

OF MONTEREY COUNTY

"THE VOTER" NEWSLET

Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / January 2021, Volume 93, Number 4

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 "Challenges Facing Assembly District 30"



oin Assemblymember Robert Rivas for a discussion on recent legislation in the California State Assembly and the COVID-related challenges we face moving forward. Mr. Rivas was elected to a second term in November 2020 earning 73 percent of the vote. He represents the inland Monterey Bay Area, parts of the northern Central Coast, as well as the outer San Jose suburb of Morgan Hill.

On the League website 'Voter's Edge,' Rivas explained his top three priorities, of interest to Californians both within and outside his District: Housing "Astronomical housing costs have made the dream of homeownership unaffordable for many residents of the 30th Assembly District, and costs are rising every year. California must develop more affordable housing."

Environment "In the Assembly, I am an advocate for renewable energy and environmental justice, and a fierce opponent of the special interests that damage our planet in the pursuit of profits."

Health Care "I believe access to quality health care is a fundamental right. California should set the example for the rest of the country by leading the way in expanding public access to high-quality (continued on page 2) healthcare."

How to Attend Our Virtual Meetings

The free January LWVMryCo General Meeting, presentation, and question-and-answer period will be conducted over the **Zoom Web Conferencing** platform. 11:45 am Zoom Check-In / 12 noon Meeting Begins

All current LWVMryCo members will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting via [LWVMryCo] the **Monday before the meeting** (e.g., Monday, January 11th for this month) with instructions on how to join the meeting.

Not a member? All LWVMryCo General Meetings are open to the public at no cost. Non-members can send a message to LWVMryCo@gmail.com requesting an invitation to also receive the link and instructions.

You can even join these meetings using a conventional telephone. Phone numbers for audio-only will be provided along with meeting numbers and codes. (continued from page 1)

Rivas grew up in Assembly District 30, in **San Benito County**. As a boy, he watched his grandfather fight for farmworkers' rights alongside **Dolores Huerta** and **Cesar Chavez**.

Inspired by his grandfather, Rivas chose to pursue a career in public service. He earned a **BA in Government** from **California State University Sacramento** and a **Masters' in Public Administration** from **San Jose State University**. Now in his second term as the Assemblymember representing District 30, he serves as **Chair of the**

Agriculture Committee and Vice-Chair of the California Legislative Latino Caucus.

In his first term, Rivas successfully passed a number of legislative bills, including AB-1783, The Farmworker Housing Act, and the California Farmworker COVID-19 Relief Package.

Rivas still lives in Hollister along with his wife, **Christen**, and their four-year-old daughter.

Beverly Bean



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JANUARY 2021



ell, 2020 was quite a ride, wasn't it! I imagine most of us won't exhale completely until sometime around January 20. And then we only have to wait patiently until we get vaccinated before we can

take that long awaited deep breath. It's coming folks, it's coming. While we are sequestered and have some extra time on our hands, let me make two suggestions, both having to do with your membership:

First, let's become more informed and maybe even more active in LWV causes. Start now by helping create our program for the next two years. Let's look at where we are and where we want to be and advise our State Board how they should proceed. Start by going to https://my.lwv.org/california/program-advocacy and studying both the "Action Positions and Policies (updated 2020)" and "Program Planning Kit 2021-2023" documents. Our Program Planning meeting is on February 1st (details on page 5) to set our course, and you can join in with your informed suggestions.

Second, after reviewing State League's planning tools, go back and have a look around the website (*LWVC.org*). If it's been a while since you had a good look at it, you will be amazed how much well-organized data is there. Set aside time each day and just immerse yourself in the deep

resources (I lose track of time when I do).

And if you find State League's information fascinating, you are in for a treat if you haven't visited our own

LWVMryCo.com website recently. Webmaster Bob Evans has updated and rearranged so much that it's like finding fruit on a tree to go there. You might, if you let yourself, recall whiffs of past memories at League events that I know you will enjoy. Allow yourself time to really explore the site: you will learn and you will enjoy the ride.



And finally, don't miss the updated VERIFYIT! It's the

free, online educational game that helps anyone practice examining news articles, current questions about voting, and facts about our government. Explore the Verifylt! game at https://verifyit.buzz or via our League's website. It was developed to appeal to people of all ages but especially to young voters and future voters – ages 16 to 29 - to encourage them to become informed and active participants in their democracy.

You can continue to count on the League to help you get educated and stay active. Get informed, then advocate without waiting for the next election season!

Howard Fosler

VOTER SERVICES IN ACTION



WVMC took on the challenge of operating polling places for two precincts at the November 2020 Presidential Election. The voting facility was set up at the Community Center at Soper Field in Seaside.

Many extra workers were needed to handle all the new jobs required by COVID-19 protocols, such as receiving vote-by-mail ballots outside the building and managing social distancing among voters waiting to vote in-person.

Fortunately, we received the workers needed with League volunteers and through recruitment by League members of family, friends, and other organizations. In total, LWVMryCo polling places were staffed by 14 League members, 20 friends and family, and 4 American Association of University Women (AAUW) members.

Thank you to our League volunteers: Beth THANKS TO ALL Benoit, Bob Evans, Myrleen Fisher, VOLUNTEE Carol Kaplan, Judith Lehman, Dennis Mar, Marilyn Maxner, Bruce Merchant, Roberta Myers, Anton Prange, Mystere Sapia, Suzanne Schmidt, Sylvia Shih, and Philomene Smith.

Thank you to friends and family of League members: Laura Arnow, Jay Asling, Joe Asling, Ron Baxter, Anne Canright, David Canright, Frank Degnan, Seth Gibson, Adrienne Harris, Lisa Hayes, John Kern, Debby Majors-Degnan, Lynn Moncher, Abby Pfeiffer, Melissa Pickford, Cathy Seyferth, Frances Spradlin, Gary Spradlin, Robin Winfield, and Kathleen Wojtkowski.

Thank you to AAUW members for helping at the League polling place: Jane Cross, Nancy Edwards, Pat Gotch, and Betty Sproule.

Finally, thank you to League members who recruited family and friends: **Beth Benoit**, **Bob Evans**, **Tamara Harris**, **Dennis Mar**, **Roberta Myers**, and **Tama Olver**.

Bob Evans and **Dennis Mar** served as the two **Precinct Inspectors**. They made several site visits, designed floor plan diagrams, created work flow charts, held a Zoom social meeting, and organized rehearsal on-site the day before the election.

With the COVID-19 protocol, voters waiting to cast an in-person ballot would have to queue up outside the building. Bob and Dennis concocted a scheme so that voters did not have to wait in any long line as has been seen in photos from elsewhere in the country.

If masses of voters appeared at once, each would be given a numbered ticket. The voters could then wait in their vehicles or in the adjoining park.

When space became available in the polling place, a clerk using an outdoor, portable public address system would summon the voter to enter the building ("Now serving voter number 54!"). Thanks to Beth Benoit for providing the equipment.

Fortunately, Californians took voteby-mail to heart. The outside clerks collected stacks of ballots dropped

off by voters. The number of in-person voters was less than at previous elections at those precincts.

Remembering the 2008 Presidential Election, we expected a crowd at the 7am opening. However only seven voters were waiting when the polls opened, and these were handled quickly. There was a flurry of activities from 3 to 4pm. But outside of that hour, the day proceeded at a quiet, steady pace. The ticket system never had to be implemented, much to Bob and Dennis' relief.

Dennis Mar



VOTERS EDGE ELECTION 2020 WRAP UP

Overall during this last very tough election

season, Voter's Edge was a success, and much appreciated by candidates and voters.

But we also recognise that our League needs to do more to get candidates registered and voters to use this valuable site, more so in areas of Monterey County outside the Peninsula.

In Monterey County, Voter's Edge (votersedge. org) ended the election season with a 47 percent candidate participation rate, slightly under the average rate of 54 percent in California overall.
 We received quite a few notes of gratitide

from candidates who recognized the value of this free platform to get more meaningful and in-depth information to voters about their experience, priorities and how they would address the issues: "Thank you, it's a great public service!"; "I like what you have going with Voter's Edge, thank you for making it easier for the citizens to understand everyone's viewpoints."; "Thank you! We just updated a few final items! What

And if you read the front page of this issue, you can find a great example of how a candidate such as **Assemblymember Robert Rivas** made use of his Voters Edge page to communicate with voters (and he won re-election too)!

a wonderful service!"

In the run up to our next election, I hope you'll join me in getting local candidates to sign up to Voters Edge.

Arlene Guest

AFTER THE VOTING: A SAMPLING OF LOCAL RESULTS ACROSS MONTEREY COUNTY

he Monterey County Weekly described a "new wave of candidates: young, ambitious and engaged." Voices of Monterey Bay observed "an infusion of upstart enthusiasm, fresh blood and plenty of upsets."

First the overview: a record high 206,917 residents registered to vote. A record high 80.2% voted. A record high 74.7% voted A record high number of residents registered to vote and voted in the November 2020 Monterey County elections.

by mail, even though there were a record high 85 polling places. The Monterey County Elections Department, headed by Claudio Valenzuela, deserves kudos for preparing for every nuance in the COVID-19 problematic drama.

Wendy Root Askew is the new 4th District Supervisor. She won a convincing victory over Salinas City Councilmember Steve McShane, "convincing" in the parlance of hard fought, high cost, high-profile races. 52.9% of the vote beats 47.1%, but campaign expenditures at the latest report were also record-breaking. McShane raised nearly \$1 million in the losing effort, while Askew raised about half that.

Mary Adams, 5th District Supervisor, was also in this election cycle. Since she was unopposed in the March primary, she walked into her second

4-year term.

City of Salinas has a new Mayor, Kembley Craig,

in a closer outcome than many predicted. Craig, with 36.2% beat **Chris Barrera** with 33.0%, in a field of five. This is a fairly small plurality win in the County's largest city. Also three new council members were elected. It will take some time to see how the leadership dynamics play out.

In **Seaside**, the contest for **Mayor** saw incumbent **Ian Oglesby** handily beat two challengers, mainly

incumbent City Councilmember Jon Wizard. A new young Hispanic Councilmember was elected. Alexis Garcia-Arrazola.

Marina will see changes. The city moved to district elections for the first time. Two new Councilmembers are Kathy Biala and Christina Medina Dirksen (who defeated incumbent Gail **Morton** in a three-way race).

In **Pacific Grove**, out of a field of six candidates, two new Councilmembers were elected, Luke Coletti and Chaps Poduri, and Nick Adams was re-elected.

No changes in Monterey. Mayor Clyde Roberson handily won reelection as, as did two Councilmembers, Dan Albert and Allan Haffa.

Del Rey Oaks will have two new **Councilmembers**: Scott Donaldson and Kim Shirley. Mayor Alison Kerr was reelected.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District will see changes. Two newcomers won: Amy Anderson beat incumbent Gary Hoffmann to represent Carmel/Carmel Valley. Karen Paull beat longtime political figure Rudy Fischer to represent Pacific Grove/Pebble Beach.

To conclude this short County-wide summary, these winners took between 65 and 75% of the votes: Biden-Harris, Panetta, Laird, Stone and Rivas. George Riley **GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT:** THE CAL AM BUYOUT? MONTEREY **PENINSULA'S** WATER SUPPLY?

Two major and timely local water issues that everyone wants to know more about!

Stand by for more information on the **February LWVMC General Meeting** presentation via Zoom by Dave Stoldt, **General Manager, Monterey**

Peninsula Water Management District.

Stoldt and the District are deeply involved in both issues. He will present the latest information, discuss the status of each (including facts about calendar consequences), and take questions from the audience.

You will want to be at this meeting! See back page and check your email for more information.

George Riley



★★★ PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING 2021



rogram Planning starts in February for new and updated League Studies. Members are invited to participate in a Program Planning (PP) meeting on Zoom, February 1st at 12:30 (directly before the regular Board meeting which begins at 1:30 pm).

This meeting's purpose is to recommend studies or updates that LWV California should undertake in the coming year. Members will also be asked if new studies should be undertaken at the local level.

This is your chance to help formulate activities in the coming year. All current Members will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting via [LWVMryCo] by Friday, January 29.

All Board approved recommendations will be topic for discussion by our League at our Annual Meeting in May, and recommendations for State programs forwarded to LWVC for State Convention.

Janet Brennan

LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: AMY ANDERSON



my Anderson has been a member of LWVMryCo since the late 1990's, when she moved to the Monterey Peninsula.

Her one big League committee assignment was in 2009, with **voting rights and security** as the major issue. Amy's committee enhanced a pending national League voting rights resolution so that it promoted the use of hand-marked paper ballots for elections. "Those ballots are secure." she explains. "They

can be recounted and that's a really big deal." Amy did the computer work and produced banners to promote the committee's idea. Then she and two other members of her committee, **George Riley** and **Beverly Bean**, traveled to the national League convention in Atlanta to present their idea. "We got our change passed with more than 90 percent of the vote," she says. "That was a huge deal!"

Born in **Pasadena**, Amy learned to play the cello and love classical music as a child. In addition to classical music, her education and wide range of interests include women's rights, fashion design and biology. "I was in college for a long time because I kept changing my major," she says. "When I finally settled down, I got a **BA** in music from **UC** Berkeley. I started my own clothing design company and worked with that in the Bay Area for about seven years." Then she went back to

school at **Cal State Hayward** to fill out her biology requirements. "I took the courses I would need for grad school and then got my **PhD** in biology from **UC Santa Barbara**."

After completing her PhD studies, Amy spent two years as a research associate at the **University** of Colorado and then became a biology professor at **Oregon State University**. While at OSU, she

says, "I was on the University President's Commission on the Status of Women. We did a big study on how female graduate students were being treated in comparison with male students across the entire university—whether it was taking them longer to graduate, whether they were getting the same opportunities to do research, whether they were getting paid the same for projects and more."

Amy taught at OSU until 1995,

when her husband, **George Somero**, got an offer from **Stanford University** to become **Director of the Hopkins Marine Station**. So they moved to Carmel Valley. "That was a big change for me," Amy recalls. "I'd been working 65 hours a week and I hadn't had time for music."

Soon after moving here, Amy started playing her

cello in the Community Orchestra at MPC. "Then I was recruited to be on the Board of Chamber Music Monterey Bay, and I've been there for 23 years now. For 18 of those years, I've been President," she says.

Amy also has been very involved with our local water issues. "I got to know George Riley, so I got involved with Measure O, the one that didn't pass. Then I was very active in promoting Measure J and we managed to succeed with that one." In 2020, Amy was elected to the Monterey Peninsula Water

Management District as its District 5 Director. "The Peninsula has been struggling with its water situation since the 1930's and there have been six ballot initiatives to address it," she says.

In addition to her work in the fields of both music and science, Amy is a hiker and a dog lover. "We don't have any children, so we're dog people," she says. "We've got two standard poodles."

Amy attends LWVMC meetings when her busy & minimum minimum minimum meetings when her busy schedule allows and says she particularly appreciates the speakers, such as Mike Clancy and his October presentation on combating climate change denial.

She has a plaque on her wall at home titled "The ABC's of Life." One of the suggestions it includes defines both Amy's and the League's goals. It reads: **Zealously Support a Worthy Cause**. "My calling is to be involved in things I have a strong commitment to, things where I think I can make a difference," she says.

Both Amy Anderson and LWVMC are definitely doing their best to achieve that goal.

Nancy Baker Jacobs



"What's Behind Climate Change Denial? video with Mike Clancy, Citizens Climate Change Lobby

Related videos: "Climate Change: Global Causes, Local Impacts and the Way Ahead,' and "Impacts of Climate Change on Sea Levels & Forest Fires" Plus volunteer, join, donate and learn about League action & policies!

> Bob Evans. Website Coordinator

★★★ CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION: LWV CALIFORNIA CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS



edistricting will be happening all over the state in 2021. The Citizens Redistricting Commission is responsible for drawing new Congressional, State Legislative, and Franchise Tax Board districts.

The LWVC is monitoring all the Commission hearings and is working with a coalition of other organizations including PICO, Common Cause, NALEO, MALDEF, California Calls, Mi Familia Vota and others.

In addition, new lines will be drawn for county boards of supervisors, city councils, school boards, community college district boards. and special districts all over the state.

This presents the opportunity for Leagues to be involved in educating their communities.

The League is committed to ensuring that redistricting at all of the levels is transparent, includes robust public input, and results in fair maps.

To learn about the resources available, including training and speakers for your local League, check out the LWVC members only website.

Upcoming Training Sessions:

Tuesday, January 5th - noon to 1 pm https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ tZwvdemtpjMjGN2ncg4x4HzBpFjstHH3DNXG

Wednesday, January 6 - 7 to 8pm https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ tZ0oce6orjouHNJtBXkWlCbPjUWfo0SsecSg

Please join one of them to learn about redistricting and how to help your communities set themselves up for representation over the next 10 years.

> To learn more about redistricting in your community, or to find out how you can participate in League work on redistricting, contact redistricting@ lwvc.org.

League of Women Voters California



Join the League of Women Voters of Monterey County



Renew Your LWVMryCo Membership!

Renewal reminders were sent in July. If you haven't yet renewed, please send your annual fee (and perhaps a donation) using the form below, or at http://lwvmryco.org.

Timely responses are appreciated as they help keep our local chapter strong.

New Members Wanted!

Any person of voting age, male or female, may be a member of the League.

Use the form below or contact: LWVMC Membership Director Mail to LWVMryCo PO Box 1995 Monterey, CA 93942

Checks payable to LWVMC

Membership Levels

	\$250+ Carrie Chapman Catt \$200 Sojourner Truth \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton \$100 Susan B. Anthony \$ 95 Household (2 persons, 1 address) \$ 65 Single membership
Name	e(s)
Addre	ss
City	State Zip Code
Phone	e e-mail
	Send e-mail reminders for luncheons Call to remind me of luncheons Scholarship requested Membership dues & contributions to LWVMryCo are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund. However, donations to the League of

Women Voters of California Education Fund

(LWVCEF) are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

12 Robertson Place, Del Rey Oaks CA 93940 (831) 521-9335 alison4dro@gmail.com

198 Hacienda Carmel, Carmel 93923 (831) 596-8708

Change of Email Addresses MaryEllen Dick

maryellen777@outlook.com

Anne Herendeen

anneherendeen@sbcglobal.net

*Please send updates to*Janet Brennan, Membership Director

LWVMC WEBMASTER WANTED

Help maintain our website:

http://lwvmryco.org
On-the-job training/guidance as needed.

contact: Bob Evans

VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR WANTED FOR SALINAS VALLEY!



Elections are over, but we still need stronger outreach to the voters of Salinas in 2021!
This is a part time but crucial position to better serve the Valley by organizing candidate forums, Pro & Con presentations, and encouraging Salinas Valley citizens to vote!
Mentoring and guidance provided as needed.
Contact Howard Fosler
LWVMryCo@gmail.com

LWV CALIFORNIA HOSTS LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW "TOWN HALLS"

ocal Leagues are encouraged to interview their state legislators annually. It's a powerful way to let them know about our League, what policies are of concern to us, and where they stand on the issues.

Town Halls are being held to help members learn about the process and find out what other Leagues are doing. Though we're encouraged to select our own area, we can join any session:

January 6th - 12 to 1pm, Southern California (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5162639611521510923)

January 7th - 6 to 7pm, Central Coast & Valley (https://register.gotowebinar.com/

register/6113001387506532109)

January 8 - 12 to 1pm, Northern California
(https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/
420801103207886605)

A "Legislative Interview Kit" is available at: https://my.lwv.org/california/legislative-interviews.

Issue highlights this year: land use and climate change; housing, homelessness, zoning, affordability; equitable recovery from COVID-19.

Questions?

Contact **Gloria Chun Hoo** ghoo@lwvc.org or **Andrew Muse-Fisher** amusefisher@lwvc.org.



Office Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Avenue (corner of Irving), New Monterey CA 93940

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

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LWVMryCo Calendar 2021

JANUARY

LWVMC Board Meeting **Zoom Online** Monday, 4th January, 1:30pm contact: LWVmryco@gmail.com to request [LWVMryCo] meeting phone number and code

LWVC Citizens **Redistricting Commission Training Zoom Online** Tuesday, 5th January, noon to 1pm, or Wednesday, 6th January, 7 to 8pm (see page 7 for registration information)

LWVC "Legislative Interview" Town Hall: Central Coast & Valley Online Webinar Thursday, 7th January, 6 to 7pm (see page 9 for registration information)

LWVMC General Meeting Wednesday, 13th January, 11:45am "Challenges Facing Assembly District 30" Guest Speaker Assemblymember Robert Rivas

(see page 1 for details and registration)

FEBRUARY

LWVMryCo Program Planning Meeting **Zoom Online** Monday, 1st February, 12:30pm directly followed by LWVMryCo Board Meeting Monday, 1st February, 1:30pm

LWVMryCo General Meeting Wednesday, 10th February, 11:45am "CalAm Buyout & Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Update" Guest Speaker

Dave Stoldt, General Manager MPWMD

Centennial / Publicity, Natural Resources and other Committee Meetings **POSTPONED** until further notice.

NOTE: "How to Attend Our Virtual Meetings" on page 1. You can also attend via telephone: phone numbers for audio only are also provided along with Zoom meeting numbers and codes.