

LWV[®] Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley

Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

March, 2019

Meet Your Local Officials: Newly Elected & Re-elected

Saturday • March 23
9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Los Gatos United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall • 111 Church Street, Los Gatos



Meet Your Officials
from City Councils &
Schools Boards of Los
Gatos, Saratoga, Monte
Sereno, and Campbell!

Co-Sponsored with the
Social Justice Committee
of Los Gatos United
Methodist Church

Further Details on Page 4

SWSCV League's Annual Finance Drive
February 1 – April 31

Donate!

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.



President's Letter

Thank you to all the League members and visitors who came and participated in our recently held Program Planning. It was a very successful morning thanks to VP Gail Nishimura who organized the whole program, the Program Chairs who highlighted the League's work and suggested areas to continue working on, and the volunteers who brought coffee and treats. Additional details will be made available via the meeting minutes that will be published next month and as part of the Annual Meeting in June.

There are three important areas that I wish to highlight this month: our *Member Survey*, our *Annual Finance Drive* and an upcoming program event on *CASA*, the housing compact recently developed for the 9 Bay Area counties and sent to the California State Legislature.

In March, you will be receiving a *Member Survey* to be completed online that will help us identify those members who are interested in taking a more active role in the League. **Please complete the survey asap after receiving it.** Within the next month or so, you might also receive a call from a Nominating Committee member asking if you would like to volunteer to serve in an on or off -Board position or on a committee next year.

As you know, Board Member Directors take responsibility for certain areas and attend the monthly Board meeting. Off-Board Chairs focus on specific areas and do not need to attend the monthly Board

meetings. But, **what is most needed** in our League are members who are willing to serve on a committee. Committee members work with a Board Director and Chair to plan or implement a certain area of our work. This might require only one or two meetings for the development and implementation of a plan. For example, 3 or 4 members are needed to serve on the Program Event committee. This committee plans for the 5 or 6 public program events we put on each year: they decide on the topic, contact possible speakers, and arrange for the venue to host the event. Serving on a committee is a great way for new members to get involved as they will learn how the League operates and might then decide to move onto a Board position in subsequent years.

This past year our League struggled to form committees and, consequently, the Board Directors were often faced with doing all the planning and implementation by themselves with some assistance from other Board members. This definitely leads to burn out – the workload is so much easier when it is shared. **Please consider volunteering for a committee this next year and help us to be an even greater presence and voice in our community.**

Thanks to the efforts of Tom and Danice Picraux, our Annual Finance Drive letters have been mailed and everyone should have received their invitation to donate by now. This is our only fundraiser for the year and we rely heavily on receiving donations. Last year, we surpassed our goal of raising \$5,000 and hope to do so

again this year. Please do be as generous as you can but also remember: any donated amount is greatly appreciated.

Lastly, I wish to inform all our members, particularly those who were not at Program Planning, about the recently adopted **Bay Area Housing Plan called CASA**. This plan emerged from a blue-ribbon steering committee that was organized by MTC, the Transportation, Financing and Coordinating agency for the nine bay area counties, and ABAG, the Association of Bay Area Government. It is a 15-year emergency policy package to confront the Bay Area housing crisis. There are 10 elements in the plan and 5 Calls for Action. A series of state bills is to be introduced in the California Legislature starting in 2019—each addressing one of the ten elements and Calls for Action. Potential funding through tax measures are to be introduced in 2020 and 2021. Because many of our local city/town leaders have expressed strong reservations about parts of the CASA compact, we are planning a program event in April so that everyone will know what the plan specifically entails, what supporters are saying about it and what serious concerns are being raised about the funding and loss of local control by some of the smaller, local towns/cities in the Bay Area. More details will be sent out about this program as soon as they are finalized, but right now we are planning for an **April 6 morning event at the Campbell Community Center**.

Eleanor Yick, President

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

Our book for March will be one that was suggested during February's discussion, *The Fifth Risk* by Michael Lewis. If it isn't available at the library, it is only \$12.43 for purchase on Amazon. It is a little over 200 pages so the book should be a quicker read.

The location continues to be at Wesley Manor Library, 1655 S. Winchester Blvd., Campbell. We look forward to another great discussion on March 11.

Dan Hendry, Coordinator, wenhendry@comcast.net

2017-2018 Board of Directors

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Gail Nishimura

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Fax: 916 442-7362

<http://ca.lwv.org>

LWV of the United States

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<http://www.lwv.org>

Board Bytes - Meeting of February 6, 2018



Discussed:

- The LWVC Legislative Recap 2017-18 was handed out for awareness and discussion by the Board.
- Aspects of HR1, strengthening the Voting Rights Act, were gone over noting that LWVUS supports this legislation.
- It was agreed that a program on the controversial housing CASA Compact be presented.
- Suggestions were offered for Program ideas through July, such as: Town Council and School Board meet and greet, a youth voter registration drive.
- Ideas were suggested for inclusions in the finance drive donation letter. Several volunteered to help with envelope stuffing/labeling for mailing these letters out.
- Suggestions were made re: the Annual Meeting scheduled for mid June this year.

Reports:

- Board liability insurance accounted for the major expense in January. An increasing percentage of members are using PayPal on the web site.
- President Eleanor Yick, along with VP Gail Nishimura and Student Registration Chair, Claudia Aken, are scheduled to make a presentation to the Saratoga High School Home & School Club re: student voter registration.
- A committee was formed for fact checking and proofing of *Facts For Voters*.

Voted On:

- The Board approved a \$100 donation towards the upcoming LWVC Convention.
- The Program Planning report was approved to be sent to LWV California.
- An electronic version of the *Membership Directory*, created with the new database software, was approved for distribution.

Cherri Nelson, Editor

New Citizen Voter Registration

Registering new citizens is another League's turn to staff, March 21. Members can contact me if they'd like to help our sister League staff this event.

Jackie Costanzo, Voter Registration jjc717@aol.com



The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund publishes the *Bay Area Monitor* six times a year. The publication covers policies, plans, programs, and legislation that affect quality of life in the Bay Area and beyond.

In addition to receiving the Monitor by email, subscribers can receive weekly bulletins with Monitor article updates, regional policy news, and announcements from local Leagues regarding

events or activities that relate to the Monitor's coverage areas of transportation, air, water, open space, housing and land use.

The *Monitor* is provided to readers for free, both in print and online at www.bayareamonitor.org.

Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/bayareamonitor](https://www.facebook.com/bayareamonitor).

Contact us for more information: (510) 839-1608 • editor@bayareamonitor.org.

Meet Your Local Officials Newly Elected & Re-elected

Saturday • March 23 • 9:30 – 11:00 A.M. • Los Gatos Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall • 111 Church Street, Los Gatos

In honor of **Sunshine Week**, which is a celebration and promotion of access to public information and open government, the League of Women Voters of Southwest Santa Clara Valley and the Social Justice Committee of Los Gatos Methodist Church, are hosting a coffee social with newly elected/re-elected officials from Los Gatos,

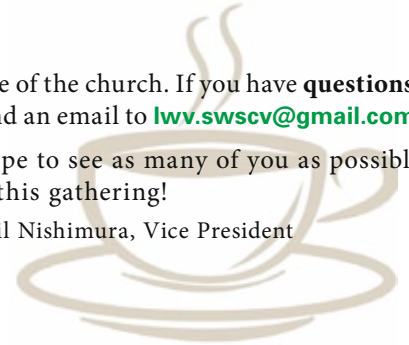
Saratoga, Monte Sereno, and Campbell City Councils and School Boards. Get to know your local government over a cup of coffee and participate in a moderated Questions & Answers session.

This event is **free and open to the public**. And there is ample parking on the west

side of the church. If you have **questions**, send an email to lwv.swscv@gmail.com.

Hope to see as many of you as possible at this gathering!

Gail Nishimura, Vice President



2019 LWV Annual Finance Drive

Donate!

February 1 – April 31

We are in the midst of our League's 2019 Finance Drive. More than half the funds used for the local work of our League are provided through our annual Finance Drive. Last year's work included 16 Pros & Cons presentations on 2018 ballot measures, one bilingual English-Chinese Pros & Cons, and 8 local Candidate Forums, including a forum for candidates running for our area's U.S. House of Representatives. This year we will continue free educational forums,

new citizen voter registration and a registration drive in our high schools, as well as work to help prepare for the 2020 census and a follow up to our local election finance study. Please consider making a donation to your League—see the <Donate> link at <https://my.lwv.org/california/southwest-santa-clara-valley>. If each member could give even just a little, it would greatly help our budget.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at dpicraux@gmail.com.

Thank You! Tom Picraux, Finance Chair



Thank You For Any Support You Can Give!
Making Democracy Work®

LWVUS: Take Action – Citizenship Question is Bad for the Census

U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has chosen to include a question on the U.S. Census pertaining to citizenship. Including this question on the Census will discourage participation and impact the data collected in every community across the country.

This decision is bad for the census, bad for our communities and bad for America.

The Census occurs only once every ten years, so it is imperative to get the most accurate count. Every community relies

on Census data—from apportioning our national representatives to making decisions about public safety and neighborhood resources—this information impacts every aspect of our lives.

A fair and accurate count lets our leaders and businesses make sound investment decisions that keep our communities thriving.

Including a citizenship question on the Census undermines the rights of eligible

voters and threatens a process vital to our democracy. We (LWVUS) will do everything in our power to correct this issue before it's too late.

Sign our petition at: http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=13327&okay=true to say you stand with the League as we fight back against this decision. The Supreme Court has also decided to hear this issue and will make the final decision.

City & Town Council Observers

Campbell: No Report This Month

Los Gatos: Feb 13 – A new ordinance amending Town Code will regulate short term rental housing (e.g. Airbnb). There are an estimated 200 units in Los Gatos being rented in this manner, illegally prior to this. Homeowners of short-term rental units will need to apply for permits annually. A homeowner who remains on the property during rental, termed hosted unit, may rent up to 180 days/year. A homeowner who is absent from the property during rental, termed unhosted unit, is limited to renting it 30 days/year. Apartments are not allowed to be turned into short-term rentals. The regulations will provide neighbors of short-term rental units with an avenue to



report noise, parking, and traffic nuisances to Town staff. Regulations aim to hamper corporations from creating large groups of short-term rental units in Los Gatos.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: Jan 16 – The Council discussed the disposition of a new Ordinance Establishing regulations for Rotating Emergency Shelters (Safe Car Park and Severe Weather Shelters Programs). The new Regulations will include the mutual collaboration between faith community facilities and West Valley College to offer temporary emergency shelter.

Feb 2 – The Council unanimously passed the ordinance establishing regulations for a rotating emergency shelters program. The ordinance will be published in the newspaper within 15 days of passing.

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 Wednesdays – 7:00P.M.

A Saratoga resident spoke in opposition to the PUC proposed merger between San Jose Water Company and the Connecticut Water Company.

Raquel Durand, Observer Chair

Monte Sereno – Observer needed. You can access the meetings at: <http://cityofmontesereno.org/2148/citycouncil>.

2019 LWV Bay Area League Day

Recently, five of our League members, (Eleanor Yick, Gail Nishimura, Aileen Kao, and Tom and Danice Picraux), attended the LWV Bay Area League Day held in the Google Community Center in San Francisco. Over 200+ League members from around the Bay were in attendance. This year's topic centered on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Action and Practice. **Why DEI is Right for the League of Women Voters** was the keynote address presented by Virginia Kase, CEO of LWVUS. Virginia emphasized that the topic would be uncomfortable for many to hear, but necessary for the growth of the League which is widely viewed as an older, white, privileged, female organization that is limited in representing the US population at large. Organizations which have more diversified membership benefit from a better range of perspectives and thus the League needs to consider who is impacted by their work and whether that population is being involved in the decision-making process.

Speakers from various organizations, presented ideas on how Leagues can

change in order to achieve DEI. Laura Eberly of YWCA offered this excellent advice, "Understand why you want to attract a certain group and the value they bring to your organization. Don't simply recruit to fulfill a statistic. Avoid tokenism." Fred Blackwell of the San Francisco Foundation advised the attendees to keep the following points in mind: 1) Acknowledge that there is a race problem; 2) Look up the data for how far off your organization is in being diverse—you need to have quantifiable goals in achieving DEI if you want to honestly hold your organization accountable; 3) DEI can't just be a program but must be part of your policy; 4) Allow the community you are trying to help be part of defining the solution; and 5) When working with other organizations, do so in partnership and solidarity. Support them even if the issue doesn't affect your organization. Avoid a transactional relationship of "I'll participate in your march if you participate in mine."

The day wrapped up with speakers encouraging Leagues to form alliances with



other organizations. Allie Cannington of the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers encouraged the Leagues to partner with her organization and reminded attendees that disabilities covered a wide range of people, numbering over 57 million. She noted League literature should be fully captioned and have image descriptions for the low vision and blind as text-to-speech readers can't describe the article or social media post fully without them.

Achieving DEI will be a continuing effort for our League and as one speaker noted: "It should not be viewed as a goal, but an ongoing journey."

Gail Nishimura, Vice President

Immigrant, Migrant, Asylum Seeker or Refugee?

Because of the world refugee crisis, our League has formed a new Immigration Committee, chaired by Hana Itani (an immigrant), with Barbara Lea (a native Californian), and Nora Mason (originally a refugee). This article, written by Nora, is to help our membership understand the vocabulary of the situation and what it was like to be a refugee after World War II.

There has been a lot of confusion and debate about the correct terms for the above subject. Currently there are over 68 million men, women and children escaping war, persecution and political turbulence—these people are refugees and asylum seekers. There are people looking for jobs or an education—they are called migrants—and there are people who want to live permanently in another country—these are immigrants. And sometimes migrants become immigrants. The people involved are not confused as to who they are—we, on the other hand, should understand the difference before we judge and try to help them.

Currently there are many refugees, all on the daily front page—coming here because

of wars near and far. And because of the news about the U.S. southern border wall, we are often mistaken about the reality of current events.

For example, the workers crossing the southern border every day or every week for work are migrants. They have proper papers; they have an employer; and usually at end of the day or the growing season, they return home.

The students who arrive here to study are on Student Visas, F-1. When their education is finished, they may return home or seek temporary employment. If they get employment, they are hired on an H1-B Visa, the same visa that allows a skilled, highly trained individual to immigrate to the US for a job. That visa, after four years if the worker is sponsored by the employer, leads to a Green Card, which allows the card holder to live in the US permanently and the ability to seek citizenship. The student, after finishing her studies, becomes an immigrant and remains an immigrant

for the rest of her life—technically. And if her country is free of strife she may travel back and forth.

An asylum seeker is someone who is seeking international protection from dangers in his or her home country. He must apply for protection in the country of destination—and must arrive at or cross a border in order to apply.

My Personal Story

I have been in the US since I was nine years old. And always when I tell someone that I am from another country, the assumption is that I am an immigrant. But I began as a refugee, and this is a story of how the refugees became immigrants after the Second World War and how different this process is today.

To read the rest of my personal story, *Nora's Journey*, please click on <https://my.lwv.org/california/southwest-santa-clara-valley/voter-newsletter>.

Nora Mason, Immigration Committee

LWVUS – 4 Key Elements of HR1

12/11/2018

Celina Stewart

“With any election, what is most important to me is that voters have a level playing field, regardless of the outcome.”
LWV CEO Virginia Kase.

Throughout our nearly 100-year history, the League of Women Voters has worked to “level the playing field” of our election system by registering new citizens to vote, fighting unfair district maps in court, and advocating in Congress for fair election processes.

The upcoming 116th Congress could make history with the first comprehensive package of democracy reforms scheduled for 2019, HR1. Since the announcement of HR1, LWVUS has been talking to folks on the Hill and working with partner organizations to help shape the bill's language and ensure that voting rights are strengthened by this important legislation. The bill was formally introduced at the end of January, 2019.

The League of Women Voters is very excited at the prospect of HR1 because it aims to include elements that align with many of the League's long-held positions, like election modernization and redistricting reform. As we work with legislators to craft HR1, LWV is advocating for the prioritization of the following essential elements of the bill:

1. Expand Voter Registration

We must modernize the registration process through the expansion of automatic voter registration and online voter registration.

2. Implement Fair Redistricting

It is time to end gerrymandering once and for all so that voters select their elected officials—not the other way around.

3. Outlaw Voter Purging

Prohibiting illegal voter roll purging will ensure that eligible voters will not find themselves wrongfully stripped of the right to vote.

4. Restore the VRA

Restoring the Voting Rights Act will strengthen our elections by cutting back the obstructive laws that have kept eligible voters from exercising their right at the ballot box.

In addition to these four priorities, LWVUS is also open to working on other important election reform measures, such as ensuring election security and addressing public financing systems. It is important that we ensure the security of our elections by improving oversight and upgrading our systems, as well as getting money out of politics and putting power back into the hands of small donors.

LWVUS is proud to be an active coalition partner in ensuring that HR1 comprises bold democracy reforms and voter protections that are necessary to level the playing field for everyone. We call on all legislators, regardless of party, to support any such legislation that is indisputably by and for the people.

Water; Rising Costs and the Tunnels

Water Costs Rapidly Rising

"Water is a rising-cost industry," according to Darin Taylor, SCVWD (Santa Clara Valley Water District) CFO. SCVWD is the large local water wholesaler that sells to our largest local water retailer, San Jose Water [SJW]. SCVWD's CEO, Norma Camacho, seconded the CFO's opinion: "Going into the future, water is going to be much more expensive." In fact, SCVWD projections show steep cost increases over the next 10 years.

Waterfix Now Only One Tunnel?

The State of the State Address by California's new governor favoring one tunnel under the Delta to convey Northern California water to points south—rather than the two tunnels promoted by the previous two governors—sounds a positive note, especially since SCVWD had declared twin tunnels the riskiest new water source (while nonetheless supporting the twin tunnels). The twin tunnel project was at such an early design stage that cost analyses had not been meaningful.

Read further details at on the LWVSWSCV web site at <https://my.lwv.org/california/southwest-santa-clara-valley/voter-newsletter>.

Advocacy Report

LWVC Legislative Update 2017-2018

Sometimes members question the yearly amount of money we are assessed each year to support the work of LWVC. To give you some idea of just the Advocacy Work LWVC conducts on our behalf, please read the LWVC Legislative Update for 2017-2018 that can be found at: <https://my.lwv.org/california/southwest-santa-clara-valley/voter-newsletter>.



Support LWV SWSCV Supporters!

We appreciate the support of the following businesses and business professionals!

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

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info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com

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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

\$ _____ Donations (include as a separate check)

\$ _____ **Total Enclosed**

❧ Event Calendar ❧

- Mar 6 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- Mar 11 Mon **Political Book Club**, 7:00 P.M. *The Fifth Risk* by Michael Lewis, Wesley Manor Library, 1655 S. Winchester Blvd., Campbell
- Mar 6, 20 Wed **Great Decisions**, 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. Los Gatos Methodist Church
- Mar 7, 21 Thu **Great Decisions**, 3:30 – 5:30 P.M. Saratoga Senior Center
- Mar 14 Thu **Clip ‘n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share Home of Sharon Graham, contact patwh.athome@gmail.com
- Mar 23 Sat **Coffee with Your Local Official**, 9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall
111 Church Street, Los Gatos

❧ Save the Date ❧

- Apr 6 Sat **What is the CASA Compact, Pros & Cons** 9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. Campbell Community Center

Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

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