



September 2021 VOTER Newsletter

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Important Announcement

RECALL ELECTION: MAIL IN BALLOT - VOTE BY SEPTEMBER 14!

All registered voters should have received their Mail in Ballot and Voter's Guide by now. If you haven't, contact the Registrar of Voters office at: 408-299-8683 to inquire about your status. View a 7 minute video re: the Recall Election produced by the LWV Cupertino/Sunnyvale at <https://youtu.be/LfAOSb4tqhc> and/or see more details about the Recall in the Voter Services report.

LWV SWSCV Webinar

"RACIAL JUSTICE ISSUES TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE"

Webinar: Saturday, September 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Registration required:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZwucOigqDJlEt6RbTC9gXouWQMk45FzF>

- **What is California doing to solve racial problems?** Dr. Shirley Weber
 - Former California Assembly Member & Current California Secretary of State. Sharing personal experiences and insights on the quest for equality and fairness through law reform

- **What is meant by Racial Justice?** Dr. Dulce Maria Gray & Ms. Rebecca Cisneros-Diaz
 - Social Justice Studies Instructors, West Valley College, Saratoga, California. Presenting and discussing racial justice Issues
 - Check out the event page for more details:
<https://my.lwv.org/california/southwest-santa-clara-valley/event/racial-justice-issues-today-and-future>
-



President's Letter

Dear Friends and Members of the League,

We've officially kicked off the new season with a variety of informative and social events in August. The Board members had a blast meeting new prospective members and friends of the League during our summer social event on August 22. The special Recall Election Webinar hosted by our League on August 14 was very well

attended - please refer to [our website](#) to learn more about the event. You should have received your ballot for the September 14 election by now, so please remember to vote and vote early!

Our Board for the new 2021-22 year held its first meeting on August 11, followed by a group luncheon at Hong's Gourmet in Saratoga. This is the first time the Board has met in person in a year and a half. While it was a wonderful team-bonding time for the new Board, and we are happy to see everyone in person, we remain fully aware of the COVID-19 public health concerns. Because of this, the Board has decided to hold most of our future meetings (committees, Board, and public programming) virtually, and to meet in person once every quarter this year.

In response to the growing need to strengthen our League's online presence, we have formed a new Communication Team to collaborate on ideas and work to improve our League's branding and information delivery through online messages, videos, and social media opportunities. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you are interested in working in this new area for our League.

Now that summer is behind us, we are continuing our outward-facing work, with teams serving communications, public programs, observer and city news, voter services and more. Our League will help facilitate the Redistricting work of the country and the state, and will also roll out a series of community webinars on issues the community is facing from the lens of Racial Justice.

We are always on the lookout for new members or volunteers. If you want more information or are interested in getting involved, please email us at lww.swscv@gmail.com. Thank you!

Sophia Kao, President



Voter Services

California Gubernatorial Recall Election, September 14, 2021



All California registered voters have received their ballots via USPS mail. This Recall Election is the only item on the ballot - and the information below is being presented to help you make your voting decisions.

Recently, our League and the other Santa Clara County Leagues sponsored an hour-long plus webinar and video on the Recall Election. Election experts Shannon Bushey, Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters and Ann Ravel, of DeCode Democracy/Maplight and formerly Commissioner of the Federal Election Commission, presented detailed information on the recall, including its history in California. The presentation from the webinar can be found here: [Recall Election webinar presentation](#). The recording of that webinar is posted to YouTube and here is the link: https://youtu.be/jSNsgX7dD_E. And the League of Women Voters of Cupertino Sunnyvale (LWVCS) has also prepared a brief, excellent overview of the September 14, 2021, California Gubernatorial Recall Election. This 7-minute video presents the questions before voters, campaign finance information, and information about how to submit your ballot. The recall video is posted to YouTube and here is the link: <https://youtu.be/LfAOSb4tqhc>.

Please be sure to vote on or before September 14 - remember for Democracy to work, you must participate!!

Redistricting

The League opposes gerrymandering!! Fair maps ensure access and representation!



Shaping democracy and political empowerment: The critical impact of U.S. Census, reapportionment and redistricting.

Mandated by the U.S. Constitution every ten years since 1790, the federal government does an extensive count of every living person in the United States.

Results of the U.S. Census have a long-term, 10-year impact, affecting federal dollars that are distributed to the states as well as representation in Congress. For more information on why the Census matters, visit the [LWV California](#) webpage.

The 2020 U.S. Census counting was started in spring 2020 amidst the tumultuous Covid-19 pandemic that slowed and delayed the collection and processing of the data. The League worked hard for a complete Census nationally and here in California.

The U.S. Census data has been released for states and local governments to use as input to the processes that redraw district boundaries. In California, new district lines for California Senate and Assembly seats will be redrawn. Locally, boundaries for city, county, school board and other districts will be examined for potential redistricting.

California's legislative redistricting work is done by the California Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC), thanks to legislation passed in 2008. The League of Women Voters of California was a leader in the creation and development of that legislation, helping make California one of the most progressive states in removing historic gerrymandering that had resulted in political shenanigans in drawing up electoral boundaries. California's CRC has gotten high marks for its work doing the redistricting for the 2010 Census.

LWVC continues to watch the redistricting process, and is pushing for local redistricting efforts to be more transparent, to engage voters in the process, and to ensure that communities locally have influence and input into the redrawing of those district lines. The League actively supported passage for the new Fair Maps Act to ensure timelines and criteria for redistricting for County and City boundaries.

Early Results Affecting California's Congressional Representation.

What will happen to California's Congressional representation? April 2021 data for reapportionment of the U.S. Congress shows seven seats in US Congress changing. For the first time, California is losing a seat in Congress, and instead of 53 House seats, we will have 52. California will still have the largest delegation.

The six other states losing one seat include New York, Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio. Gaining a Congressional seat are Colorado, Florida, Montana, Oregon, North Carolina, and Texas that gains two seats. For excellent information visit the [U.S. Census website](#).

Read here to learn more about the League's work on redistricting <https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/redistricting> (By Gloria Chun Hoo, LWV of California Board member, past chair, Action Committee, LWV of SJ/SC Board member)

- Eleanor Yick, (VP/Admin & Voter Services Director)

Santa Clara County Advisory Redistricting Commission

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara established the 2021 Advisory Redistricting Commission to conduct public hearings to receive input regarding the drawing of supervisorial district boundaries in compliance with state and federal law. The Commission will provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding the placement of the supervisorial district boundaries and serve until the completion of the 2021 supervisorial redistricting process. In the County News section below, look at the three Santa Clara County Supervisors who cover our local cities and reflect on how their district maps are currently drawn. Do you think it makes sense or do you think some of the boundaries should be changed?

Public participation at the Commission Meetings is encouraged: <https://countyexec.sccgov.org/2021-redistricting-process/2021-redistricting-events>

In our local communities, the City of Campbell, which is organized into voting districts, has to redraw voting precincts along with some of our local school districts: Campbell Union Elementary, Campbell Union High School and Moreland Elementary School Districts. League members who reside within the boundaries of these governmental entities should check on the current district precincts and on the redistricting work being done in each of these entities, attend meetings and participate, if possible. Now is the time for your voice to be heard!

- Eleanor Yick (VP/Admin & Voter Services Director)

Healthcare

WHY IS IT SO EXPENSIVE?



When the New York Times recently asked people from around the world what they think of U.S. health care, this was their reaction—astonishment, horror, anger, and disgust.

****Take a few minutes to click on the source to see this amazing**

video! Source:**<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/28/opinion/healthcare-us.html?referringSource=articleShareport>

NEW U.S. HEALTHCARE BILL

The Medicare for All Act of 2021

With a new proposed Healthcare bill, Medicare would expand to include dental, hearing, and vision coverage for Americans over 65--a really important change! Medicaid (the federal program focused on low-income people) would expand specifically in the 12 states that have not signed up for the program's Obamacare expansion. Subsidies for private Obamacare plans would also grow, as would money for home health care, to help more people avoid nursing homes. (Source: New York Times: August 26, 2021)

HEALTH CARE AROUND THE WORLD

This is the third in a series of articles about healthcare around the world

5. FRANCE by Terry Cabrinha

France spends 11.2% of GDP on Health Care, and its health-care system is ranked as one of the world's top healthcare systems. France has universal healthcare, but it is not a true single-payer system. The French are covered in three main ways:

- **Not-for-profit insurance funds:** These funds are closely supervised by the government and finance most of the nation's health care. All working people are required to pay a portion of their income into a health insurance fund.
- **Privately paid supplemental insurance:** This covers deductibles and copays as well as dental, hearing, and vision care.

- Government provided long-term care, with complete coverage for such illnesses as dementia, diabetes, cancer, and chronic lung disease.

The French choose their own general practitioners who act as gatekeepers for referrals to specialists. France is rated 28th in the world for innovation with a strong record in research. Various efforts have been made to increase competition in order to lower costs and increase quality, with mixed results. French president Emmanuel Macron has

acknowledged that hospitals are struggling due to the lack of doctors in rural areas, the closure of clinics, and budget constraints. Some comparisons to the USA: The French have a longer life expectancy, a lower infant mortality rate, and a higher doctor-to-resident ratio than the United States. France manages to provide universal coverage while spending a little more than half as much as the U.S. does. As of the end of June 2022, France's Covid 19 mortality rate is 165 per 100,000 population. It has a vaccination rate of 46%. The United States' mortality rate from Covid is 183 per 100,000 population, with a vaccination rate of 52%. For more information:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/6sy54fy40g1xk2r/Cooley_LWV_020821.pptx?dl=0

6. GERMANY by Anne Stewart

Germany spends about 11 percent of its GDP on health care. In Germany everyone chooses one of the 200 private non-profit insurance companies which in turn cover doctors, dentists, chiropractors, physical therapists, psychiatrists, hospitals, all prescriptions, nursing homes, health care memberships and spas when ordered by the doctor. All the health care providers and hospitals are private. Patients pay the insurance based on a percentage of their income which is about what Social Security and Medicare cost in the United States. Unemployed persons do not lose their coverage. Doctor's education is paid for and their malpractice insurance is low, but doctors complain they are paid too little. The plan provides good quantity, easy access, no waiting and a reasonable cost.

For more information: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Healthcare_in_Germany

- Barbara Lea, Healthcare Director

Natural Resources: Water 🧑‍🤝‍🧑

Drought: Water is a central part of climate mitigation and adaptation, but

drought and water shortages are expected to continue. After two water years of dry conditions, California is now 100% in moderate-to-exceptional drought, with 49% of California in the most severe drought category. California just experienced its hottest July in 127

years. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/19/climate/western-drought-forecast-noaa.html>, <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/drought-status-update-california-nevada-4>

Large wildfires have scorched over one million acres, more than last year at this time. <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/>

The League supports legislation to help low-income water users: LWVC supports SB 222, a bill that would establish the Water Rate Assistance Fund to help provide water affordability for both drinking water and wastewater services, based on the LWVUS position on Meeting Basic Human Needs. <https://ct3.blob.core.windows.net/21blobs/5b3cb994-a76b-4164-99fb-cc2b2adba668>

Stanford water experts propose water solutions for communities: Stanford's Newsha Ajami noted that households use more water to take showers and flush toilets than to drink, making large expensive desalination plants generally unreasonable for our cities and communities. Dr. Ajami suggests that any development have a "zero water" footprint. Felicia Marcus, former chair of the State Water Resources Control Board and Stanford visiting scholar, agrees that we need to manage water better through efficiency and technology. She suggests recycled water projects, which use new technology to purify wastewater and make it potable for households. Reservoirs are low throughout much of California, especially in the north, because of diminished snowpack and dry ground that absorbs what snowmelt there is. Ms. Marcus has pointed out that our groundwater basins are the only things large enough to contain needed water storage in our state. <https://www.courthousenews.com/drought-creates-worry-also-opportunities-for-water-solutions-in-california/>, <https://news.stanford.edu/press-releases/2021/03/23/future-americas-drinking-water/>

LWVC webinar discussed water efficiency and demand changes and why urban water management plans matter:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/6sy54fy40g1xk2r/Cooley_LWV_020821.pptx?dl=0

Fish and water: Fish need cool, clean water. LWVBA's Monitor newsletter details help for one species. <https://bayareamonitor.org/article/coexisting-with-coho-during-drought/>

- Meg Giberson, Natural Resources Director

Racial Justice Committee



WHERE DO YOU STAND ON RACIAL ISSUES?

Have you noticed how often you are hearing about racial issues these days? And has this made you wonder about your own feelings on the issue? Now is the time for change, and the whole world is looking to the United States for leadership. The Racial Justice Committee is presenting the first of our League's series of program events focused on Racial Justice. Listen to outstanding speakers define what is meant by racial justice issues, how they have experienced it on a personal and professional level, and how our State Legislature is continuing to address these issues.

What is meant by Racial Justice? In meeting the needs of its community, West Valley College offers a transfer degree in Social Justice Studies. Two of the instructors—Dr. Dulce Maria Gray and Ms. Rebecca Cisneros-Dias, will be presenting and discussing racial justice issues.

What is California doing to solve racial problems? To answer this question, we have invited Dr. Shirley Weber, former California Assembly Member and California's current Secretary of State, to share her personal experiences and insights on the quest for equality and fairness through law reform.

The Webinar will be on Saturday, September 18, at 10:00 a.m.

Register for this event at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwucOigqDljEted6RbTC9gXouWQMk45FzZF>

- *Barbara Lea, Racial Justice Committee Chair*

RACIAL JUSTICE IN THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS

Draft General Plan: New Racial, Social, Environmental Justice Element

The Draft 2040 General Plan supports inclusivity with a new chapter on Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice. Let's break it down: Goals and Policies include (but are not limited to):

- Goal RSEJ-1: Support equity, inclusion, and access to opportunities for all community members, employees, businesses, visitors, and local organizations.
- Goal RSEJ-2: Respect, protect, and promote the civil and human rights of all members of the community.
- Goal RSEJ-6: Engage the public, in particular: socially disadvantaged individuals and groups, in Town decision-making and facilitate public involvement in civic life.

There is still time to share your thoughts regarding the Draft General Plan!
Visit www.LosGatos2040.com and find the following:

- Newsletter with Key Proposed Changes
- Draft General Plan
- Draft General Plan Environmental Impact Report June 29, 2021, Community Meeting Recording
- Comment Form: All community members are encouraged to be involved in the General Plan update process.

Your input on the Draft Plan is important as the Town Council will consider potential revisions prior to adoption later this year. Your engagement helps the Town ensure that the General Plan continues to serve the needs of everyone that lives, does business in, or visits Los Gatos.

Source: Nextdoor Neighbor

City News & Observer Reports



Los Gatos: Town Council Town News

August 19: In response to Valley Water's drought mandates, councilmembers adopted an urgent ordinance to reduce watering in parks and street medians and to enact water reducing measures in Town government buildings. Council members voted in favor of a 10-year agreement with Santa Clara County law enforcement for participation and services provided by SCC Specialized Enforcement Team Task Force. LGPD will work cooperatively with the County Task Force, focusing on violent criminals, organized traffickers, and high tech crimes. The Capital Improvement Budget through 2026 was reviewed. Town Council approved funding for the following: a community garden, installation of one public art piece, safety improvements to Lynn Avenue and to Blossom

Hill Road, and further fire mitigation work. Two consulting firms were approved to work within Los Gatos on Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion issues. This will be paid for with General Fund reserves. American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley will work with community residents. Ready Set will work internally with staff in Town departments. Town Manager announced the Environmental Impact Report on the General Plan Update has been received and is available for public review on the losgatos2040.com website.

- Lynda Jandron

August 19: General Plan : Housing Element

As the debate over the Los Gatos' plan to densify housing continues to escalate, the Town is asking the public to join the policy-making process. Los Gatos is seeking up to four residents to serve on its housing element advisory board (<https://www.losgatosca.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1934>) which will help develop strategies and policies to accommodate new housing required by state law. The Town aims to have the board begin meeting in about two months. The Advisory Board, made up of Council Members, Planning Commissioners and residents, will be tasked to come up with plans for building 1,993 new housing units by 2023. This is required by the state (<https://abag.ca.gov/our-work/housing/rhna-regional-housing-needs-allocation>) to ensure local cities plan for affordable housing. The Planning Commission and Town Council will review recommendations before seeking state approval. The goal is to have an updated policy by January 31, 2023, officials said. See more information about coming meeting agendas and this issue in the Town of Los Gatos website (<https://www.losgatosca.gov/>)

- Eleanor Yick



League News

•LWV-SCC: represents all five of the Leagues in Santa Clara County: LWV Cupertino/Sunnyvale; Los Altos/Mountain View; Palo Alto; San Jose/Santa Clara; and, Southwest Santa Clara Valley. The 5 League presidents meet bi-monthly to discuss county wide issues. At their first meeting of this year, the council discussed the purpose, processes and rotation schedule; the upcoming Recall Election on September 14th; Redistricting in Santa Clara County; and, local League Civics projects.

Check out events hosted by our sister leagues in Santa Clara County

<https://my.lwv.org/california/santa-clara-county/calendar>

•THE LWV BAY AREA MONITOR

Read the last issue of LWV Bay Area League Monitor Magazine <https://bayareamonitor.org/edition/june-july-2021/>

•LWV CA UPDATES

Ready to vote in the California gubernatorial recall election? Check out the latest LWV CA public announcements:

- [Get ready to vote in the CA Governor Recall Election](#)
- [If I vote no on the recall \(first question\), can I still pick a candidate on the second question](#)
- Upcoming Events: [List of Upcoming Events | LWVC.org](#)

•LWVUS:

Visit <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom> to see the latest statements and press releases from Dr. Deborah Turner, LWV President, in August 2021:

- [Voting Rights Activists Demand White House Take Action](#)
- [LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Turner Remarks at 'No More Excuses: Voting Rights Now!' Rally](#)
- [LWV Statement on House Passage of John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](#)

Santa Clara County News

Our League's coverage area includes the four cities of Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga. Three of the supervisors on Santa Clara County Board represent our cities. Below are links to their most current newsletter. Members are encouraged to sign up to receive these updates, which contain important local news and activity.

•District1: Supervisor Mike Wasserman: (Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and portions of San Jose.) Click on this link for the latest newsletter: district1.sccgov.org

•District 4: Supervisor Susan Ellenberg: (Campbell, West San Jose, Santa Clara, and unincorporated parts of Burbank and Cambrian). Click on the link for the latest newsletter:: <https://conta.cc/3DbaNiH>

•District 5: Supervisor Joe Simitian: (Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Cupertino, Saratoga, and portions of Sunnyvale and San Jose.) Click on this link for the latest newsletter: district5.sccgov.org



BOARD BYTES -August 11, 2021

1. The Board has agreed to adjust the time of the Board Meetings to 12:00-2:00pm beginning in September 2021. The new lunch hour timing hopes to be more inclusive and accommodating for working people. Board Meetings will still be held on the first Wednesday of every month. As the COVID situation continues to improve in our area and restrictions have eased, the Board plans to hold Board Meetings in-person once every quarter.
2. LWV-SWSCV held an outdoor Summer Afternoon Tea on August 22 where League members and friends gathered at this first in-person social event of the year.
3. The Board has set up a Communications Committee to coordinate communications and PR efforts including newsletter development and distribution, website updates and maintenance, social media management, and event promotions. Check out the LWV-SWSCV Facebook page for the latest posts: [@LWVSWSCV](https://www.facebook.com/LWVSWSCV)
4. The Board is looking for volunteers interested in joining the Budget Committee, which will be activated in January 2022.
5. The complete meeting minutes will be shared at the next Board Meeting on September 1, 2021.

Upcoming Member Events

"RACIAL JUSTICE ISSUES TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE" Webinar

Saturday, September 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Registration is required:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZwucOiggDljEted6RbTC9gXouWQMk45FzF>



The next Zoom Meeting of our League Political Book Club will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 21, to discuss *A Promised Land by Barack Obama*. Please contact Wade Ellis, wade25@sbcglobal.net, if you would like to join the group.

Donate

We rely on dues and donations to support our programs. Please consider making a donation to our local League of Women Voters general fund now. If you prefer to donate to our 501(c)3 tax-deductible account please indicate that.

League of Women Voters SWSCV Donation

Join Us

Come to a LWV-SWSCV team meeting and learn about important issues affecting you and your community. You can make a difference! Learn More About Our Work and Programs [on our Website!](#)

LWV SWSCV BOARD & ELECTED OFFICIALS 2021

EXECUTIVE TEAM

President, Sophia Kao
Vice Pres/Admin, Eleanor Yick
Vice Pres/Program, Ann Ravel
Secretary, Frances Zhan
Co-Treas., David Lee & Helen Wang

ELECTED OFFICIALS

National

President Joe Biden
www.whitehouse.gov
Senator Dianne Feinstein
www.feinstein.senate.gov
Senator Alex Padilla

DIRECTORS

Action/DEI, Qing Bai

County Council Co-Chairs, Tom &

Danice Picraux

Education Co-Chairs, J Reynolds-

Grabbe & Anna Song

Health Care, Barbara Lea

Housing/Transp., Liang Chao

IT/Public Relations, J Reynolds-

Grabbe

Membership, Aileen Kao

Natural Resources: Climate, Victoria

Zhang

Natural Resources: Water, Meg

Giberson

Observers, Barbara Lea

Racial Justice, Barbara Lea

Voter Editor, Rebecca Schwan

Voter's Edge, Lois Smallwood

Voters Service, Eleanor Yick

<https://alex-padilla.com>

Rep. Anna Eshoo

<https://eshoo.house.gov>

California

Governor Gavin Newsom

<http://gov.ca.gov>

Senator Dave Cortese

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

Assemblymember Evan Low

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

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Supv. Susan Ellenberg

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