



Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

August, 2018

LWVSWSCV Summer Social

All League Members Invited.
And Bring a Friend!



Sunday
August 12, 2018
3:30 – 5:30 P.M.

Home of
Tom & Danice Picraux
R.S.V.P. dpicraux@gmail.com

Election Season Trainings

Volunteers Are Needed
for League-Sponsored
Election Events
in September & October
Sign Up If Interested!

Candidate Forums:

Moderators • Question Sorters • Greeters
Tuesday • August 28 • 7 P.M.
R.S.V.P. wenhendry@comcast.net

and

Pros & Cons:

Train To Be A Presenter on the
12 Ballot Issues
Wednesday • August 29 • 7 P.M.
R.S.V.P. egyick@icloud.com

Further Details for Events on Page 4

In This Issue:

LWUS Convention • National Popular Vote Interstate Compact • SCC Juvenile Justice

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.

Notes from the 2018 LWVUS Convention

Four of our members pictured here (Hana Itani, Eleanor Yick, Gail Nishimura and Barbara Lea) attended the LWVUS Convention held in Chicago from June 28–July 1. In spite of the extremely hot and humid weather, all four found convention attendance worthwhile and informative. Each day is divided into what's called a "plenary session" which is whole group attendance where program decisions are made. Smaller issue-focused caucuses take place before the plenary starting at 7:30 A.M. and after dinner at 8:30 P.M.

The theme of the convention was **Creating a More Perfect Democracy** through League membership and advocacy. Each day featured at least one speaker highlighting her/his work toward women's empowerment, local citizens' and good government practices, protecting voting rights, gerrymandering/redistricting, use of technology in registration and voting, and/or addressing **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)**. The League is committed to promoting DEI to better ensure its long term viability as a respected, effective, and inclusive organization as it moves into its second century.

Chris Carson, re-elected LWVUS president, set the stage for the League's work in reviewing the Transformation Journey updated by LWVUS in 2018. Four main areas of focus emerged from this comprehensive review of the organization that will be undertaken in conjunction with the **Making Democracy Work Campaign®**:

- I Advancing a Clear Strategic Focus
- II Building a More Inclusive Culture
- III Building a Healthier League Network
- IV Increasing Capacity at All Levels

All the state Leagues voted overwhelmingly to support these goals in addition to their own state League's and local League's goals. If you recall, we voted at our Program Planning meeting to support LWVUS's goals as well as the four we set: **Local Election Finance Study/Money in Politics, Voter Services, Communication and Natural Resources**.

Many speakers focused on the League's need to be more diverse, more equitable



and more inclusive (DEI). Some interesting definitions of those terms were put forth with one being: **Diversity being the presence of differences; Equity mindedness being to make America just; and Inclusion being the acknowledgement of the presence of differences**. Think about these definitions and see if they resonate with you.

The most interesting part of the convention for me is always the adoption of the recommended program (which has emerged from the submitted Program Planning recommendations from each League) and the process of moving some non-recommended programs for consideration. This is where you see democracy in action—many speakers standing at the pros and cons microphones advocating their positions. Many non-recommended programs were put up for consideration but only three emerged for full discussion and a vote: **Abolishment of the Electoral College** (which LWVUS already has a position on), **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC)**, and **Support for the NRA Amendment**. The *NRA Amendment* was approved by acclamation and the NPVIC was also approved by a 2/3 vote. For your information, a separate article is included with more details about the exciting NPVIC. (Submitted by Eleanor Yick)

In order to address the work involved in the **Making Democracy Work Campaign®** and the **Transformation Journey**, healthy resources are needed—both volunteer and financial. Tom Wells, Budget Committee Chair, presented the proposed

2018–2020 LWVUS budget. The news is good regarding National's operating and education fund budgets! Unlike two years ago when a deficit was projected, LWVUS' financial health is substantial. Individual contributions are at a record high, erasing any deficit and leaving National with a strong reserve post 2020. Other sources of revenue included large planned gifts, in-kind advertising and legal services, and convention attendance having hit an all-time high. The largest anticipated expenses are direct marketing, advertising and legal services, and funding for the League's transformation to meet strategic goals on mission impact, relevance, and visibility. The budget was formulated under the assumption that the PMP rate will not increase (yay!), no new studies will be commissioned in 2018–2020, and National can leverage the 100th Anniversary to fund the organization. With such a strong financial outlook, the budget was voted for approval by the majority. Submitted by Gail Nishimura

Important Issues at the 2018 League Convention

It seemed to me that this National LWV Convention focused on more relevant, important issues with a more practical approach than previous ones I have attended—or maybe I am just more concerned about our nation than I was in the past. There were nearly 1,000 attendees, with about 150 from

Continued on Next Page.

Convention (Cont.)

California—spending a lot of time in the really beautiful old Hilton Ballroom.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion. Many of the speakers were from different racial backgrounds, and one of the best was Rosie Rios, the 43rd Treasurer of the United States, a beautiful young Latina who led the efforts to place a woman's portrait on the front of U.S. currency and is working to get a statue of a real woman in each of our largest National Parks. One afternoon all the delegates spent three hours in smaller groups on very practical interactive training designed to discuss the importance of self-awareness, intention and impact when attempting to increase DEI at the national, state and local levels of the League.

Gun Safety. The title of this 7:30A.M. session was **Gun Violence Prevention in America: Arm Yourself with Facts, not Fiction.** In the United States we now have one intentional shooting a week on school grounds! The speakers emphasized that the problem was not a mental health issue but easy access to guns. We have got to get a ban on AR-14 assault rifles with a big magazine, which are designed to kill people.

Health Care. An excellent speaker, a woman physician, talked about erosion on the progress we had made for affordable care on the national level and emphasized that LWVUS plans to provide Leagues with tools to help them continue fighting for health care for all.

The Equal Rights Amendment. It was first introduced to Congress in 1923. The current proposal was passed in 1972. Aren't we a patient group, and wouldn't it be wonderful if we could get the ERA passed before our 100th Anniversary in 2020? One more state needs to vote for the amendment; and these are the states who have not done so yet: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia. **Submitted by Barbara Lea**

The Convention kicked off with A Conversation on Redistricting where attendees heard from Ruth Greenwood and Nick Stephanopoulos. Greenwood

Board Bytes - Meeting of Jun 20, 2018

Discussed:

- The role of the League! Political education and leadership as ideas for new Board Members.
- It was suggested that more of the Board's work be done by committee.
- Information for PR is needed at least a month and a half in advance of all programs.
- A wine & cheese party was suggested for August. A committee was formed to organize this event.

Recommended:

- President Yick requested that she should be sent a copy, cc'd, on all emails regarding any Board business.
- Board members were asked to read and review *LWV Non-partisan Policy*, our local *By-Laws*, the goals set from Program Planning.
- Job descriptions are to be reviewed, updated and turned in by the next Board meeting.

Voted Approval:

- **Privacy Policy:** Email addresses only will be used in the *Voter* and on flyers for contact information, except for special programs out of respect for member's privacy concerns!

Cherri Nelson, Voter Editor



served on the legal team for the plaintiffs in the United States Supreme Court case *Gill v. Whitford* which the Court decided in June.

As we well know, partisan and racial gerrymandering is a huge problem in this country, and the League is fighting to make sure the voters elect politicians who truly represent their interests, rather than elected officials picking their constituents. California and Pennsylvania are seen as models in the reformation effort.

At the Immigration Caucus, we learned that some of the men and women who risk their lives and give up time with their loved ones to keep our country safe are susceptible to some terrible immigration policies. There is a current program in place that promises an expedited path to citizenship for undocumented persons who volunteer to serve in the armed forces. Unfortunately, if a veteran commits even a minor crime, he/she will be deported. The number of veterans that have been

deported is unknown but estimated to be in the thousands. The hope is that once Americans know that this is happening, legislation will be passed by Congress to rectify this abomination. It was also disturbing to learn that ICE is offering money to sheriffs in order to balance their jail's budget.

The League has seen a great uptick in membership since the last election. The convention was extremely well attended with 867+ delegates from 49 State Leagues plus the District of Columbia. The League is active in all 50 states and the District of Columbia with more than 762 chapters across the country. "We all want to see a League of Women Voters that's suited to meet 21st-century demands, that works hard to court a new generation of leaders and activists, that looks like the people and communities for whom we so fervently advocate," said Chris Carson, LWVUS president. **Submitted by Hana Itani**

The most important political office is that of the private citizen.

Louis D. Brandeis

LWV Wine & Cheese Social

Join your local League members for socializing and fun at a Wine & Cheese Party.

Sunday • August 12
3:30 – 5:30 P.M.
 108 Panorama Way, Los Gatos

This summer event replaces our League Picnic that was held in previous years in July. We especially encourage new members to attend as a way to get to know fellow Leaguers and discuss our activities over libations. We welcome members to bring spouses, friends and prospective new members.



Directions: from the corner of Union and Blossom Hill Road, turn north onto Union Avenue. Take the second street turning right onto Anne Way and then the first right onto Panorama Way. Look for the New Mexican chile ristra hanging out front (third house on your right).

Tom Picraux, Committe Member

League Trainings in August

Election season is almost upon us and our Voters Service Team is preparing for Candidate Forums and Pros & Cons sessions. We proudly sponsor Candidate Forums for all city, town and school board candidates in our coverage area along with state representatives, senate, and sheriff candidates. We also schedule sessions known as Pros & Cons where we literally explain each ballot issue that voters in our four cities will find on their ballots.

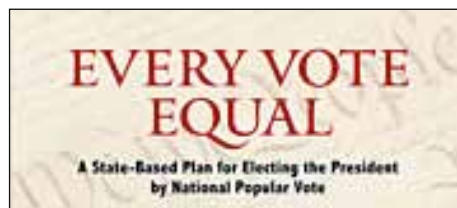
In order for us to sponsor these election season events, we need additional volunteers to be trained to assist the Voters Service Team. This is a great opportunity for both long-term League members and our new members to get involved in short-term projects. It's also a great way to be introduced to the work of the League.

Wendy Hendry and Eleanor Yick will be conducting the training sessions on August 28 and 29. People who are interested in participating should be comfortable speaking in front of a large audience, able to keep a forum or session on track following League protocols, and have transportation to the location. Please R.S.V.P. to Wendy (wenhendry@comcast.net) or Eleanor (egyick@icloud.com) for additional details and training location.

Eleanor Yick, President

National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC)

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is a bi-partisan agreement among a group of U.S. states and the District of Columbia to award all their respective electoral votes to whichever presidential candidate wins the overall popular vote in all the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The compact is designed to ensure that the candidate who wins the most popular votes is elected president, and it will come into effect only when it will guarantee that outcome. As of June 2018, it has been adopted by twelve states (including California in 2012) and the District of Columbia. Together, they have 172 electoral votes of the 270 needed out of the total 538 electoral votes. Until all the compact's conditions are met, all states will continue to award electoral



votes in their current manner. Today, all but two states (Maine and Nebraska) award all their electoral votes to the candidate with the most votes statewide.

The compact would guarantee that:

- every vote in every state would matter;
- voters are equal across the country; millions of ignored voters are enfranchised;
- candidates run true national campaigns, campaigning in all states, responding to a greater range of voters and promoting

agendas that unite the greatest number of voters;

- the Electoral System as envisioned in our Constitution remains intact and states retain control over elections.

Today, national elections are determined by a handful of battleground or swing states (e.g., not reliably Republican or Democrat). Eleven battleground states, representing 95 million Americans or 1/3 of the population, determined the outcome of the 2016 Presidential election.

You can download a free copy of Every Vote Equal: A State-Based Plan for Electing the President by National Popular Vote by John R. Koza, et.al. here: www.every-vote-equal.com.

Eleanor Yick, President

Help Promote Our League

Please help get the word out about our fantastic League!

Write a positive review on our Yelp listing: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/league-of-women-voters-southwest-santa-clara-valley-saratoga>.

If you live in Cupertino or San Jose, help post League events to NextDoor. Contact Gail Nishimura gailnishimura@me.com if interested.

2017-2018 Board of Directors

President: **Eleanor Yick**

Vice President / Programs:
Gail Nishimura

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**Wendy Hendry, Sue Cooney
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League of Women Voters

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lwv.swscv@gmail.com



LWV Bay Area

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

LWV California

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

LWV of the United States

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

Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice

Part I - The Juvenile Justice Committee will be putting short articles in the next five Voters across the county leading up to a forum in 2019.

In late 2017, a spate of local media stories focused on an increase in juvenile crime in San Jose. Some of these stories reported that youth were being brought to Juvenile Hall only to be released the next day, implying that more young people should be detained if we want the community to be safe. This one-year uptick in crime appeared after a 68% decrease in felony arrests between 2008 and 2016 (from 3,615 to 1,151.) Some would say, the reason we have had this decrease is because young people do better when supported in the community.

This issue — to put youth in detention or not — is one of many important issues to consider when thinking about juvenile justice. Others include the disproportionate

representation of Latino and Black youth in detention, the impact of detention on future crime, adolescent brain development, the school to prison pipeline and youth engaged in both the child welfare and justice systems. Because of this, a countywide LWV Juvenile Justice Committee has been formed with the goal of understanding the local juvenile justice system, educating the larger community about juvenile justice issues and supporting the implementation of strategies that have been shown to decrease system engagement. Over the next year, committee members will be writing articles covering a wide variety of juvenile justice topics leading up to a county-wide forum in 2019.

We want more members! If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Ellyn Corey at ECorey@pacbell.net.

Dana Bunnett, Committee Member



<https://votersedge.org/ca>

- Access your full, personalized ballot by entering your address.
- View candidate biographies, top priorities, funders, and endorsements.
- Read explanations of ballot measures along with who supports, opposes, and funds them.
- Check where, when, and how to vote, including information on your local polling locations.
- Cell phones or tablets can also be used.

How It Works: Enter your zip code and your street address to access your complete ballot.

VOTE411.ORG
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED
<http://www.vote411.org>

Welcome!

New Members

**Liang-Fang Chao
Anh Kwa
Mary Ann Palmer
Steven Scharf
Diane Siemens
Peter Siemens
Marian Urushima
Kristen Wood**

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.

LWVUS May/June Highlights

Accurate Census - Action

The Census has not included a question about citizenship in nearly 70 years. ...the League calls for removing the question. Stand with us, http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=13327&ga=2.137889461.424459912.1527605857-1017759590.1502633573&okay=true.

Families Belong Together – Action

LWVUS engaged in the immigration crisis on several fronts. A **letter** was sent to lawmakers, urging No votes on two pieces of legislation with one failing. League members at the Chicago Convention participated in the Families Belong Together marches. Tell Congress to pass the **Dream Act** now, http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=13203&utm_source=email&utm_medium=MonthlyHighlights&utm_campaign=June18.

Voting

Ohio Challenges Districts

LWV Ohio joined a federal lawsuit that alleges the current congressional district

map violates Ohioans’ right to have their votes count and be heard. www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwv-ohio-joins-congressional-district-lawsuit.

Fight For Fair Maps

League continues to gain momentum, in spite of recent SCOTUS rulings, in Pennsylvania and North Carolina on unconstitutional congressional maps. Read a conversation on redistricting by the two co-councils for the League in North Carolina broadcast live at the LWVUS Convention, www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters/videos/10156249505457279.

Proof of Citizenship Law Defeated in Kansas

A federal judge struck down a Kansas law requiring documentary proof of citizenship to vote. Thank you to our Kansas League, who was a plaintiff in this case and has fought tirelessly for years against this law. www.nbcnews.com/news/crime-courts/judge-strikes-down-kansas-law-requiring-proof-citizenship-vote-n884516.

Early Voting for Florida Students

LWV Florida working with college students is suing to overturn a four-year old ban

on early voting on college campuses. www.tampabay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2018/05/22/floridas-early-voting-ban-on-campus-challenged-in-court.

Automatic Voter Registration for Massachusetts

LWV Massachusetts is tirelessly advocating for Automatic Voter Registration which the Massachusetts House passed overwhelmingly. Passing the state Senate would make it the 14th state to expand registration to every eligible citizen. www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2018/06/27/automatic-voter-registration-may-coming-mass-and-bringing-new-voters-with-DPzH0vtwMWv0cKiS6mhkFO/story.html.

2018 Spike in Voter Interest

Levels of interest have spiked from Americans seeking out voter information. Vote411.org will be providing unprecedented levels of ballot and voting information to these Americans. www.lwv.org/blog/months-general-election-day-league-sees-spike-voter-interest.

Chris Carson President, LWV

Empowering Voters Defending Democracy

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: _____

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 the LWVSWSCV at, lwv.swscv@gmail.com. Your contact information will be added to our membership database and our published *Membership Directory*.

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)

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Please remember to mention seeing these ads when you utilize these businesses' services.

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Lisa Myers Owner
 Kings' Court Shopping Center

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 408-358-9453 fax 408-358-4673
info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com
 Mon - Fri 10am - 6pm Sun 5pm



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 19020 COX AVENUE
 SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA
 408.252.4570



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 p 408.257.3530 f 408.257.0341
drzee@sbcglobal.net

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Capelli Salon

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2018 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>
 Assemblyman 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>



🌀 Event Calendar 🌀

- Aug 1 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
Clip 'n Come, Will resume again in September!
Political Book Club, Will resume again in September!
- Aug 12 Sun **Wine & Cheese Social**, 3:30 – 5:30 P.M. Home of Tom & Danice Picraux, 108 Panorama Way, Los Gatos
- Aug 28 Tues **Candidate Forum Training**, 7 P.M. Home of Wendy Henry
Contact wenhendry@comcast.net
- Aug 29 Wed **Pros & Cons**, 7 P.M. Home of Wendy Henry
Contact egyick@icloud.com

🌀 Save the Date 🌀

- Sep 15 Sat **Pros & Cons**, 2 P.M. Los Gatos Library
- Sep 18 Tue **Election Event**, 7 P.M. Saratoga Library
- Sep 22 Sat **Election Event**, 10 A.M. Saratoga Library
- Oct 2 Tue **Election Event**, 7 P.M. Campbell Library
- Oct 8 Mon **Sheriffs' Candidate Forum**, 7 P.M.
Cupertino Community Center

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

League of Women Voters
Southwest Santa Clara Valley
P.O. Box 2865
Saratoga, CA 95070-0865