

Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

June-July, 2020

LWVSWSCV 2020 Annual Meeting «

Saturday • June 20 • 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

A Zoom Conference

Attendance is Free

This all-members annual **Business Meeting** will include:

- Welcome and Adoption of Agenda
- Highlights of 2019-20 League Programs
- Adoption of Program Planning Recommendations
- Adoption of the Proposed Budget
- Election of 2020-21 Board members
- Member Direction & Input to New Board
- Presentation of the 2020 Helga Ruby Award

Due to concerns over COVID-19, this meeting will be conducted over Zoom video conferencing. Attendance is FREE but you do need to send an RSVP to Eleanor Yick, egyick@icloud.com. After sending in your RSVP, you will then receive the meeting ID and password for signing into the meeting.

Please join us to ensure next year's success!

For Questions:

Phone: (408) 598-1842 • Email: lwv.swscv@gmail.com



Meg & Alan Giberson, LWVSWSCV Co-Presidents

This year has seen many changes, but some things stay the same for the League.

Work on the 2020 Census and preparations for the November elections head into high gear as we enter the second half of the League's 100th anniversary year. Post-Census redistricting may be delayed because of COVID-induced delays in the release of Census tallies. (Candidates may have to campaign without clear information about which district they might be running in.) In a departure from the past, League's efforts to make democracy work for our community will likely be through virtual (online)

Presidents' Letter – Changes & Continuity

presentations. Pros-and-cons, candidate forums, ballot measure discussions—as well as our Board meetings—will likely all be online. Join us virtually at the important events that help shape our communities and our democracy! Watch our *Voter* newsletter for details.

The cuts in state funding caused by COVID shutdowns (\$54 billion deficit projected) highlight the importance of Schools and Communities First (SCF), a November ballot initiative the League has worked hard to support. SCF will bring billions to communities in our state facing devastating cuts to essential workers, local services (first responders, public hospitals) and schools. While protecting homeowners and renters, small businesses and agriculture from changes, SCF targets the 6% of commercial and industrial properties that have not been paying their fair share of taxes. It closes corporate loopholes benefiting those at the very top while supporting deserving front-line workers.

What will remain the same will be League's focus on voting rights, campaign finance reforms, diversity, equity and inclusion.

Voter's Edge will continue to put your ballot in the palm of your hand and will, as well, provide candidate and vote center information. Our mission to register, educate and empower voters and defend democracy continues.

As our year of presidency winds down, we express heartfelt appreciation for the League team (Board, off-Board and sustaining members) that has worked so hard to address this year's challenges. We hope that the coming months will give us all an opportunity to view in person the excellent LWV 100th Anniversary history panels created by member Gail Nishimura. We fervently hope and will work proactively for a fall election that is safe, accessible and fair.

Sources: Census/redistricting https://cavotes.org/sites/default/files/downloads/LWVCEF%20 Fair%20Maps%20California%20Local%20 Redistricting%20Toolkit.pdf; Voter's Edge (https://votersedge.org/ca)

Meg & Alan Giberson, Co-Presidents



Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the League

Sunday • August 16 • 5:00-7:00 P.M.

SCC Board of Supervisors Chambers
70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110

Join our colleagues from all of the Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County at this rescheduled celebration of the League's 100th Anniversary. Cindy Chavez will host this informative event which will include guest speakers sharing the important work that the County Leagues have accomplished over the years. Becasue of COVID-19, the date of this event may be changed.

Beverages and a light dinner will be served. Register for this inspirational evening **HERE**.



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 - May 6, 2020

Discussed

• Eleanor Yick offered to continue to host meetings using her Zoom account while other software and the benefits of purchase are explored. SC County Council may purchase a Zoom account for all five Leagues.



- Details such as delegates were discussed for the LWVUS Convention being conducted using Zoom. Our League will also apply for an award on the 100 Year Exibition display.
- Details for conducting the June 2020 Annual Meeting were explored such as how to vote in a Zoom meeting. It was decided not to have a speaker this year.

Reports/Announcements:

- Two years of web site fees were paid along with the domain name due to LWVC delays. Liability insurance was also paid. Our League received SC County grant award for the 100-Year Exibit Gail Nishimura assembled.
- To increase enumerators for the Census 2020, Leagues have been asked to volunteer five to seven members for phone banks.
- Candidate Forums and Pro & Cons will be conducted using Zoom and recorded for availability to the public. People who can do hand signs for the deaf or hard of hearing are needed. LWVC will produce a *Voter's Guide* for the elections.
- The *Bay Area Monitor* needs financial help due to donors dwindling due to the pandemic. More emails from LWVBA on this will follow fotr future discussion.

Approved:

- The annual budget, to be presented at the 2020 Annual Meeting, was voted approval unanimously. Appreciation was given to the Picrauxs for all the work they have done on the budget.
- There are more questions about Voter's Edge financial spending. All agreed we need to learn more about Vote411 possibly at Convention. The Board unanimously approved a \$500 contribution for this year.

Meg Giberson, President and Cherri Nelson, Voter Editor

Politics Book Club

The Politics Book Club participants are busy selecting their next book. When decided upon, an E-blast, with the name of the book, will be sent out. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 30, 7:00-8:30 P.M. There will be no meeting in July.

The Book Club meetings are currently using Zoom teleconferencing software. You will receive an e-mail a day or two before the meeting that includes a URL for use in

joining and participating. Zoom is really easy to use; just follow the e-mail directions you will receive.

Questions for the discussion will be emailed to participants prior to the meeting. To join the participant list, get a list of the questions for the book discussion, the URL to join, or for any other questions, please contact me at wade25@sbcglobal.net.

Wade Ellis, Book Club Chair

Natural Resources - League Promotes Environmental Health

Do you think that mercury should be allowed to foul our air? Neither does the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). In fact, in 2011 the League launched the "Clean Air Promise Campaign"—about the dangers of harmful pollutants like "mercury and other air toxics that created a growing threat to the health of our children and seniors." Yet the past few years have seen elimination of the legal justification for restricting mercury emissions from power plants. Another 99 other efforts to revoke or roll back environmental protections have proceeded during those years, according to a New York Times analysis (search term: "100 environmental rules reversed").

Clean water? "Yes" said LWVUS, whose activists helped pass the landmark Clean Water Act (CWA) in the early 1970s, and then worked to strengthen it through the 1990s. Yet, pollution protections for certain tributaries and wetlands regulated under the CWA have been scaled back. A rule that prevented coal companies from dumping mining debris into local streams has been revoked. A rule that required groundwater protections (regarding certain uranium mines' operations) has been withdrawn. Opening up 1,500 acres outside the Grand Canyon to nuclear production has been proposed.

Energy and fuel efficiency standards, greenhouse gas restrictions, and water efficiency standards have been weakened or eliminated. Flood standards have been revoked that formerly required the government to account for sea level rise and other climate change effects.

The League continues to promote forward-looking policies that protect our natural resources. League policies at state and federal levels envision high standards for protection in such areas as climate change, oil/gas exploration and development, air quality, energy, and water use. So there is hope. Our good League policies can help. https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/action_policies_and_positions_2019.pdf Meg Giberson, Natural Resources



Voters Edge Update

Voter's Edge is a voter resource site and an integral educational program for the League of Women Voters. The

website is used by voters to research the legislative priorities of their local, state, and federal candidates. With the primary election behind us, it is obvious that Voter's Edge was a much-used tool for voters when researching their options.

Here is what I learned while working with candidates to get their information onto the Voter's Edge site for the primaries.

 Most candidates no longer maintain telephone numbers for their campaigns. Much of our outreach to candidates was done directly to their social media accounts and email. Most candidates needed four to ten invitations to place their info on Voter's Edge. In other words, consistent contact and nudging was required.

- The incumbents seemed to be the least likely to put their updated info on the site. Their info used was from past elections.
- We need to use every member of the League who has contact with a candidate to make sure they know about Voter's Edge and encourage them to participate.

How can you help Voter's Edge get ready for the November 3 election? The work for the November elections will begin mid-July. There should be several online training sessions. If you would like to learn the web-based software used to put content on Voter's Edge, please send me an email. Also, if you know of candidates who are running for office in November, please let them know about Voter's Edge. Judy Connor, LWVSJ/SC May Voter

LWVUS News-Action

5/13/2020 Washington – Today the League of Women Voters President of the Board of Directors Chris Carson issued the following statement in response to the U.S. House Heroes Act relief package:

"Our democracy depends on an election system that protects voters, poll workers, and the right to vote. The latest House bill does just that.

"Expanding vote-by-mail and ensuring safe and early in-person voting options gives all eligible voters the flexibility to cast their ballots safely this fall." Read the full article **HERE**.

Lisa Ratner, LWV Palo Alto

Action – Tell Congress to Invest in the Safety of Our Democracy

ACTION – In March, Congress worked to add \$400 million in aid to states to address necessary policies to safeguard our elections during the COVID-19 public health crisis. This money is just a down payment on the real funding needed to protect the right to vote in the November elections. The November election is quickly approaching, and it is imperative Congress provides the necessary funding to transform our election system to respond to this crisis, and ensure voting remains fair, accessible, and safe.

Voters should not have to choose between their health and their vote.

Contact your Senators today ask them to include \$4 billion in funding to secure our elections in the next stimulus package at http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=13932&utm_source=MemberUpdate&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=05182020.



City & Town Council Observers

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

Los Gatos: Town Council began using the Zoom platform for meetings. Each council member now appears on screen from their home. Staff members are available audibly. Residents may participate in the Zoom meetings by registering prior to the meeting via email with their requests to participate. Residents are then sent reply emails with instructions on how to join the meeting when their agenda items of interest are being discussed. Alternatively, residents may participate audibly, via phone rather than video.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: May 6 – The Council passed a referendum to make the month of May 2020 the National Heritage Preservation Month. This will be designated with points of interest markers to be placed at Caledonia Paste Board Mill, Ohlone

Indians, Wildwood Park, Saloons, and the Saratoga Paper Mill at Big Basin Street.

The Council noted the completion of the Prospect Road Improvements Project and approved the contract for the Mt. Eden Annual Repair Project.

May 21 – The Council declared May 2020 as National Foster Care Month as California has 20,000 children placed with resource foster care parents who provide appropriate homes and care.

The Mayor opened the floor to public comments and opinions on whether to postpone today's hearing on the Mountain Winery Annexation Project. The public requested the issue be discussed after the pandemic limitations end to have in-person comments rather than in a Zoom meeting. Due to the controversial nature of the Mt. Winery Annexation, this meeting was extended and continued until 2:30 A.M.

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 decided, however, to explain and comment officially on the facts, as well as the pros and cons, of the annexation based on the *California Open Space Advisory Planning Comminssioner Recommendations*, determined to be mostly non-beneficial for the City of Saratoga.

At their conclusion, Council Members reached a consensous to vote on the Annexation with the result that it did not pass. The Annexation issue failed with three no and two yes votes.

Raquel Durand, Observer Director

Healthcare? Major Presidential Candidates

Joe Biden proposes protecting and building on the *Affordable Care Act* instead of switching to a Medicare for All system.

Biden's campaign website says about the Affordable Care Act: "Because of Obamacare, over 100 million people no longer have to worry that an insurance company will deny coverage or charge higher premiums just because they have a pre-existing condition – whether cancer or diabetes or heart disease or a mental health challenge. Insurance companies can no longer set annual or lifetime limits on coverage. Roughly 20 million additional Americans obtained the peace of mind that comes with health insurance. Young people who are in transition from school to a job have the option to stay covered by their parents' plan until age 26. But, every day over the past nine years, the Affordable Care Act has been under relentless attack. As president, Biden will protect the Affordable Care Act from these continued attacks. He opposes every effort to get rid of this historic law—including efforts by Republicans, and efforts by Democrats. Instead of starting from scratch and getting rid of private insurance, he has a plan to build on the Affordable Care Act by giving Americans more choice, reducing health care costs, and making our health care system less complex to navigate." Biden also wrote on a Medium web post that he would lower the Medicare eligibility age to 60.

Donald Trump's campaign website says that during his first term, Trump has worked on "providing Americans the healthcare they need" and "improving access to affordable, quality healthcare."

The website says: "The Department of Agriculture provided more than \$1 billion in fiscal year 2017 to be

used to improve access to health care services for 2.5 million people in rural communities. President Trump mobilized his entire Administration to address drug addiction and opioid abuse by directing the declaration of a Nationwide Public Health Emergency. President Trump signed an Executive order to reform the United States healthcare system to take the first steps to expand choices and alternatives to Obamacare plans and increase competition to bring down costs for consumers. Under President Trump, The FDA has approved the most number of generic drugs in history in order to increase competition in the marketplace and lower the cost of prescription drugs for all Americans."

Source: Ballotpedia – a nonprofit and nonpartisan online political encyclopedia that covers American federal, state, and local politics, elections, and public policy.

Barbara Lea, Health Care Director

Voting During the Pandemic Fears During the COVID-19 Pandemic

To ensure our state's voter safety, Governor Newsom signs executive order making California a vote-by-mail state. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bNNS11gQYk

Other Leagues Fight to Make Absentee Voting Safe and Easy.

LWV Virginia has been fighting the requirement that anyone who uses an absentee ballot must have someone witness it. LWV of Virginia, ACLU, and the ACLU of Virginia sued the Commissioner and the State Board of Elections in the state of Virginia to remove the witness requirement to cast absentee ballots in the upcoming election. The parties recently came to an agreement to eliminate the witness requirement. **READ MORE!**

LWVUS Advocacy: The Rise in Voter Purge Litigation

Leagues around the country have seen a rise in voter purge litigation over the past few years. State and local Leagues have joined litigation in response to actions filed by third-party think tanks seeking to force voter roll purges. Leagues have also initiated lawsuits to ensure that voter list maintenance practices are done reasonably and in compliance with the *National Voter Registration Act*. The NVRA requires list maintenance be undertaken with due care and respect for the right to vote. Read our **BLOG**, www.lwv.org/blog/knowrise-voter-purge-litigation?utm_source=LWVLAMV+Membe rs+and+Email+Subscribers&utm_campaign=42415bde7f-e_Voter_December_2017_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0 a785d73132-42415bde7f-114065133.

Women's Suffrage – Exihibits & Pandemic

Online Women's Suffrage Exhibit

While the National Archives museums are closed, you can browse the Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Voter Exhibit from the comfort of your home. There are seven online exhibits about the struggle for women's suffrage and the impact of the 19th Amendment. It highlights the relentless struggle of diverse activists throughout U.S. history to secure voting rights for all American women. https://museum.archives.gov/rightfully-hers

1918 Flu Pandemic and Women's Rights

A 2018 Smithsonian Magazine article about how the Spanish Flu disproportionately affected young men, giving women opportunities not previously available to them and shifting public opinion about women's rights. It helped elevate women in American society socially and financially, providing them

more freedom, independence and a louder voice in the political arena. https://theconversation.com/how-the-devastating-1918-flu-pandemic-helped-advance-us-womens-rights-91045?xid=PS_smithsonian

LWV Northern San Diego History Article

The League of Women Voters is Turning 100! is the Northern San Diego LWV web site front page, with a list of historical resources. "We will continue to fight voter discrimination and to keep secret money out of our elections to ensure that our elections are fair, free and accessible. We'll also continue to push for improved access to housing as well as recognizing that Climate Change is a scientific reality that must be addressed to ensure a sustainable planet for everyone," Dora Rose, Deputy Director of the LWVC. https://my.lwv.org/california/northcounty-san-diego/lwv-centennial-anniversary

Civil Discourse Workshop: Healthcare in the United States

How Can We Bring Costs Down While Getting the Care We Need?

September 19 • 1:00 - 5:00 P.M. • Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • Fellowship Hall 728 Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale

Whether we have insurance or not, many fear skyrocketing drug prices and surprise medical bills. This is a problem for the nation as well as for individuals.

- We pay more for health care than other countries do but have less to show for it.
- Other wealthy countries spend about half as much as the U.S. does.
- The way we pay for health care is complicated.
- Prices are unpredictable and confusing.

The workshop will cover this conversation, including:

- Ensuring health care for all
- Building on what we have
- Letting people make their own choices

Please Register Here

Being sensitive to the current situation regarding large group gatherings, we are prepared to re-schedule this event based on medical advisories—and any registration fee will apply.



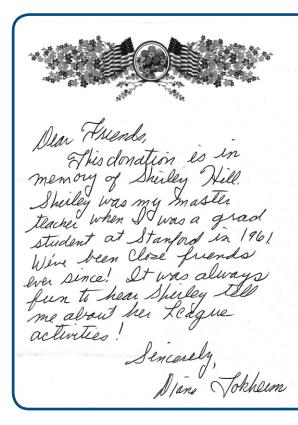


Dan Furtado
John Coward
Barbara Hing
Julie Hua

Patricia Khan
Nora Mason
& Dana Ellingen
Robert & Diane Tokheim

Mariquita West
Grace Xin
Merryl
& Ned Zuparko

A Lovely Contribution from Diane Tokheim to LWVSWSCV in Memory of Shirley Hill, a Former LWV Member, Leader, and Mentor



Our beloved long-time member, Shirley Hill, passed away last year. She had a lifelong interest in politics, joining the League in Southern California in 1961. She also had served as President there.



After moving to Los Gatos, she joined our League in 1993. The Helga Ruby Award was presented to her in 2011. Shirley had served as VP of Membership for two terms, Secretary for three, Webpage Coordinator, Nominating Committee Chair, and Program VP. She had chaired the *Study on Redevelopment* and cochaired the recent *Higher Education Study*. Shirley's attitude in the face of adversity was amazing. She was a role model for all of us, and her memory has lived on whenever we think of all she did for our League.





LWVUS Convention – Women Power the Vote for 100 Years

Hello, Leaguers! LWVUS is so excited to reach out regarding our 54th Biennial National Convention, June 25-27, 2020, and our first ever national virtual convention! We hope that you will join us for our centennial year convention, and we want to thank you for pivoting with us as we've made this difficult change from our planned meeting in Washington, D.C., to the virtual space.

Despite these very different circumstances, we are certain this year's convention will be filled with commemoration, connection, and celebration. Our foremothers worked through a pandemic the 1918 flu pandemic—to get the vote over 100 years ago, so it almost feels fitting that we honor them a century later by moving the work forward through the COVID-19 pandemic. We know our League members can persist through anything,

and we can't wait to see how you will bring your excitement and enthusiasm to our online convention space. We are so looking forward to connecting with you virtually this year.

We are excited to announce our **KEYNOTE** SPEAKER, CBS Evening News anchor, Norah O'Donnell. Throughout her celebrated career, Norah O'Donnell has covered American elections and won multiple prestigious journalism awards, including Emmys for her Sexual Assault investigation, as well as her Election Night coverage. We couldn't be prouder to have such an accomplished and powerful woman deliver a message to our members this year.

Registration is now open, and you can find information on how to **REGISTER HERE.** Registration is currently open to voting delegates only, but we are working through solutions that will allow nonvoting delegates to observe. Please read your confirmation email carefully as it provides information on:

- Completing your registration through
- Pre-Convention webinars for delegates Information on our virtual caucuses Information on our virtual wares market

The following has been posted to the League Management Site to help inform delegates for Plenary:

- Convention Rules
- Proposed LWVUS 2020-2022 Board of Directors and Nominating Committee
- Proposed *Bylaws* Amendments
- Proposed 2020-2022 Program
- Proposed 2020-2022 Budget and PMP

Mail this coupon with your dues to:

LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley

Chris Carson, President, LWVUS Virginia Kase, CEO, LWVUS

Join the League of Women Voters

or Give a Gift of Membership

Name:	Date:	Saratoga,	CA 95070-0865	
Membership Renewal: New Member:	Check#	\$	_ Individual	\$80.00
An (Elected or Appointed) Public Official:	No	\$	_ Household	\$120.00
Address:		\$	_ Student	Free
City, State, Zip:		\$	Voter Mailed to You	\$20.00
Home Phone:		\$	Total Enclosed	
Work/Cell Phone:			-	CV Ed Eund
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.

PO Box 2865

All meetings are conducted by Zoom teleconferencing!

June 20 Sat **Annual Meeting**, 1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

Iune 30 Tues The Politics Book Club, 7:00-8:30 P.M.

The book is still to be decided upon.

~ No meeting in July ~

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

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

LWVC - All-mail Ballots in California

The coming election is the first one in which all registered California voters will receive Vote-by-Mail ballots without asking for one. This is a change for about half of all California voters.

Other changes are anticipated such as the nature and location of in-person vote centers or polling places, perhaps changes to voter registration deadlines or type of ballots given to the voter who registers on election day. As we know, running elections is complex.

Inaccurate information is floating around in national media. This leads to a significant need for League and other groups that educate voters to give them the knowledge and confidence to participate in this election.

As the California Legislature, the Governor and Secretary of State finalize the plans for the election, materials will be developed for Leagues to use.

Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

Phone:

408-lwv-1842/408-598-1842

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lwvswscv

lwv.swscv@gmail.com www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org Twitter:

lwv_swscv

Instagram Name: Iwv.swscv

Web:

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