



# Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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## Calendar

### Meet Tricia Webber

Saturday, January 27, 2024

10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

Felton Branch Library

6121 Gushee Street

Felton, CA 95018

### National Program Planning Meeting

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Sandy Warren's Home

150 Scenic Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060

#### Directions to 150 Scenic Street:

Heading north on Mission Street, turn right on Bay Street. Where the street divides, turn left on Escalona, then turn right on Bayona. Proceed up the hill and take the first left on Scenic Street. The last house on the ocean side is #150.

And don't forget to RSVP to Sandy Warren if you are coming.

[sandra333warren@gmail.com](mailto:sandra333warren@gmail.com)

### It's a New Year

Time to think about renewing your membership - or joining us

[join or renew your membership](#)

## Join Us For a Conversation With Tricia Webber

Elections Clerk Tricia Webber will update our community with essential information about the March ballot, November elections, voter registration and the effects of new legislation.



Elections are our chance to have an impact on issues that affect us, our communities, our families, and our future. Please join us on:

### Saturday, January 27, 2024

10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Felton Branch Library

6121 Gushee Street

Felton, CA 95018

### National Program Planning Meeting

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Sandy Warren's Home

150 Scenic Street

Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (driving directions at left.)

This is your chance to help us decide what the National League will focus on in the coming years – and your chance to meet some interesting people!

Please RSVP directly to Sandy Warren at

[sandra333warren@gmail.com](mailto:sandra333warren@gmail.com)

## President's Message

I hope you experienced some joy this holiday season and were able to go to events in our community with family and friends. As the 2024 year begins, our first program will feature an election update with Santa Cruz County Clerk Tricia Webber at the beautiful Felton branch library on 6121 Gushee St. Felton. Some of us have attended meetings for over fifteen years, which involved reviewing design plans, fundraising, site selection, and rallying support for a ballot measure before this library finally opened. If you are available and in good health on Saturday January 27, please come to hear about the March ballot, the effects of new legislation, voter registration, and a look forward to the November elections. This program is co-sponsored by the American Association of University Women Santa Cruz County. Thank you to Program Chair Stephanie Harlan for securing this location, contacting our speaker, and communicating with AAUW President Doreen O'Donovan, who recently joined our League, Karen Smith, who will be providing refreshments, and Mindy Ryan for handling event publicity.

On Tuesday January 30, at 1 p.m. we plan to do our National Program Planning meeting at the home of Sandy Warren, which involves helping decide LWVUS priorities for the next two years, with final decisions to be made at our National Convention next June in Washington DC. Program Planning is our grassroots process for recommending and selecting the LWVUS Program, which is the

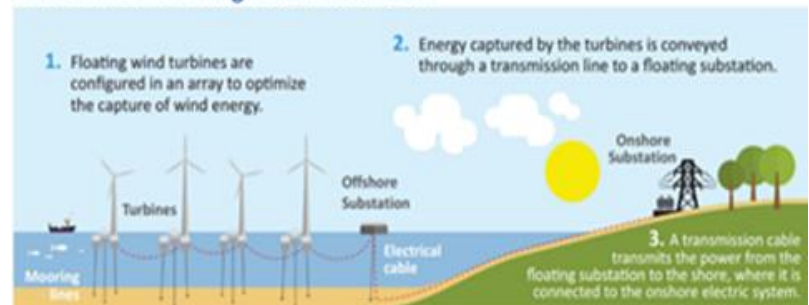
education and advocacy platform that the League membership adopts at each biennial LWV National Convention. Leagues often use the national program to guide their state and local advocacy. One of the questions local League members are being asked is, "Would you like to recommend another program item, in addition to or instead of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work?"

We will be considering proposals received from other Leagues, as well as our own members, including the scope of the recommendation. I have already received a recommended program item from Diz Swift, a leader of the LWVC Climate Team, "To all Leagues, please think about inserting climate change in your Program Planning....Climate change threatens our democracy. Climate change is fueling extreme weather - heat, wildfires, flooding, drought causing food shortages, creating refugees, threatening the biosphere, and impacting our economy, health, and national security. LWV must push harder for immediate reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to preserve civilization." This recommendation would fall under the Natural Resources heading of National Program. The latest update of LWVUS program positions, which have been adopted over the years, is now available for reference online as a pdf by searching for "Impact on Issues 2022-2024" if you want to learn more. If unavailable to participate, you may communicate ideas about future LWVUS program and suggestions for advocacy by contacting a member of our Board of Directors who plans to attend or emailing [league@lwvsc.org](mailto:league@lwvsc.org).

---Barbara Lewis, President, LWVSCC

## Speaking of climate change---here is some information on offshore wind development

### How Offshore Floating Wind Farms Work



Here are a few quick facts about offshore wind from the California Energy Commission:

- A single rotation of the blades on an offshore turbine can power a home for a day.
- The blades on each turbine can rotate 10 to 15 times per minute.
- To achieve 25 gigawatts of offshore wind will require more than 1,600 floating offshore wind turbines to be built off California's coast.
- The turbines will be as tall as the Eiffel tower but, when located 20 to 60 miles off the coast, they are not expected to be highly visible from shore.

In early November a forum on development of offshore wind in California was held in San Luis Obispo county. 750 people attended in person, and more logged in via Zoom. The focus was to both explain how offshore wind would work and to get comments from the public on their feelings and concerns about it.

Assembly Bill 525 (Chiu) was passed in 2021. This bill addresses creating 100% clean energy for California by 2045 and it is the impetus for developing offshore wind as one method of creating clean power.

The 2023 forum talked about how offshore wind would work and took input from those in attendance.

The goal is to provide 25 gigawatts of power to the state by 2045. The projects will take place in federal waters, 20 to 45 miles offshore. (State waters extend only three miles out.) Development will consider the concerns of both tribal governments and local communities.

Dawn Addis, who represents much of the coast from Santa Cruz through San Luis Obispo counties in the state

Assembly, and who is from Morro Bay, spoke about the effects of climate change she personally experienced. Morro Bay has been hit hard with winter storms, and San Luis Obispo was, at one point last Fall, the hottest place in the country. These extremes are causing us to lose biodiversity. Creating offshore wind power would be a key positive change, although she recognizes the historic effort that will be needed to develop it.

The Cal Poly Center for Coastal Marine Science is also working on the offshore wind project and holding informational sessions for the public. A federal grant has been applied for that would help the Cal Polys at both San Luis Obispo and Humboldt to work together on the project.

There is concern about the impact this development will have on Morro Bay, and the team is dedicated to finding solutions for both fishermen and the tourism industry, as well as for area locals. We also need to understand the effects on local communities and the information must be collected in a trustworthy way.

There is also concern over environmental impacts. When they do a site evaluation, they will look at wind and wave action, but also at wildlife.

The development plan is to create multiple workstreams at the same time – to prepare the ports that will be involved at the same time as putting the wind turbines in place. The companies working on this have experience – they have developed windfarms off the coast of Portugal that produce 25 megawatts of energy. They have also worked in Norway, so they know harsh environments.

There were a lot of questions and concerns from those attending this forum. When will the first blade turn? The estimate is between 8 and 12 years. They know they will need to monitor CO2 emissions. Some felt this energy industry is destructive and this is a candy-coated version of the project. There were comments about Diablo Canyon (also in the area) and a comment that one clean energy source should not replace another clean energy source, but there were also questions about the integrity of Diablo Canyon.

A final note - 2024 has brought the US our first electricity generated by offshore wind, as five megawatts of power were generated on January 3<sup>rd</sup> by a wind turbine off Boston.