



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Save the Date

October 8, via Zoom

Ballot Measures Pros and Cons

Jointly presented by

LWVSCC and AAUW

More information and how to sign up will be coming soon.

Don't forget

It's membership renewal time

And it promises to be an interesting year - so please renew now if you haven't already.

This link will get you there:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/santa-cruz-county/join>

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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

I am looking forward to the challenges of this coming year and having more time to get acquainted with our members, participate in the very important agenda of the League of Women Voters, and take action in the Campaign for Making Democracy Work, as well as acting to support state and national legislation that reflects positions adopted by our members over the years.

At the 55th National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), which took place in Denver, CO from June 23-26, Deborah Ann Turner, MD, JD, was honored to be re-elected board president for the next biennium. She welcomed our newly elected national board of directors, who are determined to take up the reins and lead us with determination and wisdom. Some of the convention highlights are:

1. The Campaign for Making Democracy Work was adopted for the new biennium and amended to add language around the "election of the president by popular vote." LWVUS will be making a financial investment to begin, what LWVUS President Deborah Ann Turner called the next "moonshot" goal, abolition of the Electoral College, with plans to engage in this effort after the midterm elections. We have a busy fall ahead of us.

2. Delegates voted to add the Equal Rights Amendment to the LWVUS program so that resources-both financial and people powered-will be allocated to accomplish its passage and continue the work we are already doing on the ERA.

3. Delegates voted to retain all current positions and adopted two new positions by concurrence (Criminal Justice and Digital Equity) and updated a third position by concurrence (Health Care). These will be published in the 2022-2024 edition of Impact on Issues before the end of the calendar year.

I look forward to the publication of the updated Impact on Issues and having online access to view the updated

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positions. As part of our participation in National Program Planning, LWVSCC supported the health care position update, and our board of directors spent considerable time viewing the material received, so I was interested in learning that we played a role in affecting change. Once a position is adopted, it becomes the basis for League action. Of course, I am only communicating some of the highlights of an action-packed Convention!

The League of Women Voters will continue to be a major force in the fight to maintain voting and reproductive rights, combat gerrymandering, and provide voter access and information in the November 2022 election and years to come. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so without further delay to support the work of the local, state, and national League of Women Voters as we embark on our second hundred years.

--Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

OUR ANNUAL MEETING

The 57th Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County was held in person at The Grille at De LaVeaga Golf Course, on Saturday, June 11, 2022. It was our first meeting in person in a long time.

President Barbara Lewis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing all local members and our guest speaker, Carol Moon Goldberg, President of the California League of Women Voters. Carol Moon Goldberg is a twenty-five-year member of the League who lives in Sacramento. She has been the Reproductive Rights Coordinator and has held many other positions within the League. In praising the 102-year history of the League, she stated, "We are a democracy. It is something we do."

In her speech, entitled "The Connective Tissue of the League of Women Voters", Carol addressed the League's involvement from Santa Cruz to California to the US level. Local Leagues work on city and county issues; the state Leagues work at the state level and the LWVUS addresses federal issues.

Currently on the federal level, the League is advocating for voting rights and legislation regarding the freedom to vote. The National League, after resisting for a long time, came out against the filibuster. It also monitors legislation, and provides information about the Lobby Corps. The Lobby Corps was founded in 1971 and involves 20-25 members of the League who live in the DC area. These members convene monthly when Congress is in session. After being briefed on League legislative priorities, they each get assignments to lobby certain members of Congress on those priorities. Recent priorities have included protecting the environment from climate change, protecting voting rights, and reforming the campaign finance system. They also worked very hard on the gun control legislation that recently passed in Congress.

The League supports Action Alerts at the state and national level; your dues support this process. These Action Alerts encourage an email outpouring from constituents on issues that the League prioritizes; last week the topics were background checks for gun purchases and redistricting. The LWVUS and several state Leagues have also filed a number of amicus briefs, for example in Mississippi, regarding that state's abortion law.

In California, there is support for legislation in the areas of housing, criminal justice, and voting rights. The League has several legislative analysts who support or oppose an issue and follow its process through committee. Currently the focus is on abortion rights in the California constitution. In 2020, there were six amicus briefs filed, including one regarding undocumented residents and the census. In a November voting cycle, the League publishes a Vote With the League Guide. The Voters Edge is another voter service. The Easy Voter guide is translated into five languages and contains a description of the offices on which voters are deciding. There are social media reminders regarding voting timelines and the pros and cons of issues. The League has regional coalitions that watch tax related propositions and current election systems. There is a three-year, \$85 million budget to support voter education, and there is interest in involving Twitter and other social media.

At 1:15 p.m. Barbara Lewis called the Business Meeting to order. Pam Newbury read the Proposed Annual Meeting Rules as
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described in Robert's Rules of Order. It was determined we had a quorum in attendance. The Rules were accepted.

Geri McGillicuddy introduced the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023. Barbara thanked the Budget Committee: Bob Lewis, Jan Karwin, Sandy Warren, Geri McGillicuddy, and Barbara Lewis. Jan Karwin moved that we accept the budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Kit Hein. The Proposed Budget passed unanimously.

Nancy Litvak read the Proposed Local Program for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The program ideas are based on the discussion by members present at the Local Program Planning Meeting on March 1, 2022. A complete text of the positions may be found under "Positions" on our League's website at lwvsc.org. They are:

1. Conversations with local government representatives.
2. Voting Rights to be co-sponsored with NAACP and Latinx groups.
3. Homeless concerns, with a focus on how state funds are allocated in Santa Cruz County.

There was a question about the term "Latinx", and it was addressed by Lydia Nogales-Parker. It is a gender-neutral term that respects gender fluidity and awareness. There was a discussion about how to attract younger voters to the League. Carol Moon Goldberg mentioned that the issues of criminal justice and climate change often attract younger members. Kit Hein called for the vote. Caroline Elam moved that we accept the program ideas for the coming year. It was seconded by Geri McGillicuddy. The "ayes" carried the vote.

Jan Karwin, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following nominations for the Board of Directors and Nominating Committee for 2022-2023:

- Officers:
- PresidentBarbara Lewis
 - 1st VP/VOTER Editor.....Marilyn Radisch
 - 2nd VP/Voter ServicesMarilyn McCusker
 - Secretary.....Lydia Nogales Parker
 - Treasure.....Geri McGillicuddy
- Directors:
- Member Chair/Data Mgr.....Laura Grossman
 - Publicity Coord.....Mindy Ryan

Nominating Committee: Suse Shane (Chair), Eloise Graham and Karen Smith

Jan then moved that we accept the listed nominees. Judy Greer seconded the motion. Members present then voted in favor of the motion to elect the proposed Board of Directors and Nominating Committee for FY 2022-2023.

In addition, the following members have agreed to serve in positions off-board.

- League Telephone.....Dorothy Fry
- Program Coach... ..Nancy Litvak
- Services Coach.....Dorothy Fry
- Website Team... Jan Karwin/Pam Newbury
- HospitalityJoyce Anderson

Submitted by the 2021-22 Nominating Committee:
Elected Members: Jan Karwin (Chair), Eloise Graham and Karen Smith
Board Appointed Members: Laura Grossman and Nancy Litvak
--many thanks to Lydia Nogales-Parker for her reporting, and to Pam Newbury for additional comments

PROGRAM CALENDAR

A group of LWVSCC members met to discuss setting dates for the programs that were approved at the Annual Meeting. Those in attendance were: Barbara Lewis, Marilyn McCusker, Marilyn Radisch, Geri McGillicuddy, Dorothy Fry, Lydia Nogales Parker. Here is the tentative timeline – it promises to be a busy, interesting year!

October – Ballot Measures Pro and Cons

There are seven measures on the ballot in November, and the local chapter of the AAUW would like to participate with us in the Pros and Cons meetings as cosponsors. (This meeting is set for October 8.) This meeting will be for members of LWVSCC and AAUW and will be held via Zoom.

The idea of a Voter Service Meeting was discussed. This would be a perfect venue to discuss what the League is doing on voter outreach and in response to voting rights. It would be a way to promote the League and its focus. It was decided to contact the
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local chapters of the NAACP and the YWCA to see if we could get contacts to work with us on this meeting.

We are also working on a series of small “membership teas” to be held in person, so new members can get to know each other. More information will be forthcoming on those.

November – Dealing with the Homeless Crisis

There was member interest expressed at the Annual Meeting on June 11 for our local League to sponsor an event dealing with how state funds are allocated in Santa Cruz County to deal with housing and other concerns of the homeless population. This topic could be part of the conversation with local representatives that was also approved at the Annual Meeting. November would be a good time to address this topic, as many members and citizens volunteer to help underrepresented people during the holidays. This is planned to be on Zoom.

2023

January – State Program Planning

This meeting will focus on the priorities for state action and recommendations for any studies. It will be a late January date.

January/February – Legislative Interviews

Once the election is over, legislative interviews will be scheduled. In addition to state legislators, we are planning to hear from elected representatives of local jurisdictions - mayors and/or supervisors.

February – Local Program Planning

This meeting will propose studies, spend time on local issues, and renew and update our focus. The date will be in late February.

March, April, May – Conversations with Local Representatives

An additional program item that was adopted at the Annual Meeting 2022, was conversations with local representatives. This will be especially important this year, as redistricting has put many of us in districts with representative with whom we are not familiar, or who have not yet served in the legislatures. For example, Aptos representation now encompasses a geographic area much farther south, and the Scotts Valley district encompasses part of Santa Clara. We would need to have questions we want addressed; we can start thinking about those now, even before the election. We can – and should - ask the representative, “What are your priorities?”.

May 19-21 – State Convention

The LWV State Convention will be in San Francisco.

June - LWVSCC Annual Meeting

We look forward to another lively meeting – the date and place to be determined.

EXPLORE OUR LEAGUE ONLINE

We encourage all members to check out our Santa Cruz county LWV website at lwvsc.org. There, you can check on [upcoming events](#), read past editions of our local League’s newsletter, the [Santa Cruz VOTER](#) and [featured articles](#), view [videos](#) of past events, learn about our local League’s [positions](#) on issues of importance, find information on how to [contact your elected officials](#) and much more.

Although the public is encouraged to visit our website, League members can access our “Members’ Only” page by logging into their account. To log in, click the yellow “log in” button at the top of the page; if you have questions about your account or password, contact us at webmaster@lwvcs.org. (Note that we have created accounts and passwords for all of our members; if you haven’t already done so, when you login you should create your own secure password for your account.)

While you’re there, be sure to check out the League’s [Action Alerts](#). You can [sign up](#) to receive Action Alerts via email at the State League’s website.

And, of course, you can easily [make a donation](#) to the League or [renew](#) your membership using PayPal.

--Pam Newbury, Co-webmaster