

# LWV<sup>®</sup> Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

May, 2019

LWVSWSCV

## ❧ 2019 Annual Meeting ❧

**June 18, 2019**

**Tuesday • 9:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.**

**Saratoga Foothill Club**



20399 Park Place, Saratoga

Speaker

**Karen McNeil**

Historian and Expert Advisor on Architect Julia Morgan

**Cost for Box Lunch \$22 • R.S.V.P. by June 4**

**To reserve your box lunch, see article for details on page 4.**

**Early Signup is Needed**

For Questions: (408) 598-1842 or [lww.swscv@gmail.com](mailto:lww.swscv@gmail.com)



## President's Letter

As most of you know, our League had planned, rented a facility and obtained free taping for the CASA Event scheduled for Saturday, April 6. The five Leagues in Santa Clara County were all co-sponsoring this event: Roma Dawson (San Jose/Santa Clara), Liang Fang-Chao (SWSCV) and myself worked on recruiting speakers; Aisha Piracha-Zakariya (President LLWV Palo Alto) arranged for the free taping. Our agenda was just about finalized when two of the main speakers backed out. Apparently, a directive had been issued requesting MTC staff and allies to not do any more CASA events but, instead, to focus all their continuing efforts on getting legislation passed. Needless to say, this was very disappointing to us as League members but also to our community members who were interested in learning more about the CASA elements in a balanced, unbiased presentation. Since that was no longer possible once these speakers withdrew, the event had to be cancelled.

As you may also be aware, many of our local city/town councilmembers and residents have expressed strong reservations about some of the *10 Elements and 5 Calls for Action* embedded in the *CASA Compact*. My interest at this point is to provide you with links to various articles that have appeared about the *CASA Compact* and/or currently proposed legislation so that you can make an informed decision about these items.

I encourage you to read the links and express your **PERSONAL OPINIONS**,

either in support or opposition, to your local city/town councils, your local Assemblyperson, for many of us Evan Low, your local State Senator, for many of us Jim Beall, and members of the State Senate Housing Committee. For a complete list of the State Senate Housing Committee members and contact info see: <https://shou.senate.ca.gov/sites/shou.senate.ca.gov/files/Committee%20Member%20Roster%202019.pdf>.

List of articles about CASA or CASA Elements:

1. Complete CASA Compact document can be downloaded from: [https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/CASA\\_Compact.pdf](https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/CASA_Compact.pdf).
2. <https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2019/01/11/regional-housing-plan-splits-elected-leaders>
3. <https://www.mercurynews.com/2019/03/04/fight-over-casa-some-cities-push-back-against-plan-to-overhaul-bay-area-housing-market>
4. *MV Voice* article: <https://www.mv-voice.com/news/2019/04/06/bills-to-encourage-housing-density-near-transit-advance-in-senate>
5. <http://berkeleydailyplanet.com/issue/2019-01-11/article/47303>
6. List of Bills: Below is a list of bills that have passed through the Assembly Housing and Community Development Meeting held on April 10, 2019, which can be viewed in its entirety at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEEGaEdf6W8>.

The Committee passed all 13 Assembly bills (AB) submitted to them, including: AB 1279; AB1399; AB1497; AB724; AB

1485; AB 1483; AB1437; AB 393; AB 446; AB 671; AB 1717; AB-11=Re-establish new form of development; AB1487=Establish new Regional Housing Enterprise; AB 1763. Next step: **Onto the Senate!** You can find out what each of the Assembly bills listed above is about at: [http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180SB827](http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB827).

The bill being most talked about is Senate Bill 50 (SB50) which is a rewritten and somewhat modified version of SB827, which did not pass out of the Committee last year. SB 50 was submitted once again by Senator Scott Weiner (SF) and calls for high-density development within so many feet of transit stops and in other resource-rich communities. Many smaller towns and cities are objecting to this measure because they feel its provisions bypass local control and local ordinances. Others claim that is necessary to open up housing development. See full text of the bill here: [http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200SB50](http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB50).

Latest update: SB 50 and SB4 were merged by amendment to SB50 in committee on April 24, 2019. The Committee on Governance and Finance voted 5-0 just now to pass SB50 as amended by SB4 out of committee to the Appropriations Committee.

I encourage all of you to educate yourselves about these housing bills. LWVC is supporting some of these bills; others are still being reviewed.

Eleanor Yick, President

### Please Note Correction:

An article on page 5 of the April 2019 LWVSWSCV's *Voter* mistakenly identified our League as supporting the Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG) in its efforts to improve various areas, including Environment. First, our League does not endorse non-League groups. Second, the values of the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) may differ in one or more ways from

those of SVLG. As an example, LWVC has for a number of years opposed the twin tunnel project (now dubbed WaterFix) that was proposed to channel water from Northern California to points south, whereas SVLG has given its full endorsement to supporting and promoting the twin tunnels.

Meg Giberson as directed by the Board of LWVSWSCV

## 2017-2018 Board of Directors

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**Gail Nishimura**

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## League of Women Voters

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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>

## Board Bytes - Meeting of March 6, 2019



### Discussed:

- There were suggestions for future government official events such as a time limit for panelists' comments, separate time for City officials and School Boards panelists, and Observers announcing these programs at the Town and City Council Meetings.
- The demonstration of the new membership database software was scheduled for the May Board meeting with an announcement article in the April Voter.
- The Board directed a correction be printed in the May Voter (page 2) when Meg Giberson pointed out that the Silicon Valley Leaders policy positions are not the same as the LWV.
- It was decided to wave student membership fees in accordance with LWVUS and LWVC.
- A small group will explore changes to Clip 'n Come, such how often to meet and where, and a possible name change.

### Reports:

- The Finance Drive has reached 72% of it's goal. President Yick will send out reminder/inspiration email blast towards the end of the drive.
- President Yick explained how the Voter's Choice Act will be implemented in Santa Clara County. (Article on page 4.) She requested that Board members write letters to show LWV support to the Santa Clara County Supervisors.
- Gail presented the results of the member survey which will be passed on to the Nominating Committee for Board position possibilities.
- The Water Committee suggested adding a web page for water issues to include items such as legislation and status of WaterFix (Twin Tunnels).

### Voted On:

- The unanimously approved LWV support for a further eight-year extension of the local Saratoga Union School District Parcel Tax After after a discussion of the pros & cons.
- Unanimous approval was voted for the budget for the 2019-2010 year to be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- The Board approved that membership scholarships will require the applicant to take a Board or Off-Board position.

Sophia Koa, Secretary

## Voters' Choice Act

At their last meeting, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the implementation of the Voters' Choice Act (VCA) beginning with the March 2020 primary. What this means for all voters in Santa Clara County:

1. All registered voters will receive a mail-in ballot before the election;
2. Ballots can be mailed in, dropped off at a Voting Center or Drop Box in the county, or you can still go and vote in person at a Voting Center;
3. Voting Centers will replace local polling places. Voting Centers will be strategically

located throughout the County and open for at least 4 days through Election Day with some open for a full 11 days including Election Day. All voters, no matter where they live, can drop their ballots off or vote at any Voter Center in the county. This new law opens up access to voters, and results in other counties have shown a significant growth in voter participation!!!!

Read more deatils at [www.sanjoseinside.com/2019/04/20/all-santa-clara-county-voters-to-receive-mail-in-ballots-in-2020/](http://www.sanjoseinside.com/2019/04/20/all-santa-clara-county-voters-to-receive-mail-in-ballots-in-2020/).

## LWVSWSCV 2019 Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2019. This Annual Business meeting will include the election of new officers, voting upon the the proposed budget and program for the next year, voting upon suggested edits to our by-laws and policies and procedures, and the announcement of the 2019 Helga Ruby Award Recipient. An addendum for the Annual Meeting will be sent out electronically to all members by the end of the month so that suggested edits can be read before the meeting.

Our meeting will be held in the National Historical Registered Saratoga Foothill Club designed by the world famous, California woman architect, Julie Morgan. We are thrilled to announce that we have also been able to schedule Karen McNeill, a well known historian of Julie Morgan, to be our keynote speaker. And, our own League member, Campbell Councilmember and Certified Leed Architect Liz Gibbons will introduce our speaker.

### Speaker Biography

In the fall of 1999, current senior historian Karen McNeill was a grad-school history student at UC Berkeley scrambling for a dissertation topic when her adviser suggested trailblazing architect Julia Morgan. In the years since that fateful



meeting with her adviser, McNeill has devoted a substantial chunk of her life to tracking Morgan through history. She graduated in 2006

with a Ph.D. in Architectural History and is considered an expert advisor on architect Julia Morgan.

There will be time upon arrival and during lunch when walks in the garden can be taken. It should be a wonderful, memorable day; and I hope many of our members will join us.

Panetta's Elite Catering will provide **box lunches at \$22.00**, including tax

and gratuity. **Lunch count needs to be submitted by June 4, early sign up is needed!!** Please send your **\$22 check made out to LWVSWSCV to Barbara Lea at 121 Strathmore Place, Los Gatos, California**. When you submit your check, **please list your desired sandwich and salad on the check** so we can track how many we need of each. The

All lunches include the following: a gourmet sandwich of your choice:

- Ham & Swiss on Whole Grain
- Tuna on White
- Egg Salad on Whole Grain
- Smoked Turkey on Dutch Crunch
- Vegetarian on Whole Grain

and choice of salad (Pear Salad, Potato Salad or Caesar Salad), Mixed Fresh Fruit, Carrot and Celery Sticks and lemonade and/or iced tea.

There is **free parking** available across the street from the club.

Eleanor Yick, President

## Victory for Charter School Transparency SB 126 Signed by Gov

SB 126 Authored by Senator Connie Leyva, requires charter school governing boards to comply with the same laws that traditional schools follow.

Chino, CA – After earning bipartisan support in the Senate and Assembly, Senate Bill 126 authored by Senator Connie M. Leyva and Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell, was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom. This bill will require charter school governing boards to comply with the same accountability and transparency laws that traditional school district governing boards already follow.

SB 126 will ensure that, as public schools, all charter schools are responsible stewards of the public funds they receive. The measure specifically ensures that charter school governing boards observe the same open meeting, conflict-of-interest, and disclosure laws as traditional public schools.

## Julia Morgan and the Foothill Club

Julia Morgan, (born January 20, 1872, San Francisco, California, U.S.—died February 2, 1957, San Francisco), was one of the most prolific and important woman architects ever to work in the United States.

Morgan graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in engineering in 1894 and then went to Paris in 1896 becoming the first woman to be enrolled in the architecture section of the École des Beaux-Arts, from which she graduated in 1902. Returning to California, she became the first woman in the state to be granted an architect's license.

Morgan then commenced 40 years of architectural work opening her own

architectural office in 1904. The devastation of the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 provided her with the opportunity to design hundreds of homes and many churches, office buildings, and educational buildings in the Bay area. After World War I she began work in earnest for the publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst, building a country house that came to be known as Hearst Castle.

The Saratoga Foothill Club, designed by Julia Morgan, is a Silicon Valley architectural landmark. Julia Morgan was notable for her meticulous craftsmanship, her creation of fine interior spaces, and her ability to deliver outstanding buildings within a tight budget.

The LWVC supported this bill, and its many predecessors. Read the full press release at, <https://lwvc.org/news/victory-charter-school-transparency-sb-126-signed-gov>.

*Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.*

~ Albert Einstein ~

## City & Town Council Observers

**Campbell:** No Report This Month

**Los Gatos:** April 2019 – The Council voted to support the Measure B project for improvements to Highway 17 in the town's area. This includes redesign of the Highway 9 & 17 interchange and adding lanes to Highway 17 through the Los Gatos vicinity. The town's current General Plan is being updated for 2020. The Measure will be amended to reflect the Town Council's support for Highway 17 expansion.

Los Gatos is joining with other communities in the development of a Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The town recognizes its wildlife-urban interface

poses a risk of wildfires to residents. The County Plan will map out a regional response to the threat. Included in the plan will be mitigation measures, evacuation proposals, and positioning of emergency responders. The County may seek state grant funding.  
Lynda Jandron, Observer

**Saratoga:** The Council adopted a list of projects funded by small business for the Road Repairs and Accountability Act.

The appeal for modification approving the Conditional Use permit for the Brookside Club was denied.



## 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.

The Ecological Consulting Services Contract was amended 10% for the Saratoga-to-Sea Trail Project.

Raquel Durand, Observer Chair

## League of Women Voters of California

**CONVENTION 2019**  
League of Women Voters of California

Where: Westin Pasadena Hotel  
191 North Los Robles  
Pasadena, California 91101

When: Friday, May 31 - Sunday, June 2

### Increase the Racial & Age Diversity

A Few of the Speakers for Convention:

**Virginia Kase**, LWVUS CEO

**Manuel Pastor**, Professor USC

**Zahra Noorbakhsh**, Comedian

### Going Green for Convention 2019

LWVC has decided to go green and NOT provide a printed workbook for all attendees. When the **workbook becomes available on May 1**, you will have access to it on the convention website, where you can download or print the file. We will provide workshop materials and flyers ahead of time as well, so you'll have early access to everything you need—whether you want to print it yourself, or download it on to your laptop.

A **USB flash drive will be provided** that contains the workbook and other materials. If you will not have an electronic device that can access the materials on the flash drive, we recommend that you download or print the materials prior to arriving at convention.

Please remember there will be **no WiFi access in plenary hall or in workshop rooms** (you have the option to purchase it when you register). There is **complimentary WiFi in your hotel room and in the hotel lobby**.

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



## Heads Up!

### New Online Membership Management Process

LWV SWSCV now has a new online membership management process called MemberPlanet, which saves us both time and money. This new approach enables us to maintain up-to-date membership data, automatically renew memberships, immediately enroll new members and issue current member directories.

Towards the end of May, all LWV SWSCV members will be receiving emails with additional information regarding MemberPlanet, including instructions on creating a personal sign-in to the MemberPlanet site. Within these same emails will also be reminders on annual dues renewal. Please note that the reminder for dues renewals will be sent via email this year rather than US mail.

Gail Nishimura, Vice President



*Franklin Bondonno*

*Zina Lou Dyer*

*Hana Itani*

*Jack Lucas*

*Muriel Mahrer*

*Linda & Bill Manry*

*Lee Quintana*

*Janette Rudkin*

*Jane Walker*

*Merryl & Ned Zuparko*

## LWVUS Highlights

### ***For the People Act* in the Senate**

This month, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the *For the People Act*, the sweeping democracy reform bill that will make our elections fairer and put power back in the hands of the American voters. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration!

This landmark legislation is the biggest improvement to our democracy since the *Voting Rights Act*. From election modernization to redistricting reform, the *For the People Act* levels the playing field to allow more Americans to participate in our democracy.

The extraordinary and comprehensive reforms in the *For the People Act* are good for all Americans and deserve bipartisan support. **Help us build momentum to move this bold legislation forward. Contact your Senators today!**

### **Partisan Gerrymandering at the Supreme Court**

Last week activists from across the nation gathered in front of the Supreme Court, as the Justices heard a set of three redistricting cases that could result in ending partisan gerrymandering across the nation.

*Rucho v. League of Women Voters of North Carolina* and its companion cases assert that partisan gerrymandering by both major parties violated voters' rights.

Banning partisan gerrymandering would make huge strides in restoring voters' faith in the electoral process. SCOTUS now has a huge opportunity to declare that, once and for all, politicians cannot choose their voters—voters must be free to choose their representatives.

**Learn more about the cases on our blog.**

## Death Penalty Coalition

### **Advocacy Volunteer Opportunity**

A coalition is being formed to work on death penalty action in California. The League of Women Voters supports abolition of the death penalty. In California, the League has supported both legislative and initiative measures to abolish the death penalty. We are looking for a League member to represent us at coalition meetings.

**Volunteer Representative Duties:** Attend coalition meetings and report back to the LWVC advocacy team on coalition work, including recommendations on actions the LWVC should take.

- Help coordinate LWVC action.
- With LWVC advocacy team, determine when and how

For more information contact [advocacy@lwvc.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvc.org).

## Healthcare in the U.S.—What should we do NOW?

### **Current Ideas for U.S. Healthcare**

We have lots of plans—now is the time to do something!

1. Strengthen/fix the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
2. Expand Medicare and Medicaid eligibility (“buy in” to Medicare at age 55).
3. A “Public Option.”

4. Leave it to states to create their own system; then allow people to “buy in” across state lines.
5. “Medicare for Americans” aka “Medicare Extra for All”
6. Single Payer/improved Medicare

Read the Full *LWV Medicare for All Facts From Arizona* at, <https://my.lwv.org/california/southwest-santa-clara-valley/voter-newsletter>.

If we can end slavery, get women the right to vote,

Put a man on the moon, and other countries can do it,

Together we should be able to achieve comprehensive, cost effective Single Payer/Medicare for All Americans!

Barbara Lea, Healthcare Team

## Water: Rising Rates & Subsidized Ag Rates

Over the next 10 years, basic water costs are expected to soar in Santa Clara County but could remain almost unchanged for agricultural users, who currently benefit from subsidies ranging from 94% to 98%.

Santa Clara Valley Water District (our local water wholesale supplier), now known as “Valley Water” (VWD), projects year

over year increases in basic user charges for municipal and industrial (M&I) water. For our area (we are “North County M&I, Zone W-2”), see the blue lines representing proposed per acre-foot (\$/af) charges in the VWD chart, below. Currently, we are charged about \$1,289/af, but that figure could almost double in the next 10 years.

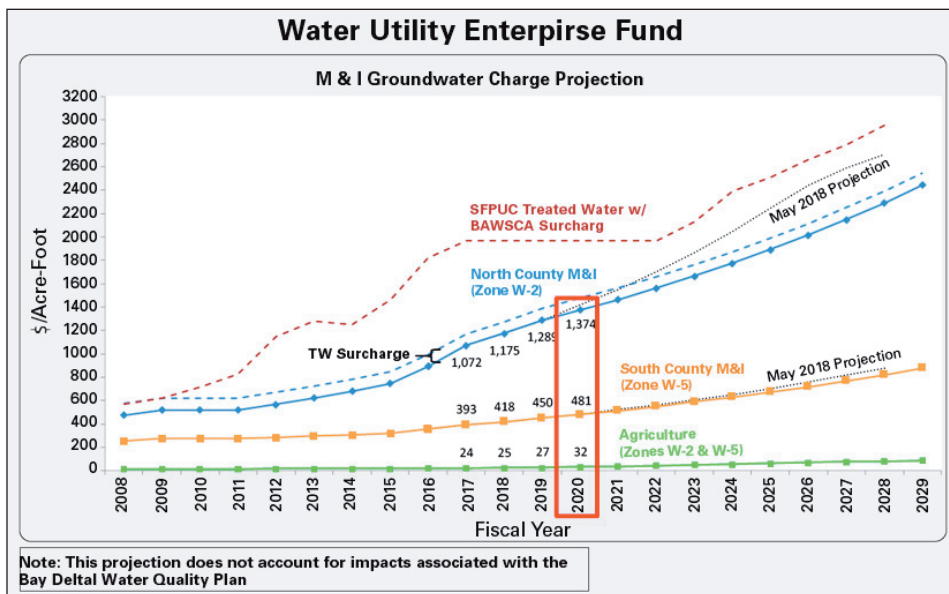
Agriculture in the County, which currently pays a basic charge of \$27.02/af, has objected to a proposed increase to \$32.23/af for next year (FY 2019-20). (See the green line along the bottom of the graph for proposed ag charges.)

Water retailers support the ag increase in order to help partially pay the cost of providing water to ag, and to send a signal about the importance of conservation. VWD estimates the current agricultural subsidy for South County ag at \$8 million, which is “projected to continually increase” in coming years. Valley Water makes up the cost of this agriculture subsidy for basic charges by redirecting a portion of county ad valorem property taxes.

VWD will hold a budget work study session April 24-26; their vote is scheduled for May 14.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

Read about ways to conserve water in a Consumer Reports article of April 21 at <https://www.consumerreports.org/water-conservation/how-to-cut-your-water-use-in-half>.



## The Census is Coming, The Census is Coming!

League of Women Voters members are actively participating in Santa Clara County (SCC) preparations for the 2020 Census. Recently the county held a One-Year Countdown celebration. Julie Cates is representing all the Leagues on the SCC 2020 Census Steering Committee. The county also formed a number of planning committees to focus on those populations that traditionally are undercounted. Danice and Tom Picraux from our League are participating in the Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities Committee.

Federal program funding allocations for the coming decade depend on the census data—currently amounting to \$75 billion annually for California. Thus a full and accurate count is critical to county social services and many other programs. One new aspect of this new decade’s census count is that it will be possible to complete the questionnaire online for the first time. Lots more information on Census 2020 will be forthcoming.



Pictured from left: Tom & Danice Picraux, LWVSWSCV; Sarah Nelson, Norma Calendar, Mary Collins, LWVSan Jose/Santa Clara; Julie Cates Census Steering Committee Representative for LWV.



27TH ANNUAL  
**WORLD REFUGEE DAY**  
CAMPBELL COMMUNITY CENTER  
ORCHARD CITY BANQUET HALL  
1 W. CAMPBELL AVENUE, CAMPBELL, CA  
FREE EVENT: ENTERTAINMENT, COUNTRY DISPLAYS, ACTIVITIES, RESOURCES, FOOD

**14 JUNE**  
5P-7P

## 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 businesses' services.

### THE STORE FOR NATURE LOVERS



#### Los Gatos Birdwatcher

Lisa Myers Owner

Kings' Court Shopping Center

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408-358-9453 fax 408-358-4673

[info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com](mailto:info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com)

Mon - Fri 10am - 6pm Sun 5pm



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#### Curtis L. Pontynen, DDS

19020 COX AVENUE

SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA

408.252.4570

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this coupon with your dues to:

**LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley**  
PO Box 2865  
Saratoga, CA 95070-0865

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$80.00

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Student Free

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Voter Mailed to You \$20.00

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to LWV-SWSCV Ed Fund  
(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](mailto:lww.swscv@gmail.com). Your contact information will be added to our membership database and our published **Membership Directory**.

## ❧ Event Calendar ❧

May 1 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station  
May 9 Thu **Clip 'n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share  
Home Katy Foulkes, contact [patwh.athome@gmail.com](mailto:patwh.athome@gmail.com)

## ❧ Save the Date ❧

Jun 18 Tue **Annual Meeting**, 9:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. Saratoga Foothill Club

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### Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

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<b>Facebook:</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/lwvswscv">www.facebook.com/lwvswscv</a>	<b>Twitter:</b> lwv_swscv	<b>Instagram</b> Name: lwv.swscv