



Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

February, 2018

League of Women Voters

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In This Issue

President's Letter	2
Board Bytes	3
Bay Area League Day 2018	4
Book Club	4
City & Town Council Observers	5
Volunteer Email Blast	5
Bay Area Monitor	5
LWVC News	6
Great Decisions 2018	7
Meet Our New Members	7
Our League's Memory	7
Climate Action	8
LWVSWSCV Annual Finance Drive	8
Natural Resources: Water	9
LWVPA - Black in America	9
R.Y.D.E. Luncheon	9
LWVUS Statements	10
Business Supporters	11
Event Calendar	12

Our League's Finance Drive

February 1 – March 31 *Donate!*

Detail on page 8

Bay Area League Day 2018



**Saturday
Feb. 3,
2018**

**Laney
College
Oakland
9A.M. – 3P.M.**

Regional Government and the Winds of Change

\$35 w/Lunch

Details on page 4



President's Letter

Welcome to all of our new members. You have taken the first step by joining this all-volunteer grassroots organization. All members should have received by now a League survey from Eleanor Yick. Please check it out and send it back with your interests in participating in League activities. There is no space to fill in comments. You can write to me, Eleanor or to any Board member. We welcome your comments and involvement. We are all in the League to make a difference and make democracy real and strong.

I thank you all for your continuous contributions. 2018 is an election year, and your financial support makes our important work possible. The incomparable devotion of Leaguers to preserve our democracy and make it work is needed now more than ever. In few days you'll be receiving a finance drive letter from SWSCV League. Your generosity will expand our work through outreach, education and action.

Some of our members, including me, were able to join the Women's March this year in Downtown San Jose. It was an amazing feeling to see all different groups of humans advocating for unity and equality.

We had a great Program Planning Meeting on January 22 at Saratoga Federated Church. More than 27 members got together for four hours, focusing on issues and enjoying lunch together, to determine our responses to the LWVUS, the LWVBA, Santa Clara County Council and to set program goals for our League. Thanks

to Eleanor Yick for moderating a great meeting and Pat White for taking the notes. We also were very delighted to see five new members attending the Program Planning Meeting for the first time.

To the National League we recommended no new study or update or concurrence. Instead we recommended that LWVUS use its many positions to advocate on current positions. Of course, there are many leagues across the country that will have differing views! Our League will be discussing the implications of advancement of Artificial Intelligence that will be proposed by Palos Verdes League at the National Convention this year. More detailed information about the meeting will be published in the March Issue. Report is due into the national office by March 1, 2018.

On Saturday, February 3, some members will attend the Bay Area League Day at Laney College in Oakland. We're sending four delegates to this meeting that will cover the impact of regional government on local government and community. This topic will cover developing and implementing regional policies on land use, transportation, housing, environment and more. This is an important meeting

Continued on Next Page.

Welcome!

New Members

Lori Burns

Annette Grinager

Maria Ristow

We're so glad you have joined the League!

Two easy things new members can do for further participation:

1. Sign up for LWVC newsletters and action alerts, lwvc.org/stay-informed.
2. Like us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/LWVofCA.

2017-2018 Board of Directors

Officers & Directors

President, Hana Itani

Vice President, Barbara Lea

Secretary, Nancy Rucker

Treasurer, Danice Picraux

Action, Eleanor Yick

Education, Eleanor Yick

Finance Drive, Tom Picraux

Natural Resources, Meg Giberson

Observers, Raquel Durand

Programs, **TBD**

Public Relations, Gail Nishimura

Assistants:

Pat White & Nancy Rucker

Voter Editor, Cherri Nelson

Voters Service

Wendy Hendry, Sue Cooney

Nominating Committee

Chair, Pat White

Members

Sharon Graham, Gail Nishimura,
Lois Smallwood

Off-Board Chairs

Bay Area Representative, Patty Weber

Circulation, Natalie Heling

Clip 'n Come, Dale Hill

Database Manager, Zina Lou Dyer

Environment, Dave Yick

Great Decisions, Terry Zacccone

Health Care, Barbara Lea

Hospitality, Judy Zacccone

Immigration, **TBD**

Observers

Campbell: Jackie Costanzo

Los Gatos: Lynda Jandron

Monte Sereno: **TBD**

Saratoga: Raquel Durand

Youth Outreach, Wanda Alexander

Publications, Gail Pedersen

Voter's Edge, Tom Picraux

Voters Service

Pros & Cons, T. Zacccone, E. Yick

Voter Registration, Jackie Costanzo

Web Site

Cherri Nelson, Gail Nishimura

2016-2017 Elected Officials

United States

President Donald Trump
(202) 456-1414

www.whitehouse.gov

Senator Dianne Feinstein
(415) 393-0707

www.feinstein.senate.gov

Senator Kamala Harris
(415) 403-0100

<http://harris.senate.gov>

Rep. Anna Eshoo
(408) 245-2339

(650) 323-2984

<http://eshoo.house.gov>

California

Governor Jerry Brown
(916) 445-2841

<http://gov.ca.gov>

Senator Jim Beall, Jr.
(408) 558-1295

<http://sd15.senate.ca.gov>

Assembly Member Evan Low
(408) 446-2810

<http://asmcd.org/members/a28/>

Santa Clara County

Supervisor Joe Simitian
(408) 299-5050

supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org

Supervisor Mike Wasserman
(408) 299-5010

mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org

Supervisor Ken Yeager
(408) 299-5040

supervisor.yeager@bos.sccgov.org

SCC Registrar of Voters

Locate your elected officials by your street address:

<http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx>



Board Bytes

Meeting of Jan. 4, 2018

• **Treasurer:** Last month's expenses were slightly over income, but bank account still stable.

• **Women's March:** LWV supports this March. Gail Pedersen will be directed to send out an email blast to membership about participating in the March.

• **Legislative Interviews:** Details and participants were organized with several Board members volunteering.

• **Program Planning:** Food sign-up sheet was passed around. Organizer Eleanor Yick reported on changes in format with review of local, state and national goals along with a concurrence decision on a study by LWVLA on criminal justice.

• **Clip 'n Come:** Discussed a possible name change such as "News and Schmooz." An ideas list will be presented with a decision on change at the next Board meeting.

• **Bay Area League Day:** To be next month's program. A carpool was organized with a reminder to buy tickets to attend.

• **Great Decisions:** Terry Zaconne reported on a change in location for workbook pickup and will send an email to all participants with details of the change.



• **March Program:** A Fake News program will be the program for March 10 at the Saratoga Library. John McManus has agreed to be the speaker.

• **LWVUS Convention:** This event will be held in Chicago this year from June 18-July 1. President Itani, Eleanor Yick, and Gail Nishimura have agreed to be our League's delegates.

• **Finance Drive:** Danice and Tom Picraux, Eleanor Yick and Barbara Lea will work together on creation of a letter requesting donations. We will explore solicitation of donations from local companies such as Apple and Netflix.

The Board requested that Cherri and Gail include a donation button in the *Voter* and on our Facebook page.

• **Natural Resources:** Meg Giberson reported further on the Twin Tunnels project stating that the federal government is accepting bids for construction.

• **Voters Service:** Wendy Hendry would like some more printed Facts For Voters to have at events with Board approval.

• **Nominating Committee:** Chair Pat White proposed, with Board approval, to have the Vice President's position as an intern towards towards being President. Cherri Nelson, *Voter* Editor

President's Letter (Cont.)

for all members to attend. Our League will cover the cost of attending including lunch. If you are interested in attending, it is not too late to register on line: <http://lwvbayarea.org/2018-league-day-regional-governance>. Please let me know if you are interested in carpooling.

On Saturday, March 10, we will have our Fake News Program at Saratoga Library at 3 o'clock. I hope that you are planning to attend and bring a friend with you.

Each year members interview our California Legislators on issues of concern for League of Women Voters California (LWVC) as well as local issues. This is a joint effort with other Leagues. Then all reports from California Leagues will be due to the

State League by March 9, 2018. Thanks to all members who are volunteering to do the interviews. These informative interviews will be posted on our website as they are completed and printed in the April issue of the *Voter*.

Thank you again in advance for your consideration of making a contribution to fund the League's work in this critical election year.

This is an election year! **We need a Voter's Edge representative.** Tom Picraux is willing to train and support whoever can contribute their skills to this very needed position. Please contact Pat White.

Hana Itani, President LWVSWSCV
408-lwv-1842, hana.lwv@gmail.com.

Bay Area League Day 2018 – Winds of Change

The League of Women Voters Bay Area annual signature event's focus is Winds of Change: Impact of Regional Government on Local Government and Community. We will be exploring Bay Area Regional Governance—a topic which covers developing and implementing regional policies on land use, transportation, housing, environment, and more.

We will share an historical perspective on regionalism and League's role since the 1960s, as well as present panels introducing the most current thinking about forming new regional government in the Bay Area, and a regional roundtable with commissions, agencies, nonprofits serving the region. This topic has extremely broad implications—impacting many areas of interest to our Leagues from housing to resilience to changes in water, air quality and climate change.

Besides panel members listed, there will be representatives from BCDC, Bay Area Air Quality Management, Regional Water Quality Board, Working Partnerships USA, and more. You will experience a robust lineup of agencies, commissions, organizations, and nonprofits making a difference in the Bay Area speaking about the microclimate of regionalism, regional governance and today's "head winds and cross winds" in regional governance and policy.

Registration/check-in (with continental breakfast) is 9A.M. Lunch and refreshments are also provided and included in the **registration cost of \$35 in advance at the door or \$40 at the door. Send checks by mail to LWVBA, 436 14th Street #1213, Oakland, CA 94612, DEADLINE** is Saturday, January 27, 2018. Purchase tickets online at <http://lwvbayarea.org/2018-league-day-regional-governance>. Directions to the College as well as how to use public transportation are also provided on the above web site.

There is free parking available at the College on the 10th Street side adjacent to the Oakland Museum.

Saturday • February 3, 2018

9:00 – 9:30 A.M.

Registration • Networking • Breakfast

9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Panels • Roundtable Discussion

Laney College • Forum Classroom

900 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA

\$35 advance (with lunch) • \$40 at the door (with lunch)

You will hear from such speakers as:

Bob Wiecewski

California State Senator

Julie Pierce

ABAG President/Councilmember

Allison Brooks

Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC) Executive Director

Matt Regan

Bay Area Council Senior Vice President

Matt Vander Sluis

Greenbelt Alliance Deputy Director

Pedro Galvao

Regional Planning and Policy Manager

Panel I:

Cross Currents of Local Government, Community, Urban, and Regional Planning

Panel II:

Today's Microclimate and Head Winds: Micro-Climate of Regionalism, Regional Governance, and Today's Head Winds

Regional Roundtable

Regional Climate Forecast ~Today and Tomorrow

Free Parking

Let's Read • Let's Meet • Let's Talk A Political Book Club

The League of Women Voters' Book Club had a lively discussion on *Listen, Liberal* by Thomas Frank at its meeting last month. We extend an open invitation to members and non-members alike to join us at our next meeting scheduled for Monday, February 12, when we will be discussing *No is Not Enough* by Naomi Klein. The Book Club meets at Wesley

Manor at 1655 Winchester Blvd. at 7:00 P.M. on the second Monday of the month. For more information, contact Dan Hendry at wenhendry@comcast.net. Dan sends out a list of discussion questions prior to each meeting so make sure you are on his contact list.

Wendy Hendry, Coordinator

City & Town Council Observers

Campbell: January, 2018 – The Council spent time trying to understand and determine how the state's new housing package will affect Campbell in restricting its ability to deny or reduce density of housing developments. There would be penalties for cities if they deny housing projects improperly. The process that projects go through for city approval may also change, according to requirements in the new bills.

Campbell's General Plan update process, which began in May of 2016, will include neighborhood workshops from January to March about guidelines for future development. The workshops will focus on land use, housing, and transportation as well as other areas. The workshops will include interactive activities that provide residents with a chance

to identify key priorities, issues and challenges that should be addressed in the General Plan. The last update to the Plan was in 2001.

Jackie Costanzo, Observer

Los Gatos: January, 2018 – Town Council approved the proposed scope of a project to rehabilitate Bachman Park. A county grant will help fund the project.



The summer Sunday afternoon music concerts at civic center are without a sponsor or producer. The volunteer organization previously putting on the series has declined to continue operating them after not reaching an agreement with the Town.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

City & Town Councils

Members are encouraged to attend the Council meetings of the cities that our League serves.

Campbell City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays – 7:30P.M.

Los Gatos Town Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays – 7:00P.M.

Monte Sereno City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays – 7:00P.M.

Saratoga City Council

1st & 3rd Wednesday – 7:00P.M.

Saratoga: Cancelled Meeting–No Report
Raquel Durand, Observer Chair

League Volunteer Opportunities

Below are a few ways to participate and/or contribute to our League:

* **Board positions:** Program Chair, Immigration Director needed!

* **NextDoor.com,** Members to post our programs for their community. Contact Gail Nishimura.

* **Observers,** Attend the Monte Sereno Council Meetings. They can also be listened to on tape. Contact Raquel Durand at sra_durand@yahoo.com

* **Voter's Edge, Representative needed.** To learn more contact Pat White patwh.athome@gmail.com.

Volunteer Email Blast

We know there are lots of you within our League who are willing and able to lend a hand at various League activities. But maybe you aren't aware of the volunteer needs or didn't know enough about them to feel comfortable signing up.

Starting in mid-February, you'll receive an email blast from Gail Nishimura, describing the various volunteer opportunities. Conversely, the email blast is also an opportunity for recruiting help for your own LWV project, activity, or program. If you want to advertise your LWV volunteer needs, then please submit via email to gailnishimura@me.com, the following information:

- description of activity (i.e. staffing table at an event, registering voters, stuffing envelopes)

- time commitment (i.e. 30 minutes, 1 hour, full day ALSO, whether this is a regular activity such as once a week or a one-time thing)
- location of volunteer activity
- deadline for activity completion (activity takes place on x date or activity needs to be completed by x date)
- person to contact if interested (email address and/or phone number)

Please note that this email blast is meant solely to facilitate volunteers and not a guarantee that volunteer needs will be fulfilled—that responsibility still lies with the program/project lead.

Gail Nishimura, Public Relations



The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund publishes the *Bay Area Monitor* six times a year. The publication covers policies, plans, programs, and legislation that affect quality of life in the Bay Area and beyond. The *Monitor* is provided to readers for **free**, both in print and online (www.bayareamonitor.org). Subscribe to the Monitor; bayareamonitor.org/subscribe. Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/bayareamonitor.

Contact us for more information: (510) 839-1608 • editor@bayareamonitor.org



June 2018 Ballot Measures

The LWVC board took final positions on the measures scheduled for the June ballot. We'll have The League Recommends (a.k.a. Vote With the League) by early April. Meanwhile, here's a quick summary of the League position on each measure:

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund (ACA 1)

This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB of Cap-and-Trade allowances. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions. The LWVC opposes this measure.

Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes (ACA 5)

If passed, this measure would raise excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel, provides for regular increases to those taxes based on inflation, establishes a new fee on zero-emission vehicles, and raises vehicle registration fees. The new revenue from these taxes would be used for transportation-related purposes -- repairing streets and bridges, addressing deferred maintenance on highways and local roads, improving public transit, and investing in needed transportation infrastructure to benefit all Californians. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services, including safe roads and good public transportation. The LWVC supports this measure.

Effective Date of Initiatives (ACA 17)

Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While

most election results are clear shortly after election day, that is not always the case. This proposition would provide that an initiative would take effect 5 days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results. This is a common-sense measure, ensuring clarity about what is — and is not — California law. The LWVC supports this measure.

California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act (SB 5)

This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. The water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking and are a key part of our state response to climate change. The LWVC supports this measure.

Helen Hutchison, LWVC President

Think Before You Ink Before You Sign That Petition

The League of Women Voters of California encourages its members and the public to be cautious during this period of circulation of initiative and referendum petitions. Voters are often asked to sign a petition "just to get it on the ballot so people can vote on it." The League says to voters, "Your signature is valuable, perhaps even more valuable than your vote. Why? Because far fewer signatures are required to qualify a measure for the ballot than votes needed to pass it once it's on the ballot. Only sign a petition for an initiative or referendum that you believe belongs on the ballot."

The LWVC suggests six questions voters should ask themselves to help determine whether or not to sign an initiative petition: <http://archive.lwvc.org/lwvonly/docs/ask-before-you-sign.pdf>

Make It Fair Campaign – Prop 13

Californians deserve world-class schools and universities, quality healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and affordable homes. That is what our taxes should pay for. It's time to change how businesses are taxed in order to improve funding for our schools and local communities. The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 is the responsible, fair, and long overdue tax system to ensure California can thrive; now and in the future.

Read more here:

<https://lwvc.org/our-work/issues/government/make-it-fair-campaign>

Invitation to Our Members

LWVC Needs Volunteers with These Skills

Our League leader priority areas are:

- Newer members (under five years)
- Viewpoints and life experiences which are under-represented at the state level
- Advocacy
- Fundraising
- Finance

Volunteers can help out with a single task or event or sign on to something long term and work remotely or in person. We'll find the perfect fit for you and your members.

Great Decisions 2018

The Great Decisions daytime series will be held in the Arts and Crafts Room in the Joan Pisani Community Center across from the Saratoga Post Office. This is the same building the Fireside room is in, but toward the back.

The day sessions will be the first and third Thursdays of February, March, April, and May, from 1P.M. to 3P.M. The group will stay together for the discussions, no breakout sessions.

Evening sessions have been added this year. They will be on the same days from 7P.M. to 9P.M. They will meet at Wesley Manor, 1655 S. Winchester Boulevard, Campbell, near the intersection of Winchester and Hamilton.

A workbook from the Foreign Policy Association is used for these discussions. Go to fpa.org. Select the Great Decisions tab for more details on the program.

We are still accepting people who would like to join one of the groups. Those people will need to send me a check for \$48, the cost for a single person, made out to me, Terry Zaccone. I will order a book to be mailed directly to them. My address is 13046 Anza Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070. Be sure to include your address, phone number, and email.

The best way to reach me is via email. tzaccone@pacbell.net. I look forward to being with you while we solve the problems of the world.

Terry Zaccone, Organizer

Meet Our New Members

submitted by Barbara Lea, Vice President

Each month we plan to have a few biographies of our wonderful new members who have joined in 2017 and 2018. If you are a new member and have not yet sent in your short biography, please do so—or I will plague you with phone calls! Also those who have never had a bio published here are very welcome to tell us your story. Barbara Lea

Mary-Lynne Bernald

As the daughter of an Army Colonel, Mary-Lynne moved on average about every two years. Three years were spent in Germany, but the majority of her younger years were spent along the East Seaboard—with many summer vacations spent in Colorado, the home state of her parents.

She majored in Political Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder and spent the majority of her work experience in customer service for Ma Bell and Hewlett-Packard, but more of her life has been spent doing a wide variety

of community volunteer work. She is married to Gene Bernald, and they have two grown sons and two grandsons.

Mary-Lynne says, “I deeply appreciate the work the LWV does in educating the community and admire the members for their dedication.” Serving her own community on the Saratoga City Council brings Mary-Lynne great joy, and she feels that since she is incredibly fortunate to live in this place she now calls home, it is only right that she do what she can to contribute in return.



Cynthia Clark

Cynthia has been a Silicon Valley resident since the age of two, growing up in Saratoga and now living in Los Gatos with her husband Gil, who is also a new member of our League. Their son, Chris, is an Econ/Finance major at Cal Poly.

For the past three years, Cynthia has worked at Sustainable Silicon Valley (SSV), a local non-profit, where she is

the Water Director. At SSV she works with tech companies, cities, the County, the Water District and others to promote water recycling. She says that, as an avid scuba diver and hiker, she is passionate about water and the environment.

Cynthia joined the League to meet other women who want to make a difference in the community.

Our League's Memory & Long-Time Member

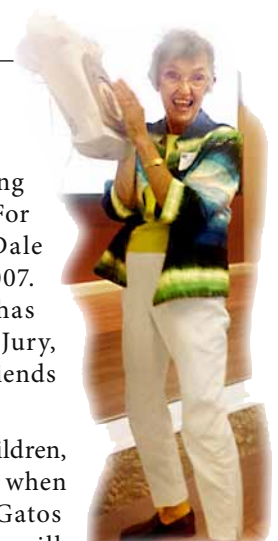
We are about to lose one of our most active members—Dale Hill. Dale, who is a native Californian, joined this League in 1966—which means that she has been active and participating in our League for over 50 years!

She has held a variety of League positions, including Management Training Vice President for the State Board. Locally, she served as President from 1971 to 1973 and as Treasurer for twelve years before becoming Administrative Vice President for several years.

It was also Dale who organized and shared some of her great cooking skills every month for our Clip 'n Come discussion group. And—most important—she was

always our “tribal memory,” remembering events which had escaped everyone else! For all her hard work and contributions, Dale received the first Helga Ruby Award in 2007. In addition to League activities, Dale has served on the Santa Clara County Grand Jury, the Los Gatos Library Board, and the Friends of the Library Board.

Dale, who has three sons and seven grandchildren, will be moving closer to family members when she leaves her long-time home in Los Gatos for Rossmoor in Walnut Creek. Dale, we will miss you!



Climate Action: the Battle Above

In a recent episode of the TV series *Madam Secretary*, the plot revolves around a decision by President Conrad Dalton (Keith Carradine) to do a preemptive strike and take out the Russian military satellite system with the real possibility of leading to a nuclear war... nuclear winter... the ultimate man-made climate change scenario. My interest was piqued because many years ago I had been a quality assurance engineer for the U.S. Air Force MilStar Program, the primary U.S. military communications satellite system.

I went down the Goggle rabbit hole and found a CBS 60 Minutes video dated 4/26/15 which, although somewhat dated, is certainly applicable to the current situation with North Korea:

"No one wants a war in space, but it's the job of a branch of the Air Force called Space Command to prepare for one. If you've never heard of Space Command, it's because most of what it does happens hundreds, even thousands, of miles above the Earth or deep inside highly secure command centers. You may be as surprised as we were to find out how the high-stakes game for control of space is played.

Gen. John Hyten, the head of Air Force Space Command: Space Command has 38,000 airmen at 134 locations around the world. One of their most visible

missions is to make sure U.S. satellites can always get into space from launch pads like this one at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

The U.S. has more satellites in space than any other nation—over 500 and counting. More than 30 military and civilian launches will take place this year at Space Command bases in Florida and California.

Some of those satellites provide the GPS signals that guide smart bombs now attacking ISIS targets in Iraq and Syria. But a lot of people don't realize those same GPS satellites provide the signals your smartphone uses to navigate. It's a service the Air Force provides free — not just here in the United States but to the entire world.

Col. Bill Cooley: This is a global utility. And there's a lot of people depending on this...

The U.S. has 31 active GPS satellites in space right now, and a lot more than smart bombs and smartphones depend on them. Bank ATMs, power grids, and cellphone towers use their signals. Farmers use GPS to work their fields.

The GPS satellite system the whole world relies on is operated out of this room at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado by Lt. Col. Todd Benson and his team. We were a little surprised by how many people it takes.

Lt. Col. Todd Benson: Eight personnel.

David Martin: For the entire world?

Lt. Col. Todd Benson: Yes, sir.

David Martin: So are these technological experts?

Lt. Col. Todd Benson: Yes, sir. But they're as young as 19 years old.

David Martin: Isn't there a minimum age for driving satellites?

Lt. Col. Todd Benson: Not here.

David Martin: This is a system the whole world depends on, costs a small fortune to put it up there, and it's a sitting duck.

Col. Bill Cooley: Well this is one of the challenges that in Space Command, that we're — we are very aware of.

David Martin: Is an attack on an American satellite an act of war?

Gen. John Hyten: That's been a line of debate for as long as I've been in this business.

David Martin: If there is an attempt to attack or interfere with a U.S. satellite, who makes the decision about what we do about it?

Gen. John Hyten: That would be the president of the United States."

To see the full video, go to www.cbsnews.com/video/the-battle-above.

Dave Yick, Environment

SWSCV League's Annual Finance Drive *Donate!*

February 1 – March 31

Last year generous contributions by you and voters like you made it possible to hold free educational forums, conduct a Local Election Finance Study, and lobby local city councils and school boards to adopt best practices for increasing transparency and public participation.

Your 2018 donations will enable us to continue our important work this election year:

- Local Candidate Forums

- Pros & Cons Presentations on Ballot Measures
- Voter's Edge Website
- Facts for Voters Publication

Please be on the look out for our finance drive letter, arriving the first week of February. You may also donate online right now at www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org.

Thank You For Any Support You Can Give!
Making Democracy Work®



Natural Resources: Water—At What Price

The San Jose Water Company (“SJWC,” local retailer for water from wholesaler Santa Clara Valley Water District, “SCVWD”) has initiated a series of rate increases. SJWC saw its proposed 3.65% increase for its Saratoga customers denied by the California Public Utilities Commission in May last year. However, a 1.51% rate increase for an upgrade project was recently approved. And new rate increases are on the horizon, including an increase in the base rate. SJWC defends its new rate increases as necessitated by the 9.6% rise in water rates charged to them by SCVWD, by lower water usage bringing lower revenues, and by the need to pay for a variety of infrastructure upgrades.

The average price of residential water in major U.S. cities has climbed 41% from 2010-2015, according to a Circle of Blue (CoB) 2015 analysis; price had increased by 6% between 2014 and 2015. www.circleofblue.org/2015/world/infographic-price-of-water-in-30-major-u-s-cities-2010-2015. CoB noted a 4% increase in water rates in 30 large U.S. cities in a mid-2017 study.

What about the local rate increases?

Rate increases—annual percent change for the monthly cost of water—for a hypothetical family of four in San Jose have varied. CoB compared increases for three categories of San Jose water customers (measured in gallons per capita per day, “GPCD”) for different years. Increases for the three use categories (50 GPCD, 100 GPCD, 150 GPCD) are listed below:

2013-2014: 8.0% across all categories;

2014-2015: 11.0% for 50 GPCD, 11.0% for 100 GPCD, 11.0% for 150 GPCD;

2015-2016: 27.8% for 50 GPCD, 26.4% for 100 GPCD, 21.6% for 150 GPCD;

2016-2017: 2.8% for 50 GPCD, 2.9% for 100 GPCD, and 2.9% for 150 GPCD.

In comparison, the average hypothetical U.S. family has seen increases for those same years at (CoB statistics):

2013-2014: 6.0% for 50 GPCD, 6.2% for 100 GPCD, 5.1% for 150 GPCD;

2014-2015: 5.2% for 50 GPCD; 6.0% for 100 GPCD, 7.4% for 150 GPCD;

2015-2016: 5.3% for 50 GPCD; 5.0% for 100 GPCD, 4.3% for 150 GPCD;

2016-2017: 4.6% for 50 GPCD; 4.0% for 100 GPCD, 4.0% for 150 GPCD.

What does that mean in dollars?

CoB lists the average cost per month for the hypothetical family of four in 2017 as:

San Jose:

\$46.98 @ 50 GPCD, \$81.46 @ 100 GPCD, \$115.94 @ 150 GPCD;

U.S. cities studied:

\$33.93 at 50 GPCD, \$68.14 @ 100 GPCD, \$108.82 for users of 150 GPCD.

These San Jose costs are 10-30% higher in dollar terms than the averaged U.S. cities’ ratepayers’ costs in 2017. By contrast, CoB rates San Francisco’s 2017 monthly costs for **the hypothetical family** at:

\$67.06 @ 50 GPCD, \$131.46 @ 100 GPCD, and \$195.86 @ 150 GPCD.

These SF costs are another 30-60% higher than San Jose’s. The whys and wherefores of rising water costs will be explored in future columns.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

LWV Palo Alto Invites You To Hear What It Means to Be Black & American Julie Lythcott-Haims

Tuesday • February 20 • 7–9P.M.

Palo Alto Art Center

1313 Newell Rd. Palo Alto, CA 94303

Join us for a special event with author Julie Lythcott-Haims. Julie is the former Dean of Freshmen at Stanford University and New York Times best-selling author of *How to Raise an Adult* and her most recent book, *Real American: A Memoir*. She’ll discuss the importance of a generous and wise community as a power to heal fractured race relations and what we can all do to make America a better place for everyone.

There is a champagne toast following to celebrate community engagement and LWVPA’s 80th anniversary. **Please RSVP by February 18** at lwvpaoffice@gmail.com or call 650-903-0600.

R.Y.D.E. Luncheon

Joe Simitian invites you to a free social luncheon to learn about R.Y.D.E. (Reach Your Destination Easily), affordable Curb to Curb transportation for Adults 55+. Adults over 55 in Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and Saratoga can use RYDE to visit friends, go to appointments and shop. Come meet RYDE clients and drivers and learn about a new way to get around town.

Discounts of up to 90% off standard fees are available based on income.

Saratoga Senior Center, Wednesdays February 21 & March 21st at 11:30A.M.

Please R.S.V.P. to (408) 868-1257.

LWVUS Statements

President's Discriminatory Comment

January 12 – We are appalled and disgusted by President Trump's racist statement made during a bipartisan meeting about immigration yesterday. Language and ideals like this have no place in our society, and certainly not in our White House.

This administration has done little but implement policies that endorse discrimination against immigrants and communities of color. As a country of immigrants, we are made stronger by

our diversity, and that we have crude and bigoted slurs emerging from the Oval Office is shameful.

This, now denied, comment from President Trump occurred during a meeting around a bipartisan compromise to extend protections on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA); a policy the administration called an end for last year. The League of Women Voters urges our leaders to pass a clean DREAM Act to protect, not turn away, the 800,000

young people who were brought to the United States as children. We support the Dreamers, who are Americans in everything but the name.

We can and we must do better to be vigilant about speaking out against racism. We must stand up as a nation and say this is unacceptable.

Stand with the League of Women Voters and contact your Senators and Representatives.

Take action now.



Shut-down of the 'Election Integrity' Commission

1/3/2018 – League of Women Voters president, Chris Carson issued the following statement in response to President Trump's Executive Order terminating his 'election integrity' commission.

"Today voters win. We are pleased that the Trump Administration has at last

dissolved their discredited 'election integrity' commission.

"As has been said time and time again, the purpose of this effort was to justify President Trump's false claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2016 elections. This travesty of a commission was nothing more than a tactic of voter suppression

and an unnecessary distraction from legitimate threats to our democracy.

"It is now time for our leaders to focus on the the very real work of securing our elections against foreign interference, while making sure all eligible voters are free to exercise their right to vote."

Both Letters by LWVUS President,

Join the League of Women Voters or Give a Gift of Membership

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Membership year is from July 1 to June 30. Members joining after January 1 shall pay one-half the annual dues amount. Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: County, Bay Area, State, and National. Financial assistance is available; please address questions regarding membership to at barbara.lea@comcast.net or call 408-354-2287.

Support LWV SWSCV Supporters!

We appreciate the support of the following businesses and business professionals!
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95070

**Curtis L.
Pontynen**
DDS

408.252.4570

❧ Event Calendar ❧

- Feb 1 Thu **Great Decisions, PAX Americana,**
Day Session 1:00P.M. – 3:00P.M. Joan Pisani Community Center
Eve Session 7:00P.M. – 9:00P.M. Wesley Manor
- Feb 3 Sat **Bay Area League Day, 9:00A.M. – 3:00P.M.**
Laney College, 900 Fallon Street, Oakland
- Feb 7 Wed **Board Meeting, 10:00A.M.** Saratoga Fire Station
- Feb 8 Thu **Clip ‘n Come, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share**
Home of Pat White, 1754 Glen Una Ave., San Josse
Call (408) 265-7121 • **Please let hostess know you will be coming.**
- Feb 12 Sat **Political Book Club, 7:00P.M.** Book - *No Is Not Enough*
Wesley Manorm 1655 Winchester Blvd., Campbell
- Feb 15 Thu **Great Decisions, Russia’s Foreign Policy**
Day Session 1:00P.M. – 3:00P.M. Joan Pisani Community Center
Eve Session 7:00P.M. – 9:00P.M. Wesley Manor

❧ Save the Date ❧

- Mat 10 Sat **Fake News, Dr. John McManus, 3P.M.** Saratoga Library

Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

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Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters is a diversified, nonpartisan political group of women and men, influencing public policy through education and advocacy and encouraging informed and active participation in government.