



of Southwest Santa Clara Valley

Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

April, 2019

Come to this Santa Clara County
& Bay Area LWV Sponsored CASA Event

What is the CASA Compact?



Saturday • April 6 • 9:45 – 11:30 A.M.

Campbell Community Center • Room 80
1 W. Campbell Avenue, Campbell

Come Learn About the CASA Compact's 10 Elements and 5 Calls
for Action to Address Our Area's Need for Affordable Housing.

Varied Perspectives of the Proposals Will be
Presented by a Panel of Speakers.

SWSCV League's Annual Finance Drive
Through – April 30

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 our League members who attended our **Coffee with Our Locally Elected/Re-Elected Officials** on Saturday, March 23. We appreciate that officials representing our local town/city councils, local elementary and high school district Boards and local Assemblyman Evan Low participated. There were about 60 people in attendance. Both audience members and our local officials all remarked on how "civil" the meeting was with opportunity for both casual conversations and a moderated Question and Answer session.

Thank you to VP Gail Nishimura, for organizing and staffing the event as well as **Dan and Wendy Hendry** who facilitated the co-sponsorship of this event with the Social Justice Committee of the LG Methodist Church, an inclusionary congregation. The setting was beautiful, the morning coffee and treats (again, thanks to the Social Justice Committee) were bountiful and the facilities' support wonderful.

Moving on to another very important topic, the SCC Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote at its next meeting in early April on whether or not to implement the *Voter's Choice Act* (VCA) in our County commencing with the March 2020 elections.

But, what is it? Approved by California lawmakers in 2016, the *Voter's Choice Act* (VCA) expands voters' options for how, when and where they cast their ballots. The law authorized 14 specified counties to offer the new system in 2018: Calaveras, Inyo, Madera, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo,

San Mateo, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Sutter, and Tuolumne. And, several of the authorized counties, including San Mateo, did participate in the last election. Other counties are authorized to make the switch starting in 2020.

- Beginning in 2018, all registered voters in participating counties received their ballot in the mail a month before the election and had three choices for how to vote: 1) Vote by Mail; 2) Drop off their ballots at a secured Drop Box; or, 3) Voters can go to ANY Vote Center in their county to vote in person. (Local polling places were replaced by Vote Centers.)
- **Vote Centers will be open for at least four days through Election Day with**

some open for a full 11 days. They will offer additional supports such as accessible voting equipment, language assistance and translated materials; some are expected to offer same-day voter registration.

For additional information, please look at the chart, *The Future of Voting*, at <http://futureofelections.org/wp-content/uploads/VCA-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

The LWVC strongly supports the *Voter's Choice Act* and is encouraging all local League members to support it. Our members are also encouraged to contact our Board of Supervisors to voice their support before their next meeting!!!

Eleanor Yick, President

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

We had a lively discussion on the *Fifth Risk*. Unfortunately, only four of us attended. Wendy and I will be gone in both May and June, so a **volunteer will be needed to facilitate** the discussion. Eileen also shared that Wesley Manor is undergoing renovations starting next September and will be unavailable for several months.

April's book will be *Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou. We will meet at Wesley Manor for this next meeting. Based on low attendance, however, the group needs to reevaluate whether it wants to continue to meet next year or try a different format. I will also be retiring from the group. I have really enjoyed our discussions and all the incredible knowledge that has been shared. It has been a joy to get to know all of you through our interactions. **Hope to see more of you at the April meeting.**

Dan Hendry, Coordinator, wenhendry@comcast.net



67th CONVENTION 2019

May 31- June 2

The Westin Pasadena Hotel

191 N. Los Robles, Pasadena

Increase the Racial & Age Diversity

Further details at, <https://lwvc.wordpress.com>.

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<http://www.lwv.org>

Board Bytes - Meeting of March 6, 2019

Discussed:

- There was a proposal to move or have some Board Meetings in the evening to recruit new members and accommodate work schedules; it will be discussed further.
- Ideas were floated for new formats for the *Voter* newsletter and will be an on-going discussion.
- The Board decided to delay an annual membership fee to SCC Refugee and Immigration Forum until further information is presented.

Reports:

- Programs are set for the next three months: A coffee social to meet local officials in March, 11 officials attending so far; a workshop on the CASA Compact for April, information presented on the pros & cons; voter registration of local high school students through the PTA, teachers, principles, and district superintendents.

Suggestions and details offered for The Annual Meeting: The Foothill Club in Saratoga will be explored for location with a possible expert to talk on architect Julia Morgan who designed the building.

- The Finance Drive has reached 40% of our League's \$5,000 goal.
- Natural Resources: Though two contracts moved forward, several major issues related to the Twin Tunnel Project need resolving. The Water Committee will validate resources for the members to learn more about the water issues for California.

The California Energy Commission approved updates to the 2018 Integrated Energy Policy Report. Recommendations include zero-emission goals for new construction and funding to help Californians transition from gas to electric appliances.

- At her request, Barbara Lea and the President of LWVPA met with Congressional Representative Anna Eshoo to discuss such goals as reducing drug prices and strengthening the ACA.
- Our League's 100 year anniversary's historical photo exhibition wall is pre-approved by Saratoga Library for January through February in 2020. The budget and the planning proposal will be presented and approved in the annual budget package.

Voted On: No Issues to Vote On

Sophia Koa, Secretary



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

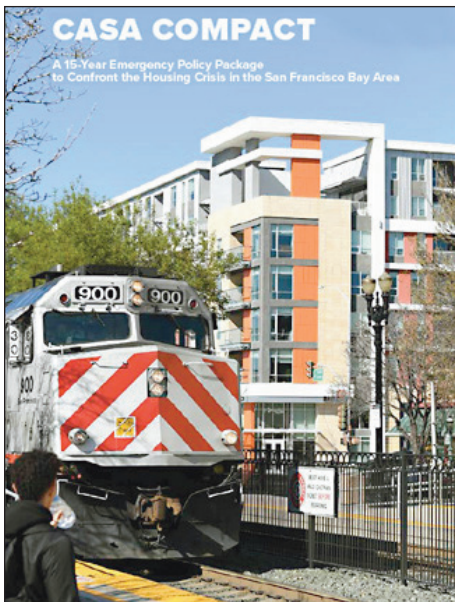
Leagues regarding events or activities that relate to the Monitor's coverage areas of transportation, air, water, open space, housing and land use.

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

www.bayareamonitor.org.

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



CASA – What Is It?

Living in California, most of us know that the word “casa” means “house” in Spanish. But, how is that related to the CASA Compact that is the topic in our upcoming program?

April 6 • 9:45 – 11:30 A.M.

Campbell Community Center

The CASA Compact is a series of proposals developed to address the housing crisis in the Bay Area. 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 Governments. It is a 15-year emergency policy package to

confront the Bay Area housing crisis. There are 10 elements in the plan and Five Calls for Action. A series of state bills is to be introduced in the California Legislature starting in 2019—each addressing one or more of the ten elements and Calls for Action. Potential funding through tax measures is to be introduced in 2020 and 2021.

Please come to our scheduled event on April 6 to learn more about the CASA proposals and opinions on whether or not they will successfully address the housing crisis. Learn how to track legislation so that your voice can be heard!!

Eleanor Yick, President

2019 LWV Annual Finance Drive

Donate!

We are making very good progress in our League's Annual Finance Drive. As of the Voter's press time, we have reached 60% of our goal. If you haven't yet had a chance to contribute, please consider making a donation. With your kind support we will be able to fully fund our important work in educating the public, including:

- educational forums
- new citizen voter registrations & high school registration drives
- local candidate forums
- work for the 2020 census

You may send your check to LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley, P.O. Box 2865, Saratoga, CA 95070 or donate online right now at <https://my.lwv.org/california/southwest-santa-clara-valley>. If you have already made your contribution to the League.

Thank You so much for your support!

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

Thank You! Tom Picraux, Finance Chair



Making Democracy Work®

LWV® LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE BAY AREA

Call to Biennial Council

Saturday • April 27 • 9:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

The Bellevue Club

525 Bellevue Ave., Oakland

Voter Services 101 by LWVC Covering:

Forum 'To Do's • Bad Behavior Guests
Video Production • A Regional Bank

Eventbrite Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-league-of-women-voters-of-the-bay-area-biennial-council-tickets-56538948517>

Join the HS Registration Team

Our League is organizing a High School Registration Team to visit each of our local high schools to pre-register 16 & 17 year olds to vote. When these students turn 18, they will receive a postcard from the Registrar of Voters reminding them they are now eligible to vote.

To be on the team, you will need to **attend one training class** so that we all present the same message that adheres to League policy of non-partisanship.

If interested, please email Eleanor Yick at egyick@icloud.com. The training class will be scheduled sometime in April based on participants availability. We have four confirmed team members so far but we're looking for a few more!!

City & Town Council Observers

Campbell: No Report This Month

Jackie Costanzo, Observer

Los Gatos: No Report This Month

Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: Jan 16 –

The Council agreed to provide technical advice and \$285,000 to residents on Via Regina for long-term storm damage. Being a private road, residents must organize this effort themselves.

A Section of Ordinance 15 regarding realty signs was banned due to a lack of

compliance by realtors. There have been complaints about signs put up and left without residents' knowledge or with city removal of neglected signs.

Raquel Durand, Observer Chair

Monte Sereno – Observer needed.

You can access the meetings at: <http://cityofmontesereno.org/2148/citycouncil>.



Beside Observer vacations, when there is no report, there was not a League-related issue discussed by that city council during that time.

Thank You to Our Observer Members!



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.

LWVBA League Day

Members from 21 Local Leagues, students and special guests attended this year's Bay Area League Day, February 9, in San Francisco. Also noteworthy, 21 out of 25 local League presidents were in attendance. This sends a clear message to Leagues that we care about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

BALD's meeting packet pulls how-to's from the conference speakers and partner organizations. This is not so much a manual, but dozens of creative strategies to share our collective and diverse stories.

BALD Meeting Packet and Slides at <http://lwvbayarea.org/league-day-2019>.

**Diversity
Equity &
Inclusion
in the
Bay Area**

Shirley Hill Obituary



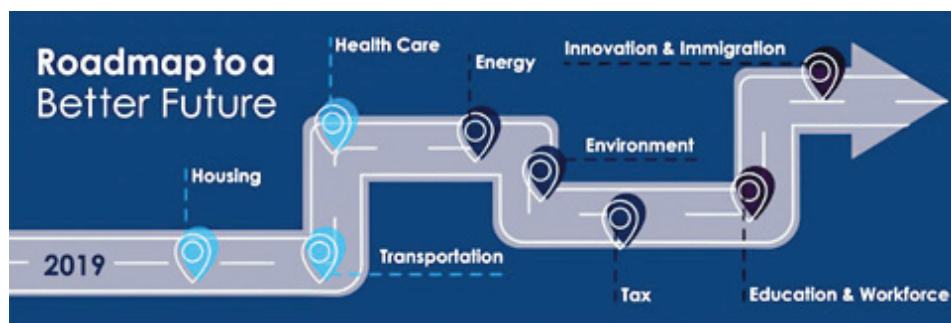
Our beloved member, Shirley Hill, passed away recently at her home at the Terraces in Los Gatos, where a Celebration of Life was held for her on February 28. Shirley had a lifelong interest in politics, starting at eight years old when she declared that she was a Democrat in a Republican family. She first joined the League in Southern California in 1961 and served as President there during her tenure when she was guiding young teachers into their careers.



After moving to Los Gatos, she joined our League in 1993. The Helga Ruby Award was presented to her in 2011—after she had served as VP of Membership for two terms, Secretary for three, Webpage Coordinator for three, Nominating Committee Chair, and Program VP. She also chaired the Study on Redevelopment and co-chaired the recent Higher Education Study. Shirley's attitude in the face of adversity was amazing. She was a role model for all of us, and her memory will live on when we think of all she did for our League.



Our Roadmap to a Better Silicon Valley



Our League supports the Silicon Valley Leadership Group in working to improve all of the following areas for our citizens: Housing, Transportation, Health Care, Energy, Environment, Tax, Education & Welfare, Innovation & Immigration. Read the full article at https://svlg.org/our-roadmap-to-better-healthcare/?fbclid=IwAR2noMX6VzO_jzSaghPb5mFsHSydnYU69R75xjwbq2X7YUSkbZDpcKbchqg%C2%A0.

Carl Guardino, CEO, Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Thank You To Our Donors

LWVSWSCV Annual Finance Drive

In Memory of Jane Ellis (Terry Cabrinha)

<i>Vivian Ajlouny</i>	<i>Katherine Duffy</i>	<i>Cindy Ruby</i>
<i>Wanda Alexander</i>	<i>Laura Howard</i>	<i>Marian Schain</i>
<i>Virginia Balch</i>	<i>Lynda Jandron</i>	<i>Michelle Shimada</i>
<i>Jean Barrick</i>	<i>Catherine Johnson</i>	<i>Lois Smallwood</i>
<i>Marilyn Basham</i>	<i>Pat Khan</i>	<i>Anne and Al Stewart</i>
<i>Mary-Lynne Bernald</i>	<i>Linda King</i>	<i>Dana Thompson</i>
<i>Lori Burns</i>	<i>Barbara Lea</i>	<i>Patricia Weber</i>
<i>Terry Cabrinha</i>	<i>Nora Mason &</i>	<i>Pat White</i>
<i>Cynthia Chang</i>	<i>Dana Ellingen</i>	<i>Eleanor & David Yick</i>
<i>Vivian Cohen</i>	<i>Danice & Tom Picraux</i>	<i>Judy & Terry Zaccone</i>

Healthcare: Representative Anna Eshoo

Recently Anna Eshoo, (CA-18), Chair of the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, US House of Representatives, invited League members to meet with her to discuss health care. Rep. Eshoo has served on the Health Subcommittee for 14 of her 24 years on the Committee, and more than half of the 41 bills she has sponsored have been health related.

Aisha Piracha-Zakariya of the Palo Alto League and I met with Rep. Eshoo in her Palo Alto office. She stated that her two main health care goals are (1) reducing the price of drugs and (2) protecting and strengthening the Affordable Care Act.

She warned about buying junk insurance where “everyone knows what they pay for insurance but not what they are buying.” She also called attention to



L-R, Barbara Lea of LWVSWSCV, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, and Aisha Piracha-Zakariya LWV Palo Alto President

the fact that several Medicare for All bills are called the same name but are basically different. She further expressed concern about surprise billing after a

stay in the hospital and shortages of insulin and other drugs. Other concerns she expressed are reproductive rights for women and coverage for pre-existing conditions. And a new idea—she would like to combine Medicare Part D, VA, and TriCare.

Representative Eshoo is particularly concerned about our leaving out the middle class for health care. She also talked about the history of our system and the fact that for at least 100 years both Republican and Democratic candidates have tried to build a health care system for the United States. We closed with the idea that there seems to be a wind of change on this subject, especially in the “nation state” of California.

By Barbara Lea, Chair Health Care Committee

Legislative Interview: California Assemblymember Evan Low

In February 2019, League members Roberta Hollimon (Cupertino/Sunnyvale), Carol Watts and Mary Ann Alison (San Jose/Santa Clara), Meg Giberson and Eleanor Yick (Southwest Santa Clara Valley) had the opportunity to interview 28th District Assembly Member Evan Low. The interview addressed issues relating to Redistricting, Water Resources in California, Closing the Achievement Gap, Legislative goals, and a local question regarding the CASA Compact recently adopted by MTC and ABAG.

QUESTION 1: Redistricting, State and Local: Assemblymember Low supports this effort and believes it to be important. He spoke generally about the impact of the changes to state redistricting noting that the campaign conversations are now more moderated. We gave him a copy of the LWVC letter to Rep. Bonta in support of AB849 (local redistricting) and a copy of the letter opposing AB57 (changing motor voter to opt-in).

Some other issues relating to voting rights were also discussed. He has introduced some bills for which he would like our support:

- ACA 8 to lower the voting age in CA to 17. He said it is important this be paired with civics education. It should also get more candidates and elected officials to visit classrooms.

- AB177 to make Election Day a national holiday.
- He also supports prohibiting paid signature gatherers being paid based on the number of signatures they obtain on petitions in support of putting a particular proposition on the ballot.

Assemblymember Low said he supported a process to purge voter rolls after death or change of residence because the public wants to trust our voting procedures. He reminded us that he had requested that the state perform an audit of the procedures used by the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters following the Nov. 2016 election in order to ensure that voters have faith in the integrity of our voting procedures

QUESTION 2: Water Resources: Assemblymember Low seemed to support doing more local projects, such as storm water capture and wastewater reuse. He seemed also to focus on the drinking water problems (unsafe drinking water for DACs) that are widespread in the Central Valley, mentioning the bill that failed last year that would have provided funds for the affordable drinking water crisis there. (Another bill this year would establish a safe and affordable drinking water fund to accomplish many of the same goals.) He spoke of needing people to see how helping a particular group can be seen as

helping everyone, as impacts from that kind of problem can be widespread. He also spoke of perhaps needing a statewide tax—to support infrastructure repair and maintenance—that benefits the whole state. He mentioned the one-tunnel proposal for Delta conveyance, recently proposed by Gov. Newsom, as a possible compromise to the two tunnels pushed by the two previous governors.

It was also mentioned to Assemblymember Low that Santa Clara County seems to be lagging in efforts to recapture storm water (LA—which gets about the same amount of rain as San Jose—may be able to recapture 300,000 acre-feet per year, which is more than our local district imports in a year) and in wastewater recycling (our area produces only about 20,000 acre-feet per year) compared to Orange County (143,000 acre-feet per year, with their updated facility). He was asked how our local water district could be encouraged to improve in this effort, to which he responded with the comment about more local reuse. The League clearly supports measures that increase water conservation and promote wastewater reclamation to minimize reliance on water exported through and around the Delta.

QUESTION 3: Public Education in California: Assemblymember Low has long been a supporter of early education as a means to close the achievement gap. Two key findings in *Getting Down to Facts II* are a: Large achievement gaps persist in California by race, ethnicity, income, and English learner (EL) status and, b: California's children are behind before they enter kindergarten. The system needs a continued focus on closing achievement gaps through multiple approaches including enhanced early childhood education.

Assemblymember Low agrees that appropriate funding must be allocated on a continuing basis to support early education/pre-school for all. The baseline is pre-school for all. The Local Control Funding Formula has provided local school districts with some flexibility to designate the use of some funding for early education. But, funding must be



Legislative Interview participants, left to right: LWVSWSCV Meg Giberson, LWV Cupertino/Sunnyvale Roberta Hollimon, LWVSWSCV President Eleanor Yick, California Representative Evan Low, LWV San Jose/Santa Clara Carol Watts & Mary Ann Alison.

Continued on Next Page.

Legislative Interview: California Representative Evan Low (Cont.)

allocated to support early education for all students. There is broad support for this to happen at the state level, particularly now that newly elected Governor Newsom has made this a priority issue of his administration.

QUESTION 4: Legislative Goals: In addition to the bills that were already mentioned (ACA8 and AB177), Assemblymember Low is also supporting porch piracy legislation in conjunction with Santa Clara County DA Jeff Rosen

that would increase the penalties for thefts that occur on front porches. Right now, penalties are based on the worth of the merchandise taken.

QUESTION 5: Assemblymember Low was asked his opinion of the CASA Compact: Assemblyman Low said that there is a housing crisis in the state and that a time of crisis calls for drastic actions and significant change. Cities have not been building fast enough to house California residents. Many cities have not

met their RHNA allotment. The CASA Compact does call for significant change in terms of local control vs. state control over housing policies. These proposed policy changes are uncomfortable for some local communities but the state has an obligation to house its residents. Assemblymember Low feels that there is need to incorporate some elements of the CASA Compact, not just planning for more housing, but actually implementing the plan.

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(include as a separate check)

Membership year is from July 1 to June 30. **Members joining after January 1 shall pay one-half the annual dues amount.** Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels:

County, Bay Area, State, and National. Financial assistance is available; please address questions regarding membership to the LWVSWSCV at, lww.swscv@gmail.com. Your contact information will be added to our membership database and our published **Membership Directory**.

❧ Event Calendar ❧

- Apr 3 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- Apr 6 Sat **CASA Compact**, 9:45 – 11:30 A.M. Campbell Community Center Room 80, 1 W Campbell Avenue, Campbell
- Apr 8 Mon **Political Book Club**, 7:00 P.M. *Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou, Wesley Manor Library, 1655 S. Winchester Blvd., Campbell
- Apr 11 Thu **Clip 'n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share Home of Sharon Graham, contact patwh.athome@gmail.com
- Apr 27 Sat **LWVBA Biennial Council**, 9:45 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. The Bellvue Club, 525 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland

❧ Save the Date ❧

- May 31 Fri-Sun **LWVC Convention 2019, Increase Racial & Age Diversity**
The Weston Pasadena Hotel, 191 N. Los Robles, Pasadena
- Jun 18 Tue **LWVSWSCV Annual Meeting**

Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

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