



# THE VOTER

League of Women Voters  
of Sonoma County

Volume 24, Issue 9

Visit us at [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)



## Do you want your Leaders selected by the People or by Chance?

Below are four examples of where chance was used to settle a tied vote:

- **2017 State House election in Virginia:** After the recount was completed, the 2017 Virginia State House Election was a tied vote. As required by state law, the election was then decided by a drawing. So instead of the will of the citizens deciding who their representative will be, it was decided by chance.
- **The 1994 Wyoming's House of Representatives race** is another example of a drawing settling an election. Republican Randall Luthi and Independent Larry Call each finished with 1,941 votes. Following a recount that produced the same results, Governor Mike Sullivan settled the election in a most unconventional (although state-appropriate) fashion: drawing a ping pong ball out of his cowboy hat to determine a winner.
- **2002 Nevada:** In Nevada they settle ties by drawing playing cards, with the high card taking home the election spoils. In 2002, Republican Dee Honeycutt came up short, drawing a jack of diamonds to Democrat R.J. Gillum's jack of spades for a seat on the Esmeralda County Commission.
- **2011 Nevada:** Card justice was again deployed, when Tanya Flanagan and Linda Meisenheimer tied in a North Las Vegas city council primary, and neither candidate wanted to pony up \$600 for the cost of a recount. Meisenheimer ended up drawing a king to Flanagan's five.

In each of the above examples if just one more person had voted in the election, the will of the people would have decided the outcome. Don't leave your representation to chance.

Be the vote that breaks the tie!

## LWVSC Election Information

### Candidate Forums

**Cloverdale City Council Forum, Tuesday, October 2, 6:30-8:30 pm.**

Veterans Memorial Building, 205 W 1st Street, Cloverdale, CA 95425

**Petaluma School Board Forum, Tuesday, October 2, 6:00-7:00 pm.**

**Petaluma City Council Forum, Tuesday, October 2, 7:15-9:00 pm.**

Petaluma City Council Chambers, 11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

In collaboration with the Petaluma AAUW

**Sebastopol City Council Forum, Thursday, October 4, 6-8:00 pm.**

Sebastopol Community Church, 1000 Gravenstein Hwy N, Sebastopol, CA 95472

**Palm Drive Hospital Board Forum, Thursday, October 11, 6-8:00 pm.**

Sebastopol Community Church, 1000 Gravenstein Hwy N, Sebastopol, CA 95472

**Santa Rosa City Council Forum, Friday, October 12, 6-8:00 pm.**

SR City Council Chambers, 100 Santa Rosa Ave. Santa Rosa, CA 95404

**Windsor City Council Forum, Thursday, October 18, 6-8:00 pm.**

Windsor High School, 8695 Windsor Road, Windsor CA 95492

**Election Day: Tuesday, November 6**

### Ballot Measure Pros and Cons

**Rincon Valley Library, Friday, October 5, 1-3:00 pm.**

6959 Montecito Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95409. Open to public.

**Unitarian Church, Sunday 7, October 7, 12:30-2:00 pm.**

547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. Public invited.

**Earle Baum Center of the Blind, Saturday, October 13, 2:00-4:00 pm.**

4539 Occidental Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. For their members.

**Spring Lake Village, Monday, October 15, 1:30-4:00 pm.**

Spring Lake Village, 5555 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409. League members invited.

### See Page 3 for Other League Events

See our [website](#) for other important election dates and information and links to videos of forums, or go to [Voters Edge](#)

Visit our [website](#) for updated calendar information.

## LWVSC Calendar

### Coming Events

#### See Page 2 for Forums, Pros and Cons

**Voter Registration at Aida Cuevas Concert, Thursday, October 4, 5:30-8:30 pm.**

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

To sign up contact [tabling@lwgsonoma.org](mailto:tabling@lwgsonoma.org)

**Voter Registration Training, Friday, October 5, 9:30-10:50am.**

LWV Office, 555 Fifth St., 3rd Floor Conf. room, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

To sign up contact [tabling@lwgsonoma.org](mailto:tabling@lwgsonoma.org)

**Voter Registration at Windsor Farmers Market, Sunday, October 7, 10-1:00 pm**

Windsor Town Green, Windsor, CA 95492. To sign up contact: [tabling@lwgsonoma.org](mailto:tabling@lwgsonoma.org)

**Voter Registration at Sonoma State, Wednesday, October, 10, 12-3:00 pm** Sonoma

State University, 1801 East Cotati Ave., Rohnert Park, CA. Specific location TBA

**Voter Registration Movie Night – Save Our Lives, Saturday, October 13, 6:15-9:15**

Congregation Somrei Torah, 2600 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

League members are invited to attend this free movie at 7pm and the following panel discussion. To sign up to register voters, contact: [tabling@lwgsonoma.org](mailto:tabling@lwgsonoma.org)

**Election Day: Tuesday, November 6**

See our [website](#) for important election dates and information and links to videos of forums, or go to [Voters Edge](#).

### Standing Meetings

**Board Meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 10-noon.

**Advocacy Committee Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 10:30-noon

**Outreach Committee Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 10-noon.

**Book Club:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 10:30-noon.

**Voter Service Committee Meeting:** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 10-noon.

LWVSC meetings are held in the third floor Conference Room at the LWVSC office  
555 5th Street, Santa Rosa.

LWVSC Board meetings are open to all LWVSC members, and to the public upon request.

All other meetings are open to all.

Visit our [website](#) for updated calendar information.

## Get Out The Vote Campaign

### Your Vote Does Matter

We are working hard to encourage everyone to vote in November. By the Nov 6<sup>th</sup> election League volunteers will have registered individuals at 24 events. League members have placed about 100 painted Voting Rocks around the community to remind people to vote. The Voter Services Committee is holding 10 forums on ballot measure pros & cons and candidates, many of which are open to the public. See our web page calendar for specifics: <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/calendar.html>

You can help this effort in the following ways:

- **Make a \$20 donation to sponsor a Lawn Sign** which says “Your Vote Matters, League of Women Voters of Sonoma County.” Please make checks payable to LWVSC and mail to LWVSC 555 Fifth St., Suite 300 O, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.
- **Join the Lawn Sign Team** and ask private businesses and/or homeowners to let us install the Lawn Signs at busy intersections. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0945a4ae2aa3f49-gotv>
- **Pick up a “Your Vote Does Matter” bumper sticker** and display it proudly. Get one for a friend too. Order at [tabling@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:tabling@lwvsonoma.org).
- **Ask local businesses to place “Your Vote Does Matter” posters in their windows.** Order posters at [tabling@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:tabling@lwvsonoma.org). Send your name and how many posters you want.
- **Check out our LWVSC Facebook page each week** and share the events with your friends, ask them to like our page, and watch for updates about future forums. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty/>.



**DEMOCRACY is NOT a Spectator Sport  
Get Involved with YOUR Government**

## Membership News

### Renewals

Thank you to all of you who embraced our new online renewal process and sent in your renewals in a timely manner. Next year you will be able to make payment and fill out your Membership Interest Survey online, making the process even easier. As always, you will receive a print Roster of members that includes valuable membership information within the next few weeks.

We would like to acknowledge the following Members who sent additional contributions with their renewals this year:

Benjamin Bigelow and Carleen Watts	Katie Sanchez Louisa Leavitt	Shirley Resick Shirley Sullivan
Chris Kostoff Cynthia Denenholz	Mary Virdeh Muriel Smith	Stan Gold Susan Gorin
Jean Schultz	Phyllis Brewer	

We would also like to recognize the Members who joined at Carrie Chapman Catt or Elizabeth Cady Stanton Level:

Andre English Ardath Lee	Elizabeth Hawthorne Jean Schultz	Nancy Lewis Stephen Hawks
Barbara Riley Caroline Ramberg	Linda Allen Mary Virdeh	Susan Novak Susan Rouder
Debbie McKay	Nancy Burrington	Terry Wall

### New Members

Since our Kick-Off last year, we have welcomed 36 new members! Many have dived right in and assumed leadership roles, like Leona Judson, who joined the Voter Service Committee, and is now co-chairing that committee and coordinating Pros and Cons presentations.

We have made good strides this year trying new avenues to attract members, such as tabling at community events and initiating join and pay online with Paypal. Along with the Outreach Committee, we are trying to increase our visibility in the county and grow our League so we can have more woman(man)power to put on more Forums, Pros & Cons Presentations, as well as host interesting speakers to inform and educate us about the topics we are interested in.

Therefore, I'd like to encourage all members to share about the League at every opportunity.

**Carry a brochure  
Engage those who care about local issues  
Ask them to join us!**

## Board Briefs

From September 4, 2018

Meeting was brought to order at 10:00 a.m. with all officers and directors present

- ✓ Gene Zingarelli and Will Richards (guest member) presented a letter drafted by Will and addressed to Deborah Fudge (Board Chair of SMART) and Chris Coursey (SR mayor) expressing LWVSC support for the at-grade crossing at Jennings Avenue. It was agreed that board members would send comments to Gene and Will prior to the Advocacy meeting on September 12. The final version, to be signed by the Co-Presidents, could be voted on by email, but Juanita reminded the group that an email vote would need to be unanimous.
- ✓ Judy Levy reported on outreach activities to schools with potential plans for mock elections in the middle schools in spring 2019. Activities partnering with Los Cien and the YMCA continue to be advanced. Debbie McKay described activities supporting the (Get Out the Vote) campaign. Juanita reminded about the “no bribing” policy (for registering to vote) that needs to be maintained at tabling events. The Board approved spending limits of \$50 for tabling events and \$1,000 for GOTV materials.
- ✓ Nancy Burrington gave an update on the Rohnert Park City Council forum on Friday, Sept. 14. She had questions about how to get the recorded version done by RP City posted to our website and YouTube. Susan Novak volunteered to organize the Santa Rosa City Council forum. Leona Judson discussed the latest plans for Pros and Cons presentations. **(Consult the calendar for up-to-date information on all forums and pros and Cons presentations)**

- ✓ Juanita Roland presented the Treasurer’s report. Because of Suzy Marzalek’s resignation as Treasurer a long discussion followed about how to move forward without the services of a Treasurer. Suzy left very organized and clear information on the responsibilities of the Treasurer. It has been suggested that a bookkeeping service might be hired to perform some of the tasks. Rick Luttmann has volunteered to assume the role. Donna Roper, who will be meeting with him, will inquire about his level of interest, his time constraints and previous experience. Since Nancy Burrington is the remaining Officer with check-writing capacity it was agreed to add Susan Novak as a signatory on our accounts (Exchange Bank).
- ✓ Gayle Peterson is working on producing the membership roster. As it is a fairly complicated process, it was decided to give more responsibility to the printer. Gayle will continue to update the primary member database to keep it current. After a fairly lengthy discussion it was agreed that Gayle could spend up to \$1,000 to get the help she needs to update and produce the roster.
- ✓ Mary Virdeh reported that the Kick-Off meeting is set for September 13 at Roseland School. The Board approved up to \$300 to be spent on catering for the event.
- ✓ Anita Lytle distributed business cards to members and agreed to write confirming letters to those who donate \$250 or more (for tax purposes), normally a Treasurer task.
- ✓ Juanita will produce an October Voter. Calendar items, articles and pictures due to her by September 23.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05

Submitted by Nancy Burrington

## Advocacy Notes

On 9/12, we discussed the need for transparency and action on the Santa Rosa Jennings Ave. SMART rail crossing. The issue has been going on and on and has not been resolved. The committee went ahead with a letter (by member Will Richards) for the board's approval to send to the SMART Board and the Santa Rosa City Council.

With regard to alternative voting systems, member Rick Luttmann presented options to the "vote for one" system. The LWV California has its recommendations on the November ballot propositions at LWVC.org.

Next meeting on October 10 at 10:30.

Gene Zingarelli, Advocacy Committee Chair  
[action@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:action@lwvsonoma.org)

### Voting Information for Those Displaced by the Fires

The following site provides extensive information on how to register and vote for those displaced by the October 2017 wild fire. Please share with anyone you know who may need this. .

<http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CRA/News/Voters-Displaced-By-The-October-2017-Wildfires/>

## Membership Volunteer Opportunities

We need members to help out with the following:

**Roster Coordinator.** The Roster Coordinator works with the Treasurer and Membership Chair to enroll new members in the National League database and to update the membership database as members renew their membership, so some basic computer skills are required. The assignment is about 2 hours per month, with more hours needed during the annual membership renewal period in June, July, and August.

**Mail Chimp Address Entry.** Someone to enter member's addresses into Mail Chimp. This is a temporary need. Once the task is complete, we can work out who keeps this up regularly.

**Membership Committee.** Members interested in joining a Membership committee to welcome new members and promote the League.

If you are interested or want more information, please contact: [membership@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:membership@lwvsonoma.org)





## **The League's Fall Kickoff Event GET OUT THE VOTE IN NOVEMBER!**



Our speaker was Oscar Chavez, the Deputy Director of the Sonoma County Human Services Department whose topic was Latino Voting. He is also a Los Cien member who arrived in our county as a child from Mexico. He became a citizen after going to college. Important points and questions arising from his presentation:

- Latinos are a diverse group divided by the time they came to the U.S.
- Important issues for everyone are education, jobs, healthcare, and housing.
- The largest segment of Latinos are millennials (births 1980-2000).
- The Sonoma County population is becoming “grayer” (senior citizens) and “brownier” (Latino).
- To get Latinos to vote will take a lot of knocking on doors several times.
  - How to get and train local canvassers? How to fund the structure to enable this?
- Many Latinos don't see themselves in the issues being presented to voters.
  - How can we change the situations so Latinos see themselves in the issues?
- There's a need for forums on issues, e.g., getting together members of groups who support and need affordable housing and those who prefer it to be elsewhere.
- Los Cien's goals are very similar to LWVSC's, including member and community education and engagement. Los Cien is also trying to recruit candidates for elected offices.
- Latinos are underrepresented in government and leadership positions in Northern California compared to what is present in Southern California.
- Potential Latino candidates need social contacts to support their candidacy with help and funds from those with the know-how.

Gene Zingarelli, Advocacy V.P.



## Other September Events



### SLV Forum on Transportation and Prop 6

Watch [Video on YouTube](#)



### City Council Candidate Forum in Rohnert Park

Watch [Video on YouTube](#)



## On the World Wide Web

### Check Out the Changes on Our Facebook Page

We now have new weekly postings on our Facebook Page. See how you can save trees by altering your voting habits. Watch for Forum updates. See pictures of us around the county at meetings and tabling events. One hundred of our painted Voting Rocks are now out in communities around the county. If you see one, take a picture and send it to the Facebook Committee. If you have a picture or short article for posting on our Facebook page, please also send that to the Facebook Committee at [tabling@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:tabling@lwvsonoma.org). We look forward to hearing from you. You can make a difference.

August marked one year since the violence by white nationalists that left three dead and many injured in Charlottesville, Virginia. This August a “Unite the Right 2” rally was organized for our nation’s capital. LWVUS joined the NAACP, Muslim Advocates, and the Anti-Defamation League in a joint statement condemning this hateful demonstration. For more information go to:

[https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/advocates-unite-against-hate-rally?utm\\_source=LeagueUpdate&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=081618](https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/advocates-unite-against-hate-rally?utm_source=LeagueUpdate&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=081618)

Not all the police forces in the county have this life saving medication but many do. Many times the first people on the scene are the police and this medicine can save lives.

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/8737439-181/police-officers-turn-to-opioid-blocking>

To receive Facebook updates as they happen, be sure to “Like” our LWVSC Facebook page!  
We'd be glad to be one of your friends.

## Book Club Reads

### October 18: Moderated by Linda Allen

*Beyond the Messy Truth*, by Van Jones, 256 pages, 2017.

A passionate manifesto that exposes hypocrisy on both sides of the political divide and points a way out of the tribalism that is tearing America apart—by the CNN political contributor and host hailed as “a star of the 2016 campaign.” Tough on Donald Trump but showing respect and empathy for his supporters, Jones takes aim at the failures of both parties before and after Trump’s victory. He urges both sides to abandon the politics of accusation and focus on real solutions. Calling us to a deeper patriotism, he shows us how to get down to the vital business of solving, together, some of our toughest problems

### November 15: Choose books for 2019

The 2018 Reading list is online at <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/files/bookgroup2018.pdf>

**Please join us.**

# LWVSC

## Board of Directors

Susan Novak, **Co-President**

Anita Lytle, **VP Administration**

Gene Zingarelli, **VP Advocacy**

Nancy Burrington, **Secretary**

Open, **Treasurer**

Gayle McKinney Peterson,

**Membership Chair**

Judy Levy, **Outreach**

Donna Roper, **Voter Service**

Mary Virdeh, **Program**

Juanita Roland, **Editor and Co-President**

Susan Rouders, **Member at Large**

Because of privacy concerns, we do not include email addresses for the Board in the Voter. Readers can find email addresses in the directory or they can send email to Board Members from the contact us page of the LWVSC website. [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)

## Connect with the League



**LWVSC** [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty](https://www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty)

**LWV of Bay Area** <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

**LWV of California** [www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org)

**LWV of the United States** [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters>

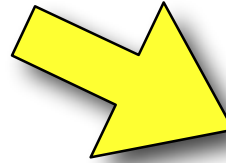
**Voter's Edge** <http://votersedge.org/en/ca>

Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

*Remember to sign up for email alerts and newsletters when you visit these websites.*



*Become a Member of the  
LWV of Sonoma County*



or

**Make a  
DONATION**

Fill out the form below and mail it to us at:

League of Women Voters Sonoma County  
555 5th Street, Suite 300 O  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Memberships Levels**

<i>Susan B. Anthony</i> Individual Membership	\$65
<i>Student/ Limited Income</i> Individual Membership	\$40
<i>Amelia Bloomer</i> Household Membership	\$100
<i>Elizabeth Cady Stanton</i> Membership	\$100
<i>Carrie Chapman Catt</i> Membership	\$200 or more

**Membership dues and donations  
are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law**

Please circle any topics you are interested in knowing more about.

- |                      |                    |                  |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Voter Registration   | Candidate Forums   | Transportation   |
| Housing/Homelessness | Climate Change     | Immigration      |
| Newsletter           | Website Management | Local Governance |

**The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.**

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