



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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Calendar

Tuesday, September 8, 2020
10 a.m. to noon
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Virtual meeting via Jitsi
To attend, email rsvp@lwvsc.org

LWV US Convention 2020 Online

With the convention turning virtual due to the pandemic, it also became more accessible than ever before. Many more League members were able to participate, and much of the convention content is available online. Here's how to learn more about what happened at the convention:

- Details of bylaws amendments:
lwv.org/ProposedBylaws
- View videos from the convention on the [League's YouTube channel](#).
- Learn what happened day-by-day at the Convention Daily Briefing:
lwv.org/league-management
- View the convention's keynote address by Norah O'Donnell of CBS News and link to convention materials:
lwv.org/2020Convention
- View recordings of caucuses and informational meetings:
lwv.org/league-management

President's Message



Past and future intersected in dramatic ways as the 2020 LWVUS virtual convention, which I observed on Friday, June 26, and Saturday, June 27, took place via Zoom. The Centennial event was celebrated with historical pictures and appearances by an amazing array of prominent political leaders who gave short talks on the importance of the League of Women Voters in expanding the

vote to women after passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution and on the current fight for voting rights.

The convention took place at a time of national crisis, with massive protests in support of the Black Lives Matter movement as the coronavirus pandemic continued to threaten our nation's health and voting rights. President Chris Carson welcomed the delegates attending by Zoom, and LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase spoke about expanding the vote.

A number of important [bylaws amendments](#) were passed on Friday, June 26. The first added a policy stating that the League is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Those fundamental values are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy. This amendment passed with 750 yay and 37 nay votes.

The second bylaws amendment, which passed with a 2/3 vote, permanently eliminates per-member-payments for student memberships to LWVUS and state Leagues. A student must be enrolled either half- or full-time in an accredited school, which includes technical, vocational, and home schooling. Also passing were amendments dealing with dissolution of local Leagues and removal of a director with cause.

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CEO Virginia Kase's talk on Saturday June 27 was defining. She said our mission is to empower voters and defend democracy. We can't stay neutral. We must stand for the constitution. Nonpartisan doesn't mean we can't call out our leaders. We promote civil discourse. If we disagree publicly in the name of the League of Women Voters, what we say must be rooted in our organization's beliefs.

Virginia Kase is the mother of two black sons. One was pulled over by the police a few months ago and had a gun drawn on him when he was just picking up his girlfriend at work, so she sees the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement. Virginia welcomed Dr. Deborah Turner, our new LWVUS President, and the incoming board of directors.

Also on Saturday, a motion to make a constitutional amendment to abolish the electoral college an "action priority" passed with a majority vote. Other items that passed included a motion by the New Mexico League to adopt their Transfer of Federal Public Lands position by concurrence, which received a 2/3 vote. A motion by LWV Wisconsin, along with 23 other state Leagues, that electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters be adopted, passed with 1064 yes votes.

Looking forward, delegates to the LWVUS historic 2020 convention adopted the following program for 2020-21: Campaign for Making Democracy Work: ensuring a free, fair, and accessible electoral system, work for voting rights, improving elections, advocacy for National Popular Vote Compact, and abolition of the electoral college. The program also includes continuing work on urgent issues: climate change, the Equal Rights Amendment, health care, gun safety, and immigration.

Your membership helps support this important work of the League of Women Voters. Thanks to those of you who have already renewed your membership. If it's still on your to-do list, keep in mind that a renewal sent this month will keep your membership current. Donations are also appreciated.

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

Voter Service Report

November 2020 Election Changes

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the voting process for this election has been changed. Every active registered voter in the county will be mailed a ballot by October 5, regardless of whether or not they have voted by mail in the past. Voters may return their ballot to any of the county-wide drop boxes, in-person, or by US mail.

Voters may drop off their ballot at any of the 15 official exterior Ballot Drop Boxes located throughout Santa Cruz County. The drop boxes will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, beginning on October 5 and continuing right up until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. The list of locations is available at votescount.us.

The Santa Cruz County Clerk and Watsonville City Clerk's office will be open for in-person voting and other voting services beginning October 5. The offices are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; additionally, they will be open the weekend prior to the election, October 31 and November 1, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on November 3, Election Day. In addition, 18 other in-person voting locations will be open Saturday, October 31 through Election Day, November 3. Any voter may go to any voting location. Services will include: voting and turning in the ballot mailed to voters, using the tablet to vote on an accessible ballot or a ballot in Spanish, obtaining a second ballot, registering and voting on the same day, or any other voter service. The list of voting locations will be mailed with the ballot and is available online at votescount.us.

Ballots sent by US mail must be postmarked by November 3, but will be accepted for the next 17 days after the election. Voters may mail their ballot any time after receiving it, and early mailing is encouraged.

Due to the fires in Santa Cruz County, some of the [voting sites](https://votescount.us) and [drop box locations](https://votescount.us) may have to be relocated. Please visit votescount.us for updated information.

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Elections officials will adhere to the public safety protocols including physical distancing and wearing masks, disinfecting surfaces and voting equipment, and providing hand sanitizer. Voters will be asked to follow these guidelines to protect themselves and to protect others. There will also be a mobile voting center for pop-up voting where needed.

Voters now have the option to track their ballot online at california.ballottrax.net. For complete voting information, including how to check your voter registration status and to see what's on your ballot, go to votescount.us

Voter service events

Sponsored by the Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers Union, the League will moderate a candidates forum for areas 3 and 6 for the Pajaro Valley Unified School district board on September 2, 2020. The forum will be held on Zoom from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. This is a change in date due to the devastating fires in the county. Candidates for Trustee in Area 3 are Amanda Hernandez and

Oscar Soto. In area 6, Maria Orozco (incumbent) and Adam Bolanos Scow.

The League will co-sponsor a Pros and Cons on the propositions with the Santa Cruz County American Association of University Women in October; look for more details coming soon.

—Dottie Fry and Kit Hein, Voter Services Co-Chairs



Voting at the Edge: Resources for Voters

What's on my ballot?

votersedge.org/ca

At Voter's Edge you can: Use your address to get a personalized ballot; get info on candidates, measures, and who supports them; keep track of your choices and use them to vote and more.

What's my voter status?

voterstatus.sos.ca.gov

Check if you are registered to vote, where you are registered to vote, your political party preference, your language preference, and the status of your vote-by-mail or provisional ballot. Find your polling place, information for upcoming local and state elections and contact information for your county elections office. Choose how you want to receive your state and county voter guides before each election. Multiple language options are available.

Where is my ballot?

california.ballottrax.net

Sign up to get information on the whereabouts of your ballot through all stages from when it is mailed, received and counted:

How can I register to vote?

registertovote.ca.gov

Find out about qualifications to vote, how to fill out the registration, same-day voting, pre-register to vote, when to re-register, cancelling your registration, the voter bill of rights, and more.

How can I get information by phone?

For information by phone in Santa Cruz County, call **831-454-2060 TDD: 711**. You may also call the California Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at **(800) 345-VOTE (8683)** to get information or request a paper voter registration application.

How can I report voting problems?

Call the Secretary of State's confidential toll-free Voter Hotline at **(800) 345-VOTE (8683)** if you believe you have been denied any of your voting rights, have information about election fraud or misconduct, or have questions about the use of voter information.

What if I need my voting address to be confidential?

Certain voters facing life-threatening situations may qualify for confidential voter status. For more information, contact the Secretary of State's Safe at Home program toll-free at **(877) 322-5227** or visit Safe at Home sos.ca.gov/regisries/safe-home/

An Interview with State Senator Monning

In March of this year, a group of League members interviewed State Senator Bill Monning, who represents the state's 17th senate district, at his Monterey office. Attending from LWVSCC were Dorothy Fry and Pam Newbury; from Monterey County were Alice Ann Glen and Howard Fosler; Jenny Imhoff-Dousharm, Sylvia Christopher, and Marie Arnold represented the San Jose/Santa Clara League. Also in attendance was Senator Monning's field office representative, Colleen Courtney.

The interview began with a discussion of criminal justice. Asked about support for Assembly Constitution Amendment 6 to put an initiative on the November ballot that would restore voting rights to people on parole, Senator Monning expressed his support, believing that doing so empowers their reintegration into society, but he was concerned about the slim chances of passing with a 2/3 majority vote. (In June, the bill passed with by a narrow margin, and is now on the ballot as Proposition 17.)

On the topic of the interconnected issues of transportation, housing, and the climate crisis, Senator Monning pointed out that, although California is on track to meet most carbon emissions goals, vehicle emissions continue to rise and must be addressed. While an increase in the number of electric vehicles could help reduce vehicle emissions, he thinks that the state does not have an adequate charging station infrastructure for this to be a viable option.

He believes the key to reducing emissions from transportation is to offer faster mass transit options, mentioning projects such as a rail link between Salinas, Gilroy and the Central Valley and a reversible busway in the Monterey area. He hopes that providing cost- and time-saving

alternatives to individual vehicle travel could incentivize individuals to change their daily commuting practices.

Senator Monning supports creation of community housing closer to major areas of employment, feeling that transportation, housing and the climate crisis are all interrelated.

According to Senator Monning, California is making progress in many areas concerning the climate crisis, but it is still not enough. He



Left to right: Sylvia Christopher, Dorothy Fry, Alice Ann Glen, Jenny Imhoff-Dousharm, State Senator Bill Monning, Marie Arnold, Howard Fosler, Pam Newbury.

appreciates the income from cap-and-trade programs being sent toward disadvantaged communities to address health issues stemming from climate crisis. He also would like to see additional resources in addressing sea level rise.

Senator Monning stated that housing shortages are impacting everyone from low-income workers to skilled professionals. He noted the area has a lack of qualified candidates for police, fire, nursing, and other professional jobs, due to this issue; some local municipalities are hoping to address this by offering no interest home loans up to \$100,000 for new hires. Lack of affordable local housing, especially for minimum wage workers, also means that there are more people commuting greater distances, negatively impacting both traffic and pollution.

Monning, Continued on Page 5

Woman Suffrage Centennial Celebrated Online

August marked the centennial celebration of women gaining the right to vote in the United States. Here are some ways to learn more and celebrate online.

Locally the Cabrillo Music Festival presented Rising I and II, which included a panel discussion and a musical presentation. If you missed the events' premiere presentations online, you can still watch the recordings. Both are well worth the time to watch.

Stacy Garrop's work, [The Battle for the Ballot](#), commissioned by the Cabrillo Festival, is a 16-minute symphonic and spoken word work commemorating the centenary of woman suffrage in America. The Cabrillo Festival Orchestra's skillful individual home performances were beautifully gathered together in a stunning video. While nothing beats being there in person, this presentation brings to light a whole new and fascinating way to experience a symphony.

The [panel discussion](#) includes presentations by Gail Pellerin, Santa Cruz County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, as our moderator; Judge Marla Anderson, Judge of the Superior Court of California, Monterey County; Bettina Aptheker, scholar-activist and Distinguished Professor Emerita of the Feminist Studies Department at University California Santa Cruz; and Professor Aida Hurtado, Chair of UCSB Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies.

The PBS film [The Vote](#) tells the story of the last ten years of the woman suffrage movement. Learn more with [She Resisted](#), a related interactive experience celebrating the pioneering strategies of the women's suffrage movement.

Suffrage Commemorated in SC

On Tuesday August 25, LWVSCC member Dorothy Fry represented our League (in place of LWVSCC President Barbara Lewis, who was evacuated at the time) when Mayor Justin Cummings proclaimed August 26, 2020, as "100th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution day" in the city of Santa Cruz.

The Mayor's Proclamation mentions "The bold, courageous, and powerful women who fought for the ratification of the 19th Amendment." It also mentions that the amendment "did not guarantee suffrage for all women, including native Americans, who did not gain the right to vote until 1924, and Asian Pacific Islander Americans until 1952; African-American and Latin Americans suffered voter suppression until passage of the voting rights act of 1965 and 1975" and acknowledged the continued "fight against voter suppression to ensure that everyone has the right to vote and access to the democratic process"

The proclamation honors the role of the of the 19th amendment in promoting the core values of our democracy and commemorates the efforts of the women's suffrage movement and the role of women in our democracy and our desire to continue to strengthen democratic participation.

We have heard that the idea for proclamation came from long-time League member and city council member Cynthia Mathews.

Monning, Continued from Page 4

Although some additional resources for homeless individuals have been created, Senator Monning noted that many of these beds are in shared rooms, creating a challenge in incentivizing them to give up the privacy of their tent or car for a shared room. Plans to provide shelter for the homeless would be more successful if they addressed this key need for privacy.

Because mental health issues can leave individuals more susceptible to becoming homeless, Senator Monning supports the "No Place Like Home Program" that is now repurposing two billion dollars from the Mental Health Services Act to provide supportive housing for those with mental illness who are homeless.

As Senator Monning finishes his twelfth and final term, he is most proud of his contributions towards public health and to have passed SB200, which established a safe and affordable drinking water fund.

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 _____

LWVSCC 55th Annual Meeting Report

Our League held its 55th annual meeting on a virtual platform this year due to shelter-in-place requirements of the pandemic. We successfully conducted all necessary business of the meeting.

The board was elected as nominated, including some new members. Continuing officers are Barbara Lewis, president, Dottie Fry, first vice president/voter service co-chair, and Marilyn McCusker as secretary. We welcome two new board members: Kit Hein, second vice president/voter service co-chair, and Dinah Sapia, treasurer. Pam Newbury continues as editor of the VOTER newsletter, and Lydia Nogales Parker continues as membership chair. We welcome Nancy Litvak as the new program chair.

All local positions were retained; program topics for the coming year are the Schools and Communities First initiative (Proposition 15), the cannabis industry in Santa Cruz County, housing and homelessness, responding to the climate emergency, and the gap between farmworkers and the community. The budget was adopted as proposed.

Get the Facts on 15

With the Yes on 15 campaign in full swing, the League and its allies have been battling false claims by the opposition in their arguments against the proposition in the state's voter guide. The judge has required the [false claims to be deleted](#) from the opposition's arguments.

Prop 15 could bring an estimated \$57 million dollars in new revenue to Santa Cruz County to help schools and improve our community. [Click here](#) to find out how our county will benefit and where the money will go. Check out the campaign website at [yes15.org](#) and [Evolve California](#) to learn more about Prop 15

Here are some ways you can help the campaign:

- Let your friends, neighbors, family, acquaintances know why you support Prop 15.
- Help with phone banking and make calls to educate voters.
- Write letters to the editor for your local papers.
- If you would like a presentation about Prop 15 for your local community group or organization, please let us know.

Contact us at yeson15scc@gmail.com to find out more or if you have any questions about Prop 15 or volunteering.

League of Women Voters
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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.

September Virtual Board Meeting

Due to the pandemic, we will be using Jitsi, a secure and free video conferencing system, for our September 8 Board of Directors meeting, which will start at 10 a.m. To attend, send an email to rsvp@lwvsc.org.