

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SANTA MARIA VALLEY

Serving All of North Santa Barbara County

The VOTER

November 2022

**VOTE LOCAL -
YOUR VOTE
COUNTS MORE!**

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Letter from the President

Hello Leaguers!

We did it! Election season is almost over. LWVSMV has tabled at 8+ community events, facilitated and/or produced candidate forums for Santa Maria and Solvang City Councils, the Santa Maria Joint Union High School Board, and hosted a "Safeguarding Your Vote" presentation by Santa Barbara County Registrar Joe Holland in Santa Maria and Guadalupe.

The LWVSMV BOD's work mattered to the people we helped register to vote and to the more than 200 community members who attended the various forums. We had standing-room-only crowds and GREAT audience questions. Check out the recordings on our [YouTube channel](#) when you have a chance, especially before you vote (if you haven't yet)!

LWVSMV thanks all our forum collaborative partners: NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), The Fund for Santa Barbara, Guadalupe Community Changers, Little House by the Park, CAUSE (Community Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy), Lompoc AAUW (American Association of University Women), SBCAN (Santa Barbara Community Action Network), Santa Barbara County Commission for Women, WE Watch (formerly Women's Environmental Watch), SBLWV (Santa Barbara League of Women Voters), Solvang Community Activists, the Santa Maria Times, and the Santa Maria Sun. We could NOT have done the work without them! Thanks also to Voter Service joyce ellen lippman, our Director on the spot, and ALL the Directors.

Thank you to Roz Silva, who has been working to bring our website alive! Laura Selken is our Facebook and Instagram eyes and ears, please "like" and "follow." Thanks, Laura. Pam Gates is your *Voter* editor, and Colleen Murr is active on the phone. What a wonderful team of LWVSMV Communications Directors.

Now as we look past election day, State LWV President Carol Goldberg is asking us to prepare for next year. Exciting activities! All members are invited to partake! Program planning occurs in January. This is our opportunity to review priorities and create action plans; all local LWVs are doing legislative interviews set up by LWVC in late 2022 and early 2023 and lots of other great stuff!

Do we like to have fun? YES, WE DO! Can you believe the holidays are upon us?? LWVSMV Holiday celebration will be at 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 4. Please mark your calendars and stand by for details. It will be a Sunday brunch.

Finally, if you'd like a hard copy of the LWVSMV Directory or the electronic version, please let me know at Vps805@gmail.com. 😊

Until next month ... don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors to join LWVSMV because "Democracy Is Worth Saving."

Vote Local – Your Vote Counts More!

Virginia Souza

Your Board in Action ~ Candidate Forums

Solvang City Council – Districts 3 and 4



Solvang City Council Candidates (left to right): Elizabeth Orona (District 4), Robert Clarke (Incumbent District 4), David Brown (District 3), and V. Louise Smith (District 3). The event was held Wednesday, October 12, at Bethania Lutheran Church Parish Hall. (Janene Scully/Noozhawk photos)

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District – Trustee Areas 4 & 5



Three of the four invited Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Board of Trustees candidates attended our forum Wednesday, October 19, at Santa Maria High School (left to right): Diana Perez (Incumbent Trustee Area 4), David Baskett (TA5), and Dominick Palera (Incumbent TA5). (Taylor O'Connor/Santa Maria Sun photo)

Santa Maria City Council – Districts 3 and 4



Santa Maria City Council Candidates (left to right): Dr. Carol Karamitsos (District 4), Steven Funkhouser (District 3), Maribel Aguilera-Hernandez (District 4), and Gloria Soto (Incumbent District 3). The event was held Friday, October 21, at First United Methodist Church. (Janene Scully/ Noozhawk photo)

Mark Your Calendar

November

8: *Have you voted??* Have you invited your friends to join LWVSMV??

9: *Board of Directors Meeting*, 5:30 p.m. In-person at Santa Maria Public Library downstairs or join via Zoom (reply to this email for link). Agenda includes a review of the budget, finalizing plans for our Holiday Party, and planning for future programs. **All LWVSMV members are welcome.**

13: *Santa Barbara Community Action Network (SBCAN)* will honor former State Senator Hannah Beth Jackson at a tribute, “Reflections of a Trailblazer.” Award-winning author and journalist Starshine Roshell and Senator Jackson will engage in a conversation about the Senator’s prolific political career. The event will take place at El Paseo Restaurant (10 El Paseo, in Santa Barbara) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Nadia at nadia@sbcn.org.

14: *League of Women Voters San Luis Obispo County*, “2022 California Criminal Justice Laws,” at noon via Zoom. The recent California legislative session produced some important new laws and updates to laws on criminal justice. Attend this free webinar for a quick but thorough update on criminal justice in California. [Registration required.](#)

19: *CAUSE Action Fund North County Reception* at Blosser Urban Garden (915 S Blosser Rd, Santa Maria), from 2 to 4 p.m. For more than two decades, the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable

Economy (CAUSE) has been doing the deep organizing needed to empower working families, immigrant communities, and young people in North Santa Barbara County – and throughout the Ventura and Santa Barbara County region. The event is free; register online at [CAUSE Action Fund - 2022 CAUSE Action North County Reception](#).

December

1: *Overbooked Book Group*, 11 a.m. Hosted by SBLWV, and chaired by Elaine Rudin. This month's book is Horse by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks. Based on the true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred, Lexington, the book is also a moving narrative about race and art, moving between the 19th century and near the present time. For the Zoom link, please email elainerudin@me.com.

4: *Holiday Party in Solvang!!* 11 a.m. (location to be determined). Celebrate our work and our friends. LWVSMV invites LWV Santa Barbara to join us in Solvang for a great brunch with an elected official guest speaker. Mark your calendars!





January 2023

11: *2023 LWVSMV Program Planning Meeting*, 5:30 p.m., Shepard Hall, Santa Maria Public Library and via Zoom. Dinner buffet; donation, \$10. Our January planning meeting will decide if there are areas and people that want to do a "study" about an issue, plus prioritize and plan 6 months of meetings to stimulate education and interest. **All members invited!!**

21: *Women's March of Santa Maria Valley 5th Annual Rally and March*. Time and location to be announced. The WMSMV's mission is to promote and celebrate the empowerment of all women in the Santa Maria Valley.

Items of Interest

You can return your vote-by-mail ballot:

-  By mail with prepaid postage (as long as it's postmarked on or before Election Day and received by November 15, 2022),
-  In-person to a secure ballot drop box,
-  To any voting location in the county or,
-  To your county elections office by 8:00 p.m. on November 8, 2022.

Once you've voted, track your Ballot! [Click here](#) to check to see when your state of California ballot was mailed, received, or counted.

Join us! [Click here](#) for the LWVSMV Membership form online or email us at LWVSMV2012@gmail.com.

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