Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

November, 2017

League of Women Voters

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Saratoga, CA 95070-0865
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Bay Area League of Women Voters

Telephone: 510-839-1608 Fax: 510 839-1610 http://lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org

League of Women Voters California

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Can We Get Rid of the Electoral College?

Speaker

Jack N. Rakove



Pulitzer Prize Winner

Professor of History & American Studies, & Professor of Political Science, Stanford University

Professor Rakove is One of the Leading American Political Scientists Advocating for the Election of U.S. Presidents by a Popular Vote.

Tuesday · November 7 · 7:00 P.M. Saratoga Library · Community Room

13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga, CA

Free and Open to the Public

Further details on page 4.



President's Letter

This year, our National Voter Registration Day was a huge success at Los Gatos High School. We had 16 students sign up to volunteer with the League. Thanks to Barbara Lea and Sharon Graham.

Recently, our valley was surrounded on the north and southwest with fires and smoke. We all were affected by the quality of air we were breath. Change is occurring and the impacts of Bay Area climate change are happening, and we need to become more aggressively active to find solutions. The theory of global warming is 100 years old. If we do not change our ways, 100-year floods will become 10-year floods, with as many as 250,000 people as victims, in 8,400 homes, many in low-income areas.

So, what really is going on? Why are things getting worse? A new compound term is being used in recent news: identity politics. Shall we blame the increasing role of identity politics in the U.S and sit and watch disaster after disaster happen? The dictionary defines identity politics as "the tendency for people of a particular religion, race, social background, etc., to form exclusive political alliances, moving away from traditional broad-based party politics". So, how can we stop this dangerous bulldozer? Besides awareness and education, what else should we do?

In the past few months in addition to the League's efforts, we see many other organizations rising to reverse this destined danger to our country, taking on one issue at a time. On the Table, is one of those conversational programs, sponsored by Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) and happening all

over the United States on Wednesday, November 15, 2017.

This day of civic reflection will take place with groups getting together, on that same day, and engaging in conversations concerning their region.

In the Bay Area, thousands of On the Table meetings have been organized to spark ideas and solutions to our region's housing challenges. Participants will gather and discuss the housing issues they face or have observed in their communities.

It is becoming much harder for first-time homebuyers to purchase a home. Median home values have now surpassed \$1 million for the San Jose area. Between 2010 and 2014, 182,800 new jobs were created in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, while only 16,262 housing units were built (source U.S.Census Bureau). Thinking of the future generations in this area, how can they afford to stay here? A renter needs to earn \$126,000 a year to afford an average two-bedroom apartment! Nearly 1/3 of Bay area commuters, including my two sons, cross county lines to get

I signed up our League with SVCF to have On the Table conversation. Thanks to Ginger Good's family for hosting this event from 2-4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 15, at their home. Come and enjoy cookies, coffee or tea and share your thoughts and experiences about housing and/or transportation with the rest of the group. Data will be collected through a survey and evaluated by SVCF. People are taking action to make more housing available for everyone. Please let Barbara Lea (408-354-2287) know if you are interested in participating.

We'll be celebrating this year's Holiday Party at the Zaccone's again on December 2, at 5:00 P.M. We really appreciate their generosity and we look forward to our traditional celebration, enjoying socializing and sharing appetizers together.

Thanks to Wendy Hendry and Sue Cooney, we all are looking forward eagerly to our Electoral College Program on November 7 starting at 7:00 P.M. at the Saratoga Library. I hope to see many of vou there.

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

2017-2018 **Board of Directors**

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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://asmdc.org/members/a28/

Santa Clara County

Supervisor Joe Simitian (408) 299-5050

supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org

Supervisor Mike Wasserman (408) 299-5010

mike. was serm an @bos. sccgov. org

Supervisor Ken Yeager (408) 299-5040

supervisor. yeager@bos.sccgov.org

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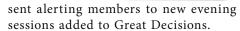
http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/ Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx



Board Bytes

Meeting of Oct. 3, 2017

• Hot Topics: An email blast will be



Barbara Lea, Sharon Graham, Gail Nishimura, and Cherri Nelson will organize the many student volunteers that signed up on a successful Voter Registration Day at Los Gatos High School. It was suggested that we talk to students about the many ideas proposed for their assistance.

• **Programs:** Various details were planned: Patty Weber will inquire about location for Program Planning, question sorters will be set up for Impartial Judiciary, Wendy will check in with Gail Nishimura on adequate marketing for the Electoral College talk, and Eleanor Yick & Wendy Hendry will inquire about a brunch at a local restaurant for the Holiday Party in December.

24 members signed up to participate in the new book club. A good start!

- Natural Resources: Meg Giberson & Cherri Nelson will speak at the upcoming Santa Clara Valley Water District hearing opposing the WaterFix project.
- Voter: Cherri Nelson noted that the business ads require an organizer. Discussion deferred until the next Board meeting.

Cherri Nelson, Voter Editor

Foreign Policy Association



Great Decisions 2018

The Great Decisions series will start February 1, 2018. We plan to give out the books at the Saratoga Senior Center on Thursday, January 25, 2018, from 1–3 P.M. Sessions will be held on the first and third Thursdays, starting February 1, 2018 and ending May 17.

We have added evening sessions for people who can't make it during the day. These will be on the same dates as above, but will meet from 7–9 P.M. at Wesley Manor at 1655 S. Winchester Boulevard, Campbell, CA 95008. That location is by the intersection of Winchester and Hamilton.

The 2018 regular sessions will be dealing with the following topics:

- 1. The Waning of Pax Americana?,
- 2. Russia's Foreign Policy,
- 3. China and America: The New Geopolitical Equation,
- 4. Media and Foreign Policy,
- 5. Turkey: A Partner in Crisis,
- 6. U.S. Global Engagement and The Military,
- 7. South Africa's Fragile Democracy, and
- 8. Global Health: Progress and Challenges.

The fee for the workbook is \$40 for an individual and \$50 for a couple sharing a workbook if ordered by October 20. After that date, the fees go up by \$8.

Checks should be made out to Terry Zaccone and mailed to 13046 Anza Drive,

on the table



LWV - Community Conversation on Housing Issues

Wednesday • November 15 • 2:00-4:00 P.M. Home of Ginger Good, 1439 Quito Road, Saratoga

R.S.V.P. Barbara Lea at barbara.lea@comcast.net or 408-354-2287

To learn more, go to www.siliconvalleycf.org/onthetable



On Tuesday, November 7, at 7:00 P.M. at the Saratoga Library, Pulitzer Prize winning author, Professor Jack N. Rakove, will provide an historical context on the Electoral College and present information on how it has affected politics in our country. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Southwest Santa Clara Valley in conjunction with the Saratoga Library, the program will explore what it would take to do away with the Electoral College and have the U.S. presidency determined by national popular vote.

"This is an especially timely topic due to our recent presidential election where Republican nominee, Donald Trump, secured nearly 80 more electoral college votes than Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, who won nearly 3 million popular

votes more than Trump," said Wendy Hendry, Chair of Voter Services for LWV of Southwest Santa Clara Valley.

Jack N. Rakove is the William Robertson



Coe Professor of History and American Studies and Professor of Political Science at Stanford University, one of the most distinguished

historians of the early American republic. He is the author of six books, including Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution (1996), which won the Pulitzer Prize in History in 1997. He also authored Revolutionaries: A New History of the Invention of America (2010), which was a finalist for the George Washington Prize.

Professor Rakove earned his BA in 1968 from Haverford College and his PhD in 1975 from Harvard University. He was also a student at the University of Edinburgh from 1966 to 1967. At Harvard, he was a student of Bernard Bailyn, and he has taught at Stanford since 1980.

This event is free and open to the general public. The Saratoga Library is located at 13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga. For Questions Contact: lwv.swscv@gmail. com or 408-LWV (598)-1842 and the Saratoga Library www.sccl.org/saratoga (408) 867-6126.

Wendy Hendry, Voters Service

Voter Registration Day & New Citizens

Thanks to those who have volunteered for our October 26 New Citizen Ceremony Voter Registration: Laurel Smith, Faith Mackarness and Lili Poleman. November 28 is another date we need volunteers to register the New Citizens after they are sworn in. So far I have Virginia Carpio (possible), Kay Duffy, Terry Cabrinha and Helen Athey.

Thank These are two dates that are the responsibility of our League to staff with volunteers. Other than that, we just supplement other Leagues in the county when they come up short of volunteers. Please contact me if your are able volunteer with us! Thank You!

Jackie Costanzo, Voter Registration jjc717@aol.com

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.
- * Voters Service, Register voters at the New Citizen ceremonies. Contact Jackie Costanzo at jjc717@aol.com.
- * **Observers**, Attend the Monte Sereno Council Meetings. They can also be listened to on tape. Contact Raquel Durand at sra_durand@yahoo.com



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

City & Town Council Observers

Campbell: Campbell Middle School will become a K-8 school and get a new name next summer. It will be called the Campbell School of Innovation. The school will close completely for construction, and students will be split between the district's other two middle schools: Monroe and Rolling Hills.

Campbell police are wearing pink patches in October to increase focus on Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The patches feature the department's logo in pink. The \$10 patches were sold with all proceeds going to fund breast cancer research.

The City Council accepted the donation of an iRobot 510 on October 3. The device can be used to investigate suspicious packages, barricaded subjects and active shooters. The robot was obtained through the Department of Defense's 1033 program. Jackie Costanzo, Observer

Los Gatos: Sept. 19 – The Council held a public hearing regarding the proposed Alberto Way commercial development. Previously denied by the Commission, the developer appealed, seeking approval. The proposal calls for replacing three older office buildings with two larger-sized buildings, connected with an interior

plaza, and underground parking. Most neighborhood residents objected to the size, mass and increased traffic concern of the proposed buildings but have agreed to a smaller version of the project.

Oct. 3 – The Town Council decided against overturning the denial of the Alberto Way proposal. They directed the developer to continue refining the

proposal to one that would be approved by the Planning Commission.

Public comments were heard on the amended North 40 Specific Plan regarding the

phase two development, the northern half of the property. Town staff clarified that greater than 500,000 square feet of commercial space and 33-45 residences can be built there. Residents spoke favorably for neighborhood retail, large hotel, smaller-sized residences, and open space preservation. Town Council has additional proposed amendments from the town's Planning Commission and General Plan Committee.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

LEAGUE

Saratoga: Sept. 6 – The Council approved an amendement necessary to complete the Quarry Park trail. It will serve as

City & Town Councils

Members are encouraged to attend the Council meeings 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 Tuesdays – 7:00P.M.

the future connection to the existing Saratoga-to-Sea-Trail.

Authorization was given to the City's Public Art Committee to carry on work with the Saratoga Utility Box art project.

Sept. 20 – An ordinance was amended regarding leaf blower regulations, adopting restrictions on usage. They must be operated at 65dBA, measured when 50 feet from the blower.

The Celebration of Lights will be organized in partnership with the Saratoga Ministerial Association that will provide directions to participating staff.

Raquel Durand, Observer Chair

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

We had the first SWSCV book discussion on Jane Mayer's book, *Dark Money*, Monday October 9 at the Wesley Manor in Campbell. It was an engaging evening as we pondered the deeply disturbing narrative of how dark money is widening the economic inequality in this country and has become a dominant force in elections and legislation.

Continuing with our theme of learning more about the driving forces behind the diverse political climate and the beliefs held by people throughout our country, we will be reading and discussing *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Hochschild. She gives us a close-up and personal look at a segment of American society in the Deep South that is concerned about it's industrially polluted environment yet have Tea Party beliefs that

more government and regulations are not the answers to these problems. The book looks at the dignity and values of the people Arlie befriends and shares their feelings and values, which we may view as very different from our own.

The discussion of this book will be held on November 13 at the Wesley Manor 1655 S Winchester Blvd, Campbell from 7 to 9 P.M. I look forward to seeing those of you who missed our first meeting due to scheduling conflicts. Our third meeting will be held on December 11. Our third book is still to be chosen.

This is a great venue for inviting a friend you would like to introduce to the League and its members. Hope to see you all at our next book club discussion.

Dan Hendry

WaterFix/Twin Tunnels—At What Cost?

Water agencies are currently deciding whether to approve or reject massive, controversial twin tunnels (each 40 feet high and 35 miles long) to carry Northern California water under—rather than through—the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to points south.

A critical, but curious, vote by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) on October 17 to support WaterFix but with conditions—has left people wondering what it means. Some believe the SCVWD vote signals a rejection of the governor's twin tunnel proposal; some call it a conditional approval. Some of the "guiding principles" of SCVWD's conditional support for—and continued participation in—the tunnels included: avoiding a cost shift to urban areas, considering one tunnel instead of two, reducing intake volume, SCVWD remaining active in project governance, cost remaining similar to current estimates [but whose estimates?], and continuing ability to acquire supplemental water.

Cost is being called a driving factor in WaterFix approval or rejection. While WaterFix cost per acre-foot (af) has been low-balled at \$600 af in SCVWD documents, those same documents rate WaterFix cost as the riskiest among 13 potential water supply projects SCVWD analyzed. A water district in Southern California found that costs would range up to \$1427 af. These estimates apparently use figures that don't take into account the extreme likelihood of cost overruns due to the very preliminary current design stage of the tunnels (only 5 to 10 percent designed).

WaterFix total costs have been estimated at \$51 to \$67 billion (including financing). How much could costs rise? The "iron rule of megaprojects: over time, over budget, over and over again" appears to be the guiding principle. Other projects are instructive:

- Bay Bridge repair— early estimate was \$250 million, the final price was \$6.5 billion (an approximate 2,500% rise);
- Oroville Dam repair—now a half billion dollars—double the original estimate (which was made when the job was 30% designed);
- Coastal Aqueduct—\$1.76 billion, more than six times the original estimate of \$260 million.

Alternatives to WaterFix would variously involve: Delta exports reduced to an amount in keeping with the State Water Resources Control Board public trust flow criteria; conservation actions that would reduce demand for water by up to 13 million acre feet per year; strengthened Delta levees and more reliance on recycling and local water. Alternatives also range from using a single tunnel, to none.

SCVWD ratepayers will be on the hook for substantial, but currently unknowable, amounts if WaterFix proceeds without changes.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources



New Climate Change Task Force

The LWVC board approved the formation of a new state Climate Change Task Force to move our climate change effort forward ever faster. The team is chaired by Linda "Diz" Swift, LWVC Climate Change Program Director and a leader for the LWVUS Price on Carbon national team.

Other members appointed include:

April Anderson (LWV Eden Area), who brings an exceptional talent for policy research,

Preston Jordan (LWV Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville), who brings a strong understanding of climate science and policy, Karen Nelson (San Jose/Santa Clara), who brings a combination of environmental background and communication expertise, and Gloria Chun Hoo (LWVC board),

who brings an in-depth knowledge of League procedures and is a liaison with the LWVC board.

The task force will review state legislation and focus on continuing League education on issues around Greenhouse Gas reduction, climate change impacts, local actions, and trying to foster state level coordination of local Leagues. If your League has a group or individuals interested in climate change, please email climatechange@lwvc.org.

Criminal Justice Webinar

Are you or is someone else in your League interested in the criminal justice system in California? Would you like to see more League work in this area? If so, please join our webinar on November 13, at noon.



Job Opportunities

Take the next step and volunteer at the state level. What you bring to state leadership is invaluable; and what you bring home to your local community is priceless. From the nominating committee, https://lwvc.org/about-lwvc/nominating-committee. Everyone is welcome!

If you think you're not ready?

You're ready!

If you think you don't know enough.

If you think you don't know enough? You're enough!

If you aren't sure you want to be a member? We want you to try out the League!

Help with a single task or event, or sign on to something long-term. Work remotely or in-person. We'll find the perfect fit for you. Contact us to learn about other opportunities not yet on our site.

Tracking and Influencing Federal Legislation

with Jennifer Waggoner and U.S. Representative Zoe Lofgen The Successful Program for September



An Impartial Judiciary: A Cornerstone of Democracy

SCC League of Women Voters Sponsored Presentation



This event, held at the Quinlan Community Center in Cupertino, had successful audience attendance and participation. The panelists for the presentation were Judge Carol A. Corrigan, California Supreme Court Associate Justice; Judge Rise J. Pichon, Santa Clara County Superior Court Justice; and Attorney John Steele, expert on Canons of Judicial Conduct.

The event was presented by the five Leagues of Santa Clara County. It was free and open to the public. The program also provided opportunities for the attendees to ask questions via 5"x7" cards to the Moderator. There was a number of students in the audience.



The judges described their responsibilities, qualifications and how they were appointed or elected to the bench. Mr. Steele outlined his function as a legal ethics specialist. The judges carefully delineated their boundaries in their need for impartiality and independence. The need for strong ethical adherence to judicial rules and the rule of law were emphasized. However, with grace and good humor, the public was warmly welcomed into their courtrooms to observe and learn. This was an evening well spent.

Pat White, SWSCV League Member

Legislative Action Report

Juvenile Justice Legislative Update

On Oct. 11, 2017 Governor Brown signed the five remaining bills in the Equity And Justice Package. Along with Senate Bill 355, which Brown signed in July, the new laws comprise an Equity and Justice package authored jointly by Los Angeles-area Senator Ricardo Lara and Senator Holly Mitchell. They were introduced last March to promote crime prevention, rehabilitation and maintain family cohesion.

- **SB 180:** Drug Sentence Enhancements This reform measure seeks to put greater emphasis on prevention, rehabilitation, and maintenance of family cohesion by reducing sentence enhancements for certain low-level, non-violent drug offenses. SB 180 had five cosponsors and was supported by nearly 200 business, community, legal and publicservice groups.
- **SB 190:** Ending Juvenile Fees This would eliminate financially burdensome administrative fees for youth involved in the juvenile justice system and their struggling families. SB 190 had six cosponsors and nearly 70 supporters.

- SB 355: No Court Fees for the Innocent (signed July 10)
- This provides that only those who are convicted of a crime are required to reimburse the courts for legal counsel fees. SB 355 was sponsored by the Conference of California Bar Associations and six justice-rights groups.
- SB 393: Sealing of Arrest Records Seals arrest records and removes barriers to employment for those arrested but not convicted of a crime. Sponsored by San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón.
- SB 394: Juveniles; Life Without the Possibility of Parole Brings California into compliance with the Montgomery v. Louisiana decision that juveniles cannot be sentenced to life without parole. Co-sponsored by the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Human Rights Watch, National Center for Youth Law, Pacific Juvenile Defender Center and Youth Justice Coalition.
- SB 395: Miranda Rights for Youth Requires those age 15 or younger to consult with legal counsel before they waive their constitutional rights in interrogations with police. Co-sponsored

by Human Rights Watch, the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Silicon Valley De-Bug, California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, and the National Center for Youth Law.

Higher Education In California

Recently, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) Higher Education Center published a series of researchbased articles on Higher Education in California. It was gratifying to see how closely these research based articles align with the findings and recommendations of LWVC's Study of Public Higher Education in California. The series of articles addresses the same subsets the LWVC's Study did: California's Higher Education System, Addressing California's Skills Gap, Expanding College Access, Improving College Completion, Increasing Equity and Diversity, Investing in Higher Education, and Making College Affordable. Detailed reading of this latest publication can be found at: www.ppic. org/wp-content/uploads/r_0917hebkr.pdf

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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.

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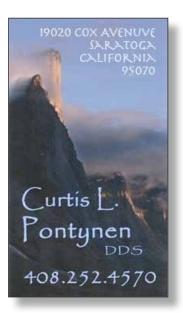
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Nov	1	Wed	Board Meeting, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
Nov	7	Tue	The Electoral College , 7:00 P.M. Speaker Prof. Jack Rakove Saratoga Library • Community Room, 13650 Saratoga Ave.
Nov	9	Thu	Clip 'n Come, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share Home of Natalie Heling, 849 Eden Ave., San Jose Call (408) 247-6897 • Please let hostess know you will be coming.
Nov	13	Mon	Political Book Club , 7:00 P.M. Discuss <i>Strangers in Their Own Land</i> , Arlie Hochschild. Wesley Manor Library, 1655 S. Winchester Blvd., Campbell
Nov	15	Wed	On the Table, A Housing Conversation 2:00 - 4:00 P.M. Home of Ginger Good, 14391 Quito Rd., Saratoga
			Save the Date <
Dec	2	Sat	Holiday Party , Home of Terry & Judy Zaccone, 5:00 P.M. Potluck, 13046 Anza Drive, Saratoga

Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

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408-lwv-1842/408-598-1842

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Web:

Twitter: Instagram

Name: lwv.swscv/Password: board111 lwv_swscv

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.