

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / October 2022, Volume 95, Number 2

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

California State Ballot Propositions: Pros & Cons

At our October meeting, League members **Marilyn Maxner** and **Marianne Gawain** will present arguments for and against the seven California State Ballot issues. Also revealed will be lists of endorsers and major money contributors for each proposition. Information is from the **LWV of California "Easy Voter Guide"** (easyvoterguide.org), **"Pros & Cons"** (cavotes.org/news/ProsCons), and **"In Depth"** (https://lwvc.org/sites/default/files/downloads/Nov2014-ProsCons-color_0.pdf).

Other sources are the **California Secretary of State's "Official Voter Information Guide"** (<https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/>), the **California Legislative Analyst's Office** evaluations (<https://lao.ca.gov/BallotAnalysis/Propositions>), and **"Voter's Edge"** (<https://votersedge.org/ca>). Also reviewed are newspaper editorials and third-party websites that track political donations. **Note that local county or city measures will not be discussed.**

With only seven propositions on the ballot, California voters will be faced with fewer decisions than in recent elections.

\$\$\$ Spending on Propositions 26 and 27 is expected to exceed the amount spent on any previous California ballot propositions!

(continued on page 2)



How to Attend Our Virtual Meetings

The free **October LWVMryCo General Meeting** and presentation described above will use the **Zoom Web Conferencing** platform and **Zoom Chat** for Q&A.
11:45 am Zoom Check-In / 12 noon Meeting Begins.

All current LWVMryCo members will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting from lwvmryco@gmail.com on the **Monday before the meeting** (e.g., on **Monday, October 10th** for this month) with instructions on how to join the meeting.

Not a member? Non-members can send a message to LWVMryCo@gmail.com requesting an invitation to receive the link and instructions. **You can also join by phone:** numbers for audio-only will be provided along with meeting numbers and codes.

Can't get into the meeting using link/instructions?

Call **Tama Olver (831) 869-2748.**

More details of November's General Election Ballot propositions and the LWV California's recommendations, start at the bottom of this page.

A similar Pros & Cons program will be presented live at the **Aromas Community Grange Hall**

on **October 2nd**. For more information contact: **Stephen Johnson**, stephentj77@gmail.com. Other organizations may request Pros & Cons presentations from our League, time permitting before the November 8, 2022 election.

Dennis Mar

★ ★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OCTOBER 2022 ★ ★

We hear much about the importance of engaging in physical exercise lest our muscles wither. The analogy in political life is clear: **like our physical muscles, our democratic powers are strengthened through use and weakened by disuse.** This month I write to thank you for fortifying our democracy through your engagement.

A recent essay in **Foreign Affairs** by **Erica Chenoweth** and **Zoe Marks**

on "**Why Autocrats Fear Women**" explores the interplay between misogyny and authoritarianism, and conversely, women's empowerment and democracy. These relationships are complex but suffice it to say that women's empowerment is not merely an outcome of democratization or modernization. In fact, women's insistence on full inclusion in society has frequently catalyzed democratic movements and been critical to their success.

The suffragists who founded the League of Women Voters were visionary in understanding



History tidbit: Did you know that the term "boycott" derives from an episode in Irish history when the female domestic workers of County Mayo refused to work for an absentee British landlord named **Charles Boycott**?

that women could exert power even in a society that mostly limited them to a subservient role and tried to restrict them to the domestic sphere.

While we must acknowledge that many of those suffragists were blind to racism, they founded an organization that has become one of our country's most vigorous and respected champions of democratic inclusion for all sectors of society. I'm honored to stand with all

of you as part of the League.

As you read *The Voter*, I hope you'll take satisfaction in what we are accomplishing here in Monterey County. I invite you to consider ways in which you might work with your fellow League members to amplify our impact.

Finally, I urge you to share your copy of *The Voter* with a friend or acquaintance who might appreciate the rewards of League membership.

Marianne Gawain

★ ★ LWVC EVALUATION OF 2022 PROPOSITIONS ★ ★

The LWV of California studies issues concerning governance, society, the environment, and justice. From each study, the League creates a policy position. Propositions conforming to League positions get positive recommendations. Propositions with favorable and unfavorable aspects get "neutral"

recommendations. If a proposition covers issues not studied, no recommendation is given.

The complete analysis, and more about how the League makes recommendations can be found at <https://lwvc.org/vote/elections/ballot-recommendations>.

2022 Propositions and LWVC Recommendations

Prop 1: Reproductive Freedom

A recent decision by the US Supreme Court held that the US Constitution does not protect the right to abortion. While access to abortion is no longer federally protected, we can safeguard access in California. **Proposition 1 will amend the California Constitution to enshrine the fundamental right to choose an abortion, use or refuse contraceptives (birth control), and make individual decisions on reproductive health.** These rights are consistent with existing state laws and our state constitutional rights to privacy and equal protection.



 **LWVC says YES on Proposition 1**

Prop 26: In-Person Sports Betting in Tribal Casinos

 LWVC hasn't studied issues relevant to measure. **LWVC offers no analysis**


Prop 27: Online Sports Betting

 LWVC hasn't studied issues relevant to measure. **LWVC offers no analysis**

Prop 28: Funding Arts and Music Education

California does not provide the level of financial support for its schools that the League considers adequate. Prop 28 would provide increased financial resources (about \$1 billion per year), specifically for music and arts education, and ensure that low-income schools benefit.

Despite this, **LWVC is neutral on Prop 28 because making decisions about budget expenditures through ballot measures is not good policy**—it reduces legislators' flexibility to react to future needs (e.g., climate change, health care, housing). LWVC is concerned that Prop 28 has an unrealistically low cap (1%) on administrative expenses.

 **LWVC recommendation is Neutral**

Prop 29: Kidney Dialysis Clinic Requirements

Requires operators of chronic dialysis clinics to have a minimum of one licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant at a clinic whenever patients are being treated and offer the same level of care to all patients regardless of how payment is made. Currently, clinics are required to have a medical director and be staffed with dialysis nurses and technicians, with disagreement about whether the presence of a doctor is always necessary. **LWVC questions why voters should be deciding questions of recordkeeping and medical staffing, and there is uncertainty about the costs and benefits.**

 **LWVC recommendation is Neutral**

Prop 30: Income Tax on Millionaires for Electric Cars

Proposal to increase the income tax for very wealthy Californians, using proceeds on programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and wildfires. Includes thoughtful proposals for moving to electrify our transportation which LWVC supports. However, making decisions about budget expenditures through ballot measures is not good policy—reducing legislators' flexibility for future needs, increased by the huge size of the program, and possibly forcing deep cuts in basic programs (e.g., healthcare, childcare, housing).

 **LWVC recommendation is Neutral**

Prop 31: Yes or No to Banning Flavored Tobacco Products

In 2020, California banned the in-person sale of flavored tobacco products (e.g., candy-flavored e-cigarettes, menthol cigarettes). **A "yes" on Prop 31 is a vote to keep the ban in place.** In California, 96% of high school e-cigarette users choose flavored products. Nationally, 80% of minors using tobacco started out with flavored products. Prop 31 is an important step to protect the health and safety of Californians.

 **LWVC says YES on Prop 31**

Dennis Mar

★ LWVMC NEW MEMBER PROFILE: ★ AMANDA WHITMIRE

Amanda Whitmire joined LWVMC earlier this year at the suggestion of her friend and fellow new member, **Carolyn Swanson**. Like Carolyn, Amanda recently served as one of our chapter's four delegates to the **League of Women Voters National Convention** via Zoom, and she reported her impressions of the convention in last month's Voter (*September 2022, p. 8*).



*"I'm married to **Curt Whitmire**, who works for **NOAA** (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)," she explains. "His home office is in Seattle, but there's also a Monterey office. He was able to keep his same job but transfer his locality to Monterey" when Amanda was offered the job at Hopkins Marine Station.*

Amanda and Carolyn first met pre-pandemic, when both were on a bus headed to Sacramento for a rally in support of funding for teachers and schools. *"Since 2018, I've been a **Trustee of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District**, which includes Monterey, Del Rey Oaks, Seaside, and Marina schools,"* she says. Her district arranged the school bus that transported Monterey Peninsula rally participants to the state capitol.



The Whitmires have two children, sixth-grader **Avery** and third-grader **Maxwell**. Currently, they're also hosting an exchange student from Kyrgyzstan who's a sophomore at Monterey High. *"A friend asked if we'd ever thought about having an exchange student,"* Amanda explains. *"It interested us, so she put us in touch with a nonprofit organization that arranged everything. It's fun to be a high school mom for a change—it's a whole new world."*

Currently serving as **President of the MPUSD Board**, Amanda's term in that position expires this fall. However, she was pleased to learn that, unlike in 2018, she won't have to run for the school board this year. *"Nobody filed to run against me. Since I have no opposition, I get to keep focusing on doing the work instead of campaigning,"* she says.

When she can find time in her frantically busy schedule, Amanda says she loves to garden. *"We have a big vegetable garden on our property and a chicken coop with five chickens. I also do a lot of fiber art—crocheting, knitting, weaving, sewing, that sort of thing,"* she explains.



Amanda and her family moved here from Corvallis, OR, in 2015, when she took the job of librarian for **Hopkins Marine Station**, part of **Stanford University**. She grew up in Huntington Beach, CA, and then earned her **BS in Aquatic Biology** at **UC Santa Barbara**. After that, she went on to **Oregon State University**, where she got her **PhD in Oceanography** and met her husband.

Another of Amanda's passions, revealed in her annual meeting comments in last month's Voter, is advocating for a solution to homelessness. *"Several local community organizations are involved in addressing this issue, but my involvement is primarily through the school district."* She reports that *"more than 20 percent of our students qualify as homeless under the*



government's definition. That includes families doubled and tripled up in housing, ones living in a motel and having to move frequently and suffering from food insecurity, as well as those living in a car or on the streets. It's hard to come to school and be ready to learn when you're hungry and sleep-deprived."

Amanda's particularly happy that California has extended its policy of free meals for all public school students for another year. "Before that happened, some students didn't want to self-identify as needy," she explains. "Now everybody gets the meals, regardless of family income or housing status."

When asked what she'd like to see the League of Women Voters accomplish in the future, Amanda protested that she's too new a member to know about all the areas in which we're involved. However,



she did say, "It feels like our democracy is at risk nowadays

and there's such a broad spectrum of things the League can do to protect democracy. So that's the main thing I'd like to encourage."

Nancy Baker Jacobs

What's WORTH SEEING at LWVMRYCO.ORG

General Meeting videos: <https://my.lwv.org/california/monterey-county/videos>



"Local Water Update: Expanded Supply, CalAm Buyout, Litigation, Community Needs and Demands" (September 14, 2022)

This very popular (we had a record number of attendees) and interesting

status report by **Dave Stoldt, GM Water Management District**, outlined steps taken so far to acquire **California American Water** (approved by voters in 2018 through **Measure J**), with an update on expanded water supply, various litigations, and plans for the future.

"Managing Our Trash: Trash to Treasure"

(March 9, 2022)

If you're still curious about the new composting rules, rabid about recycling, troubled about toxics, and want to know more about the sustainability of Monterey County's recycling and landfill, listen to "trash talk" from local recycling experts!



Bob Evans ("retired" Website Coordinator)

Fun Facts from Local League History

Last month I began a new column gleaned from the Monterey Peninsula League of Women Voters' first "monthly bulletin" Sept/Oct 1934.

In the **November 1934 bulletin**, various "Study Classes" (e.g., on Education, International Cooperation, Economic Affairs, and Legal Status of Women) were scheduled to be held in various members' homes in Carmel, Seaside, Pacific Grove, and Monterey.

It also mentioned that, "Later in year the subject of 'Women in Industry' will be given consideration" led by "...Miss



Brownie Lee Jones of San Francisco, a young woman conversant with the condition of women throughout the country, as well as with the Federal and State laws affecting them..."

Under the heading "**Why Join the League?**" the bulletin said because, "It is the only national unpartisan organization existing solely for the political education of women" and that "It develops the intelligence of the individual voter through forums, discussions, and broadcasting information on public affairs."

Regina Doyle



**LWVMC
Members
Handbook
2022-2023**
now available
at "Members
Only" section of
lwvmryco.org

It includes: **"Who We Are", "What We Stand For,"** and **"What Governs Us"**. You can download, print out, or view all 64 pages online.

This edition was produced by the
Handbook Committee:

Marilyn Maxner, Dennis Mar and Beverly Bean.

For a printed version mailed via USPS contact:
Beverly Bean, LWVMryCo@gmail.com



Work at the Polls "Team Up For Democracy"

Volunteers needed
(training provided), to
work a 4-hour shift at
**Marina Community
Center** or **Seaside
Buddhist Temple**
polling places.



Contact: **Dennis Mar** or **Pamela Stewart**



Call for Voter Service Assistance & Volunteers

Teacher & Parent Voter Education: Help identify
librarians, administrators, student leaders, &
teachers to bring civics education into schools.

Contact: **Carol Kaplan** or **Linda Deutsch**

Voter Service Committee Zoom Meeting

Monday, October 10, 3:30pm

Contact: **Pamela Stewart** or **Jeanne Turner**



**Join the League of
Women Voters of
Monterey County**



FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Students may join LWVMryCo via
the website without paying membership fees.

New Members Wanted!

*Any person age 16 or older
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 or
online with credit card or PayPal**

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**
- ☐ (free) **Student (16-24 years, enrolled in
a diploma or degree program)**

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

☐

*Please do NOT publish my address, phone
number or email in The Voter newsletter*

Florence Curlee Scholarships

are available to pay household or single
membership fees. Contact:

Janet Brennan, Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

*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

🌀Welcome New Members!🌀
Sandi Austin

🌀Change of Phone / eMail🌀
Lynn Kennedy

Carolyn Bluemle

🌀Thanks to Our Generous Donors🌀
Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund
Diane Cotton / Bill Leone \$65

Jenny McAdams

LWVC Education Fund
Fran Gaver \$150

Robin Wohler-Rakouska

LWVMC General Fund
Konny Murray \$285

Kathleen Wojtkowski

Send Updates to Janet Brennan LWVMryCo@gmail.com



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



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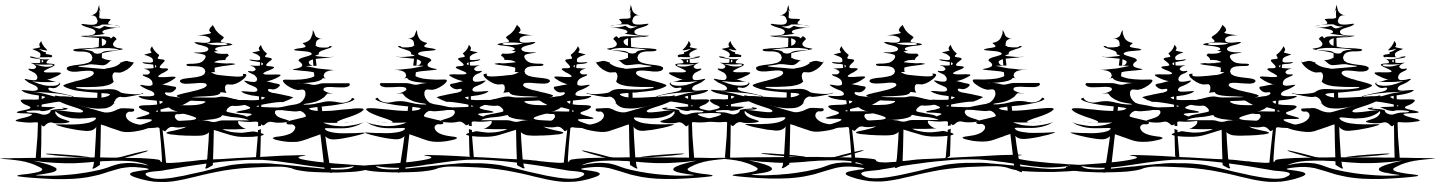


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LWVMryCo Calendar 2022



★ **OCTOBER** ★

NOTE: All meetings held online via Zoom unless otherwise specified

Ballot Issues Pros & Cons
Sunday, 2nd October, 3pm
live at Aromas Grange Hall

Stephen Johnson/stephentj77@gmail.com

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 3rd October, 11:30am
Board Members to be sent link/instructions
contact: Marianne Gawain

Online Sheriff's Forum
Tuesday, 4th October, 7pm
Members and Non-Members must register
online: <http://lwvmryco.org>

Voter Service Committee Meeting
Monday, 10th October, 3:30pm
contact: Pam Stewart or Jeanne Turner

LWVMC General Meeting
Wednesday, 12th October
"CA State Propositions Pros & Cons"
contact: Dennis Mar / Marilyn Maxner
(details front page)

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 13th October, 12 noon
contact: George Riley

★ **NOVEMBER** ★



LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 7th November, 11:30am
Board Members to be sent link/instructions
contact: Marianne Gawain

2022 General Election
Tuesday, 8th November
Vote-by-Mail Ballot deadline 8pm

LWVMC General Meeting
Wednesday, 9th November
"Cannabis in Monterey County"
contact: Beverly Bean

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 10th November, 12 noon
contact: George Riley

Voter Service Committee Meeting
Date To Be Announced
Members will be sent link/instructions
contact: Sharon Miller / Pamela Stewart

★ **DECEMBER WINTER BREAK** ★