://my.lwv.org/california/santa-clara-county/calendar</a>

#### THE BAY AREA MONITOR

Read the last issue of Bay Area League Monitor Magazine <a href="https://bayareamonitor.org/edition/june-july-2021/">https://bayareamonitor.org/edition/june-july-2021/</a>

#### **LWV CA UPDATES**

Upcoming events from LWV CA https://lwvc.org/events/upcoming

## LWV SWSCV BOARD & ELECTED OFFICIALS 2021

#### **EXECUTIVE TEAM**

President, Sophia Kao

Vice Pres/Admin, Eleanor Yick

Vice Pres/Program, Ann Ravel

Secretary, Frances Zhan

Co-Treas., David Lee & Helen Wang

#### **DIRECTORS**

Action/DEI, Qing Bai

County Council Co-Chairs, Tom &

Danice Picraux

Education Co-Chairs, J Reynolds-

Grabbe & Anna Song

Health Care, Barbara Lea

Housing/Transp., Liang Chao

IT/Public Relations, J Reynolds-

Grabbe

Membership, Aileen Kao

Natural Resources: Climate, Victoria

Zhang

Natural Resources: Water, Meg

Giberson

Observers, Barbara Lea

Racial Justice, Barbara Lea

Voter Editor, Rebecca Schwan

Voter's Edge, Lois Smallwood

Voters Service, Eleanor Yick

#### **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

#### National

President Joe Biden

www.whitehouse.gov

Senator Dianne Feinstein

www.feinstein.senate.gov

Senator Alex Padilla

https://alex-padilla.com

Rep. Anna Eshoo

https://eshoo.house.gov

#### California

Governor Gavin Newsom

http://gov.ca.gov

Senator Dave Cortese

http://sd15.senate.ca.gov

Assemblymember Evan Low

http://asmdc.org/members/a28

## County

Supv. Joe Simitian

supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org

Supv. Mike Wasserman

mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org

Supv. Susan Ellenberg

supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org









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