

# LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / September 2023, Volume 96, Number 1

Wednesday, September 13th, 2023

## "Planning for Affordable Housing in Monterey County and Cities: Timing, Priorities and Possibilities"

Our kick-off presentation for speaker series 2023-24 is on the minds of every city council in the County—**affordable housing**. Why? The regional **Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments** (AMBAG) has issued new allocations through the periodic **Regional Housing Needs Allocation** (called RHNA, or "reena" numbers). All jurisdictions have to designate zoning for affordable housing by the end of 2023. This is planning, not construction, and still a hot topic.



**Michael DeLapa, Executive Director of LandWatch**, will describe the law, the status in the cities, and his perspective on priorities and timing of RHNA.



DeLapa was the leading founder of LandWatch in 1997 with goals to promote sustainable, climate-friendly land use and conservation, as well as housing equity. He served on the **LandWatch Board of Directors** 1997-2009. He has been **Executive Director** since 2016.

**LANDWATCH**  
MONTEREY COUNTY

(continued on page 2)

### In-Person Lunch & Learn, Wednesday, September 13th

at the **Unitarian Universalist Church** <http://uucmp.org> / 490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923

11:30 **Doors Open** / 12 noon **Lunch** / 12:30 to 1:30 **Presentation**

Lunch \$25 per person: grilled salmon, rice, Greek salad, hummus, pita bread, fruit salad & baklava for dessert

by **Chef Faris Nimry, International Cuisine of Pacific Grove.**

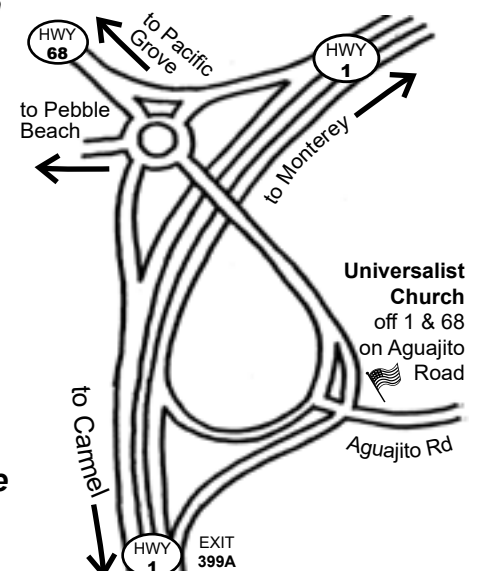
### Reservations for Lunch are required!

The presentation is **FREE** if you do not wish to have lunch.

**Contact: Bev Bean by Sunday, 10th September**

(831) 236-1611 or [beverlygb@gmail.com](mailto:beverlygb@gmail.com)

Pay at door for lunch by cash or check.



**Reminder to Members: Reservations are a commitment to the caterer with a minimum number of attendees, and cannot be cancelled by the League after September 10th.**

Michael DeLapa has a 40-year career of social and private entrepreneurship ranging from **coastal management** to **natural history filmmaking** to **high tech startups** to **political campaigns** to **applied ocean science**. He is also an avid beach volleyball enthusiast, hiker, river runner, and **Stanford University** sports fan.

DeLapa received his **Master of Business Administration degree** and **Public Management credential** from the **Stanford Graduate School of Business** and its **Public Management Program**. He also holds **Master of Science and Bachelor of Science** degrees in **Biology** from Stanford.

George Riley

## ★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2023 ★

Recently a friend brought me a meltingly ripe peach from her own tree. How I savored its juicy glory! Another moment to savor came in June when the **Supreme Court resoundingly dismissed the "independent state legislature theory"**\* which would have given partisan state legislatures unrestricted power over US elections. I urge you to revel in such victories, thereby renewing your optimism as we work together to defend democracy.



Our **Natural Resources Committee** keeps up with local and global water issues: **October 11th's general meeting on Zoom** will feature **Piret Harmon, GM Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency** with an update on current issues and progress of her Agency.

### Upcoming Election Action

Students and teachers march to the academic calendar; farmers and gardeners dance to the seasons of nature; and those of us who follow politics and public affairs are attuned to the rhythms of the election cycle.

Over the past several decades California has held its presidential-year primaries variously in February, March and June. With the **2024 primary election scheduled for March**, LWVMC is already looking ahead to 2024 election-related activities including candidate forums, operation of polls, and pro & con presentations about the fall ballot initiatives.

### Summer Updates

At the same time, there are always developments for LWVMC to follow in the sphere of local public policy. This summer LWVMC joined with a coalition of groups sending a letter to the **Board of Supervisors' recently-convened Ad Hoc Committee on Sheriff Oversight** (see page 4).

In **housing policy**, the current iteration of the ongoing state-mandated **Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)** process, which proceeds in eight-year cycles, closes at year's end. For more information read our **NR Committee Report** (page 3), and join us at this month's in-person general meeting for a look at where housing goes from here.



### Empower Voters, Defend Democracy

I am sure that every reader of this newsletter is following the legal cases against the former president, especially as they relate to interference in the 2020 presidential election and peaceful transfer of power. As citizens we must keep ourselves informed about such matters of critical import at the national level.

That said, I urge you to take a break from the "doom scroll" and engage with LWVMC in its impactful work. **A simple yet meaningful way to support our League is to share this newsletter with a friend who might like to join.** Together we fortify one another through tough times and celebrate in community each precious peachy triumph for democracy.

Marianne Gawain

*\* (Independent state legislature theory explained at lwvmryco.org: "Examining the Supreme Court: Local Implications of Recent Rulings" by Professor Mickey Welsh, March 2023)*



## Highlights: May 2023 LWVC Convention

This in-person Convention was different from pre-COVID times, so quiet, literally, no resolutions proposed from the floor, no amendments offered to any motion. The 2023-25 program and areas of emphasis are substantially the same. The issues we were confronting were the same as in the last few years, the goals also remaining the same and the League soldiering on.

In an interesting discussion about **fundraising and voter service**, a speaker said that philanthropic organizations are increasingly "results oriented" about fundraising. I thought about the *Easy Voter Guide*, and how we are happy to hand them out, but wondered how we could measure their effectiveness once they were distributed? Will we run into this question if we look for donors to defray *Easy Voter Guide* printing expenses?

My most thought-provoking session was on an aspect of **social justice**. The speaker talked about the importance of formerly incarcerated people having their voting rights restored: although convicted of crimes, they still care about their families and neighborhoods, the quality of their children's education, and other social needs, and would want to vote on these issues as much as anyone else. Also, voting is a positive social good in which they can participate.

**Dennis Mar**

This Convention's highlight for me was **Cathy Allen, Shasta County Clerk/Registrar of Voters**. A profile in courage, Allen was thrust into the maelstrom surrounding voting machines and the legitimacy of vote counts. Foreseeing that after the 2020 election Shasta County would not renew its **Dominion Voter Systems** contract, Allen vetted alternative voting machine options. Shasta's Supervisors instead adopted a hand-count system requiring 1,300 workers and a budget of \$1.6 million. Despite verbal attacks Allen remained unflappable, calmly communicating with voters, and ensuring a fair, complete, efficient vote tally

with the tools she was given.



**Marianne & Dennis**

In an inspiring workshop on **youth engagement** three Leagues shared information on their work helping high school students

understand elections, voting, and the importance of citizen engagement our democracy. It was challenging to gain access to schools, but ultimately successful. The dedication of just a few League members brought these projects to fruition.

I only regret there wasn't more time for informally sharing ideas. When I attend Convention again, I'm determined to engage with more colleagues from around the state.

**Marianne Gawain**

## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### Committee Report

Over the "summer break," we had too much business to discuss, so met twice:

In June, **Laurie Eavey, Vice President, Communities for Sustainable Monterey County**, presented her research on a "vacancy tax" on second homes, to help finance local services.

In July, we agreed on the subject, **"Planning for Affordable Housing,"** and speaker, **Michael DeLapa**, for this month's Lunch & Learn.



### Upcoming Meetings

#### September 14th

Discussion will be on the latest activities of **Monterey One Water**, and of the **Housing Authority of Monterey County**.

**October 12th (topic to be determined)**

**November 8th (topic to be determined)**

All NR Committee meetings are on **Thursdays, 12 noon, on Zoom.**

**George Riley**



## ★ LWVMC TAKES A STAND ON SHERIFF OVERSIGHT ★

**T**here's a new sheriff in town, and a relatively **new state law on the books. AB 1185** permits county boards of supervisors to create a civilian oversight board (OB) and/or inspector general (IG) to oversee the sheriff's office, including the county jail.



LWVMC joined **ACLU, NAACP, LULAC**, and several other community groups to encourage our **Monterey County Board of Supervisors** to support both an OB and an IG.

The full letter is at [lwvmryco.org](http://lwvmryco.org) under "Action & Advocacy," "Recent Letters," "2023 Coalition Letter re: Sheriff Oversight." Or go to [bit.ly/3Ph0qC9](http://bit.ly/3Ph0qC9).



**Monterey County Sheriff Tina Nieto** met with representatives of the coalition (including two LWVMC board members) for a candid discussion of the issues, including: **county budget uncertainties, lack of case law for AB 1185, positive effects of improved communication and trust from civilian oversight** (and the fact that it might nip problems in the bud before they turn into expensive mega-problems).

**Supervisors Wendy Root Askew and Glenn Church** are heading the ad hoc committee exploring this issue.

You can view the video from the first of several proposed community meetings, in which the majority of the speakers were pro-oversight at [bit.ly/45rk5oy](http://bit.ly/45rk5oy). **Sharon Miller**

## LWVMC REGEN FIELD TRIP REPORT

*In May, a whopping 18 members of our League toured the **ReGen Monterey** recycling facility in Marina. We were impressed with the creative ways being used to minimize adding to our landfill, and also turning waste into energy—methane gas is captured from landfill, providing 1 megawatt of power to run the recycling facility and putting 4 back into the electricity grid.*

### Top Recycling Tips:

**Use products in plastic or glass containers.**  
**All glass is recyclable** (waxed cardboard cartons are **NOT**).

**Scoop what you can from glass/plastic** (no need to wash).

**Recycle ONLY #1, #2 or #5 plastic bottles/jars/containers** (leave tops on, or "nest" together, smaller into larger)—all other numbered plastics go into the trash.

**Food scraps go in the green waste bin** (including bones and meat).

**Recycle aluminum and metal containers** (shove lids back into their cans).

**Recycle only CLEAN paper and cardboard** (flattened or cut into pieces)—which are used to make new cartons, reducing tree-cutting.

**Recycle batteries** (place them in a clear plastic bag, and it leave on top of your recycling bin) —batteries can cause fires when put in trash landfill!

**Do NOT Recycle black plastic, light-weight plastic film/bags, or plastic-padded envelopes.**

For the complete **Materials Recovery Facility Recycling Acceptance List** go to: [bit.ly/3srNCzU](http://bit.ly/3srNCzU)



**Whitney Stewart Gravel**



## LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: MARJORIE ATKINSON



**Author's note:** *I interviewed Marjorie Atkinson for this Profile on May 16th, shortly after her 101st birthday party and just over a month before her death on June 28th.*

*Although her physical health was failing, Marjorie's brain was still very sharp.*

*One proof of that was her final letter to the editor of the Monterey Herald, published on June 22nd.*

**M**arjorie Atkinson, who celebrated her 101st birthday on May 11th (*photo at right*), joined our League of Women Voters chapter more than two decades ago, about the same time she joined the **World Affairs Council**.



Born and raised in Denver, Marjorie earned her **BA degree Benedictine College** in Atchison, Kansas, in 1946. After completing her **MSW at Boston College School of Social Work**, she soon headed to New York to do social work while studying law at night. *"My original ambition was to be a lawyer," she recalled, "but that didn't seem to be a good career path for a woman in those days."*

In Marjorie's long career as a social worker, she held positions in Denver, New York City, Washington, D.C., Anchorage and Pomona, and finally became the first social worker responsible for adoptions for the **Monterey County Department of Social Services**.

While working for the **Catholic Welfare Bureau** in Pomona, she met her future husband, **Alphonsus Atkinson**, a widower with five children. After marrying in 1961, they had three more children of their own. It was Al's desire to pursue a Master's degree in Theology that eventually led them to move to Monterey County in 1964. He served as Director of Religious Education at the post Chapel Center in Fort Ord until retiring in 1978, while Marjorie continued working until 1982.



After retiring, Marjorie became a tireless advocate for peace and justice. She studied Russian at both **Monterey Peninsula College** and **Middlebury Institute of International Studies** to help her advocate against the escalating Cold War and nuclear weapons.

Among the many journeys she took in those efforts were to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the **United Nations Earth Summit** and the **United Nations' Fourth World Conference on**

**Women** in Beijing, China. She also traveled to Kazakhstan with the **International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War**. That delegation included former **California State Senator Bill Monning** and his wife, physician **Dana Kent**.



Bill remembered that trip with Marjorie and recorded a video that was played at her 101st birthday party. *"We were the first internationals allowed to visit the former nuclear weapons test site in Kazakhstan," he said. "It was a rough bus ride...but it was a wonderful delegation of over 130 people from 30 different nations,"* including some who were "downwinders," the term for victims of nuclear radiation exposure. The group came back through Moscow, where they did a spontaneous demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy after learning that nuclear testing in Nevada had continued during their travels. In addition to wishing Marjorie a very happy birthday, Bill thanked her for her bravery and dedication to  
*(continued on page 6)*



*“peace and justice causes locally, nationally and internationally.”*

Over the years, Marjorie visited Russia seven times and China at least once.

Despite living in an assisted living facility and having to use a wheelchair, Marjorie learned to use Monterey County’s transportation system and pre-Covid often used it to attend LWVMC luncheons.

She continued to write letters to the editor that were frequently published in the *Monterey Herald* and during the 2022 election worked with the non-partisan **Vote Forward** organization to send handwritten letters to urge infrequent voters across the country to register and vote.

Her work with various peace and justice organizations led her to fast friendships with League members **Catherine Crockett** and **Lynn Hamilton**.

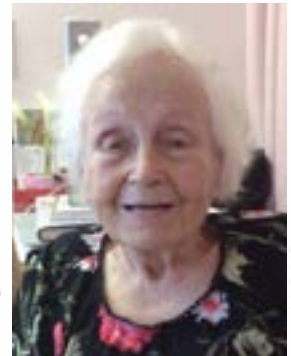
When asked what goals she’d like to see LWVMC work toward in the future, Marjorie Atkinson replied, *“I’m concerned about the importance of people speaking to their neighbors. Having more interaction could recruit members as well as send out a message about voting. Learning to relate to one another on a personal and political level locally is important!”*

That sentiment seems to fit well with the values of our local League chapter. **Nancy Baker Jacobs**  
*(photos courtesy Elizabeth Atkinson)*

## WE REMEMBER MARJORIE ATKINSON

**N**ot content to be just a Centenarian, Marjorie Atkinson was feted by family and friends on her **101st birthday** last May 11. On June 22nd, she had yet another *Letter to the Editor* published in the **Monterey Herald**. Sadly, on June 28, Marjorie passed away.

Fortunately over our summer break **Nancy Baker Jacobs** happened to interview Marjorie for this issue’s **LWVMC Member Profile**, giving us a deeper sense of her commitment to life in and beyond our League (see *previous page*).



*“I worked with Marjorie for many years at **Monterey County Social Services**, where she was an outstanding adoption social worker and advocate for children. After retirement she continued to be an advocate for social justice. She loved reading newspapers (print version) and was a frequent contributor to the **Letters to the Editor**.” Anne Herendeen*

*“Marjorie was a consummate activist. A solid supporter and participant in the peace movement, and the **Monterey Peace and Justice Center**. I was invited to several of her more recent birthdays, when she was largely immobile, yet still active. Her last advocacy was a **Monterey Herald** letter to the editor this past June appealing for a better criminal justice system. I hope to be as relevant and active as long.” George Riley*

*“For Marjorie, social niceties were not neglected. She was the most courteous person I have come to know. Whatever little I did for her, be it a ride or a meal together, I would receive a ‘thank you’ note. I will always remember her sweet smile and unbeatable spirit.” Sylvia Shih*

**Dennis Mar**

# WE REMEMBER NANCY GREEN

1931 - 2023

**Nancy Green passed away on May 7, 2023 at the age of 91.**

She led a rich and interesting life which began in Canada and took root in Carmel. Nancy was a **Life Member** of our League (more than fifty years), **President** (under our former name **LWV Monterey Peninsula**) 1989-1992 and **Co-President** 2004-2005.

Through the years, her encouragement of legacy donations from her clients to our league helped put us on firm financial footing.

As a member of the **financial planning committee**, she guided the placement of these funds into investments that significantly support LWVMC activities today.



*"Nancy guarded the LWV commitment to non-partisanship fiercely. If someone offered even a hint of support for a candidate at a meeting I was chairing, I would hear about it from Nancy!"* **Dennis Mar**

*"With respect to personal style, Nancy was elegant in every way. It's not surprising that Nancy was a professional ice skater as a young person."* **Sandy Smith**

*"Nancy was the most cheerful and upbeat person I have ever known. She always had an inquiring greeting and positive comments. She led the LWVMC contingent at the 2017 Women's March."* **Janet Brennan**

Nancy Green's full obituary can be seen in the May 19, 2023 **Carmel Pine Cone**, page 21A, at: [bit.ly/3YUKjxc](http://bit.ly/3YUKjxc) **Dennis Mar**



## HELP RAISE OUR LEAGUE'S PUBLIC FACE!



**Do you know that Facebook has 2.9 billion monthly active users?**  
That it's a valuable, free tool for sharing League goals with the public?  
That our "posts" spread our mission: **"Empower Voters, Defend Democracy"**?  
That "Liking" our page increases chances that more people will see our messages?

**We Need You to Support Our Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMRYCO/>  
If you don't have one, sign up. "Like" our LWVMC page, and invite your friends to "Like" us.  
Look at our page weekly, and react and comment on our posts.  
Send me suggestions and information for posts for our page at [centralcoastgrace@gmail.com](mailto:centralcoastgrace@gmail.com).

**We currently have 183 "Likes." Let's increase that number to 215 this week!**  
Our top three posts are: (1) **Abortion Rights and Access One Year After Dobbs**  
(2) **Registration for Inside Education is Officially Open Education**, (3) Rep. Zoe Lofgren and Alisal High School student, Melissa Zaval, unveiled HR 587 honoring farmworkers.

**Olivia Mandilk**

# ★ LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS 2022-2023 ★

*Each year the California League asks local chapters to organize interviews of state legislators about the coming legislative year using preset questions to: gather information, increase League visibility, raise awareness among representatives about our interest in their policies, and provide local league members direct engagement with elected representatives.*



**LWVMC members Sandi Austin, Dennis Mar, An McDowell, Sharon Miller, Tama Olver, and Karen Paull, with Santa Cruz, San Jose/Santa Clara, and San Luis Obispo League members, interviewed Assemblymember Dawn Addis, Speaker Elect of the Assembly Robert Rivas, and Senator John Laird.**

## **Question 1: California's Voter Participation Gap**

All legislators responded with passion about California's leadership in **eliminating barriers to voter participation** and the need to do more. Addis focused on eliminating hate speech, which discourages voters, and praised LWV SLOC for encouraging civil discourse in politics; Rivas said Secretary of State Weber has his full support in expanding voter participation; and Laird focused on money in politics, stating that caps on contributions and a "*world without Citizens United*" would make a significant difference. All supported more funding to help with outreach to younger and underrepresented voters.



**Dawn Addis**



**Robert Rivas**

## **Question 2: Effectiveness of California's School Facilities Program**

As matching funds for school facilities improvements are the same percentage for all communities, they provide more for those with wealthy property tax bases, and put those with less at a disadvantage.



**John Laird**



Laird, Senate Education Committee Chair, noted that the State school bond funds are exhausted. Addis is open to considering reforms as well as a possible new school bond proposal. Rivas noted achievement in providing air conditioning needed in San Benito County due to climate change. He would support new school bonds and a larger match for under-resourced districts.

## **Question 3: Sustainable, Equitable Water Resource Management**



All three legislators agreed that this is a multi-faceted problem, with a long way to go. Rivas responded specifically on equity and access to clean water and said he has introduced many bills on the topic. Addis mentioned former experience working on a sewer line relocation and water reclamation project in Morro Bay, touring most water projects in her district. As Secretary of Natural Resources, Laird helped develop California's water policy, which includes: recycling, sustainable groundwater, conservation as a way of life, and infrastructure improvement. Relevant to Monterey County, Laird noted that a small desal plant is necessary and that California American Water is blocking needed progress.

## **Question 4: Priorities for the Coming Session**

Addis's priorities were on environment and conservation, housing, agriculture, family and children, noting that water is needed to resolve housing, but without building too much. She supports aid for community college student housing, for working people, and for emergencies/disasters. She also mentioned mitigating impacts of offshore wind development, and maintaining a healthy kelp forest.





Laird's priorities focused on continuing work from prior sessions and ensuring previously authorized spending is delivering results. This year he will work on labor agreements and a climate trust to lower electricity rates.

Rivas's priorities are to improve access to the California Dream for all residents. He recommends use of State reserves for health care, early childhood care, and K-12 education. As soon-to-be Speaker of the Assembly, he will prioritize safety and wellbeing of vulnerable people and families, the environment, homelessness, and proactively address extreme wildfires and floods.

#### **Additional Questions: LWV Chapters asked about their own local interests**

#### **Assemblymember Addis**

**Regarding how water affects solutions to housing,** Addis noted that Housing and Community Development must engage more actively with water agencies to resolve competing priorities.

**Regarding homelessness,** she said we need to rethink our approach to the unhoused, and that providing longer term (60 to 90-day) temporary housing is more successful in finding stable housing. To prevent homelessness, she will also help people keep the housing they have, especially women and the elderly.

**Regarding independent redistricting commissions,** Addis is a strong supporter.

#### **Senator Laird**

**Regarding homelessness,** Laird learned of solutions tried by local communities, e.g., Santa Cruz County found providing housing first, with other services to follow, to be their best solution. He is optimistic about locally effective solutions that the state could support.

**Regarding housing shortages,** Laird noted that additional student housing can reduce pressure on overall housing in a community, so the State has put \$3.5 billion into higher-education housing in the last two years.



**Regarding how the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Court might work,** Laird noted that the act was passed without funding for its full implementation, and needs to consider the civil liberties of those who are unable to make decisions on their own behalf.

**Regarding the shortage of teachers,** he noted upcoming legislation to remove limitations on how much retired teachers can serve as substitutes as well as additional support for training and retention.

#### **In Conclusion**

When we asked: **"What can the League do to support your priorities?"**, our state legislators responded: **"Give voice to the issues and solutions."**

**Tama Olver**

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

**🌀Welcome New Members!🌀**

**NOTE: addresses and phone numbers redacted in this online version. For complete contact information, see your by-mail paper copy or your LWVMC Handbook**

**Linda Baxter**

**Tanner Downing-McAdams (student)**

**Maureen McCrone (student)**

**Linda Ross**

**🌀Thanks to Our Generous Donors🌀**

**★LWVMC General Fund★**

**\$185 Mary Adams**

**(In Memory of Janice O'Brien) /**

**Marianne Gawain /**

**Karen Strasser Kauffman**

**\$155 Susan Mar / Constance Murray /**

**Talma Olver / George Riley**

**\$105 Barbara Baldock /**

**Tama Harris / Lisa Hoivik**

**(continued on next page)**

(LWVMC General Fund Donors continued)

\$100 Kalah Bumba /  
Ann Clifton / Sandra Hoag  
\$70 Amy Anderson

\$35 Betsy Buchalter Adler / Catherine  
Crockett / Kathy Dale / Susan Erickson /  
Myrleen Fisher /  
Elaine Gehrmann / Linda Gin /  
Margaret Goodman / Whitney Gravel /  
Peggy Hansen / Beverly Kreps /  
Jana Matheson / Jeanne Turner

★LWVC Education Fund★

\$100 Shelly Sweet / Marilyn Maxner /  
Margaret Goodman / Fran Gaver /  
Janet Brennan

★Florence Curley★  
Scholarship Fund

\$55 Kay Cline / \$50 George Riley /  
\$35 Anne Herendeen

↻Change of Address /  
email / Phone↻

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Beth Benoit

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Janet Bruman

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Chelsea Cupps

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Jenny McAdams

(address uncertain)

Gail Morton

563 Figueroa Street, Monterey 93940

Talma Taormina

(831) 521-3643

Jeanne Turner

(831) 915-3282



Send Membership Updates to  
Janet Brennan, [brennan\\_janet@comcast.net](mailto:brennan_janet@comcast.net)



**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 of the League.

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](mailto: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  
Education Fund (LWVCEF)  
are tax deductible.**

## Highlights from **LWVMRYCO.ORG** website

General Meeting videos and newsletter: <https://my.lwv.org/california/monterey-county/videos>

### • **"Congress: The Road to Decline and Disgrace"** (May 10, 2023)

• **Dr. Richard Kezirian** discusses the history that led to Congress's ideological polarization and disfunction, touching on impacts of interest groups, money and elections, powerful personalities, and Supreme Court rulings.



### • **"Examining the Supreme Court's Interpretation of our Constitution"**

• (March 8, 2023) **Professor Mickey Welsh**, Constitutional Law specialist, Monterey College of Law, discusses in depth the "originalist doctrine" and the "Independent State Legislature theory," which threaten to impede progress in women's rights, racial equality, and environmental protections among other threats to democracy.

### • **"Community Safety and Criminal Justice Reform"** (February 8, 2023)

• Comprehensive panel of **local experts on local, state and national issues**, including restorative justice, the jail and bail systems, public perception of crime rates and recidivism, and more.



**Debby Majors-Degnan**



## **League of Women Voters of Monterey County**



**Office** Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Avenue (corner of Irving), New Monterey CA 93940

### ★ **Officers** **President**

Marianne Gawain

**Vice President**  
Tama Olver

**Secretary**  
Dennis Mar

**Treasurer**  
Marilyn Maxner

### ★ **Policy Portfolios**

**Government**  
MacGregor Eddy

**LWV Action**  
Janet Brennan

**Natural Resources**  
George Riley

**Social Policy**  
Bev Kreps

### ★ **League Activities**

**Membership**  
Janet Brennan

**Publicity / Luncheons**  
Beverly Bean

**"The Voter" Editor**  
Regina Doyle

**Voter Service**  
Pamela Stewart

Jeanne Turner

### ★ **Members At-Large** Whitney Gravel

Olivia Mandilk

Sharon Miller

Shelly Sweet

### ★ **Off-Board** **LWV California** Kathee Tyson

### **Nominating Committee** **Elected**

Nancy Baker Jacobs (2022-24)  
Arlene Guest (2022-24)  
Linda Gin (2023-25)

### **Appointed**

Dennis Mar  
Pamela Stewart

### **Facebook**

Olivia Mandilk

**Voter's Edge**  
Arlene Guest

**Videographer**  
Joe Asling

**"The Voter" Biographer**  
Nancy Baker Jacobs

**Website Coordinator**  
Debby Degnan-Majors

### **LWVMryCo The VOTER**

Published monthly except June/July/Aug/Dec Send articles & updates to [ReginaDoyle@aol.com](mailto:ReginaDoyle@aol.com)





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>**  
**OF MONTEREY COUNTY**  
**"THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER**

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**LWVMryCo Calendar 2023**



**SEPTEMBER**

No LWVMC Board Zoom Meeting  
*(Board met Monday, August 28th  
due to Labor Day conflict)*

LWVMC Lunch & Learn General  
In-Person Meeting  
**"Planning for Affordable Housing  
in Monterey County and Cities"**  
**Wednesday, September 13th, 11:30-1:30pm**  
contact: George Riley (details front page)

Natural Resources Committee  
Zoom Meeting  
**Thursday, September 14th, 12 noon**  
contact: George Riley

**NOVEMBER**

LWVMC Board  
Zoom Meeting  
**Monday, November 6th, 11:30am**  
contact: Marianne Gawain

LWVMC Lunch & Learn General Meeting  
*Title & Speaker to be Announced*  
**Unitarian Universalist Church / Wednesday, November 8th, 11:15-1:30pm**

**OCTOBER**

LWVMC Board Zoom Meeting  
**Monday, October 2nd, 11:30am**  
contact: Marianne Gawain

LWVMC General Zoom Meeting  
**"Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater  
Sustainability Agency: Update & Progress"**  
**Speaker: Ms. Piret Harmon, GM SVBGSA**  
**Wednesday, October 11th, 11:45 - 1:30pm**  
contact: Janet Brennan

Natural Resources Committee  
Zoom Meeting  
**Thursday, October 12th, 12 noon**  
contact: George Riley

Natural Resources Committee  
Zoom Meeting  
**Thursday, November 9th, 12 noon**  
contact: George Riley