



# THE VOTER

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY**  
*Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities*

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October 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.

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## 2018 Voter Services—Off to the Races!

### Pros & Cons Report

Linda Atkinson and her team have been off to a fine start with their Pros & Cons presentations, with an audience of 20 at The Redwood City Woman's Club, and about 60 at St. Matthias Church. Linda noted that she got good feedback on having slides, which attendees felt helped them to understand the propositions better. (Fortuitously, since Linda spent many hours preparing them!)

### Candidate Forums Report

Karen Moore got her feet wet as Candidate Forum Organizer with a big splash; standing room only at the Council Chambers in Redwood City. Our League moderated a forum with all seven of the candidates (vying for 3 seats) for the City Council in Redwood City. There was a lot of energy in the room, seven strong candidates, and a surprise final question—essentially, have you ever had a strongly-held opinion that you later changed your mind about? If you weren't there for the action, it's OK, you can still find out what happened! The forum was filmed by PenTV, and is playing at various times on their public-access television station. It is also available on demand from their YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNcNgXGEUa0&t=172s>

And if once isn't enough, you can also watch Climate Magazine's Mark Simon interviewing those same Redwood City Council Candidates:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laMyeIAYnQk&t=0s&list=PLAmC\\_1l3w9Kvl1dTEMXhsM05XaM2WX8eZ&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laMyeIAYnQk&t=0s&list=PLAmC_1l3w9Kvl1dTEMXhsM05XaM2WX8eZ&index=2)

These will also be available on our LWVSSMC web site, where hopefully our gurus can figure out how to re-name the hyperlinks!

We also had 22 people attend our Candidate Forum for Woodside's District 7, with 2 candidates contesting one seat. Video should be available shortly, on our web site.

## Voter Registration Report, from Geoff Ryder

Dear Volunteers and Friends of LWV,

Thank you for making National Voter Registration Day a success in South San Mateo County! We have reports in hand from 90% of our shifts this week, and here are the initial numbers:

27 voter registrations

67 stopped to chat with us about the election

83 people took our handouts—And this figure is clearly under-counted, compared to the count of materials we provisioned.

Some locations even ran out of materials!

### **A few of our National Voter Registration Day achievements:**

+ We worked with 20 volunteers who were new to our chapter, and new friendships formed.

+ We assembled signage and materials to do voter outreach at seven locations simultaneously.

+ We learned the traffic patterns and upcoming event dates of our 9/25 partner locations.

+ We met new potential partners--we were invited to work a naturalization ceremony on October 18, among other events.

The Menlo Park Library hired a balloon artist to beautify our space. Check out the photo below--which is also now on our web site and Facebook page!

Our volunteers had ideas for new places to do voter outreach activities next month too. When you get a chance, please email us your stories and recommendations from 9/25, and any thoughts on where we should focus in October.

**Some of our other activities:**

+ The last community festival this year at Facebook HQ is on October 13, and we were invited again to join. We have four open spots for volunteers. This time the theme is "Truck Yeah!", featuring country and bluegrass music.

We hope to add more locations before election day, so please stay tuned. Our chapter has enough supplies to support multiple events at a time, so please let us know if you come across an event or location that would be ideal for our voter outreach program.

+ The County Elections Office has set up an advisory panel of nonprofits who do local voter outreach work, known as the VEOAC. We need more volunteers who can join from 10 - 11:30 AM on Oct. 10 and Oct. 24 (Wednesdays) to learn about what the County and our peer organizations are doing. A big thank you to Pam Jones for keeping us in the loop on VEOAC's work so far.

Geoff Ryder [gryder@gmail.com](mailto:gryder@gmail.com) 408-515-3851



## From the President

As Geoff Ryder reminded us at the **Kickoff**, “It’s show time!” With elections just around the corner, our Voter Services Team is busy with reaching out to potential voters and educating us about the candidates, measures and propositions on the November ballot. Check out the dates listed elsewhere in this **VOTER**, and attend the events that will help you determine your vote.

I believe that all who were able to attend our Kickoff at Lida Urbanek’s home last week agree that it was a rousing success. Our team leaders explained their plans for the year and helped each of us find a volunteer opportunity that was just right. If you were unable to attend, please consider your interests and strengths and **volunteer your time to help with one of our main issues this year**: voter outreach; housing and transportation; and sea level rise/climate change. Or, perhaps you’d be interested in helping with communications, administration, fund raising, action, membership or programs. Contact the team leader or any Board member to offer your help.

**County Measure W** was placed on the ballot after considerable study, public outreach, and discussion by a large “stakeholders” committee, in which both Leagues in San Mateo County participated. Both Leagues have endorsed the measure, and are co-sponsoring a talk by the Yes on Measure W campaign on October 3. Come ask your questions and learn why this ½ cent is important for San Mateo County. And bring your friends!

If you have not yet sent in your renewal, you are no longer a member of the League. Please don’t leave us now; we need your support! Mail back your form, or go to our website today and help us continue our efforts to **MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK**.

**Shirley Des Marais**, President

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A valuable source of election information is the state League’s website, Voter’s Edge. At [Votersedge.org](http://Votersedge.org) you can enter your address to get a personalized ballot. You see in-depth information on candidates, measures, and who supports them. Another is [Ballotpedia.org](http://Ballotpedia.org)

**Attend one of our Voter Outreach Events!  
(or offer to help out...)**

**Candidate Forums**                      Contact: Karen Moore, [klmoore2010@hotmail.com](mailto:klmoore2010@hotmail.com)

October 10	<u>Menlo Park City Council, District 2</u> Belle Haven Library, 413 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park
October 11	<u>East Palo Alto City Council</u> City Hall Community Room, 2415 University Ave, EPA
October 17	<u>Menlo Park City Council District 1</u> Belle Haven Library, 413 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park
October 22	<u>Menlo Park City Council, District 4</u> Little House, 800 Middle Avenue, Menlo Park

**Pros & Cons**                                      Contact: Linda Atkinson, [leatkinson@comcast.net](mailto:leatkinson@comcast.net)

October 14, 11:45	<u>Saint Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park</u>
October 16, 1:00	<u>Little House, Menlo Park</u>
October 17, 7:00	<u>Woodside Road Methodist Church, Redwood City</u>
October 20, 2:30	<u>Belle Haven Library, Menlo Park</u>
October 22, 7:00	<u>The Sequoias, Portola Valley</u>
October 24, 7:00	<u>Menlo Park Main Library</u>
October 25, 7:00	<u>Ladera Recreation District, Ladera</u>

**Voter Registration and Information Events**

Contact: Geoff Ryder, [gryder@gmail.com](mailto:gryder@gmail.com)

Help staff a table with information on how to register to vote, and with information about the November election.

Oct 13	<u>Facebook Truck Yeah</u> , 1:00-3:00 and 3:00-5:00
Most Sundays	<u>Menlo Park Farmer's Market</u> , 9:30-11:30

## **New Member Report, from Ashley Wagstaff**

**Menlo Park:** Rhonda Bucklin, Carol Jensen, Kelley McGrath-Edwards

**Portola Valley:** Irene Urbanek Ruiz, Tricia Christiansen, Susan Eliot Briggs

**Redwood City:** Merin Yu, Matt Greenberg

**San Mateo:** Patricia Garcia-Luna

**Sunnyvale:** Sanjana De Silva

**Thank you all for joining recently!**

### **Back to after-school for New Voices**

The New Voices screening on September 15 at the Mid Peninsula Media Center was successful even if fewer of you came than we'd hoped! The big screen is wonderful; the audio was mostly audible, hearing our diverse staff speak was moving, and the supporters who came were enthusiastic. They said:

"Loved the students' films -our youth are amazing and should be listened to – thank you for giving them a voice!"

"Enjoyed the promo video, seeing Luis and Fabi talk about their experience, growth and thoughts on civic engagement, and what NV has done for them."

If you weren't able to attend the screening and would like to see the videos, check out

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRVEEq6LnXo> or  
<http://www.newvoicesforyouth.org/video-gallery>

We'll hope to schedule our next screening at a better time and we'll hope to include youth! Classes at Siena Youth Center have begun. Nimsi is figuring out how to incorporate the mid-term elections into the Fall term. She hopes to draw on LWV volunteers.

We are pleased to have hired Sanjana De Silva, a recent graduate of UC Riverside, as Co-Director. Sanji has her own company, The Angry Elephant Productions and brings a variety of video production skills to New Voices. She'll begin teaching at EPA's Boys and Girls Club when their second term begins, mid-October.



Your editor struggling to follow MidPen Media's storytelling guru Elliot Margolies, on a clearly exciting fine point of videography...



The ones who make it happen: Staffers Sanji and Nimsi; mentors Veronica Tincher (Palo Alto LWV) and our own Tracy Clark

## Birthday Party!



A luncheon was held in honor of Mary Kneip's 90th birthday, attended by current and former LWVSSMC Presidents. L to R: Linda Craig, Kathleen Weisenberg, Lisa Conrad, Mary Kneip, Ellen Kitamura, Carol Louchheim, Linda Liebes, Lucile Spurlock, Lida Urbanek, and Shirley Des Marais (not pictured).

### Additional Election Resources

Easy Voter Guide: Available in several languages; pick up at local libraries.  
<https://lwvc.org/news/new-and-busy-voter-check-out-our-easy-voter-guide-now>.

LWV California: <https://lwvc.org>

San Mateo County Elections Department:  
<https://www.smcacre.org/elections>

California Secretary of State: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/cavoter/>

Check the status of your registration and whether your ballot was received.



**PROP 1 Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond**

**YES**

California is experiencing a housing crisis. The state's extreme shortage of affordable housing has life and death consequences, especially for people with low incomes. Housing instability has been linked to public health crises, food insecurity, and developmental problems in children. Prop 1 will build and preserve affordable homes, including supportive housing, for veterans, working families, people with disabilities, Californians experiencing homelessness and others struggling to find a safe place to call home. It will authorize \$4 billion in general obligation bonds, to be used to support these affordable housing programs. It would also leverage federal dollars for construction of new housing.

**Vote YES on Prop 1.**

**PROP 2 Homeless Housing Bond**

**YES**

A quarter of the nation's homeless reside in California--over 130,000 people. A significant percentage of our homeless population suffers from mental illness. Prop 2 allows the use of unspent money, originally allocated through a 2004 measure to fund mental health services, to be used to address the problem. If passed, the unspent money would be used to provide permanent supportive housing for people who need mental health services, and are either currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

**Vote YES on Prop 2.**

**PROP 3 Water Bond**

**NO**

It is essential that California manage and develop water resources in ways that benefit the environment, and that the environmental focus emphasizes both conservation and use-appropriate high water quality standards. However, this bond is *not* the way to accomplish those goals. While the League of Women Voters of California supports the use of long-term debt (bond measures) to finance capital projects, this measure has a number of fatal flaws, including:

- Shifting the cost for water from the end users to California taxpayers;
- Reducing state money available for other critical state programs like education, affordable housing, and healthcare;
- Failing to provide for adequate project oversight and financial accountability.

**Vote NO on Prop 3.**

**PROP 4 Children's Hospital Bond**

**NO**

While the League of Women Voters of California supports quality healthcare for all Californians, Prop 4 would use \$1.5 billion in public, general obligation bond money to support privately-owned children's hospitals, along with five children's hospitals in the University of California system. State funds should not be used to support private facilities. This principle stands even when, as is the case in this measure, the facilities serve severely ill children. The bond money would be used for construction, expansion, renovation, and equipment projects. These are capital improvements that could be funded either through revenues the private hospitals generate or through capital campaigns (where, for example, a building is named after a donor).

**Vote NO on Prop 4.**

**PROP 5 Property Tax****NO**

Property taxes are the major source of funding for schools and local services. Prop 5 is a costly constitutional amendment that would reduce funds for schools and local services by \$1 billion per year. In exchange for that \$1 billion a year, Prop 5 would provide special tax benefits to some property owners. It does nothing to help low-income seniors, or families struggling to find housing. Seniors already have the ability to keep their tax break when they downsize. Prop 5 drains California's coffers of money that is essential to schools and communities.

**Vote NO on Prop 5.**

**PROP 6 Gas Tax Repeal****NO**

California is in critical need of highway and local street repairs and maintenance, and improvements to mass transit and transportation. Prop 6 would repeal the recently-enacted 2017 package of taxes and fees approved by the State Legislature to fund transportation projects, amounting to a loss of \$4.7 billion in annual funding. The measure would also add a constitutional amendment requiring any fuel or diesel taxes to be approved by voters, limiting the legislature's ability to address California's serious infrastructure needs. Passage of this repeal measure would have significant negative impacts and leave our state structures vulnerable, especially during natural disasters.

**Vote NO on Prop 6.**

**PROP 10 Repeal Costa Hawkins****YES**

Multiple strategies are needed to address the significant housing shortages and inequities that exist across California. While this rent control measure offers little systemic progress, and may not result in adding new affordable housing units, it does allow local communities to respond to the housing crisis in ways that are appropriate for each of them. We support providing local communities with this control.

**Vote YES on Prop 10.**

Because League positions do not cover the issues in the following measures, the LWVC is taking **no stand** on **Prop 7** (Daylight Savings Time), **Prop 8** (Dialysis), **Prop 11** (Ambulance Drivers), and **Prop 12** (Farm Animals).

**Prop 9** was removed from the ballot.

UPCOMING EVENTS		
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
17 Weds	7 – 8 pm	<b>18<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CANDIDATES FORUM with Anna Eshoo and Christine Russell.</b> Campbell Community Center, Roosevelt Room (#80), 1 West Campbell Avenue, Campbell. Contact: <a href="mailto:lww.swscv@gmail.com">lww.swscv@gmail.com</a> Free, but registration is required. <a href="#">Register at Eventbrite</a>
18 Thurs	7 – 9 pm	<b>LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> at Bernadette's house, 146 Atherwood Avenue, Redwood City. Contact: Shirley Des Marais <a href="mailto:sdesmarais@pacbell.net">sdesmarais@pacbell.net</a> or Bernadette Burns, <a href="mailto:bernadetteburns362@gmail.com">bernadetteburns362@gmail.com</a>
23 Tues		<b>On the Table—discussions about results of last year's event.</b> Contact: Barb Wallis <a href="mailto:barbwallis@gmail.com">barbwallis@gmail.com</a> <a href="https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/onthetable">https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/onthetable</a> .
25 Thurs	12 noon	<b>Book Group Meeting</b> to discuss <i>Facts and Fears: Hard Truths from a Life in Intelligence</i> , by James R. Clapper. Contact: Judy Orttung, <a href="mailto:jorttung@comcast.net">jorttung@comcast.net</a> 650-342-5853.