

LWV[®] Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

June/July, 2019

❧ 2019 Annual Meeting ❧

Tuesday • June 18 • 9:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Saratoga Foothill Club

20399 Park Place, Saratoga

Cost for Box Lunch \$22 • **R.S.V.P. by June 4** • Early Signup is Needed

For Questions: (408) 598-1842 or lww.swscv@gmail.com

Further details on page 4.

It's That Time of Year! Annual Dues Are Due by July 1!

Dues can be renewed either through our new online membership software or via check.

See the article on page 2 for further details.

Join Us For A Conversation on Regional Housing Policy

with

California Senator Scott Weiner

Friday • June 7 • 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Lucie Stern Community Center

1305 Middlefield Rd #1, Palo Alto, CA

Further details on page 4.



President's Letter

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, from 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the historic Foothill Club in Saratoga. I hope you have sent in your reservation already, as we need to send the lunch count to the caterer by June 4. It will be thrilling for us to come together and learn more about and acknowledge the pioneering woman

architect who designed the Foothill Club and many other California buildings, Julia Morgan. I do hope many, many of our members can attend and experience this rich historical building in such a beautiful setting located right in our own backyard. If you so choose, you can also pay your membership dues at our Annual Meeting.

As I end my second round/ fourth year as serving as the president, I am proud of our League, our reputation and leadership in the community, and all that we have accomplished. The Nominating Committee has done an excellent job recruiting some new leaders for next year, which you will get to approve at the Annual Meeting.

One yeoman's job that was undertaken this year and successfully completed was the editing and updating of our *By-laws, Policies and Procedures* and *Job Descriptions*. This kind of work is usually unseen as it takes place in the background but is vital and so necessary.

Thanks go to many members who worked on these jobs: Gail Nishimura, Pat White, Barbara Lea and myself. And, best of all, now all of these documents can be found on our League's Google Drive—never to be lost again. What is google drive, you ask—why, it's an electronic file cabinet that now houses all of our important documents.

As we look forward to our next year, a couple of very important events will be taking place: implementation of the California *Voter's Choice Act* (VCA) in Santa Clara County, the early March primary, the March 2020 Census count, the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the League of Women Voters upon the ratification of the *19th Amendment* in August 1920 giving women the right to vote, and the election in November 2020. We look forward to educating voters and encouraging everyone's participation in these important and historic events.

Eleanor Yick, President

Annual dues are due by July 1! How to Renew

LWV SWSCV now has a new online membership management process called MemberPlanet. This website enables us to maintain up-to-date membership data, automatically renew memberships, immediately enroll new members, create surveys, and send out email blasts—all at a substantial savings in terms of cost and volunteer time.

By now you should have received an email from MemberPlanet with the subject line: Joining the League of Women Voters of Southwest Santa Clara Valley. If you haven't already responded to it, please do so (and if you don't see it, check your spam folder).

- The email will lead you to the LWV SWSCV account on the MemberPlanet website.

- At the MemberPlanet website you can create a sign-in, as well as renew your dues online.
- As you go through the process, you will note that your contact information is already entered. If needed, you can directly edit the information online.

Please do not worry if some instructions seem redundant. That is because in creating the initial sign-in with the MemberPlanet site, it treats everyone as a first time joiner—apologies to you many long-time members!

If you would like to continue to renew your dues via check, ignore the MemberPlanet email. Instead, continue as you have done in the past:

- **Make out a check to:** LWV-SWSCV. Dues continue to be \$80 for an individual and \$120 for a household.
- **Mail your check to:** LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley, PO Box 2865, Saratoga, CA. 95070

Whether you renew online through MemberPlanet or via check, **please send in your dues by July 1.**

If you have any questions about MemberPlanet or can't find the MemberPlanet email that was sent earlier, email: gailnishimura@me.com.

Gail Nishimura, VP Programs

Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen who would protect the rights and privileges of free people and who would preserve what is good and fruitful in our national heritage.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

2017-2018 Board of Directors

President: **Eleanor Yick**

Vice President / Programs:
Gail Nishimura

Secretary: **Sophia Kao**

Treasurer: **Danice Picraux**

Action: **Eleanor Yick**

Education: **Lois Smallwood**

Finance Drive: **Tom Picraux**

Membership: **TBD**

Natural Resources: **Meg Giberson**

Observers: **Raquel Durand**

Public Relations: **Gail Nishimura**

Voter Editor: **Cherri Nelson**

Voters Service:

**Wendy Hendry, Sue Cooney
Claudia Aken, Jackie Costanzo**

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 - Meeting of March 6, 2019



- Edited and approved our League's By-laws.
- Edited and approved our League's Policies and Procedures.
- Edited and approved our job descriptions.
- Approved and adjusted/switched/moved some Board and Off Board positions as reported on and proposed by the Nominating Committee.
- Discussed and approved a new Board position: Voter Services/Coordinator (includes Voter's Edge)
- Discussed and approved Proposed Slate of Officers - Board and Off Board - for 2019-2020 with the understanding that there might be some changes prior to the next Board Meeting and/or Annual Meeting.
- The Finance Drive reached 75% of our goal. It's down \$1,500 from last year. The Finance Drive Board position is open for 2019-2020 year.

Sophia Kao, Secretary

New Citizens & VCA Locations

Thanks to Susan Lewis for adding to the group of volunteers from San Jose/ Santa Clara League on April 18 at the New Citizen Ceremonies. We had an enjoyable morning and registered many eager new citizens after their swearing-in ceremony.

The ROV is eager to find locations for Voting Centers with the new Voters' Choice coming in 2020. If you have any suggestions of places that might be available, please let me know. They need approximately 125 locations around Santa Clara County that will be open from four days to two weeks before election day, so it is a mad scramble to find them at this point. There were over 600 polling places for elections in Santa Clara County in the past.

Jackie Costanzo, Voter Registration jjc717@aol.com

Thank You from LWVUS California!

To our members who stood with the League! Because you took action this week, we're celebrating some big wins:

- **AB 849, the Fair Maps Act**, has passed out of the Assembly and is on its way to the Senate. Once passed, this bill will combat partisan and racially-discriminatory gerrymandering at the local level.
- **SB 72** has passed out of the Senate and is advancing to the Assembly. Upon passage, it will bring Election Day Registration to every California polling place in 2020.
- **SB 139, the People's Maps Act**, also passed out of the Senate, and is one step closer to giving people—not politicians—the power to draw the lines in large counties.

With your help, we sent thousands of messages to legislators to get these bills over their first major hurdle. And we're just getting started. Each of these bills still needs to be passed from the second house and then be signed by the governor. I hope we can count on you to continue taking action on this important legislation.

Thank you again for speaking up!

Sincerely,
Helen Hutchison, LWVCA President

LWVSWSCV 2019 Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2019. This Annual Business Meeting will include the election of new officers, voting upon the the proposed budget and program for the next year, voting upon suggested edits to our *By-laws and Policies and Procedures*, and the announcement of the 2019 Helga Ruby Award Recipient. An addendum for the Annual Meeting will be sent out electronically to all members by the end of the month so that suggested edits can be read before the meeting.

Our meeting will be held in the National Historical Registered Saratoga Foothill Club designed by the world famous California woman architect, Julie Morgan. We are thrilled to announce that we have also been able to schedule Karen McNeill, a well-known historian of Julia Morgan, to be our keynote speaker. And, our own League member, Campbell Councilmember and Certified Leed Architect Liz Gibbons will introduce our speaker.

Biography

In the fall of 1999, current senior historian Karen McNeill was a grad-school history student at UC Berkeley scrambling for a dissertation topic when her adviser suggested trailblazing architect Julia

Morgan. In the years since that fateful meeting with her adviser, McNeill has devoted a substantial amount of her life to tracking Morgan through history. Her research and scholarship on architect Julia Morgan explores the intersection of gender, reform, and the built environment during



the Progressive Era. The interdisciplinary approach combines interests in women, gender, feminist, architectural history, public space, and social reform.

In 2006 she earned her Ph.D. in History from UC Berkeley. McNeill has taught a variety of courses in United States, California, architecture, urban, & women's history at colleges and universities in the Bay Area. She has also worked in historic preservation and is currently Director of Family History at Ascent Private Capital Management of U.S. Bank. Considered the leading scholar on Julia Morgan, McNeill has published multiple articles and is finishing the first intellectual biography of California's beloved architect.

There will be time upon arrival and during lunch when walks in the garden

can be taken. It should be a wonderful, memorable day; and I hope many of our members will join us.

Panetta's Elite Catering will provide **box lunches at \$22**, including tax and gratuity. **Lunch count needs to be submitted by June 4; early sign up is needed!!** Please send your **\$22 check made out to LWVSWSCV to Barbara Lea at 121 Strathmore Place, Los Gatos, California**. When you submit your check, **please list your desired sandwich and salad on the check** so we can track how many we need of each.

All lunches include the following: a gourmet sandwich of your choice:

- Ham & Swiss on Whole Grain
- Tuna on White
- Egg Salad on Whole Grain
- Smoked Turkey on Dutch Crunch
- Vegetarian on Whole Grain

and choice of salad (Pear Salad, Potato Salad or Caesar Salad), Mixed Fresh Fruit, Carrot and Celery Sticks and lemonade and/or iced tea.

There is **free parking** available across the street from the club.

Eleanor Yick, President

A Conversation On Housing

Friday, June 7, 6 – 8 P.M.

Lucie Stern Community Center

1305 Middlefield Rd #1, Palo Alto

Join us for a conversation with State Senator Scott Wiener about regional housing policy. This includes, but definitely not limited to, SB50!

Palo Alto Forward, SV@Home and Housing Leadership Council are pleased to invite you to a conversation with State Senator

Scott Wiener about regional housing policy. Senator Wiener (D-San Francisco) is perhaps best known for authoring SB50, but the Senator has enacted a number of housing reform bills into law over the past few sessions. We will have an open conversation with the Senator about the housing crisis, what steps the state is taking to address it, and what the impact might be on peninsula communities.

Come and learn about the various state bills related to housing in this session. Drinks and socializing with the Senator will follow. Register here, www.eventbrite.com/e/a-conversation-with-scott-wiener-tickets-61440511223.

Free and open to the public.

Co-sponsorship by LWVPA.

California is Better When We All Work Together

Apply To Be on the 2020 Citizens Redistricting Committee

Shape California's Future! Become a part of creating fair and transparent district boundaries that serve the best interests of the people of California. If you believe politics are better when all sides work together and you have a passion for civic engagement, become one of 14 new 2020 commissioners.

Every ten years, after the U.S. Census Bureau tally, California must re-establish the boundaries of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly and State Board of Equalization districts to reflect new population data and shifting populations. Apply and find out more at <http://shapecaliforniasfuture.auditor.ca.gov>.

City & Town Council Observers

Campbell: Following a lawsuit brought against the city alleging that certain protected groups of people were underrepresented by Campbell's at-large system of elections, the Council has voted to change to district-based elections. There will be five districts and the city is soliciting input from the public on how these districts should be set up through a series of public meetings. The districts must all be contiguous, not gerrymandered, and about equal in population. The Council chose to include that the districts should preserve communities of interest, natural and man-made boundaries where appropriate (creeks, freeways, etc.)

Jackie Costanzo, Observer

Los Gatos: – The proposed Operating and Capital Budget for the upcoming fiscal year, 2019-2020, was reviewed. Council members made decisions to allocate funds to the following: transportation, street pavement projects; grants to community organizations that benefit residents; improvement of downtown maintenance, power washing sidewalks, reworking

planting boxes; and contributing excess revenue to pension funding.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: May 1 – There was discussion of a request for the City to offer a Plus City Mobile app. It did not pass.

A conference on Community Wild Fire preparedness has been set for May 30 at City Hall.

To comply with the Clean Energy Act SB 386 for carbon-free, renewable energy, the Mayor announced that PG&E will raise costs by 3% for its services.

All Council Members agreed to turn the regular June 5 Council meeting into a special meeting.

May 15 – SCC Supervisor Joe Simitian reported on the joint meeting of the City with the County on the Saratoga Trail and Mountain Winery neighborhood annexation projects. Mayor Cappello reported progress was being made.

According to the VTA, use of Uber and Lyft have caused less ridership on public



City & Town Councils

Members are encouraged to attend the Council meetings of the cities that our League serves.

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.

bus services affecting the Highway 85 Corridor. Mayor Capello also added consideration of the future impact of autonomous vehicles on transportation in the valley as well.

West Valley Clean Water and West Valley Solid Waste Authority passed a rate increase of 2.5% according to Councilman Kumar. Vice Mayor Miller reported new codes are required to implement conversion to carbon-based energy to new resources.

Raquel Durand, Observer Chair

From Marching to Voting: The Impact of Youth Turnout on Midterms

The March for Our Lives movement that began in 2018 made it clear that the youth of this nation have a voice and won't stop until that voice is heard. Nothing showcased this better than the 2018 midterm elections, when eligible youth cast their vote, demonstrating their participation in our political system. CIRCLE estimated that 31% of citizens from ages 18-29 voted in the Midterms, marking a 10% rise from 2014 turnout and the highest participation in the last quarter century. A Brookings survey found top priorities of youth when voting included gun reform, access to higher education, and healthcare reform. This rise in youth turnout, coupled with a desire

for social reform, influenced several close races across the nation that determined which party gained control of Congress.

Pew Research finds that the midterms marked a clear age divide, with youth often favoring the Democratic candidate. Among first time voters, 62% voted Democratic, compared to 36% who voted Republican. This divide was showcased in many state elections. In traditionally Republican-state Georgia, Democrat Stacey Abrams almost upset Republican Brian Kemp, in large part because counties with high youth populations voted for Abrams 7% more than the state average, and counties with high percentages of youth and people of color voted for Abrams 22%

more. Similarly in Montana, Democratic Senator Jon Tester almost gained victory due to a doubling in youth turnout; and in Nevada, the 20% rise in voter turnout provided Democrat Jacky Rosen a large enough margin to gain victory and flip the Senate seat.

High youth turnout in the 2018 Midterms played a key factor in the Democrats gaining control of the House. Consequently, it would be wise for all of us to keep our eyes on our teens, who have gone from marching in the streets to voting at the polls.

Arushi Bansal, Student, Notre Dame HS
LWVSJ/SC April Voter

Works Cited:

<https://civicyouth.org/state-by-state-youth-turnout-estimates-confirm-trend-of-increased-participation-impact-on-2018-midterms>

www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/11/08/the-2018-midterm-vote-divisions-by-race-gender-education

www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2018/10/31/youth-will-determine-the-outcome-of-the-2018-midterm-election

WaterFix May Be Dead; Climate Change and Species Decline Worsening

Twin Tunnels/WaterFix:

On April 29, Gov. Newsom ordered agencies to consider a new single tunnel project through the Bay-Delta that would replace the twin tunnels project (“WaterFix”), which had been promoted by his predecessor. The Governor ordered state agencies to inventory and assess options to solve the state’s existing water challenges—a growing population, climate change, depleted groundwater aquifers, uncertain water supplies and quality, native fish populations threatened with extinction. Newsom seeks a comprehensive “water resilience portfolio” that will better address the “needs of California’s communities, economy, and environment through the 21st century.” <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/4.29.19-EO-N-10-19-Attested.pdf>

The League of Women Voters of California has opposed the WaterFix twin tunnels and, like California law itself, has long supported 21st Century solutions to our water problems, such as recycling/reuse, floodwater reuse, conservation and reliance on local water supplies.

Climate Change/Species Decline:

“Nature’s dangerous decline [is] ‘unprecedented’; species extinction rates [are] ‘accelerating’”, according to an international organization. A million species of animals and plants are threatened with extinction. “The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.” About three

hundred species are at risk in California alone. <https://www.ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment>; <http://www.capradio.org/articles/2019/05/06/hundreds-of-california-species-at-risk-of-extinction-united-nations-report-says-in-addition-to-millions-globally/>;

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported last October that we could address our existential climate change problem by keeping global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees C above historical averages. That could be done by not burning greenhouse gases (GHG).

Our Planet, a gorgeously-photographed film that details the disastrous effects humans have had on the planet from GHG emissions, etc., is available using the link <https://www.netflix.com/title/80049832>.

MegGiberson, Natural Resources

The Status of Health Care in the U.S.

As we enter into another election cycle, there will be much discussion about the status of healthcare in the U.S. and the need for universal healthcare coverage. The League has long supported a Medicare For All type plan. Quoting from such reputable sources as the WHO, Commonwealth Fund, OECD Health Statistics, World Factbook 2017, Kaiser Family Foundation and NORC at the University of Chicago, below are some alarming statistics re our current healthcare system in comparison to other countries.

Often considered a world leader, the U.S. is not leading the way in health care. Despite the fact that health care spending per capita in the United States is nearly twice that of other industrialized nations, recipients report less satisfaction and lower quality outcomes including common indicators of overall health, preventable death rates and infant mortality.

The U.S. ranks 37th out of 1,911 countries in overall health care performance and 45 million Americans forgo medications due to cost (nine times the rate of the United Kingdom).

Life Expectancy at Birth (years)

- Japan: 83.9

- Switzerland: 83.0
- United Kingdom: 81.0
- Germany: 80.7
- **United States: 78.8**

Infant Mortality Rates (per 1,000 live births)

- **United States: 5.8**
- United Kingdom: 4.3
- Switzerland: 3.6
- Germany: 3.4
- Japan: 2.0

Health Care Spending (per capita)

- **United States: \$10,348**
- Switzerland: \$7,919

- Germany: \$5,550
- Canada: \$4,752
- Japan: \$4,519
- United Kingdom: \$4,192

Patients Go Without by Choice, Citing Cost as the Reason for:

- 44% – Not going to the doctor when sick/injured
- 40% – Skipping tests or treatments
- 40% – Fearing their bill more than the illness itself
- 30% – Having to choose between medical bills or basic.

Lower California Prescription Drug Prices!!



Is there a solution for the high drug prices we are paying in California? Well—there might be! Santa Clara County, together with San Francisco and Alameda Counties, is joining in Governor Gavin Newsom’s plan to lower prescription drug prices. The idea is to make California the biggest single purchaser of prescription drugs in the country.

Barbara Lea, Health Care Team

Source: sfchronicle.com 5-16-19

www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/SF-Santa-Clara-Alameda-counties-join-Gov-13852063.php?psid=5iuq9

LWVUS – Take Action

The Census counts. So do you.

This month, the Supreme Court heard cases challenging the Commerce Secretary’s decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. It’s controversial and is expected to have a chilling impact on Census participation, particularly in hard-to-count communities.

By the Census Bureau’s own analysis, adding a citizenship question would stop approximately 6.5 million people from participating. Three federal judges in New York, California, and Maryland have already agreed—the decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census was unlawful. We hope the Supreme Court comes to the same conclusion.

Help us make sure everyone is counted next year, without exception, and that our voices are heard.

Sign the #CountMeIn pledge.

Demand a Hearing on For the People Act

The American people deserve a fair hearing to determine how the For the People Act might strengthen our democracy—that’s why we launched a nationwide ad campaign urging voters to contact their Senators to demand a hearing on the For the People Act.

Many of the bill’s democracy reform provisions—like public campaign funding, bipartisan redistricting commissions, same day registration, and automatic voter registration—are widely supported among the American public and have a successful track record in many states and localities.

This bill stands to improve American elections by making our election system freer, fairer, and more accessible to all eligible Americans. It deserves a fair hearing: **contact your Senator today.**

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 businesses’s services.

THE STORE FOR NATURE LOVERS



Los Gatos Birdwatcher
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
 Mon - Fri 10am - 6pm Sun 5pm



BASHAM EYE ASSOCIATES
 PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS

Ryan P. Basham, M.D.
 Comprehensive Ophthalmology and Cataract Surgery
 212 Oak Meadow Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032
 p 408-354-4740 f 408-354-8161 www.bashameye.com



Curtis L. Pontynen. DDS
 19020 COX AVENUE
 SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA
 408.252.4570

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: _____

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)

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, lww.swscv@gmail.com. Your contact information will be added to our membership database and our published **Membership Directory**.

❧ Event Calendar ❧

- Jun 5 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- Jun 7 Fri **Conversation on Regional Housing Policy**, 6–8:00 P.M.
Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield, Palo Alto
- Jun 13 Thu **Clip ‘n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share
Home of Barbara Lea, contact patwh.athome@gmail.com or Barbara
Please R.S.V.P. so hostess knows you will be coming.
- Jun 18 Tue **Annual Meeting**, 9:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. Saratoga Foothill Club

❧ Save the Date ❧

- Jul 1 Mon **Membership Fee is Due!**

Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

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