



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / October 2024, Volume 97, Number 1

Wednesday, October 9th, 2024

California State Ballot Proposition Pros & Cons

At this in-person **Lunch & Learn** meeting, **Marilyn Maxner** and **Marianne Gawain** (both past presidents of our League) will present arguments for and against the ten **California State Ballot Propositions** for the upcoming November 2024 election. They will provide names of **endorsers** and **major money contributors** for each proposition. Local county or city measures will not be discussed.



(https://my.lww.org/sites/default/files/in-depth_memos.pdf), with help from **Maryellen Dick** and **Dennis Mar** to prepare the presentation and PowerPoint slides.

Source materials for this presentation are from **League of Women Voters California** non-partisan documents, principally: **"Easy Voter Guide"** (easyvoterguide.org), **"Pros & Cons"** (cavotes.org/news/ProsCons), and **"In Depth"**

Other sources are the **California Secretary of State's "Official Voter Information Guide,"** (voterguide.sos.ca.gov) the **California Legislative Analyst's Office** evaluations (lao.ca.gov/BallotAnalysis/Propositions), **Voter411** (vote411.org/california), **Ballotpedia** (ballotpedia.org/Ballotpedia%27s_Election_Analysis_Hub,_2024), **CalMatters** (calmatters.org/explainers/new-california-laws-2024/), and various newspaper editorials and websites that track political donations. (continued on page 2)

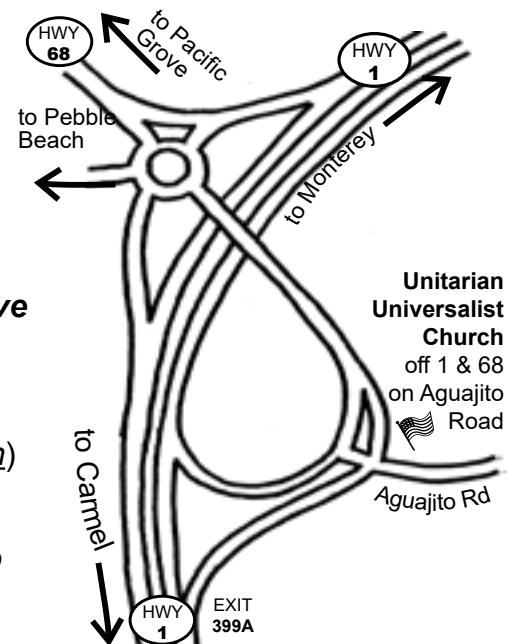
Wednesday, October 9th:

Unitarian Universalist Church <http://uucmp.org>
490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404
11:30 am **Doors Open** / 11:30 **Registration** /
12 noon **Buffet Luncheon** (optional) /
12:30 to 1:30pm **Presentation**

Optional lunch is \$25 per person: main course, salad, beverages, & dessert by **International Cuisine, Pacific Grove**

Reservations for lunch are required and can be made up to **Monday, October 7th** (Bev Bean: phone 236-1661 or e-mail beverlygb@gmail.com) Pay at the door for lunch; meeting/presentation is **FREE**.

Reminder to Members: Reservations are a commitment to the caterer with a minimum number of attendees, and cannot be cancelled by the League after October 6th.



(continued from page 1)

Can't attend this meeting? The Pros & Cons will be repeated at the following venues and dates.



October 4, 1:30-2:30
Park Lane, Monterey
Contact: **Fran Gaver**
(fgaver@comcast.net) or

Denise Salas, Park Lane Activities Director
(ad.parklane@pacificcaseseniorliving.com)



October 17, 6:30 - 8pm
Community Foundation for Monterey County, Conference Room (2354 Garden Road, MRY)
Contact: **Renee Penalaver**
(PRPenalaver@csumb.edu)



Pros & Cons for Your Group
If you're interested in scheduling a Pros & Cons presentation for your organization or group before the November election, contact me at DennisRMar3@yahoo.com.

Dennis Mar



October 10, 11am - 12 noon
Canterbury Woods, Pacific Grove / Contact: **Marlo Faulkner**
(MarloFaulkner@gmail.com)

PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL MESSAGE OCTOBER 2024

The LWV of Monterey County has been very active this election season "Informing Voters and Defending Democracy." Read **Voter Service Co-Director Arlene Guest's** article about all of our activities on page 4 to catch up on what we've accomplished so far.



Thank You Briefly President Tama Olver!

Were you aware that Arlene manages our Voter Service meetings and Vote411 activities remotely from Vermont? On the Internet, who knows where you are, and with meetings on Zoom and communication via email, it doesn't matter.

The League of Women Voters describes itself as "**non-partisan but political.**" The League will advocate on policy issues but does not endorse candidates. This stance was established way back at the League's founding.

The policy is expressed by requiring all local League Presidents and Voter Service Directors to stay out of

partisan politics while occupying their League positions. For a recent example, at the **2024 Annual Meeting** last May, **Tama Olver** was elected **LWVMC President for 2024-25**. But as time passed, it became important to her to be a full participant in this November election. For this reason, Tama resigned as our President.

While we were sad to see Tama step down, everyone understands that our non-partisan policies help maintain the LWV's high credibility with the public, and we appreciate her sacrifice in dedication to badly needed election and civic engagement work (just one example is on the facing page)!



Our Nominating Committee decided that I should succeed Tama as 2024-25 President, so I was elected to the vacancy by the Board at this summer's meeting.

Thank you for your confidence, and I look forward to the coming year.
Dennis Mar



LEADERSHIP IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



On June 24 I had the distinct honor of making a presentation to kick off a new summer internship program called **"Leadership in Civic Engagement"** under the sponsorship of the **Monterey County Elections Department**. The program's objective is to provide hands-on experience and creative liberty in empowering youth to become active participants in shaping their communities.

I shared thoughts about how civic engagement during my student years had affected my mother's life and mine, beginning with her opportunity to vote after passage of the **19th Amendment** and ending with opportunities opened for me by the **Civil Rights Act** (which was passed a month after I graduated from high school). Together we explored changes that have resulted from civic engagement, including those that have happened recently during the student's teenage years.

The richest part of our time together was in Q&A and discussion. Whenever I get a chance to spend time with teens, I leave feeling younger, more energized, and more hopeful. I've seen the impact of other such programs on the lives of both teens



and the adults around them. It's another sign of leadership and commitment from our County Elections Department that they've created a leadership program especially for teens.

I look forward to seeing the value it will surely create for our community over time.

Tama Olver

LWVMC ENCOURAGES YOUTH VOTER REGISTRATION AT MONTEREY PENINSULA COLLEGE



On September 17 (after finally managing to find parking) I had a fantastic time tabling with **An McDowell** at **MPC!**

What a great opportunity to meet with young voters and clue them in to **Vote411**. A professor even invited me to take the first five minutes of his class to speak to his fifty or so students about **Vote411.org** as well as to let them know about the California League's **Easy Voter Guide** (<https://cavotes.org/easy-voter-guide/>). **GO TEAM LWVMC!**



Marianne Gawain Davis



2024 ELECTION FORUMS: PACIFIC GROVE MAYOR & CITY COUNCILMEMBERS



On Tuesday, September 17, the **Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce** and our **League** facilitated forums for **Pacific Grove Mayor** and **City Council Members**.

Candidates for PG Mayor are **Daniel Miller, Nick Smith,** and **Dionne Ybarra**.

PG **City Council** candidates appearing were **Luke Coletti, Carmelita Garcia, Chaps Poduri, Tina Rau,** and **Paul Walkingstick**.



Citizens of Pacific Grove turn out to hear candidates for City Mayor and Councilmembers. photo courtesy: Sharon Miller

scary there for a while, but in the end the person was quite all right, and we will be more proactive in the future to ensure provision is made for overflow crowds!

It's a nice feeling to be part of a community that turns out for events like this. It shows that they are interested to know who and why candidates

step up to the job, and helps citizens decide for whom to vote.

It was a very successful event with an overflowing crowd, so that many people had to stand up or sit on the floor for lack of chairs. Unfortunately, we had to wrap up 15 minutes early because of a 911 medical emergency—someone fainted from the heat in the room and having to stand too long. It was a little

It was an interesting and well-run forum for which we thank our stellar League team: **Beverly Bean, MaryEllen Dick, Dennis Mar, Sharon Miller,** and our great timer, **Alice Ann Glenn**.

Jeanne Turner, LWVMC Voter Service



2024 VOTER SERVICE EVENTS TO SET LWVMC RECORD?



We think our League is on track this election season to **set a record for the number of League members involved in some aspect of voter service** and for the **number of forums and presentations and tabling events!**

At the time we wrote this report we had a total of **six Candidate Forums** scheduled, **eight Pros & Cons** presentations, and **three tabling events** at local college informational fairs.



For **National Voter Registration Day** we had tables at both **Hartnell College** and **Monterey Peninsula College** and, very well-attended candidate forums for the **Pacific Grove Mayor and**

In addition, we are **Teaming up for Democracy** at two precincts, and **Vote411** is up and running, with more candidates signing on and participating every day.



City Council races (as reported in the article above).

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, and if you want to help out, please contact me or any member of the Voter Service committee.

Arlene Guest, VOTE 411 Coordinator



LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: KATE DANIELS KURZ



Kate Daniels Kurz joined our League of Women Voters chapter in 2015, when she was working on **Mary Adams’** campaign for **Monterey County District 5 Supervisor**. Now, Kate Daniels, the name she uses professionally, has been elected to replace Mary Adams beginning next January.



at **Monterey Peninsula College**. *“It was there that I had the opportunity to really engage with students—sometimes for the very first time in their lives—about issues concerning women, feminism and gender,”* she reports. *“Politics plays a big part in that course work. It was important for me to be able to participate in that educational experience.”*

Over the years, Kate’s schedule has been increasingly busy. When our interview took place, she was working as **Policy Advisor** to **Senator John Laird** (a position that she has now ended), as well as **Monterey County Planning Commissioner**.

As for her activities with LWVMC, Kate reports, *“I’ve been to some of the committee meetings when they had to do with land use and water, but I’ve not officially served on any committees.”* She adds that she tries to attend the League’s luncheons whenever she can.

Born on the Monterey Peninsula, Kate grew up in Carmel Highlands—her parents still live in the same house there—and she moved east for college. She earned her **bachelor’s degree** at **Sarah Lawrence College**, where her feminist studies began, and then moved into New York City to attend graduate school at **Columbia University**. *“My major was applied linguistics and my graduate thesis was on sexism in language,”* she says.



After graduation, Kate lived in Mexico, New York City and Los Angeles, teaching English as a second language and Spanish. Then, in 2005, she moved back to the Monterey Peninsula, where she worked in international journalism as **Executive Editor** of **“The Women’s International Perspective”** and taught in the gender and women’s studies program

Well before she ran for public office, Kate became active with the **Democratic Women of Monterey County**. *“Through that, I’ve been engaged in voter registration activities, campaign work, candidate training, education around critical issues impacting Monterey County residents, as well as state and national politics. I’m in my second term as a delegate to the California Democratic Party. I sit on the rural caucus and there, in particular, I’ve been working on the housing subcommittee. We’ve been tackling housing constraints for rural California. It’s all about affordable housing. When you’re trying to address our lack of affordable housing, there are specific realities that are different from other areas—our lack of infrastructure, wildland urban interface, fire danger, water supply constraints. Our houses are at high risk.”*



Kate’s currently frantic schedule also includes taking time to be with her family. She’s married to **Daniel Kurz**, an engineer and the CEO of **Kurz Instruments, Inc.**, who grew up in Carmel Valley. *“We started dating in high school,”* Kate says, *“and then reconnected at our fifteenth high school reunion. We got married and now live in Carmel Valley with our sons.”* They’re **Daniel Kurz, Jr.**, 14, and **Nicolas Kurz**, 11.

Kate also has an identical twin sister, **Alexandra Edwards**, who still lives locally. *“Many people go*

up to her and start asking her questions, thinking she's me," Kate says with a chuckle.

Currently, Kate is trying to let go of some of her responsibilities in preparation for taking office as



Supervisor, which is why she left her work for Senator Laird at the end of the summer. However, she says, "I'll still be on the Planning Commission, specifically to complete the **Big Sur Land Use Plan Update**."

When she can find any free time, she says she's "reconnected with some of her childhood friends, trying to see each other with some regularity."

When asked what she'd like to see the League of Women Voters do in the future, she replied, "You do a lot of things I really appreciate—the work on water supply, housing, the educational program is really first rate. What I would love is being able to share with you the things that come before the Board of Supervisors. Maybe the smaller issues—the biggies are the ones you already cover."

Kate Daniel's major concerns include homelessness, particularly as it affects senior women and children. "I won't feel like I'm successful if we don't start to move the needle," she says. "And we need a sustainable water supply to increase housing."

Certainly, these are issues that concern many of our members.

Nancy Baker Jacobs

LWVMC "YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE" STUDENT ART AT MONTEREY REGIONAL AIRPORT GALLERY

Our League-sponsored youth art contest "**Your Vote Is Your Voice**" continues to carry its message to the Monterey County community. Our latest coup is a handsome exhibit in the youth art gallery on the upper floor of the **Monterey Regional Airport** terminal.



Teamwork inside and outside LWVMC made it all happen. You can read the airport's press release here: <https://www.montereyairport.com/press-release/monterey-regional-airport-installs-your-vote-your-voice>.

LWVMC would like to express its appreciation to **Airport Board Chair MaryAnn Leffel** for her support of the exhibit, which was skillfully designed by guest curator **Kathy Kopp** of **Kopp Graphic Design**. LWVMC also thanks **Amanda Aufer** and other members of the airport staff who, along with **LWVMC past president Howard Fosler**, all

played key roles in bringing this project to fruition.

The airport will host a reception to celebrate the student artists on **Tuesday, October 8th from 4:00 to 5:30 pm**. League members are invited to join student artists and their families along with airport dignitaries and project organizers at this

free event. The exhibit will remain on display at the airport through early November.

The student artworks have made eye-catching displays and great conversation starters at our voter information tables on college campuses (see page 7). If you have access to a shop or office window or to a community bulletin board where we might display a non-partisan "Vote" poster, please contact Marianne Gawain (californiawag@gmail.com).

The Art Committee:

Shelley Sweet, Sandy Hoag, Marianne Gawain

LWVMC AND CSUMB DISCUSS STUDENT VOTING & VOTER REGISTRATION

LWVMC has welcomed invitations from local colleges to participate in voter information and registration events this fall. On **September 17th, National Voter Registration Day**, League member **Jane Meade-Roberts** was once again on campus registering students at **Hartnell College**. Thanks to Jane for her long service to Hartnell and Salinas as a registration volunteer!



HARTNELL COLLEGE

International Studies (MIIS), held on **September 19**. The MIIS student body has a different composition from that of our local junior colleges, with many foreign students and US-citizen students who come from other states. Out-of-state students generally have the option to vote in their home state or reregister in California. For them, **Vote411** is a useful resource as it includes a **"Vote in My State"** tab with information about voting rules in all 50 states, Washington, DC, and US territories.



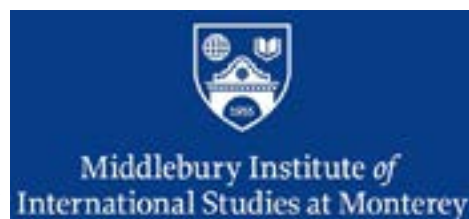
Also on September 17th, **Monterey Peninsula College** held its **"Lobo Day,"** where students had the opportunity to learn about a wide array of services, resources, and clubs offered by the college

and to connect with community non-profit and civic organizations including the League. I had the pleasure of staffing LWVMC's Lobo Day table with League member **An MacDowell**, a frequent LWVMC youth Outreach volunteer.

As many junior college students are young people eligible to cast their first vote a presidential election this year, they are a terrific audience for our message. We register them, or show them how to register themselves online, check their own registration status, and reregister at a new address as necessary. We inform them about League information tools, including **Vote411.org** and **"Easy Voter Guide,"** and encourage them to decide on a specific plan for how and when they will cast their ballots. Just as importantly, we share our excitement about voting as the cornerstone of democracy, and emphasize the importance of each person's vote by using examples of narrowly-decided elections.



The League was also invited to the **Student Engagement Fair** at the **Middlebury Institute of**



Although some of the information presented in the **Easy Voter Guide** is very basic, the guide includes a compact distillation of the ballot propositions; this summary is handy for any busy California voter and was appreciated by students at MIIS as well as MPC.



Clearly our main goal is engaging with potential US voters, but even conversations with foreign students can go in an interesting direction. At MIIS I met a young man from Kyrgyzstan and commented that given his country's turbulent political history perhaps he had an opinion about the importance of voting. He readily agreed and said that he would share the **Vote411.org** link with his friends who are US citizens!

CSUMB enjoys vigorous student engagement in voting-related matters through their **Civic Engagement Club**, mentored by **Nicole Hollingsworth, Director of Governmental and External Affairs**. While our League did not have the person-power to table at CSUMB on National Voter Registration Day, we plan to meet with CSUMB students in early October.

Marianne Gawain



Join the League of Women Voters of Monterey County



FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Students may join LWVMryCo via the website without paying membership fees.

New Members Welcome!

Any person age 16 or older may be a member.

Use the form below or contact:

LWVMC Membership Director

Mail to LWVMryCo PO Box 1995

Monterey, CA 93942

Checks payable to LWVMC or online with credit card or PayPal

Membership Levels

- \$250+ **Carrie Chapman Catt**
- \$200 **Sojourner Truth**
- \$150 **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**
- \$100 **Susan B. Anthony**
- \$ 95 **Household (2 persons, 1 address)**
- \$ 65 **Single membership**
- (free) **Student (16-24 years, enrolled in a diploma or degree program)**

Name(s)

Address

City State Zip Code

Phone e-mail

Please do NOT publish my address, phone number or email in The Voter newsletter

Florence Curlee Scholarships

are available to pay household or single membership fees. Contact:

Janet Brennan, Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMryCo are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund.

However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Local Impact Fund (LWVCLIF)

(formerly LWVC Education Fund)

are tax deductible,

but please continue to make the donations payable to LWVCEF.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Welcome New Members!

Pam Bonsper
Reylee Jue (student)
Libby McMahon
Elise Weiland

Contact Changes

Kay Cline
Catherine Crockett
Carol Erickson
Bonnie Hernandez
Steve McShane
Tama Olver
Bill Weigle
Rosemary Wells

Thanks to Our Generous Donors

LWVMC General Fund

\$250 Konny Murray / Tama & Jack Olver

\$200 Fran Gaver / Whitney Gravel /

Karen Strasser Kauffman /

Dennis & Susan Mar

\$135 Anton Prange

\$105 Barbara Baldock & Phillip Butler /

Howard & Linda Fosler /

Lisa & Tom Hoivik

\$85 Mary Adams / Sandy Hoag

\$55 Kay Cline & Bill Weigle /

Tamara Harris & Natalie Gibson

\$35 Catherine Crockett /

Susan Ganzhorn / Marianne Gawain /

Elaine Gehrmann / Alice Glenn /

Sara Hardgrave Betty Matterson /

Ann Smallwood / Julie Tucker

\$30 Lynn Hamilton / Sharon Miller

LWV California Education Fund

\$150 Marianne Gawain / Shelly Sweet

\$100 Janet Brennan / Ann Clifton /

Marilyn Maxner

\$70 Amy Anderson & George Somero

\$45 Carol Erickson

Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund

\$70 Konny Murray

\$35 Joanne Webster / Anne Herendeen

\$30 Sharon Miller

★★★★★★★★

Contact: Janet Brennan

brennan_janet@comcast.net

LWV California Education Fund
 \$150 Marianne Gawain / Shelly Sweet
 \$100 Janet Brennan / Ann Clifton /
 Marilyn Maxner
 \$70 Amy Anderson & George Somero
 \$45 Carol Erickson

Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund
 \$70 Konny Murray
 \$35 Joanne Webster / Anne Herendeen
 \$30 Sharon Miller
 ★★★★★★★★★★
 Contact: Janet Brennan
 brennan_janet@comcast.net

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER UPDATE



Margaret Robbins reported on a “**builder’s remedy**” project of 74 units at the end of Val Verde Drive in the floodplain near Rio Road on a one-lane dirt road, in which buyers will have to get flood insurance and pay for flood improvements. Questions were raised as to whether County Planners will enforce requirements for building in the floodplain, and whether an application has been filed including a PLN number? On the same subject, does the **Rancho Canada project** have flood control requirements, and are they being enforced?

George Riley reported that **CalAm** said extraction pumps are in place for the coming rainy season to implement ASR to the fullest. **MPWMD** lost a lawsuit on fees to the **Taxpayers Association** and will have to determine a procedure to reimburse property owners and legal fees for the Association.

Beverly Bean reported that the **Pacific Grove Roundabout Project** at Sunset and Congress Avenues has been approved by the PG City Council

and funded by transit agencies, but that some candidates for Mayor and City Councilmember are opposed and want to stop the project. **Protect Monterey County** (sponsor of the successful “**Measure Z**” against fracking, new oil wells, and requiring wastewater clean-up, but lost in the **CA Supreme Court** due to an outdated portion of the **CA Code**) urged **Governor Newsom** to sign AB 3233 (sponsor **Rep. Dawn Addis** and passed by the Legislature), to allow local control of oil operations posing threats. Additional bills requiring **oil well clean-up** (AB 1866) and **low-producing well accountability** (AB 2716), went to **Governor Newsom** who signed all the bills.

Richard Rosenthal reported that the **Abalone Creek Project** on Corral de Cielo was unanimously approved by the **County Planning Commission**, despite opposition. He said **Supervisor Kate Daniels** was critical of the opposition. A suggestion was made that the **Civil Grand Jury** should look into the County's dysfunctional Planning Department. **Beverly Bean** and **George Riley**

 League of Women Voters of Monterey County 		
President Dennis Mar	Natural Resources Beverly Bean/Co-Chair George Riley/Off Board Co-Chair	Voter Service Pamela Stewart Jeanne Turner
Vice President Shelley Sweet	Social Policy Bev Kreps	Videographer Joe Asling
Secretary Dennis Mar	Membership Janet Brennan	"The Voter" Biographer Nancy Baker Jacobs
Treasurer Marilyn Maxner	Publicity / Luncheons Beverly Bean	Website Coordinator Debby Majors-Degnan
LWV Action Janet Brennan	VOTE 411 Arlene Guest	
Send articles & updates to Voter Editor, Regina Doyle : doyle_regina72814@aol.com		



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS*
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★ LWVMryCo Calendar 2024 ★



OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

"Sand City Councilmember Election Forum"
Wednesday, October 2nd, 6 to 7:30pm, The
Independent Apartments patio, Sand City
contact: Dennis Mar

Board Zoom Meeting
Monday, November 12th, 11:30am
contact: Dennis Mar

"Airport District 3" also "MPUSD Bond Issue"
Thursday, October 3rd, 6:30 to 8:30pm,
Hilltop Center, Jessie & David Aves, Monterey
contact: Bob Evans

LWVMC Zoom General Meeting
Wednesday, November 13th, 12 noon
"Election Polarization"
Guest Presenter: Dr. Steven W. Hughes,
Professor Emeritus Politics & Public
Administration, Director Center for
Public Policy Studies, CSU Stanislaus
contact: George Riley

LWVMC Board Zoom Meeting
Monday, October 7th, 11:30am
contact: Dennis Mar

LWVMC In Person General Meeting
Wednesday, October 9th, 12 noon

"CA State Ballot Propositions" (see page 1)
Marilyn Maxner & Marianne Gawain
contact: Dennis Mar

Natural Resources Zoom Meeting
Thursday, October 10th, 12 noon
contact: Beverly Bean

"MPWMD Board District 3 Election Forum"
Thursday, October 17th, 7 to 8:30pm
contact: Bob Evans



**DECEMBER 2024
WINTER BREAK**

No Board or Committee Meetings
or "The Voter" Newsletter
until January 2025

