

LWV[®] Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley

Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

January, 2020

**Be Sure to Check the Calendar for Candidate Forums
Every Vote Counts Events!**



2020 Annual Program Planning

**Saturday • January 25
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

**St. Luke's Church
20 University Ave., Los Gatos**

See Page 3 for Further Details

New Election Finance Study

Our SWSCV League Board has approved our League's newly completed *Local Election Finance Study II*. The study provides an analysis of the 2018 election for local councils and school boards in our area—Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga. It also discusses our local election finance laws, recent changes in regulations, and the practices of other cities in Santa Clara County. This work follows our League's initial and highly successful study after the 2017 election. It demonstrates the power of our actions to influence good government and promote best practices with our local cities and school boards. The study was carried out by Eleanor Yick, Corinne Vita, Meg



Giberson, Alan Giberson, and Tom and Danice Picraux (co-chairs). The purpose of our continuing study of local elections is to understand best practices, educate our membership, and explore ways to increase transparency and encourage participation in local elections.

Beginning in January we will be presenting the study to our local Councils and school boards and promoting awareness of its recommendations.

In addition to the copy we're distributing to all members, you can find the study as well on our League's website at: https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/local_election_finance_studyii_final1.pdf

Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters is a diverse, nonpartisan political group of women and men, influencing public policy through education and advocacy and encouraging informed and active participation in government.

Presidents' Letter: Welcome to 2020

Having weathered an exciting 2019, we look forward with both hope and some trepidation as a new year dawns with challenges on every front. It is perhaps fitting that in this turmoil the LWV should celebrate its 100th Anniversary with reflection on past accomplishments and resolve to move boldly to further the League's mission of informed and active participation in government.

Special panels created by Gail Nishimura depicting highlights of LWV's ten decades of advocacy for voters and democracy will be featured first in the Saratoga Library during January and February. It will then be shown at the Los Gatos Town Council Chambers from March to April, with a special reception at the Council Chambers on March 5.

All members are invited to attend the Santa Clara County Leagues' "Ambassador" training on 1/11/20, the League's formal



kickoff for the critical 2020 census work. A full census count is vital in ensuring that people are not deprived of their rightful

participation in democracy. It also determines federal representation and funding for the next decade. The Ambassador event will include information regarding the Voter's Choice Act changes that will make voting easier; the primary in March will be the first election affected. Ballot measures will also be discussed.

Census, voting and ballot measure issues will be further highlighted in programs at the Saratoga Library (1-14-20) and at the Los Gatos Library (1-18-20). A candidate forum for the California Senate fifteenth district seat is planned for January 18 in Campbell as well. A county-wide judge's forum is scheduled for January 27 in Cupertino.

January 25 features the important program planning event in Los Gatos at which League members will determine the next year's emphasis for our local League and provide important program input for the State League.

Petition signing continues for the Schools and Communities First Initiative.

For the LWV's 100th Anniversary celebration, the LWVUS has a nationwide event on 2/14/20 as part of the LWVUS Fair Maps Campaign. Multiple activities are planned for the League's National Day of Action, with the theme of "Women Power the Vote."

Later in the spring, our League hopes to feature programs focused on climate change/water and "navigating disinformation."

We wish you a Happy New Year! Please join us in advancing League goals and aspirations for an informed and empowered electorate.

Meg & Alan Giberson, Co-Presidents

Board Bytes - Meeting of December 4 2019

Approved:

- It was decided that the updated *Local Election Finance Study* would be published and uploaded to our web site for local Council and staff access. A PDF of the Study is to be distributed to members along with the January 2020 *Voter*. There's been good response by our four communities when presented at Council meetings.



Discussed

- A list of speakers was suggested, including Wendell Potter, for another Health Care program and possibly holding the program and the possibility of holding the program at a medical facility.

Reports/Announcements:

- After review/approval of the donation letter by our two Presidents, the Finance Drive is to begin in February.
- Signature gatherers were requested for the Schools & Communities First Initiative.
- The Voters Service focus is now on the March Primaries with Pros & Cons dates being set. There's a wait to see who the opposition is to federal and state Representatives Eshoo, Low, and Lofgren for Candidates Forums. The five Leagues in SCC will share in the election season events.
- A training session for the Voter's Choice Act and Census 2020 was announced for January 11. Members are needed to be knowledgeable representatives.
- Decisions on water issues are being made in apparent violation of California law. Certain federal proposals would allow extra water to farmland that is permanently impaired by toxic substances; toxic runoff would subsequently flow out to the Bay Delta.

Cherri Nelson, Voter Editor

2020 – Californians MUST Have Health Insurance

Yes! The state will be requiring you to buy health insurance next year or pay a tax penalty. Such state mandates are already in effect in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. Rhode Island and Vermont will also start mandates in 2020.

Middle-income earners, who make up to about \$75,000 a year, will be able to receive financial help from the State, with the source of this money expected to come from penalties paid by those electing not to get insurance.

Massachusetts started its state-level health mandate and provided subsidies for needy residents in 2007. Results helped make this state's uninsured rate the lowest in the nation—around 3%.

Could this be a trend—state by state—leading the United States to universal health care?

Source: San Francisco Chronicle, 12-13-19

Barbara Lea, Health Care Chair

City & Town Council Observers

Los Gatos: December 13 – Marcia Jensen is to serve as mayor, and Barbara Spector as vice mayor for the next year.

State *Building and Fire Codes* were adopted along with town-specific reach codes which will become mandatory in new residential construction, once approved by the California Energy Commission (30-60 days). The Los Gatos reach codes are: no gas appliances allowed, indoor and outdoor use; put in electrical wiring for electric vehicle charging; equip with solar battery storage system. New commercial construction will not be affected.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: November 20 – SCC Supv. Simitian presented a report, also given in Sacramento, on Bill SB 211 which designates CAL Train surplus land for home building to help alleviate the urgent need for housing. He also stressed that PG&E needs to expedite repairs for public safety. He advocated for cooperation between state and local governments in establishing mental health care for children under 18 as well.

The *2019 California Building Codes* to comply with *Green Building Standards* were discussed, with adoption set for December 4. This would reduce gas use

and increase electricity use, applicable to new building construction.

December 4 – The Sheriff's Department stated that a Star I helicopter will be a resource for surveillance Thursday through Mondays.

Howard Miller is the new Mayor, for a third time, with Mary-Lynne Bernald the Vice Mayor; they presented goals for the coming year. Former Mayor Capello listed accomplished projects, along with Saratoga becoming one of the safest cities in the Western United States.

Raquel Durand, Observer Director

Monte Sereno: Observer Needed!

Annual Program Planning

Saturday • January 25

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

St. Luke's Church

20 University Ave., Los Gatos

This is our most important meeting of the year! Be a part of determining where our League can have the most impact, build its reputation, and grow as an organization in 2020.

The Program Planning Meeting is the process by which we decide where and how we will focus our resources—member time, money, and reputation for the coming year. At this meeting, we align our League's work with the mission and priorities set forth by LWVUS and LWVC. In addition, we identify and set goals on how best to support our local communities. All League members are encouraged to attend, voice their opinions, and vote on our future programs and actions.

In mid-January, members will receive an email blast with the Program Planning Agenda and a packet attached. PLEASE print out a copy to read and bring to the meeting.

St. Luke's Church is in downtown Los Gatos, a block north of Main Street. It's on the east side of University across the street from Sur La Table.

Questions? Feel free to contact Gail Nishimura, gailnishimura@me.com.

Natural Resources – Water

Decisions on water issues are being made that could mean much more water will be moved from Northern California through the San Francisco Bay-Delta (Delta) to points south. This would be in apparent violation of the Delta Reform Act of 2009 that required Californians to decrease their reliance on water from the Delta. Comments on many of these issues and projects will need to be made by or before early January.

Such projects include: proposed operation plans that would allow increased water deliveries through the State Water Project (SWP); a potential new (huge) tunnel to be bored under the Bay-Delta that would carry such water; changes to the SWP contracts between Dept. of Water Resources and the water agencies that would facilitate such water transfers; federal proposals that would loosen limits on endangered species protections, allowing more water

to be pumped south. Additionally, federal proposals would allow extra water to permanently go to arid farmlands on the west side of the Central Valley that are impaired by toxic substances such as selenium, with resulting toxic outflows to the San Joaquin River and thence to SF Bay-Delta.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

VCA & Census 2020 Training

The County Leagues of Women Voters is offering a training session on the implementation of the Voters Choice Act (VCA) starting with the March 2020 Primary Election and the Complete Census Count 2020 Campaign starting in April 2020.

If you would like to participate in this training and volunteer to help out at community sessions, the training event is

scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 2020 at the Santa Clara Library, 2635 Homestead Road from 10:00-noon. If you would like to participate, please register at: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07egsi3zhd e8f8be129&llr=tsugws9ab>.

Eleanor Yick, Voter's Service Director

Foreign Policy Association – Great Decisions 2020

There will be both day and evening groups for Great Decisions in 2020. The day sessions for 2020 will be the first and third Thursdays of February, March, April, and May, from 3:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. They will be held at the Saratoga Area Senior Center, across from the Post Office. Book pickup will be Thursday, January 30, 2020 from 3:30 to 5:30 P.M., at the Saratoga Area Senior Center.

The evening sessions will meet at the Los Gatos Methodist Church from 7 to 9 P.M. on the first and third Wednesdays in February, March, April, and May. Book pickup for this group will be at the church on Sunday, February 2, 2020, after the 9 A.M. service.

The registration fee for Great Decisions 2020 will be \$25 for an individual and

\$30 for a couple sharing a workbook. Checks should be payable to Terry Zaccone and mailed to 13046 Anza Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070. For questions, please contact program coordinators Terry Zaccone at (408) 257-6575 or Eleanor Yick at egyick@icloud.com.

Terry Zaccone & Eleanor Yick, Great Decisions Coordinators.

The Politics Book Club

The next book to be read is *Deadly Spin: An Insurance Company Insider Speaks Out on How Corporate PR is Killing Health Care and Deceiving Americans* by Wendell Potter. Since Wendell Potter walked away from his executive position at a top health insurance company in May of 2008, he has worked tirelessly as an outspoken critic of corporate PR with

the distortion and fear manufactured by America's health insurance industry. We'll meet Tuesday, January 21, 7–8:30 P.M. The location continues to be at Wesley Manor, 1655 Winchester Blvd., Campbell. That's the tall building at the corner of Winchester and Hamilton Avenues.

Parking is along the south side of the drive entering the property, or at the back of the

church next door. Numbered and reserved parking at the back of the building is for residents only.

Questions for discussion will be distributed. To get a copy, be included on the email list, or any other questions, phone or email **Wade Ellis**. (Please consult our LWVSWSCV *Member List* for contact information.)

Wade Ellis, Book Club Chair



Bay Area League Day 2020 Looking Back, Moving Forward

Saturday • February 29 • Dominican Center

43326 Mission Blvd., Fremont

\$35 with Lunch

More Details at: <http://lwvbayarea.org/2020-league-day>

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 Free

\$ _____ Voter Mailed to You \$20.00

\$ _____ **Total Enclosed**

\$ _____ Donation to LWV-SWSCV Ed Fund
(include as a separate check)

❧ Event Calendar ❧

- Jan 7 Tue Board Meeting**, 10 A.M., Saratoga Fire Station
Please Note Date Change!
- Jan 9 Thu **Clip 'n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share Home of Barbara Lea, contact patwh.athome@gmail.com
Please let hostess know you will be coming.
- Jan 11 Sat **VCA/Census 2020 Training**, 10 A.M.–Noon
Santa Clara Library, 2635 Homestead Rd. Santa Clara
- Jan 14 Tue **VCA/Census 2020, Every Vote Counts!**, 7–8:30 P.M.
Saratoga Library, Saratoga
- Jan 18 Sat **Candidates Forum District 15**, 10A.M.– 12:30 P.M.
Campbell Community Center Rm 80, 1 W Campbell Ave.,
- Jan 18 Sat **VCA/Census 2020, Every Vote Counts!**, 2–4 P.M.
Los Gatos Library, Los Gatos
- Jan 21 Tue **Politics Book Club** 7–8:30 P.M. Welsey Manor
1655 Winchester Blvd., Campbell
- Jan 25 Sat **Program Planning** 9:00 A.M. St. Luke's Church
20 University Ave., Los Gatos
- Jan 27 Mon **Judges Candidate Forum**, 7–9 P.M. Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Ave., Cupertino

❧ Save the Date ❧

- Feb 29 Sat **Bay Area League Day**, 9:30 A.M.– 2:30 P.M. Dominican Center
43326 Mission Boulevard, Fremont
- Mar 5 Thu **LWV 100th Anniversary Historical Photo Exhibit Reception**,
6:00–7:30 P.M. Los Gatos Town Council Chambers Lobby

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.

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Lisa Myers Owner

Kings' Court Shopping Center

792 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95032

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info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com

Mon - Fri 10am - 6pm Sun 5pm



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