



# Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

January 2023

Volume 57, Number 2

## In this Issue

<i>President's Message</i> -----	1
<i>State Program Planning</i> ----	1
<i>More Events</i> .....	2
<i>Voter Service Report</i> -----	2
<i>LWV California Year in Review</i> ....	3

## STATE PROGRAM

### PLANNING MEETING

**Wednesday, January 25**

**1-3 pm.**

*This meeting will be held at the home of Sandy Warren  
150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz*

This meeting is open to all LWVSCC members. If you wish to attend, please RSVP directly to Sandy by Friday, January 20: Her email address is: [sandra333warren@gmail.com](mailto:sandra333warren@gmail.com)

#### *Directions to meeting:*

From Northbound Highway 1/Mission Street, turn right onto Bay Street (towards UCSC). Continue on Bay 0.7 mile, then turn left onto Escalona Drive (past Kenneth Street), then make an immediate right onto Bayona Drive, heading uphill. Take the first left onto Scenic Street. 150 is the last house on the left at the end of the cul-de-sac.

Link for the program planning kit:  
[Program Planning Kit for 2023-2025](#)

Link to LWVC positions:  
[LWVC Positions](#)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As members, we have a chance to suggest the direction for the League of Women Voters of California every two years. In League parlance, "program" means issues that members have chosen for concerted study, education, and action at local, state, and national levels. Program can include both education and advocacy work.

On Wednesday January 25, we will be meeting at the home of John and Sandy Warren, 150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz from 1-3 pm. to have our say. If coming, please RSVP. (See VOTER State Program Planning article at left for RSVP and other details.) At this meeting, League members propose areas on which to focus our local energy, the energy of other local Leagues in California, and the resources of the state League (staff, board, consultants, and other volunteers) over the next two years. These focus points are referred to as "issues for emphasis".

Issues for emphasis may be based on current League work or on new topics of statewide relevance; issues could include a new study, an update of an existing LWVC position, or concurrence with a position already adopted by another League. Any requests for concurrence received from other California Leagues by January 25 will be shared at that time.

The Campaign for Making Democracy Work is considered so important this year that the question we are being asked is simply, "In addition to the Campaign for Making Democracy Work, are there issues where you think the LWVC should concentrate?" We are being given up to three choices and are being asked who would work on each choice.

Coming to State Program Planning, if you are available and healthy on this day and time, is a great opportunity to get acquainted with others in our local League, enjoy the Warrens' hospitality, and start off the New Year with learning and participating at the grassroots level in creating the LWVC Program for 2023-2025.

--Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

## VOTER SERVICE REPORT

### MORE EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE

#### Justice for Survivors of Human Trafficking

**Saturday, January 14, 2023  
1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**At the Resource Center for Non-Violence, 612 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz**

*Hosted by the American Association of University Women of Santa Cruz County*

Speakers will be from *Justice at Last*, a non-profit group of lawyers serving survivors of human trafficking.

#### LWVC Interest Group Training

**Thursday, February 16, 2023  
7:00 PM – Online**

Join this webinar to learn more about the purpose and operation of LWVC Interest Groups across all areas. As Advocacy Interest groups grow, they continue to provide an important forum for members to support each other in exploring advocacy and educational work. All Interest Group members are encouraged to attend this educational training!

Use this link to register for the training:

[Interest Group All-Hands Training on Thursday, February 16 at 7 PM](#)

On September 20, National Voter Registration Day, Dottie Fry joined Helen Ruiz-Thomas, Voter Outreach Coordinator for the Elections Office, for a visit to Santa Cruz High. They did presentations for three Government classes on general election information and voting. It included two very good YouTube videos geared toward teens. They registered about 8 new voters.

This election season we conducted seven Pros and Cons sessions. We had 8 scheduled but no one attended in Watsonville. I handed out lists of helpful sites for more info, including the County site since people wanted information on local ballot measures.

Garfield Park, Sept 28 – 6 people in attendance

AAUW Oct 8, Zoom, ~ 25

Highlands Park, Oct 14 – 8

Dominican Oaks, Oct 17 – 46

La Posada, Oct 18 – 9

Oct 25 NAACP, Zoom – 19

Oct 26, Watsonville Library – 0 (We were late with publicity, and it was mid-day. Should probably schedule in the evening.)

Oct 27, Downtown Library, hybrid – 19. This is normally a well-attended event but was impacted by rescheduling due to the strike and a school shooting hoax at Santa Cruz High. We used two of the videos created by the LWV Diablo Valley and Saint Mary's College. These were very well done, and it was refreshing to have young people presenting. Unfortunately, the video didn't come across clearly on Zoom due to a technical error.

I'd like to thank our presentation team of Dottie Fry, Sandy Warren, and Caroline Elam.

I only had one request for the League to moderate a candidate forum, but that person was doing it on short notice and wasn't inviting all candidates. I declined because it would not meet our criteria. (Several California Leagues had problems with Candidate Forums this election season. Candidate behavior and recordings were the two main issues).

*--Marilyn McCusker, Voter Service Director*

Many thanks to Marilyn and her team for all their hard work during the election season.

# LWV CALIFORNIA YEAR IN REVIEW THERE WERE SUCCESSSES

The state League lists a number of 2022 victories on their website. Those include:

**Anti-Racist Victory:** After three years of work, as the League co-sponsored AB 256 (Kalra), the Racial Justice Act for All. This law empowers defendants to challenge charges, convictions or punishments if they can show that anyone involved in their case demonstrated racial bias during any part of judicial the process – regardless of when that happened..

## **Protections for California Voters – and California Election Workers:**

Both the LWVC and the ACLU co-sponsored AB 2841 (Low), which prevents erroneous voter registration purges and protects the voting rights of people with disabilities who are under conservatorship. Californians will now receive notice before being removed from the rolls and given an opportunity to prevent that from happening.

Also, SB 1131 (Newman) ensures that elections officials or other public employees who are experiencing intimidation may enroll in California's Safe at Home address confidentiality program.

## **Safeguards for Reproductive**

**Rights:** In addition to being signatories to the ballot argument for Proposition 1, which enshrined the right to an abortion in the state constitution, the League also supported a number of other bills supporting reproductive rights, including protecting people from criminal prosecution for self-induced abortions AB 2223 (Wicks), expanding the availability

of providers in the first trimester, Sb 1375 (Atkins) , and prohibiting the enforcement of out-of-state abortion restrictions laws affecting both those who seek an abortion and those who provide one.

**New Approaches to Housing and the Environment:** The LWV of Marin County planted a seed that led Assemblymember Mark Levine to author AB 1445, which requires local governments to consider sea level rise and other environmental factors when planning for new housing.

The LWVC also supported AB 2011 (Wicks), which allows affordable housing to be built through a streamlined process in commercially zoned districts, thereby keeping development close to city centers, which will reduce sprawl and lead to reductions in greenhouse gases. Also, AB 2097 (Friedman) ends parking mandates in many cities, which is expected to lower housing costs and reduce pollution.

**Local Redistricting Reform:** We have heard a lot of concern about the redistricting process after the recent redistricting took place. The state League is part of a coalition of organizations thinking through a process to advance local-level redistricting where possible.

## **BUT YOU CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL**

You may be sitting amidst an atmospheric river while you're reading this, but there is truly not 'water, water, everywhere' in California – and there were failed legislative attempts to save our water supply.

Assemblymember Robert Rivas, who represents part of Santa Cruz County, introduced a bill (AB252), which would have taken land out of agricultural production because of the drought and declining amounts of both surface and ground water. It did not pass because of the absence of dedicated funding.

Agricultural opposition also killed AB 2201 (Bennett), which would have brought well-permitting into line with requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Lack of ongoing funding also led to the Governor's veto of SB 222 (Dodd), which would have helped with both drinking water and wastewater facilities for low-income residents. But the Governor did sign SB 1157 (Hertzberg), which tightens urban water use objectives.

Information on this page comes from the LWV California website, but there is much more there. Check out this link to see more: <https://lwvc.org/>