



Atherton, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Redwood City, Woodside

May 2019

Editor: Bernadette Burns voter_ed@lwvssmc.org

Our Next Event

The League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County invites you to our 65th Annual Meeting and Dinner

Wednesday, May 29

6 pm to 9 pm

The Old Spaghetti Factory

2017 Broadway

Redwood City

Program Topic: The Electoral College

Program Presenter: Carol Jensen

Carol Jensen spent over 20 years in TV journalism anchoring the local news; with 13 years in Sacramento and over 6 years in Portland, Oregon, where she won numerous awards including a regional Emmy award for specialty reporting. Her journalism roots have fueled her interest in politics and the impact it has on local communities and the people and families that live there.

Look for your Annual Meeting kit in your email; print it and bring it with you to the Meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

Order your dinner tickets online, or mail in the coupon at the end of your meeting kit. We gather each year at this time to converse, dine, educate ourselves, elect new officers and directors, and celebrate outgoing board members.

2019 Annual Meeting Goes Green!

Attention All Members!

This year the Annual Meeting Kit will be emailed to all members who receive electronic notices from LWVSSMC. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you, please contact Tracy Clark at tracy@acuitytx.com or call and leave a voicemail at 650-278-3751. Please print your kit and bring it to the meeting! We look forward to seeing you!

Local Action/Housing/Transportation

The newly formed Housing and Transportation committee is looking for more volunteers. The committee is setting up goals to help us track everything that is happening in our area on this very important topic. We could use more committee members who could assist with this.

Check out our League's website. The Affordable Housing Week May 3-May 10 is full of interesting events. Look at our website or look at their website: www.hlsmc.org

Another excellent website to look at is: homeforall@smcgov.org Home For All is helping city and town councils plan how to build and create more housing in our area.

We are also trying to track progress on SB50 at the state level, and follow CASA, a proposal put forward by leaders in the Bay Area; the nine counties in our area are trying to come up with a regional plan.

The transportation issues involve tracking the progress on Measure W, the recently passed ballot measure to get San Mateo moving!

Please volunteer to join us!

Joyce Shefren/Barb Wallis

[Interview with California Assemblymember Kevin Mullin](#)

On March 1, 2019 **LWVSSMC President**, Shirley Des Marais and a number of LWV SSMC & NCSMC members met with **California Assemblymember Kevin Mullin**. Following is a recap of that interview.

◆ **Question: Water Resources**

What ideas do you have for addressing the needs of your own constituency while advancing water management planning that benefits all Californians?

Answer:

The water problem is multifaceted. He said, "I generally support Governor Newsom's plan to shrink the plan from two to one tunnel." The governor is taking a new approach. While the transfer of water from north to south is regarded with suspicion, we know that the water conveyance system needs updating. We also know that climate change requires us to be smarter about water policy. What **ASM Mullin** sees is a new water bond, possibly as high as \$9 billion, with state and federal regulatory agencies and the governor working together to define the bond terms. This will probably occur within the next four years.

[Read the Complete Interview on our Website](#)



Marie Baldisseri, Joyce Shefren, Barbara Windham, ASM Mullin, Diana Stephens, Ann Kuchins

From the President

Our Annual Meeting is held every spring to prepare for the next League year. This year our meeting is planned for May 29 at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Redwood City. Our Nominating Committee has found an excellent slate of candidates for our next Board. The Budget Committee has considered our budget needs for the upcoming year, and of course, our members proposed our program for next year at the Planning Meeting in January. We will ask for your input and final approval, as well as approval of a new Membership Fee proposal.

Our program for the evening will be a presentation on why the National League supports abolishing the Electoral College and adopting the National Popular Vote.

All the details for the meeting are in the Annual Meeting Kit, which also includes information on how to register for the meeting. This year, in an attempt to be more environmentally responsible, we will send the Kit electronically. You should download and print the kit to take with you to the meeting. You can register online with Pay Pal or a credit card, or print the form and mail it along with a check. You may also ask for a paper copy to be sent to you if you prefer. Look for the notice and link elsewhere in this *VOTER*.

Our next year will include the 2020 primary season as well as the beginning of our six-month celebration of the LWV and the 19th Amendment. I hope you can all come and help us plan for this exciting League year!

Shirley Des Marais

Welcome to our Newest Member:

Diana Reddy from Redwood City

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion **Thought for the Month**

“After I realized I was a lesbian, I quickly became much more tolerant and open-minded about other kinds of people and ways of being.”

—Christine B.

Voting Rights Past and Present

Thursday, May 23, 7- 8:30 pm
Burlingame Public Library, 480 Primrose Road, Burlingame

- **Bruce Hartford:** *The Fight for Voting Rights in America, Yesterday and Today*

Mr. Hartford will provide an overview of the historical context and present-day efforts to restrict and deny the right to vote. Mr. Hartford was a civil rights worker during the early and mid-1960s with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and Dr. King's organization, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), in Alabama and Mississippi. He is author of *The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom* (2012), *The Selma Voting Rights Struggle & the March to Montgomery* (2014), *Voting Rights in America -- Two Centuries of Struggle* (2018), and *'Troublemaker' Memories of the Freedom Movement* (forthcoming).

- **Tessa D'arcangelew:** *Free the Vote, California!*

Ms. D'arcangelew will examine recent voting reforms in California and how they leave out the voices of the most marginalized people. Ms. D'arcangelew is the Leadership Development Manager who manages the ACLU chapter and volunteer programs across Northern California.

Sponsor: LWV North & Central San Mateo County lwnncsmc@sbcglobal.net or 650-342-5853.

News Update



Support the For the People Act in the U.S. Senate!

The **For the People** Act has now been introduced in the U.S. Senate! This historic legislation will modernize our election system, reform redistricting, and restore the Voting Rights Act.

The extraordinary and comprehensive reforms in the For the People Act are good for all Americans and deserve bipartisan support. That's why we need YOU to contact your Senators and express your support for this legislation.

Help us build momentum to move this bold legislation forward. Contact your Senators today!

[Click here to make your contacts](#)

Join the conversation on the Menlo Uptown Proposal

The Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County (HLC) is hosting an **Endorsement Committee meeting** for our members to discuss the Menlo Uptown (Greystar) proposal on **Monday, May 13th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**.

The proposal includes **483 homes, 72 of which will be affordable** (even distribution at 50%, 80%, and 120% AMI), an outdoor courtyard, open public space, 799 bike parking spaces, and more.

To RSVP, email amelendrez@hlscmc.org

Upcoming LWVSSMC and Partner Events

MAY		
8 Weds	6:30 pm	AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEK—Stanford Coalition for Planning an Equitable 2035. Student-led workshop on Stanford's impact on surrounding communities. Contact: Hannah Williams, hannahhatawilliams@gmail.com .
9 Thurs	6 - 8 pm	AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEK—What's Palo Alto Doing to Address the Housing Crisis? Morrison & Foerster Conference Room, 755 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto.
10 Fri	4 – 6 pm	AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEK—Housing Leadership Council of SMC Policy Happy Hour and Networking Event. Main & Elm Restaurant, 150 Elm Street, Redwood City.
13 Mon	6 – 8 pm	MENLO UPTOWN PROPOSAL discussion. Housing Leadership Council of SMC meeting with members and developers. Email for details and to RSVP: amelendrez@hlscmc.org
16 Thurs	7 – 9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Bernadette's house, 146 Atherwood Ave, Redwood City. Contact: Shirley Des Marais sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Bernadette Burns, bernadetteburns362@gmail.com
23 Thurs	12 noon	BOOK GROUP MEETING. Guests are always welcome; please bring your own lunch. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net or 650-342-5853.
23 Thurs	7 – 8:30 pm	VOTING RIGHTS PAST AND PRESENT. Sponsored by LWV NCSMC; open to the public. Burlingame Public Library, 480 Primrose Road, Burlingame.
Weds 29	6 – 9:30 pm	LWVSSMC ANNUAL MEETING. Old Spaghetti Factory, 2107 Broadway, Redwood City.