



Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

October, 2017

League of Women Voters

LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley

P.O. Box 2865
Saratoga, CA 95070-0865
Telephone: 408-lwv-1842
www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org

League of Women Voters California

Phone: 916 442-7215
Fax: 916 442-7362
<http://ca.lwv.org>

League of Women Voters

Phone: 202-429-1965
Fax: 202-429-0854
<http://www.lwv.org>

In This Issue

President's Letter	2
Board Bytes	3
An Impartial Judiciary	4
City & Town Council Observers	5
Voter Registration & New Citizens	5
Water Fix or Alternatives	6
Clip 'n Come Discussions	6
Climate Change: Paris Agreement Mayors	7
LWVC Advocacy	7
Volunteer Opportunities	7
Annual Fiscal Report	8
The Immigration Conundrum	9
California Voting Changes	10
Civil Discourse Project	10
Joe Simitian's Great Speech	10
Is Democracy Alive In SCC	11
Getting Rid of the Electoral College	11
LWVSWSCV News Spotlight	11
LWVUS Film Partnership	12
Political Book Club	12
Business Supporters	12, 13
Event Calendar	14

The Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County
present



An Impartial Judiciary

A Cornerstone of Democracy

Panelists:

Honorable Carol A. Corrigan

Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court

Honorable Beth Freeman

U.S. District Court Judge

Honorable Rise J. Pichon

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge

Attorney John Steele

Expert on Judicial Conduct

October 24, 2017

Reception: 6:00 PM - 6:45 PM • Forum: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

**Quinlan Community Center
Cupertino Room**

10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino, CA 95014

This event is **FREE** & open to the public.

Please register via <http://bit.ly/ImpartialJudiciary>.

Further details on page 4.



President's Letter

As usual, we have great programs during the fall season. They alternate between Election Forums during election season and Educational programs to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. On September 23, we had Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren speaking at the Saratoga Library with former LWVC president Jennifer Waggoner. They enlightened us on how laws are passed by legislatures, have direct impact on our lives, and what we should do to keep democracy working. By communicating our concerns to our legislators, we help them decide on how to vote.

In the wake of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and other natural disasters, I want to discuss a policy disaster. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has announced that President Donald Trump will end the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, putting more than 800,000 young people in the United States, known as DREAMERS, at risk of deportation. Through no fault of their own, and destined to be raised here, they grew to love America and feel they are Americans. 200,000 of them are in California and the United States of America is their home. Those undocumented persons will thus have

been victimized by a decision of the current Administration. DACA gave these undocumented human beings a chance to thrive and have a productive life and better future. Ending DACA will destroy that chance. Beginning on October 5, 2017, less than a week from this writing, University of Southern California International Studies will begin rejecting all INITIAL and RENEWAL DACA applications. Santa Clara County Council League—which includes our League—supports efforts to protect the rights of these undocumented individuals.

As you already have noticed, traffic complaints are on the rise everywhere in the Bay Area. Many commuters are understandably upset in dealing with a 10% increase in traffic. Recently, on September 20, I attended an Immigration and Refugee Forum Meeting where there was a discussion about the hardship of taking public transportation by low-income individuals. BART and VTA are reaching out to hear from different communities about transportation issues and the upcoming rail service into Santa Clara County. You can voice what is important to you by filling out a survey online at bart.gov/SVsurvey.

You are also aware of the homeless problem in Santa Clara County. I developed more interest in this subject after our Leaguers toured The HomeFirst Boccardo Reception Center for San Jose Homeless during the Spring of 2016. As a result of that trip, I founded AMAAN Charitable Organization in December of that year to help the newcomer refugees and others in Northern California, to transition to a stable and more secure life, become self supporting, and keep a roof over their heads before it becomes too late for them. Those who do not have higher education and make less than their rent fees, are at a higher risk

Continued on Next Page.

**You pray for them, then you feed them.
That's how prayer works.**

Pope Francis

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 Sept. 6, 2017

Treasurer's Report:

Graphics were distributed by Tom & Danice Picraux demonstrating the stable health of our finances. Tom suggested building up our current reserve fund higher than it is currently. He'll also look into investments or accounts that have a higher percentage yield.

League Book Club: Led by Wendy and Dan Hendry, meetings begin in October at Wesley Manor Library; see details in this *Voter*. We will be discussing *Dark Money* by Jane Mayer.

Great Decisions: There will be afternoon and evening meetings this year to encourage more participation. Events will begin in February.

Programs: It was announced that our League would register voters at Los Gatos High School on National Voter Registration Day, September 26.

Discussion has begun on the **Holiday Party** this year, location to be determined. Suggestions are welcome! Dates of the first weekends in December were suggested intending to avoid conflict with AAUW's plans.

A **Civil Discourse Forum** is being developed for the spring.

Membership: Barbara Lea has defined the duties and into recruitment, welcome, and mentoring. Zina Lou Dyer continues to



work hard on our database. A "hospitality" hostess is still needed for events.

Natural Resources: Meg Giberson reports a Water Fix validation action has been filed with a decision by a court on whether the project can be considered part of the State Water Project for bonds to be issued. She listed the many problems still unresolved. Meg encouraged everyone to read the LWVC President's article in the San Jose Mercury.

The Oroville dam repair will take much more money and time than estimated.

Voter: Cherri Nelson talked about organizing a support process for the donated business ads and assigning members' tasks. Barbara Lea and Hana Itani will meet with Cherri to organize a system.

PR/Social Media: We will be changing our website to the new My League Online (MyLo) hopefully by January. A committee will be needed to choose the initial 15 transition page choices. Various Board members will eventually need to be trained and given access to the site to manage information for their duties.

President Itani has done an interview with KCAT on League history. Gail Nishimura will obtain a copy of the video in October for members to view.

Nominating Committee: It was decided that recruitment would begin earlier than in previously years. It was requested that Board members write their job descriptions for the committee to refer to.

Nancy Rucker, Secretary

President's Letter (Cont.)

them about other areas with cheaper rent, hoping to secure a job for them in their new locations. We also developed a program for them to converse in English using Skype software.

There is so much going on these days, at all levels, and it is up to us to participate to help the world become safer and more civil. Today my husband and I were shocked to hear of a San Jose State Professor who struggles living out of her own car with her unemployed husband.

It is mind boggling to hear of such an unbelievable situation.

This month we are bringing a great program with an opportunity for you to learn more about the rules that govern how judges work. Please read more about the October 24 event in this *Voter* on page four and sign up to attend. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

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

Continued on Page 5.



An Impartial Judiciary

*A Cornerstone of
Our Democracy*

October 24, 2017

Reception: 6:00 P.M. - 6:45 P.M. • Forum: 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Quinlan Community Center

Calling an independent judiciary a “cornerstone of democracy,” the Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County are hosting a forum on this critical topic. Why is this topic critical? Our Constitution designed a government based on three equal branches: the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judiciary. The Judiciary is rarely discussed beyond court decisions. This educational forum will explore the meaning of judicial impartiality and independence, as well as some of the rules that govern how judges work. Come hear and learn from highly respected experts in this field.

Panelists Biographies

Justice Carol Corrigan, a native Californian, was born and raised in Stockton, California. She graduated with a Juris Doctorate degree in 1975 from Hastings College of



Law and was admitted to the California Bar the same year.

She worked as a prosecutor in Alameda County and became a judge in the Alameda County Superior Court in 1991. Governor Wilson appointed her as Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeals, after which she was elected and re-elected in 1994 and 1998. She served on a commission that overhauled the state's court rules. She was appointed to the Supreme Court of California in 2006 by Governor Schwarzenegger.



in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco. After serving as Deputy County Counsel in San Mateo County Counsel's Office, she became a Judge on the San Mateo County Superior Court where she served as an Assistant Presiding and Presiding Judge over civil and criminal matters. President Obama appointed Judge Freeman to the U.S. District Court in the Northern District of California in 2014.

Judge Rise J. Pichon received her Juris Doctorate at Santa Clara University School of Law in 1976. Judge Pichon worked as an attorney for both the Office of the Public Defender and the Office of the County Counsel in Santa Clara County.



She served as a Commissioner and then Judge in the Santa Clara County Municipal Court from 1984-1998. Judge Pichon has been a Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge since 1998 and recently served as the Presiding Judge.

Attorney John Steele, as a solo practitioner, represents clients on matters of legal ethics, professional



liability, risk management, and the law of lawyering. For over fifteen years, he served as the top internal ethics lawyer at an AmLaw 100 firm, where he was Special Counsel for Ethics, and at an AmLaw 200

firm, where he was a trial lawyer and litigation partner.

Mr. Steele has taught professional responsibility at UC-Berkeley School of Law, Stanford Law School, Santa Clara University, Golden Gate University, and Indiana University Maurer School of Law.

This event is **free and open to the public** and will be held in the **Cupertino Room**. Please register via <http://bit.ly/ImpartialJudiciary>. The **Quinlan Community Center is at 10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino**. To find the Center, from Stevens Creek Blvd., make a north turn onto N. Stelling with the Center being between Alves and Christiansen Drives. There is ample parking along N. Stelling and Alves Drive.



10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino, CA 95014



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: The City Council has decided to form a subcommittee tasked with figuring out how to attract different types of businesses to the downtown. The subcommittee will work with staff to address the issue.

The consultant hired for public outreach on the progress of the General Plan Update was directed to begin. Five meetings are to be held with the public sharing information with feedback on any changes that could affect any place of business or neighborhood. The expectation is that this should be done in the next few months.

The developer of the Del Grande Auto Parts business on East Campbell Avenue was directed to rework plans due to design issues still remaining that are not in keeping with the City's Master Plan. The plans for the building are too tall and provide only half of the open space required.

Jackie Costanzo, Observer

Los Gatos: Aug. 15 – Council focus was changing the site-specific plan for the North 40, phase 2. Adoption was approved for an Interim Urgency Ordinance, establishing a temporary moratorium

lasting 45 days. It can be extended for 10 and a half months. Beyond that, an additional one year, can be taken to allow time for completion or amending the specific plan. Phase 2 is primarily a neighborhood-serving commercial mix to reduce traffic.

Sept. 5 – Summertime measures to address weekend beach-going traffic were evaluated. With traffic reduced downtown, residents noted frustration with increased traffic around Highway 9, and business owners cited revenue loss.

Traffic mapping apps being responsible, the town is working with WAZE, Apple and others to approve a reclassification of residential streets.

Due to length of meeting time, discussion of these agendas will continue at future meetings, dates yet to be determined.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: Aug. 16 – Approved a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an annual contract for servicing Information Technology Security and execute an amended agreement with



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 Tuesdays – 7:00P.M.

CivicPlus, for website and intra-design hosting and maintenance.

Approved a signage directional program for wineries in the city and the Saratoga sector of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Continuing discussions from previous meetings, the City Council approved the Planning Commission Policy Update Process for the second phase of the Village expansion. This will include potential changes to the City's Tree Regulations. A one-year extension of service with Vista Landscape was also approved.

Raquel Durand, Observer Chair

Welcome!

New Members

Janece Richards
Grace H. Johnston
Jim Beebe

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.

Voter Registration Day & New Citizens

Tuesday, September 26, was National Voter Registration Day. There were four New Citizen ceremonies held at the Heritage Theater in Campbell that day: 8:30 A.M., 10:15 A.M., 12:45 P.M. and 2:45 P.M. The ceremonies lasted about an hour, and registering the new citizens began after the ceremonies ended.

This was an extra day added, so I asked all five county leagues to join in providing volunteers. Palo Alto League and SWSCV League stepped in to help on this special day. Thanks to our members: Jane Voigts, Helen Athey, Al Stewart, Anne Stewart, Jane Moss, Patti van der Burg and Steve Ravel for giving of their time for this important event.

Southwest Santa Clara Valley League is responsible for supplying volunteers for the Thursday, October 26, Ceremonies and the Tuesday, November 28, Ceremonies. Please check your calendar and see if you could give an hour or two of your time on either or both of these days to register new citizens to vote. Times of sessions are not yet available as it depends on whether there will be three or four ceremonies.

I will send out a formal *Opportunity to Volunteer* email in early October.

Jackie Costanzo, Voter Registration jjc717@aol.com

Where's the "Fix" now?

LWVC's decision to oppose "WaterFix"—the 35-mile-long twin tunnels, each 40 feet wide, that would be bored under the San Francisco-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) to divert water for use in areas to the south—has some asking what, if anything, would replace it. (For the LWVC's op-ed piece, written by Helen Hutchison, see <http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/09/08/opinion-delta-twin-tunnel-waterfix-bad-for-santa-clara-county-wont-fix-anything>.)

If 200,000 and 168,000 and 300,000 sound like more than 40,000, then we are on the same page.

Some 40,000 acre-feet per year (afy) of average yearly water imports may not be available, says Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), if two events occur: 1) WaterFix is not built and 2) future restrictions on Delta flows are enacted.

However, other water-sourcing solutions can be both cost-effective and beneficial to our area, as well as to the health of the Delta, which has been damaged by water exports for decades.

Water conservation is the least expensive. SCVWD says we saved 28% in the recent drought, which equals about 84,000 afy

(more than twice the predicted future loss with new restrictions, but no WaterFix).

Recycling wastewater could mean saving a good portion of the 200,000 afy that our county discharges into San Francisco Bay (where its unwanted pollutants may cause fines of billions of dollars to Bay Area wastewater treatment plants). Orange County Water District already recycles 103,000 afy. SCVWD figures indicate we currently recycle about 12,000 afy, which will only increase to about 32,000 afy by 2040. LA County Sanitation Districts, in partnership with their water district, plan a Regional Recycled Water Program to produce, eventually, up to 168,000 afy. Since SCVWD's own survey shows people in the county willing to pay for wastewater recycling, our program needs to ramp up considerably.

Local stormwater capture—something that voters are willing to pay for—could be a significant source of water, as League mentioned. Up to 300,000 afy could be saved from stormwater capture in the LA area alone (which gets about the same rainfall as San Jose) says Stanford professor, Dr. Richard Luthy. Dr. Luthy is working with LA on a stormwater capture program that would provide "critical

supply for a growing area". He says dry season hiking trails, basketball courts, open space and playing fields could serve as stormwater capture infrastructure in the wet season under his plan.

In fact, three LA agencies (Department of Water and Power, Flood Control District, Bureau of Sanitation) are working together to ensure that any "new water delivery system also wards against flooding, restores fisheries, cleans the bay — in short, that it does all the things we'd eventually be required to do anyway because of the demands of nature, law or lawsuit" (Fifty-eight parties have already filed suit against WaterFix.)

Leak detection and repair could save 260,000 gallons per mile surveyed. California Department of Water Resources (DWR) believes that leaks in state water district distribution systems siphon away more than 700,000 afy. Water utility audits have indicated losses from leaks at 10 percent of their total supply.

Even a single tunnel accompanied by upgrades to Delta levees would be significantly cheaper and less environmentally-damaging than the twin tunnels, but it didn't receive adequate study in the vetting process. However, with infrastructure repair and maintenance costs rising, local projects—like those mentioned above—provide a reasonable investment in the economic and environmental health of our community, "our" Bay, and the Delta.

WaterFix unknowns include whether 1) the State Water Board will approve the new northern intakes, and 2) whether WaterFix will be legally considered part of the State Water Project. If state does not control it, SCVWD says that State Water Project contractors—like our SCVWD—"would have to 'step up' to pay the debt service for the outstanding Finance JPA Bonds." The \$16.7 billion beginning construction estimate for this project (only 10% of it has been designed so far) could balloon to \$60 billion or more with financing interest included.

Which fix do we need?

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

Another Rousing Discussion at Clip n' Come



In September, we met at Anne Stewart's home for Clip 'n Come. Those attending were Eileen Barnes, Sharon Graham, Dale Hill, Hana Itani, Renate Langer, Barbara Lea, Gail Nishimura, Ann Roberts, and Jane Voigts. Dynamic discussions were sparked by the interesting articles presented, as usual.

Topics discussed were Flood Myths, Tolerance with Refugees, the California Bullet Train, Conservative Speakers at UC Berkeley, Photo ID for Voting in Texas, the Twin Tunnels in California, the Great Reputation of the League, ACLU Suing the State over Tossing Mail-in Ballots, Lawyers for the Administration, Regulations on Cannabis, and Water Company Rates in the Bay Area. The last topic launched the decision that a letter to the editor would be written about the water rates. This decision will be brought up for discussion at the next Board meeting.

If you want to join in the fun and also have a delicious pot luck lunch, put the next Clip 'n Come meeting on your calendar for October 12.

Barbara Lea, Vice President

Climate Action: U.S. Climate Mayors Commit to Uphold Paris Climate Agreement Goals

A bipartisan group of mayors from across the country has unanimously backed an ambitious commitment for US cities to run entirely on renewable sources such as wind and solar by 2035.

As the recent US Conference of Mayors, leaders from more than 250 cities voted on symbolic resolutions pushing back against the administration on climate change and immigration. Since that conference ended, many more mayors have signed the resolution:

“As 369 US Mayors representing 67.5 million Americans, we will adopt, honor, and uphold the commitments to the goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement. We will intensify efforts to meet each of our cities’ current climate goals, push for new action to meet the 1.5 degrees

Celsius target, and work together to create a 21st Century clean energy economy.

We will continue to lead. We are increasing investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency. We will buy and create more demand for electric cars and trucks. We will increase our efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions, create a clean energy economy, and stand for environmental justice. And if the President wants to break the promises made to our allies enshrined in the historic Paris Agreement, we’ll build and strengthen relationships around the world to protect the planet from devastating climate risks. The world cannot wait—and neither will we.”

We acknowledge the following list of peninsula and other local area mayors

who have already signed the resolution and encourage other local entities in our League area to sign the resolution:

Mayor Jesse Arreguin (Berkeley), Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer (Alameda), Mayor Lori S. Liu (Brisbane), Mayor Ricardo Ortiz (Burlingame), **Mayor Liz Gibbons** (Campbell), **Mayor Savita Vaidhyanathan** (Cupertino), Mayor Glenn Sylvester (Daly City), Mayor Lily Mei (Fremont), Mayor Debbie Ruddock (Half Moon Bay), Mayor Barbara Halliday (Hayward), Mayor Mary Prochnow (Los Altos), Mayor Gary Waldeck (Los Altos Hills), **Mayor Marico Sayoc** (Los Gatos), Mayor Kirsten Keith (Menlo Park), Mayor Reuben D Holober (Millbrae), Mayor Ken Rosenberg (Mountain View), Mayor Libby Schaaf (Oakland), Mayor Greg Scharff (Palo Alto), Mayor John Seybert (Redwood City), Mayor Tom Butt (Richmond), Mayor Bob Grassilli (San Carlos), Mayor Ed Lee (San Francisco), Mayor Sam Liccardo (San Jose), Mayor David Lim (San Mateo), Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor (Santa Clara), Mayor Cynthia Chase (Santa Cruz), **Mayor Emily Lo** (Saratoga), Mayor Glenn Hendricks (Sunnyvale).

Dave Yick, Environment

LWVC Advocacy: Legislative Tracking

In an article written in February 2017 by Chris Mitchell, a Principal with the Sacramento governmental relations firm of Aprea & Micheli, Inc. The 2017 California Legislative Session, which began last December 5, is officially “off to the races” now that the bill introduction deadline of February 17 has passed. This year, there was an almost 25% increase in the number of bill introductions compared to last year’s total, although there are historically more bills introduced in the first year than in the second year of the 2-year Legislative Session.

In the meantime, the following sets forth the number of bill introductions each year for the past five years:

Total 2017 bill introductions as of the deadline: 2,495

Total 2016 bill introductions as of the deadline: 1,993

Total 2015 bill introductions as of the deadline: 2,297

Total 2014 bill introductions as of the deadline: 1,930

Total 2013 bill introductions as of the deadline: 2,256

As you can see, this year there are just shy of 2,500 bills introduced. That figure is usually 2,000 to 2,200 on average historically. Of those, roughly 1,000 get to the Governor’s Desk annually and he signs, on average, about 850 of them.

Of those 2,495 introduced bills, LWVC identified 25 various categories related to our positions and 81 bills were identified for tracking. The LWVC has a robust advocacy program on our behalf. If you go to this site, <http://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=17&id=efb5b39d-6b0e-4edf-a0af-c0f69e9c1e6f> you can track the status of each of the bills submitted in 2017 that the League has identified for either support or opposition.

Action Alert Update: Thank you to all our members who responded to the recent **Action Alert:** Yes on AB 249, the California Disclose Act. Twenty-two (22) of our members responded and helped to have our voices heard.

Eleanor Yick, Director Action

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’s 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

Annual Fiscal Report

Audited Financial Statement For Fiscal Year 07/01/16 – 06/30/17

Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income			
Finance Drive	4,573.90	4,000.00	573.90
Contributions	550.67	300.00	250.67
Dues	4,255.98	8,880.00	-4,624.02
Fund Raising - Business Card Ads	1,750.00	1,800.00	-50.00
Interest and Misc.	1,079.27	0.00	1,079.27
Events—Self-Funded	1,900.00	0.00	1,900.00
Transfer from Education Fund	666.00	2,298.00	-1,632.00
Total Income	14,775.82	17,278.00	-2,502.18
Expenses			
A. Administration			
1. General Supplies—Postage, Stationery	230.00	200.00	-30.00
2. P.O. Box, Bank Charges	139.62	100.00	-39.62
3. Officers	50.00	100.00	50.00
4. Finance Drive	147.00	175.00	28.00
5. Membership and Hospitality	24.79	400.00	375.21
6. Directory and Handbook	295.24	300.00	4.76
7. Public Relations	971.70	180.00	-791.70
8. Website Maintenance	176.49	160.00	-16.49
9. Board Meeting Room	220.00	240.00	20.00
10. Liability Insurance	594.00	960.00	366.00
B. Service and Educational Activities			
1. VOTER Newsletter	550.07	400.00	-150.07
2. Voters Service	582.75	900.00	317.25
3. General Meetings, Program	343.97	500.00	156.03
4. Annual Meeting	47.20	100.00	52.80
5. Study Materials	10.00	50.00	40.00
6. Position Support (Advocacy, Action)	0.00	25.00	25.00
C. Delegates/Travel			
1. Bay Area Council	450.00	50.00	-400.00
2. Convention	3,613.87	3,500.00	-113.87
D. Financial Support			
1. Santa Clara County Council	135.00	135.00	0.00
2. LWV Bay Area Per Member Payment	128.00	115.00	-13.00
3. LWVC Per Member Payment	3,276.00	3,220.00	-56.00
4. LWVUS Per Member Payment	3,744.00	3,648.00	-96.00
5. Smart Voter	500.00	1,000.00	500.00
6. Dues Assistance	320.00	320.00	0.00
E. Contingency	0.00	400.00	400.00
F. Events--self-funded	2,039.72	0.00	-2,039.72
G. Helga Ruby Award	0.00	100.00	100.00
Total Expenses	18,589.42	17,278.00	-1,311.42

Annual Fiscal Report (Cont.)

Audited Financial Statement For Fiscal Year 07/01/16 – 06/30/17

Category

League Accounts	7/1/15	6/30/16
Wells Fargo Bank - Checking	21,998.81	\$18,185.21
Fidelity Investments - Cash Fund	3,381.48	\$3,391.00
Education Fund	6,368.11	\$5,702.11
Balance	\$31,748.40	\$27,278.32

Report Submitted by Treasurer Danice Picraux

An audit of the SWSCV financial records for 7/01/16 to 6/30/17 was conducted by Dale Hill and records found to be in order and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

We thank Dale for checking to make sure our financial books are in order!

The Immigration Conundrum

If you were a League member four years ago, you would remember that there was a nationwide LVW Immigration study in which our League participated. Immigration is an emotionally charged issue with many opinions and a myriad of complicated issues involved, dating back to the beginnings of our federal government. Our consensus group, however, came up with a view which most of us could agree on: that this nation should be open to those who were threatened with persecution or hardship and were faced with death if they remained where they were. There are many other qualifications, however, that each applicant for entry is expected to meet.

Each year Congress adds to this list of qualifications to the point that the process grows longer, more ponderous, and time consuming. It becomes more and more obvious that an Immigration Reform is necessary. But, nothing happens. Why? There are very strong opinions on immigration on both sides (Let immigrants in/Keep them out), causing rancorous discussions, ending in deadlock, here and in Washington, DC. There have been efforts to reform for years, but, nothing happens.

Here in California, there is an additional crucial argument that immigrants, illegal or otherwise, are needed to work our fields. In other states food is grown on family farms, which are primarily smaller and can be worked without help, just the farmer and his family. California historically has used Chinese, then Japanese, then Mexican/South American workers. In 1943, a temporary program called the Bracero Program was instigated allowing unskilled agricultural workers to enter temporarily to bring in a harvest and then return home. It has become a fact that without these imported workers, the fields lay unharvested. In a state whose primary industry is food production, this is potential financial disaster. Some solution must be found.

Lately, there is a new immigration problem to be investigated. A number of years saw rampant illegal entry of literally millions of people from south of the border, hoping to find gainful employment. This has resulted in a whole subculture of undocumented residents. All are guilty of breaking the law. But, what about their children not born in the United States? Are they also guilty? The fate of the "Dreamers" is currently being decided.

Immigration has always been a stormy problem, but it has become a problem which is dividing citizens into entrenched camps. What is the solution? We will take a look later at "Sanctuary Cities/States" which is California's attempt at a solution.

Patty Weber, LWVSWSCV Member



California Changes in Voting



Voting is getting easier in California! Visit the new Voters Choice California website.

Is Your County Ready for Big Voting Changes in 2018?

We're excited to be part of Voters Choice, preparing voters for the big changes ahead under the *Voters Choice Act*. Voter's Choice California (VCC) launched it's public website which includes public education information about California's Voter's Choice Act as well as several tools for election officials and community leaders.

Are you a Sacramento, San Mateo, Napa, or Nevada County voter? Find out how voting is changing in your county: VotersChoice.org. Want to prepare your community for big voting changes in 2018? Check out the new effort at VotersChoice.org.

Our audience includes:

- Election officials
- Community leaders and other potential partners in participating counties
- Organizations that conduct voter outreach and education, and
- Non-profit and public sector leaders in related fields.

Send us feedback about the new website to lwvc at lwvc.org!

LWVC September 18, 2017

Civil Discourse Project

Sunday • October 22 • 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Home of Marieann Shovlin, 10277 Vista Knoll Boulevard, Cupertino

Work with League of Women Voters members to master the art of courteous constructive communication characterized by mutual respect, fairness and attentive listening that promotes understanding. The team uses civil discourse principles to promote informed discussion of public issues essential for government bodies and communities to make good decisions. It develops workshops and activities to share its learnings with others.

For questions contact Marieann Shovlin at m.shovlin@comcast.net

Joe Simitian's Great Speech

I hope you were at Joe Simitian's speech on September 9, sponsored by the Mt. View-Los Altos and Sunnyvale-Cupertino Leagues! The title was Listening to Trump's America, Bridging the Divide." If you were there, you heard one of the great speeches of all time—Supervisor Simitian was interesting, informative, and charming.

He visited three counties in three states—North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Michigan—chosen because they had voted for Obama in the last two elections and then for Trump in 2016. He interviewed 100 people and really listened to them, never an easy task for any of us. Here are just a few of the highlights of his speech:

• Demographics of the Counties

N. Carolina—County was rural, poor with 1/3 of the population at or below the poverty line, 70% people of color, 5-1 Democrats.

Pennsylvania—County was rural, with coal and steel industry; and they voted 67% for Trump.

Michigan—This County was more prosperous because of the auto industry.

- They talked less about terrorism and immigration and more about social issues than he expected.
- Clinton and the National Democratic Party were out of touch. One man said, "I would vote for Joseph Stalin before I would vote for Hillary Clinton." Another said, "She is the Anti-Christ." They didn't trust her because of the e-mails, Benghazi, and the Foundation and said she was corrupt and elitist.
- Gender was an issue for both men and women who didn't like the fact that she had stayed with Bill only for her own political gain. An older white military man said the Bible tells them that this is not a proper role for women.
- Clinton supporters were less enthusiastic, and the Republicans ran a better campaign—giving out free tee shirts and even making their own yard signs, which favored Trump 200 to 1.
- Unions were going down in all three areas.
- They voted Democratic in local elections.

- They said they like Joe Biden and would have voted for him.
- Describing these people, Supervisor Simitian quoted H. D. Thoreau. "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation."
- People no longer wanted to be quiet—textile plants have gone to Mexico, China, and Brazil, and the last jobs were gone.
- They are now earning about 45% of what they did in 2001.
- The Federal Government hasn't helped them, and they want to know what happened to all the tax money they paid.
- The results are sickness, suicide, and drug abuse.
- The bad situation is long standing—with the loss of tobacco revenue and NAFTA.
- They want the coal and steel jobs back. They have lost wages, dignity and hope.
- They said, "I don't know where Trump's going, but I don't want to keep going in the same direction." and "False hope is better than no hope at all."

Barbara Lea, Vice President

Is Democracy Alive in Santa Clara County?

Meeting Featuring Our New Member, Ann Ravel

On August 9, The Santa Clara County Office of Education presented an event entitled *The Power of Democracy—Civic Engagement in Santa Clara County*, which was attended by a quite varied audience of over 200 people.

Different organizations had tables with brochures about their organizations. The League was represented at one of these tables, with our new local brochures and newsletter. An innovative company makes Civics Video Games where the participants take a government role, such as governor, and make decisions unique to that situation. What a wonderful “hands-on” simulation!

Jon R. Gundry, the County Superintendent of Schools, made one of the introductions to the program. He quickly reviewed the changes in school curricula coming through the shared values of the 60's and then the narrowed curricula of the 80's. He said that with the mandate for more testing, the subject of civics has

decline in newspaper readership and the importance of becoming informed citizens in our polarized nation.

The keynote speaker was Ann Ravel, former chair of the Federal Election Commission and member of our League. She sees this as an alarming time the world over for democracy—with citizens more

**The United States is not a melting pot
—it's a salad bowl!**

often gotten left behind; and we have lost the focus of who we are as Americans.

County Supervisor Cindy Chavez commented, “Politics is now black and white, and we have to teach young people to navigate the gray.” She went on to remind us that only 42% voted in the last presidential election, and that we need to teach our children to think critically.

Joseph Di Salvo, Member of the Santa Clara County Board of Education, commented that a recent survey showed only 50% of students surveyed found Democracy important! The panel members all talked about giving the students important decision-making opportunities and setting up situations where the students—especially minorities—will feel they are part of the community. They talked about the

cynical, less hopeful, and more willing to support authoritarian leaders. A horrible statistic she shared was that only 30% of the millennial generation feel that it is important to live in a democracy and saw no problem with the military taking over. She said that in the 50's at least half of the population trusted government and now it is only 19% and that “trust is a basic assumption of democracy.” And those who feel that their vote doesn't count are correct in some cases, with campaign financing, gerrymandering, and voter suppression. In conclusion, she urged the group to make needed changes to civic organizations, strive to be inclusive, and require transparency for government officials.

Barbara Lea, Vice President

**Tuesday
November
7, 2017
7 P.M.**



Can We Get Rid of the Electoral College?

Speaker

**Professor
Jack N. Rakove
Pulitzer Prize Winner**

Professor Rakove will provide a historical context of the Electoral College and information on how it has affected politics in our country. 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.

in cosponsioship with
and located at

LWVSWSCV Spotlight in the News

The Mercury News

An article appeared about our League titled *League of Women Voters Steps Into the Spotlight* in the *San Jose Mercury*

News on September 8. The program on Impacting Federal Legislation with U.S. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren and former LWVC President Jennifer Waggoner was mentioned. The main feature of the article, however, was the presentation of results of our League's study on *Local Money in Politics*. Tom and Danice Picraux are making these presentations at our four communities' Council meetings and local school boards offering some recommendations to encourage more candidate participation and transparency in the election process.

Find the article at www.mercurynews.com/2017/09/08/league-of-women-voters-steps-into-the-spotlight.

There will be an article in a future *Voter* once all presentations have been completed. It will be interesting to hear about the recommendations from the study as well as the reactions and comments by mayors, city/town council and school board members. **Stay tuned!**

LWVUS News

New Film Partnership

We are excited to share in a new partnership with We the Voters, wethevoters.com, with a series of nonpartisan educational short films that focus on voting and democracy. Check out these films, specially curated for screenings by LWV:

MediaOcracy, <https://wethevoters.com/film/mediaocracy>

So You Thank You Can Vote, <https://wethevoters.com/film/so-you-think-you-can-vote>

Why We March, <https://wethevoters.com/film/why-we-march>

For more details on utilizing these films, go to http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/we_the_voters_-_lwv_partnership.pdf

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

Those League Members interested in our newly formed book club will meet on Monday **October 9, at 7P.M.** The first book for discussion will be the national best seller, *Dark Money*, by Jane Mayer. This date should give members ample time to read this very timely book.

The location for our first meeting is the Wesley Manor library, located at 1655 Winchester Blvd. Campbell, just south of Hamilton Ave. There is ample free parking behind

the Methodist Church next door. Numbered spots near Wesley Manor are reserved for Wesley Manor residents.

At the first meeting we will discuss other book selections and the frequency of the meetings. Members are encouraged to bring friends, whether League members or not, to join the discussion. Hope to see you there. For further information contact Dan Hendry.

Eileen Barnes, Member



Nathera Mawla
Broker Associate
DRE #00786544

SRES, Previews
Property
Specialist

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

C. 408.348.8303
D. 408.355.1555
F. 408.355.1599
nmawla@cbnorcal.com
www.nathera.com
410 N. Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos, CA 95030

THE STORE FOR NATURE LOVERS



LOS GATOS
Birdwatcher

Lisa Myers | Owner

HOURS
Mon-Sat:
10am-6pm
Sun: 12-5pm

Kings's Court Shopping Center
792 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95032
408-358-9453 | fax 408-358-4673
info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com

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

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work/Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail this coupon with your dues to:

LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley
PO Box 2865
Saratoga, CA 95070-0865

\$ _____ Individual \$80.00

\$ _____ Household \$120.00

\$ _____ Student \$30.00

\$ _____ Voter Mailed to You \$20.00

\$ _____ **Total Enclosed**

\$ _____ Donation to LWV-SWSCV Ed Fund
(include as a separate check)

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!
Please remember to mention seeing the ad in our *Voter* when you utilize their services.



BASHAM EYE ASSOCIATES
PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS

Ryan P. Basham, M.D.

Comprehensive Ophthalmology and
Cataract Surgery

Ph: 408-354-4740
Fax: 408-354-8161
www.bashameye.com

212 Oak Meadow Drive
Los Gatos, CA 95032

Laura Young

Hair Colorist



Capelli Salon

408-354-8920 • laurayoung9@gmail.com



Roy J. Moses

REALTOR®
DRE #01150058



408-892-1499 Mobile
rmoses@cbnocal.com
www.MosesTeam.com
410 N. Santa Cruz Ave.
Los Gatos, CA 95030



Clayton G. Zeidler, DDS
Aesthetic & Restorative Dentistry

The Zeidler Dental Group
(p) 408.257.3530 5150 Graves Avenue, Bldg. 1
(f) 408.257.0341 San Jose, CA 95129
drzee@sbcglobal.net www.zeidlerdentalgroup.com



LOS GATOS DENTAL CENTER
DENTAL IMPLANTS • INVISALIGN®
ELITE TOP 1% INVISALIGN® PROVIDER
WWW.LOSGATOSDENTAL.COM

Ahmed A. Moneim, D.D.S., ABOI

Assistant Professor, University of California San Francisco
Diplomate of the American Board of Oral Implantology

220 Oak Meadow Drive 14513 S. Bascom Avenue
Los Gatos, CA 95032 Los Gatos, CA 95032
Tel: 408.354.7333 Tel: 408.356.8146
Fax: 408.354.7433 Fax: 408.358.3614
Email: info@losgatosdental.com

State Farm®
Providing Insurance and Financial Services
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710



Mike Cummings, Agent Lic. # 0C03699

15466 Los Gatos Blvd. Suite 203
Los Gatos, CA 95032-2551
Bus 408 358 7444
michael.cummings.hldj@statefarm.com
Fax 408 3587447

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®



PostalAnnex+
Your Home Office.

The Rinconada Center

1484 Pollard Road, Los Gatos, CA

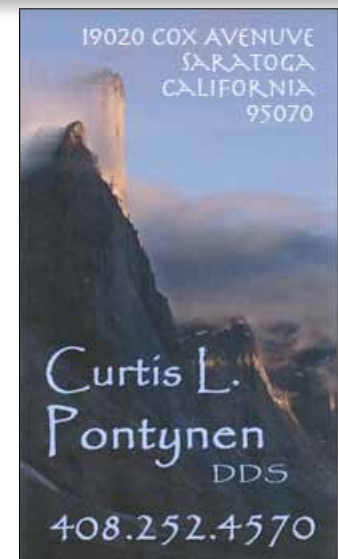
Phone: 408-374-9255 • Fax: 408-374-9258
PA455@Postalannex.com

Hours: M-F 9am - 6pm • Sat 10am - 5pm

**Notary • Mailbox Rental • Printing & Binding • Flyers
Passport Photos • Expedited Passports • Video Transfer**

20% Discounts to Non Profits

Please
remember
to mention
seeing the ad
in our *Voter*
when you
utilize these
businesses
services.



🌀 Event Calendar 🌀

- Oct 4 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- Oct 9 Mon **Let's Talk Political Book Club**, 7 P.M. Discuss
Dark Money, Jane Mayer. Wesley Manor Library,
1655 Winchester Blvd., Campbell
- Oct 12 Thu **Clip 'n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share
Home of Dale Hill, 150 Robin Way, Los Gatos
Call (408) 356-7679 • **Please let hostess know you will be coming.**
- Oct 24 Tue **Judicial Impartiality**, Judges Panel Discussion 6 P.M.
Quinlan Community Center, Cupertino.

🌀 Save the Date 🌀

- Nov 7 Tue **The Electoral College**, Jack Rakove, Saratoga Library 7 P.M.

Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

Phone: 408-lwv-1842/408-598-1842	Email: lwv.swscv@gmail.com	Web: www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/lwvswscv	Twitter: lwv_swscv	Instagram Name: lwv.swscv / Password: board111

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.