



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



The

VOTER



Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / October 2018, Volume 91, Number 2

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Pros & Cons: November State Ballot Measures

At October's general meeting Dennis Mar and Marilyn Maxner will present arguments for and against the eleven California State ballot issues. Information is taken from the League of Women Voters California "Easy Voter Guide," "Pros & Cons," and "In Depth."

Other sources are the California Secretary of State's "Official Voter Information Guide," the Legislative Analyst's Office "Propositions, November 6, 2018," "Voter's Edge," and newspaper editorials. Note that local and county measures will not be discussed.

Easy Voter Guide: www.easyvoterguide.org

Pros & Cons: cavotes.org/vote/elections/ballot-measures

The propositions cover the areas of bonds, taxes, and regulation:

Bond Issues

Prop 1 (Affordable Housing Bonds), Prop 2 (Mental Health Housing Program), Prop 3 (Water Bonds), Prop 4 (Children's Hospital Bonds)

Tax Issues

Prop 5 (Property Tax Rules), Prop 6 (Reduce Gas Tax)

Regulatory Issues

Prop 7 (Daylight Savings Time), Prop 8 (Kidney Dialysis Clinics), Prop 10 (Local Government Rent Control), Prop 11 (Ambulance Employee Breaks), Prop 12 (Farm Animal Cages).

The Pros & Cons program will also be presented at later dates and venues to the Junior League and the Aromas Community Grange.

Dennis Mar, DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

LWVMC October 10, 2018 General Meeting

12 noon Lunch / 12:30 to 1:30 Presentation

(Lunch \$17 per person: main course, salad, beverages, & dessert by The Valley Grille).

Reservations are a must for lunch!

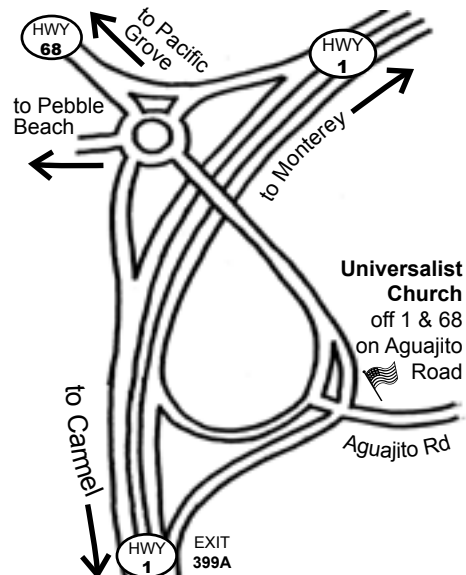
Contact Bev Kreps by Sunday, October 7.

(phone 224-3192 or e-mail bkreps1017@gmail.com)

Pay at the door for lunch; meeting/presentation is FREE.

Reminder to Members: The League pays the caterer in advance for everyone who makes a luncheon reservation, and guarantees a minimum of attendees.

L&L meets at: Unitarian Universalist Church http://uucmp.org 490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OCTOBER 2018



Can't always get to our monthly Lunch & Learn programs? No problem! **Video recordings of the speaker presentations are available on the LWVMC website** going back to September 2013. This rich resource covers many contemporary issues in Monterey County.

I have my own favorites such as March 14, 2018 **"Hiking the Campaign Trail, Four Campaign Managers Discuss Their Profession"** (okay, okay, it's true that I organized the program).

Two program videos are worth reviewing in preparation for the consensus meeting on whether **Fort Ord Reuse Authority** should be extended or not (see below for details). In March 2017 **Gail Morton** spoke about letting FORA sunset, and in January 2018 **Alan Haffa** presented reasons for extending FORA's duration.



We are fortunate to have the videos recorded and edited by our **Videography Team Hebard Olsen** and **Joe Asling**. They have the equipment, skills and artistry to create high-quality productions. Anyone can capture the picture. The real key is sound quality and editing. Once Hebard and Joe have created the recording, our **Webmaster Bob Evans** uploads it onto the Internet and provides the links.

If you know how to view **YouTube** shows on your computer, then you can view the LWVMC videos. Go to the LWVMC website: www.LWVMryco.org. From the list on the left hand side, select "Luncheon Videos" and watch our educational presentations from the comfort and convenience of your own home.

Dennis Mar, DennisRMar3@yahoo.com



FORA CONSENSUS MEETING OCTOBER 8



The consensus meeting on the fate of Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) is on October 8th at noon, Mariposa Hall. All League members are welcome. Participants will answer the following consensus questions:



1. Do you support the following governance criteria for evaluating the alternatives of either continuing FORA or sunsetting FORA?

- A. Accountability to Public:** How accountable to the public is each of the alternatives?
- B. Effectiveness:** How effective has FORA been at implementing and enforcing responsibilities? How effective would the alternatives to FORA be in implementing and enforcing remaining responsibilities?
- C. Transparency:** Are decision-making processes transparent to the FORA Board and public? Are decision-making processes

transparent for the alternatives?

D. Feasibility: Are implementing responsibilities feasible for FORA or successor agencies?

E. Efficiency: How efficient has FORA been in implementing its responsibilities? How efficient would the alternatives be?

F. Fiscal Responsibility: Does FORA have an incentive to perpetuate itself?

G. Regionalism: How effective has FORA been in achieving a regional approach? How effective would the alternatives be?

2. Should FORA sunset?

Contact me for a copy of the 12-page Study Kit which provides background information prepared by the **LWVMC Fort Ord Study Committee**.

Janet Brennan, Member Fort Ord Study Committee, brennan_janet@comcast.net

The LWVMC is supporting Measure J on the upcoming November Ballot. We are also co-signers of a rebuttal to the argument against the measure in the "Monterey County Voter Information" booklet.

About Measure J: "Monterey Peninsula Water System Local Ownership and Cost Savings Initiative"

As a first step, Measure J will require the **Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD)** to direct a **feasibility study** conducted by an independent consulting firm to get the facts on a public buyout of **California American Water (CalAm)**. Findings will be presented to the District Board where the final decision will be made in an open and transparent process. If a **public buyout** is financially feasible and in the public interest, MPWMD would proceed under eminent domain to negotiate and **buy CalAm's local system**. MPWMD would become the **new public water owner**.

Measure J will affect **all water users served by CalAm on the Monterey Peninsula**: Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, Carmel, Carmel Valley, Carmel Highlands, Sand City and Pebble Beach.

The purchase of CalAm would be paid for by a **30-year bond**, which would be paid back on our water bills. The purchase cost would be offset by the \$19 million annually that CalAm now takes in **corporate profit and pays in taxes**. Until the feasibility study and negotiations on purchase price are complete **no one can say how much lower our water costs will be**.

Measure J will NOT increase the cost of water on the Peninsula, will **not** in any way interfere with new water supplies, will **not** raise property taxes, and will **not** delay the proposed water supply project—while the feasibility study is conducted,

CalAm must continue to perform under the State's Cease and Desist Order. The Initiative and water supply projects will proceed on parallel tracks, led by different organizations.

Background to Decision by LWVMC to Support Measure J

We studied the issue of ownership of water distribution systems in 2007 and developed several **criteria that an entity responsible for managing and distributing water should meet**. Based on our evaluation of its performance, we concluded that **CalAm has not satisfactorily met these criteria**.

LWVMC support for Measure J is based on the League's position that water is a necessary resource for human life and that it is a public resource, not a commodity.

CalAm has failed to maintain the viability of the resource and infrastructure. As a result, in 1995 the State issued a Cease and Desist Order because of CalAm's historical over-pumping of the Carmel River.

During the last 20 years, CalAm has failed to develop an alternative water supply. Construction of the proposed desalination plant is years away and may never be built because of potential litigation and permitting issues. CalAm did not meet the State's deadline for a new water source by 2017, and it currently estimates a completion date of 2021.

LWVMC supports fair and responsible rates, transparent decision-making, open government, local control, and water systems that have agency oversight with publicly elected governing boards. Currently, rates are set by the **California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)**, a State-appointed body. The rate setting process is complex (frequently requiring legal counsel), ratepayers have limited access to hearings (held in San Francisco), and recommendations of the **Office of Ratepayer Advocates** (intended to protect ratepayers) are frequently ignored. The result is that **the Monterey Peninsula has the**

most expensive water in the country according to a comprehensive 2015/2017 study made by **Food & Water Watch** of the 500 largest water companies in the US (www.foodandwaterwatch.org/sites/default/files/top_ten_most_expensive_water_providers-web.pdf).

Costs passed onto ratepayers over the years include: \$3 million for failed plans for a “new” San Clemente Dam; \$12 million for the abandoned Moss Landing desalination pilot plant; \$20 million for the failed regional desalination plant; \$30 million for under-collection of water charges reassigned to all customers; \$77 million for removal of San Clemente Dam (with CalAm allowed to collect “investment” income). Additionally, CalAm wants ratepayers to pay the \$3 million settlement of a lawsuit with Monterey County.



Public Water Now's Role in Measure J
Public Water Now (PWN) is a community-based non-profit organization committed to achieving the lowest-

cost sustainable water supply for the Monterey Peninsula (www.publicwaternow.org). PWN collected signatures of 11,557 voters who they said are “tired of skyrocketing water bills” to get Measure J on the ballot. PWN believe the measure will provide ratepayers with independent facts on public ownership, local control over their water distribution and source, and more affordable

water. PWN say that public ownership is the only way to lower water costs (citing that “87 percent of the people in the US get their water from public agencies for good reason”), that CalAm is profit driven with CPUC support in maximizing shareholder return, and that public ownership will eliminate profit, and assure local accountability to voters and ratepayers.

PWN further state that “CalAm cannot be trusted” because it: promoted water conservation, then charged ratepayers \$64 million for the water saved to make up for its lost revenue; failed three times in the last 20 years on new water supply projects, then “sent us the bill” totaling \$34 million; mismanaged the watershed, overdrafting the Carmel River and the Seaside Groundwater Basin; and is now promoting a multi-million dollar desalination plant that threatens the City of Marina’s water supply (a project which could cost ratepayers over \$6,000 per acre foot, almost twice, what they reported to the CPUC).

PWN believes that “every resident and business is affected by the high cost of water, even if you don’t pay a CalAm bill directly.”

Beverly Bean, LWVMC Board Member,
beverlygb@gmail.com

Dennis Mar, LWVMC President,
DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

George Riley, Managing Director PWN /
LWVMC Natural Resources Committee Chair
georgetriley@gmail.com

VOTER SERVICE UPDATE: JUNE PRIMARY

Thank you to LWVMC members who participated in the **June 2018 Primary Election** activities!

Andrea McDonald, Anton Prange, Suzanne Schmidt, Alison Schwyzer, Phil Smith, Dina Stansbury and myself.

Under the **Monterey County Elections Department** program “**Team Up for Democracy**,” we staffed a Pacific Grove polling place with volunteers **Beverly Bean, Jean Donnelly, Carole Erickson, Natalie Gibson, Arlene Guest, Cynthia Hall, Tamara Harris, Martha Magnus, Marilyn Maxner,**



We also distributed copies of “**Easy Voter Guide**” to living areas and neighborhoods thanks to **Ann Bell, Beth Benoit, Kalah Bumba, Jean Donnelly, Alice Ann Glenn, Beverly Kreps, and Jean Stallings.**

Dennis Mar, DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

★ LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: ARLENE GUEST ★

Arlene Guest, who now serves as LWVMC's **Facebook Master**, has been a member of the League of Women Voters for almost 20 years. She originally joined what was then the Salinas chapter at the urging of **Dennis Mar**, our current President.



At the time, both Arlene and Dennis were working at the **Naval Postgraduate School**. *"I knew Dennis from the computer center there and we played Boggle in a group on a regular basis starting in the 80's,"* Arlene recalls. *"He had a project for the League—mock elections in the schools—and he wanted me to get involved with some of the computer work."*

Arlene, who has a bachelor's degree in math and a master's in physical oceanography from **Florida State University**, retired from her job as **Senior Lecturer in the NPS Department of Oceanography** at the end of September, after 37 years. Her husband, **Peter**, retired from his position as a faculty member in Meteorology at NPS earlier this year.

During her time in the Salinas chapter of the League, Arlene says she *"helped out and then headed up the mock election for a number of years. We worked with teachers throughout Monterey County who would have their students vote either online or on paper ballots. We would package up and send or deliver thousands of **Easy Voter Guides** to the schools so that each student had one to take home in the week leading up to the election. In some schools we'd set up voting booths and the teachers made a really big thing of it. We'd customize the ballots for each school; some teachers wanted only President and Vice President on the ballots, but others wanted them complete, down to every last proposition. After a week of voting, we'd tally up the votes with a computer program and post the results on a website."*



The League no longer handles these mock elections, Arlene explains. That program now has been taken over by the **California Secretary of State's office**, which provides one generic ballot for all the schools.

Arlene's other League activities include having served as **Voter Service Chair** and **Webmaster** of the **Salinas Chapter** as well as having helped with many candidate forums and lots of election work.

Now that they're both retired, Arlene and Peter plan to live half of the year in their house on San Benancio Road and the other half at their second home in Vermont. *"It's really nice in Vermont in the fall and winter, but we'd rather be here in the summer when it's so hot there,"* she says.

The Guests' son lives in Boston and Peter's mother, who will turn 100 in December, lives half an hour away from their Vermont home, in New Hampshire.

Although she didn't have much free time before her recent retirement from NPS, Arlene reports that she has enjoyed a couple of hobbies. One, which she shares with Peter, is growing flowers. *"We just won some ribbons for cut flowers at the Monterey County Fair,"* she reports with pride. She also teaches Appalachian clog dancing to some friends, an activity she greatly enjoys.

When asked what she would like to see in our League chapter's future, Arlene replied, *"I really hope somebody steps forward to do **Voter Service in the Salinas Valley**, that it doesn't get lost. I'm mainly interested in voter service."* Arlene also cited the League's impartiality as a vital quality that definitely needs to be maintained.

Nancy Baker Jacobs,
Nancy@NancyBakerJacobs.com

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Good News

We appreciate all who renewed promptly in response to our summer membership drive. Thank you for your support and for saving us from having to pester you further by phone and mail!

The Not So Good News

40 members have yet to renew. Please do so soon using the form at right, or contact me personally.

Welcome New Members

Add these fine people to your Handbook

Linda Deutsch

612 Fountain Avenue, PG 93950
ldeutsch13@comcast.net 655-2322

Betsy Buchalter Adler

153 Acacia Street PG 93950 bba93950@icloud.com (415) 341-7707

Thank You to Our Kind and Generous Donors

Susan B. Anthony Level (\$100+)

Janet Brennan (Life Member)

Membership Plus Level (\$65+)

Betsy Buchalter Adler

Molly Erickson

Karin Strasser Kauffman

Lisa Hoivik, LHoivik@comcast.net

VOTER SERVICE IN ACTION Pacific Grove Mayor / City Council Candidate Forum 9/11/18

Co-sponsored by
PGCC, organized
by **Jeanne Turner**,
moderated by **Bev
Bean**, staffed by 7
LWVMC members...



...and
attended by
over 200
interested
citizens.
Well done!



Join the League of Women Voters of Monterey County



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

Renew Your LWVMC Membership.

If your membership has lapsed, please use the form below, or go to <http://lwvmryco.org>. Timely responses are appreciated as they help keep our local chapter strong.

Renewal letter and form gone astray?
Uncertain of your membership due date?
Wish to make a donation?
Want to become a new member?

Use the form below or contact:
Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director
LHoivik@comcast.net or 375-7765

Checks payable to **LWVMC**
Mail to **LWVMC PO Box 1995**
Monterey, CA 93942

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(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

- Send e-mail reminders for luncheons
- Call to remind me of luncheons
- Scholarship requested

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMC 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.

UPCOMING LUNCH & LEARN PROGRAMS

(programs subject to change)

- November "Proposed Changes to Prop 13"
- January "Education"
- February "Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater"
- March "Impact of Transportation on Climate Change"
- April "Supervisor Chris Lopez"

VACANT POSITION: VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR, SALINAS VALLEY



We need someone to cover Voter Service for the Salinas Valley area! It's a part time but crucial position especially as November elections are upon us. The job entails organizing candidates' forums, Pros & Cons presentations, and other duties related to encouraging Salinas citizens to vote.

Contact **Jeanne Turner, Voter Service Director**
Monterey Peninsula jturner215@comcast.net.

League of Women Voters of Monterey County

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

★ Officers

President
Dennis Mar* 372-9388
DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

Vice President
Howard Fosler* 649-6935
hfosler@sbcglobal.net

Secretary
Kalah Bumba 424-7976
kalahplans@aol.com

Treasurer
Marilyn Maxner 649-0335
montmm06@gmail.com

★ Directors

Government
James Emery* 624-8575
emeryjc@aol.com

Local Studies
Kemay Eoyang 920-1480
Kemay.Eoyang@gmail.com

Membership
Lisa Hoivik 375-7765
LHoivik@comcast.net

Public Relations & Luncheon Logistics
Beverly Bean* 484-2451
beverlygb@gmail.com

Salinas Valley Unit
(vacant and searching for a replacement)

Social Policy & Luncheon Reservations
Bev Kreps 224-3192
bkreps1017@gmail.com

State & National Action
Janet Brennan* 659-2090
Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

Voter Service: Monterey Peninsula
Jeanne Turner 373-7671
jturner215@comcast.net

Voter Service: Salinas Valley
(vacant and urgently searching for a replacement)

Webmaster
Bob Evans 595-5351
bobevans13@me.com

Director At-Large
Sue Erickson 484-2296
sue@rimcanyon.net

(* = Executive Committee)

LWVMC The VOTER
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Send articles & updates to:
LWVMC Voter Editor
ReginaDoyle@aol.com

★ Off-Board

Facebook Master
Arlene Guest 595-1297
arleneguest@gmail.com

LWVC Management Training Advisor
Jacqueline Jacobberger
(650) 871-6357
jhjacobberger@att.net

Natural Resources
George Riley 645-9914
georgetriley@gmail.com

Nominating Committee
Kalah Bumba 424-7976
kalahplans@aol.com

Hetty Eddy 262-1420
hettieddy@sbcglobal.net

Lisa Hoivik 375-7765
LHoivik@comcast.net

Betty Matterson 373-5216
bdmatterson@redshift.com

Philomene Smith 372-9388
phsmith@aol.com

Voters Edge
Robin Tokmakian 655-5047
trillerud@mindspring.com

The Voter Biographer
Nancy Baker Jacobs
pgauthor@comcast.net

The Voter Mailing Service
Dennis Mar 372-9388
DennisRMar3@yahoo.com



The VOTER
League of Women Voters
of Monterey County

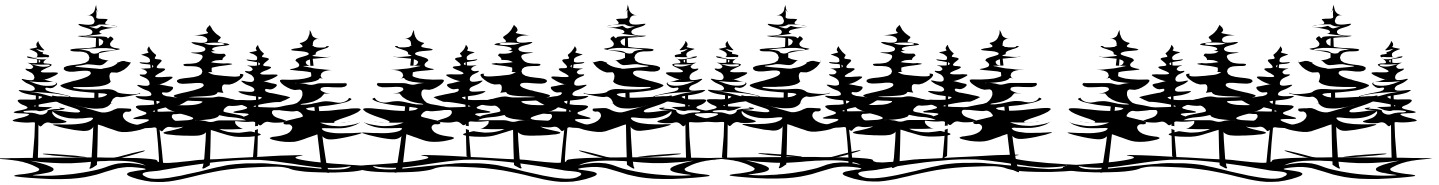
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LWVMC 2018 Calendar



OCTOBER

FORA Consensus Meeting

Monday, 8 October, 12 noon

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

LWVMC Board Meeting

Monday, 8 October, 1:30 pm

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

Lunch & Learn with the League

Wednesday, 10 October, 12 noon

"Pros & Cons: State Ballot Measures"

Unitarian Universalist Church

490 Aguajito Rd., Carmel Hwy 1

DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

Special Events Committee Meeting

Date, Time, Location to be Announced

Kemay.Eoyang@gmail.com

Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Thursday, 11 October, 12 noon

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com



NOVEMBER

LWVMC Board Meeting

Monday, 12 November, 1:30 pm

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

Lunch & Learn with the League

Wednesday, 14 November, 12 noon

"Proposed Changes to Proposition 13"

Professor **Jeffrey Froshman**, CSUMB

Unitarian Universalist Church

490 Aguajito Rd., Carmel Hwy 1

Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Thursday, 15 November, 12 noon

GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

DECEMBER

WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK

No Lunch & Learn, Voter, Board or

Committee Meetings