



January 2023 VOTER Newsletter

IN THIS EDITION

- Annual Program Planning
- President's Letter
- Legislative Interviews
- Social Justice: Where Should We Focus in 2023?
- On the Highway to Climate Hell
- Meet Our Members
- City News & Updates
- Board Bytes
- Upcoming Events

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



2023 Annual Program Planning **Saturday, February 4, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Please Reserve Your Time to Join Our Most Important Meeting of the Year! Contribute Your Ideas & Vote on the Future Programs & Actions of LWV

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZcvdeiugDliHNJABfGO7ui0dRWHp32pm5Q>

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear members and friends of the League,

I hope this letter finds you well as we begin the new year. I wanted to take a moment to send my warmest wishes to each and every one of you, and hope that the new year brings you joy, health, and prosperity.

We celebrated the holiday season and a great year for the League with our holiday brunch in December in Los Gatos. Thank you to all who participated and helped make our year-end party a big

success. It was wonderful to see many familiar faces and to welcome new friends to the League.



I wanted to remind you about our annual finance drive, which has been under way since November. The pandemic has presented us with additional challenges, and your contributions are more important than ever in helping us continue our important work. Please refer to [this link](#) for more information about the finance drive, and we are truly grateful for your generosity.

Additionally, we will be hosting our 2023 Program Planning Meeting on Saturday, February 4th at 10 a.m. online to discuss the League's plans for the year ahead. This is one of the most important meetings of the League, and your participation and input are essential. Please [register to attend](#) the zoom meeting and help shape the future direction of our grass-roots organization.

Finally, the League is always in need of new volunteers to join us in our efforts. If you are interested in getting involved, please don't hesitate to reach out. We would be thrilled to have you on board as we work together towards our shared goal of strengthening our democracy. Thank you again for your support, and here's to a successful and impactful year ahead.

Sincerely,

Sophia Kao
President, League of Women Voters Southwest Santa Clara Valley

WHAT IS PROGRAM PLANNING?

Our League's most important meeting of the year, Program Planning, is scheduled for Saturday, February 4th, 2023, at 10 a.m.

In the League, Program Planning is the annual process by which we jointly decide where and how we will focus our resources — member time, resources, reputation — over the next year.

During the Program Planning meeting, the League members review League's positions and recent program work. We also discuss and direct the organization's action and advocacy by selecting Issues for Emphasis, which are issues/topics adopted as program items on which to focus League efforts. We prioritize issues that can have the greatest impact on our local community, as well as those that our members have the time, interest and expertise to work on. We also review our existing positions.

All League members are encouraged to attend, voice their opinions, and vote on our future programs and actions. This process is what makes the League a grassroots' organization —

everyone's voice counts!

Please [register for the event](#) ASAP to help our planning and to get reminders to this important event. Members will receive an email with the Program Planning Agenda and a packet one week before the meeting. PLEASE read ahead of time and bring your ideas and feedback to the meeting. We look forward to seeing and working with you soon!

VOTER SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS 2022-2023



Every year, the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) encourages local League members to interview their state legislators or staff. Legislative interviews are a powerful tool—increasing League visibility, gathering information, and raising awareness among California's state representatives about our interest in policies they are considering. This year they are even more important because there are so many new legislators joining the ranks.

Legislative interviews are an opportunity for legislators to share their priorities with local Leagues and develop an understanding of League positions and priorities. Local Leagues discover plans for state legislation that may impact their communities. Furthermore, the state League learns more about legislators and the interests of local Leagues, gaining information useful in planning statewide advocacy and education.

Local Leagues use interviews to become better acquainted with their legislators and their staff. It's a chance to emphasize that while the League never supports or opposes candidates or parties, we are a political organization, and after thorough study and consensus we take positions on issues.

Legislative Interviews are also a great way for new members to become directly involved in a League activity as an observer or as an active participant. Each legislator has a large district which impacts more than one League's coverage area. In such cases, we typically work with another League or two in organizing and participating in these interviews. Our League will be participating in the CA State Legislative Interviews for CA Assemblypersons Gail Pellerin (28) and Marc Berman (23) and CA Senator Dave Cortese (15) and possibly Senator Josh Becker (13).

If you are interested in learning more about these Legislative interviews and/or would like to observe or be a more active participant, please contact Eleanor Yick at egyick@icloud.com. These interviews will be scheduled late January thru mid- February. Typically, there are two meetings prior to the actual interview and one follow-up meeting to review the write-ups. Interviews will take place via Zoom. Complete background information about Legislative Interviews, including the 3 questions to be asked this year, can be found at: <https://my.lwv.org/california/legislative-interviews>!

UPCOMING EVENT:

Discussion with State Senator Josh Becker: State Senator for District 13.

Friday, Jan. 27th @ 11 a.m.

*LWV Bay Area is hosting this event with Senator Becker who represents Senate District 13, which is composed of most of San Mateo County and the northern parts of Santa Clara County. Among his many assignments, he chairs the Senate Subcommittee on the **Clean Energy Future** and serves on the **Transportation Committee**. Registration information will be posted by Jan. 10 [HERE](#).*

Eleanor Yick, VP/Dir. Voter Services

SOCIAL JUSTICE



SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES: Where should we focus in 2023?

It is time to pay more attention to the social injustices happening around the globe and be more aware of the various forms it can take. “These were the biggest social justice issues identified in 2022:

- Socio-economic inequality
- Gender inequality
- Healthcare
- Women’s rights
- Ageism
- World hunger
- Refugee crisis
- Violence
- Racism

It is the responsibility of the governments that justice is served to people facing such *discrimination and unfairness*. These inequalities cause many problems in the lives of people. Even before ensuring technological advancements and economic growth, it is the responsibility of lawmakers . . . that human rights are protected and vulnerable groups are provided better opportunities and care.”

What can **WE, as a League**, do about them in 2023? We need a League Member to step up and take on a Leadership Role on the Social Justice Committee, which was originally formed in 2021. This will be a topic for discussion at our upcoming Program Planning Meeting scheduled for **Saturday, February 4 at 10:00 am**.

Source: <https://www.socialbuzzness.com/biggest-social-justice-issues-of-2022>

Barbara Lea, Former Racial Justice Director

NATURAL RESOURCES 💧



ON THE HIGHWAY TO CLIMATE HELL

“We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator,” according to a warning from the UN secretary general late last fall.[1] Delegates at the last LWVC Convention recognized the climate emergency and have urged sustainability, with a focus on water.

A December LWVC letter[2] to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), pointed to science recognizing the warmer, drier climate we are facing with climate change and urged consideration of less—not more—export water from Northern California. (DWR currently plans to export unsustainably more water through a proposed conveyance tunnel under the Delta, although water over-allocation already severely impacts watersheds and communities.)

With evaporation causing loss of about 2 million acre-feet/year from California reservoirs and canals —almost one-third of what urban California uses in a year—the League’s positions encouraging nonstructural, local water sources such as conservation and wastewater reclamation to minimize

reliance on water exported from the Delta are more important than ever, given the climate change challenge.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources-Water

[1]https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/07/cop27-climate-summit-un-secretary-general-antonio-guterres?traffic_source=Connatix

[2]Please see [Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report for Delta Conveyance Project](https://wvc.org/issues/california-water-resources), bottom of page at <https://wvc.org/issues/california-water-resources>.

MEET OUR MEMBERS: David Lee



David Lee, the founder of a Silicon Valley business consulting firm, has 20+ years of experience in the fields of Finance, Accounting, Operations and Tax, both in the U.S. and abroad. He has worked at Fortune 500 companies in the financial, high-tech and medical device industries in various managerial roles providing financial and strategic guidance to executive teams. David's consulting practice focuses on creating business opportunities to attract foreign companies to invest in the U.S. and the State of California, as well as assisting entrepreneurs in fundraising and executing business priorities.

He has received an undergraduate degree from Columbia University and an MBA from University of Southern California. David currently serves as the Treasurer of the League of Women Voters SWSCV. He and his wife Sybil are also active volunteers in several local non-profit organizations with a focus on the Chinese American community. He enjoys traveling and hiking during his spare time.

CITY NEWS & UPDATES



Campbell City Council

December: The City Council hit a key milestone on the way toward completing the Housing Element (Campbell's Plan for Housing). The plan will be ready to be finalized and submitted to the state in early 2023. It will be the guide for housing development in the community for the next eight years. The final number of potential new homes or housing units is about 4,900. This will allow for a "buffer" from the minimum required, which will allow Campbell to plan for future housing decisions with the maximum amount of flexibility and in a way that fits the needs of the community.

The Council also gave direction to staff to pursue new housing programs to address a range of critical community needs, such as homelessness.

Jackie Costanzo, Campbell Observer

Los Gatos Town Council

December: The Town staff presented the Phase 1 design for the Blossom Hill Road Traffic Safety Project. The section identified for improvements serves The Terraces of Los Gatos, Blossom Hill Elementary School, Blossom Hill Park, and multiple residences. The plan will increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists by widening bike lanes, adding bollards as barriers, and reducing vehicle traffic from two lanes to one lane in each direction. The council members approved the plan.

At a special meeting on December 13, council members chose Maria Ristow to serve as mayor, and Mary Badame to serve as Vice Mayor, for the upcoming year. Marico Sayoc ended her term on the council. Rob Moore was seated as a new council member.

The Town Council considered a report from the 2022 Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury which recommended the county create a citizens' oversight committee for review of ballot measures prior to elections. Council members voted against submitting future Los Gatos ballot measures to this type of committee, opting to have measures instead reviewed by the County Counsel office.

The Town staff has submitted the preliminary Housing Element to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for review. HCD is expected to provide the Town with comments on the plan by January 12, 2023. Adjustments can then be made as recommended before submitting the final version of the Housing Element to HCD by January 31, 2023.

Lynda Jandron, Los Gatos Observer

Monte Sereno City Council

December: The Council authorized the continued spending of Supplemental Law Enforcement Services funds for two motorcycle traffic officers serving the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department.

Council continued the lengthy process for developing its required Housing Element, which will be submitted to the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Staff has requested a meeting with the Housing and Community Department in order to understand and anticipate their concerns in advance of their deadline. Then at its January 17 meeting, the Monte Sereno Council hopes to address the concerns. On January 31, 2023, the Monte Sereno Site and Architecture Commission will work on any resulting necessary changes that will have to be made to Monte Sereno's General Plan.

Suicide Prevention. In 2010, the County of Santa Clara Behavioral Health Services Department created a County Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan. The County is asking each governing jurisdiction in the County to adopt the Plan, a process which is now almost complete. Although Monte Sereno has current procedures and policies regarding suicide, including Police procedures it shares with Los Gatos, it would be valuable to also adopt the County's policy because it will coordinate important links in responses, etc. Because Monte Sereno's population includes more than the typical number of seniors, it needs to pay special attention to the mental health issues of the elderly and isolated. Basic statistics and specific dates regarding past suicides are available at the Coroner's Office. Staff will make recommendations about approving the Plan and adopting its recommendations at a meeting in January. The Plan is filled with interesting facts and history of suicides in Santa Clara County. For more information about the policy and other facts: <https://montesereno.civicweb.net/document/18385/>.

Number to call Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988

Current Services available for mental health support, including suicide prevention, can be found at: www.sccgov.org/spac

Linda King, Monte Sereno Observer

Saratoga City Council

November: Cynthia Chang was commended by the City Council on November 2 for her service to the Saratoga community in multiple capacities. In the same meeting the Council moved to adopt a resolution granting Quito Village Final Map approval for one lot with 90 condominiums to be located at 18764 Cox Avenue.

At its November 16 meeting the Council approved a draft response to the 2022 Civil Grand Jury of Santa Clara County Report "If You Only Read the Ballot, You're Being Duped."

Michelle Shimada, Saratoga Observer

BOARD BYTES

December 1, 2022



1. LWV-SWSCV has officially converted to 501(c)(3) status and all donations to the Leagues are now tax-deductible for donors. The EIN: 237084466 can be found on the League website in the ["Donate"](#) section.
 2. The League VP of Administrations Tom Picraux plans to organize an informational session to help us understand the advantages and restrictions of 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and what they mean for the League.
-

UPCOMING EVENTS

LWV SWSCV
Thurs. Jan 5

Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. via Zoom

LWVBA
Fri. Jan 27

Discussion with Senator Josh Becker
11:00 a.m. via Zoom

LWV SWSCV
Thurs. Feb 2

Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. via Zoom

LWV SWSCV
Sat. Feb 4

2023 Program Planning Meeting
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. [via Zoom](#)

DONATE

We rely on dues and donations to support our programs. Please consider making a donation to our local League of Women Voters now during our annual finance drive. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization all donations are tax-deductible.

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 2022-23

EXECUTIVE TEAM

President, Sophia Kao
Vice Pres/Admin, Tom Picraux
Vice Pres/Voter Serv., Eleanor Yick
Secretary, Frances Zhan
Treas., David Lee

DIRECTORS

Action/DEI, Eleanor Yick (Int.)
Education, Eleanor Yick (Int.)
Membership, Aileen Kao
Observers, Al Stewart
Public Relations, J. Reynolds-Grabbe
Voter Editor, Victoria Zhang

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



© Copyright League of Women Voters of Southwest Santa Clara Valley. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 2865 Saratoga, CA 95070

<https://my.lwv.org/california/southwest-santa-clara-valley>
Email: lwv.swscv@gmail.com