

LWV[®] Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley

Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

February, 2020



Changes Coming to Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters

You Choose How, When & Where You Vote!
February 22 – March 3

Vote-by-Mail Ballots Sent to EVERYONE 29 Days Prior

Fill in ballot & mail in postage-paid envelope,
or drop in a secure ballot box at libraries & city halls,
or vote at any vote centers in the county.



**Choose from 22 Vote Centers in the County 10 Days Prior
or an additional 88 Vote Centers Open 3 Days Prior
to Election Day**

No more polling precincts!

Vote centers will offer more space & additional services,
such as language assistance, replacement ballots,
and the opportunity to register & vote on election day.

A listing of vote centers can be found at
<https://eservices.sccgov.org/Rov?tab=vc>

Presidents' Letter: Welcome to 2020

This is the League's centennial year! An easy way to begin celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters is to stop by the Saratoga Library to see Southwest Santa Clara Valley (SWSCV) League's panels depicting each of the decades of the march towards League's goal of truly universal voting. (Thanks to Gail Nishimura for creating these great panels!)

The League's Program Planning meeting—at which the League decides its emphasis for the rest of the year—resulted in a unanimous vote to continue support for the national League's top priority **Making Democracy Work®** campaign 2020-2022, and added **climate emergency** and **water emergency** to it, also by unanimous votes. The Making Democracy Work® campaign seeks to reshape our democracy by engaging millions more voters in the election



process and strengthening the laws that govern money in politics, redistricting and voting rights so that it is free, fair and accessible to all. (The slides for Program Planning 2020 are available on the SWSCV Google Drive by going to >Shared with me, then to >LWV-SWSCV, to >Programs to >2020 Program Planning Presentation.pptx.)

The League continued its emphasis on voter education with a candidate forum (co-sponsored by San Jose/Santa Clara League) for State Senate District 15 in January. Six of the seven candidates participated.

Voter education moves forward with Eleanor Yick and Terry Zaccone providing multiple opportunities for our members to learn about the

Voter's Choice Act (VCA) and the importance of participating in Census 2020 for people in our communities. VCA offers voters many more opportunities to cast their ballot—with its mail-in ballots for everyone in Santa Clara County and extended days that the new Voting Centers will be open. An accurate census count—of all people residing in the state—will mean that California will be eligible for its fair share of federal funds. It may also help protect the number of legislators the state sends to the House of Representatives (which could diminish in the event of an undercount).

Save March 5 for the reception at Los Gatos Town Council Chambers that will feature the LWV's decade-by-decade history panels.

Remember the March 3 Primary Election—and VOTE. The League of Women Voters supports Proposition 13, a bond measure for schools and colleges on the March 3 ballot.

Meg & Alan Giberson, Co-Presidents

LWV 100th Anniversary Historical Photo Exhibit Reception

Thursday • March 5 • 6–7:30 P.M.
Los Gatos Town Council Chambers

110 E. Main Street, Los Gatos

March is Women's History Month
Here's a Great Way to Honor It!

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters, LWVSWSCV has produced an historical photo exhibit highlighting the League's commitment to registering, educating, and mobilizing voters. In addition to displaying pictures of the League from the past 100 years, the exhibit chronicles by decade, the major achievements of the League, from the 1920s through the 2010s.

Please join us at a reception to preview this exhibit and celebrate the League's incredible achievements. Light refreshments will be served. This event is **free and open to the public**.

Please help to promote this reception by sharing it on your Facebook page; www.facebook.com/LWVSWSCV/videos/1493633680812433.

Gail Nishimura

Clip n' Come



February Clip n' Come will be at the home of Wade Ellis. We will have our usual excellent potluck and then move into discussion of events and issues brought to the group. Lots of material to discuss as things are politically very interesting!

Please let Wade know if you are going to attend, or you can call or email Pat White. Please refer to the *Membership List* for numbers/emails.

Best regards, Pat White, Chair

The ballot is stronger than the bullet.

Abraham Lincoln

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Co-Presidents:

Meg & Alan Giberson

Secretary: **Victoria Zhang**

Co-Treasurers:

Danice & Tom Picraux

Action: **TBD**

Education: **TBD**

Healthcare: **Barbara Lea**

Housing & Transportation:

Liang-Fang Chao

Membership: **Aileen Kao**

Natural Resources: **Meg Giberson**

Observers: **Raquel Durand**

Public Relations: **Sophia Kao**

Voter Editor: **Cherri Nelson**

Voters Service: **Eleanor Yick**

League of Women Voters

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LWV California

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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 - January 1, 2020

Discussion:

- Details for the 100-Year Celebration exhibit Los Gatos reception were finalized; it was suggested that Board Members wear white to the 100-Year Celebration exhibit Los Gatos reception. Gail is applying to SCC Women's Council for a grant to aid with expenses for the exhibit. Cupertino and Palo Alto Leagues will borrow and also display the exhibit in their regions.
- Program Planning details were confirmed. Anne Stewart has volunteered to be secretary for the meeting. An agenda will be emailed to membership.
- The topic of conducting evening Board Meetings was examined and presented to membership at Program Planning.
- A new League project idea, suggested by Aileen Kao, to educate immigrants on how to vote and general civics was introduced. More discussion to will follow.
- Ways to get started with creating the newsletter using web marketing sites such as Mail Chimp or Constant Contact were explored and will continue.
- Tom Picraux requested volunteers for a mailing group of the Finance Drive donation letter for the end of January.

Reports/Announcements:

- Sophia Kao stated we'll need to buy further Google Services for our account and requested our tax ID number to establish the account as a non profit.
- Voters Service activities will be used as an occasion to talk about Census 2020. Judges are running unopposed so their Candidates' Forum was cancelled.
- Being our League's turn to supply a President for Santa Clara League County Council, consideration is needed for someone to volunteer.

Cherri Nelson, Voter Editor



ERA Ratified in Virginia

Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment—crossing the three-fourths threshold of support required from the states. Now we need Congress to remove the deadline so the ERA can become a permanent part of the U.S. Constitution.

When the ERA passed Congress in 1972, lawmakers attached a 1977 ratification deadline to it, which they later extended to 1982. Earlier this month, the League of Women Voters of the United States sent a **letter** to the United States Congress urging them to remove the ratification deadline on the ERA.

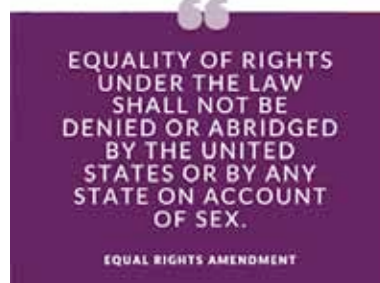
Thank you to the many League volunteers who have worked tirelessly for ratification

in their states—and who continued to push for ratification even after the deadline passed. Now that the ERA has been ratified, we will not stop fighting for equality under the law and pushing to see the ERA become the next amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Women have waited decades to see the ERA pass, and this is the perfect way to kick off

2020, a year that celebrates 100 years of women's voting rights. It's time for Congress to remove the ERA deadline and make this dream a reality!

Chris Carson, LWVUS President



SWSCV League's Annual Finance Drive *Donate!*

February 1 – March 31

Your donation will strengthen our efforts to honor our 100 year legacy. This election year your League will continue its important work on making democracy work, including:

- Local Candidate Forums
- Pros & Cons Presentations on Ballot Measures
- Voter's Edge Website
- Promoting our *Local Election Finance Study's* "best practices"

- Presentation of the LWV 100th Year Anniversary exhibit at our local libraries.

Please be on the lookout for our finance drive letter, arriving the first week of February. You may also donate online right now at www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org.



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



Saturday • February 29 • 9:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Domincan Center

43326 Mission Boulevard, Fremont

Setting the Historical Setting
“Paving the Way: Women’s Struggle for Political Equality in California”
 Authors Susie & Steve Swatt

Presentation, Panel Discussions & Next Steps Interaction

Panel I: Social Justice and Actions

Panel II: Empowerment in the Workplace & Community

Panel III: Political Empowerment

Call to Action/Next Steps

\$35. Regular Ticket includes: packet, lunch, & continental breakfast
 Directions & Transportation: <http://lwvbayarea.org/2020-league-day>

This is an inclusionary event; no one will be turned away.
 Write to President Madeline Kronenberg for Eventbright coupon code (mkronen@aol.com)

New Citizens Voter Registration

February is **OUR League's turn** to provide volunteers to register new citizens to vote after their swearing-in ceremonies. The date is Wednesday, February 19. There have been four sessions each date for the last few months, so I expect the same. The times would be 8:30 A.M., 10:15 A.M., 12:30 P.M. and 2:30 P.M., with registering beginning about 45 minutes to an hour later, which is when volunteers would need to be present. The afternoon sessions are usually outside, but under cover.

Please email me to let me know if you can volunteer and tell me the session(s) you would be willing to work. All ceremonies held at the Campbell Community Center, Heritage Theater, 1 West Campbell Avenue, Campbell.

Jackie Costanzo, Voter Registration jjc717@aol.com

City & Town Council Observers

Los Gatos: January 13 – Council members received the Comprehensive Downtown Parking Report, conducted from May-December 2019, from outside consultant, Dixon Resources. Factors contributing to parking difficulties: businesses' employees having to move vehicles parked in time-limited spaces during their work hours, business patrons having to move vehicles when in time-limited spaces, business patrons preferences not to have to walk more than 3 blocks to destinations, and difficulty finding parking signage directing vehicles to lots behind store fronts. **Recommendations:** initiate business employee parking permit program, allow patrons option to pay for longer hours of parking in time-limited

spaces, allow businesses more shared use of their parking lots, improve signage, create web application showing open parking spaces, and establish short-time use spaces for business deliveries and for ride-sharing patrons. Council members and staff discussed the report's findings. Staff indicated it would need to add one full time employee to work on the suggested measures. No decisions were made at this time.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: January 15 – Council noted that January is Human Traffic Awareness month. There were presentations to the Council by the Sheriff's Department and the Human Trafficking Task Force on solutions and ways to address recovery for traumatized victims.

City & Town Councils

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 Council let it be known that residents are authorized to install security surveillance cameras made as visible as they wish for criminal deterrence.

The Council discussed establishing a city-wide minimum wage. Cappello noted companies making huge profits here while yet paying minimum wages.

Raquel Durand, Observer Director

Natural Resources – Climate Emergency / Water Emergency

The League of Women Voters of California declared a climate emergency at its convention in 2019. Further climate concerns led the Climate Task Force of National League (LWVUS) to ask the local Leagues throughout the country to vote for including **climate emergency** in LWVUS's **Making Democracy Work®** campaign, indicating the need for urgent action at the national level.

Thus, the Natural Resources section of Southwest Santa Clara Valley (SWSCV) League's Program Planning focused on climate change—and also asked that closely associated water emergency issues be included in Making Democracy Work®. Our Program Planning slides

looked at how the forces of climate change and water stress work to create public health crises, droughts, record heat, wildfires, hunger, social unrest, and global political conflicts.

With California using 6 million acre-feet more than the state's rivers and aquifers can sustainably provide (irrigated agriculture using 80% of California's developed water supply), it's clear that we need to decrease our water use.

Saving water can save energy (California's water sector uses nearly 20% of the state's electricity); using less energy means fewer fossil fuel emissions that pollute and contribute to climate change.

World-wide, fossil fuels are subsidized with \$5.2 trillion/year. A UN expert said we risk "climate apartheid" where "the rich buy their way out of rising heat and hunger."

SWSCV League unanimously voted to add both **climate emergency** and **water emergency** to the LWVUS Making Democracy Work® campaign.

The **Climate Change/Water/Making Democracy Work®** slides are available on Google Drive at the path: >Shared with me, >LWV-SWSCV, >Committees, >Natural Resources, >climate change:water emergency Prog.Planning 2020.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources Chair

The Politics Book Club

The next book to be read is ***Blowout: Corrupted Democracy, Rogue State Russia, and the Richest, Most Destructive Industry on Earth*** by Rachel Maddow. With her trademark black humor, Maddow takes us on a switchback journey around the globe, revealing the greed and incompetence of Big Oil and Gas along the way. She draws a surprising conclusion about why the Russian government hacked

the 2016 U.S. election. Vladimir Putin and Rex Tillerson appear prominently in the book.

We'll meet on Tuesday February 18 7-8:30P.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.**

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

Wade Ellis, Book Club Chair

LWVSWSCV Local Election Finance Study to go on the Road!

Our League's new Study, *Local Election Finance Study II*, analyzes local city council and school board 2018 elections. The Study examines election regulations, financing, and reporting. We compare the practices in our Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga area and reach conclusions about best practices for promoting participation and transparency for both voters and candidates.

We're going on the road. Presentations of our findings and recommendations are being arranged for the following elected bodies:

- Campbell City Council
- Los Gatos Town Council
- Monte Sereno City Council
- Saratoga City Council
- Saratoga Union Elementary School Board of Trustees
- Los Gatos Saratoga Union High School Board of Trustees
- Los Gatos Union Elementary School Board of Trustees
- Campbell Union High School Board of Trustees
- Campbell Union School District
- And, at our currently scheduled election events called, "Every Vote Counts!!"

The Study can be found at my.lwv.org/california/southwest-santa-clara-valley/local-state-and-national-studies. See page 4 for Executive Summary, page 17 for findings and recommendations, page 15 for what other cities are doing.

We have been interviewed by this area's Sing Tao Newspapers (Chinese language edition) and plan to publicize the Study in other publications through letters to the editor. Please spread the word and let our communities know about our study!!

Tom & Danice Picraux, Study Co-Chairs

Candidates' Forum 15th District

On Saturday, January 15 our League, along with the San Jose/ Santa Clara League, hosted a Candidates' Forum for District 15. This seat will be vacated by California Senator Jim Beall.

It was held at the Campbell Community Center and prompted many interesting questions from the audience. The League will hold many more forums this fall for the 2020 elections!



From L-R: Nora Campos, Ken Del Valle, Dave Cortese, Tim Gildersleeve, Ann Ravel, Johnny Khamis, and Gorla Hoo-Moderator



From L-R: Carol Watts-LWVSJC President, Meg Giberson-LWVSWSCV President, Ann Ravel, Tim Gildersleeve, Ken Del Valle, Nora Campos, Johnny Khamis, and Gorla Hoo-Moderator

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 ❧

- Feb 5 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- Feb 13 Thu **Clip 'n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share
Home of Wade Ellis, contact patwh.athome@gmail.com
Please let host know you will be coming.
- Feb 18 Tue **Politics Book Club**, 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. Wesley Manor
1655 Winchester Blvd., Campbell
- Feb 29 Sat **Bay Area League Day**, 9:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. Dominican Center
43326 Mission Boulevard, Fremont

❧ Save the Date ❧

- Mar 5 Thu **LWV 100th Anniversary Historical Photo Exhibit Reception**,
6:00-7:30 P.M. Los Gatos Town Council Chambers Lobby

Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/lwvswscv	Twitter: lwv_swscv	Instagram Name: lwv.swscv

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 services.

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Lisa Myers Owner

Kings's Court Shopping Center

792 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95032

408-358-9453 fax 408-358-4673

info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com

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