

COUNT MEIN 2020 CENSUS

Respond When You Receive Your Invitation

The 2020 Census is underway and is ready for America to respond. The first invitations arrived in the mail at an estimated 140 million households between March 12 and March 20. Most importantly, do notice your **personal ID number**!

Here's what you should have received in the mail: a. the invitation with your personal ID b. an overview of the census c. a description of language assistance.

Take the Census

Plan to include everyone you expect to be living in your home on April 1.

You can respond online, by phone in one of 13 languages, or by mail.



What You Can Do Right Now:

Be a League Ambassador. Tell your family, friends, and neighbors about the Census and remind them to fill it out now.

Remember there are three easy and quick ways to fill out the Census – 1) online: my2020census.gov and enter your personal ID

2) over the phone in English or one of the other 13 Languages available3) by mail

Please note: If you did not receive your invitation, contact **mycensus2020.gov**, click start questionnaire and follow the directions. Or, you can call toll free: 844-330-2020 for additional information.



With the COVI-19 pandemic upon us, our first thought is for our family and friends, including our

League family. We hope that current shelter-in-place mandates will help protect the greatest number possible; we look to better times.

The virus forced cancellation of our March events (reception at Los Gatos Town Council chambers, the Ainsley House lecture and the County Leagues' March 29 celebration to honor the League's 100 years of existence). For the immediate future, SWSCV League's events are cancelled or postponed. Future events will be planned as official guidelines allow, with full consideration of the safety of our members and the public.

Presidents' Letter

For excellent information and updates on the virus, see **www.covid19.ca.gov**.

E-mail notice will be sent about online means of holding necessary meetings. Board members will be contacted about how and when any future board meeting virtual or otherwise—will occur.

Our important work continues, although not face to face. We remain focused on promoting democracy as election 2020 moves forward. The integrity of our election systems is critical. With cancellations and/or postponements of some primaries having already occurred, the need to guarantee full and fair elections has never been higher.

LWVC reports that Schools and Communities First (SCF) signaturegathering campaigns have been successful. COVID-19 drives home the message that more than ever we need local funding sources—for county health departments and hospitals, doctors and nurses, first responders, caregivers for seniors and disabled, and of course for the dedicated educators and staff that help create the good citizens on which our world depends.

With the official April date of the Census 2020 count approaching, join the millions of Americans who have filled out their census forms online. Answering online saves time, money—and spares unnecessary contact that could prolong the pandemic. It also helps ensure that California will receive its fair share of federal monies and will be accorded our appropriate representation in the federal government.

Our most heartfelt wishes for the health and safety of all!

Meg & Alan Giberson, Co-Presidents

COVID-19 and Water – Twin Crises

As the COVID-19 crisis spreads, our need for clean water supplies makes it even more clear that water is our most precious resource, as the CDC notes at **www.cdc.gov/healthywater/index.html**. Effective hand washing with water and soap still constitutes the best way to avoid virus spread through contact with contaminated surfaces. The CDC also points to the link between water—vital for drinking, health care, hygiene, sanitation, etc.—and "human-made stressors" such as climate change.

The impact of climate change on water will reshape our future, from wider spread of life-threatening diseases that require clean water for sanitation and hydration, to more frequent harmful algal blooms, to drought that can dry up safe sources of water, etc. (See www.

cdc.gov/healthywater/observances/wwd. html?deliveryName=DM22958.)

How do we ensure water availability given dwindling water sources because of climate change and associated rising global temperatures?

League's long-standing policies promoting conservation and nonstructural alternatives in water sourcing provide one answer. Large infrastructure may fail, as we see in the local Anderson Dam example. See *Those Dam Problems*, SWSCV Voter, February 2017, https://my.lwv.org/sites/ default/files/leagues/southwest-santaclara-valley/march2017voternewsletter. pdf, at page 6. See also The Mercury News article discussing Anderson's continuing problems, delays and cost overruns (the sort that seem to plague water projects in the state) at www.

mercurynews.com/2020/02/24/breakingfeds-order-anderson-reservoir-to-bedrained-due-to-earthquake-risk.

With good reason League supports "measures that promote the management and development of water resources in ways that are beneficial to the environment with emphasis on conservation and high standards of water quality that are appropriate for the intended use."

Prevention is key. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the cause. Avoiding water waste and managing water resources through smart use, reuse and conservation will mean sufficient water for both everyday and crisis needs.

The most available, and cheapest, water is the water we save!

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

Census 2020 Response Rates

Are you curious about how many people in your community are responding to the 2020 Census? Stay up to date with a map of self-response rates from across the United States. Start here: https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html.

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: **TBD**

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

LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley P.O. Box 2865 Saratoga, CA 95070-0865 Telephone: 408-lwv-1842 www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org lwv.swscv@gmail.com



LWV Bay Area Telephone: 510-839-1608 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 - March 4, 2020

Discussed

- Eleanor Yick and Gail Nishimura volunteered to be on the budget committee.
- Cherri Nelson and Sophia Kao are still researching the transition to digital *eVoters* using Mail Chimp. After discussion on some issues, it was decided League Presidents would inform membership on the change when it occurs.
- Venues for the Annual Meeting were suggested to explore.
- Some concerns about our League's financial contribution to Voter's Edge due to overlap with Vote411 were discussed and will be explored further.

Reports/Announcements:

- Reminder donation letters will be sent to last year's donors who have not yet contributed to the Finance Drive.
- Cancellation is possible for LWVUS Convention due to COVID-19 virus, though no word yet.
- Gail Nishimura has received a \$900 grant for our League from the office of Women's Policy, Division of Equity and Social Justice, Santa Clara County for the Centennial Exhibit now on display in Los Gatos.
- Tom Picraux reported that all presentations on the *Local Election Finance Study Update* to City Councils and School Boards are going on as scheduled.
- There were suggestions on how to bring back League members who dropped membership due to the LWV supportive stance on housing bill SB 50.
- The legislative Interview with Evan Low has been scheduled with Assemblyman Low stating he would set side one day every year for this League process.
- Eleanor Yick and Aileen Kao are working together as a Nominating Committee.
- Despite so many unknowns and negatives, which include costs, Meg Giberson reported that the state is moving forward with the water tunnel under-thebay project although the final project has not been decided nor has it had CEQA review.

Voted On:

• The Board approved sending the survey to members on board meeting scheduling, day/night, evening/weekends, that Sophia Kao created for member input.

Cherri Nelson, Voter Editor

Voters Service – New Citizens

- The New Citizen Ceremonies for March have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus. It remains to be seen whether the
- due to the COVID-19 virus. It remains to be seen whether the April date will happen. The May 21st date is for Southwest
- Santa Clara Valley League to volunteer, and I hope some of
- you will step up for that day.
- Thank You!
- Jackie Costanzo, jjc717@aol.com

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Voters Service Coordinator

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Thank You To Our Donors

LWVSWSCV 2020 Annual Finance Drive

Virginia Balch Marilyn Basham Franklin Bondonno Cynthia Chang Jerry Chen L Teresa Lai Sue Cooney Jackie Costanzo Kay Duffy Zina Lou Dyer Justine Forbes Eileen Hamper Wendy L Dan Hendry Hana L Mounir Itani Cathy Johnson Richard Kelkenberg Patricia Khan Barbara Lea Jack Lucas Muriel Mahrer Sarah Pearson Danice L Tom Picraux Nancy Rucker Marian Schain Michelle Shimada Lois Smallwood Al & Anne Stewart Don Sun Dana Thompson Patti & Eric van der Burg Jane Walker Patty Weber Pat White Grace Xin Eleanor & David Yick Judy & Terry Zaccone Legend USA, LLC

We Wish to Extend Appreciation to Legend USA of Saratoga for their generous donation.



City & Town Council Observers

Campbell: February 18 – The City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an energy services contract agreement with Syserco Energy Solutions for a proposed "energy conservation upgrades and infrastructure improvements" project. The ultimate goal is to identify projects and solutions that improve infrastructure, reduce costs and conserve energy.

The City Council has authorized the City Police Department to use funds received from the State of California to purchase a mobile emergency operations center. Jackie Costanzo, Observer

Los Gatos: March 15 – A group of Los Gatos residents collected enough signatures to place two initiatives on the November 2020 ballot. One initiative limits Town Council members to two consecutive terms of four years each. The other initiative proposes the establishment of a Finance Commission of public members with broad powers of oversight of the Town's finances. Currently, Los Gatos has a Finance Committee, which includes three public members, who volunteer in an advisory capacity. Town Council members accepted the Election Official's Certification of the Sufficiency of each initiative and approved payment of \$54,200 per initiative to the County for inclusion on the ballot. Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: January 9 – Mayor Miller asked the Council to approve a Day of Remembrance on the evacuation and internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans this day in 1940. There was another request for a proclamation of recognition of March 2020 as Women's History month.

The Council was given a report by the Age Friendly Commission staff.

Eleanor Yick from LWVSWSCV offered information on the VCA voting changes and the Census 2020. Tom Picraux gave a presentation on the Local Election Finance Study Update. There was an appreciation response by attending Saratogans for LWV's work.

Raquel Durand, Observer Director

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 presentations given to the Saratoga City Council have also been made to three of our City/Town Councils and the School Boards. To see our League in action, view the following URL of the Saratoga City Council video. Eleanor's VCA/Census 2020 report starts about 10 minutes into the video, Tom Picruax starts about 35 minutes in, https:// saratoga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer. php?view_id=9&clip_id=1131.

Note: The position for the Observer Director is open and needs a volunteer. This positon organizes the Observers, attends Board Meetings, and makes reports to the Board as a voting member.

Contact Inf	ormation for	LWVSW	SCV	
Phone: 408-lwv-1842/408-598-1842	Email: lwv.swscv@gmail.com	Email: Web: swscv@gmail.com www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org		
Facebook: www.facebook.com/lwvswscv	Twitter: lwv_swscv	Instagram Name: lwv.swscv		
Join the League of Wome	en Voters	Mail	this coupon with your	dues to:
or Give a Gift of Membership		LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley PO Box 2865 Southers CA 05070 0865		
Name:			oga, CA 95070-0865	
Membership Renewal: 🗌 New Member: 🗌] Check#	\$	Individual	\$80.00
An (Elected or Appointed) Public Official: 🗌 Yes 🗌 No		\$	Household	\$120.00
Address:		\$	Student	Free
City, State, Zip:		\$	Voter Mailed to Yo	u \$20.00
Home Phone:				
Work/Cell Phone:		Ψ		
E-mail:		\$ 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, **lwv.swscv@gmail.com**. Your contact information will be added to our membership database and our published *Membership Directory*.

The Politics Book Club

The next book to be read is an existential novel, *The Plague*, by Albert Camus. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21, 7:00-8:30 P.M.

The Book Club Meetings will be conducted using Zoom software which is a free conferencing software program. I will send the URL to enter the meeting at a later date.

Questions for discussion will be emailed prior to the meeting. To get a copy, the URL to join, 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

I participated in last night's meeting using the Zoom software to see how it worked (I hadn't read the book). I'd already downloaded Zoom 'for free' and set up the login details. Wade sent me an email invitation with the URL. Once I clicked on it, I found myself looking at Wade's list of book questions on the screen and small images of other participants in the bottom right-hand corner. There's Live Training for Zoom, if you prefer extra help, at www.zoom.us/webinar/register/ WN_Qkc7KpkNSFOdITwpZkGFIQ?zcid=1664&zcid=1675. I encourage you to join using Zoom.

Cherri Nelson, Voter Editor

Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

As we watch Congress work through different stimulus packages to support Americans during this COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak, LWVUS is reviewing all legislation to ensure elections are fully funded.

To date, Congress has passed two large stimulus packages that have been signed by the President:

The first bill, named the **Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020**, was initiated in the U.S. House of Representatives and signed on March 6. This bill offered \$8.3 billion to the CDC, vaccine development and public health measures.

The second bill, named the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*, was signed by the President on March 18. It offered \$104 billion to expand paid sick leave for some workers, offer free coronavirus testing to Americans, and give some boosts to unemployment insurance and food stamps.

A third package is currently being debated in Congress. This Senate version of this bill, named the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act), would send an estimated \$1.9 trillion dollars in stimulus measures. As it is currently written, these measures include direct cash checks to Americans, loans to small businesses, and additional relief to other businesses that is mostly focused around loan guarantees. This bill failed to reach the 60-vote threshold needed to consider a bill on the floor of the Senate on both March 22 and 23. The House has announced a short summary of the bill they plan to offer as the third stimulus called the **Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act**. Currently, the League is not speaking in support of the current CARES Act. As all the bills have not been released, we are continuing to assess our support. We will continue to update our membership as new details emerge.

Over the weekend, the **League joined voting rights partners in calling for measures to be taken to protect our democracy**. This includes the expansion of early voting and no-excuse absentee mail-in ballots, including providing funding for mailing ballots to every American in a crisis, and funding for the Election Assistance Commission. We have also supported provisions to protect our communities, public health, and workers by providing paid sick and emergency leave, providing flexibility in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) assistance, providing emergency unemployment compensation, and requiring flexible and affordable health provisions from private insurers.

As we continue to learn more about the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on democracy, we will update our resource documents on the League Management Site with tools for Leagues to utilize during this pandemic. Two new resources we'd like to highlight are our **Guidance for Voter Registration Activities During COVID-19** and **How to Use LWVUS Positions for Advocacy in Light of COVID-19**.

Continue to check the **League Management Site** as we add additional guidance in the days and weeks ahead.

Sincerely, Virginia Kase, CEO

∽ Event Calendar ≪

Apr 21 Tues **The Politics Book Club**, 7:00-8:30 P.M. This is a Zoom meeting so you can participate while at home!

Due to the spread of the Coronavirus, COVID-19, all in-person meetings and gatherings have been suspended.

It is not known at this time when the shelter-in-place order will be lifted LWVSWSCV will continue to distribute the *Voter*.

You will be notified of meetings which may continue by using video conferencing software.

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)



COVID-19 Learn More and Stay Safe

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department has taken unprecedented steps to slow the spread of COVID-19, and we urge you to reference the Public Health Department's website at www.sccphd.org/coronavirus which has detailed information on how to stay safe and what measures the County is taking. The County also has a call center available open Monday through Friday, from 8A.M.-5P.M. at 408-885-3980.

Many of the public events in Santa Clara County have been cancelled to help protect community members, particularly the most vulnerable. Schools, churches Senior Centers, Earth Day, Silicon Valley Reads events, the April 17 AAUW California Convention are cancelled, and the list goes on.

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html

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