



# Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

December 2019

Volume 54, Number 4

## In this Issue

<i>President's Message</i> -----	1
<i>Voter Service Report</i> -----	2
<i>Education Update</i> -----	3
<i>National Program Planning</i> -----	6
<i>Anniversary Luncheon</i> -----	6
<i>Climate Change Conversation</i> -----	6

## Calendar

Tuesday, December 3  
5:30-7:30 pm  
**Climate Change Conversation**  
Downtown Branch Santa Cruz Library  
Upstairs Meeting Room  
224 Church Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Tuesday, December 10, 2019  
10 a.m.-noon  
**LWVSCC Board Meeting**  
Santa Cruz County Bank  
75 River Street  
Santa Cruz, CA

Tuesday, January 14, 2020  
10 a.m.-noon  
**LWVSCC Board Meeting**  
Santa Cruz County Bank  
75 River Street  
Santa Cruz, CA

Saturday, January 25, 2020  
10 a.m.-noon  
**March Election Pros and Cons**  
Downtown Library  
224 Church Street, Santa Cruz

Friday, January 31, 2020  
1:30 p.m.  
**March Election Pros and Cons**  
Highlands Park Senior Center  
8500 California Highway 9, Ben Lomond

Tuesday, February 11, 2020  
10 a.m.-noon  
**LWVSCC Board Meeting**  
Santa Cruz County Bank  
75 River Street  
Santa Cruz, CA

Saturday  
February 15, 2020  
**Anniversary Luncheon**  
Featured Speaker: Cynthia Matthews  
Details to be announced



Margaret Warner.

On November 2, Soquel Elementary School District supervisor Scott Turnbull, who has worked in education for 30 years, did a terrific job as a presenter and engaged in a lively question and answer exchange with our audience. He filled in at the last minute for county superintendent of schools Faris Sabbah. On arriving at the Capitola City Hall Community Room, I was delighted with the beautifully decorated table and refreshments, courtesy of Stephanie Harlan, Karen Smith, and Gayle's Bakery; the room was filled with members of the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, and attendees from the general public involved in conversations and interested in the topic of education.

I look forward to our National Program Planning at the home of Sandy and John Warren in January and to our centennial celebration for the 100-year anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters in February.

In 2020, we will also be celebrating the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which, after over 70 years of struggle, was finally ratified by the Tennessee legislature. In a

## President's Message

### A Close call for women suffrage

At this season of thanksgiving, I am grateful that our November 2 program went so well and for our new and continuing members. A warm welcome to new League members, Cameron Jackson, Maggie Barr, and household members Charlene McLaughlin and



Tennessee legislator Harry Burn cast the deciding vote to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment at the urging of his mother.

[Attribution: Tboyd5150 from [wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry\\_T.\\_Burn](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_T._Burn)]

very close vote, Tennessee became the 36th state needed to fulfill the requirement that a constitutional amendment be ratified by three-fourths of state legislatures, which local newspapers called the War of the Roses, because legislators in support of suffrage wore yellow roses and opponents wore red roses.



Febb Ensminger Burn (Harry Burn's mother), teacher, farmer, and suffragette, at her Niota, Tennessee, farm.

[Attribution: Tboyd5150 from [wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry\\_T.\\_Burn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_T._Burn)]

The final vote in the Tennessee House was set for August 18, 1920, and was decided by the swing vote of Harry Burn, the youngest member at twenty-four years old, who, though wearing a red rose, voted with a barely audible "Aye" after reading a short note from his mother: "Hurrah, and vote for suffrage! Don't keep them in doubt...I have been watching to see how you stood, but have not noticed anything yet...Don't forget to be a good boy... Your Mother." After the vote passed by the narrowest of margins: 49-47, the chamber erupted in pandemonium, the cheering and clapping so loud that Carrie Chapman Catt, who was waiting at the Hermitage Hotel, knew the results before the official messenger arrived. The battle was finally over. The vote had been won!

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

## Voter Service Report

### March 2020 Election

The California primary election, slated for March 3, 2020, is only three months away. For this election, Santa Cruz County will still have traditional polling precinct sites on Election Day, and, for the first time, every polling place in the state will allow voters to register and vote all the way up through Election Day. This means that voters can register as a provisional voter after the February 17, 2020 primary election registration deadline. If you register before the deadline, you will receive the *State Voter Information Guide*, but those who register after the February 17 deadline won't receive the guide and will vote on a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots are counted after election officials verify the voter's registration and confirm that they have not already voted. Your other voting option is vote-by-mail, and your ballot will come with a postage-paid return envelope.

The Santa Cruz County Elections Department and the Watsonville City Clerk's office will be open for voters to cast or deliver their ballots during regular office hours for 29 days before the election and the weekend prior to Election Day. In addition, there will be ten new satellite offices (locations to be determined) that will be open for voting from Saturday, February 29 through Tuesday, March 3.

The League will coordinate with the County Elections Department on voter registration in late January and early February. Voter registration training workshops will be offered by the County Elections Department in January.

Offices on the March 2020 ballot include: president; congressional districts 18 and 20, State Senate district 17, State Assembly districts 29 and 30, County Supervisors for districts 1, 2, and 5; and seven Superior Court Judge seats. There is one statewide ballot measure.

The League will sponsor two meetings in January for voter information on the March primary. On January 25, 2020, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Downtown Library, 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz, Gail Pellerin, county clerk, will explain changes to the election system, and League members will inform voters about the state ballot measure. The Senior Citizens Organization of San Lorenzo Valley will sponsor a voter information presentation on January 31st at 1:30 p.m. at Highlands Park Senior Center, 8500 California Highway 9, Ben Lomond. The League will inform voters about the state ballot measure.

The Valley Women's Club in San Lorenzo Valley is planning a candidates forum in early February (date to be determined), which would include county supervisor, State Assembly, and State Senate district seats. The League will co-sponsor and moderate the meeting.

—Dottie Fry, Voter Service Co-chair

## EDUCATION UPDATE:

### The Best of Both Worlds

*Local control and countywide collaboration keep our schools running smoothly*

At the League's November meeting, Scott Turnbull, Soquel Union Elementary School District supervisor, filled in for our planned speaker, Faris Sabbah, superintendent of the County Office of Education, to give us an update on what's happening in our schools.

Scott Turnbull's lifelong passion has been to be a public educator. Even after thirty years as an educator, he still believes education is the great equalizer: wherever you come from, no matter what your background, public education in America can be your way into a better life. Even though he loved teaching, in 1999 he decided to become an assistant principal because he wanted have a broader impact. He's now in his fourth year serving Soquel Union Elementary School District, which includes five schools in the Santa Cruz, Capitola, and Soquel areas: Main Street Elementary School, Soquel Elementary School, Santa Cruz Gardens Elementary School, Opal Cliffs School, and New Brighton Middle School. Because his wife teaches in the Pajaro School District and his daughter goes to Bradley Elementary in Watsonville, he's even more invested in county schools than just being a superintendent; he finds that his wife and daughter provide a good sounding board when making decisions.

The County Office of Education (COE) provides oversight to all eleven school districts in Santa Cruz County, with over 40,000 students total. Districts range in size from Happy Valley district, with 125 students, to Pajaro Valley district, with over 20,000 students. Each district is its own local education agency with its own governing board, but the COE provides support and oversight to create consistency among the different school districts, and acts as an intermediary between the districts and the California Department of Education. The COE also directly supervises some alternative education programs and helps run some special education classes.

One example of how the districts and the COE work together, said Turnbull, is in the development of school safety plans. As more and more school shootings have occurred, there was an interest in developing more consistent school safety plans throughout the districts, so the county stepped in as a leader to look at school safety plans and offer insight. This allowed for continuity throughout the district and avoided each school having to do its own planning from scratch.



Scott Turnbull, Soquel Union Elementary School District supervisor, presents an update on education in Santa Cruz County.

Another example of collaboration that Turnbull mentioned is in the implementation of "next generation" science standards. Rather than having to tackle this district by district, they've worked at the county level to navigate it together. To Turnbull's knowledge, this is the only County in the state that's approaching next-generation science standards as an entire county.

While county oversight is important for continuity, having a school board that has local control allows each district to have their own unique culture and things to be proud of. As an example, Turnbull mentioned the recent PG&E public safety power shutdown, which posed a

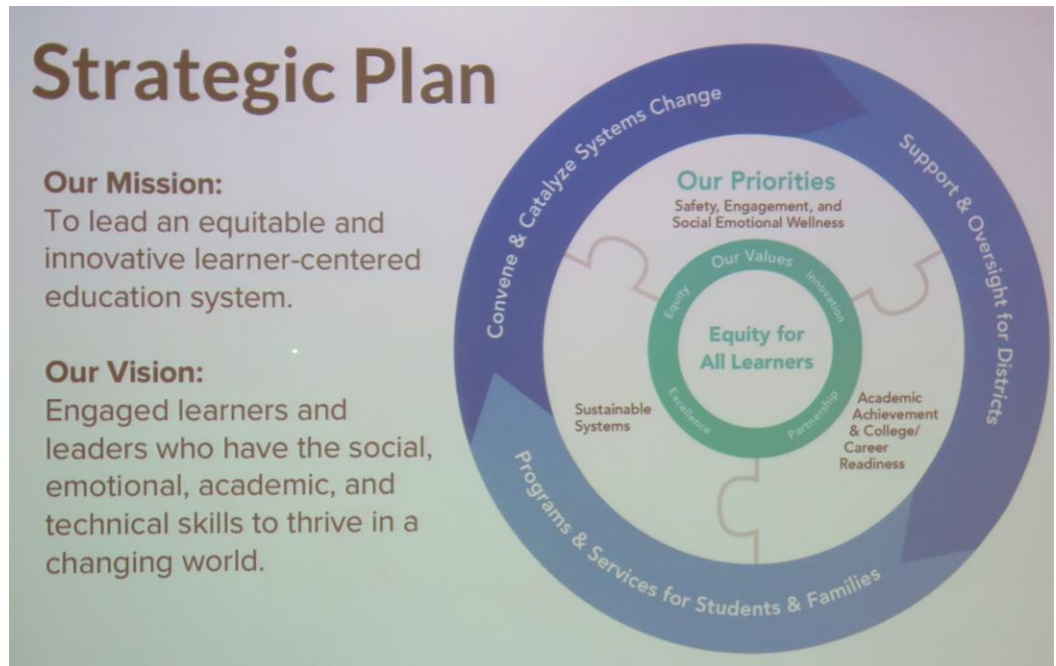


unique challenge to schools; they had to take whatever limited information they got from PG&E and used that to try to give parents, teachers, and staff a reasonable heads-up as to whether school would be in session or not. It's a lot harder in rural schools, because the primary consideration when making that decision is whether they can provide water. Food, technology, and other basics are further down the list of needs.

Every superintendent had to grapple with their own unique situation. In Turnbull's district, they were fortunate that the Soquel Creek Water District had generators that allowed them to keep the water flowing. With natural lighting and peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches, they were able to keep the schools open. They cancelled meetings and everybody put aside their usual duties. "It was all-hands-on-deck. I'm not going to lie, it wasn't fun to get through two days of teaching without electricity," commented Turnbull, "but we did it, and, of course, that means we don't have to make up days in the summer."

Turnbull stressed that, "whatever challenges I discuss with you, none of them are about the quality of our teachers and staff." Teachers make the difference, he said, and the district is doing all they can to support them.

In California as a whole, but especially in our county, the cost of living is very high. With the beginning teacher salary at \$41,000/year, they rarely hire anyone who does not already have roots here or a second source of income. "Young families can't start out here", said Turnbull. As an example, he mentioned that last year his district was fortunate enough to have the Santa Cruz County "Teacher of the Year" at Santa Cruz Gardens. Unfortunately, that teacher had to leave for a better-paying job in San Jose so he could support his family.



A program called "Landed" has helped some educators with down payments so that they can afford to buy a home, but it doesn't help teachers coming in at the starting salary. Some local communities, such as Santa Cruz City and San Lorenzo Valley, are building workforce housing.

Turnbull was pleased that the Academic Performance Index, a rating assigned to each school, used to be based solely on the California standards test, has recently changed to take a look at the school as a whole, and includes evaluation of other factors such as demographics, attendance, environment, and the student population. (Check your local school at [www.caschooldashboard.org](http://www.caschooldashboard.org))

Turnbull played a [video](http://www.pbs.org/video/budget-crisis-challenges-facing-california-schools-ysrjbg/) made by KQED about the budget crisis facing California schools ([www.pbs.org/video/budget-crisis-challenges-facing-california-schools-ysrjbg/](http://www.pbs.org/video/budget-crisis-challenges-facing-california-schools-ysrjbg/)). The video mentioned several contributing factors to budget woes, including greatly increasing contributions to employee pension funds, declining enrollment, and increasing overall costs.

Turnbull explained that basic aid districts were created to provide a minimum level of funding for each school district. If local property taxes come in below that amount, the state provides funds to meet the minimum. Districts that have more than the minimum don't get extra funds; they are called basic aid districts.

School funding is based on average daily attendance, with funds being based on the number

of students attending school. When students are absent, the school average daily attendance goes down.

Turnbull mentioned improvements to the buildings in his district that were made possible by \$42 million in funding from Measure C, a general obligation bond passed in 2016. They were able to build new art and woodshop classrooms and get rid of portable classrooms. They are looking at placing a parcel tax on the March ballot to be able to permanently fund programs such as music and gardening, as well as to raise revenue for salaries. Currently, these programs are funded by “soft money” raised by parent groups, but that’s not a guaranteed source of funding. Turnbull feels that soft money should be used for “extras”, not core programs.

According to Turnbull, charter schools pose a challenge because their funds come from traditional public schools, and there are some rules and regulations that charters don’t have to follow, which creates questions of equity. Lack of reporting of attendance is another issue that concerns Turnbull.

Currently, the biggest focus at the county level is addressing the equity challenge. “Students come in all different packages; they come with all sorts of needs, and making sure that we have the resources available to meet all of those needs is



Superintendent Turnbull engages audience in a discussion of challenges to public education at November meeting in Capitola.

really the equity challenge,” said Turnbull, “Our schools offer the greatest leverage to address the inequities of our society.”

English-language-learners and students with disabilities are sub-groups that need to be looked at individually to see how their needs can best be met. Local schools are seeing more students who have been affected by traumatic experiences whose needs are being addressed through counseling, and other programs. Vaping is a new issue that is occurring more often; unfortunately, it’s not as easy to detect as tobacco smoke.

“Having worked in three counties now, San Bernardino County, Santa Barbara County, and Santa Cruz County,” said Turnbull, “I can say with full honesty that this is the most inclusive county in terms of the way we work together.

Sometimes in counties, districts almost compete with each other,...now we [in Santa Cruz County] really try to capitalize off of each other's strengths...The 11 superintendents in this county meet monthly with Faris [Sabbah, COE Superintendent], and it's always collaborative,... it has always felt welcoming: what can we do to support you; what are you doing great that we can learn from; what are we doing great that you can learn from.”

—Pam Newbury, VOTER Editor

Turnbull covered many more topics than we have space for here in the VOTER, but you can watch a video of the [entire presentation](#) online at [lwwsc.org/videos](http://lwwsc.org/videos)

LOCAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT				
District Name	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Bonny Doon Elementary	146	165	163	168
Happy Valley Elementary	134	125	132	134
Live Oak Elementary	2,108	2,106	2,069	2,036
Mountain Elementary	120	124	118	127
Pacific Elementary	108	115	106	120
Pajaro Valley Unified	20,438	20,354	20,400	20,279
San Lorenzo Valley Unified	4,613	4,644	4,921	4,998
Santa Cruz City Elementary & High	7,092	6,937	6,788	6,733
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	1,289	1,352	1,286	1,378
Scotts Valley Unified	2,482	2,545	2,505	2,470
Soquel Union Elementary	2,054	1,979	1,981	1,964

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to LWVSCC, Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

\_\_\_ \$65.00 Individual annual membership  
\_\_\_ \$100.00 Two members in a household  
\_\_\_ \$10.00 Student membership  
\_\_\_ Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWVC Education Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

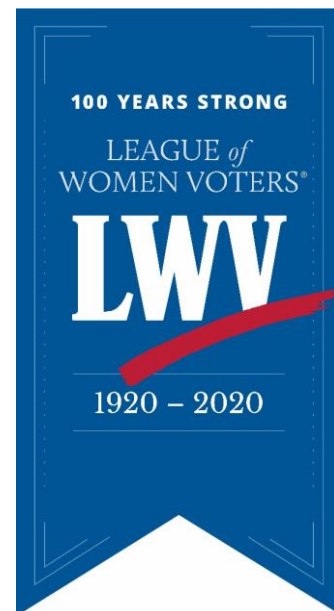
Email \_\_\_\_\_

## National Program Planning in January

In January we will take a look at some of the national League's newest positions and updates, as well as consider any proposed programs or areas of emphasis to recommend for the national League in the coming biennial. Look for details coming soon.

## 100 Years of League Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, February 15, join LWVSCC as we celebrate the League of Woman Voters' centennial year: 100 years of working to create a more perfect democracy. In February, 1920, Carrie Chapman Catt, a prominent leader in the woman suffrage movement, founded the League just six months before ratification of the 19th amendment that gave women the right to vote. Mark this date on your calendar; full details coming soon.



## Climate Change Affects our Community

*Should we be worried?*

It's time to change the climate of our conversations by not huddling under our umbrellas only with those who think what we believe is true! Let's be brave enough to listen curiously to a broad spectrum of our fellow citizens' views about the climate of our earth. In this Conversation for Change we can share our interests, intentions and goals about our changing climate. Conversations for Change are designed to foster greater understanding among individuals who may have different viewpoints.

This event is sponsored by Project Connect, a group of local citizens who care about bridging community divides to preserve our democratic republic and keep America flourishing.

The event takes place on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at the downtown branch of the Santa Cruz Public Library, 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz. Space is limited. Registration is required. <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/5455407>

Creating  
★ A MORE PERFECT ★  
Democracy

League of Women Voters  
of Santa Cruz County  
PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010  
(831) 325-4140  
Editor: Pam Newbury  
President: Barbara Lewis  
Membership: Lydia Nogales Parker  
[league@lwvsc.org](mailto:league@lwvsc.org) [lwvsc.org](http://lwvsc.org)

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.