



September 2022 VOTER Newsletter

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GENERAL ELECTION UPDATE

GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 8, 2022
Mail-in Ballots will be sent out the week of Oct. 10, 2022



In addition to voting on candidates for federal and state offices, Santa Clara County (SCC) voters will be voting on 1 major county-wide office, one Congressional District 16 office, 1 newly configured CA Assembly District 28, SCV Water Board seat 7, local candidate forums and ballot measures.

The **Leagues in Santa Clara County are co-sponsoring** these one time, virtual, county-wide or newly-configured district Candidate Forums. **You must register for each one separately in order to attend.**

*SCC Sheriff (Jensen/Jonson), hosted by San Jose/Santa Clara, on Wed., Sept.21st @ 6:00 p.m.

Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q5RrQg5QQYWRc4wwbAfbpg

*CA Assembly District 28 (Lawler/Pellerin), hosted by SWSCV on Thurs., Sept. 29th @7:00 p.m.

Register

here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lcuyvqDgiE9KbSY4Uni4SyEXRdAbpVRsR>

-

SCV Water District 7, (Eisenberg/Kremen), hosted by SWSCV on Thursday, Oct. 6th @7:00 p.m.

Register

here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkdeugrTspE9RuBHYB6fixbe-hyCvKzs3a>

*Congressional District 16 (Eshoo/Kumar), hosted by SWSCV on Friday, Oct. 7th @7:00 p.m.

Register Here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErdeGrqjMvG92jiFF_G4rsZQBjraiIO0iO

The LWV SWSCV is also hosting these local Candidate Forums:

Saratoga City Council on Tuesday, Sept. 13 @ 7:00 p.m.

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpd-mqpzsvH9A0IlacW4lIDun-KJ05krbp>

-

Los Gatos Saratoga High Sch. District on Thursday, Sept. 15 @ 7:00 p.m.

Register

here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtduuvrDwjHdI5Avq0BthiyF1n1v7d3yI5>

Campbell Elementary Sch. District (by area) on Tuesday, Sept. 20 @ 7:00 p.m.

Register

here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvfuiggjIoHtzCJ065GLxEjp9V7LSfjWtg>

Los Gatos Town Council on Thursday, Sept. 22 @ 7:00 p.m.

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpc-uuqjIqGdIemAa-8ZO1eMH2EIJZ65o8>

Campbell Union High Sch. District (by area) on Tuesday, Sept. 27 @ 7:00 p.m.

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtdemprDIqGNxh10-b4AEgSVCKGrn_B5wn

WHERE, WHEN, AND HOW TO VOTE: November 8, 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 Oct. 10, 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, secure Drop Box, or in person at a polling center.

Go to a Voter Center (open 4 to 11 days before the election) if you:

- Make a mistake and need a replacement ballot or you lose your ballot!
- Didn't receive your ballot and need one!
- Need material in another language or need accessible voting equipment!
- Register and vote on the same day!

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

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

VOTER SERVICES



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 at Voter's Edge <https://votersedge.org/ca> 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

BALLOT MEASURES: PROS AND CONS

This year, LWVC is creating a Pros and Con slide presentation and voice over for each of the state ballot issues. This is expected to be ready by September 30, 2022, and sent out to all the California Leagues. Due to this later delivery date, we will be hosting two live presentations on the Pros and Cons in early October. Watch for a special Eblast announcing these dates. Pros and Cons on local measures will also be included in these presentations.

VOTER'S EDGE

Find your ballot on VOTER'S EDGE – it's the best place to find unbiased information about candidates and measures on your ballot. Go to votersedge.com and enter your address and zip code to see a copy of your personal ballot. Thanks to our League member, Lois Smallwood, who is working with our local candidates to be sure their data is entered.

GOTV!!! HELP US TO MOTIVATE VOTERS TO GET TO THE POLLS

Here is a great way to volunteer for our League from the comfort of your own home!! Join our postcard campaign! Our League is joining with the Center for Common Ground and will purchase and supply you with the postcards, addresses, stamps, a script and all needed instructions. The postcards will let voters know that their vote counts and to check with their county registrar to make sure their registration is still active. Research has shown that this personal touch has made a big difference in voter turnout in past elections.

Please contact **Jackie Costanzo** if you are interested in volunteering to write postcards and I will order them. They come in packets of 20 and you can pick them up from my house in Campbell (227 Alice Avenue). The price of a postcard stamp is 44 cents. If you would like to pay for the stamps yourself and consider it a donation to our League, that would be great, but is not necessary.

To volunteer for our postcard writing campaign or for more information, contact Jackie Costanzo, jjc717@aol.com, and provide:

* **Your name, e-mail address, telephone number, and number of 20 card packets you would like!**

STATE OF THE NATION: US ELECTION SYSTEMS & SECURITY

Mark your calendars now! Saturday, October 8th · 10:00am – 12:00pm

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvd-ChqT0pEtf9EXB6jUfz5tM-v8iK3p49>

What can the League of Women Voters—and **you**—do to improve our elections? The LWV of SCC is sponsoring **two webinars** on “State of the Nation: Threats to Our Election Systems/Security and How We Can Better Engage Voters.”

On October 8, 2022, keynote speaker **Kim Alexander**, President of the California Voter Foundation (CVF), will explore what some major election problems are and offer possible solutions. In response to growing threats and harassment of election officials, **Kim and CVF are leading a nationwide, nonpartisan network of leaders across multiple sectors** working to support and protect election officials and election administration. Current priorities include improving election workers’ safety and security, curtailing election mis- and disinformation, increasing funding and support for election administration.

One of the promising approaches to improving elections, **Ranked Choice Voting, will be explored more in-depth at a second event on still-to-be-confirmed October 22nd or 29th**. The five LWVs of Santa Clara County support using RCV for all County offices—Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, Sheriff, and Assessor—and wrote [this August 10, 2022, letter](#) to the County Board of Supervisors recommending its use.

NATURAL RESOURCES



“Water is the messenger that’s delivering the bad news about climate change ... to your front door.”

In fact, a recent survey reported that water supply and drought constituted the most important environmental issue facing the state. And 71% of voters surveyed recently called California’s water shortage “extremely serious.”

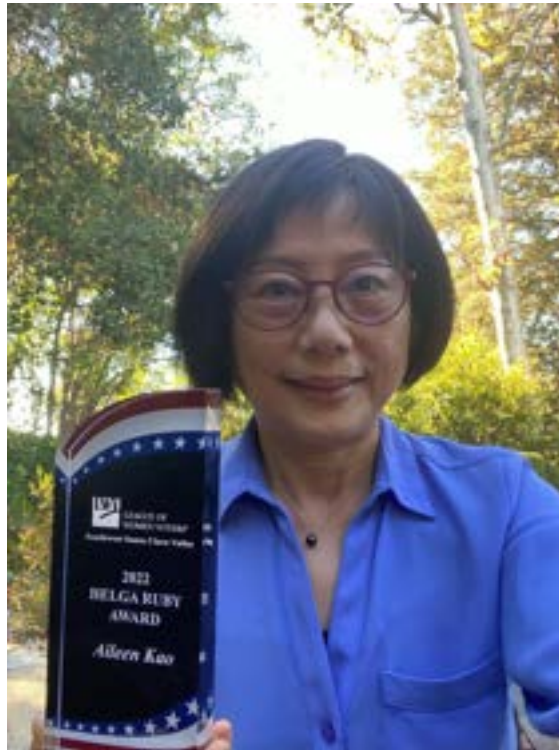
Expensive projects like dams, whose construction and operation exacerbate greenhouse gases and lose substantial water amounts to evaporation, are not the best solution. Water expert Jay Lund has estimated evaporation from California’s existing reservoirs and canals at about 2,000,000 acre-feet/year (2maf/y). Furthermore, dams silt up as they age, losing capacity. Algal blooms are also a growing problem.

So, instead of looking to dams or imported water, we can look to local sources. San Francisco Bay Area could save about 915,000 af/y just from water efficiency, reuse and stormwater capture, according to the Pacific Institute. This means water that we don’t have to import more from other parts of California. (Pacific Institute totals for all California water savings statewide: efficiency—from 2.0 to 3.1 maf/y; reuse—from 2.5 to 2.8 maf/y; urban stormwater capture—from 580,000 af/y to 3 maf/y.)

Clearly, we can do well with just efficiency, reuse and stormwater capture.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

MEET OUR MEMBERS



Aileen Kao, a retired high tech executive from Silicon Valley, now volunteers with a passion for several non-profit organizations, including the League of Women Voters. She currently serves as Director of Membership.

During her full-time corporate work life, Aileen was very active in local schools, served one term at Saratoga Union School District on the Board of Trustees in 1998, and at Saratoga High School as school site council in 2002. In 2004, she was elected as the first Asian American ever to serve as a city council member of the City of Saratoga and as the mayor in 2007.

She has always believed in civic engagement and has paved the way for other Asian Americans to get involved in democracy and public service.

Aileen earned an M.S. in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Rhode Island and a B.S. in pharmacy from Taipei Medical University. In retirement life, she enjoys biking with her husband and adult son. She also loves learning Spanish as a new tool to understand more of the world.

LWV ADVOCACY WORK



National

"LWV of Missouri sued Missouri to stay the enforcement of a law which criminalized voter engagement efforts, violating equal protection and the fundamental right to vote. Anyone who assists with more than 10 voter registration applications who fails to register with the state or be a registered voter is subject to severe criminal sanctions. The law prohibits "soliciting" a voter to obtain an absentee ballot, denying Missouri voters the help they need to vote and stifling LWV and NAACP voter registration activities. Read more [HERE](#)."

State

"The deadline for bills to pass both houses is midnight, Wednesday, August 31. Recent bills supported by LWVC:

Criminal Justice Reform: The Racial Justice for All Act (AB 256) would permit people harmed by convictions tainted by racial bias to vacate the conviction. The California Mandela Act (AB 2632) would place limits on solitary confinement beyond 17 hours.

Campaign Finance Reform: SB 1439 would extend to 12 months the period in which local elected officials may not accept contributions over \$250 from parties with an interest in a local decision and would require public disclosure of contributions before the local decision is made. AB 775 would preclude the use of pre-checked boxes to sign people up for recurring campaign contributions.

Climate: If Gov. Newsom signs SB 922, it will exempt certain projects from CEQA, including bike lanes and bus or rapid-transit projects. SC Resolution 53 declares a Climate Emergency.

Housing: AB 1466 is now law. It requires county recorders to remove racist language from deeds. AB 2817 would provide \$1billion rental assistance to unhoused citizens for permanent housing, based on pilot projects showing that rental subsidies of \$200-\$500 per month result in stable housing.

Education: AB 469 is now law. It requires the Student Aid Commission to help all students complete the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)."

Lisa Ratner, LWVPA VP/Advocacy

CITY NEWS & UPDATES



Campbell City Council

August: 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 had only one candidate (the incumbent). Candidate filing ended on August 17. The Council discussed options for either canceling the election in districts with zero or only one candidate or allowing the election to proceed, 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. The Council sent staff back to get more information before it would make the decision about going ahead with the election or canceling it.

The Council did agree to keep the \$300 fee for a candidate to place a statement in the Voter Guide. 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 be increased to \$2,700 in its present budget.

Campbell is in the process of adopting Objective Residential Design Standards consistent with state law. The adoption is proposed to coincide with the adoption of the new General Plan and Housing Element in March, 2023. Having the Objective Design Standards will enable the City to provide significant control over site layout and architectural design of new housing projects. It currently has limited or no control over them. The process includes numerous avenues of outreach to the community for feedback on the new Design Standards. The first phase will focus on priority housing types (townhomes/rowhomes, multi-family and mixed-use) for identified Housing Opportunity Sites.

Jackie Costanzo, Campbell Observer

Los Gatos Town Council

June - August: Los Gatos Town Council did not meet in July and the following summarizes items of interest to our membership that were covered in Council meetings held in June and August.

Town Councilmembers decided to maintain an existing ban on cannabis businesses in Los Gatos. In June, a public hearing was held with cannabis business consultants, Town staff, and residents. The consultants reported that their community survey of residents showed a lack of support for the sale of recreational cannabis products which typically account for 90% of total cannabis sales. Medical use sales generally comprise only 10% of the total. Town staff reported the increased cost of expected law enforcement needs would not be fully recoverable by revenue collected through sales tax and business license taxes.

After public hearings, the Draft 2040 General Plan was adopted by a 3-2 vote of the Town Council. The Environmental Impact Report was certified. Housing was the main element of concern. The General Plan aims for adding more than 3,100 housing units over the next two decades. This projected growth would be through: (1) increased development of high-density residential neighborhoods; (2) lot splits enabled by SB9; and, (3) more Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

Growth is limited in the hillsides amid concern for safety in high-fire-risk areas. A further concern was expressed regarding the increased costs to Los Gatos for infrastructure improvements and Town services needed to support this growth.

Lynda Jandron, Los Gatos Observer

Monte Sereno City Council

July: The Monte Sereno City Council announced that three Council positions need to be filled in the November 8, 2022, election. To declare oneself a candidate, the city's website instructions would have had to be acted upon before the August 12 deadline.

California requires all local governments to prepare an updated Housing Element every eight years. The City is currently preparing its update for the years 2023-2031. It must include a plan to accommodate an additional 193 new housing units. The City prefers these units be in the form of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). This type of home, rather than apartments, large houses, etc., will help maintain the rural character of Monte Sereno and should best meet the needs of current and future low-income residents.

The Council made it clear that it objects to mandated "one size fits all" housing policies. It said, for example, that State Senate Bills SB9 and SB10 both would strip away parts of local control of housing and zoning. The Council is continually working toward the goal of meeting the housing needs of the community.

A special meeting was scheduled by the Council to have been held at 7 p.m., July 21, to consider a possible reduction in building permit fees for projects that create an ADU; and, to update the planned community-wide outreach program for encouraging ADU creation.

During the next seven years, Monte Sereno residents may schedule a City representative to visit their home to answer questions regarding building an ADU on their property.

August: During August, focus remained on developing the City's 2023-2031 Housing Element which is open for public review until September 8. The detailed draft is posted at www.AtHomeinMonteSereno.com. It will be discussed at the Council's meeting on September 8. In order to achieve the housing goals mandated by the State of California, the City is conducting a campaign to motivate citizens to plan and declare Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) on their property. For a review of that effort, refer to the comments above under the July meetings report.

The Council was looking forward to its annual August picnic in Vasona Park. This popular, family-oriented event is for neighbors and civic leaders to relax in the summer sun. Earlier, on August 2, some Monte Sereno neighborhoods celebrated National Night Out.

Around August each year the Council reviews the progress of its Ad Hoc Committees. Each committee is formed to accomplish a specific task. Currently those committees scheduled to complete their task by the end of the year are: Veterans Memorial; Climate, which addresses concerns about climate change; Housing Legislation; and Operations and Outreach.

Linda King, Monte Sereno Observer

Saratoga City Council

The General Municipal Election of the City of Saratoga will be held on Tuesday, November, 8, 2022, for the purpose of filling three Council Member seats and submitting to the voters the following Ballot Measure regarding City Council term limits:

“Shall the City of Saratoga adopt an ordinance establishing term limits for members of the Saratoga City Council, limiting individuals to serving two terms and specifying the duration of various types of partial terms that are considered a term for the purposes of term limits?”

August: At its August 3 meeting, the Council approved an “Argument in Favor” for the City’s Term Limit Ballot Measure to be presented for voter consideration on the November 8, 2022, General Municipal Election ballot. Then, at its August 17 meeting, it approved a “Rebuttal Argument”, to be used if any “Argument Against” the City’s Term Limit Ballot Measure happens to be submitted.

The Council reconsidered and confirmed findings, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, of the public health officials’ recommendation to continue social distancing for COVID and to therefore continue the

option of holding City of Saratoga Brown Act-compliant meetings by teleconference.

Michelle Shimada, Saratoga Observer

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, September 3
@11am.*

The format of Coffee Talk is simple: each attendee brings in a news article which s/he summarizes 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 runs around 1 - 1 1/2 hours depending on the level of attendance. Coffee/water are provided by the host.

Coffee Talk is held on a monthly basis, rotating amongst various members' homes, with dates of future gatherings posted in the Voter. There is no need to commit to regular attendance - come when the desire to converse about the news inspires you!

If interested in attending the September 3 Coffee Talk, 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.

All attendees should be fully vaccinated and have at least two boosters.

POLITICAL BOOK CLUB



The next Zoom meeting of our League's Political Book Club will be at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 27. The book to be discussed is **The Destructionists: The Twenty-Five Year Crack-up of the Republican Party by Dana Millbank**. It chronicles the path the Republican Party has taken to its current state—interesting as we begin the current national midterm election campaign. Please contact Wade Ellis, wade25@sbcglobal.net, if you would like to join the group.

BOARD BYTES

May 3 - Aug 10, 2022



1. The Board thanks Board member Tom Picraux for doing a wonderful job serving a 2-year term as the Chair of the LWV County Council. LWV Palo Alto will Chair the County Council starting July 2022.
2. Board members Amy Vu, Sophia Kao and Eleanor Yick attended the National Convention during June 23-26 as delegates, and Victoria Zhang attended as an observer.
3. The Board voted to form a new Social Justice Committee which would cover a range of topics including education, healthcare, racial justice, etc.
4. The Board voted to hold monthly Board Meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30-9:30 p.m., starting September 2022.
5. All five Leagues in the County Council voted to support a recommendation for ranked choice voting to be sent to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LWV SWSCV
Thur. Sept 1

[Board Meeting](#)
7:30 pm via Zoom

LWV SWSCV
Sat. Sept 3

Coffee Talk
11:00 am

LWV SWSCV
Sept. 13-29

Candidate Forums
Most: 7:00 pm-8:00 pm via Zoom

LWV SWSCV
Tues. Sept 27

Political Book Club
7:00 pm via Zoom

LWV SWSCV
Sat. Oct 8

State of the Nation: Election Systems & Security
10:00 am 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 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 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.)
Housing/Transp., Liang Chao
Membership, Aileen Kao
Natural Resources - Meg Giberson
Observers, Al Stewart
Program - Ann Ravel
Public Relations, J Reynolds-Grabbe
Social Justice, Eleanor Yick (Int.)
Voter Editor, Victoria Zhang
Voter's Edge, Lois Smallwood
Voters Service, Eleanor Yick

ELECTED OFFICIALS

National

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

California

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

County

Supv. Joe Simitian
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Supv. Mike Wasserman
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Supv. Susan Ellenberg
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