

September 2020 VOTER

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Refer to our website to register for the September 14 Candidate Forum!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear SWSCV League Members,

In League: **Forward Into Light**—a saying I just recently became aware of through a local news source (and sent to you)—became a rallying cry for the women's suffrage movement. It's said that it was frequently used on banners at marches and demonstrations. And, quoting from that same source again:

"Thanks to the women who marched, we've come so far. On August 18, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of when the 19th amendment was ratified, securing women's right to vote in the Constitution (though many women of color still couldn't cast their ballots). And August 26 marked the day that it was signed into law."

Recognizing that our most important task as citizens is to vote—that is when our voices are heard—the September and October editions of the *Voter* will focus on the upcoming election on November 3, 2020. These two *Voters* will help move us **Forward Into Light** by informing you of important issues for you, your family and friends. These *Voters* will provide detail on how our League is providing information on voting itself, scheduling and providing Candidate Forums, and Pros & Cons events. The League's mission is to provide education so that those citizens who vote are informed voters. We need everyone's help, our members in particular, to ensure this happens. Please share our League information with family, friends, neighbors, and community members.

Wishing and hoping that everyone stays healthy and safe,
Eleanor Yick, LWVSWSCV President



URGENT VOTING UPDATE

Based on many reporting sources, there has been a concerted effort across the country to block a successful Vote By Mail (VBM) process. Here in California, we are lucky that every registered voter will automatically get a mail-in ballot early in October. Ballots will start to be mailed out 29 days before the election. Then, you can complete your ballot and return it in one of three ways: mail it in using the provided postage-paid envelope, drop it off in a secure Ballot Drop Box, or return your completed ballot or vote in person at a Vote Center!

LAST DAY TO VOTE: NOVEMBER 3

Mail-in Ballots arrive early October – Voting begins!

Vote Centers will be open October 31 through November 3

Check your registration status **now** at: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov>

Sign up & track your ballot at: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/Details>



ELECTION PUBLICATIONS

Members have been asking when various LWVC publications will be available for voter education and outreach in advance of the November 3 election. Here are some of the most popular publications and their expected release dates:

- Pros and Cons online: September 1 (See article about our Pros & Cons programs).
- *Easy Voter Guides* have been ordered and are expected around September 4.
- Voter's Edge Live – September 4–6.



WHAT WILL BE ON YOUR BALLOT?

Beside Federal and State candidate elections, the following (except one parcel tax measure and maybe the 2 local measures) will be found on your ballot:

- Candidates for CA Senate District 15
- Candidates for CA Assembly District 28
- Candidates for County Supervisor
- Candidates for 4 City/Town Councils
- Candidates for 9 School District Boards of Trustees
- 12 State Ballot Propositions
- 3 County Ballot Measures : (1 County-wide Sales tax increase measure, 1 Open Space District parcel tax measure, 1 SCVWD parcel tax extension measure.)
- 2 Local Ballot Measures for Los Gatos (Term Limits and Finance Commission)

All of the above will be covered in our Candidate Forums and Pros & Cons Presentations.



WHAT ARE THE 12 STATE BALLOT MEASURES?

Listed below are the 12 state ballot propositions. The October *Voter*, which we plan to have out early, will provide more details on the more complex ones and the ones the League supports. Refer also to our web site on election events.

Detailed information about each proposition, county measure and local measure can be obtained by attending **at least one** of our online Pros & Cons presentation.

- Prop 14: Bond: Borrowing for Stem Cell Research
- Prop 15: Constitutional Amendment: Split Role Property Tax (Also known as: Schools and Community First)
- Prop 16: Constitutional Amendment: Ending the Ban on Affirmative Action (Repeal Prop 209 passed in 1996)
- Prop 17: Constitutional Amendment : Restoring the Right to Vote to People on Parole
- Prop 18: Constitutional Amendment: Letting (some) 17 year olds vote (some of the time)
- Prop 19: Constitutional Amendment: Property Tax breaks and closing the “Lebowski loophole”
- Prop 20: Constitutional Amendment: Rolling back “leniency” in prison sentencing
- Prop 21: Statute: Rent Control (again)
- Prop 22: Statute: Self-employment for ride-hail and other app-drivers
- Prop 23: Statute: Regulating dialysis clinics
- Prop 24: Statute: Stronger Consumer Privacy laws (again)
- Prop 25: Referendum: Eliminate or keep cash bail (Referendum on SB 10 that passed in 2018)



VIRTUAL CANDIDATE FORUMS

Our Candidate Forum Team has been extremely busy planning our Candidate Forums utilizing new electronic communication tools. Team members are: **Voter Service CF Chairs:** Sue Cooney and Eleanor Yick; **IT/Zoom Manager:** Sophia Kao, whom we could not do this without; **Moderators:** Eleanor Yick or Tom Picraux; **Timers:** Wendy Hendry, Dan Hendry, Tom Picraux; **Question Sorters:** Tom Picraux, Dan Hendry, Wendy Hendry; **PR/Advertising:** Cherri Nelson for all the fabulous ads/flyers, with Barbara Lea and Terry Cabrinha who will oversee getting the ads out to many community groups.

All of our Candidate Forums will be virtual, online Zoom Webinars. What does this mean exactly? It means the following:

- a. A flyer will be posted listing a link to a site that you need to click on to register to attend. **Registration is required!** You can submit one question for the candidates during the registration process.
- b. Once you register, you will receive an email confirmation with the link you are to use to access the webinar on the date and time listed for the forum.
- c. A webinar allows attendees to just hear what is going on; attendees cannot see everyone present and cannot speak to the whole group.
- d. Only the panelists, moderator and timers will be visible and audible for all.

All Candidate Forums will be recorded and posted to League websites, Facebook, Nextdoor, community organizations, and other social media sites so that they are available for viewing at other times.



VIRTUAL PROS & CONS PRESENTATIONS

Our **Pros & Cons Team** has been extremely busy collaborating with the Pro/Con Team of the Cupertino/Sunnyvale League researching, writing, developing slides and, soon to be recorded for all 12 state propositions, county measures and local measures. **Team members from our League include:** Wendy Hendry, Terry Zaccone, and Eleanor Yick.

All of our Pros and Cons presentations will be virtual, online Zoom Webinars. What does this mean exactly? It means the following:

- a. A flyer will be posted listing links to the three “modified live” Pros & Cons webinars. **Registration is required** for each one you wish to attend.
- b. Pros & Cons presentations have been scheduled for the following dates. Links will be posted later. Watch for a web page of election events information on our web site coming soon, <https://my.lwv.org/california/southwest-santa-clara-valley/>
Tuesday, September 15 at 10:00 A.M.
Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 P.M.
Sunday, September 20 at 12:00 Noon
- c. Once you register, you will receive an email confirmation with the link you are to use to access the webinar on the date and time listed for the forum.
- d. What is a modified live webinar exactly? A ‘**modified-live**’ webinar is live in the sense that a live moderator and a few other League members do participate in the presentation. The moderator will introduce the program, then show a recording of the propositions, which can be stopped to answer audience questions. Questions must be submitted during the registration process and may be allowed during the forum via chat box. Only three of these ‘**live**’ presentations are being scheduled.

- e. After the webinar, a complete recording will be posted to League websites, Facebook, Nextdoor, community organizations and other social media sites so that they are available for viewing at other times.
- f. We plan to discuss all 12 state propositions, 3 county measures and 2 local measures. Some of the ballot measures are very simple and easy to understand. Others are much more complex, and we tend to spend more time on them.



LEAGUE UPDATES

- LWVUS Newsroom: <http://www.lwv.org/newsroom>
- LWVUS COVID-19 Litigation: [A National Overview](#)
- LWVUS USPS Lawsuit: <http://www.lwv.org/newsroom>
- LWVC Action Alert [Confronting Racism](#)
- 5 Reasons to Have [Confidence in Mail-In Voting](#)



THE POLITICS BOOK CLUB

The Political Book Club meetings will continue via Zoom!! The first book chosen for discussion this year is the memoir: *The Education of an Idealist* by Samantha Power, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. The first ZOOM meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00-8:30P.M. If you wish to join the group or have any questions, please contact me at: wade25@sbcglobal.net.

Wade Ellis, Book Club Chair



BOARD BYTES: AUGUST 5, 2020

Discussed:

- Concern was expressed about stopping the Census count a month early. There is hope that Congress will step in.

Reports/Announcements:

- As current Co-Chair of LWV Santa Clara County Council, Tom Picraux reported that the Board is still exploring Measure B - Route 85 (Support), Proposition 15 - Voter's Choice Act, and SC Valley Water District - Parcel Tax.
- Meg Giberson reported that the League is reluctant to support the Water District Parcel Tax with no sunset clause and many unresolved issues.
- We won't take a position on the Open Space Parcel Tax, as reviewed by LWV/SJ/Santa Clara.
- Having individual candidate interviews is being explored in place of several forums. One candidate forum is set for September 14.
- Zoom Webinars are being scheduled for Candidate Forums and Pros & Cons. Watch for LWVSWSCV Eblast Updates for dates and time and how to register your attendance.

Voted On:

- Unanimous approval of May 6 Board Minutes and June 20 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Approval of End-of-Year Budget Report



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

Watch For Emails and Updated Flyers; Candiate Forums and Pros & Cons

- Wed Sep 2 **LWVSWSCV Board Meeting** via Zoom 10:00 A.M.
- Thu Sep 10 **Clip ‘n Come** via Zoom 1:30 P.M.
- Mon Sep 14 **Candidate Forum**, District #15, 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.
Dave Cortese vs. Ann Ravel
- Tue Sep 15 **Pros & Cons**, 10:00 A.M. Zoom Webinar
Refer to LWVSWSCV web site and flyer for details
- Thu Sep 17 **Pros & Cons**, 7:00 P.M. Zoom Webinar
Refer to LWVSWSCV web site and flyer for details
- Sun Sep 20 **Pros & Cons**, Noon Zoom Webinar
Refer to LWVSWSCV web site and flyer for details
- Tues Sep 22 **Political Book Club: *The Education of an Idealist: A Memoir***,
by Samantha Power 7:00 P.M.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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