



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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Calendar

Thursday, February 6
7 to 9 p.m.

Candidates Forum

by Valley Women's Club of SLV
San Lorenzo Valley High School
Performing Arts Center
7105 Highway 9
Felton, CA 95018

Tuesday, February 11, 2020
10 a.m.-noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank
75 River Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Saturday, February 22, 2020
Noon-2 p.m.

Anniversary Luncheon

Featuring Cynthia Mathews
Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History
Garden Room
705 Front Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
\$25 per person,
includes admission and lunch
RSVP by February 15
See feature article for details

Tuesday, March 10
10 a.m. to noon

Local Program Planning Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank
Upstairs Conference Room
75 River Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

100 Years of League

A Century of Women Making a Difference

Featuring Guest Speaker

Cynthia Mathews

Santa Cruz City Councilmember

Saturday, February 22, 2020
Noon to 2 p.m.



The Garden Room
Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History
705 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

The public is invited to attend. Cost: \$25, includes admission and lunch.

Prepaid reservations required by February 15. Pay by PayPal at lwvsc.org or send a check to LWVSCC, P.O. Box 1745 Capitola, CA 95010-1745

In February, 1920, Carrie Chapman Catt, a prominent leader in the woman suffrage movement, founded the League of Women Voters just six months before ratification of the 19th amendment that gave women the right to vote. Join LWVSCC on Saturday, February 22, as we celebrate the League of Woman Voters' centennial: 100 years of working to create a more perfect democracy. This gala luncheon will include live music by a woodwind quintet.

Our featured speaker, Santa Cruz councilmember Cynthia Mathews, will present a talk titled, "Celebrating the Women's Vote Centennial: Historic Milestone, Contemporary Relevance". Her talk will weave together the long campaign leading to passage of the 19th amendment in 1920; the continuous struggles to see that right fully realized in issues of equal rights today; the strength of women's growing impact in both elections and public office; and the League's ongoing role in advancing these core democratic goals.

Cynthia is a member of the Santa Cruz City Council and former mayor, now serving her sixth term. She served as public affairs staff for Planned Parenthood in Santa Cruz County for over 40 years, and is a member of the local Democratic Central Committee. Over the years she has also been engaged in numerous community-based activities supporting schools, libraries, environmental protection, parks, public safety, public health, arts, housing, and local economic development. Her great-grandmother was an organizer for woman suffrage in the early 1900s, and Cynthia has voted in every election since reaching voting age.

Bring a friend and join in the fun; all are welcome. Period costumes encouraged. To attend, send us your prepaid reservations by Saturday, February 15. The cost is \$25 per person and includes admission and lunch by Barbara's Catering (two salads, a fruit bowl, and a chicken dish). We will also have some treats for dessert. Pay online with PayPal at lwvsc.org or send a check to LWVSCC, P.O. Box 1745 Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

This event is co-sponsored by LWVSCC and the Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast. For more information: league@lwvsc.org (831) 325-4140 lwvsc.org

President's Message



As president of The League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County, I am glad to be alive to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the national League of Women Voters and of the right to vote in national elections being expanded to include women, with passage of the 19th amendment to the U.S.

Constitution. Since 1920, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believe that voters should play a critical role in democracy.

In Chicago on February 14, 1920, just six months before ratification of 19th amendment won women the right to vote, the League was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt. Maud Wood Park was elected as the first president of the League, which spread rapidly throughout the nation and quickly got involved with influencing public policy. Formed as an outgrowth of the National Woman Suffrage movement, League founders believed that maintaining a nonpartisan stance would protect the new organization from being mired in party politics of the day.

Winning the right to vote for women was a long and difficult battle, spanning 72 years, beginning at the National Women's Rights Convention in 1848, held in Seneca Falls, New York. Thousands of courageous women, and some male supporters, the suffragists marched, held rallies, lobbied politicians, gave speeches, and published articles. As late as 1917, demonstrators picketing in front of the White House in support of women's suffrage were arrested and sentenced to up to six months in jail.

The amendment to give women the right to vote, first introduced by a California legislator following lobbying by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, was brought up and failed at each session of Congress for 42 years, until it finally passed the Senate on June 4, 1919 and then went on to be ratified in all 36 states needed for the 3/4 vote, with Washington state the 35th and Tennessee the 36th. (See the President's Message in the December, 2019 VOTER for details of the dramatic story of the War of the Roses in Tennessee.) So, in August 1920, the hard work and sacrifice of 72 years succeeded, and women voted in the 1920 election throughout

the United States of America. Charlotte Woodward was the only person who attended the 1848 Seneca Falls convention who was still alive at the time of the passage of the 19th amendment.

After 100 years, the League of Women Voters is still going strong, and we still continue to lead the fight against voter suppression, registering voters, and advocate for action based on the positions adopted by grassroots consensus after lengthy studies. As was realized 100 years ago, the need for an informed and motivated group of voters did not end with the passage of the 19th amendment. I am amazed at all that has been done in the 50 years since I first joined the League of Women Voters, and how much remains to do.

At our January National Program Planning meeting, we honored Sandy Warren, who recently became a 50-year member, and reviewed some of the positions adopted in the last decade, along with ideas for national action.

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

Share Your Ideas:

Local Program Planning in March

Have a special topic you want to learn more about or a cause that's important to you? Mark your calendar for our local program planning meeting on Tuesday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to noon. The meeting will be held at the Santa Cruz County Bank, 75 River Street in Santa Cruz, in the upstairs conference room (this is in place of our monthly board meeting).

We encourage all members to attend to lend their voices to our discussion of what topics our local League should address at next year's program meetings (September 2020 to June 2021). Whether you have a particular topic or project you would like to suggest or would just like to be a part of the process, we welcome all members and prospective members as participants.

Have a topic you'd like to suggest, but can't make the meeting? Communicate your ideas to our program chair, Stephanie Harlan at slharlan@sbcglobal.net, or to any board member, or let us know by email at league@lwvsc.org, phone at 831-325-4140, or by regular mail at LWVSCC, P.O. Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

Voter Service Report

The Valley Women's Club of San Lorenzo Valley is sponsoring a candidates forum on February 6, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the San Lorenzo Valley High School Performing Arts Center, 7105 Highway 9, in Felton. The meeting will feature candidates for California State Senate District 17 (Maria Cadenas, John Laird, John Nevill, and Vicki Nohrden), California State Assembly District 29 (Mark Stone and Shomir Banerjee), and Santa Cruz superior court judge (Annrae Angel, Nancy de la Peña, and Jack Gordon). Doors will open at 6:30, and the candidates will be available to meet personally with those who come early.

The California Primary election will be on March 3. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m. If you choose to vote by mail, your ballot request must arrive at the county clerk's office by February 25.

— Sue Becker--Voter Service co-chair

Membership Report

2020 is the centennial celebration of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, women's right to vote, and for the establishment of the League of Women Voters. It is the perfect time for all our members to feel proud of their affiliation in the League and its commitment to registering and educating voters on ballot issues. Please consider asking a friend to join the League, or consider giving a membership to a voting age student (only \$10). It's a great year to be involved!

The LWVSCC would like to welcome our new member, Kathleen Robins from Freedom. Hope to see you soon at a League event!

—Lydia Parker, Membership Chair

What's on your March 3 ballot?

We are all aware that the presidential primary is a highlight of the March 3 ballot. But did you know that your choice of political party will determine what candidates you see on the ballot? Those registered as Democrat, Republican, American Independent, Green, Libertarian, or Peace and Freedom will see only candidates running for those parties. If you are not registered with one of the six political parties, or if you registered Decline to State, Independent, or Nonpartisan, you are a No Party Preference (NPP) Voter. Three parties allow NPP voters to vote in their presidential primary: Democratic, American Independent, and Libertarian. If you are an NPP Voter and want to see those candidates on your ballot, or if you want to change your party preference, you can do so at votescount.com or call the registrar of voters at 831-454-2060.

The Presidential primary is only the beginning of the March Ballot. You'll also see candidates running for the US House of Representatives, California Senate, California Assembly, and Santa Cruz County Superior Court. The Cabrillo Community College District will be voting on Measure R, a bond to fund repair and construction projects (when Cabrillo College president Matthew Wetstein spoke about changes and challenges at Cabrillo at our League's annual meeting last June, he mentioned the bond; read about it in the September 2019 VOTER newsletter lwvsc.org/newsletter).

To find out exactly what you'll see on your personal ballot, go to Voter's Edge at votersedge.org and enter your address and zip code.

League of Women Voters
of Santa Cruz County
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President: Barbara Lewis
Membership: Lydia Nogales Parker
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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.

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 _____

The League Stepped In

The January 25 “Stepping In” show on KSCO radio featured host Jackie Turner interviewing League members Joyce Anderson, Barbara Lewis, Stephanie Harlan, Lydia Parker, and Pam Newbury speaking about our League and upcoming centennial celebration. You can catch it online at ksco.com/stepping-in. Thanks to Jackie Turner and our publicity chair Joyce Anderson for making this happen and getting the word out to the public about the League!



Joyce, Stephanie, Jackie, Lydia, Barbara, Pam

Vote Yes on Bonds for Schools and Colleges

On the March Ballot is a bond measure that authorizes \$15 billion in state general obligation bonds for construction and modernization of public education facilities. The League recommends a YES vote on this bond, titled Proposition 13. (It is important to note that this bond measure has nothing to do with property taxes or the 1978 property tax initiative still frequently referred to as “prop 13”; it is only numbered 13 by coincidence via the state’s numbering system for initiatives.)

All children in California deserve school facilities in good repair and equipped to provide students with a 21st century education. Across the state, there is a massive need for modernization of old and construction of new educational facilities. This measure would supplement local bond funds and includes provisions that prioritize aid to districts with lower local resources or greater need.

Proposition 13 would authorize \$15 billion for construction and modernization of school and college facilities in California. It includes \$9 billion for preschool and K-12 schools and \$6 billion for California’s public higher education system. The funds will be split evenly among the 114 community colleges, the 23-campus California State University and the 10 campuses of the University of California.

This measure will:

- provide technical support for smaller school districts
- set aside money to test for and remove lead from school drinking water
- make funding available for school district-run preschools
- address issues of seismic deficiencies, fire and safety, and critically deferred maintenance on the 147 campuses of California’s public higher education institutions
- address equity issues and provide other assistance for schools

The League has a consistent history of supporting public education facilities bond measures. It has been four years since the last statewide facilities bond was passed by the voters, and all new construction and modernization bond authority from previous bond measures has been exhausted.

A quality public education is also fundamental to fulfilling the League’s mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government and increased understanding of major public policy issues.

For more information, go to lwvc.org/vote/elections