



# Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

May 2022

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## Calendar

### **LWVSCC Board Meeting**

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

10:00 a.m.-noon online

If you wish to join the Board for this meeting, please contact us at [league080@gmail.com](mailto:league080@gmail.com)

### **Santa Cruz and Climate Change**

Saturday, May 21, 2022

11:00 a.m.-noon via Zoom

Talk by Gary Griggs

Distinguished Professor of Earth Sciences at UCSC

If you wish to attend, please contact us at [league080@gmail.com](mailto:league080@gmail.com) and we'll send a Zoom link.

### **It's that time of year again - Time for us all to renew our memberships.**

We truly appreciate your support in the past, and we hope that you will continue to support the work we do. You can use this link to the membership page in our website: <https://my.lwv.org/california/santa-cruz-county/join>. It will show payment options.

--Or you can just print the membership form on the last page of this newsletter and use that.

Thanks for your continued support!

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

*Featuring*

**Carol Moon Goldberg**

President, League of Women Voters of California, speaking about

**Connective Tissue of the League -**

**How It all Fits Together**

**Join us on Saturday**

**June 11, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.**

**At The Grille at DeLaveaga**

**401 Upper Park Road, Santa Cruz, 95065**

We will meet **in person** for lunch at the Grille at DeLaveaga, in DeLaveaga Park. We are looking forward to seeing and chatting with all of you, after two years of virtual meetings! We are also honored to have Carol Moon Goldberg as our speaker, as she is a wonderful speaker.

The Grille is beautifully renovated and has gorgeous views throughout. There is a large parking lot, so you can park either close, or a bit further away. The Grille is on the second floor, and there is an elevator for access. It is easy to drop someone off at the elevator, then move to a parking space.

There are three menu choices: A) Garden Salad with grilled chicken breast and choice of dressing, B) Garden Burger topped with avocado and sauteed mushrooms (here's your chance to try the Beyond Burger you've heard so much about), and C) Grilled Salmon with rice pilaf and spring vegetables. Lunch is on a sliding scale, so please pay what you are comfortable with - either \$26, or \$36. In addition to the entrée, this covers your choice of beverage, fresh cookies for dessert and the service fee.

**If you wish to attend, please RSVP by May 25.** Email the League at [league080@gmail.com](mailto:league080@gmail.com) with your choice of food, or for more information, and pay in advance, either by PayPal, or by check made out to LWVSCC. The check may be mailed to Santa Cruz League of Women Voters, PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010. Payment must be received by June 7.

**Download the four-page Annual Meeting Kit from our [website](#) [Calendar](#) [posting](#) and bring it with you.**

## President's Message

I am very grateful to our members for joining and renewing their memberships in the League of Women Voters during these challenging pandemic years. I hope you will stay with us for 2022-23! The board of directors were a joy to work with, and I was amazed at the willingness of all who took on leadership positions in our group to learn new skills, including technical challenges and working on communications. As president of our local League, I know this year could not have happened without those who helped, both on and off the board of directors, and by participating in interviews with our elected representatives. Thank you to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Program Nancy Litvak, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership Laura Grossman, Secretary Lydia Parker, Treasurer Geri McGillicuddy, and VOTER Editor Marilyn Radisch for their service to the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County.  
-----*Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC*

## Robert Rivas Interview

In our last newsletter, we presented the views of State Senator John Laird and State Assemblymember Mark Stone on four questions that the California League is asking of all California lawmakers. In this edition, we have those same questions, along with answers from Assemblymember Robert Rivas, who represents the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

Assemblymember Rivas was interviewed on February 2, 2022, by a group of League members from the three counties that he represents in part. The interview was moderated by Tama Olver of the Monterey County League. Also present were Barbara Lewis and Lydia Parker of the Santa Cruz County League, Margaret McCann of the San Jose/Santa Clara League and Anne Herendeen, Dennis Mar and Gail Morton of the Monterey county League. Spencer Hagaman, Communications Director for Assemblymember Rivas, was also in attendance.

### Question #1: Redistricting Changes in Advance of 2031

Redistricting is complicated and this question has several parts: What changes, if any, would you support for the next redistricting cycle in 2031? Do you support expansion of the current requirements for cities and counties to school district and/or special district redistricting? Should outreach and transparency requirements be expanded?

Mr. Rivas said that it is important to learn where the California Independent Redistricting Commission and similar commissions in other states succeeded and where they fell short. His evaluation of the 2021 California Commission's work: for the most part, it worked.

Mr. Rivas had prior experience with redistricting after the 2010 census as a San Benito County supervisor. He suggested that the state commission model could be applied to local governments. He thinks it is important that all citizens be "equitably heard". Going forward, it is important to encourage participation through the entire process, also that concerns are heard in a timely manner, and that participants feel they were heard.

### Question 2: Climate Change, Water and Equity

What do you see as ways California can help underserved communities, while dealing with the effects of climate change on the state's water supply? Please tell us about both proposed and pending legislation and funding sources.

Climate change affects all communities, and particularly disadvantaged and underserved communities. The lack of water for drinking, fishing, swimming, and other activities is a problem for those communities right now.

Mr. Rivas is directly involved with water issues as the chair of the Agricultural Committee and as the representative of a rural district with communities that are struggling economically.

In his first term as a member of the Assembly, he authored AB1628, which was passed and signed by the Governor. This bill extended the definition of "environmental justice" to include not only fair

treatment for all, but the involvement of marginalized communities in the adoption and implementation of environmental laws and policies.

Mr. Rivas outlined a package of bills he would be proposing. (About two weeks after the interview with the League, a press release from his office identified the names of the bills: AB2106, AB2108 and AB2113.)

*“...Assemblymembers Robert Rivas and Cristina Garcia announced three new pieces of legislation to ensure that all Californians have access to clean water for drinking, fishing, swimming, and more.*

*The first piece of legislation, Assembly Bill 2108, will improve representation of tribal and disadvantaged communities on Water Boards and better incorporate environmental justice considerations into clean water permits. Assembly Bill 2106 will modernize the state’s permitting system for the treatment of stormwater, the most significant source of water pollution in California today. Finally, Assembly Bill 2113 will require fines paid by polluters to be sent back into the community that was harmed, instead of going to fund state government operations.”*

Regarding how to pay for projects, Mr. Rivas noted that the historically high funding level in this year’s budget provides California the opportunity. He said that California must be “very intentional with our investments” and not miss the opportunity to make sustainable improvements. The problems of access to clean water, rural poverty, and climate change are not separate problems, but are intertwined. A holistic approach to managing water is needed.

### **Question 3: California’s Children and Youth Mental Health Emergency**

California’s new Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative – Detailed Proposal, which allocates \$4.4 billion over five years to address these issues, may help reform our overburdened system. However, there have been recommendations made for further legislative action to ensure success. What more needs to be done to address the mental health needs of California’s children and youth? Do you

anticipate proposing or supporting any legislation to confront the growing problem?

Like with many problems, the youth mental health emergency is driven by many factors, all of which must be addressed. Rural communities face a great disparity in access, compared to urban communities. Mr. Rivas mentioned the lesser availability of broadband internet access to support distance learning and telemedicine. The pandemic exposed this disparity.

Mr. Rivas contrasted his upbringing to the lives of today’s children. He recounted how he grew up in poverty as a child of a farmworker family. Yet, as difficult as his family’s life was, today’s students who live in struggling communities face more dire circumstances than he did. Mr. Rivas spoke of housing and food insecurities for children and youth, core mental health stressors, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to providing vital mental health services, we must address these critical issues, and others.

### **Question 4: What are your legislative priorities?**

What other issues do you think the Legislature should deal with in 2022?

Mr. Rivas will continue to focus on areas he has addressed since he was elected to the Assembly: equitable recovery from the pandemic, improving the lives of the most vulnerable (specifically, broadband for all, telehealth, education), eliminating or reducing the overcrowding of housing of essential agricultural workers, promoting movement of conventional agricultural practices toward sustainable models, mitigating the effect of climate change on agriculture and wildlands, and advancing California’s position as an innovation leader.

# Membership Renewal Form

May 2022

Dear Fellow League Member,

Thank you for your membership in the League of Women Voters. Your interest and support are truly appreciated. It's time to renew your membership for our fiscal year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

Please indicate the contact information you do not want included in the local membership roster by marking (X) in the appropriate space(s) and send this letter with your check.

\_\_\_ Mailing Address      \_\_\_ Phone Number      \_\_\_ E-mail Address

Note: Contact information is for League business only and is not shared with other organizations.

## LWV OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(s): \_\_\_\_\_

___ Individual Member @ \$65/year .....	_____
___ Primary Household Member @ \$65/year .....	_____
___ Additional Household Member(s) @ \$35/year.....	_____
___ Student Member @ \$10/year.....	_____
___ Donation to LWVSCC .....	_____
	Total _____

Please consider adding a donation to help cover local program expenses. Make your dues check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC. To make a tax-deductible donation, please write a separate check to LWVC Education Fund. Mail your check(s) with this form to: LWVSCC, PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010.

If you prefer to renew your membership online, visit our website at [lwvsc.org](http://lwvsc.org). Thank you again for being a member of our League. Your continued support helps to keep our democracy working.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lewis  
President

Laura Grossman  
Membership Chairperson