



League of Women Voters  
of Sonoma County

# THE VOTER

Volume 31, issue 15

Visit us at [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)

## President's Message

We have a crisis of violence in America which will only be changed when everyone votes, so that we elect leaders whose top priority is not getting re-elected, but protecting the health and safety of everyone in the United States. With the recent mass shootings we are once again focused on threats to our safety. However, according to Everytownresearch.org, “Every day, **100 Americans are killed with guns** and hundreds more are shot and injured. The effects of gun violence extend far beyond these casualties—gun violence shapes the lives of millions of Americans who witness it, know someone who was shot, or live in fear of the next shooting.”

### Who commits these mass shootings and how can we stop them?

Here is what the American Psychological Association says about persons committing mass shootings. “As we psychological scientists have said repeatedly, the overwhelming majority of people with mental illness are not violent. And there is no single personality profile that can reliably predict who will resort to gun violence. Based on the research, we know only that a history of violence is the single best predictor of who will commit future violence. **And access to more guns, and deadlier guns, means more lives lost.** (*Emphasis added*)

“Based on the psychological science, we know some of the steps we need to take. We need to limit civilians’ access to assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. We need to institute universal background checks. And we should institute red flag laws that remove guns from people who are at high risk of committing violent acts. “And although the president called on the nation to do a ‘better job of identifying and acting on early warning signs,’ that requires research to ensure we are making decisions based on data, not prejudices and fear.”

**National League's Position:** “The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

“The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.

“The League supports a ban on “Saturday night specials,” enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.”

There is so much we could be doing to prevent gun violence, so look for ways to engage your own community in the dialog about the importance of safety and how we all share that goal. Look for common ground. Where do we agree on gun safety and how can we implement change in our own community?

— Debbie Mc Kay, President

# LWVSC Calendar

## Coming Events

See our [website](#) for other important election dates and information and links to videos of forums, or go to [Voters Edge](#).

September 16. Local Issues Forum. Climate Protection: Are We Doing Enough? 2:30.  
Spring Lake Village. Montgomery Center Auditorium, facing Montgomery drive in Santa Rosa.

September 18. Happy Hour with Sheriff Essick. 4-6:00.  
Charlie's, 1320 19th Hole Dr, Windsor, CA 95492.

September 24. National Voter Registration Day. <https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>

October 12. New Member Orientation. 10:30-12:00.  
League Conference Room.

October 12. Voter Registration Training. 9:45-11:15.

### Standing Meetings

**Board Meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 10-noon

**Advocacy Committee Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 10:30-noon

**Outreach Committee Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 2:00-4:00

**Book Club:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 10:30-noon

**Voter Service Committee Meeting:** 4th Thursday, 10-noon

LWVSC meetings are held in the third floor Conference Room at the LWVSC office  
555 5th Street, Santa Rosa.

LWVSC Board meetings are open to all LWVSC members, and to the public upon  
request.

All other meetings are open to all.

Visit our [website](#) for updated calendar information.

## Welcome New Members!

Sue Aiken  
Maggie Cook  
Diana Olding  
Madeleine Bruley

Susan Jackson  
Maurine Olson  
Lorelle Saxena  
Sandra Shaner

Kirsten Covac  
Robyn Bramhall  
Doug Olney  
Katherine Rinehart

Lisa Hardin  
Esther Tribble  
Hans Herb  
Molly Martin

We're so glad you're here!

## Local Issues Forum

### Climate Protection: Are We Doing Enough?

Sonoma League Members are invited to attend the September 16<sup>th</sup> Local Issues Forum at Spring Lake Village. Stacey Meinzen, the communications manager at the Climate Protection Center in Santa Rosa will be our speaker. Stacey previously worked on the Sonoma County Clean Energy Independence Program. As a marketing specialist, one colleague said Stacey had the ability to “make magic happen.”

When it comes to climate, we need magic and more. Most of us understand that our climate is dangerously out of balance. The environmental effects of climate change are impacting our health, agriculture, water and more. Many of us also realize that we are a big part of the problem. Through our activities, we are releasing tons of greenhouse-trapping gases each year. The question is, what are we doing locally to combat this pending disaster, and is Sonoma County doing enough? Are we, as individuals, doing enough?

Increasingly, we are hearing about the many examples of what Sonoma County is doing to reduce the risks to our climate. We don't know if those measures are enough. But they give us hope, and they suggest a roadmap to necessary actions for our future. The League is a part of the county-wide effort to increase our understanding of climate problems and to follow the roadmap of what works. Parking at Spring Lake Village is limited, so car pool if you can. Please join us and bring questions.

## Want to get involved?

Our organization is run totally by volunteers. We offer both short-term and long-term volunteer opportunities to make a difference in our community. We are currently looking for volunteers with tech skills, such as working with Survey Monkey, Mail Chimp, PayPal and similar programs. If you have knowledge or experience in those areas, please consider volunteering with the League of Women Voters. Contact us at [tabling@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:tabling@lwvsonoma.org). No time to volunteer? We are happy to receive donations too! You can make a donation at <https://my.lwv.org/california/sonoma-county/donate>. We hope to hear from you!

# Transitional Board Meeting

July 29<sup>th</sup>

Debbie Mc Kay Presiding

## MyLO Website Update

The Membership Directory will be posted under the members' only section of the Website instead of being printed and distributed. The Directory is now searchable and can be refreshed as new members are added or renew their membership. One thousand dollars (\$1,000) is saved by not printing a local Directory.

A Web Master is needed for MyLO, or the duties may be divided up between several people.

## Program - Kickoff Meeting Planning

Debbie Mc Kay suggested October and a Saturday – the best turnout day – for the Kickoff meeting. Susan Rouder suggested, “protecting the right to vote” linked to the celebratory nature as a theme.

## Board meeting Dates and times 2019-2020

Scheduling meeting times to attract more working and younger people was discussed. After various options were considered, the Board voted to hold its meetings on the first Saturday of the month from 10:00am – noon at the League's office.

## Strategic Plan for 2019-2020 Priorities

### Centennial Celebration

We have a committee –Susan Novak. Celebration Activities include a February BD Party and local lecture at the Rohnert park Library on Feb 15th, a tea, March exhibits, possible parade participation and a Sash making party.

### 2020 Census Complete Count

Susan Novak attends meetings on the 2020 Census Complete Count. This is the first digital census which starts April 2020. One concern is the senior population which tends historically to be underrepresented in California and other states. There is an opportunity for the LWVSC to serve as a trusted messenger to them.

### Climate Change - Lead & Plan

Gene Zingarelli reported that Barbara Moulton is serving as lead.

### Criminal Justice Reform - Lead and Plan

Judy Levy is the lead on the Bail Reform legislation.

### Schools & Communities First Campaign

Marie Wardell and Iris Levitis reported on the initiative, which the state LWV identified as an issue of emphasis and there is an expectation of local league advocacy support. The Advocacy Committee will handle updates from state.

## Membership

Gayle Peterson and Juanita Roland are working to resolve a glitch when members use the form to pay by check. Renewals are due as membership expired 6/30. Nine new members joined this summer.

**President's Report**

- NOW plans to create a 2020 calendar with well-known women in Sonoma County, which would require a \$150 contribution from participants. NOW has offered the League the February page in honor of our birthday. The Board will make a decision at the next meeting.
- Centennial T-Shirts: Two additional groups have been added—the Petaluma Museum Assoc. and the Petaluma Arts Center.

Submitted by Marie Wardell, Secretary

## Are You a Great Host?

Many Leagues have “Host Committees” which promote events and organize refreshments. We are considering forming such a committee for our local League. We would love your help to make this a success. We’d also be grateful if you considered hosting your own table and inviting friends and colleagues to an event.

There are several more things Host Committee members can do to support the League:

- Greet attendees at meetings and events.
- Periodically contact members who bake to provide a couple dozen cookies for League meetings.
- Set up the coffee, tea, and other refreshments at events and meetings.

If you would like to be a part of our new Host Committee, we would be most grateful if you would email Debbie Mc Kay at [president@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:president@lwvsonoma.org).

## On The Web

Explore some interesting women on Facebook. 16 Women Scientists  
<https://www.amightygirl.com/blog?p=11511>

A young woman who resisted bus segregation before Rosa Parks  
<https://www.facebook.com/amightygirl/photos/a.360833590619627/2079051032131199/?type=3&theater>

And the Notorious RBG <https://www.amightygirl.com/blog?p=18772>

## Generous Donations from *Equality Vines and Hawkes Wine*

Recently Equality Vines and Hawkes Wine generously donated wine so that the League delegates to the State Convention in Pasadena could enjoy excellent California wine with their Saturday night banquet.

Equality Vines is the world's first cause wine portfolio dedicated to equality for all people. For every bottle of wine sold, Equality Vines makes a donation to an organization dedicated to the fight for equality, with each line of wine supporting a different equality cause. The Love Wins line of wines supports LGBTQ non-profits, the Suffrage Series supports women's rights, and future series will support other equality causes. Equality Vines currently donates \$2 to the League of Women Voters for each bottle of 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment wine they sell.

The portfolio is inspired by Dr. Marilyn Shultz, the aunt of Equality Vines co-founder Matt Grove, who in 1971 led the class action sexual discrimination lawsuit against NBC and its affiliates that ultimately re-shaped the company. The first wine in this special series, Love Wins Cuvée, honors Equality Vines Co-Founder Jim Obergefell and his late husband John Arthur for their legal fight that ended with the 2015 landmark Supreme Court decision Obergefell v. Hodges, bringing marriage equality to the entire United States. Equality Vines has a tasting room in Guerneville. For more information visit:

<http://www.equalityvines.com>

Paula and Stephen Hawkes are dedicated League members. Hawkes Wine is owned and operated by the Hawkes family who have been growing grapes in the Alexander Valley for forty years. Today, the Hawkes family farms over eighty-five acres of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Chardonnay vineyards in the southern half of Alexander Valley, all planted on sparsely-soiled hillsides, all yielding small amounts of intense fruit. In bottling small lots of Hawkes Wine, they aim to translate their extraordinary standards for the quality of our grapes into extraordinary wine, estate grown and produced in Alexander Valley, Sonoma County. They have a tasting room in Sonoma. For more information go to <https://www.hawkeswine.com/wines/>

Our League is fortunate to have these two allies to help us fight for voting rights every day.

## H.R.1923 - Women's History & 19th Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act

Since our nation's founding, women have played an instrumental role in shaping this country, yet these sacrifices and accomplishments have often gone unrecognized. To recognize the women's suffrage campaigns that were conducted in each state, a bipartisan bill has been introduced in the U.S. Congress. Please ask your Representative today to support H.R.1923.

Passage of the 19th Amendment required 3/4 of the states to ratify. The ratification drive in each state was an unrelenting challenge for women and their male supporters. They lobbied, protested, wrote letters and did everything they could to win the 36 states they needed to make the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, guaranteeing women's voting rights, part of the U.S. Constitution.

H.R. 1923, the Women's History and 19th Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act directs the Treasury Secretary to establish a quarter program featuring a prominent woman from each state, territory, and the District of Columbia starting in 2021 at the conclusion of the current quarter coin program. By uplifting and showcasing these amazing women on our currency, Americans will have an opportunity to learn more about the unsung pioneers who built our nation and celebrate their accomplishments.

Under this bill, the governor or executive of each state or territory would submit a design to the Secretary in consultation with various stakeholders including local groups in each state. Starting in 2021, five designs would be released into circulation each year until all the states, territories, and the District of Columbia are featured.

This quarter program coincides with the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by directing the Mint to reveal the first 5 designs during August 2020, 100 years to the month of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment.

## Can "Independent" Voters Vote in the March 2020 California Presidential Primary Election?

In California voters who registered to vote as an "independent," without any political party affiliation, may be able to participate in the "open" presidential primary IF they ask for the right ballot. Those who vote in person at their polling location can request their presidential ballot of choice on election day. But it depends on whether the party will allow those who are independent to vote in their primary. Typically, the Democratic Party and some other parties have allowed such participation, but the Republican Party has not.

Voting by mail is more complicated for independents. Those who have not selected a party affiliation (are independent) and vote by mail must return a signed postcard to the County Registrar of Voters requesting a primary presidential ballot for a particular party. If an “independent” voter does not send in such a request, the section of their primary election ballot reserved for presidential candidates will be blank.

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, a Democrat from San Diego, has introduced [AB 681](#) which would require county election officials to send three notifications to registered voters reminding them which party they’re registered with, or if they have not declared an affiliation. Currently, county officials are required to send only one notification, a postcard asking independent voters if they want a “crossover” ballot.

The League of Women Voters of California supports AB 681 because voter confusion suppresses turnout, feeds a false narrative of unfairness or fraud, and destabilizes the electoral system. No party preference voters (independents) now make up the second largest political group in the state, behind Democrats. They are the fastest growing group now that the state began automatically registering Californians to vote when they applied for a driver’s license—with no party as the default choice. Additionally, a majority of California voters now vote by mail. Combined, there are nearly 3.6 million independent permanent “absentee ballot” voters in the state, or roughly 18% of all registered voters, according to [Political Data Inc.](#)

For more details on this issue go to <https://calmatters.org/articles/blog/california-independents-presidential-primary-unable-to-vote-no-party-affiliation/>

## Where Does Our Dues Money Go?

Our Local League is part of a much larger organization. We work on local issues. The Bay Area League which is comprised of representatives for the 9 bay area counties works on issues with a regional impact such as transportation, air & water quality and housing. The CA League works on statewide issues and court cases such as funding for affordable housing, reducing homelessness, the Make it fair campaign on how property taxes are computed and criminal justice reform. The National League works vigorously to protect voting rights and currently has 23 active cases, including the Census citizenship question.

If you attended the June 8<sup>th</sup> General meeting you heard that most of the annual dues we pay go to the National, California and Bay Area Leagues. We only keep about \$3 locally. How are the funds we send on used? This month we will talk about the National level. Next month we will cover the State and in then we will look at what the Bay Area League is pursuing.

The National League is currently supporting seven bills in the House and US Senate, with most of them having to do with voting rights. The League is also working on reforming money in politics on a national level for presidential and congressional races. In addition, the National League has 23 active pending court cases, some of them currently before the Supreme Court:

- 7 on redistricting which involved Gerrymandering by both democrats and republicans in various states.



- 5 cases on voter role purges in Texas, Indiana, Arizona, Missouri, CA
- 4 cases on elections and early voting, all in Florida
- 2 cases on Lame Duck legislatures trying to reduce the authority of incoming Governors in Ohio & Michigan
- 1 Census case files in NY State regarding the citizenship question
- 1 Voter ID case in Missouri
- 1 3rd Party Registration case in Tennessee
- 1 Proof of Domicile in New Hampshire which would require those registering to vote to have proof of residence in addition to their state ID card.

The National League also supports the work of the State Leagues and local Leagues. For example, they have provided information about the 2020 Census Complete Count effort and media kits for the centennial celebration.

## Frustrated with Downtown Parking?

Have you ever been in a meeting or at lunch downtown and been concerned that the parking meter may run out before the meeting, or your lunch, is over? Happens to me all the time at our League meetings. If you have a smart phone there is an app that can help! The “Passport Parking App” allows you to use your phone to pay for parking.

Mobile payments are now available for all on and off-street metered parking spaces in Santa Rosa! With the Passport App you can:

- Pay for metered parking
- Receive alerts before your meter expires
- Extend time remotely
- View all parking history

All you need is a credit card to set up an account and your vehicle’s license plate number. When parking, you just enter the zone number (found on the Passport decal on the parking meter), select the amount of time you want to park, and be on your way.

Use this link to [Download the Passport Parking App](#) to pay via your mobile device. Or download the [Passport Parking Brochure \(PDF\)](#). And view or download the the [Passport Parking F.A.Q.](#)

## Book Club Reads

### **September 19--Moderated by Ethel Schy**

*Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*  
by David Grann, 347 pages, 2017.

In 1920s Oklahoma, many members of the oil-wealthy Osage Nation were dying untimely and suspicious deaths. The widespread crimes against the Osage and the inability to identify those responsible led to the establishment of what is now known as the FBI. The author points his investigative lens at the perpetrators of the murders, reveals cover-ups by authorities all the way up to the national level, and illustrates that the deception continued almost a century later.

### **October 17--Moderated by Linda Allen**

*Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty First Century*  
by Jessica Bruder, 320 pages, 2017.

From the beet fields of North Dakota to the National Forest campgrounds of California to Amazon's Camper Force program in Texas, employers have discovered a new, low-cost labor pool, made up largely of transient older Americans. Finding that Social Security comes up short, often underwater on mortgages, these invisible casualties of the Great Recession have taken to the road by the tens of thousands in late-model RVs, travel trailers, and vans, forming a growing community of nomads: migrant laborers who call themselves "workampers."

The 2019 Reading list is online at <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/files/bookgroup2019.pdf>

Please join us.

# LWVSC

## Board of Directors

Debbie McKay, **President**

Carrie Anabo, **VP Administration**

Gene Zingarelli, **VP Advocacy**

Marie Wardell, **Secretary**

Juanita Roland, **Treasurer**

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Donna Roper & Leona Judson, **Voter**

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Because of privacy concerns, we do not include email addresses for the Board in the Voter. Readers can find email addresses in the directory or they can send email to Board Members from the contact us page of the LWVSC website. [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)

## Connect with the League



**LWVSC** [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty](https://www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty)

**LWV of Bay Area** <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

**LWV of California** [www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org)

**LWV of the United States** [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters>

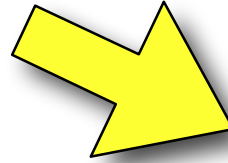
**Voter's Edge** <http://votersedge.org/en/ca>

Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

*Remember to sign up for email alerts and newsletters when you visit these websites.*



*Become a Member of the  
LWV of Sonoma County*



or

Make a  
**DONATION**

Fill out the form below and mail it to us at:

League of Women Voters Sonoma County  
555 5th Street, Suite 300 O  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Memberships Levels**

<i>Susan B. Anthony</i> Individual Membership	\$65
<i>Student/ Limited Income</i> Individual Membership	\$40
<i>Amelia Bloomer</i> Household Membership	\$100
<i>Elizabeth Cady Stanton</i> Membership	\$100
<i>Centennial 100</i> Membership	\$100
<i>Carrie Chapman Catt</i> Membership	\$200 or more

**Membership dues and donations  
are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law**

Please circle any topics you are interested in knowing more about.

- |                      |                    |                  |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Voter Registration   | Candidate Forums   | Transportation   |
| Housing/Homelessness | Climate Change     | Immigration      |
| Newsletter           | Website Management | Local Governance |

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

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The Voter is published nine times a year by the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County.