



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

January 2019

Volume 53, Number 5

In this Issue

President's Message: State Program----1
Criminal Justice Concurrence -----2
Voter Representation Concurrence-----2
Record-setting election statistics -----3
Local Program Planning in March-----3
Remembering Marj Bourret-----4
Rich-poor Gap Program in February-----4

State Program Planning Tuesday, January 29 1-3 p.m.

*Home of Sandy Warren
150 Scenic Street
Santa Cruz, California*

Open to all LWVSCC members; guests welcome

Calendar

Tuesday, January 8, 2019
10 a.m.-noon
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
75 River Street, Santa Cruz, CA

Tuesday, January 29, 2019
1-3 p.m.
State Program Planning
Home of Sandy Warren
150 Scenic Street. Santa Cruz, CA

Saturday, February 9, 2019
10 a.m.-noon
Confronting the Rich-Poor Gap
Heather Bullock, Ph.D., UCSC
Resource Center for Nonviolence
612 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, February 12, 2019
10 a.m.-noon
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
75 River Street, Santa Cruz, CA

Thursday, March 7, 2019
1-3 p.m.
Local Program Planning
Home of Sandy Warren
150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz, CA

Tuesday, March 12, 2019
10 a.m.-noon
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
75 River Street, Santa Cruz, CA

President's Message



As members, we have a chance to suggest the direction for the League of Women Voters of California every two years. In League parlance, "program" means the issues that members have chosen for concerted study, education, and action at local, state, and national levels. Program can include both education and advocacy work.

On January 29, we will be meeting at the home of John and Sandy Warren from 1-3 p.m. to have our say (see above for details). At this meeting,

League members propose areas on which to focus our local energy, the energy of other local Leagues in California, and the resources of the state League (staff, board, consultants, and other volunteers) over the next two years. These focus points are referred to as "issues for emphasis".

Issues for emphasis may be based on current League work or on new topics of statewide relevance; issues could include a new study, an update of an existing [LWVC position](#), or [concurrence](#) with a position already adopted by another League. As of this time, two positions have been proposed for concurrence.

Continued on page 2

President's Message.....Continued from page 1

At the 2017 LWVC convention, there was significant interest in pursuing a criminal justice position. A statewide task force was set up to develop the position for concurrence, and they have asked other local Leagues in California Leagues to consider recommending that the LWVC adopt a new position on criminal justice via concurrence.

The Sacramento League has also proposed a concurrence on voter representation and election process. See following articles for information on these two proposals; information on any other program proposals that come to our attention to be sent out prior to the meeting.

At the meeting, we will discuss the merits of any proposed issues for emphasis, and League members will reach consensus on what our League should recommend to the state board for the 2019-21 State Program Planning. All members are encouraged to attend, and guests are welcomed. Should you be unable to attend, please send your thoughts and recommendations to us in advance at league@lwvsc.org or contact a participating board member. Stephanie Harlan, our local program chair, has agreed to serve as discussion leader, and board secretary Marilyn McCusker will record our decisions.

Following review by our local board of directors at our February 12 meeting, our local recommendations will be sent to LWVC by the March 4 deadline. After considering input from local Leagues throughout California, our state board of directors will make their recommendations for the 2019-2021 program for presentation at the state convention to be held in Pasadena May 31 through June 2, 2019. A majority vote is required to pass the state's recommendations. Non-recommended proposals require a 2/3 vote, and are sometimes added during the convention.

For many years, our local recommendations have often been in sync with what happens at the state convention. If you want to understand and influence legislative action and future studies and programs, this January event is your chance! Try to come, if at all possible.

—*Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC*

Taskforce Proposes New Criminal Justice Position

A statewide task force, in conjunction with staff from the state League, has proposed a new criminal justice position for concurrence.

The proposed position, in brief, states that the LWV of California supports:

- a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry;
- the elimination of systemic bias, including the disproportionate policing and incarceration of marginalized communities;
- policing practices that promote safety for both law enforcement officers and the communities they serve;
- collaboration between government and community-based programs throughout every stage of the criminal justice system;
- a focus on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting the successful re-entry into California communities of those who have been incarcerated; and
- reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about law-enforcement programs and policies.

If adopted, this criminal justice position would allow local Leagues to engage in the process of education and advocacy within their community with respect to policing, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry. The state League would be able to influence our state elected officials as they craft effective legislation for criminal justice reform.

The concurrence position is based on positions adopted by Leagues throughout the US and by local California Leagues. To read the proposed position in full, plus background information, send a request to newsletter@lwvsc.org, and we will forward the concurrence information provided by the taskforce.

Sacramento League Proposes Concurrence on Voter Representation

The Sacramento County League of Women Voters has proposed a concurrence position on voter representation for consideration at our upcoming program planning meeting. According to the Sacramento League, the proposal recommends no particular electoral system, but provides a clear but flexible base of principles to explore electoral method reforms and take action when appropriate for voters.

The Sacramento County League proposes that the state League's current [Elections Systems position](#), which supports a particular election method, be replaced with this concurrence position: "Support election methods at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters."

The Sacramento League states that this proposed position, composed of concurrences from positions adopted by Leagues throughout the US, does not support any particular election method, but rather supports the League goals for "an open, governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive." It would allow local Leagues to use the position to evaluate or propose electoral options. In many jurisdictions, options are needed as remedies to voting rights lawsuits that seek minority representation. The state League could use it to support or oppose state legislation.

To read the full proposed position, send a request to newsletter@lwvsc.org, and we will forward the concurrence information provided by the Sacramento County League.



Voter Service Report: Record-setting Election Statistics

According to Santa Cruz County Clerk Gail Pellerin, our county had its highest voter turnout in a midterm election since 1982. The record was set at 76.3%, with the total votes cast at 121,700, handily eclipsing the 1982 total of 70.8%. With 82,868 voting by mail, that's a whopping 68% of all ballots cast, we set a record number of mail-in votes for a midterm election. This follows a state-wide trend of more voters casting their ballots by mail.

The County Clerk offered voting in Santa Cruz and Watsonville for 29 days before the election, opened for weekend voting before the election, conducted same-day voting at 3 locations, and trained more than 1,000 poll workers. The Santa Cruz County Elections Department did an amazing job to support accessible, accurate, and transparent elections.

With the help of our many volunteers, the League of Women Voters contributed to the election by educating, informing, and registering voters. Many thanks for your commitment to our democratic process.

—Dottie Fry, Voter Service Co-chair

LWVSCC Seeks Local Program Topics for March Meeting

This month we will be discussing future statewide programs, but in March we will be looking for ideas for our local League's programs for 2019-2020. Now is the time to start thinking about what local issues and concerns you want to learn more about. Whether it's a single program or year-long study that will result in a new or revised League position, we want to hear about it. Bring your ideas for topics and speakers to our local program planning meeting on Thursday, March 7, 1-3 p.m. at the home of Sandy Warren, 150 Scenic Street in Santa Cruz.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to LWVSCC, Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

___ \$65.00 Individual annual membership

___ \$100.00 Two members in a household

___ \$10.00 Student membership

___ Contribution \$ _____

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWVC Education Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____



League of Women Voters
of Santa Cruz County
PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010
(831) 325-4140
Editor: Pam Newbury
President: Barbara Lewis
Membership: Lydia Nogales Parker
league@lwvsc.org lwvsc.org

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Remembering Marj Bourret

Fifty-year Honorary LWVSCC member Marjorie Bourret died on October 15, 2018 at the age of 93. Marj served as our League's second president from 1967 to 1969, and was active in many aspects of the League. In a time where women were strongly discouraged from pursuing technical careers, Marge graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1947 with bachelor of science degrees in electrical engineering and engineering physics. Marj and her family moved to Scotts Valley in 1966 where she became active in local politics and served on the local school board, as well as being active in many other local and statewide civic activities. We will certainly miss this remarkable and determined League member.

UCSC Professor to Discuss the Rich-Poor Gap

Deepening economic inequality and its consequences throughout society will be the focus of a free public talk given by UCSC professor Heather Bullock on Saturday, February 9, 10 am, at the Resource Center for Non-violence in Santa Cruz, 612 Ocean Street. Dr. Bullock will discuss how popular beliefs about poverty, wealth, and socioeconomic mobility legitimize economic inequality and how creating a more equitable society benefits everyone.

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. For more information, email league@lwvsc.org, or call 831-325-4140.



"Maybe this economy does favor certain people."