



The
Voter
Newsletter

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

April 2019

Editor: Bernadette Burns voter_ed@lwvssmc.org

Our Next Event

Housing: Past and Present Impacts Our Jobs and Housing Imbalance

We live in a very prosperous area - Silicon Valley - but prosperity has brought its own challenge of an imbalance in housing. How do we move forward to improve and secure housing for everyone in our communities?

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

6:30pm to 8:30pm

Redwood City Public Library

1044 Middlefield Road

Redwood City

Speaker:

Diana Reddy

Redwood City Council Member

Fair Rents 4 All Advocate

Diana Reddy is a community advocate who has been organizing for more than 20 years. Ms. Reddy has championed education, healthcare, and housing throughout that career of advocacy.

Ms. Reddy has served on the **Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County as a Community Builder**, organizing in communities and advocating for policies to increase affordable housing.

Ms. Reddy has also served on the **San Mateo County Living Wage Task Force** and is currently a member of the **Working Families Alliance**.

Please RSVP

Local Action/Housing/Transportation

You can see by simply reading newspapers and listening to news coverage—there is much activity around housing and transportation issues on the peninsula. Each of our cities are under a mandate to help solve the housing availability crisis. Barb Wallis and Joyce Shefren have a committee working on these issues—[please volunteer](#) too. Much to do and much to learn!

Submitted by Joyce Shefren, Local Action Chair

Interview with California State Senator Jerry Hill

On March 2, 2019 **LWVSSMC President**, Shirley DesMarais and a number of LWVSSMC members met with **California State Senator Jerry Hill**. Following is a recap of that interview.

♦ **Redistricting, State and Local**

Would you support a bill to require local governments that have district representation to establish independent redistricting commissions that would use a transparent process and fair criteria similar to the State, including safeguards against discriminating against any political party? (Using the example of Sunnyvale)

Answer:

Senator Hill is reluctant to add more legislation here as he isn't sure there is really a problem to address in each city. There seems to be a lack of trust in the local redistricting process, but he doesn't sense a need today for legislation. Senator Hill supports the idea in principle. An example of Daly City was given, where there were no Asian council members, even though Asians are a majority in that city. After district elections were started, there are now Asian council members. Senator Hill responded with a look at San Mateo County Supervisors, who now must reside in their districts, but are more often looking only to issues in their district rather than looking at issues countywide. Each locale should look at district elections when a concern is raised.

[Read the Complete Interview](#)

From the President

The end of this League year is approaching, and we're beginning to plan for 2019-20. Our VP Administration, Tracy Clark, is organizing our Annual Meeting, May 29 at Old Spaghetti Factory in Redwood City and is putting together the Annual Meeting Kit. Our Budget and Nominating Committees are finalizing their reports, and the Program Committee has found a speaker, our own Carol Jenson, who will talk to us about the Electoral College.

Suzanne Fouché has resigned as Vice President for Program. She has organized many interesting and informative programs over the years, and been a great addition to our Board. Thank you, Suzanne!

Welcome to Linda Atkinson, who has agreed to finish the term for VP Program. She has also agreed to be nominated to continue in the position for the next two years, and is already meeting with her team to plan future speakers. Thank you, Linda.

National, state and local Leagues across the country will be working to help make the 2020 Census a success. Watch for volunteer opportunities in future editions of *THE VOTER*, and if you want to get started now, go to the San Mateo County – [Everyone Counts!](#)

They are also looking for job applicants, so if you or someone you know might be interested in a short-term job that will help with this critical effort, check it out.

The State League Convention will be held May 31- June 2. Five delegates have been chosen to represent our League, but any member can go as a non-delegate. League conventions are very informative and lots of fun. If you're interested, check out the website:

[LWVC State League Convention](#)

And be sure to let us know that you are attending; we'd love to see you there!

Shirley Des Marais

News Update



Legislative Victory for LWVC-backed SB126 Charter School Transparency

After earning bipartisan support in the Senate and Assembly, Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 126, requiring charter school governing boards to comply with the same accountability and transparency laws that traditional school district governing boards already follow.

[Read More](#)

Shape California's Future: 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission

Every ten years, after the federal census, California must re-establish the boundaries of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly and State Board of Equalization districts to reflect new population data and shifting populations.

The Voters FIRST Act gave this power to California citizens ensuring that new and fair political boundaries are drawn without special interests, politics and political influence, by creating a 14-member Citizens Redistricting Commission.

[Read More](#)

News Update



Restoring the Voice of Wisconsin Voters

In Wisconsin this month, [a judge ruled in favor of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin in our suit against the state legislature.](#)

During a lame-duck session last year, the Wisconsin state legislature passed a series of laws limiting the incoming governor's power, undermining the desire of the voters.

Elected officials have a duty to respect the state constitution and honor the will of the voters above their own political interests. Because of this victory, the desires of Wisconsin voters will once again be heard, and the unconstitutional bills will be dissolved.

National Popular Vote Wins in 3 States!

Our 2018 Convention added the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) to the Making Democracy Work campaign. Since that time, many members have continued working around the country on this issue.

Just this month, the NPVIC has passed in Colorado, New Mexico, and Delaware! We want to commend all the LWV members who have worked so tirelessly on this effort.

LWVUS is also working with its NPVIC Task Force, in which a talented group of five members will evaluate momentum and make a recommendation around whether and how the national office engages on this issue. The NPVIC needs 81 more electoral votes to be ratified.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Thought for the Month

How the Daughters and Granddaughters of Former Slaves Secured Voting Rights for All

Historian Martha S. Jones tells the stories of the suffragists who were often overshadowed by the big names often associated with the movement because of their race. Activists like Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Eliza Gardner, and Julia Foote are figures who stand out, in Jones's words, as **"unparalleled advocates of universal suffrage in its truest sense."**

[Read About Their Stories in the Smithsonian Magazine](#)

Book Talk -- 'Biased' by Jennifer Eberhardt

Wed, May 1, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

University AME Zion Church, 3549 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto

LWVPA and our League co-sponsor a book talk with Stanford psychologist [Jennifer Eberhardt](#), author of [*Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think and Do*](#).

Professor Eberhardt is a leading expert on implicit racial bias and is the co-founder and co-director of SPARQ, a Stanford Center that brings together researchers and practitioners to address significant social problems.

Join us to learn how Dr. Eberhardt has applied her research and found quantifiable solutions to one of our most pressing current social problems.

Reception: 6:30-7:00 pm

Book Talk and Q&A: 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Book Signing: 8:30 pm

[RSVP on Eventbrite](#)

Co-Sponsored with LWVSSMC

Upcoming LWVSSMC and Partner Events

APRIL		
10 Weds	6:30 – 8:30 pm	APRIL GENERAL MEETING—OUR JOBS AND HOUSING IMBALANCE. Speaker Councilmember Diana Reddy. Redwood City Main Library, Community Room, 1044 Middlefield Road, RWC. Register
18 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,
25 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting to discuss <i>Becoming</i> by Michelle Obama. Guests always welcome; please bring your own lunch. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net or 650-342-5853.
MAY		
1 Weds	6:30 – 8:30 pm	BOOK TALK— ‘BIASED’ BY JENNIFER EBERHARDT. University AME Zion Church, 3549 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. See page 6.
2 Thurs	5 – 7:30 pm	AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEK—HEART of San Mateo County Networking and Fundraising Event. Devil’s Canyon Brewery, 935 Washington Street, San Carlos.
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,
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.
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,
23 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting. Guests always welcome; please bring your own lunch. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net or 650-342-5853.
Weds 29	6 – 9:30 pm	LWVSSMC ANNUAL MEETING. Old Spaghetti Factory, 2107 Broadway, Redwood City.