



April 2022 VOTER Newsletter

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRIMARY ELECTION: JUNE 7, 2022

Mail-in Ballots will be sent out the week of May 9, 2022



There are three major Santa Clara County-Wide Primary elections, one Congressional District 16 Primary election, and one county-wide ballot measure, Measure A, on the June 7, 2022, ballot. Primary Elections determine the top two candidates who will be on the November ballot. All five Leagues in Santa Clara County are co-sponsoring virtual county-wide Candidate Forums. You must register for each one separately in order to attend. Click on the links below to register for the **first two** county-wide virtual webinars.

*SCC Sheriff hosted by San Jose/Santa Clara on **Thursday, April 21**. Register here:

<https://www.lwvsjsc.org/candidate-forums>.

*SCC District Attorney hosted by SWSCV on **Thursday, April 28**. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMucOigrDovHd3hOSXpBoEnGIH2jwSAR6KT>.

The dates and times for the **SCC Assessor** virtual webinar to be hosted by Los Altos/Mountain View and the **Congressional District 16** virtual webinar to be hosted by Palo Alto will be confirmed and publicized in our mid-month Eblast.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District has also placed one local, county-wide measure, **Measure A**, on the ballot. The pros and cons of this ballot measure will be in our mid-month Eblast and the May Voter.

SYSTEMIC RACISM IN HEALTHCARE WEBINAR, APRIL 27



WHO IS ALISSA SHAW?

Alissa Shaw has had a wonderfully varied career which has kept her busy trying to make the world a better place.

She started with a KPIX TV news program titled "Brian's Kids" featuring foster children in need of permanent homes. Next she took a post with the United States Peace Corps on the border of Nepal and India where she worked with the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime in a primary trafficking route for young girls and women. After returning to the United States, Alissa took a position with Planned Parenthood Mar Monte in San José where, as Associate VP of Campaigns, among other duties, she worked on family planning funding and access to care for low-income women, men, and children in California. Alissa then took a position as Director of Programs for the Pacific Stroke Association, based at the Veterans Administration in Palo Alto.

Alissa has been a faculty member of the Public Health and Recreation Department at San José State University since 2014. She is also a Public Health Academic Advisor and the Faculty Coordinator for VET (Veterans Embracing Transition) Connect, a project of the Center for Community Learning and Leadership. Alissa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Political Science from University of California at Davis and a Master of Liberal Arts from Stanford University.

ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF COFFEE TALK



Interested in discussing the current news of the day with other League members? Then come join a small group of us for a casual discussion over coffee on Saturday, April 23, at 11:00 am.

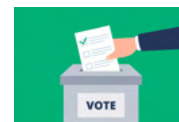
The format of Coffee Talk is simple: each attendee brings in a news article which they summarize before the group and then opens it up for a ~10 minute group discussion before moving on to the next member's article. The meeting will take place in a League member's home (address to be released upon rsvp) and last around an hour. Coffee and water will be provided by the host. There is no need to commit to regular attendance - come when the desire to converse about the news inspires you!

For those of you who remember Clip 'n Come, yes, Coffee Talk is replacing Clip 'n Come, but without the obligation of bringing food! Similar to Clip n' Come, Coffee Talk will be held on a monthly basis, rotating amongst various members' homes, with dates of future gatherings posted in the Voter.

If interested in attending the April Coffee Talk (weather permitting, will be held outside), rsvp to nishimura.gail@gmail.com.

Please note that if you are not currently a League member but wish to attend, you will need to be accompanied by a League member.

VOTER SERVICES



WHERE, WHEN, AND HOW TO VOTE: June 7, 2022:

Vote In Person or By Mail

All registered voters can vote using a vote-by-mail ballot instead of going to the polls on Election Day. Mail-in Ballots are being sent out by the SCC Registrar of Voters starting the week of May 9, 2022.

Mail-in Ballots can be returned in the postage paid envelope in one of three ways: via the US Post Office,

via an official SCC Drop Box, or in person at a polling center.

As of 2020, **Mail-in-Ballots** are **automatically mailed** to every registered voter in the state of California.

- To learn more about Vote-by-Mail, go to the [Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters](#) or the [California Secretary of State](#)
- [How to Return your Vote-by-Mail Ballot](#)
- How to [Track your Vote-by-Mail Ballot](#)
- Learn [11 Ways to Avoid Getting Your Vote-by-Mail Ballot Rejected](#)

REDISTRICTING:

Do you know if your State Assembly District, State Senatorial District, your Congressional District, and/or your Board of Supervisor District has changed due to redistricting? Our League covers the four cities of Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno and Campbell; and there have been changes!!! Check out your current maps and districts at these links:

<https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt>

<https://sccvote.sccgov.org/elections/redistricting#3925188384-667709306>

<http://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/>

Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Is Hiring!

The County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters' Office is now hiring. "We are currently recruiting for various positions throughout our organization and are looking for English and bilingual speaking individuals interested in contributing to their community for the upcoming June 7, 2022, Statewide Direct Primary Election." Apply today at www.sccvote.org/how_hiring.

Eleanor Yick, VP/Dir. Voter Services

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Healthcare



Looking for Healthcare Team Members. Would you like to see a better healthcare system in the United States? Would you like to learn more about the various healthcare alternatives? Would you like to join our League group that focuses on local, national and international healthcare issues? Yes? **Then we would like you to join our Healthcare Team.** Please contact Barbara Lea at barbara.lea@comcast.net

Major Problems with the U.S. Healthcare System Today. A [recent study](#) shows that **only seven percent of Americans are satisfied with the current healthcare system.** The desire for change crosses political lines as 6 out of 10 people from multiple political affiliations all agree the healthcare system needs changes or a complete overhaul. Below are the major issues with our system.

1. Preventable Medical Errors
2. Poor Amenable Mortality Rates
3. Lack of Transparency
4. Difficulty Finding a Good Doctor
5. High Costs of Care
6. A Lack of Insurance Coverage
7. The Nursing and Physician Shortage
8. Inefficiencies

Source: **Medifind** <https://www.medifind.com/news/post/problems-us-healthcare-system>

Housing



Implementation of SB-9, Other Housing Developments and A Good Space

The [March 2022 issue](#) of The Outlook, a monthly publication of Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Council (SASCC), is focused on housing. One article has a detailed description of SB 9. It stated: “Jurisdictions may adopt objective zoning, design, and subdivision standards, as well as procedural requirements in order to provide for orderly implementation of SB 9.”

Here are the links to each city’s SB-9 page: [Campbell](#), [Los Gatos](#), [Monte Sereno](#), and [Saratoga](#).

The issue also includes other articles on current residential developments and housing elements in Los Gatos and Saratoga.

An article in the March SASCC issue highlights Ginger Good, a LWV-SWSCV member and Saratoga resident, who envisions a real-life version of the television program, “The Golden Girls,” to create a community to alleviate isolation for older women. For those interested in learning more about A Good Space, contact Ginger Good at: urgoodspace@gmail.com or 408-866-1331.

Breaking the YIMBY-NIMBY Dichotomy: Multiple Housing Submarkets

As each city plans for housing at different income levels through the 2023-31 Housing Element, this [article](#) from [Current Affairs Magazine](#) examines why “we’ve increased the supply of high-end housing, but we’ve actually decreased the amount of housing in the city available to working-class people.” The author [Nathan J. Robinson](#) provides some thoughtful insights against the trickle-down economics theory: “The fact that there may be multiple different housing markets within a single city also [means](#) that something that helps the consumers in one market does nothing for the consumers in another, but does cause a lot of disruption and displacement that is rarely factored into economic analyses of costs and benefits.”

Mr. Robinson concludes with: “We can preserve without being reactionaries. We can believe in building new houses without letting developers control the future of our cities. The NIMBY-YIMBY dichotomy is a false one, a piece of propaganda designed to make us think everyone who opposes any particular development is privileged and everyone who supports it is socially progressive. The terms are ultimately grossly unhelpful, obscuring the underlying issues. Any understanding of the desirability of development depends on deeper questions like: whose backyard are we talking about? Who is saying yes? To what? Why? And does the story they are telling hold up under scrutiny?”

The 2022 Legislative Season Starts: 2,021 Newly-Introduced Bills

In the meantime, the 2022 legislative season has started with 2,021 bills introduced by our legislators; among them 639 are placeholder spot bills. The [slidedeck](#) from the legislative briefing by CalCities highlights some housing-related bills and the Governor’s proposed 2022-23 budget. More on the Governor’s proposed budget [here](#) by the California Budget Center. Here is SF Chronicle’s Guide to the [2022 Legislative Season](#), spotlighting some bills about vaccination, housing, crimes and justice, transportation etc.

Liang Chao, Housing Director

Natural Resources



Water: Worst Drought in 1200 years

Experts reported the decades between 2000-2021 were the driest 20-year period in the American Southwest (including much of California) since 800 CE. Moreover, the current drought will likely continue through 2022, making it equivalent to a prolonged “megadrought” that afflicted the area in the late 1500s.

Expect relentless declines in water availability, but also more intense rainfall—when it occurs. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/03/220314181504.htm>

The California Department of Water Resources has warned of a changing hydrology: by the mid-2050s, expect a 50% chance that any year will be like the 2012-2016 drought—or worse. Disadvantaged or otherwise vulnerable communities will be disproportionately impacted.

[https://cwc.ca.gov/-/media/CWC-](https://cwc.ca.gov/-/media/CWC-Website/Files/Documents/2021/09_September/September2021_Item_9_Attach_2_SusidencePowerPoint_Final.pdf)

[Website/Files/Documents/2021/09_September/September2021_Item_9_Attach_2_SusidencePowerPoint_Final.pdf](https://cwc.ca.gov/-/media/CWC-Website/Files/Documents/2021/09_September/September2021_Item_9_Attach_2_SusidencePowerPoint_Final.pdf)

Other links:

- IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)

report: https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf

- UCS blog on drought, equity:

<https://blog.ucsusa.org/pablo-ortiz/causes-and-consequences-of-epic-western-us-drought/>

- Need for climate leadership and GHG reduction:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/28/climate/climate-change-ipcc-report.html>

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 as well as 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

California Water: Over-Promised, Over-Delivered, Solutions?

Impact of Racialized Policies on Education and Educational Practice

This Month's Program

Be sure to register for this month's virtual program on Wednesday, April 27, at 7:00 pm.

Topic: **Systemic Racism in Healthcare Webinar**

Speaker: Alissa L. Shaw, San Jose State University

Registration information is available in the “Important Announcements” section of this Voter.

Santa Clara County

Good News: In January the County of Santa Clara created a new office to address systemic inequities that negatively impact historically marginalized communities. The new Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer will collaborate and partner with County departments to integrate values of diversity, equity, and belonging into their operations. Earlier the **County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis**, driven in part by local and national activism that stemmed from the death of George Floyd and the many others who came before him.

Media Contact: Maria Leticia Gomez/Quan Vu, Office of Communications and Public Affairs, (408) 299-5119, sccpublicaffairs@ceo.sccgov.org.

LaDoris Cordell - Annual Meeting

More Good News: Mark your Calendar now! As a culmination to our series of race-related programs this year, **the speaker at our Annual Meeting on June 4 will be LaDoris Cordell.** She is a retired judge of the Superior Court of California, among many other accomplishments, and has recently published her memoir, *Her Honor: My Life on the Bench...What Works, What's Broken, and How to Change It.*

Barbara Lea, Racial Justice Director

MEET THE MEMBERS

Barbara Lea



Barbara Lea, Director of both the Racial Justice and Healthcare Committees, is a native Californian who has lived in Los Gatos since graduation from San Jose State. She has a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree and was one of the founders of West Valley College, where she taught in the General Business and Administrative Studies Departments. Barbara loves spending time with family and friends and enjoys watching British mysteries on TV, reading, traveling, taking history classes, playing the piano, and going to films and theater. She has frequently served on the Nominating Committee, and as Secretary and Vice President and has been proofreading the Voter each month for years. She participates in LWV state and national healthcare groups and is passionate about providing healthcare for everyone in the United States.

Amy Vu, IT/Website Director



Amy Vu is a full-time mathematics instructor at West Valley College with a passion for life-long learning. She has four associate degrees, two bachelor's degrees, two master's degrees, and is currently working on her dissertation for her Ed.D. at Texas Tech University.

When Amy is not in the classroom teaching or learning, she volunteers with various community organizations. Her current projects include:

- serving as the IT/Website Director for the LWV of Southwest Santa Clara Valley, hosting all League's Zoom webinar and special programs and events;
- volunteering with Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention, an organization based in Louisiana that advocates for the humane treatment of detained immigrants and helps provide transportation and meals and hosts released immigrants as they travel to their sponsors.
- collecting old computers to refurbish and give away to families who do not have computers.

Amy's previous work included mentoring African-American youth, registering people to vote, managing campaigns for congressional candidates, and organizing protests and rallies. She truly is an exemplary model for us all.

CITY NEWS & UPDATES



Campbell City Council

March 15: The City Council received a request to consider a safe gun storage ordinance.

The final redistricting meeting and public hearing was held March 1, 2022. Since the City received no additional maps from the public after that meeting, the Council stayed with the existing map for the next ten years. Council members reminded the public that despite being in districts, each of them represent all of us.

The Police Department requested six automated license plate readers to be provided by Flock Safety in a two-year contract to help in resolving and solving crimes. Los Gatos has them, and Campbell can partner with them. The readers are 98% accurate, and any "low confidence" reads are dropped. The first year will cost \$55,000 and the second \$50,000.

Jackie Costanzo, Campbell Observer

Los Gatos Town Council

March 23: The Town Council approved allocating up to \$1,000,000 toward development of the Los Gatos Creek Trail to Highway 9 Trailhead Connector project. When completed, this would provide a safe route for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel between the Creek Trail and Highway 9. Staff will be seeking additional funding through grant applications to the following: One Bay Area Grant Program (Metropolitan Transportation Commission); Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program (VTA); Valley Water's Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. Total cost estimate is \$5.8 million.

Lynda Jandron, Los Gatos Town Observer

Monte Sereno City Council

March 1: Drought: Council received a report by the City's water provider, San Jose Water (SJW), about current drought conditions and our current mandatory water conservation plan. Water use allocations will be based on 15% reductions in each individual customer's 2019 usage. Minimum allocations will recognize the efforts of low water-using customers by not applying drought surcharges for exceeding allocations. An appeals process may take into account health issues, and the number of people in the home in 2019. For drought information, SJW has a website: www.sjwater.com/drought.

March 15: Council received a detailed presentation about Monte Sereno/Los Gatos Police department activities. Topics covered include trends in response times compared over the last three years. Attention is being given to vulnerable communities—the homeless, those with mental health issues, and seniors living alone. The Department is developing teams to address emergencies such as wildfire or loss of water delivery.

Council approved its Annual Housing Element Progress Report 2020-2022, which documents progress being made towards achieving the Association of Bay Area Government's RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Allocation), and complex goals mandated by the State (SB9). Beginning April 19, Council will meet at City Hall, not virtually.

Linda King, Monte Sereno Observer

Saratoga City Council

March 2: The Council decided to do the following at its March 2 meeting:

- Appointed Clinton Brownley and Ping Li to the Planning Commission for one year.
- Accepted Civic Theater Lighting and Controls upgrade as completed.
- Adopted budget resolutions amending the FY 2022 budget by creating a new revenue fund and appropriating five capital improvement Plan Management project budgets.
- Agreed that the Council should continue social distancing and virtual meetings through March 31.

Ginger Good, Saratoga Observer

Political Book Club



The next Zoom meeting of our League Political Book Club will be at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 19. New members welcome. Join us to discuss ***Twilight of Democracy* by Anne Applebaum**. **NATIONAL BESTSELLER** The Pulitzer Prize-winning historian explains why elites in democracies around the world are turning toward nationalism and authoritarianism. Please contact Wade Ellis, wade25@sbcglobal.net, if you would like to join the group or just tune in for the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88222588472>.

BOARD BYTES

March 2, 2022



1. LWVBA has drafted recommendations to Bay Area positions and is collecting feedback from other Leagues in the Bay Area. LWV-SWSCV Board members have reviewed the position updates and submitted our suggested revisions on March 2, 2022.
2. The Budget Committee has begun preparing a budget proposal for next year. Committee members include David Lee, Lois Smallwood, and Eleanor Yick.
3. Chair of the new Housing Committee, Liang-Fang Chao, is organizing a second Committee meeting and will continue to reach out to interested members.

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 used to represent our communities but there have been changes. 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.

•**District 4: Supervisor Susan Ellenberg:** Click on the link for the latest newsletter: <https://conta.cc/3DbaNiH>.

•**District 5: Supervisor Joe Simitian:** Click on this link for the latest newsletter: <http://district5.sccgov.org>.

LWV BAY AREA UPDATES

BBay Area League Day was held February 19. The theme was "Solving for Housing." The recording of the event is available via this link:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/bay-area/event/solving-housing-resources-league-day-2022>. Or it can be accessed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/mRrywQgBBTU>. Bay Area League Convention will be held on Saturday, June 4.

THE LWV BAY AREA MONITOR

Charlie Bowen had no idea that a network of walking paths wound through the Berkeley hills until she went to her first Berkeley Path Wanderers Association meeting more than two decades ago. Read the feature story <https://bayareamonitor.org/article/smoothing-the-way-for-new-pedestrian-paths/>.

LWV CA UPDATES

Voter's Edge Slated to Help Californians Cast their Ballots in the June 7, 2022 Statewide Primary Election. Read [more](#).

LWVUS UPDATES

Visit <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom> to see the latest Statements, Press Releases, and News Clips from Dr. Deborah Turner, LWV President.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LWV SWSCV

Board Meeting

Wed Apr 6

LWV SWSCV

Tue Apr 12

LWV SJ/SC

Thurs Apr 21

LWV SWSCV

Sat Apr 23

LWV SWSCV

Wed Apr 27

LWV SWSCV

Thurs Apr 28

Virtual at 12:00 pm

Political Book Club

Book: *Twilight of Democracy* by Anne Applebaum.

Webinar: 7:00 - 8:00pm

Candidate Forum: SCC Sheriff

Webinar: 7:00 - 8:15 pm

Coffee Talk

In person: 11:00am

Systemic Racism in Healthcare

Webinar: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Candidate Forum: SCC District Attorney

Webinar: 7:00 - 8:15 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

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

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

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

County

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