



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities

www.LWVSSMC.org

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November 2018

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The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose candidates or political parties.

Celebration and Thank You Party for all of our Marvelous Volunteers!

Help us celebrate a successful election season outreach effort and thank all the wonderful people who volunteered to help with **Voter Outreach, Pros & Cons**, and **Candidate Forums**.

Wednesday, November 7, 6:30 pm at Freewheel Brewing Company

3763 Florence Street, Redwood City (Marsh Manor Shopping Center)

Appetizers provided; no-host bar; children welcome, with games available

Our Voter Outreach Results

More than 50 **Voter Outreach** volunteers, with help from San Francisco People Power Peninsula & Friends of LWVSSMC, provided over **500 people** with general voter information, **LWV California** recommendations on State Propositions, and voter registration forms. We were at the Menlo Park Farmers' Market, Facebook events, Fair Oaks Community Center, Second Harvest, and other various locations in the communities we serve.

More than 30 LWVSSMC volunteers facilitated **6 Candidate Forums**: East Palo Alto; Menlo Park Districts 1, 2 & 4; Redwood City; and Woodside. A total of **over 300 people** attended these informative forums.

A total of **over 250 people** attended **10 Pro & Con Presentations** at Menlo Park's Main Library and its Belle Haven branch, St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Woodside Road United Methodist Church, St. Matthias Catholic Church, The Sequoias, Little House, & the Ladera Community Center. Our volunteers also gave a special Pro & Con presentation to **almost 200 students** at Menlo Atherton High School.

Local Action Alert, from Joyce Shefren

Greetings fellow "Leaguers!" I am serving as the local action chair this year and need your assistance! I would much appreciate some help keeping an eye on each city our League represents. We would like to have eyes and ears on every town—checking on city council/town council agendas and attempting to provide a League presence for their meetings. Be sure our League is kept aware of any decisions that are being considered and how those decisions fit with our local positions. Our current areas of concern are:

Local San Mateo County Positions

- [Community College in San Mateo County](#)
- [Corrections System in San Mateo County](#)
- [County Charter and County Government](#)
- [Education K-12 & Quality Multicultural Education](#)
- [Health Care Delivery](#)
- [Homeless in San Mateo County](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Land Use](#)
- [San Mateo Public Library](#)
- [Transportation in San Mateo County](#)

- and our **Joint Position with Palo Alto** on Stanford Land Use

I would much appreciate a small committee to assist with this. I don't think we would meet frequently as a committee; nor do I think you would have to attend all the meetings your town has. If helping with this interests you, please contact me, Joyce Shefren.

jshefren@gmail.com

650-380-4293 (cell)

From the President

Leagues all over the country have put countless hours of effort into Voter Outreach during this important election year, and Leagues in several states have had to fight to protect the right to vote for all of their citizens.

Fortunately, we in California do not feel a threat of losing our right to vote, and our county (and several others) has piloted a program to make it even easier for every potential voter to participate. Unfortunately, many of our citizens do not exercise that right.

Our League took on the challenge of improving voter turnout by making Voter Outreach a primary issue this year, and our members took up the challenge! We owe a great deal of gratitude to our Voter Services leaders and their many volunteers for the hours they gave to educate voters on how to register to vote, how to learn about the candidates and issues, and how to return their ballots.

We will celebrate a successful election season on November 7 at the Freewheel Brewing Company. Please join us and raise a glass to the volunteers who made it happen. Find the details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Now that election season is past, the Board has begun to organize our yearly planning meeting. This is when our members come together to discuss next year's priority issues for local, county and state Leagues. Our planning meeting has traditionally been held in December in conjunction with a Holiday Party. But this year, our Board has decided to hold it in January.

Many of us look forward to our Holiday Party, so I'd like to suggest that we can still get together. If any of you would like to plan this seasonal event, please let me know.

Finally, I want to give a special thank you to Debby Maio, for setting up our Weekly Update. This will take the place of many of the e-blasts that we have been sending out to share information with our members and friends. She has also done an incredible job updating our website, which has been a major asset during the election season. Please check it out!

Shirley Des Marais, President

Upcoming Events of Interest

New & Not-So-New Member Orientation

Tuesday, November 13th, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

If you have joined recently or want a refresher on what the **LWV** is and what we are up to, join some longtime & newer members to learn about opportunities to get involved. Location to be determined; likely a private house in West Menlo Park.

Please RSVP by Sunday, November 11th to membership@lwvssmc.org

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### **Spend Election Night with Local-Access Television!**

Three Peninsula media centers are co-producing a two-hour live show covering election issues, **Tuesday, November 6, from 8-10 pm**. They will be cutting between the three TV studios to take a dive into regional politics and issues, with local government officials live in studio.

Live on Comcast Channel 27 throughout Santa Clara County

Live on AT&T u-Verse Channel 99 throughout the Bay Area

Live streaming from [Youtube.com/themediacenter5](https://www.youtube.com/themediacenter5)

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Voting Rights, Voting Wrongs: The American Struggle for Equality

Join the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto at the Winter Luncheon Event (\$40) with esteemed **Stanford University scholars Estelle Freedman** and **Allyson Hobbs** in conversation about what we have learned from the women's suffrage movement and the struggles for racial, gender and social equality.

Nov. 29, 11:30 am - 1: 30 pm Vino Enoteca, 700 Welch Road, Palo Alto

Please RSVP by Monday, November 26 at Eventbrite, via
<https://www.lwvpaloalto.org/>

or send checks payable to LWVPA for \$40 to:

3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

HIGHLIGHTS from the October 18th BOARD Meeting: Your Board

Decided

- To move the annual planning session from its habitual early December time frame to mid-January; Joyce Shefren and Lisa Conrad to explore venues.

Discussed

- The State League's request for donations to Voter's Edge, for which they 'recommend' \$1,000 per League. Decided to mention Voter's Edge specifically in our fundraising letter.
- That we have a fiscal-year deficit, partly from new technology implementation; and have therefore set a fundraising target of \$10,000.
- Various PayPal, website, and GSuite procedures, problems and successes.

Learned

- The State League has obtained the required number of signatures to place on the 2020 ballot the "California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act" intended to amend the corporate property tax portion of Prop. 13.
- Joyce Shefren, Local Action, needs volunteers to help determine how to interact with Stanford joint land use.
- Total membership is 162, with 13 new members, and 18 who have not renewed.

Recent News from National

This week a judge ruled in favor of LWVNH, [blocking the state's voter ID law](#) and stating that an injunction is the only way to prevent the threat of disenfranchisement.

In a huge win for LWVFL, the Florida Supreme Court issued the order that Governor Scott is [not permitted to appoint three new Florida Supreme Court justices](#) on his last day in office.

Arnold Schwarzenegger joined LWVCO and their Fair Maps coalition at [Denver's Terminate Gerrymandering Rally](#) in support of the two redistricting initiatives on Colorado's ballot.

Advocacy Review, State Bills followed by LWVC

Child Care

AB 60 would have guaranteed continued child care coverage for working parents under CALWORKS. It was vetoed because “it would have the potential to cost the state \$50 million a year and is more properly considered part of the budget process.”

Gun Safety, Crime Prevention

AB 2222 extends the required reporting of lost or stolen guns to all law enforcement agencies in the state. Reports must be made to the Department of Justice within seven days.

Initiative and Referendum Process

AB 1947 vetoed, would have banned compensation for signatures on initiatives, referendums or recall petitions. LWVC urged a veto of this bill because per-signature payment is often the most cost-effective method for collecting the hundreds of thousands of signatures needed to qualify a ballot measure. The bill would have favored the wealthiest interests able to self-fund ballot initiatives.

Affordable Housing

AB 1505 allows cities and counties to require, as a development condition of residential rental units, that a certain percentage be affordable to and occupied by moderate and low, very low, and extremely low-income households.

Open Government

SB 1421 requires personnel records relating to incidents, complaints and investigations involving peace officers to be made available for public inspection.

LWV Book Group

Our selection for November is *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels* by Jon Meacham. We will meet at noon on Thursday, **November 29th** at Nancy (Lalu) Kiesling’s home at 996 Menlo Avenue, Menlo Park. Please bring your own lunch.

We will not meet in December.

For our **January** meeting we will read *The Fox* by Frederick Forsyth--

“New York Times bestselling master of international intrigue takes readers into the bleeding-edge world of technological espionage in a propulsive thriller that feels chillingly real.”

Our book selection for **February** is *The Fifth Risk* by Michael Lewis.

NEW VOICES FOR YOUTH

Where Kids Use Video to Make Their Voices Heard



New Voices for Youth SCREENING PARTY

The party was enthusiastically received by friends of New Voices. Some said ----

- *Enjoyed ... seeing Luis and Fabi talk about their experience, growth and thoughts on civic engagement, and what NV has done for them.*
- *Loved the students' films -our youth are amazing and should be listened to – thank you for giving them a voice!*

**If you missed the party,
Click [here](#) to see the New Voices videos**

Fall 2018

Civil discourse starts in middle school



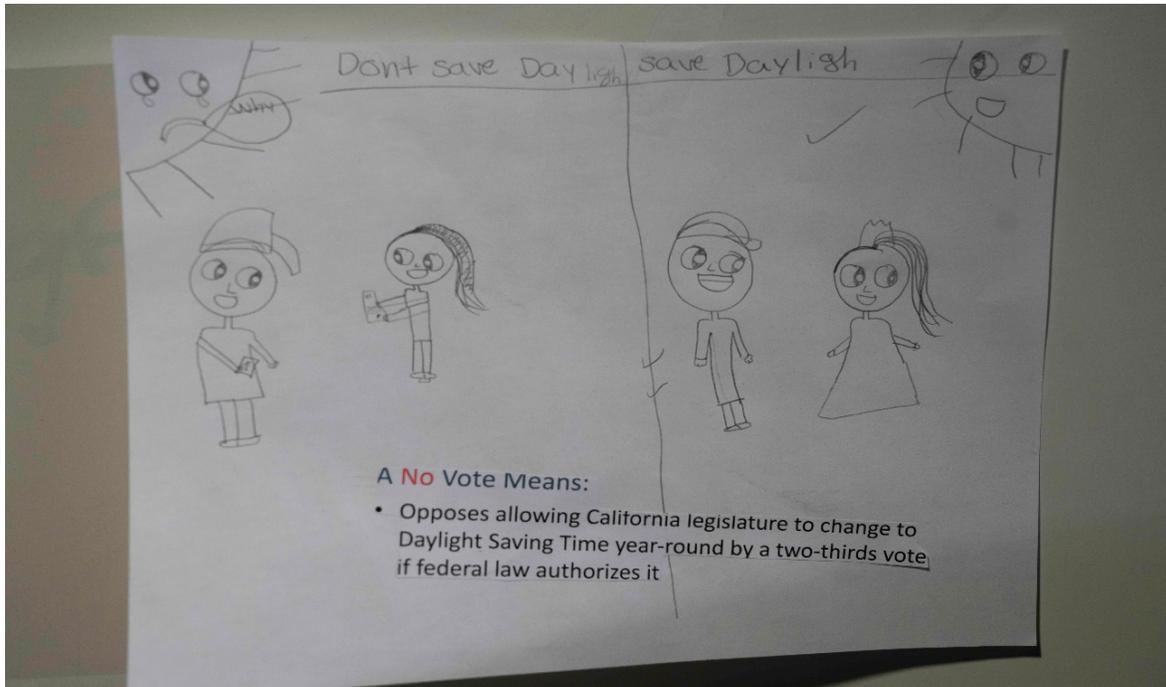
Classes at Siena Youth Center have begun. Co-Director Nimsi Garcia will incorporate the mid-term elections into the Fall term. She hopes to include LWV volunteers.

Co-Director Sanji De Silva, a recent graduate of UC Riverside will begin teaching at EPA's Boys and Girls Club when their second term begins, mid-October. New to New Voices, Sanji is excited about PSAs and Improv!

(And for more on civil discourse, you can [listen to PBS NewsHour](#) as discussants explore the link between incendiary political rhetoric on violent behavior in light of the pipe bombs recently sent to prominent Democrats.)

Voter Services comes to Siena Youth Center in North Fair Oaks

On October 30, Tracy Clark and Geoff Ryder led a successful workshop for New Voices students about the propositions that are on the ballot this year. They focused on Propositions #7 (year-round Daylight Saving Time) and #10 (Allow communities to develop local rent control rules). To Tracy and Geoff's surprise, students thought going to school in the dark would be just fine! And, since many of these students have already demonstrated against the rising rents in Redwood City, it was not a surprise that they thought increasing opportunities for rent control was a good idea. Students drew pictures describing each initiative and, then, described their pictures to the other students. Nimsi, the NV teacher, hopes to schedule a follow-up session.



UPCOMING EVENTS		
NOVEMBER		
Wed 7	6:30 – 9 pm	PARTY!!! COME CELEBRATE OUR ELECTION-SEASON VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS! Freewheel Brewing Company, 3736 Florence Street, Redwood City (in Marsh Manor Shopping Center).
Tues 13	7 – 8:15 pm	NEW & NOT-SO-NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION. RSVP by November 11 to membership@lwvssmc.org
Wed 14	12 noon – 1 pm	BROWN BAG LUNCH AT NORTH & CENTRAL: IS THE BAY AREA REALLY PROGRESSIVE ON HOUSING? 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo. Contact: lwvncsmc@sbcglobal.net or 650-342-5853.
15 Thurs	7 – 9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Bernadette’s house, 146 Atherwood Avenue, Redwood City. Contact: Shirley Des Marais sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Bernadette Burns, bernadetteburns362@gmail.com
29 Thurs	11:30 am – 1:30 pm	LWVPA WINTER LUNCHEON. TOPIC: VOTING RIGHTS, VOTING WRONGS. At Vino Enoteca, 700 Welch Road, Palo Alto. RSVP https://www.lwvpaloalto.org/
29 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting to discuss <i>The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels</i> , by Jon Meacham. At Lalu Kiesling’s home, 996 Menlo Avenue, Menlo Park. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net or 650-342-5853.

SAVE THE DATES!!!

**January 24, 2019 7-9 pm in Cupertino: LWVC President Helen Hutchinson—
What will the League look like in its next century?**

February 9, 2019 Bay Area League Day: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

February 23, 2019 County League Day in Belmont

Voter Service Videos on Demand

Did you miss a presentation you wanted to attend? No problem! Go to our website and watch one, or two, or more! Thanks to PenTV, the MidPen Media Center, volunteer videographer B. Burns, and Web guru Debby Maio.

[2018 State Proposition Videos](#)
[Candidate Forum Videos](#)