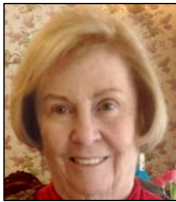


DECEMBER 2020 VOTER/EBLAST



Dear League Members,

Despite our need to shelter in place, I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. Granted, it was probably very different from other years but many traditions were still doable. And, in light of that, I found this anonymous message posted on social media very appropriate not only for Thanksgiving but also for the upcoming Holiday Season as well:

NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED

Sunshine is not cancelled
Love Is not cancelled
Relationships are not cancelled
Reading Is not cancelled
Naps are not cancelled
Devotion Is not cancelled
Music Is not cancelled
Dancing Is not cancelled
Imagination Is not cancelled
Kindness Is not cancelled
Conversations are not cancelled
HOPE Is not cancelled!!

The last is most important for all to remember: **HOPE** is indeed not cancelled and we do see evidence of that with the recent news that three (3) vaccines are near to full development, testing, and release scheduled for early in 2021. Federal and state plans are being made for fair, equitable, and adequate distribution once they are available for, initially, first responders and the elderly with severe underlying medical conditions. I certainly hope our educators also have early access so students can be safely returned to learning in school!

Lastly, now that the election is over, our League will shift its focus to any county/city that needs to form a local redistricting committee (SCC & Campbell) and/or update its General Plan, which will impact all of our 4 cities. Among other General Plan areas, local residents need to stay informed about **housing policies** that are being drafted for General Plans!! Stay tuned for more info to come from our very important League Observers!!

WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL HOLIDAY SEASON – SINCERELY, PRESIDENT ELEANOR YICK

Volunteer Opportunities!

Help with Voter Turnout for Georgia's US Senate Runoff Election

Although our local and state level elections are over, there are volunteer opportunities at the national level as well as for other states, namely Georgia, which will be holding a U.S. Senate runoff election on January 5. LWV Georgia is working on getting out the vote (GOTV) for this pivotal election, by manning the phone banks and reaching out to registered voters via text. As you can imagine, mobilizing the electorate yet again, for a non-presidential election, right after the holidays AND during a pandemic is a challenge - so volunteers are welcome.

If you are interested in helping out, create a sign-in at: <https://outreachcircle.com/TQF340>. Don't be discouraged if you don't immediately see the volunteer opportunity which best fits your interests; after you sign-up, you'll be notified later via email about upcoming opportunities for both LWV National as well as Georgia GOTV activities. (Gail Nishimura)

MEMBER SURVEY:

In response to the ongoing shelter in place and the desire to keep our members engaged with the League, a short survey was sent out exploring some options on how best to do that. Members were asked for their opinions about what kind of programming they would be interested in attending via zoom. Thank you to the 26 members who responded! The survey results will be shared in the next Voter along with some program plans developed based on those results. (If you didn't complete the survey, you still can at: <https://forms.gle/sFHSpJS6r1wbbMHG9>). (Qing Bai, Aileen Kao, Rebecca Schwan)

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE: MEDICARE FOR ALL

The Healthcare Committee (Chair Barbara Lea along with Marilyn Basham, Lois Smallwood and Anne Stewart) have been busy staying on top of all that is happening in the Healthcare area and have proposed two areas for our support. The first is called **Mayors for Medicare for All**, who support a Medicare for all, single payer system, that would cover every American with healthcare. The Board will discuss and decide if we should approach the mayors of our 4 coverage cities for their support. Along with **Mayors for Medicare For All**, the Committee also recommends we support activities on **Universal Health Coverage Day, Dec. 12th**. To learn more about Universal Health Coverage Day, which is perhaps even more important than ever during this Covid019 pandemic, see the following two links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Health_Coverage_Day
and, <https://universalhealthcoverageday.org/about/>

Help spread the word and build momentum as we march – virtually – into December. Join the **conversation online** with #HealthForAll #UHCDay and the handles, @UHC2030 @CSOs4UHC @UN @WHO @UHC_Day. (Barbara Lea)

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE: ANTI-RACIST PROJECT:

The Healthcare Committee has also proposed that our League, along with the other four (4) Leagues in Santa Clara County, support efforts to have our Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors publish a proclamation declaring racism as a public health crisis. Leagues in Contra Costa County, California and in Manatee County,

Florida, have both gotten their local Boards of Supervisors to publish such a proclamation! On November 11, the American Medical Association House of Delegates (HOD) adopted a new policy to “acknowledge that, although the primary drivers of racial health inequity are systemic and structural racism, racism and unconscious bias within medical research and health care delivery have caused and continue to cause harm to marginalized communities as a whole.” Other provisions further recognize racism as a serious threat to public health, to the advancement of health equity, and a barrier to appropriate medical care. **The LWVUS Social Policy Position on Justice supports:** “Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. “ And the **LWVUS Adopted A Resolution for Racial Justice at the LWVUS Convention**, which can be read in its entirety on our website. (Barbara Lea)

NATURAL RESOURCES:

The future of natural resources in the United States has changed as a result of the recent presidential election. Policies of the president-elect, as well as newly-selected cabinet members, will promote reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and other activities in an aim to bring us back from the brink of no-return climate change. The United States will rejoin the Paris Agreement on global warming, a 2015 agreement signed by 194 countries meant to combat climate change—but from which the US withdrew on Nov. 4, 2020. New policies that recognize—and actions that reduce—air and water pollution will help address long-standing problems that have particularly afflicted Black and Latino communities. The pledge to conserve 30 percent of America’s lands and waters by 2030 will help protect biodiversity, slow extinction rates and help promote natural climate solutions. And, in a nod to California, which has been a leader in setting and meeting environmental goals, Mary Nichols, the 13-year head of California’s Air Resources Board, will lead the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The new year may bring us better news. (Meg Giberson)



CITY & TOWN COUNCIL OBSERVERS

Campbell – November 24, 2020, Jackie Costanzo, Observer

General Plan: Information provided by City Councilwoman Liz Gibbons.

The **General Plan Process** continues to evaluate and recommend changes to land use designations and densities. The draft GP identified additional parcels and increased density in some locations to 45 units per acre vs the current 27 units per acre.

As the draft documents have become available, **Campbell's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)** has changed. In Cycle 5 it is 633 units; but when the Housing Element updates to Cycle 6, which will start mid-2021, it will be 3,964 units. Therefore, the Council is reviewing the pros and cons of the draft land use map.

There are currently at least three mixed-use projects being proposed. Typically, they require a zoning change. Recently a 25-unit housing project was approved with a 20% Density Bonus requiring two "very low" Below Market Rate (BMRs) and 15% Inclusionary Affordable (BMRs) units.

Street Closure: Campbell's complete downtown street closure has been replaced with parklets allowing parking for business/retail customers.

Farmers' Market: Campbell's Farmers' Market has reopened on Sundays from 9:00 to 1:00 but is being held at the Campbell Community Center parking lot. Masks and social distancing are required.

Los Gatos – November 25, 2020, Lynda Jandron, Observer

Council members approved three police department reforms. First, the role of an independent police auditor will be established. The police auditor will have a background in law and/or policing. The police auditor will respond to all individual citizen concerns regarding police actions and report findings to the town's attorney. **Second,** Santa Clara County will continue to respond to mental health and homeless calls for service in Los Gatos. **Third,** data on police stops will be made available in a timely manner for public review. Community members and Town staff have been developing the **Los Gatos General Plan 2040**. Council members were asked to provide direction regarding land use and housing development. **Challenges identified:** limited large-scale employers, most residents commute for work; limited open space for development; developers expected monetary return on projects. **Recommendations:** increase public transportation modes; increase number of multifamily housing units; raise height limits of multifamily housing units; increase number of rental units; increase number of accessory dwelling units. Council members amended and broadened the below-market-price housing program

Our League has confirmed that observance and participation in our local city/town/school board meetings are being made available through zoom, phone, and/or via livestreaming. Check each entity's website for more details on meeting dates and how to access and participate in their meetings.

- **Campbell City Council:** www.ci.campbell.ca.us/189/City-Council
- **Los Gatos Town Council:** www.losgatosca.gov/16/Town-Council
- **Monte Sereno City Council:** www.montesereno.org/2148/City-Council
- **Saratoga City Council:** www.saratoga.ca.us/241/City-Council

THE K-12 OPPORTUNITY GAP AND ITS EFFECT ON EQUAL ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION:

- December 3, 2020, 12:00 - 1:30 pm
- [Register here](#) for the LWVPA Winter Luncheon
- Email questions for the speakers in advance to lwvpaoffice@gmail.com

Kristen Clarke, President and Executive Director, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and Genevieve Bonadies Torres, Counsel for the Educational Opportunities Project will provide an overview of the current racial inequalities characterizing the K-12 system and their impact on access to higher education and social mobility. The speakers will highlight efforts underway in California and across the country to dismantle existing barriers and to ensure education remains a ladder to opportunity for all.

This event is co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Council of PTAs.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP:

- Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- Hosted by the Los Altos History Museum
- Register to attend virtual meeting at <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E349121&id=30>

Rise up, lean in, and get inspired by this panel of women who are leading their fields and paving the way for the next generation of trailblazing women. Moderated by Protima Pandey, Director of the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy, the speakers include Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools; Dolores Alvarado, CEO of Community Health Partnership; and Upuia Ahkiong, founder of Women Entrepreneurs Launch (WELA).

The event is **free** to attend, please register to receive the Zoom link.

GREAT DECISIONS: 2021

The mission of the Foreign Policy Association, which presents Great Decisions, is as it has been for over 100 years! It is to serve as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. Through its balanced, nonpartisan programs and publications, the FPA encourages citizens to participate in the foreign policy process.

•If you would like to sign up, there is still room for the **afternoon zoom sessions**, which will take place on the first and third Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:00pm in February, March, April and May. **Please send your check for \$25 made out to the LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley to Hana Itani, 16367 Aztec Ridge Road, Los Gatos, CA 95030.** Any questions, please contact Hana Itani at: hana.lwv@gmail.com or Wade Ellis at: wade25@sbcglobal.net

Information about each topic can be found at:

https://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?act=show_announcement&announcement_id=451

BOARD BYTES: November 4 , 2020

The following items were discussed:

1. The quarterly Treasurer's Report was accepted.
2. The results of the election and, in particular, Propositions 15 and 16 as well as Measures S, A, and B. Concerns were expressed about how much money is spent on campaigning and passage of propositions.
3. The lack of sunset clauses in many propositions is also a concern.
4. Membership status: 102, including 78 individuals and 34 households.
5. Member Planet Database was discussed re:pros and cons of our usage. We will examine other options.
6. Candidate Forums and Pros and Cons were extremely successful and will be conducted in this manner going forward – we reached many more people because it was more convenient and could be viewed online after the event.
7. The first Chinese version of Pros and Cons was an extremely successful undertaking and sets the bar for excellence in the future. Over 500 attended the live presentations and over 1900 viewed online.
8. Member Engagement during Covid-19: a member survey will be sent out requesting feedback on program ideas to pursue.
9. Health Committee: Medicare for All is not supported by Pres elect Biden but the issue of access to affordable healthcare is even more important now during the pandemic.
10. Meg reported that with the passage of Measure S, the SC Valley Water District might be able to secure funds to support the proposed Delta Tunnel project. This need to be watched carefully.
11. Next Zoom Board Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020.

Statements from LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase:

•**Transition of Power:** <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwv-statement-transition-power>

•**Firing of Top Election Official:** <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwv-statement-firing-top-election-security-expert>

•3 Things Virginia Kase Wishes You Knew About the Electoral College: https://www.elle.com/culture/career-politics/a34629330/electoral-college-process-problems/?fbclid=IwAR2E-F5DyM60X0Wot9Vjdmn711krFX05v4KGAlr3en_svWk_ovPbMDff_RI

THE POLITICAL BOOK CLUB

The date for the next Political Book Club discussion via zoom will be sent out to participants. The selected book for December is *Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism* by Deaton and Case. If you wish to participate and are new to the group, please contact the host, Wade Ellis, at wade25@sbcglobal.net for the URL link to the zoom meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (All Via Zoom)

Thurs	Dec. 17	1:30pm	Clip n' Come
Wed	Jan 6	10:00am	Board Meeting
	Jan (TBA)	10:00am	Annual Program Planning

LWVSWSCV BOARD 2020-21

EXECUTIVE TEAM

President, **Eleanor Yick**
 Vice Pres/Program, **Open**
 Secretary, **Victoria Zhang**
 Treasurer, **Helen Wang**

DIRECTORS

Action, **Open**
 County Council President,
Tom & Danice Picraux
 Education, **Open**
 Health Care, **Barbara Lea**
 Housing/Transp., **Open**
 IT/Public Relations, **Sophia Kao**
 Membership, **Aileen Kao**
 Natural Resources, **Meg Giberson**
 Observers, **Barbara Lea**
 Voter Editor, **Cherri Nelson**
 Voters Service, **Eleanor Yick**

Elected Officials

President **Donald Trump**
www.whitehouse.gov
 Senator **Dianne Feinstein**
www.feinstein.senate.gov
 Senator **Kamala Harris**
<http://harris.senate.gov>
 Rep. **Anna Eshoo**

California

Governor **Gavin Newsome**
<http://gov.ca.gov>
 Senator **Jim Beall Jr.**
<http://sd15.senate.ca.gov>
 Assy. **Evan Low**
<http://asmdc.org/members/a28>

County

Supv. **Joe Simitian**
JoeSimitian@box.sccgov.org
 Supv. **Mike Wasserman**
Mike.wasserman@box.sccgov.org
 Supv. **Ken Yeager**
Supv.KenYeager@box.sccgov.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone 408-lwv-1842/408-598-1842	Email lwv.swscv@gmail.com	Web www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org
Facebook www.facebook.com/lwvswscv	Twitter lwv_swscv	Instagram Name: lwv.swscv

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)	

NEXT VOTER/EBLAST: JANUARY 2021