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Program Planning Sign Up

- **Upcoming Local Events** Silicon Valley Reads 2021 All Member: Program Planning Monthly Board Meeting Good Urban Water Management
- Thursday, January 28, at 6:30 PM Saturday, January 30, at 10:00 AM Wednesday, February 3, at 10:00 AM Monday, February 8, 2021 at 9:00 AM

President's Letter

Clip n Come Meeting (Meeting Link)

Political Book Club

100th League Anniversary

Dear League Members, with speed and urgency, for we have much to do in this winter of peril and possibility......Much to repair. Much to restore. Much to heal. And much to build." Close to the end of his speech, he quoted from one of his favorite songs, "American Anthem."

January 20, 2021! A day of inspiration and joy not marred by a feared unrest. A day that celebrated our diversity and promised healing. As President Joe Biden said in his inaugural speech: "This is America's Day. This is democracy's day. A day of history and hope. Of renewal and resolve..... The will of the people has been heard and the will of the people has been heeded.... We will press forward

Thursday, February 11, at 1:30 PM

Tuesday, February 16, at 7:00 PM

Sunday, April 25, 2021, at 5:00 PM

Eleanor Yick, President

"The work and prayers of centuries have brought us to this day What shall be our legacy? What will our children say?... Let me know in my heart When my days are through America America I gave my best to you." And, then, the very dramatic and expressive Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman, captured in beautiful words, phrasing and rhythm images both dire and triumphant as she called out to the world "even as we grieved, we grew." With urgency she began by asking, "Where can we

find light/In this never-ending shade?" Even the poem's title, "The Hill We Climb," suggested both labor and transcendence. As commented on by another poet, "In the tradition of Sojourner/Tubman/Parker/Jordan/Lorde/Angelou/She rose to the occasion/lifted the ragged spirits of the jaded masses/in the true tradition of poetry/she used words to draw a clear map towards a much needed sunrise." Other lines that communicated profound thoughts to reflect on were: "But one thing is certain: If we merge mercy with might/ and might with right/then love becomes our legacy/and change our children's birthright..... When day comes we step out of the

only we're brave enough to see it/If only we're brave enough to be it."

The Work & Mission of Dr. Martin Luther King

And, perhaps, the most monumental achievement off all, coming shortly after celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the election of the first African-American, Southeast Asian woman, Vice President Kamala Harris was celebrated. Ironic to me was that this finally happened 100 years after our League of Woman Voters fought for and obtained for women their right to vote. Our work was so important 100 years ago and continues to be so today. All our efforts to get out the vote and provide voters with information so they are better informed voters, makes a big difference! There were 863,964 ballots cast in Santa Clara County in the November 3, 2020 election, representing 84.76% of registered voters. All our efforts as a League definitely helped make that happen!!

shade/aflame and unafraid/The new dawn blooms as we free it/For there is always light/if

The Silicon Valley Pain Index created by the Human Rights Institute at San Jose University has put together an infographic that highlights many of these inequities. This infographic shows very sobering statistics about our society – and should be a wake-up call to all of us on our role and responsibilities. You can view it here. **Our Member Directory**

Since the decision was make two years ago to cease publishing a hard copy of the Member

Directory, our current Membership Directory has now been posted to our google drive.

The MLK Day holiday is an opportunity to reflect on the work

and mission of Dr. King and how much of it remains unfinished

the pandemic has exposed the dramatic inequities in Silicon

Valley that have existed hidden in plain sight for decades.

today. This has become especially apparent over the last year as

PROTECT AND BUILD

What Is President Biden's Health Care Plan?

For complete article, click here.

Barbara Lea, Healthcare

Sereno

Saratoga

Campbell

Los Gatos

water supplier SJWC.

in the next section.

Jackie Constanza

Lynda Jandron

Monte Sereno City Council

Los Gatos Town Council

147

2023-31 RHNA numbers (for the 7th HE cycle)

VERY

LOW

1,017

despite a 1% increase in population over that period.

523

INCOME (<50% of

LOW

AMI)

585

301

INCOME

(50-80% of

Members can access this document by <u>clicking here</u>.

Some are calling the new administration's health care plan

Affordable Care Act 2.0. President Biden has proposed adding a "Medicare-like" public option that would enable consumers to choose their own private insurance. This "plan serves as a transitional piece of legislation that could pave the path to a Medicare-for-All single payer system in the future." Included in the plan are the individual mandate, lower prescription drug pricing, insurance for undocumented immigrants, and paying no more than 8.5 percent of income for insurance.

General Plan. One element in those General Plans relates to HOUSING: housing policies, state mandates and Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The RHNA allocations will have an impact on these plans, and local citizens should be aware of decisions that are being proposed and made. In order to meet the housing demands, since 1969 each city is required to adopt an Housing

Element (HE) to identify enough sites and adopt policies to accommodate the projected

growth in population. The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

HE identified enough sites with enough capacity to accommodate the RHNA numbers.

However, a few state bills, starting from SB 35 in 2017, have changed the process to make a

determination on compliance based on the number of units "permitted" (not just approved)

out of the allocated RHNA number. When a city does not deliver the prorated housing units,

Due to market conditions, if developers do not submit housing projects or developers do not

pull permits on already approved housing projects, a city would fall short on its delivery of

Due to a change in the forecast model, the 2023-31 RHNA numbers allocated to each city

have doubled, tripled or quadrupled as seen below. The main goal of RHNA is to provide for

HCD determines that the city is "noncompliant." Then, more stringent state bills apply to

allow projects to be streamlined without discretionary approval by the local city council.

determines whether the HE is compliant with the state requirements. Since Housing Element

is a part of the General Plan, the General Plan might be amended as appropriate to upzone or

Each one of the cities in our League's coverage area is currently in the process of updating its

Housing Report and Local Cities' General Plans

rezone sites. Every 8 years a new HE cycle starts. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) creates a growth forecast for the 9-county region and then creates Regional Housing Needs Assessment, which assesses the number of housing units each city should plan for in its Housing Element. We are in the sixth HE cycle, which started in January 2015. Since the Housing Element is a planning document, HCD used to only determine whether the

units even though it had done its part to identify sufficient sites for HE.

below-market-rate housing needs. However, without sufficient funding, the cities have been over-built with luxury units and still cannot provide sufficient below-market-rate housing. 2015-2023 RHNA numbers (for the 6th HE cycle) **VERY LOW** LOW MODERATE ABOVE Total **MODERATE** INCOME INCOME INCOME (50-80% of (80-120% of INCOME (<50% of ÀMI) ÀMI) (>120% of AMI) ÀMI) 253 151 391 933 138 Campbell 201 Los Gatos 619 112 132 174 23 Monte 13 13 12 61

104

MODERAT

E INCOME

(80-120%

of AMI)

311

93

ABOVE

AMI)

1,703

804

MODERATE

INCOME

(>120% of

439

Total

3,964

1,939

	Monte Sereno	51	30	31	80	192		
	Saratoga	556	321	341	882	2100	8	
	AMI = Area Median Income							
All Bay Area cities would need to adopt their next HE cycle (2023-2031) by January 31, 2023. Thus, many cities are starting now in order to complete the General Plan Amendment by the end of 2022.								
L	Liang Chao, Director							
Sustainable Water Projects Could Save Billions								
(Californians' water demand has consistently been over-estimated for years. A Pacific							

Institute study shows that for local retailer San Jose Water Company (SJWC), total water

demand actually decreased by 30% between 2000 and 2015, as shown in the following table,

- 2010 UWMP

250,000 200,000 150,000 100,000 50,000

2010 2020 2030 2040 2000

— 2005 UWMP

San Jose Water Company

Why does this matter? It matters because water projects are developed with future demand in mind. In the belief that demand will increase, water retailers (such as SJWC) and water wholesalers (like Santa Clara Valley Water District, SCVWD) are inclined to approve of large infrastructure projects that may not be needed in the foreseeable future.

Every five years, agencies must prepare Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs), looking

infrastructure projects may not be needed. A new Pacheco Dam (cost \$2.5 billion or more)

and the Delta tunnel (\$15.9 billion or more) may be among such projects. Rather than water

infrastructure based on unrealistic projections for water demand that overburden the public

fulfill our needs while creating good-paying local jobs. Increasing imported water rates could

Join the League on February 8 for an Urban Water Demand discussion--details can be found

with debt, local projects that utilize locally-available supplies (rainwater, stormwater) can

to issues such as water source reliability and use of recycled water. UWMPs are to be

submitted to the state by July 1 this year. With decreasing demand, several large

also make local water supply projects even more cost-competitive in the future.

Actual and projected demand trend, in acre-feet. Source: Pacific Institute, based on data provided in UWMPs submitted to DWR by

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources **Observer Reports Campbell City Council** January 2021 - One new Councilmember, Sergio Lopez, was installed following the November election, and our new Mayor is Liz Gibbons. Regarding the General Plan and the Zoning Code, a Planner reports that there are many inconsistencies between the present General Plan and the Zoning Code in terms of density. He stated that once the General Plan

Update is adopted, the department will work to make sure Land Use designations comply with

Zoning. Work continues on design for Measure O projects—Police Operations Building and

January 22, 2021 - Council members voted to continue previously enacted measures which

support businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic. These include rent forgiveness for town-

pandemic restrictions. They also passed measures to further encourage businesses to erect

January 5, 2021 - The Monte Sereno City Council met and discussed RHNA recommendations

Members objected to this increase and will draft letter to ABAG requesting reconsideration.

owned properties and business license forgiveness for those unable to operate due to

which called for an increase from 60 to 140 - 190 units for the next general plan cycle.

semi-permanent parklets which will be used even after pandemic restrictions ease.

Library Facility Improvements—with construction presently scheduled to begin in the

summer of 2022 and be completed by early 2024.

Alan Giberson Saratoga City Council December 2, 2020 - The Saratoga City Council accepted the General Plan 2040 update schedule for alignment with housing element as recommended by the Planning Commission The allocation was raised from 439 to 2100 units for the next cycle. Draft Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) comparison for housing units by categories: very low 147 to 556, low 95 to 321, moderate 104 to 341 and above moderate 93 to 341. The City Council will discuss this issue further during 2021 with finalization by year end. Alan Giberson

Our Natural Resources Director, Meg Giberson, suggests that our members might be

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021 @9:00AM

Interested in Good Urban Water Management?

The League of Women Voters of California Water Committee

Invites You to Attend a Webinar

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Since the 1980s, communities across California have experienced significant reductions in per

capita water demand. In many areas, these reductions have been substantial enough to offset

population growth, such that total water demand has declined. Unfortunately, long-range

interested in attending this webinar event on Good Urban Water Management.

Monday, February 8, 2020 Featuring a Presentation by Heather Cooley, Pacific Institute Forecasting Urban Water Demand in California

To RSVP click here.

League Articles

LWVUS ALERTS

LWVC ALERTS

<u>More</u>

Support the Racial Justice Act for All, AB 256.

forecasts have been slow to keep pace with these trends.

adverse environmental impacts and affordability concerns.

Date: April 25, 2021, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (postponed from Spring 2020)

COVID-19 has really affected this event! As we want this to be an in-person grand

You are invited to join members and friends from all of the Leagues of Women Voters

celebration, we have now postponed it until 2021 with great hopes. Please note that this is

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the League

70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Chambers

a NEW date for this celebration event! Register here.

In the Know: How Impeachment & the 25th Amendment Work

impeachment. These processes are part of our constitutional checks

Upcoming League Events

Interested in Good Urban Water Management?

In this webinar, Heather Cooley, Pacific Institute's Director of Research, will describe new research on urban water use trends and demand forecasting in California. She also will highlight state policies affecting future urban water use and provide practical guidance for evaluating these forecasts to ensure they account for new and emerging trends and minimize

of Santa Clara County in a festive celebration of the League's 100th Anniversary. The evening will also celebrate the San Jose/Santa Clara's League's 75th Anniversary. Supervisor Cindy Chavez will host this informative event which will include guest speakers who will be sharing the important work the County Leagues have accomplished over the years. Beverages and a light dinner will be served.

and that if impeachment or the 25th amendment is pursued that it is the best course of action... Read More THE BAY AREA MONITOR Monitor Weekly Notes: Inauguration, Community Forum, Wildfire Planning, MTC Surveys, and Water Debt

Last year when we passed the Racial Justice Act, we vowed to come back to make the bill

retroactive. We are excited to honor Dr. King's legacy today with RJA4All to extend equal

the Racial Justice Act in 2020 was a HUGE step forward, but our work is not done... Read

justice under the law for ALL Black & Brown people impacted by racism in the courts. Passing

and balances and were intentionally created to be a difficult bar to overcome. The Founders

established a set of checks and balances to ensure the health and stability of our democracy,

Due to current events, people are raising questions about the 25th amendment and

Board Bytes - January 6, 2021

the co-Chairs of Education.

"Racial Justice in Healthcare."

Google Drive. 4. Rebecca Schwan has started as the new Voter Editor and the new format of the Voter has been well received. 5. The Board will ask our mayors to sign a proclamation by a coalition of American mayors to support Medicare for All. The Board will also ask the County Council to approach the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to publish a proclamation declaring racism as a

2. Julie Reynolds-Grabbe and Anna Song, two veteran educators, have agreed to serve as

3. Google Drive has been identified as the top candidate to replace Member Planet as the

public health crisis, although the name of the project is changed from "Anti-Racist" to

membership management tool. We will continue to use Member Planet while trying out

1. The December Treasurer's Report was discussed and accepted.

6. Since housing is a major issue in our area and all local cities are in the process of updating their general plans, Eleanor wants our observers to focus their attention on this topic to keep ourselves updated on changes of local housing policies. 7. The Program Planning meeting date is set for January 30, 2021. 8. The planning for this year's Finance Drive is under way. 9. Based on the member survey results, we plan to do four programs, one in each month, starting from February. The first program will be on Online Resources. Systematic

participate, please contact the host, Wade Ellis, at wade25@sbcglobal.net for the URL link to the zoom meeting. **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.

ELECTED OFFICIALS EXECUTIVE TEAM National President, Eleanor Yick President Joe Biden www.whitehouse.gov Vice Pres/Program, Open Senator Dianne Feinstein

Secretary, Victoria Zhang www.feinstein.senate.gov Senator Alex Padilla Treasurer, Helen Wang https://alex-padilla.com **DIRECTORS** Rep. Anna Eshoo Action, Open

League of Women Voters SWSCV Donation

Education Co-Chairs, J Reynolds-Grabbe & Anna Song Health Care, Barbara Lea

County

Supv. Joe Simitian

Supv. Mike Wasserman

Supv. Susan Ellenberg

http://sd15.senate.ca.gov

Assemblymember Evan Low

http://asmdc.org/members/a28

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Racism, BLM, Judicial Selection Process, and Water are candidates for the following programs. 10. The League currently has 104 members, with two open Board positions: Vice President and Action Chair.

POLITICAL BOOK CLUB The next Political Book Club Discussion is Tuesday, February 16, at 7:00 PM. If you wish to

LWV SWSCV BOARD & ELECTED OFFICIALS 2020-21

https://eshoo.house.gov California County Council Co-Chairs, Governor Gavin Newsom Tom & Danice Picraux http://gov.ca.gov Senator Dave Cortese

Housing/Transp., Liang Chao IT/Public Relations, Sophia Kao Membership, Aileen Kao Natural Resources, Meg Giberson Observers, Barbara Lea Voter Editor, Rebecca Schwan

Voter's Edge, Tom Picraux

Voters Service, Eleanor Yick

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