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January 2021

In This Edition

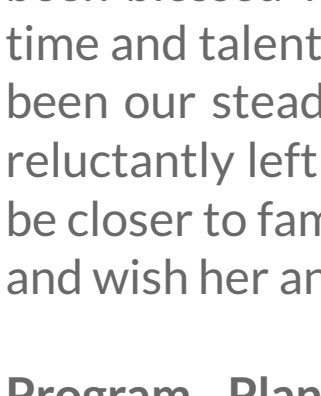
- Upcoming Events
- Save the Date
- President's Message
- Member Announcements
- LWV SWSCV Survey Results
- California Election Results
- LWVC End of the Year 2020 Advocacy Wrap Up
- Natural Resources
- Observer Reports
- Upcoming League Events
- League Articles
- Board Bytes

Upcoming Local Events

Board Meeting
SCC Presidents' Council Mtg.
All Member: Program Planning
Wednesday, January 6, at 10:00 AM
Wednesday, January 13, at 12:00 Noon
Saturday, January 30, at 10:00 AM

Save the Date!

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING:
Saturday, January 30, 10:00 AM TO 12:00 Noon via ZOOM!
Watch for an email in mid-January for more information, including sign up details.



President's Letter

Welcome to 2021 – a year where we might finally witness control of the COVID-19 virus so that we can once again meet in person and resume our daily activities. Hopefully, though, your holiday celebrations took place in such a way that you could connect with family and friends!

A New Year usually brings some changes, and that will be true for our League. As you all know, the League is a strictly volunteer organization and our League has been blessed with many long-term members who have given generously of their time and talents for many, many years. One such member is Cherri Nelson, who has been our steadfast Voter Editor for over 10 years! Cherri and her husband have reluctantly left their beloved mountain home and moved to southern California to be closer to family! We wish to thank Cherri for all that she has done for our League and wish her and her husband well in their new home.

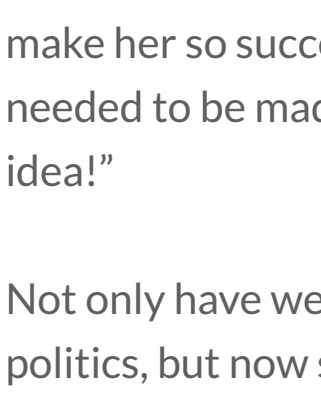
Program Planning, our annual planning event, is scheduled for Saturday, January 30 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon. This is the most important League meeting that is scheduled each year. It is our opportunity for us all to reflect on what we have accomplished since last year and for you, our members, to provide your input on what we should focus on for 2021. Please watch for the E-BLAST in mid-January and sign up to attend.

As we move further into 2021, our League needs to work to keep our members informed and involved in all local efforts re: the Redistricting in Campbell and the Updating of General Plans, which must include an updated housing element to address the new State mandated RHNA housing allocations.

Eleanor Yick, President

Member Announcements

TRIBUTE TO CHERRI NELSON



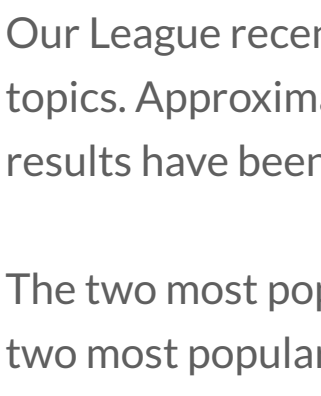
Cherri Nelson has been our Voter editor for many years—giving us a beautiful newsletter, month in and month out, every year! We have had the good luck to have a really good graphic artist doing wonderful work for us. A functional organization needs to communicate what is going on, so nobody is left in the dark; and what better way is there to do this than through an excellent newsletter?

But Cherri doesn't just have outstanding technical skills; she also has amazing "soft" skills that make her so successful at working with people. She was never defensive about changes that needed to be made and would usually respond with something like, "Oh, yes, that's a good idea!"

Not only have we benefitted, but Cherri has benefitted too—she has always been interested in politics, but now she knows more than she did when she started and has more confidence in her own ideas and expressing her opinions based on careful study of the situation. She joined our League because she thought we were friendly; and I guess we were since she never gave up. Somehow, their daughter convinced Cherri and Harold that they should move down to Southern California to be near her. She must have been quite persuasive because we have tried tying her down here, but away she goes!

To our very good friend, Cherri Nelson, we wish you luck in your new world and extend our heartfelt thanks for all that you have done for us. Please come back and visit—we don't want to let you go! – *Barbara Lea*

NEW VOTER EDITOR



Thanks to the alignment of Jupiter and Saturn a new member, Rebecca Schwan, has graciously accepted the job of Voter Editor. Rebecca recently moved to the Los Gatos area but is originally from Upstate New York. Rebecca currently works in marketing and is also an Assistant Cross Country Coach at Monta Vista High School in Cupertino. During her free time she enjoys running, hiking, and volunteering for [CakedKids](#). She is excited about this new role and thankful for the all the help Cherri and the Board have provided during this transition.

LWV SWSCV Survey Results

Our League recently sent out a Member Survey to determine member interest in various topics. Approximately 25% of our members responded and, thanks to Rebecca Schwan, the results have been analyzed in terms of future programming.

The two most popular days for programming zoom events were Monday and Wednesday; the two most popular times were 10:30AM to Noon, and 1:30PM-3:00PM.

Those topics of greatest interest for a **single event** were: Police Reform, the Electoral College, Healthcare, and Climate Change Initiatives.

Those topics of greatest interest for a **series of events** were: Systemic Racism, Our Judicial System, Housing Legislation (including homelessness and low/moderate housing), and Internet Resources and Reliable Information.

Thank you to the members who volunteered to either help with the development and/or scheduling of some programs that will address these interests. *Planning will start in January with scheduling starting in February.*

California 2020 Election Results

First of all, there was record breaking turnouts in the County! Santa Clara received 715,000 votes which represented 86% of registered voters. You can find the results below:

- CA State Updates: [Here](#)
- Santa Clara County & State Updates: [Latest Results](#)

LWVC End of the Year 2020 Advocacy Wrap Up

LWVC ended the [2019 legislative session](#) and began 2020 with great optimism and hope, a robust economy, and ambitious goals. The Governor's January Budget Forecast projected a \$5.6 billion surplus and a record-breaking \$220 billion state budget. We had big plans to address the housing crisis and advocate for investments in green technology. But you know what happened next.

By mid-March, COVID-19 had started infecting Californians; and the ripples that followed impacted every facet of our daily lives. Schools, businesses, and even the legislature shut down. California's long economic expansion came to an end and progress in some areas was stymied. Our focus both concentrated on priorities like [Schools & Communities First](#) and shifted as we faced the virus' threats to democracy and the exigencies created by the killing of George Floyd.

Natural Resources: Aquifers, Not Dams

"Around the world, climate change is becoming an epochal crisis, a nightmare of drought, desertification, flooding and unbearable heat, threatening to make vast regions less habitable and [drive the greatest migration of refugees in history](#)" according to a New York Times/Pulitzer Center report.[\[1\]](#) Climate change will significantly impact water supplies and demands, says Brad Udall, a climate change expert.

California has in the past depended on moving water from melted snowfall in the north to customers in the south. But, climate warming means our water supply will come less from snow and more from rain. Forecast to be concentrated in big, less frequent events, it is impossible to say exactly where and when those events will occur. Recently, Southern California has received more of its historical percentages of rain, while Northern California has received less.

How to capture and store the water we do get? Aquifers.

Millions of acre-feet of water per year are thought to evaporate from reservoirs and canals. [\[2\]](#) With increased heat from climate change meaning even more evaporation, drier air and land, underground storage in aquifers looks promising[\[3\]](#). Aquifers may also be cheaper, since surface water storage behind dams has been identified as five to nine times more expensive than groundwater storage.[\[4\]](#)

(Meg Giberson)

[\[1\]](#) <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/12/16/magazine/russia-climate-migration-crisis.html>
[\[2\]](#) <https://californiawaterblog.com/2019/05/12/some-innocent-questions-on-california-water-part-i/>
[\[3\]](#) <https://www.npic.org/blog/droughts-arent-just-about-water-anymore/>
[\[4\]](#) https://news.stanford.edu/2016/07/21/cost-effective-path-drought-resiliency/http://waterinthewest.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/Storing_Water_in_CA.pdf

Observer Reports - December

Campbell City Council

No report this month. *Jackie Constanza*

Los Gatos Town Council

Council members approved actions to complete the design of an infrastructure and safety improvement project, a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Highway 17, just south of Blossom Hill Road. During the public hearing, supporters cited safety concerns on Blossom Hill Road for pedestrians and bicyclists as the roadway crosses Highway 17. Opponents of the project spoke of how the proposed new bridge would affect their neighborhoods with increased foot traffic and large numbers of bicyclists. Council members authorized the Town manager to negotiate with VTA and accept \$2.7 million in Measure B funds for the design. The Town manager will negotiate an agreement with a design firm once proposals are received. Council members approved spending up to \$946,210 of the Town's reserves on the design.

Council members adopted a resolution which certified the results of the November election. Newly elected council members, Mary Badame, Matthew Hudes, and Maria Ristow, were sworn in. Remaining members, Marico Sayoc and Rob Rennie, were approved as mayor and vice mayor for one year, respectively. *Lynda Jandron*

Monte Sereno City Council

New council members including Rowena Turner and Bryan Mekechuk were welcomed to the City Council. The Council authorized continued use of monies received from the Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund to provide funding for two full-time police officers assigned as Motorcycle Traffic Officers. *Alan Giberson*

Saratoga City Council

The City of Saratoga opposed VTA use of Measure B transportation funds to front-load Bart extension over other priorities. New city council members elected are Kookie Fitzsimons and Tina Walia. General Plan 2040 will be revised to incorporate new state requirements for new housing units from 439 to 2100. *Alan Giberson*

Upcoming League Events

LUNCH WITH THE SJ/SC LEAGUE

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

A Live Online Zoom Event

What is Environmental Justice and why is it important for all?

Join us via Zoom for a discussion with Rick Callender, the CEO of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. He is also the newly appointed president of the California NAACP. SEE MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER AT: <https://www.lwvsjc.org/lunch-with-league>

LWVUS: WEBINAR ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI)

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Each month's webinar focuses on a different aspect of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Register for future programs and access recordings of past DEI webinars, [here](#).

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the League

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

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Chambers

70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110

COVID-19 has really affected this event! As we want this to be an in person grand celebration, we have now postponed it until 2021 with great hopes. Please note that this is a NEW date for this celebration event! Register [here](#).

You are invited to join members and friends from all of the Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County in a festive celebration of the League's 100th Anniversary. The evening will also celebrate the San Jose/Santa Clara's League's 75th Anniversary. Supervisor Cindy Chavez will host this informative event which will include guest speakers who will be sharing the important work the County Leagues have accomplished over the years.

Beverages and a light dinner will be served.

League Articles

LWVUS ALERTS

COVID-19 Stimulus Package Underwhelms After Months of Negotiations

The League of Women Voters of the United States CEO Virginia Kase issued the following statement following passage of the new \$900 Billion coronavirus relief package under the CARES Act – the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act... [Read More](#)

THE BAY AREA MONITOR

[December 2020 - January 2021 Issue](#)
[Monitor Weekly Notes](#)

LWVC ALERTS

[New Democracy Works Winter 2020 Newsletter](#)

HISTORY: A PODCAST: YOUR AT-HOME CENTENNIAL GUIDE:

The Agitators: The Story of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass. The Agitators tells of the enduring but tempestuous friendship of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass. Great allies? Yes. And at times, great adversaries. Young abolitionists when they met in Rochester, New York, in the 1840s, they were full of hope and a common purpose. As they grew to become the cultural icons we know today, their movements collided and their friendship was severely tested. Follow these brilliant, flawed, and rebellious activists with host Ashley C. Ford. Listen to the latest - "Fight for my rights, Aunt Susan," and the earlier podcasts, [here](#).

Board Bytes - December 2, 2020

1. Long-time League member and Voter Editor Cherri Nelson is moving to San Diego and officially resigned from the Board. Board members thanked Cherri for her incredible work and wonderful technical and personal skills. She will be missed by the League.
2. The LWVBA Day event focusing on Bay Area housing issues was attended by Eleanor and Tom.
3. Unless creative ideas come up, the League will not have a holiday party this year.
4. The date for next year's Program Planning meeting is set for January 30, 2021.
5. The Board decided to donate \$240 to the Georgia League to support their effort to get the fullest possible representation in the January Georgia run-off election.
6. Most people who responded to the member survey said they are interested in participating in League programs. An email will be sent to those who expressed interest in helping to start developing the programs.
7. Under the Healthcare Committee's leadership, the Board decided to ask the mayors of our four coverage cities to sign a proclamation by a coalition of American mayors to support Medicare for All. The Board also approved asking the County Council to approach the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to consider publishing a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis.
8. Sophia and Rebecca started looking for a new membership management tool to replace Member Planet. Tom and Qing volunteered to join the search. Eleanor proposed having a detailed report and making a decision next month.
9. Meg Giberson reported that the State League Water Committee will ask all the leagues in the state to make water issue a priority and will create articles for member leagues to use when discussing water issues.
10. The next Board meeting will be on January 6, 2021.



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

LWV SWSCV BOARD & ELECTED OFFICIALS 2020-21

EXECUTIVE TEAM

President, Eleanor Yick
Vice Pres/Program, **Open**
Secretary, Victoria Zhang
Treasurer, Helen Wang
DIRECTORS
County, Open
County Council President, Tom & Danice Picraux
Education, **Open**
Health Care, Barbara Lea
Housing/Transp., Liang Fang-Chao
IT/Public Relations, Sophia Kao
Membership, Aileen Kao
Natural Resources, Meg Giberson
Observers, Barbara Lea
Voter Editor, Rebecca Schwan
Voter's Edge, Tom Picraux
Voters Service, Eleanor Yick

ELECTED OFFICIALS

National
President Donald Trump
[www.whitehouse.gov](#)
Senator Dianne Feinstein
[www.feinstein.senate.gov](#)
Senator Alex Padilla
[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://asmcdc.org/members/a28](#)
County
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[JoeSimitian@box.sccgov.org](#)
Supp. Mike Wasserman
[Mike.wasserman@box.sccgov.org](#)
Supp. Susan Ellenberg
[supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org](#)

