



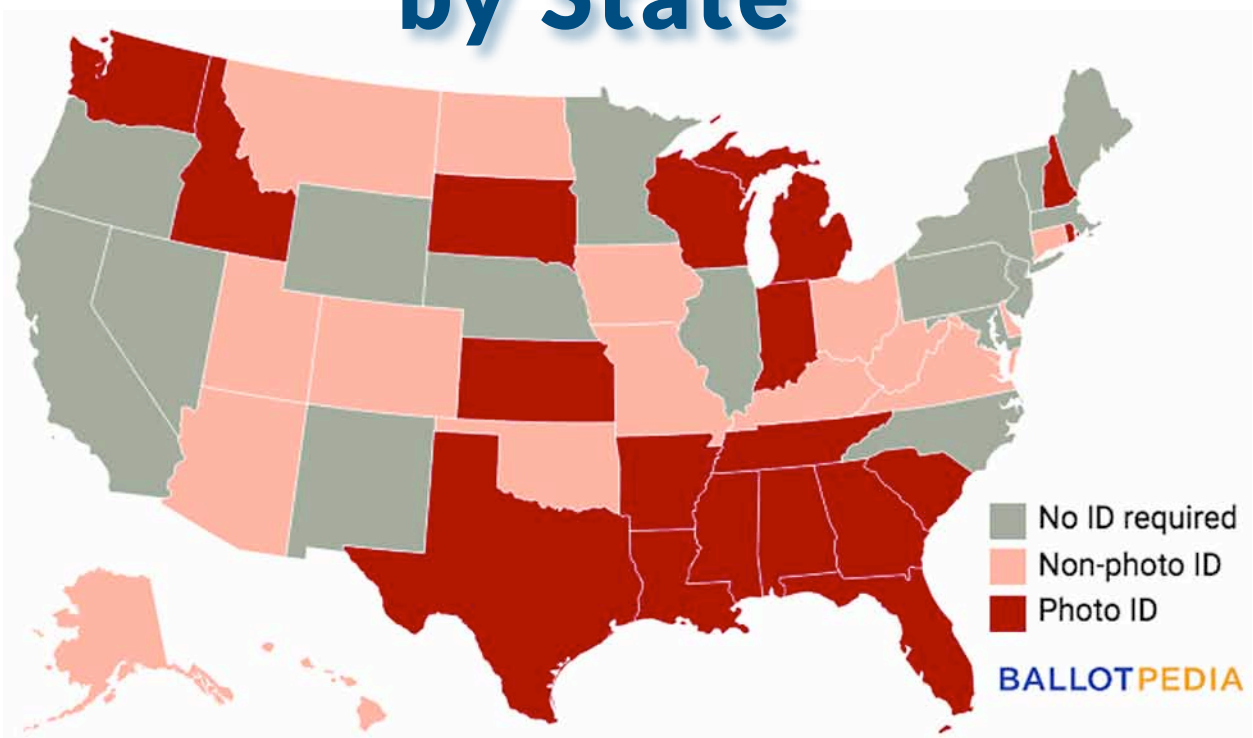
Voter of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

May, 2020

Voter Identification Laws by State



2020 Voter ID requirements: 34 States require a Voter ID, 18 require photo IDs

As of April 2020, 34 states enforced (or were scheduled to begin enforcing) voter identification requirements. A total of 18 states required voters to present photo identification; the remainder accepted other forms of identification.

https://ballotpedia.org/Voter_identification_laws_by_state

Empowering Voters • Defending Democracy

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 – COVID-19 and the Vote



Meg & Alan Giberson

With the Wisconsin primary just behind us and about six months to the November general election, what should concern us?

voting stations (The New York Times reported that the number of Milwaukee voting stations had been reduced from 180 to only five) and long lines requiring hours-long waits before votes could be cast. The COVID-19 threat hung over all.

With the COVID problem appearing to continue, how many citizens will face similar problems in November?

Multiple voting options offer flexibility and reduced crowds on Election Day. Early voting provides one solution, offering voters longer access to polling stations, with potentially shorter lines. Vote by mail is another. Five states conduct all elections by mail. California is one of three states that permit counties to conduct all-mail elections. Five more states allow small jurisdictions under their control to conduct all-mail elections.

But all-mail elections face difficulties from several sources. Some argue that vote-by-mail favors one party over the other. Yet, research by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)—a respected

non-partisan organization—reports no indication that either party would benefit from mail-in ballots.

Additionally, the USPS is in dire financial straits; some have said it could go bankrupt by late summer. (USPS is the only major US agency required to pre-pay pension and retiree health care costs for all employees—even those who have not yet retired. There has also been some high-level opposition to providing bail-out funding for the Postal Service.)

The League supports protecting and expanding in-person and vote-by-mail options. It has urged Congress to pass additional measures that would fully fund state election efforts and direct states and counties to administer the 2020 elections in a safe, fair, and accessible manner through expanded early voting, preserving in-person voting options, and by instituting universal no-excuse absentee voting. With these provisions, democracy may not yet be on life-support.

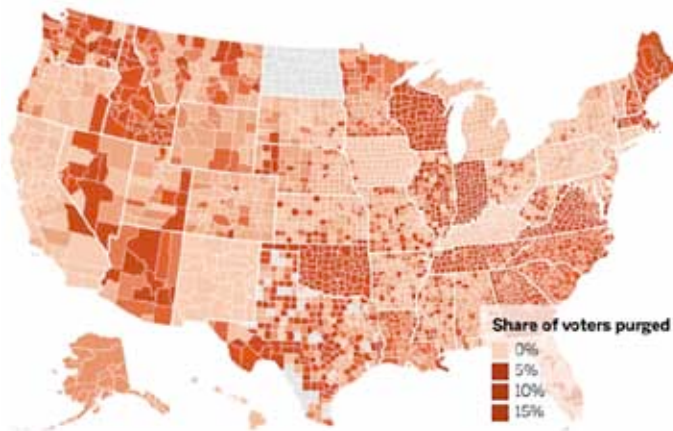
Meg & Alan Giberson, Co-Presidents

Voting that will protect our democracy. The history of the vote in our country has seen restrictions and exclusions—gender- and race-based restrictions, restrictions that precluded votes by any but “free” citizens and/or landowners, purges of voters’ names, voter ID laws. Are those all a thing of the past? No, 17 million names were purged from voter rolls between 2016 and 2018, for instance. In 34 states, voters must show some sort of voter identification, which can be difficult for some voters to obtain.

Wisconsin voters faced difficulties of a different type: requested mail-in ballots that were not received in time, cancelled

Source of map below: Brennan Center.org, based on information from EAVS (US Election Administration and Voting Survey)

Purge Rate, 2016-2018

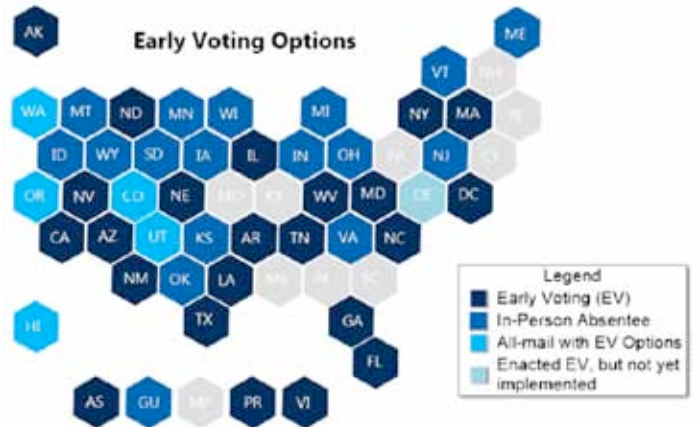


Notes: Data in the following states are aggregated here to the county-level but are reported at the sub-county level: CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT, and WI. North Dakota does not have voter re-registration.

Approximately 17 million purged between 2016 and 2018

The above shows the purge rates for the counties that reported their information to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Some counties did not report their information. Because North Dakota does not have voter registration, it does not have a voter purge rate. Therefore, the state is grayed out to mirror the non-reporting jurisdictions in Texas and Alabama.

Source of map: National Conference of State Legislatures at www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/absentee-and-early-voting.aspx



Information provided here is generally for statewide general elections. Early voting periods for municipal or primary elections may be different.

Above data is from the National Conference of State Legislatures at www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/absentee-and-early-voting.aspx.

Sharpen & add contrast to Early Voting Options map in PHOTOSHOP!

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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**

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LWV of the United States

Phone: 202-429-1965

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<http://www.lwv.org>

Board 'Notes' - April 1, 2020

An unofficial LWVSWSCV Board Meeting was conducted by teleconferencing using Zoom software. Following are the notes on issues discussed with no official business decided.



Discussed

- Regarding a potential Voter's Edge contribution, treasurer Picraux asked that before LWVSWSCV determines its contribution this year, we seek further information from LWVC on what Leagues generally contribute, how, and in what categories the monies are spent.

Reports/Announcements:

- Budget and Nominating Committees will try to meet through teleconferencing next week. The Budget Committee will try to finalize a budget by May.
- LWVC tentatively recommended cancelling all Annual Meetings after consulting an attorney specializing in non-profits. There's been no word on cancellation of the LWVUS Convention.
- 1.6 million signatures were gathered in California to qualify the Schools and Communities First proposition on the November ballot, 7,500 of which were the League reaching 150% of its signature goal.
- League members are being encouraged to proactively reach out to state and local officials on emergency preparedness for upcoming elections.
- LWVC is working with a California task force (including Secretary of State Padilla) to provide recommendations to the Legislature, Governor Newsom, and other state officials on building a plan to manage the November election.
- Census 2020 follow-up has been extended to August 14. Enumerators are on hold. For districts that will be re-drawn, the **FairMaps California Redistricting Toolkit** is useful for advocating for fair redistricting.
- Legislative hearings on bills have been suspended until April 13 (that date may change). LWV's **Advocacy Dashboard** is available for all. It addresses how Leagues **form positions, take action**, and how to understand and analyze legislation.

Meg Giberson, Co-President and Cherri Nelson, Voter Editor

Coronavirus Could Increase Support for Universal Health Care

Now that we are all quarantined with COVID-19, universal health care may become more popular in the United States.

When the person next to you in line might infect you, suddenly universal health care seems more reasonable.

When you and all your neighbors are out of work, checks from the government look more attractive.

When companies won't pay sick leave amid widespread illness, a law to force them to do so will gain support.

When you don't provide people with sick leave, they will work when they are sick and could infect others.

See full article by Craig R. McCoy, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Updated March 23, 2020. inquirer.com

Submitted by Barbara Lea, Health Director



Dear Californian

As of last week, more than 46% of all households across California have responded to the 2020 Census! That's 6.9 million households — making California the state with the most households that have already responded to the census.

But, we still have millions more California households to go in order to achieve a fair and accurate count.

If you still haven't responded to the 2020 Census, it's not too late. Households that have not yet responded to their census invitation should have started to receive a paper questionnaire in the mail as of April 8.

That means, while Californians are at home social distancing, they can now respond to the census by mail, online or by phone.

- To complete the census online, go to my2020census.gov.
- To respond by phone, call 844-330-2020. Or go to <https://2020census.gov/en/contact-us> for non-English.

Completing the census only takes about 10 minutes and will help your community for the next 10 years! Census participation determines each community's share of federal funding for healthcare, schools, roads, and more for the next decade.

When you complete the census, make sure that everyone who lives in your household is counted. That includes all children and any extended family or friends who are living with you (regardless of immigration, citizenship, or voter registration status—everyone needs to be counted).

Remember, participation is simple, quick and confidential. To learn more about your rights, you can read [California's Census Bill of Rights](#).

Once you complete the census, help us spread the word. Please forward this message to your family members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers and remind them that it's critical that everyone participate in the 2020 Census.

Let's get counted, let's get funded, and let's continue to stand up for democracy!

With appreciation, Alex Padilla, Secretary of State www.sos.ca.gov

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>.

Clip n' Come



The meeting will continue to be suspended to observe the shelter-in-place order until it is lifted. Please continue to read and clip. Amazingly there are articles about other issues than the coronavirus. We do have a national election coming up. We also have governors and states flexing their constitutional muscles. Hopefully, we can gather for lunch with more erudite conversation soon. Best wishes!

Pat White, Chair

Advocacy Report

National

LWVUS has joined allied organizations on three COVID-19 stimulus-bill memos to Congress. The first urged that the initial bill include paid sick/emergency leave, Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) benefits, unemployment compensation, and affordable health insurance from private insurers.

The League joined a second letter, by the National Immigrant Law Center, urging the third stimulus bill not to unfairly exclude millions of immigrant families, including mixed-status families, from health care and financial relief.

The third letter, by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, called for at least \$4 billion and policies to safeguard the 2020 elections.

The League also urges members to call their Senators to demand funding for protecting the 2020 election.

The League also tweeted for an end to anti-Asian racial abuse in response to the COVID-pandemic and urged members to ask friends, "Have you taken the census yet?" To be counted, go online my2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020.

Lisa Ratner, LWV Palo Alto

LWV of Texas Celebrates Victory in Mail-in Ballot Case

LWVUS on April 16, 2020: Judge Rules COVID-19 Counts as a "Disability" Reason for Needing a Mail-in Ballot in Texas. Read the full statement at www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwv-texas-celebrates-victory-mail-ballot-case.

Schools & Communities First

LWVC on April 2, 2020: BREAKING! Schools & Communities First Campaign Makes History with Most Ever Signatures Submitted. Read the full statement at <https://lwvc.org/news/breaking-schools-communities-first-makes-history-most-ever-signatures-submitted-0>.

Ellen Forbes, LWV Palo Alto

City & Town Council Observers

Reports on Council meetings are from participation in meetings being conducted by teleconferencing due to the coronavirus.

Los Gatos: March 24 – Council members passed an ordinance which prohibits residential evictions for nonpayment of rent where the failure to pay resulted from loss of income due to the coronavirus restrictions. This ordinance initially lasts 45 days and then may be extended.

April 7 – Council members authorized \$10,000 grants to each of four agencies serving town residents. These monies are in addition to amounts the town previously granted them this year. Grants went to West Valley Community Services, Counseling and Support Services for Youth, Next Door Solutions, and Live Oak Senior Nutrition.

Los Gatos Town Council meetings are viewable by the public on KCAT TV as well as in online video. The Mayor, Town Manager, and Town Attorney appear in Council Chambers, while other Council members along with staff participate via

phone. Public participants send emails in response to agenda items beforehand, and during the meeting, for containment in the public record.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: April 15 – The Council decided to continue the period of review, with the Transportation Committee, on updating signs to change Quito Road from 40 to 35 miles per hour. The Sheriff's Office also recommended postponing discussions until the current emergency ends.

During public hearings, many residents gave their opinion concerning the annexation of Saratoga Winery rezoning. All speakers recommended a **NO** vote citing impositions with developers building high-rise hotels in a suburban environment that SB 35 could possibly allow.

Annual allocations were determined for community events such as the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Easter Egg Hunt, and various others.

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.

Correction

Please Note: A correction is needed for the April *Voter* on page 5 in the *Saratoga Observers Report*.

Error: 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.

Correction: The Day of Remembrance, of the Evacuation and Internment of Japanese-American citizens from the Pacific Coast of this country, was on February 19, 1940.

Politics Book Club

For the next book, participants will read *The Decadent Society*, by Ross Douthat. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 19, 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

The Book Club Meetings will be conducted using Zoom, a free conferencing software. Wade Ellis will send an email a day or two before the meeting that includes a URL for use in joining and participating. There's **Live Training for Zoom** if you would like some extra help, at www.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Qkc7KpkNSFOdlTwpZkGFIQ?zcid=1664&zcid=1675.

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

Start A Climate Victory Garden – Help Save the Planet

Remember the way tomatoes used to taste, fresh from the garden and SWEET? Well, now is the perfect time to plant them, says the LWVC Food, Soil and Agriculture Committee. A climate victory garden (<https://www.greenamerica.org/climatevictorygarden>) not only provides your family, friends and neighbors with food, but sequesters carbon—storing it in the ground in a plant's roots—which reduces planet-warming greenhouse gases.

It's an activity you can do right at home. Even a sunny window could hold a pot of herbs. You can ditch the chemicals and go organic. For outdoor watering, you can even reduce water use with micro-drip irrigation, important in view of the megadrought the West is now experiencing (the second-worst in 1200 years, <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/04/16/megadrought-underway-in-california-american-west-new-study-finds>).

Avoiding emissions from food transportation and gaining flavor while saving the planet? Sounds tasty.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

Legislative Interview – Assemblymember Evan Low



The Legislative Report is an annual interview conducted by local Leagues nationwide of their local state representatives. On March 6 LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley and Cupertino-

Sunnyvale interviewed Assemblymember Evan Low representing the 28th California Assembly District at his district office in Cupertino. State Leagues issue a set of questions to all Leagues that can then add 2-3 questions of their own. These are the questions asked by Aileen Kao, Victoria Zhang, and Amy Vu with Assemblymember Low's responses.

1. Voting rights and criminal justice reform

Evan Low stated he voted for ACA 6 in the State Assembly. According to Assemblymember Low, in comparison to other states, California has a longstanding tradition of decreasing barriers to participation. For him, it's a moral issue. We are so harsh on criminalization, but we do not have a system set up

for individuals who come out of the criminal justice system to re-enter the electoral process.

2. Transportation, housing and climate change

Low wants to make sure that the workforce has a place to live, to live near their workplace, and take public transportation if possible. We need to help provide the basic fundamentals. We need to have reasonable accommodations along public corridors of transit.

3. Housing/homelessness

Low was a co-author of SB 50. This bill failed in the Senate on January 30, 2020. Low plans on working with grassroots organizations to bring this issue back before the State legislative branches. Low reiterated that the workforce has a place to live.

4. Legislator's priorities for 2020

AB 2712: California Universal Basic Income Program

Under this model, recipients of California's social safety net programs like CalWORKS and CalFresh have a choice between continuing to receive those benefits or

instead receiving \$1,000 each month through the CalUBI program.

AB 1849: Student Mental Health Issues Allows K-12 students to take excused absences from school for the benefit of their mental or behavioral health. Assemblymember Evan Low believes that it will help destigmatize discussions of mental health wellbeing between students and their families, peers, and teachers.

AB 2705: Electricity Customer Bill of Rights

Sets notification requirements for de-energization events; requires utilities to provide backup energy for critical infrastructure customers and places limitations on when a utility can request rate increases.

ACA 184: Resolution Asking PG&E Board of Directors to Step Down

In response to decades of mismanagement that has resulted in catastrophic wildfires, deaths, and widespread planned de-energization, Assemblymember Low calls on the Board of Directors for PG&E Corporation to resign. Aileen Kao, Membership Director

Earth Day, 50 Years Old

April 22 marked the fiftieth year celebrating Earth Day, a day to recommit to all the living organisms that make up the environment and to generate action to protect the planet. Since its founding, the League has been focused on protecting the environment—which continues to this day.

The creation of Earth Day in 1970 brought together leaders from all political parties, economic backgrounds, communities and interests. It led to the creation of landmark legislation like the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. Millions of Americans have benefitted from standards to keep the air and water clean—representing the first steps in the fight against climate change. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established under President Nixon with bi-partisan support.

Positive changes have included a ban on lead in gasoline, stoppage of DDT spray on farm fields, reduced toxic chemical emissions, cleanup of sewage-choked San Francisco Bay and recent tidal marsh restorations, far fewer days of air pollution, quadrupling of parks and protected open space in the Bay Area, and a clean energy revolution across the entire state.

The last 50 years have seen many positive changes in how we protect the earth, but much, much more remains to be done, particularly with roll-back of regulations and policies current at the federal level.

This presents all us with an opportunity to take action to force policy changes at all levels of government and to make personal changes that create lasting global effects.

The LWVUS (blog 4/22/20) has highlighted several things we can do:



1. Contact elected officials and tell them we need to do more to protect the planet.
 2. Volunteer with an organization that is addressing environmental or climate change.
 3. Change your personal habits and take responsibility for your carbon footprint.
 4. Vote for officials who believe that we need to act now to fight climate change.
 5. Use the LWVUS toolkit for climate change for more ways to take action.
- Alan Giberson, LWVSWSCV President

🌀 Event Calendar 🌀

May 6 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00A.M. to 12:00 Noon

May 19 Tues **The Politics Book Club**, 7:00-8:30 P.M.

The book is The *Decadent Society*, by Ross Douthat

These meetings are conducted using Zoom conferencing software, which means you can participate safely from home! If you would like to join the meeting, contact Meg or Alan Giberson for the Board Meeting or Wade Ellis for the Book Club.

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

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

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Membership Renewal: New Member: Check# _____

An (Elected or Appointed) Public Official: Yes No

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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*.