



February 2022 VOTER Newsletter

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS: [Water Webinar](#)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SOUTHWEST SANTA CLARA VALLEY



FEBRUARY 12, 2022 AT 10 AM

CALIFORNIA WATER

OVER-PROMISED. OVER-DELIVERED.
SOLUTIONS?

Felicia Marcus, J.D. brings us the latest information to help answer our questions about California's water challenges, availability, equity, and solutions. Register for the event at

<https://my.lwv.org/california/southwest-santa-clara-valley>



California is facing severe water challenges: drought worsened by climate change; one million Californians lacking clean drinking water; a devastated Bay-Delta ecosystem; questionable new dams (and associated higher water bills); insufficient urban/industrial and agricultural conservation; and the burdens of an out-of-date water rights system.

Felicia Marcus, a preeminent water policy expert, will speak about pathways to our water crisis solutions. The New York Times dubbed her "California's Water Czar." Now a visiting fellow at Stanford's Water in the West Program, and former chair of California's State Water Board, Ms. Marcus was previously Regional Administrator of the USEPA Region IX, and before that head of LA's Department of Public Works. In her 35 years of experience in the water world, she has dealt with water conservation, groundwater management, wastewater recycling, desalination, water rights laws and drinking water availability. She is known for her work seeking to better serve disadvantaged communities, for developing and implementing historic groundwater management legislation and for her capacity to bring people together.

Having recently spoken at the UNESCO Megacities Conference in Paris, after she returned from the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), she brings a wealth of current information to our most pressing water problems.

Please join us on February 12 at 10 a.m. for a virtual water webinar featuring Felicia Marcus, J.D.

Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYodeyurDgtGdNfB1jtLTwCb3yzSJ80KxAQ>

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Members of the League,

Happy 2022! Thank you all for your support in sustaining the League's mission and our efforts to elevate our collective voice and to advance advocacy work in our community.

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission finished the district maps last December, and published the final [state redistricting maps](#). These will be the maps for Assembly, State Senate, the Board of Equalization, and Congress for the next 10 years. Please check them out if you have not done so; more information is available in this month's Voter.

Our 2022 Program Planning meeting was held on January 29. Members worked to review and assess the goals we set in January 2021 and also identified our goals for 2022. As a result, our members voted to set the goal to increase the League's visibility and impact through our continued work in areas that the community is concerned about.

This year is an election year and our League's Voter Services Team is looking for new members to help serve the roles of timers, question sorters, moderators...etc. In addition, the LWVC Advocacy Team provides training and resources for League members who are interested in learning more or getting involved in League's advocacy work. If you are interested in either joining our voter services team or getting involved in the League's advocacy work, please contact our voter services director Eleanor Yick at egyick@icloud.com.

Last but not least, you are invited to attend the 2022 Bay Area League Day, which will be held online on February 19, 2022. This year's theme is "Solving for Housing" and the webinar will take a holistic look at land-use strategies and decision-making involved in placing housing today at the federal, state, and regional levels. Please [refer to the event website](#) for details and the registration link.

Sincerely,
Sophia Kao, President

2022 Program Planning Report

Our Program Planning Meeting took place on January 29 and was well attended by 24 members. Members in attendance voted to continue support for LWVUS' "The Campaign for Making Democracy Work" across the country working on:

- Voting rights
- Improving Elections
- Money in Politics
- Redistricting

Members also discussed three proposed concurrences and recommendations from other Leagues. Members voted to support two of the proposals to be put on the agenda at the national convention:

1. LWV Port Washington-Manhasset: Concurrence on National Healthcare
2. LWV New Mexico: Concurrence on Digital Equity

In addition to supporting both LWVUS and LWVC in the Campaign for Making Democracy Work, members also reviewed and assessed our own League's goals. Attendees of the Program Planning meeting actively discussed how to further increase the visibility and impact of our League in our community and also voted to add Housing as one of the focus areas for 2022. Following is the final statement for our League's goal for 2022:

Increase our League's visibility and impact in our local communities as we continue to work together on

- Voter Service
- Racial Justice
- Natural Resources - Water & Climate Change
- Housing
- Healthcare

Members in attendance have begun to brainstorm ideas and activities to achieve the 2022's goal. More details will be discussed in the February Board meeting.

VOTER SERVICES



REDISTRICTING:

Based on the 2020 Census Report and the work of both the State Redistricting Commission and the Santa Clara County Advisory Redistricting Commission, some changes are coming to our local voting district maps. Assembly member Evan Low's former Assembly District 28 has been largely moved into Marc Berman's District 24. Evan Low will run for re-election in the newly created Assembly District 26. Locally, Los Gatos and parts of San Jose have been moved into Joe Simitain's Board of Supervisors District 5. For the complete report see: <http://www.wedrawthelinesca.org>.

More Fundamental Questions of the Universe (A. Not 42)

WHEN WILL OUR NEW LEGISLATIVE MAPS GO INTO EFFECT?
When will we use our new District numbers for voting & advocacy?

Here's the answer from:
California Citizens Redistricting Commission
<http://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/>

Statement from the Commission:

It has been brought to our attention that there is much confusion when the new maps go into effect. **Here's our explanation:**

Pursuant to Article 21, section 2(i) of the state Constitution, the final maps are deemed to have been "enacted" on the date of their certification to the Secretary of State (12/27/2021). The "enactment" date triggers the 90-day period for a referendum petition to be filed. In the absence of a sufficient and timely

referendum petition being filed, the maps would otherwise become “effective” 90 days after enactment/certification (3/27/22). But the maps and the new district boundaries don’t actually become “operative” until the 2022 primary and general elections; the new boundaries are used for those elections and the new districts don’t actually “exist” until after the 2022 general election is completed.

This distinction is important for two purposes:

One, the current boundaries still apply for purposes of determining who are the constituents of the various elected officials and offices; in other words, until the 2022 general election, constituents are still represented by the representative of their old/existing district, and not by the existing representative of the new district in which they might find themselves following the 2022 election.

Two, and perhaps more important, a special election to fill a vacancy in an existing district uses the “old” boundaries and takes place in the district as it existed when that candidate was last elected, despite the fact that this special election may take place after March 27, 2022 (when the new districts became “effective” but were not yet “operative”).

CALIFORNIA’S PRIMARY ELECTION:

California’s Primary Election is scheduled for June 7, 2022. Mail-in Ballots will be sent to all California registered voters early in May, 2022. This timeline determines that our League’s Voter Services Team will start organizing and working actively in February, 2022! Since Candidate Forums will be held online again, there is a need for a candidate contact person, timers, question sorters, and moderators. If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, please contact me at egyick@icloud.com.

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS:

Every year, LWVC requires that local Leagues interview their local government representatives to determine their stances/opinions on various issues important to the state, the local community, and the League. The League reports that are submitted are utilized in the LWVC’S advocacy work.

Once again, our League will be organizing and/or participating in League’s legislative interviews of CA Assemblymember Evan Low and CA State Senator Dave Cortese in the coming months. We will be working with both the San Jose/Santa Clara League and the Cupertino/Sunnyvale League on these interviews. If you are interested in learning more about this process and/or participating in these interviews, please contact me at egyick@icloud.com.

Eleanor Yick, VP/Dir. Voter Services

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Healthcare



HOW DOES U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM RANK AMONG OTHER HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES?

The answer: It ranks last! “The United States has the worst health-care system overall among 11 high-income countries, even though it spends the highest proportion of its gross domestic product on healthcare, according to research by the Commonwealth Fund.”

Source: Washington Post, Aug. 5, 2021 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/08/05/global-health-rankings/>.

ONE-STEP FORWARD FOR CALIFORNIA SINGLE-PAYER HEALTHCARE

A bill proposing a state single-payer health care system, which would be the first in the nation if passed, has a swell of public support. But it's unclear if that will be enough to make it over the finish line. Assembly Bill 1400, also known as CalCare, would address issues such as the lack of transparency in medical billing and drug costs, advocates said. The legislation overcame its first major legislative hurdle last month when it passed the Assembly Health Committee on an 11-3 vote, with one abstention.

Source: Santa Clara County Advocate, Jan. 17, 2022
<https://sanjosespotlight.com/silicon-valley-lawmakers-single-payer-health-care-plan-faces-uphill-fight/>.

Note: Unfortunately, the bill was withdrawn before the vote.

Barbara Lea, Healthcare Director

Housing



Watch “California Housing: Past, Present, SB 9 and the Future” if you missed it

The January 19 webinar “California Housing: Past, Present, SB 9 and the Future” by Fred Keeley, former Speaker Pro Tem of the California Assembly turns out to be one of the most well-attended virtual events. If you missed it, the video is available [here](#). Mr. Keeley provided some less known history of housing development in California, such as the now defunded Redevelopment Agency, and also expressed his strong opinions, which some might consider controversial; thus, making this a webinar you should not miss.

“Housing for All - How?” by LWV of Palo Alto

On January 26, LWV of Palo Alto hosted a community conversation, titled “[Housing for All - How?](#)”, to explore the opportunity to become a better, more affordable, and more livable community for residents of a wide range of income levels, and in ways that meet the state’s assigned housing goals for us to reduce overcrowding and greenhouse gas emissions. The recording could be found [here](#).

Solving for Housing at Bay Area League Day on February 19

To provide a holistic look at land-use strategies and decision-making involved in placing housing today at the federal, state, and regional levels, this year LWV Bay Area’s annual educational day will explore how we build more housing that is affordable while protecting critical natural and working lands. Register for the [Bay Area League Day “Solving for Housing”](#) at <http://tiny.cc/2022BayAreaLeagueDay> to be held on Saturday, February 19, 2022, from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Join the Housing Committee to Learn More About the Affordable Housing Challenges

At the January 29 Programming Planning meeting, the members voted to add a focus on housing for this year, since each city is updating its Housing Element to meet their RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Assessment) numbers to plan for enough affordable housing. However, due to the lack of funding to subsidize below-market-rate housing, economic disparity, a lack of public transportation, and local policy restrictions, the shortage of affordable housing persists or worsens after many housing bills are adopted by the state legislators. If any League member is interested to attend an initial meeting of the Housing Committee to discuss the Committee’s mission, goals, and potential activities, please email me at LFCHAO.LWV@gmail.com.

Liang Chao, Housing Director

Natural Resources



WATER: Crisis Solutions

Nothing touches us so much in our daily lives as water. We face daily challenges from water shortages (shorter showers, less outdoor watering, higher bills). Our society faces water challenges on a larger scale: ecosystems in crisis, climate change and water availability, questionable sustainability of current supplies, poor water quality that particularly affects BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) communities. Our League's February speaker, Felicia Marcus, will address these crises and suggest possible solutions from her long career in water management.

For an overview (non-League) of the current crisis, see the two-minute trailer for *River's End: California's Latest Water War* at <https://www.riversendfilm.com> (click on the trailer to view).

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources-Water, Director

Racial Justice



PAST PROGRAMS

Have you seen the Racial Justice programs our local League produced this year? If not, you can go to our Website and still see them (including state League programs) now!

Racial Justice Issues Today and In the Future

Voter Suppression Tactics Attack Democracy!

Criminal Justice Reform

California Housing: Past, Present, SB 9 and the Future

Source: <https://my.lvv.org/california/southwest-santa-clara-valley>. Past Events

EXCITING NEWS - ETHNIC STUDIES HIGH SCHOOL GRAD REQUIREMENT

"After more than five years of intense scrutiny and effort, California . . . became the first state to make ethnic studies a required class for high school graduation to help students understand the past and present struggles and contributions of Black, Asian, Latino, Native/Indigenous Americans and other groups that have experienced racism and marginalization in America."

Source: Los Angeles Times, Oct. 8, 2021

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-10-08/california-first-state-require-ethnic-studies-high-school-graduation>

WILL WE HAVE RACIAL REPARATIONS IN CALIFORNIA?

When she was in the Assembly, our September speaker, Dr. Shirley Weber, authored Assembly Bill 3121 which was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 30, 2020. This bill establishes the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans. The Reparations Task Force will be studying the institution of slavery and its lingering negative effects on living African Americans, including descendants of persons enslaved in the United States, and on society. Additionally, the Task Force will recommend appropriate remedies of compensation, rehabilitation, and restitution for African Americans, with a special consideration for descendants of persons enslaved in the United States.

Source: New York Times, Dec. 8, 2021

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/08/us/californias-reparations-task-force.html>

CRITICAL RACE THEORY IN THE BAY AREA

"The effort to stifle the teaching of race and racism in schools has prompted 54 bills in 24 states in the past year, while nearly 900 school districts nationwide serving 17.7 million students have grappled with similar bans on race-based instruction in public classrooms. California, with 70 of those districts, has in no way been immune, according to a report by UCLA researchers with the university's Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access."

Source: San Francisco Chronicle, Jan. 19, 2022

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Study-Battles-over-critical-race-theory-in-16786265.php>

Barbara Lea, Racial Justice Director

CITY NEWS & UPDATES



Los Gatos Town Council

January 23: Town staff updated councilmembers on the progress made by businesses developing semi-permanent parklets. Thirty or more establishments have begun their applications and design processes. They will be allowed to maintain temporary parklet structures meanwhile. Eight businesses have not submitted an intent to build semi-permanent parklets. The Council voted to remove protective K-rails and have their temporary parklets taken down as of May 1, 2022. The Town Council approved allocating up to \$50,000 to hire a cannabis consultant to determine whether there is support among residents for the establishment of cannabis businesses in Los Gatos, and for collecting tax revenue from these.

Lynda Jandron, Los Gatos Town Observer

Saratoga City Council

January 19: The City has a big problem. By the end of 2022, it must decide where to build more low-income and middle-income residences. If we do not adopt the State general plan update, there will be a loss of local control, future development, and money for roads. Requests have been made for input from the community; 513 people signed in for this zoom meeting. Citizens are interested and concerned about the future of Saratoga. Should three-story buildings be permitted? Should minimum land requirements in some areas be reduced from 40,000 to 30,000 per lot? Discussion seems to be endless; yet a deadline looms.

You are welcome to join the discussion. Just look up Saratoga City Council and follow the directions to attend a zoom meeting or watch the meeting at a later time.

Ginger Good, Saratoga Observer

Monte Sereno City Council

January 4: Monte Sereno City Council unanimously reapproved its Code of Ethics, which it reviews annually.

Council approved holding a public hearing (1/18/22) on a policy that identifies dangerous weeds, rubbish, refuse and dirt as a public nuisance. Property owners would have to remove a defined nuisance within 30 days. If not removed, the City could then enter the property, remove the hazard, and charge the owner.

Council discussed Ordinance NS-229: Changes to comply with SB-9 in order to implement the State of California mandate for local governments to approve urban lot splits into two parcels, each having two secondary dwellings, resulting in a total of four residences where there is one now. The new ordinance is complex and controversial, and exceptions are defined. A key issue is the new ordinance limits new ministerially approved dwelling units to 800 square feet, which will both comply with state requirements and goals while promoting rural character.

Linda King, Monte Sereno Observer

Campbell City Council

January, 2022: VTA is proposing using its Winchester Station property to develop substantive affordable housing at 75 units per acre. The first community outreach meeting was held on Wednesday, January 19 via Zoom. One hundred percent of the rental units would be affordable. It was stated at the meeting that a resident needs to have an income of \$122,000 to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Santa Clara County.

The City Council will review the Tier 1 Housing Opportunity Sites and provide direction to staff on which sites should be included in Campbell's Plan for Housing and the City's Envision Campbell General Plan Update, as well as which sites should be designated for mixed-use development. This will take place at the January 25 City Council Meeting.

Jackie Costanzo, Campbell Observer

Political Book Club



The next Zoom meeting of our League Political Book Club will be at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 8, to discuss ***The Velvet Rope Economy: How Inequality Became Big Business***. From New York Times business reporter Nelson D. Schwartz, here is a bold and urgent investigation of division between the wealthy and the middle class in every arena of American life. Please contact Wade Ellis, wade25@sbcglobal.net, if you would like to join the group or just tune in for the meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88222588472>.

BOARD BYTES

January 12, 2022



1. Board Member Victoria Zhang is taking on the new role as Project Manager for The Voter newsletter starting with the February issue.
2. The 2021-2022 Half-Year Actual vs. Budget Financial Report (07/2021 - 12/2021) has been prepared.
3. The holiday event held on December 5, 2021 was well attended by a total 57 participants. The League thanks all the organizers who worked so hard to put together this wonderful event, all the donors who contributed to make this event a success, and all the members and friends who were able to join us at this rare in-person event.

LEAGUE UPDATES

SANTA CLARA COUNTY NEWS

Our League's coverage area still includes the four cities of Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga. **Three** of the supervisors on the Santa Clara County Board represent our communities. Below are links to our supervisors' most current newsletters. Members are encouraged to sign up to receive these updates, which contain important local news and activity. **But, watch for the coming changes to our local district maps as a result of redistricting:**

- District 1: Supervisor Mike Wasserman:** (Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and portions of San Jose.) Click on this link for the latest newsletter: <http://district1.sccgov.org>
- District 4: Supervisor Susan Ellenberg:** (Campbell, West San Jose, Santa Clara, and unincorporated parts of Burbank and Cambrian). Click on the link for the latest newsletter: <https://conta.cc/3DbaNiH>
- District 5: Supervisor Joe Simitian:** (Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Cupertino, Saratoga, and portions of Sunnyvale and San Jose.) Click on this link for the latest newsletter: <http://district5.sccgov.org>

LWV BAY AREA UPDATES

The next Bay Area League Day is planned for Saturday, February 19, with the theme "Solving for Housing".

Register at: <http://tiny.cc/2022BayAreaLeagueDay>.

THE LWV BAY AREA MONITOR

Residents of the Bay Area have fought several battles over the past decade to prevent the movement of coal shipments along the region's rail lines and through the ports. So, when plans surfaced in August 2021 to ship coal to a proposed terminal on Humboldt Bay via rail lines passing through the North Bay, it's unsurprising that opposition quickly emerged. Read the feature story <https://bayareamonitor.org/article/north-bay-confronts-coal-by-rail/>.

LWV CA UPDATES

A statewide recall election, the swirl of national politics, and redistricting made 2021 a most unusual year. The [December Leaders Update](#) highlights the accomplishments of last year.

Upcoming Events: [List of Upcoming Events | LWVC.org](#)

LWVUS UPDATES

Visit <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom> to see the latest statements and press releases from Dr. Deborah Turner, LWV President.

[Adam Ambrogi Joins the League of Women Voters as Senior Director for Voting & Elections](#) 1/24/2022

[LWV of Texas Sends Letter to Texas SOS Requesting Voter Registration Forms](#) 1/21/2022

[US Senate Fails to Advance Voting Rights Bill](#) 1/20/2022

[LWV of Baltimore County, Black Voters, and Advocacy Groups Urge Federal Court to Block Baltimore County's Unlawful Redistricting Plan](#) 1/20/2022

[League Welcomes Senate Debate on Voting Rights Bills](#) 1/18/2022

[League Applauds House Passage of New Voting Rights Bill](#) 1/13/2022

[LWV Supports Procedural Maneuver to Bring Voting Rights Bills to Senate Floor](#) 1/12/2022

[League of Women Voters Thanks President Biden for Directing Senate to End Filibuster](#) 1/11/2022

[League of Women Voters Anticipates White House Voting Rights Speech in Atlanta](#) 1/11/2022

[LWV of Georgia Joins Partners to File Federal Lawsuit Challenging Georgia's Racially Gerrymandered Congressional Districts](#) 1/10/2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

LWV SWSCV
Wed Feb 2

Board Meeting
Virtual at 12:00 pm

LWV SWSCV
Sat Feb 12

California Water
Virtual at 10:00 am

LWV SWSCV
Sat Feb 19

Bay Area League Day
Virtual at 10:00 am

LWV SWSCV
Tue Mar 8

Political Book Club
Webinar: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

DONATE

We rely on dues and donations to support our programs. Please consider making a donation to our local League of Women Voters general fund now. If you prefer to donate to our 501(c)3 tax-deductible account please, indicate that.

League of Women Voters SWSCV Donation

JOIN US

Come to a LWV-SWSCV team meeting and learn about important issues affecting you and your community. You can make a difference! **Learn More About Our Work and Programs** [on our Website!](#)

LWV SWSCV BOARD & ELECTED OFFICIALS 2021-22

EXECUTIVE TEAM

President, Sophia Kao
Vice Pres/Admin, Eleanor Yick
Vice Pres/Program, Ann Ravel
Secretary, Frances Zhan
Co-Treas., David Lee & Helen Wang

DIRECTORS

Action/DEI, Eleanor Yick (Int.)
County Council Co-Chairs, Tom & Danice Picraux
Education, Eleanor Yick (Int.)
Healthcare, Barbara Lea
Housing/Transp., Liang Chao
Membership, Aileen Kao
Natural Resources - Climate, Victoria Zhang
Natural Resources - Water, Meg Giberson
Observers, Barbara Lea
Public Relations, J Reynolds-Grabbe
Racial Justice, Barbara Lea
Voter Editor, Victoria Zhang
Voter's Edge, Lois Smallwood
Voters Service, Eleanor Yick

ELECTED OFFICIALS

National

President Joe Biden
www.whitehouse.gov
Senator Dianne Feinstein
www.feinstein.senate.gov
Senator Alex Padilla
<https://alex-padilla.com>
Rep. Anna Eshoo
<https://eshoo.house.gov>

California

Governor Gavin Newsom
<http://gov.ca.gov>
Senator Dave Cortese
<http://sd15.senate.ca.gov>
Assemblymember Evan Low
<http://asmcd.org/members/a28>

County

Supv. Joe Simitian
supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org
Supv. Mike Wasserman
mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org

Supv. Susan Ellenberg
supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org



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Email: lwv.swscv@gmail.com

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