

## July 2022 VOTER Newsletter

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### NATIONAL CONVENTION REACTS TO THE SUPREME COURT DECISION TO OVERTURN ROE V WADE

June 24 was a somber day at the 2022 LWV National Convention. News of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* cast a shadow on the morning caucus sessions. As attendees listened to the presentations, many asked, "What are we going to do about it? What action can we take today to show our dissent?" By the afternoon, tables were set up to make signs for League delegates to join the protest at the Colorado State Capitol in the evening.



At the end of the first plenary session, Dr. Deborah Turner asked the delegation to amend the agenda to take up one more agenda item - a resolution that affirms the LWV's commitment to reproductive choice. Resolutions were slated to be taken up during Sunday's plenary, but given the news, it was fitting that the resolution 2022-130 introduced by the LWV of Washington be brought up at this point. The resolution reads:

*Be it resolved that the LWVUS, supports the rights of women and those who can become pregnant to self-determination related to, and including, but not limited to bodily autonomy, privacy, reproductive health, and lifestyle choice.*

The 2022 LWVUS delegates overwhelmingly supported the resolution.

After the plenary session, delegates gathered in the lobby of the hotel where two single file lines were formed. LWV staff led a march to the Denver State Capitol. The line of LWV delegates stretched for blocks. The protestors assembling at the Capitol steps looked out to see a long line of determined women and men ready to fight for reproductive rights.



The spirit of coming together and working with other organizations to form coalitions was the message delivered by Cliff and April Albright at Thursday's training, Leaning into Conflict Training from Black Voters Matter, and Valerie Jensen's keynote address. The League of Women Voters members heard the message. We joined the youth gathered at the Capitol to acknowledge that we need everyone in this fight for reproductive justice. We are ready.

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## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Another year has gone by so quickly. Hope you are doing well under the continued challenging time of the pandemics.

This year the League continues to strengthen our value in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), and all webinars and discussions have been done through the lens of DEI. In addition, the Board also realized that many members have experienced isolation under the threat of COVID-19, so bonding among members has been an important issue. To address this, our annual holiday party of 2021 was held in-person at Green Mountain Retreat center in Los Gatos. It was

very well attended and put members in high holiday season spirit. Members also met for Valentine's Day 2022 at Bill of Fare. Thanks to Board member Julie's help, many female members had a lot of giggling working with our nails and had beautiful hands to show off afterwards.

Our goal for Membership has been to provide members not only the opportunity to make democracy work, but also to have fun working together. We will continue on this path and encourage everyone to join in.

**So, here is the gentle reminder that your annual membership renewal is now due for the fiscal year, July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.**

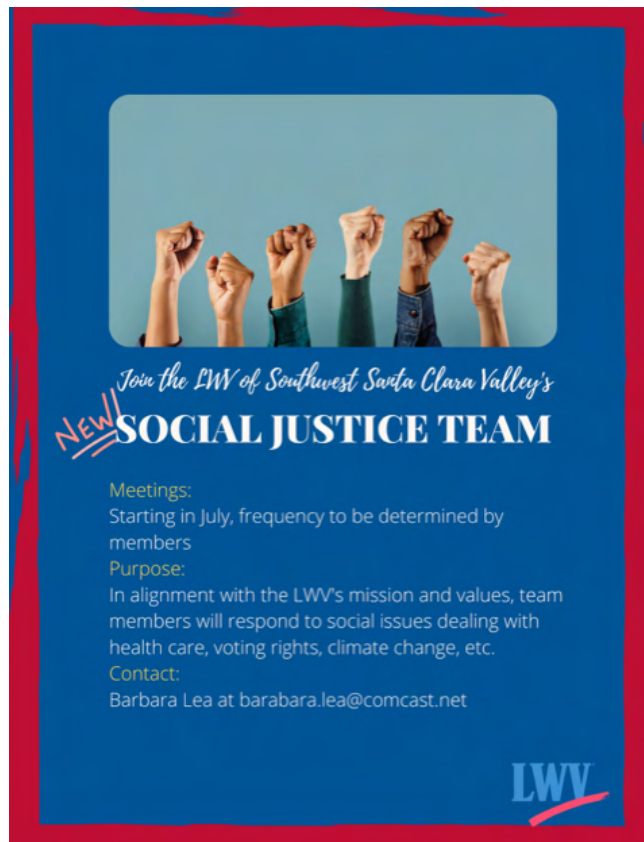
**The membership fee per year is \$80 for individual members and \$120 for households when an additional member is included. Please plan to make your payment by July 1, 2022 either with a check or via the online link.**

**To renew by check, please make it out to The League of Women Voters of Southwest Santa Clara Valley and mail to LWV SWSCV, P.O.Box 2865, Saratoga, CA 95070**

**To renew online, please use the link, [Join or Renew | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](#).**

Your support and participation are vital to the existence of our League and the efforts in making democracy work! Your continued membership is greatly appreciated.

#### JOIN THE NEW SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM



Join the LWV of Southwest Santa Clara Valley's  
**NEW! SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM**

**Meetings:**  
Starting in July, frequency to be determined by members

**Purpose:**  
In alignment with the LWV's mission and values, team members will respond to social issues dealing with health care, voting rights, climate change, etc.

**Contact:**  
Barbara Lea at barabara.lea@comcast.net

**LWV**



## California – Support SCA 10 Today!! Protect Reproductive Freedom in

### Defend Against the Supreme Court's Attack Protect Reproductive Freedom in California

On June 24 our reproductive rights were decimated by the Supreme Court. California must lead the way to strengthen and expand reproductive freedom. SCA 10 (Atkins) amends California's constitution to explicitly protect the right to abortion and contraception. If SCA 10 gets the votes it needs in the Assembly this Monday, then it will be on the ballot for a vote of the people in November.

**Can we count on you to stand with us and tell your Assemblymember to vote YES on SCA 10?**

### Protect Reproductive Choice in California

SCA 10 safeguards people's freedom to make decisions about their own bodies and health. By enshrining reproductive choice in California's Constitution, our state will affirm that abortion and contraception are healthcare and must remain a private medical decision.

**Tell your Assemblymember to vote YES on SCA 10 now! Action Needed by June 27. If the Voter arrives too late to meet the June 27th deadline, contact your Assemblymember to let him know your vote on SCA 10.**

Click [here](#) to take action!

### "We Must Use Our Anger as Fuel for Action!" Dr. Deborah Turner, LWV President

On June 24, during the LWV US 55th Convention, after the Supreme Court announcement overturning *Roe v. Wade*, this headline was Dr. Turner's comment to the Convention delegates. She followed that with: "We are ready to fight."

"The League of Women Voters believes every US resident should have access to affordable, quality health care, including birth control and the privacy to make reproductive choices. As an ally of reproductive rights organizations, we know that safe access to health care, including abortion, is essential to our democracy.

Democracy depends on equal rights for all people. Losing our right to reproductive choice opens the door to the loss of other freedoms like marriage equality, contraception, and the right to engage in private, consensual intimacy. The attack we have seen on voting rights is an attack on democracy. The attack on reproductive choice is a continuation of silencing people in this country.

Not only is the right to a safe and legal abortion a matter of personal freedom, it's also a major factor in the movements for racial and economic equality. Black women and all underserved communities already experience inequitable barriers and limited access to adequate health care services. Many of the communities targeted with voter suppression are the same ones who will be most impacted if reproductive freedom is also taken away.

The League of Women Voters stands in solidarity with women and individuals who may become pregnant in the fight to protect reproductive freedom."

LWV SWSCV is a partner in this fight. We need all our supporters to join us in the effort to provide equal rights, protections and the votes to support those rights and protections.

### Election Systems: Watch This Documentary!

**Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight To Vote (2022)** is a powerful documentary about the growing threat of voter suppression and election sabotage to our 2022 midterm elections. In 2021, 19 states passed 34 new voter laws following the Big Lie of the 2020 election. The film focuses on this recent wave of voter suppression and subversion laws being enacted in states, and how the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial race between Stacey Abrams and Brian Kemp provides a case study for understanding today's voter suppression laws across the country.

Click on the link below to watch the trailer:

<https://www.thewrap.com/suppressed-and-sabotaged-2022-trailer-voter-suppression-texas-gop/>

**The film will be shown at Shir Hadash via Zoom on July 27th at 7:30 pm, followed by a panel discussion with audience input beginning at 8:15 until 9:00. The zoom link for this program is:**

<https://www.shirhadash.org/event/shoc-social-justice-panel-discussion1.html>

### The November Election Cycle:

Believe it or not, preparation for the November Election needs to start over the summer! Mail in ballots will be sent out in early October so Candidate Forums and Pros and Cons need to be scheduled starting in September!! Our Voter Services Team is always looking for new members who might be interested in being trained as a moderator or presenter on Pros and Cons of ballot measures. It is anticipated that once again, CA Voters will be faced with a long ballot with many ballot measures on it. We need members who are interested in

researching the pros and cons of each measure. Please contact Eleanor Yick at [egick@icloud.com](mailto:egick@icloud.com) if you need more information or are interested in joining the team. The first organizational meeting will be scheduled for mid-July.

## REDISTRICTING

Our League covers the four cities of Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno and Campbell along with a small segment of West San Jose. Due to redistricting, there have been some changes in our state senate and state assembly districts as seen in the chart below. But, do check your individual address as some addresses close to a boundary line might be in a different district.

<i>City/Town</i>	<i>US Cong. District</i>	<i>CA Senate</i>	<i>CA Assembly</i>	<i>SCC Supervisor District</i>
<i>Los Gatos</i>	16	13	28	5
<i>Saratoga</i>	16	13	23	5
<i>Monte Sereno</i>	16	13	28	5
<i>Campbell</i>	16	13	23	4

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

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

*Eleanor Yick, VP/Dir. Voter Services*

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## DIRECTORS' REPORTS

### Healthcare



#### NPR Report on Medical Debt

A new study released on June 16 by NPR and Kaiser Family Foundation reported about 4 in 10 adults report medical or dental debt, which roughly translates into an estimated 100 million adults. The problem drives millions of Americans from their homes or into bankruptcy, and about 1 in 7 people with healthcare debt say they have been denied access to a hospital, doctor, or other provider because of unpaid bills. The uninsured, with low incomes, and Black and Hispanic adults are among the groups most likely to have healthcare debt. Having insurance does not solve the problem for everyone—44% of working-age adults with health insurance also have healthcare debt.

**Source:** NPR - Read the complete article.

<https://www.npr.org/about-npr/1105573129/kff-s-kaiser-health-news-and-npr-launch-diagnosis-debt>

#### For-Profit Healthcare is Deadly and Expensive

**A recent study has attempted to quantify what we lost during the pandemic because of our rigged, for-profit medical system in the US.**

The most startling finding of the study is that **212,000 lives could have been saved in 2020 alone if we had a Medicare for All system** in place when the pandemic started. That's 212,000 of our family and friends who could be alive right now if they hadn't been forced to ration their own healthcare due to cost.

The 212,000 preventable deaths include people who were already struggling to pay for healthcare before COVID, those who lost their jobs (and consequently their health insurance) because of COVID, and the 1 out of every 4 COVID deaths that have been caused by lack of access to care.





Source: "Healthcare-NOW!" <email@healthcare-now.org>

### What Is Single Payer?

By Jim Kahn, MD, MPH, Emeritus Professor of Health Policy, Epidemiology, and Global Health, UCSF School of Medicine.

**Summary:** Today we take a step back to review a fundamental issue – the definition of single payer. Also, its typical features and options. Why? Because sometimes we get lost in technical details and forget the big picture. And too often experts get confused, and thus confuse others.

**Source:** McCanne Health Justice Monitor, June 4, 2022

Read the complete all-inclusive article.

<http://healthjusticemonitor.org/2022/06/04/what-is-single-payer/>

**Barbara Lea, Healthcare Director**

## Housing



In the January LWV-SWSCV Voter newsletter, we wrote about the Housing Element update process, which needs to be submitted to the HCD by January 31, 2023. Every city was or is in the process of preparing it. The [2023-31 RHNA numbers](#) allocated to each city within our League's area are summarized in the table below. The main goal of RHNA is to provide below-market-rate housing needs.

[2023-31 RHNA numbers](#) (for the 7th HE cycle)

	VERY LOW INCOME (<50% of AMI)	LOW INCOME (50-80% of AMI)	MODERAT E INCOME (80-120% of AMI)	ABOVE MODERAT E INCOME (>120% of AMI)	Total
Campbell	1,017	585	659	1,703	3,964
Los Gatos	523	301	311	804	1,939
Monte Sereno	51	30	31	80	192
Saratoga	556	321	341	882	2100

AMI = Area Median Income

Here is a summary of the status of each city's Housing Element and how to get engaged.

[Campbell Housing Element Update](#)

- [Sign up](#) for notification

- Latest status: "On June 9, 2022 the City of Campbell released the [Public Review Draft of the 2023-2031 Housing Element](#) for a thirty-day public comment period running from June 9, 2022 to July 11, 2022.

#### [Los Gatos Housing Element Update](#)

- Sign up for [Notify Me](#) and subscribe to General Plan Update 2040.
- Agendas and minutes for Housing Element Advisory Board ([HEAB](#)).
- Latest status:
  - "On June 7, 2022, the Town Council accepted the sites in Tier 1 for inclusion in the Draft Site Inventory as recommended by the HEAB"
  - [On June 16, 2022, the HEAB](#) has "reviewed and discussed the draft Goals, Policies, and Implementation Programs of the Housing Element, in addition to considering whether there should be additions, deletions, or modifications"

#### [Monte Sereno Housing Element Update](#)

- Latest status:
  - The June 21, 2022 joint meeting of the City Council and Architectural Commission reviewed and discussed the [draft programs and policies](#)
  - Ongoing community outreach for feedback on site selection through multiple surveys
- Methods to engage: <https://athomeinmontesereno.com/participation-basics>
  - Click the links to view potential sites and take surveys about them
    - [Sites Surveys](#): Monte Sereno has identified 3 areas where future housing may be offered: [Area 1: Karl Avenue](#), [Area 2: Vineland Avenue](#), [Area 3: Palos Verdes Drive](#)
    - SB-9 Survey and General Surveys
  - [Vote for or share a photo](#) of your favorite ADU or secondary housing unit in Monte Sereno

#### [Saratoga Housing Element Update](#)

- [Sign up for the Housing Element Newsletter](#) to receive updates.
- Latest status:
  - The 10 identified housing element sites and proposed programs and policies are summarized at the [Housing Element Update](#) page.
  - "The [initial draft of the City's 2023-2031 Housing Element](#) is now available for public review. ...Written comments ... can be submitted through July 5, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. to Community Development Director Debbie Pedro by email at [dpedro@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:dpedro@saratoga.ca.us) or by mail..." The community can also comment on the draft at the July 6 Council meeting at 7pm.

**Liang Chao, Housing Director**

## Natural Resources



### Like your plastic baked, boiled or fried...?

Dutch researchers reported last year that "people might be ingesting around the mass of a credit card's worth of microplastic a year." <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01143-3> Microplastics can come from car tires, microfibers from synthetic clothing, plastic containers, bottles and bags. (Plastic food containers can shed huge numbers of tiny microplastics into hot water.)

Plastic bits are everywhere: in our oceans, at both frozen ends of the planet, in shellfish, table salt, drinking water and beer, in the air and rain—and in us.

The long-term effects on people and animals are still being determined. You can help: switch to alternative materials (glass, cotton, wool), reuse or recycle plastic, stop microwaving food in plastic containers. (See also, Natural Resources article from LWV SWSCV Voter, October 2019.)

For an update on Pacheco Dam project, see: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/06/21/water-fight-lawsuit-filed-against-2-5-billion-dam-project-planned-for-santa-clara-county/>

**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 at <https://my.lwv.org/california/southwest-santa-clara-valley/calendar-archive>.

View Past Events

**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?

## Juneteenth



[Banner layout psd created by freepik - www.freepik.com](https://www.freepik.com/psd/banner-layout)

Sunday, June 19 - **Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.**  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juneteenth>  
<https://www.nytimes.com/juneteenth-day-celebration>

## Los Gatos—Becoming an Inclusive Community

The Town of Los Gatos is committed to inclusivity. We value all our community members, regardless of religion, immigration status, ethnicity, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity. We strive to ensure all community members feel safe, respected, and comfortable to be themselves and express all aspects of their identities. We work proactively to ensure the rights and opportunities of everyone in Town and oppose any ates to undermine the safety, security, and rights of any members of our community. The Town promotes equal treatment, equitable distribution of and access to resources, and engagement in issues affecting the lives of residents, workers, and visitors. The Town does not tolerate discrimination, hate, racial injustice, or police brutality.

Source: Town of Los Gatos Website <https://losgatosca.gov/2604/Becoming-an-Inclusive-Community>

**Barbara Lea, Racial Justice Director**

## CITY NEWS & UPDATES



### Campbell City Council

**June:** The City released the Public Review Draft of the 2023 Housing Element for a 30-day public comment period (June 9 - July 11). The draft is available on the City's website.

Presently there are no candidates running in two of the three districts up for election to the City Council. The remaining district has only one candidate (the incumbent). Candidate filing ends on August 17. The Council discussed options for either canceling the election in districts with zero or one candidate or allowing the election to go forth, which would thereby allow for write-in candidates. A write-in candidate needs to get 50% + 1 of the write-in votes after getting 20 valid signatures to be eligible. There was much discussion about single-issue candidates possibly being elected by the write-in system. If the election is canceled, the Council would have a very short time to make an appointment after the date of cancellation. Council sent staff back to get more information before making the decision about going ahead with the election vs. canceling it.

Council did agree to keep the fee for a candidate statement in the Voter Guide at \$300. The City pays the rest of the \$2,400 fee. A chart was shown in which Los Gatos and Saratoga require the candidate to pay the entire fee. The Registrar of Voters is asking for the fee to increase to \$2,700 in its present budget.

**Jackie Costanzo, Campbell Observer**

### Los Gatos Town Council

**June 18:** The proposed Fiscal Year 2022/23 Operating and Capital budget and the proposed 5-year Capital Improvement Program budget were received along with the Finance Commission's recommendations for addressing deficits. Councilmembers approved allocating a total of \$3.7 million of ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act) to meet budgetary needs. Both budgets were then approved.

The Town Council discussed and approved the Draft Site Inventory prepared by the Housing Element Advisory Board. The plan shows



where additional housing can be built in Los Gatos to meet the state's requirements. Discussion included concerns about fire risk and evacuation routes, transportation impact, housing development density, and North 40 Specific Plan's guidelines for phase 2 development. The approved plan will be forwarded to the state's Housing and Community Development Department.

The Los Gatos Antiracism Coalition described their historical research and discussions with descendants of the original owners of the Los Gatos land area, the Ohlone and Tamien Native American tribes. Councilmembers approved the Coalition's recommendation to prepare a written acknowledgment of original ownership, to be posted on the Town website, and to be read at Town events and public meetings.

**Lynda Jandron, Los Gatos Observer**

## Monte Sereno City Council

**June 7:** In an effort to promote broad representation on the Youth Commission, the Council extended its deadline to receive applications for appointments. Council passed a resolution clarifying the need for Council members to recuse themselves when making decisions related to conducting current elections, specifically when a Council member is running for an office that is on the ballot. As a result, a Council member recused himself from a decision about the fee candidates must pay to have a candidate statement printed in election materials, \$2,400.

Council discussed in detail Monte Sereno's Housing Development Update for 2021, and how to provide community feedback on the current Draft Housing Element. The goal is for Monte Sereno homeowners wanting to buy, construct, or remodel houses to be confident that the Monte Sereno requirements also fulfill State and regional requirements. By June 21, staff will bring a draft Housing Element to the Council. It will be available for public input.

After Council passed a resolution to set a budget appropriation limit of \$8,119,835 for fiscal year 2022-2023, Council went on to discuss in great detail items in the developing budget. Staff was instructed to make expenses and sources of income specific and transparent, including those related to the design of the future community center on Highway 9.

**Linda King, Monte Sereno Observer**

## Saratoga City Council

The Saratoga City Council meets at 7:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Approved minutes are posted on the internet and available to all interested parties.

### June 1: The City Council

- Met with the Santa Clara County Fire Dept. and Sheriff's Office which presented updates regarding services provided during the last year.
- The Neighbors for Intelligent Development discussed the El Paseo de Saratoga project.
- The Youth Commission was appointed.

**Ginger Good, Saratoga Observer**

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## Political Book Club



The next Zoom meeting of our League Political Book Club will be at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, July 12. **The book to be discussed is A Brief History of Equality by Thomas Piketty. The world's leading economist of inequality** from France presents a short but sweeping and surprisingly optimistic history of human progress toward equality despite crises, disasters, and backsliding. A perfect introduction to the ideas developed in his monumental earlier books. Please contact Wade Ellis, [wade25@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wade25@sbcglobal.net), if you would like to join the group.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**LWV SWSCV**  
**Tues. July 12**

**LWV SWSCV**  
**Wed. July 27**

**LWV SWSCV**  
**Wed. Aug. 10**

**LWV SWSCV [Political Book Club](#)**  
**7:00pm via Zoom**

**[DOCUMENTARY FILM Showing](#)**  
**7:00pm**

**[Board Meeting](#)**  
**Virtual at 12:00pm**

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## 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.

## 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!](#)

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## 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, Al Stewart  
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](http://www.whitehouse.gov)  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
[www.feinstein.senate.gov](http://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://asmc.org/members/a28>

#### County

Supv. Joe Simitian  
[supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org)  
Supv. Mike Wasserman  
[mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org)  
Supv. Susan Ellenberg  
[supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org)



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**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](mailto:lwv.swscv@gmail.com)

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