



# Voter

## of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

May, 2017

### League of Women Voters

LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley

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YOU ARE INVITED TO

# THE ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday • May 30 • 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

SPEAKER

## Ann Ravel



Fellow at New America

Former Federal Elections Commissioner

## THE STATE OF OUR DEMOCRACY

### The Terraces

800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos

See page 4 for more details!



## President's Letter

May is the time for wrapping up the League year. We are organizing files and gathering materials for the Annual Meeting Kit, which is quite impressive. We have accomplished many things this past year thanks to the hard work of our volunteer Leaguers. Also we have seen a noticeable increase in membership, and I am delighted to see our new members volunteering to help in any way possible. The Nominating Committee has done a great job to finalize its mission. But there is still time to put your name in for nomination. If you want to take a more active part in supporting the League's work, call Pat White at 408-265-7121, and let her know what you are willing to do.

Be sure to mark your calendar on Tuesday, May 30, for our Annual Meeting. This year it will be at the Terraces in Los Gatos. Along with the business meeting, we have invited Ann Ravel, a former Democratic Chair of the Federal Elections Commission, to be the guest speaker. This Commission is an independent regulatory agency created by Congress to administer and enforce campaign finance law. Ann has an impressive political career, and she will be providing interesting information about our government. Her talk should be of great interest to your friends and the public. They are welcome to attend after the business meeting for lunch at 12:00 noon (\$20 fee) or to listen to our speaker at 12:40 P.M., but they have to make reservations. Terraces' residents will be invited to join us at 12:40.

Do you wonder how the League makes decisions and conducts its business? As a grassroots organization, policy and

financial decisions are made by members or delegates representing local League members at annual meetings, conventions, and councils.

At the local level, members gather at their League's Annual Meeting where they elect board members, adopt a budget, ratify positions and amend bylaws. YOU will also be able to voice your opinion at our League Annual Meeting. Expect to receive the Annual Meeting Kit around the middle of May.

The Regional, State, and National Leagues hold conventions and councils to conduct the same activities. These conventions are held every other year. State conventions are held in odd numbered years and national and regional conventions are held in even numbered years. So this year 2017, we are having the State convention in Sacramento from June 1-4. Barbara Lea and I will be going a day earlier to attend Lobby Day in Sacramento. And next year, in June 2018, a National Convention will be taking place in Chicago. Councils are held in the years that are not a convention. Local League Boards select delegates to send to conventions. The number of delegates is proportional to League membership. This year we have four delegates: Barbara Lea, Tom Picraux, Danice Picraux and I are attending the State Convention and also we'll be having two other members from our League volunteering help. We look forward to bringing back new ideas on how we can keep democracy working in our area.

Recently we had an outstanding Program on April 19 about the 19th Amendment and the ERA. The speaker was Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, California District 18. Thanks to the Program Leader Meg Giberson and to all the other volunteers, the event was a great success. It took place at the historical San Jose Women's Clubhouse Building, and we filled the rooms to capacity.

The 19th Amendment, affirming women's right to vote, was ratified in 1920 by Congress. After that, suffragist leader Alice Paul introduced the ERA in 1923 as the next step in bringing "equal justice under law" to all citizens. And, in 1972, the ERA was finally passed

*Continued on Next Page.*

## 2016-2017 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

Membership

Sharon Graham

Natural Resources, Meg Giberson

Observers, Raquel Durand

Programs, Sue Cooney

Public Relations, Eileen Barnes

Assistant, Nancy Rucker

Voter Editor, Cherri Nelson

Voters Service

Kathy Murtfeldt, Wendy Hendry

### Nominating Committee

Chair, Pat White

Members

Lois Smallwood, Wanda Alexander,

Gail Nishimura, Eileen Barnes

### 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, Patty Weber

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 Pages

Cherri Nelson, Barbara Lea

## 2016-2017 Elected Officials

### United States

President Donald Trump  
(202) 456-1414

[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
(415) 393-0707

[www.feinstein.senate.gov](http://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](mailto:supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org)

Supervisor Mike Wasserman  
(408) 299-5010

[mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org)

Supervisor Ken Yeager  
(408) 299-5040

[supervisor.yeager@bos.sccgov.org](mailto: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 April 5, 2017

### Treasurer's Report:

Expenditures have increased with our biggest expense last month being the Sunshine Luncheon and Voter's Edge contribution.

**Nominating Committee:** The Board heard from Gail Nishimura's report. Pat White and her group have done very well.

**Annual Budget:** Eleanor gave the Board her draft which depends on \$800 income from advertising. Board members were encouraged to bring in at least one ad.

**Ed Fund:** The Board agreed with Tom Picraux to separate the Fund from LWVUS.

**Programs:** Finalized organizational details for Representative Anna Eshoo's talk on the ERA on April 19. Meg Giberson asked for names of attendees upon the Congresswoman's request for security puposes.

Our League is going to have a table presence for the Northern California Junior State of America convention at Marriot's in Santa Clara April 22. Several



volunteered from the Board. We will hand out the new brochures.

Plans were discussed for showing the movie on the 14th Amendment for Chinese History Month. The 14th is very clear that it protects all residents, not just citizens, with fair treatment under the law.

Suggestions for several speakers for the Annual Meeting were offered and discussed.

**Membership:** Sharon Graham and Barbara Lea reported a total of 15 new members so far this year. They've also organized another meeting at Ann Roberts to welcome these new members to the League.

**Public Relations:** Eileen Barnes has been researching Meetup as a possible tool for promotion. Cherri Nelson agreed to also explore this source.

**Voter/Social Media:** We acquired two new business card donations.

**Special Elections:** Observers were requested for the Campbell election April 25. Board denied the request for a Pros & Cons for Campbell's three measures.

Nancy Rucker, Secretary

## President's Letter (Cont.)

by Congress and sent to the states for ratification. It has never become a Constitutional reality during the past 40 years. There are efforts to revive this process that has already produced 35 of the necessary 38 states needed to complete the ratification process.

I want to thank our members Wanda Alexander, Cherri Nelson, Gail Nishimura and Nancy Rucker for volunteering on Saturday, April 22. They represented our League at the Northern California Spring State Convention Political Faire

of Junior State of America (JSA) at the Marriott in Santa Clara.

Please join us at the Annual Meeting to participate in making important decisions, enjoying a wonderful lunch, networking with your fellow League members and—yes—bring questions with you for Ms. Ravel. WE NEED YOUR HELP to accomplish our many worthwhile objectives. I am looking forward to seeing you as we prepare for another successful year ahead.

Hana Itani, President LWVSWSCV  
408-lwv-1842, [hana.lwv@gmail.com](mailto:hana.lwv@gmail.com).

*"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."*

Nelson Mandella

## LWVSWSCV 2017 Annual Meeting

**You are cordially invited to the  
2017 Annual Meeting  
Tuesday • May 30  
10:00A.M. to 2:00P.M.  
The Terraces**

800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos

This meeting is a yearly full-membership participation event, our League's convention. The Terraces are next to King's Court Shopping Center, off Blossom Hill Road. We will begin the meeting by socializing in the Galleria where Danish and coffee will be served from 10:00A.M. to 10:30A.M.

The main purpose of the Annual Meeting is to report on the year's activities; adopt

the League's proposed budget; elect the proposed new board members, officers and directors for the coming year; and make any possible changes to our League's by-laws. Goals that were recommended from our February Program Planning meeting will also be discussed, and members will be asked to give further direction to the new Board for the coming year.

**Be sure to attend this important meeting—especially if you are a new member—to learn more of what the League is all about.** Fortunately, there is extra parking in the rear of the building. After the business meeting, a luncheon will be served at noon. You will have your choice of three delicious salads

**Please R.S.V.P. by May 24** by sending your **\$20 check made out to LWV-SWSCV to Dale Hill at 150 Robin Way, Los Gatos, 95032.** On the check, **please put your choice of one of the following salads.** The price includes coffee, tea, and wonderful brownies for dessert.

**Asian Chicken Salad  
Shrimp Louis  
Vegetarian Cobb Salad**

Or you may prefer to use an electronic payment, which is explained on our webpage at [www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org/join.html](http://www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org/join.html). Call Hana Itani with any questions at (408) 598-1842.

### 🌀 Guest Speaker Biography 🌀

Our guest speaker for this year's Annual Meeting will be Ann Ravel speaking on **The State of Our Democracy!** A Los Gatos resident, she is currently a Fellow, focusing on civic engagement, at the think tank New America, [www.newamerica.org](http://www.newamerica.org). She recently resigned as Chair of the Federal Elections Commission

When resigning from the Commission in February, Ms. Ravel made the following statement in a report condemning the "dysfunction and deadlock" of the agency she chaired. "While the FEC's employees strive to fulfill its mission, the Commission itself—made up of six Commissioners—is not performing its duty," Ravel wrote. "A bloc of three Commissioners routinely thwarts, obstructs, and delays action on the very campaign finance laws its members were appointed to administer."

Ms. Ravel was nominated to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) by President Barack Obama in June of 2013. She served as Chair of the Commission for 2015 and Vice Chair for 2014 before leaving this year. Previously she served as Chair of the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), to which Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., appointed her.

At the FPPC, Ms. Ravel oversaw the regulation of campaign finance, lobbyist

registration and reporting, and ethics and conflicts of interest related to officeholders and public employees. Before joining the FPPC, she served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Torts and Consumer Litigation in the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice. Ms. Ravel



also worked as an attorney in the Santa Clara County Counsel's Office, ultimately serving as the appointed County Counsel from 1998 until 2009. She represented the County and its elected officials, provided advice on the state Political Reform Act, and initiated groundbreaking programs in elder abuse litigation, educational rights, and consumer litigation on behalf of the Santa Clara County government and the community.

Ms. Ravel has served as an elected Governor on the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California, a member of the Judicial Council of the State of California, and Chair of the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation. In 2014, she was named a California Attorney of the Year by California Lawyer magazine for her work in Government law; and in 2007, the State Bar of California named Ms. Ravel Public Attorney of the Year for her contributions to public service.

Ms. Ravel was the keynote speaker at the LWV California Convention in 2013 held in San Jose. As then Chair of the FPPC, she interestingly spoke to the audience on the ethics and conflicts of a recent election—in particular her pursuit of the financial backers in opposition to a genetically modified organism food-labeling proposition.

Ms. Ravel received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and her J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. Ms. Ravel is the daughter of a Latin American immigrant mother and an American father. She was raised in Latin America before her family settled in the San Francisco Bay area, which she considers home.

## Education



### Free College For All

Recently, there have been a lot of articles written about providing a free college education for all. It is often stated that many European countries provide such and why isn't that the case here in the United States? It was also a major proposal from one of the candidates in the recent presidential campaign, and just recently New York's Governor Cuomo proposed such a plan.

In LWVC's recently completed *Study of Public Higher Education* in California, access to higher education was identified as a major barrier to enrollment particularly for low income and/or under-represented minority students. But, as our study detailed, "lack of access" is due to many

factors in addition to tuition: factors such as: costs of housing, cost of living, transportation, textbooks, food, etc. In fact, in the Winter 2017 Edition of the *Journal of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges*, it stated that there was an 8% increase in student homelessness from the 2011-12 to the 2012-2013 academic years; 58,158 students self-identified as homeless on financial aid forms; and California has twice the national average of homeless youth. "While there is no reliable calculation of the total number of homeless college students in our state, the California State University System estimates that one in ten of their students falls into this category. We do not have comparable figures for the California Community Colleges."

So, when we look at proposals for "free college for all," it's important to examine if they address these "barriers to access" facing many of today's students. Unfortunately, as detailed in David Brook's recent article in the New York times, ([www.nytimes.com/2017/04/14/opinion/the-cuomo-college-fiasco.html?emc=eta1](http://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/14/opinion/the-cuomo-college-fiasco.html?emc=eta1)) the New York Plan does not address these issues. Some of the major deficiencies of that plan are that costs of attendance beyond tuition aren't covered. It also requires full-time attendance and graduation in four years, which is impossible for many students who attend part time, and it takes away funds that are derived from tuition paid by higher income students (this would be especially important for California's UCs)—all of which are impediments to lower income students.

Eleanor Yick, Education Chair

## City & Town Council Observers

**Campbell:** The owner of the building that houses restaurants Opa, Mo's and Willard Hicks in downtown Campbell applied to expand to two and three stories behind and above the building which will total 10,819 sq. ft. The upper floors will be office space, while the ground floor would expand the working and storage areas of the restaurants. The expansion will cause the loss of the rear parking lot with a deficit of 31 spaces.

Though approved by the Planning Commission, it was appealed by a resident. On April 4, the Council held a public hearing on the appeal at which many residents spoke against the parking deficit. Despite the concerns of parking which will spill into neighborhoods, the Council voted 3 to 2 to deny the appeal and allow the expansion to move forward.

Jackie Costanzo, Observer

**Los Gatos:** April 4 - Town Council gave approval and authorized funding for plans to close southbound Highway 17 access from Santa Cruz Avenue for summer weekends & holidays. A temporary traffic circle will be installed at the intersection of Wood Road. It is expected the Police as well as the Parks and Public Service

Department will increase their work hours during these closures.

A previous proposal to create a High School parking permit zone was re-explored in a lengthy public hearing. Town Council decided to table this idea for now. They did, however, approve permanent parking permit areas on Alpine Avenue and Whitney Avenue.

**April 18** - The Almond Grove district will see 8 more concrete streets replaced over the next 3 years. The Council gave approval to Vanguard Construction which previously completed work on Broadway and Bachman Avenues. Residents voiced their satisfaction with the quality of the work already done.

Los Gatos Roasting Company's conditional use permit was modified to allow the sale of beer and wine and to provide live entertainment up until 10:00 P.M. nightly.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

**Saratoga:** There was a City Council joint meeting with Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office on the topic of body-worn cameras (BWC) and the Policy. Deputies have discretion over when activating a camera



is appropriate. Public restrooms, hospitals and private residencies are excluded unless it's the scene of an official investigation. Privacy and a request not to record must be respected while talking to an individual who is not a suspect.

**April 5** - Council recommended consideration of the request to schedule 2017 Tree Lighting Ceremony back to the Friday after Thanksgiving. Businesses felt a loss with last years' lighting on a Saturday. Other issues considered:

- Considered allocating \$20,000 from the 2017/18 FYB for senior citizens transportation program.
- Recommended action to adopt the Review and affirm Phase I of the Village Update Process, including Village maps and parking districts.
- Recommended acceptance of the *Housing Nexus Study and Statistics Report* from the Community Development Director.
- Recommended a resolution to designate agents to engage with FEMA and the Governor's Office of the State Emergency Services.

Raquel Durand, Observer Chair



## Clip n' Come Fun & Food at Gail Nisimura's Home

If you weren't at the Clip 'n Come meeting at Gail Nisimura's home on April 13, you missed a great pot luck lunch and a rousing political discussion. Those enjoying the meeting were Gail, Raquel Durand, Sharon Graham, Dale Hill, Barbara Lea, Cherri Nelson, Ann Roberts, Nancy Rucker, Anne Stewart, Jane Voigts, and Pat White.

Topics discussed included environmental problems in Florida exacerbated by the dismantling

of the EPA, *Dark Money* by Jane Mayer, postponing the rebranding of our County by Santa Clara County Supervisors, ways to communicate with Congress, the cost to everyone caused by using fossil fuels, changing the elections in California to earlier dates, the play *The Other Side* about society's obsession with our differences, pondering the demise of the American Dream, the suspension of regular Federal regulations to satisfy the demands

of big business, a study the stronger economy and less crime benefits of sanctuary cities, and the possible suspension of the Election Assistance Commission by the current Administration.

If you have never attended Clip 'n Come, now is the time to start! The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 11, at Ann Roberts home at 18833 Harleigh Drive, Saratoga.

Barbara Lea, Vice President

## Welcome!

### New Members

Cindy Clark

Gil Clark

Markene K. Smith

Patti van der Burg

Eric van der Burg

We're so glad you have  
joined the League!

## Meet Our New Member

submitted by Barbara Lea, Vice President

**Who are our new members?** To help you get acquainted with them, we decided to revive an old League custom and print a few biographies a month.

### Lori Chaykin

I have a graduate degree in education and teach 5th grade in Saratoga. I have two children - my son, Michael, graduated from Georgetown and works with JP Morgan in Japan currently. He took a one-year position there as he is fluent in Japanese. My daughter, Mira, graduated from Brandeis and is applying to medical school. So far, she has two acceptances, and we're waiting to hear from a third

school. I am an avid traveler in my spare time. My next trip with my husband will be this Saturday - we are heading to Japan to see our son. I want to work with the League because as a teacher and as a human being, I was significantly affected by this last election. I think it is my duty and responsibility to stay educated and to help educate others.

### Two easy things new members can do for further participation:

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

**What about you?** When you joined the League, did you have a biography printed in the Voter? If we missed you and you would like one now, please send me your information. Nothing fancy—just anything you might say when you are meeting new friends—where you went to school, what kind of jobs you've had, why you joined, what you really love to do—anything you feel like saying. Of course, if you want to remain secretive and aloof, that's okay too—but we really would like to get to know you better.

Barbara Lea, Vice President, [barbara.lea@comcast.net](mailto:barbara.lea@comcast.net)

## Climate Action: Earth Day, Marches... What's Next?

During this past month, I tried to attend as many climate-related conferences, lectures, rallies and marches as I could. I was heartened to see the overwhelming attention and support for trying to convince our political leaders in D.C. to address climate change. However, with the current administration's roll back of the EPA, it appears that anything our politicians do will be a matter of too little... too late!!!

**Perhaps the best chance for success is via the landmark Children's Trust Climate Litigation by a group of 21 children and young adults against the federal government.**

As reported by a *Slate* article by Eric Holthaus, dated in November 2016, "the young plaintiffs, who range in age from 9 to 20 years old, allege that climate change violates their constitutional rights

to life, liberty, and property by causing direct harm and destroying so-called public trust assets such as coastlines.

The case argues that climate change is worsened by the aggregated actions of the federal government in permitting fossil fuel development, subsidizing the fossil fuel industry, and many other such actions. Further, the children and their lawyers say these government actions are willfully prioritizing short-term profit, convenience, and the concerns of current generations over those of future generations. The plaintiffs state that the government and these companies have continued to prioritize these short-term gains for more than five decades with full knowledge of the extreme dangers they posed."

**The LWV should be commended for initiating an Amicus Brief in this case.**

The League's brief addresses the dire threat of climate change in the face of federal inaction and gridlock. Updates on the recent appeal by the Trump Administration and a detailed timeline of key events in this case can be found in the current LWVUS *Toolkit for Climate Action* in the *Children's Trust Section*, Google LWVUS toolkit amicus brief climate timeline.

The current *LWVC Climate Change Action Policy* was recently adopted 3/26/17. This policy and links to other issues and resources can be found on [lwvc.org/issues/climate-change](http://lwvc.org/issues/climate-change).

Dave Yick, Environment

## New Citizens Voter Registration



Thanks to **Gail Nishimura** for coming out to register voters at the March 23rd New Citizen Ceremony. The Cupertino/Sunnyvale League was in charge of supplying volunteers, but as always extra help is appreciated. Thanks Gail! New Citizens seem more eager to register than ever and are always appreciative of our service. The

next ceremonies will be held on April 25.

Jackie Costanzo, Voter Registration [jjc717@aol.com](mailto:jjc717@aol.com)

## Volunteer Opportunities

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

\* **Voters Service**, Register voters at the New Citizens' ceremonies. Contact Jackie Costanzo at [jjc717@aol.com](mailto:jjc717@aol.com).

\* **Observers**, Volunteer to observe and report on the Monte Sereno Council Meetings. Or you can listen to recordings of the meetings. Contact Raquel Durand at [sra\\_durand@yahoo.com](mailto:sra_durand@yahoo.com)

\* **Membership Chair or Chairs** on the Board needed. For job description, contact Pat White, (408) 265-7121.

\* **Voter's Edge**, For job description, contact Pat White, (408) 265-7121.

\* **Immigration Director**, For job description, contact Pat White, (408) 265-7121.



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](http://www.bayareamonitor.org)).

Subscribe to the Monitor; [bayareamonitor.org/subscribe](http://bayareamonitor.org/subscribe).

Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/bayareamonitor](https://facebook.com/bayareamonitor).

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

## Affordable Housing Week in San Jose, May 12-19

Affordable Housing Week (AHW) is a week-long celebration of affordable housing and effort to bring our diverse community together to raise awareness, educate, engage, activate, and unite around affordable housing issues and how we can work together to make Santa Clara County a more affordable place to live for all of our

residents. This year's theme, #ItsUpToUs, Silicon Valley, emphasizes the need for collective action and unification around the idea that everyone should have access to a safe, stable, and affordable home.

**Calendar of Events:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7cLtm2Byxh4bHhwT2Q1bU5MWmc/view>

## Silicon Valley Reads Truth & Justice

During March our League was a cosponsor, along with the LWV Cupertino/Sunnyvale, to a Silicon Valley Reads program on Truth and Justice, building trust with procedural justice, held at Cupertino Community Hall. This was a panel discussion with retired Palo Alto Police Chief David Burns, Watsonville Police Chief David Honda, and Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety Chief Phan Ngo. They held a combined 75 years of law enforcement experience within Santa Clara County.

The discussion was on the national initiative that focuses on the way police and other legal authorities interact with the public. The initiative is based on four principles; treating people with dignity and respect, giving citizens a voice during encounters, being neutral in decision making, and conveying trustworthy motives.

The panel emphasized citizens becoming involved in their communities, with education and strengthening mental health services. The panelists encouraged the audience to participate in the ride-along program.

Read a full-page article in the April 2017 *Cupertino-Sunnyvale Voter*, on page three, by Margaret Lindberg and Mareiann Shovlin. Find it at <http://cs.ca.lwvnet.org/VOTER.html>.

Cherri Nelson, Voter Editor

## The American Health Care Act Is Un-American

**Where does the League stand on the Administration's Health Care bill? LWV Opposes Ryan Healthcare Repeal Bill.**

Washington, DC – On March 10, Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, issued the following statement on the House Leadership's proposed "American Health Care Act."

The *American Health Care Act* was developed in secret and is now being rushed to passage by Speaker Ryan and the House leadership. This legislation will rip apart our health care and revoke coverage for millions of Americans while raising costs for millions more.

The American Health Care Act is un-American. It fails to reflect the American values of fairness, community, and concern for all. The fact that it is being rushed to passage demonstrates the legislation can't withstand careful consideration and the full debate that is essential in a democracy like ours. It is simply irresponsible to vote on the legislation without knowing the cost to tax payers.

The House Leadership's bill threatens the essential care that women need. It significantly cuts coverage for women and no longer assures that women cannot be charged more than men for healthcare. The bill will increase costs for seniors and those with pre-existing conditions,

while slashing assistance for lower-income households in obtaining coverage.

It is unacceptable that the legislation not only attacks Medicaid expansion but also sets the Medicaid program on the road to extinction.

The only real winners under this new legislation are the special interests and the wealthiest Americans. Hundreds of billions of dollars in tax breaks are included in this legislation for the wealthy and the pharmaceutical and insurance industries. The American Health Care Act would mean fewer people covered, weaker protections and higher costs for Americans.

While the *Affordable Care Act* is not perfect, it has successfully provided health care coverage to tens of millions of Americans who previously went without. The ACA resulted in significant improvements in people's health and their sense of well being. This proposed replacement—the *American Health Care Act*—is a huge step in the wrong direction and will result in more death and disease for the American people.

As you know—fortunately, the *American Health Care Act* did not pass!

Source: lwv.org

Barbara Lea, Health Care



### Climate Change Action Policy

At its March meeting, the LWVC Board adopted the Climate Change Action Policy as presented by the committee established following Convention 2015. This new policy integrates all climate change related policy positions, both state and national, in an easy-to-use format. This

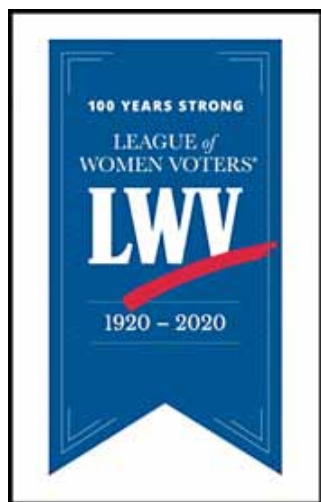
should make it easier for local Leagues to take action in their communities on related initiatives and issues. An updated version of the LWVC Action Policies and Positions that includes the new policy will be available by May 1.

Read an introduction, the Climate Change Action Policy, Justification, and History at <https://lwvc.org/issues/climate-change>.

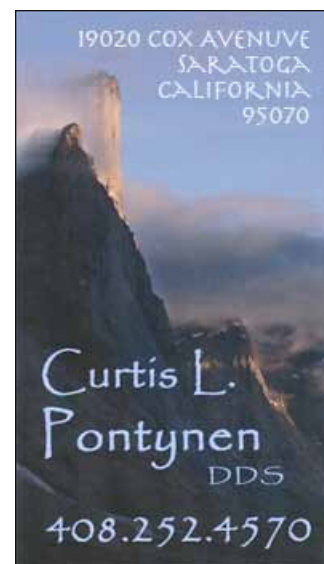

### Legislative Priorities

The LWVC board also approved the Legislative Priorities for 2017 recommended by the Legislation Committee. Please note these allow for flexibility to respond to any federal action that affects California residents.

## LWV 100th Anniversary Committee



Did you know there is a Committee preparing celebrations and tools to mark the 100 hundred years since the League of Women Voters founding? The 100th Anniversary Committee will fundraise, support and promote the League's history and ongoing relevance in our political democracy which will culminate in Centennial Convention in 2020. Tools will be developed for state and local participation in creating materials that tell the stories, educate, and grow an inclusive membership and propel the League into the next 100 years! <http://forum.lwv.org/document/lwv-100th-anniversary-committee>

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Renewal: ☐ New Member: ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_

An (Elected or Appointed) Public Official: ☐ Yes ☐ No

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Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Sharon Graham at [sharona.graham@gmail.com](mailto:sharona.graham@gmail.com) or call 408-204-2585.

Mail this coupon with your dues to:

**LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley**  
PO Box 2865  
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## ❧ Event Calendar ❧

- May 3 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- May 4 Thu **Great Decisions** (7) (Afghanistan/Pakistan) 1:00–3:00 P.M.  
Guests please call Terry Zaccone. (408) 257-6575 for details
- May 11 Thu **Clip ‘n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share  
Home of Ann Roberts, 18833 Harleigh Dr., Saratoga  
Call (408) 867-1834 • **Please let hostess know you will be coming.**
- May 18 Thu **Great Decisions** (8) (Nuclear Security) 1:00–2:00 P.M.  
Guests please call Terry Zaccone. (408) 257-6575 for details
- May 30 Tue **2017 Annual Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. The Terraces  
800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos

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## Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

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**Phone:**

408-lwv-1842/408-598-1842

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