



# Voter

## of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

April, 2018

### League of Women Voters

#### LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley

P.O. Box 2865  
Saratoga, CA 95070-0865  
Telephone: 408-lwv-1842  
[www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org](http://www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org)  
[lwv.swscv@gmail.com](mailto:lwv.swscv@gmail.com)

#### Bay Area League of Women Voters

Telephone: 510-839-1608  
Fax: 510 839-1610  
<http://lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org>

#### League of Women Voters California

Phone: 916-442-7215  
Fax: 916 442-7362  
<http://ca.lwv.org>

#### League of Women Voters

Phone: 202-429-1965  
Fax: 202-429-0854  
<http://www.lwv.org>

### In This Issue

President's Letter	2
Welcome New Members	2
Board Bytes	3
Bay Area Monitor	3
Rising Water Rates	4,5
The Annual Meeting	4,6
Annual Finance Drive	7
Civil Discourse Training	7
Volunteer Opportunities	7
New Citizens Voter Registration	7
How to Spot Fake News	8
Medicare For All	8
Political Book Club	8
Sensible Gun Laws	9
Vote With the League	9
LWVUS Statements	10
Business Supporters	11
Event Calendar	12



# Rising Water Rates

Speakers

## Jayme Ackemann

Director of Corporate Communications,  
San Jose Water Company

## Rami Kahlon

Director, Division of Water & Audits CPUC

## Sally Van Etten

Senior Consultant, Raftelis Financial  
Consultants, Inc.

Saturday • April 21 • 1-3 P.M.

### Campbell Library

Community Room

77 Harrison Ave., Campbell

Co-sponsored by



Further Details on Page 4 & 5



## President's Letter

As primaries begin nationwide, our impact is already being felt. The first primary, held on March 6 in Texas, had voters turning to the League in record numbers. Over 110,000 voters in Texas found their candidate information on VOTE411.org ([www.votersedge.org](http://www.votersedge.org) in California), a 1,900% increase over the last comparable midterm primary election in 2014, and a 100% increase in visitors as compared even to the 2016 Presidential primary election!

This is the time for us to be loud, visible and present. Six of our members were at the March for Our Lives Rally, in downtown San Jose, on March 24, registering students to vote.

Since 1959 our League members have been working hard to improve our government and engage citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. I am so proud of the work we are doing—and we couldn't do it without all of your tireless work and support.

The United States and many countries around the world celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8. IWD is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. IWD first emerged from the activities of labor movements at the turn of the Twentieth Century in North America and across Europe. Against the backdrop of WWI, women in Russia chose to protest and strike for "Bread and Peace". Four days later, the Czar abdicated, and the provisional Government granted women the right

to vote, and March 8 became a national holiday over there. The day was then predominantly celebrated by the Socialist movement and Communist countries until it was adopted in 1975 by the United Nations.

Our program on March 10 about Fake News was very enlightening. According to our speaker Dr. McManus, the new digital technologies have democratized news but eroded the informational common ground democracy requires. Access to a greater diversity of news sources have swept away the hierarchy and credibility of American journalism. Although these technologies have put at our fingertips an informational landscape as vast as the Sahara, it is full of dangerous mirages. To identify if the news is real or fake we need to apply the SMELL test! Source, Motivation, Evidence, Logic, and what is Left Out.

I encourage you to attend the LWV Santa Clara County Council Civil Discourse Training Workshop on Saturday, April 7, at the Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church on 728 Fremont Avenue from 1:00-4:00. Please make your reservation to attend this very interesting and useful workshop by calling Barbara Lea at (408)354-2287.

It is saddening to see these days that our children and grandchildren have to march to voice their fear for their lives and to demand solutions. It must be

*Continued on Next Page.*

**Welcome!**

**New Members**

**Sara Pearson**

**Linda Wegner**

**We're so glad you have joined the League!**

### Two easy things new members can do for further participation:

1. Sign up for LWVC newsletters and action alerts, [lwvc.org/stay-informed](http://lwvc.org/stay-informed).
2. Like us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/LWVofCA](http://www.facebook.com/LWVofCA).

## 2017-2018 Board of Directors

### Officers & Directors

- President, Hana Itani
- Vice President, Barbara Lea
- Secretary, Nancy Rucker
- Treasurer, Danice Picraux
- Action, Eleanor Yick
- Education, Eleanor Yick
- Finance Drive, Tom Picraux
- Natural Resources, Meg Giberson
- Observers, Raquel Durand
- Programs, **TBD**
- Public Relations, Gail Nishimura
- Assistants:
  - Pat White & Nancy Rucker
- Voter Editor, Cherri Nelson
- Voters Service
  - Wendy Hendry, Sue Cooney

### Nominating Committee

- Chair, Pat White
- Members
  - Sharon Graham, Gail Nishimura, Lois Smallwood

### Off-Board Chairs

- Bay Area Representative, Patty Weber
- Circulation, Natalie Heling
- Clip 'n Come, Dale Hill
- Database Manager, Zina Lou Dyer
- Environment, Dave Yick
- Great Decisions, Terry Zaccone
- Health Care, Barbara Lea
- Hospitality, Judy Zaccone
- Immigration, **TBD**
- Observers
  - Campbell: Jackie Costanzo
  - Los Gatos: Lynda Jandron
  - Monte Sereno: **TBD**
  - Saratoga: Raquel Durand
- Youth Outreach, Wanda Alexander
- Publications, Gail Pedersen
- Voter's Edge, Tom Picraux
- Voters Service
  - Pros & Cons, T. Zaccone, E. Yick
  - Voter Registration, Jackie Costanzo
- Web Site
  - Cherri Nelson, Gail Nishimura

## 2016-2017 Elected Officials

### United States

President Donald Trump  
(202) 456-1414

[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
(415) 393-0707

[www.feinstein.senate.gov](http://www.feinstein.senate.gov)

Senator Kamala Harris  
(415) 403-0100

<http://harris.senate.gov>

Rep. Anna Eshoo  
(408) 245-2339

(650) 323-2984

<http://eshoo.house.gov>

### California

Governor Jerry Brown  
(916) 445-2841

<http://gov.ca.gov>

Senator Jim Beall, Jr.  
(408) 558-1295

<http://sd15.senate.ca.gov>

Assembly Member Evan Low  
(408) 446-2810

<http://asmcd.org/members/a28/>

### Santa Clara County

Supervisor Joe Simitian  
(408) 299-5050

[supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org)

Supervisor Mike Wasserman  
(408) 299-5010

[mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org)

Supervisor Ken Yeager  
(408) 299-5040

[supervisor.yeager@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:supervisor.yeager@bos.sccgov.org)

### SCC Registrar of Voters

Locate your elected officials by your street address:

<http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx>



## Board Bytes

Meeting of Mar. 7, 2018

• **Treasurer:** Payments were made for the liability insurance (raised 2.9%) and Saratoga Firehouse board room use. Donations from fund raising have been good with a month left to go. Our finances are stable and healthy.

**Representation:** County Council (CC) has mandated that only the CC Chair will represent/speak for all five County Leagues on political issues pertaining to County or State governance. After much discussion, our Board will suggest that CC consult or let members in the five Leagues with particular expertise represent League at these hearings.

**Membership:** The budget committee will look into allocating money and assist in search for a more comprehensive software for our membership emails.

**Program Planning:** After review and revisions to the goals, the Board will review at the next Board meeting and every few months thereafter.

**Programs:** The Annual meeting is set for May 3 at the Terraces. Kate Kennedy from



LWVUS will speak on centennial events with other County Leagues attending as well.

Several members will volunteer in response to West Valley College's invitation to have a table at the Faces of Genocide conference on April 12.

Three of the five attendees to the LWVUS Convention in Chicago will be our League's voting delegates.

**Finance Drive:** Though average donation amounts are higher, there are fewer donors half way through the drive. Tom Picraux will mail reminder letters to past donors.

**Nominating Committee:** Board nominees were presented by Pat White with few still outstanding. The Committee was directed to revise the very old job descriptions.

**Ballot Initiative:** Eleanor Yick announced training on signature gathering for the commercial tax reform of Proposition 13. LWVC is a cosponsor to get this initiative onto the ballot.

**Health Care:** Board encouraged Barbara Lea to send information on SB562 to Representative Evan Low even though he's not presently a supporter.

Cherri Nelson, *Voter Editor*

## President's Letter (Cont.)

that we have not taken the right steps to ensure their safety. We can't blame them; there are more than 50 threats against schools per day. That is a lot! It used to be 10 threats per day before the shooting in Parkland, Florida! I am glad that PayPal, Square, Stripe, and Apple Pay all forbid the sale of all firearms using their services and have for years. Gun legislation should never be considered a partisan issue. Actions have to be taken

by legislators to ensure a safe environment for all Americans.

As usual our Natural Resources Chair has planned a great Water Program for our members on Saturday, April 21, at the Campbell Library. I am looking forward to seeing you there and at our Annual Meeting, which will be on May 3 at the Terraces this year.

Hana Itani, President LWVSWSCV  
408-lwv-1842, [hana.lwv@gmail.com](mailto:hana.lwv@gmail.com).



The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund publishes the *Bay Area Monitor* six times a year.

The *Monitor* is provided to readers for free, both in print and online ([www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org)).

Subscribe to the Monitor; [bayareamonitor.org/subscribe](http://bayareamonitor.org/subscribe).

Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/bayareamonitor](https://facebook.com/bayareamonitor).

Contact us for more information: (510) 839-1608 • [editor@bayareamonitor.org](mailto:editor@bayareamonitor.org)

## Rising Water Rates: Paying For What?

Saturday • April 21 • 1-3P.M.

### Campbell Library

Community Room  
77 Harrison Ave., Campbell

In a program sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Southwest Santa Clara Valley, in conjunction with the Campbell Library, a panel of industry experts will address the current state of rising water rates. The program will present viewpoints from representatives of the San Jose Water Company; the California Public Utilities Commission; and Raftelis, a registered municipal advisor for public utilities.

As water rates continue to rise, it is important for the public to hear

perspectives from various sectors: provider, regulator, and outside analyst, so that they can get a balanced picture of how rates are set.

#### Speaker Biographies

**Raminder Kahlon** Director of the Water and Audits Division of the California Public Utilities Commission. Mr. Kahlon is responsible for the regulatory oversight of 127 privately owned water and sewer utilities and leads the Commission's audit arm which provides auditing services to other industry divisions.

**Jayne Ackemann** Director of Corporate Communications for San Jose Water

Company. Ms. Akemann assists in planning and executing programs in all areas of public information, media relations, customer relations, corporate communications and community relations.

**Sally Van Etten** • Sally Van Etten, Senior Consultant with Raftelis. Ms. Van Etten provides analysis to public agencies on water and sewer rates as well as identifying infrastructure and operating needs.

This event is free and open to the general public, and there is ample parking at the Library.

The following article provides background material in preparation for this program.



**People throughout California are questioning rising water rates.** Local water rates increased 47.8% between 2005 and 2015, according to San Jose Water Company (SJWC), the water retailer for our area. Rates in Los Angeles jumped 71% between 2010 and 2017, and during the same period San Francisco water rates increased from 119% to 127% (according to Circle of Blue, a water news agency). A State Water Board climate and conservation manager, Max Gomberg, said in late February that water price has increased at 600% of the rate of inflation across the state.

#### Why the increases?

California's climate (desert or dry Mediterranean) is partly to blame, with the situation made worse by climate change bringing longer droughts and warmer hot spells. Gomberg also noted that bringing water from distant sources involves large infrastructure projects that are now unfortunately aging, requiring costly deferred maintenance of pipes, pumps, wells [and dams], with costs passed along to customers. Water has been called "our most vital resource." Yet, "historically, utilities in the United States have almost always struggled to raise the money needed to improve water treatment and delivery systems, but in recent years it has become tougher," says Dr. David Sedlak, UC Berkeley professor and leading authority on water technology, in his book Water 4.0. He explains further, "operating costs were paid mainly through utility bills, while much of the investment in new reservoirs [and] pipelines ... was paid for by federal grants. A shift away from federal funding, coupled with increasing costs of operation, means that water bills are rising at rates faster than inflation just to maintain the status quo."

Water main breaks are becoming more common everywhere. They cost millions of dollars to repair, cause sinkholes, interrupt water transmission and waste precious water. A 15-million-gallon break in a Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)

*Continued on Next Page*

YOU ARE INVITED TO

# THE ANNUAL MEETING

## LWVUS Update Plus 100 Yr Anniversary Plans

with speakers

**Kate Kennedy**

LWVUS Chief Development Officer

**Kim Lauth**

LWVUS Board Member

**Thursday • May 3 • 9:45 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**  
Speakers 12:45 P.M.

### The Terraces

800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos

**\$20 Buffet • R.S.V.P. by April 25**

\$22 with PayPal on the website at  
[www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org](http://www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org)

Make check out to "LWV-SWSCV"  
Send to: P.O. Box 2865, Saratoga, CA 95070

For Questions: call Barbara Lea at (408) 354-2287

Please Read Article on Page 6

## Rising Water Rates: Paying For What? (Cont.)

pipeline—carrying water from San Luis Reservoir and supplying about 40% of our county’s drinking water—flooded an area in South County in 2015, costing about \$20 million to repair. A SJWC water main break near the SCVWD headquarters some years ago reportedly blew the tops off cars before flooding the area.

The proposed twin tunnels project, “WaterFix”—opposed by the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC)—would add significantly to water rates. And with a claimed price tag of \$17 billion for the 70 miles of tunnel proposed—but with tunneling currently costing up to a billion dollars per mile tunneled—WaterFix could be even more costly.

### Conservation limits

With conservation and drought mandates causing lower water use, utilities have trouble meeting their costs. Lower usage means lower monthly customer bills, bringing in less revenue to cover basic operating costs, payroll, debt and required maintenance. Thus, despite reduced use, rates rise to cover fixed costs.

Yet, some water experts say that conservation mandates don’t really address the issue, because regulations do nothing to address the main driver of water consumption: its price. “Most water problems are readily addressed with innovation, [but] getting the water price right to signal scarcity is crucially important” says David Victor of UCSD, as reported in a 10/14/2014 *New York Times* article. Water is far too cheap across most American cities and towns. But what’s worse,” he continued, “is the way the [US] quenches the thirst of farmers, who account for 80% of the nation’s water consumption and for whom water costs virtually nothing.”

### Ag subsidies

Agriculture prices in California reflect this disparity, with about \$20/acre-foot (af) for farmers in the Imperial Irrigation District, to about \$200/af in the Westlands Water District. Closer to home, SCVWD, water wholesaler for this area, charges agriculture between \$18 and \$58/af, while the charge for urban North County (our area) is \$1200/af.

### Costs rising everywhere

Do cost increases affect only water? Actually, rising costs have hit many sectors. Gasoline prices rose 71% from 2005 to 2014; home prices rose more than 80% in Santa Clara County from 2012 to 2018 (including 20% in the past year alone in some areas); San Jose metro area rents increased 57% between 2005 and 2015 and continue to rise; the California median home price is 250% of the US median home price; family health insurance costs rose 87% between 2000 and 2006.

### How do water companies cope?

Proposition 218 limits the amounts utilities can charge; in general, local fees and assessments are limited to the cost (benefits to an individual parcel owner) of providing the service or product. Some previous efforts to raise funds by increasing rates have been unsuccessful, as when a SJWC 2012 proposal was turned down—lowering the proposed rate increase, but unfortunately also derailing a proposed \$75 million expansion of water recycling potential.

As the Mercury News reported in March, SJWC has recently proposed a merger/acquisition of a Connecticut water company, which would raise SJWC’s current customer base of 229,000 customers to 1.5 million people and provide economies of scale. SJWC reportedly expects no rate increases due to the proposed takeover, despite the premium stock price it offered for the merger.

Further complicating the picture, surface water in California is over-allocated by five times the supply. That means that there are claims to five times more water than there is water to fulfill those claims. California’s groundwater basins are “collectively overtapped at the rate of about 6-7 million acre-feet per year” says the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

### What can customers do?

People can reduce water usage. Conservation is the cheapest and easiest solution. According to the NRDC, agricultural efficiency could result in 6.6 million af per year (maf) saved; urban dwellers could save 5.2 maf; water reuse could save 1.8 maf; and stormwater capture in just the Bay Area and Southern

California could save more than 630,000 af. Such savings could eliminate the perceived need to promote imported water, perhaps saving the cost of the expensive WaterFix project.

Recycling and reuse are critical. SCVWD reports recent total county water use at 300,000 afy (including groundwater and imported water). Yet, county wastewater plants discharge about 200,000 afy of wastewater to the Bay, while our South Bay advanced wastewater treatment plant recycles only about 20,000 afy. By comparison, Orange County is ramping up to produce about 145,671 afy of recycled wastewater from its plant.

People can also apply to SJWC for a Water Rate Assistance Program (WRAP) for qualified low-income customers. The WRAP provides a 15% discount on the total water bill to customers who qualify. The program is funded by a \$1.15 per month surcharge on the water usage of all other customers (non-WRAP customers).

The Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA), at [www.ora.ca.gov/water.aspx](http://www.ora.ca.gov/water.aspx), also assists customers. ORA represents consumers by scrutinizing the costs of service of California’s investor-owned water companies.

SB 998, on which LWVC has not yet taken a position, would provide some relief for certain customers who otherwise might face supply cutoffs for late or non-payment of water bills.

### How does League view these problems?

LWVC supports promoting the management and development of water resources in ways beneficial to the environment, with emphasis on conservation encouraged by appropriate pricing policies that reflect development and delivery costs.

LWVC encourages the use of reclaimed water, and supports payment by water users for water costs (with the exception that the general taxpayer should bear fish and wildlife enhancement, flood control and recreation costs).

LWVC supports measures that protect low or fixed income water users through lifeline rates.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

## ANNUAL MEETING – Update on LWV National, Including 100th Anniversary Plans

The time has come already for our Annual Meeting, which will be held at the **Terraces**, 800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos, on **Thursday, May 3**, from **9:45 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.** Registration & Social Time (with coffee and pastries) will be from 9:45 A.M. – 10:15 A.M., the **Business Meeting** from 10:15 A.M. – 12:00 P.M., and a **Buffet Lunch** will be followed by our **Speakers** including a **Question & Answer** time.

Two speakers from National LWV will be joining us to give an update on the national program plans, including resources for all local Leagues' for celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the League. They are looking for questions from YOU about these topics—please send them to Gail Nishimura at [gailnishimura@me.com](mailto:gailnishimura@me.com) so the speakers can prepare ahead of time.

### Speakers

**Kim Lauth**, is a Board Member of the League of the Women Voters of the United



States. From 2013 – 2015 she was the President of LWV Knoxville/ Knox County and from 2015 – 2016 she was the First Vice President of LWV Tennessee. She has held the Certified

Fundraising Executive (CFFRE) certification since 2002 and has served on numerous non-profit boards.

**Kate Kennedy**, MBA, CFRE, began as the Chief Development Officer of the League of Women Voters of the United States in



January of 2017. Kate brings more than 14 years of experience as a nonprofit executive in fundraising, community organizing, volunteer development, and membership

recruitment. Previously she served as Major Gifts Officer at Women for Women International. Kate also spent eight years at the Girl Scout Council of the nation's Capital where she worked in membership, annual giving, and major gifts and was on the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting team.

### Buffet Lunch Reservations

**Salad Selections:** Shrimp Louis, Asian Chicken Salad, and Vegetarian Cobb Salad all served buffet style.

**Please send your \$20 check made out to LWV-SWSCV to Barbara Lea, 121 Strathmore Place, Los Gatos, CA 95032 or Pay \$22, if you are using the PayPal account on our website: [www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org](http://www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org)**

For more information, contact Gail Nishimura at [gailnishimura@me.com](mailto:gailnishimura@me.com).

Barbara Lea, Vice President

## City & Town Council Observers

**Campbell:** Feb. 20 – The City Council agreed to update a number of policies that outline the rules for using its rental facilities. The policies will be updated to reflect a ban on guns, other weapons and open flames such as candles. The policies for downtown special events, Campbell Historical Museum, Ainsley House, picnic reservations, building use and parks and athletic fields will be included in the updates.

Jackie Costanzo, Observer

**Los Gatos:** Feb. 20 - Town Council continues to explore downtown parking and traffic issues. Ideas: permit parking for businesses' employees; further restrictions on street parking near high school; community shuttle; one-way streets. To be revisited at future meetings.

Midyear budget review revealed a surplus in operations funding. However, the Town's ability to fund employee retirement pensions and benefits is of ongoing concern. The Finance Committee is working on measures to address this issue. The budget will be discussed again in May.

Mar. 6 - Town staff reported measures to keep summer beach traffic from clogging streets have not been successful. Traffic has merely moved from one neighborhood to another as different interventions were tried. It has added to the costs for police and park and public works departments. Town Council agreed with staff to keep

Santa Cruz Ave. entrance to Hwy 17 open. Temporary barricades can be put up in the Almond Grove neighborhood.

Council members voted to have staff prepare a Nov. 2018 ballot measure seeking approval of a 1/8 cent general sales tax.

Possible funding needs: deficit in future recession; infrastructure needs; liability for retirees' pensions and benefits.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

**Saratoga:** Feb. 21, City Council adopted a Motor Vehicle Resolution to authorize no-parking zones on Springer Avenue.

Four-way stop signs will be installed at the intersection of Big Basin Way and



### City & Town Councils

Members are encouraged to attend the Council meetings of the communities that our League serves.

#### Campbell City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays – 7:30P.M.

#### Los Gatos Town Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays – 7:00P.M.

#### Monte Sereno City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays – 7:00P.M.

#### Saratoga City Council

1st & 3rd Wednesday – 7:00P.M.

Fourth Street. Many residents brought safety concerns to the Traffic Safety Commission. It is intended to improve pedestrian safety, will be observed and analyzed for effectiveness.

The City is accepting art proposals voted on by the public for city utility boxes. The artists will be painting from the end of March to the end of April.

Raquel Durand, Observer Chair

## League Volunteer Opportunities

Below are a few ways to participate and/or contribute to our League:

\* **Board positions:** Membership Chair needed! Involves recruitment and mentoring of new members. Contact Pat White.

\* **NextDoor.com,** Members to post our programs to San Jose and Cupertino. Contact Gail Nishimura.

\* **Observers,** Attend or follow Monte Sereno Council Meetings. Submit a report to the *Voter*. Contact Raquel Durand at [sra\\_durand@yahoo.com](mailto:sra_durand@yahoo.com)

\* **Housing Chair,** Update League on current housing issues. Submit occasional *Voter* articles. Contact Pat White.

\* **Hospitality Chair,** Off-Board position coordinates food, beverage logistics for programs. Contact Gail Nishimura.

## New Citizens Voter Registration

Thanks to our League members who stepped up at the last minute on February 22nd, to supplement the Los Altos/Mountain View League volunteers registering new citizens at the monthly ceremonies: Eleanor Yick, Nicole Jakaby, Virginia Carpio, Terry Cabrinha and Raquel Durand.

Thanks to Wendy Hendry for organizing a League table at the March



Four Our Lives event on March 24. Volunteers registered eligible students

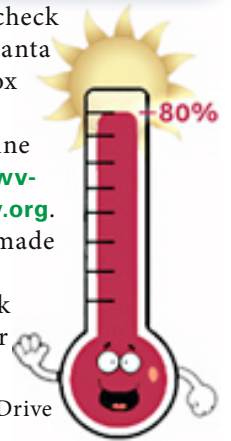
## Annual Finance Drive *Donate!*

We are **nearing the end** our Finance Drive and are making excellent progress towards our goal. As of the *Voter's* press time we have reached 80% of our goal. If you haven't yet had a chance to contribute, please consider making a donation. With your kind support we will be able to fully fund our important work to politically educate the public for this election year, including:

- Local Candidate Forums
- Ballot Pros & Cons Presentations
- Voter's Edge Website
- Facts for Voters Publication

You may send your check to LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley, P.O. Box 2865, Saratoga, CA 95070 or donate online right now at [www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org](http://www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org). If you have already made your contribution to the League, we thank you so very much for your support.

Tom Picraux, Finance Drive



## Civil Discourse Facilitator Training Workshop

An Invitation to Participate from  
**LWV Santa Clara County Council**

**How can we talk WITH each other?  
Not over, not in confrontation, but with empathy and respect.**

The Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County are hosting a three-hour facilitator training workshop on:

**Saturday • April 7 • 1:00-4:00**

**Presbyterian Church**

728 Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale

Negative, destructive and confrontational approaches to communicating seems to be the norm today, creating division and inhibiting practical problem solving in our country. The Civil Discourse movement is aimed at reviving civility in our public discourse and addresses the need to change the tone of our current politics.

We invite our League members as well as people from other organizations in our community to learn how to talk WITH each other. Our workshop leader is Martha Cox of the LWVC Board.

**What We Will Learn:**

- Principles of civil discourse in action
- How to conduct Civil Public Dialogues that inform, engage and resolve
- The ways role play can provide alternative perspectives on an issue
- How to facilitate and participate in the process

This workshop will include interactive exercises, role playing, and is based on a topic that impacts us all. The **cost is \$15** to cover room, materials and refreshments.

**To Register, click here:** <http://sclaraco.ca.lwvnet.org/countyevent.html> **Civil Discourse Workshop**

## Do YOU Know How to Spot Fake News?

John McManus’ presentation on Fake News on March 10 was excellent; and the room was filled with those lucky enough to have been there including several high school students. Lisa Liu, Saratoga Librarian and League member, welcomed us to the Saratoga Library; and Margaret Bard, former LWVSWSCV president, introduced Mr. McManus, award-winning author and former journalist.

Mr. McManus started his talk with this quote by Bill Moyers: “As journalism goes, so goes democracy.”

He said that the monopoly of the church and royalty has been broken, and now power flows up. The Web is the best way to gather and distribute news and turns journalism from a one-way street into a traffic circle. As we know, newspapers are getting thinner and thinner. One company owns most of the newspapers in the Bay Area, except for the SF Chronicle. About half the journalists are now gone. Those at the San Jose Mercury News recently advertised for a new owner who cares about journalism.

Mr. McManus went on to say that he believes we are in an age which has a crisis in journalism for several factors related to the new digital technologies.

1. They have given journalists a Ferrari of a vehicle for news, but there’s no money for gas.
2. We have democratized news but eroded the information common ground democracy requires. In three decades we have gone from a news scarcity to a news abundance, and the newcomers often fail to hold the government accountable. Competitive news stimulated competitive politics in the past, and



### Conclusions of the Largest-Ever Study of Fake News

Social media seems to Systematically amplify falsehood at the expense of truth, and no one know how to reverse that trend! Read the full article in The Atlantic on this large [new MIT study on fake news](#).

most dominant metropolitan newspapers and the few radio/TV stations followed the general rules of journalism. But now, for example—with global climate change—we can’t even agree on what’s real; so how an we figure out what to do about it?

3. A greater diversity of news sources has been enabled, but we have swept away the hierarchy and credibility of American journalism. Twitter, with a huge readership, gives us slogans over substance. And a Gallup poll of news credibility found that only 32 percent of Americans believe the news they receive is fair and unbiased.
4. Technology has put at our fingertips an informational landscape as vast as the Sahara but full of dangerous mirages. Fake news has migrated from Saturday Night Live to now purporting to be truthful.
5. We have enabled diverging—even warring—versions of truth, but we have also given citizens powerful tools for assessing which claims have the greatest validity.

Mr. McManus shared his test for identifying fake news. It is called the **SMELL TEST**.

- S Source of information**
- M Motivation**
- E Evidence backs conclusions**
- L Logically compels conclusions**
- L Left out?**

Some fake news is silly, some such as the Pope endorsing Candidate Trump is easily checked on Snopes and other fact checkers, and some is cleverly deceptive. It is our job to discern the truth.

Barbara Lea, Vice President

## Medicare for All

### Nurses Applaud New Sponsor

National Nurses United has commended Congressman Keith Ellison (D Minnesota) after he took over the lead sponsorship of HR 676, the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act.

Jean Ross, Co-President of National Nurses United, was quoted as saying, “Through an improved Medicare for All system, every person living in the United States could receive the healthcare services they need. Every other industrialized nation has used a similar approach to guarantee quality healthcare for its residents, and it’s time that the United States did the same.”

“Former Congressman John Conyers, Jr., who resigned in December, previously introduced HR 676. The bill has received groundbreaking support in this congressional session, with 120 Democratic members of Congress cosponsoring the legislation.”

“We have seen huge growth in both public and political support for improved Medicare for All. Our patients know that they are being short-changed by the current for-profit health insurance system, and they are demanding Medicare for All. In Congress, the movement for healthcare justice has a new champion, Keith Ellison, who shares the nurses’ values of caring, compassion and community.”

National Nurses United is the nation’s largest union of registered nurses and represents 150,000 nurses across the country.

Barbara Lea, VP & Healthcare

## Let’s Read • Let’s Meet • Let’s Talk

### A Political Book Club

The next meeting of the League of Women Voters Political Book Club will be Monday, April 9, at 7:00, at Wesley Manor, 1655 Winchester Blvd. The book selected for discussion is *Guide to Political Revolution* by **Bernie Sanders**. If you are new to the book club and would like to be included in e-mails about the book and questions for discussion, please e-mail Dan Hendry at [wenhendry@comcast.net](mailto:wenhendry@comcast.net).

Wendy Hendry, Coordinator



## Sensible Gun Laws



Today, students, parents and concerned Americans are marching in Washington D.C., and other cities across the country, to demand that their lives and safety become a priority and that we finally put an end to the epidemic of mass school shootings. Across the country, the League of Women Voters is marching with them. We're also setting up voter registration tables to ensure those speaking out are heard at the ballot box this year.

We are marching for the lives of America's children. We are marching to urge Congress to enact common-sense solutions to the gun violence plaguing our nation.

A recent Quinnipiac poll found that support for background checks is almost universal with 97% of voters in favor of background checks on all gun purchasers. This is the highest level of support ever measured by the independent poll. Congress should move common-sense legislation forward that supports universal background checks, bans military-style semi-automatic assault weapons and high capacity magazines, and funds research and reporting on gun violence in America.

Curbing gun violence is a critical matter of public safety, public health and public confidence. It is about protecting our children and our communities from the senseless tragedies that plague our society.

Join the millions of students, parents and concerned Americans today and call on Congress to pass common-sense solutions to curb gun violence. Your action will add to the voices of those marching in Washington and around the country today.

The League will keep fighting on Capitol Hill and in legislatures around the country to move reforms forward. Please add your voice and push Congress to act on these necessary reforms.

Chris Carson, LWVUS President



## Vote With the League

### LWVC Positions on the June 5, 2018, Election Ballot Measures

*The LWVC board has taken final positions on the measures scheduled for the June ballot. We only take positions on ballot measures based on current policy positions and League principles. Positions are developed based on grassroots member study and consensus.*

#### **PROPOSITION 68 - SUPPORT**

##### **California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act (SB 5)**

This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. The water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking and are a key part of our state response to climate change.

#### **PROPOSITION 69 - SUPPORT**

##### **Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes (ACA 5)**

If passed, this constitutional amendment would ensure that the existing transportation revenues we pay at the pump and when we register our vehicles can ONLY be used for road and transportation improvement projects. This amendment protects these transportation funds by prohibiting the state legislature from using these revenues for non-transportation purposes. ACA 5 protects existing taxes and fees we are already paying. It does not raise taxes one cent. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services, including safe roads and good public transportation.

#### **PROPOSITION 70 - OPPOSE**

##### **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund (ACA 1)**

This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by California Air Resources Board of Cap-and-Trade allowances after 2024. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions.

#### **PROPOSITION 71 - SUPPORT**

##### **Effective Date of Initiatives (ACA 17)**

Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after election day, that is not always the case. Prop 71 would provide that an initiative would take effect 5 days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results. This is a common-sense measure, ensuring clarity about what is — and is not — California law.

#### **PROPOSITION 72 - SUPPORT**

##### **Property taxation: new construction: rain water capture system**

This measure would allow an exclusion from additional property taxes for construction or installation of rain water capture systems. These systems capture, store and use otherwise wasted rain water for landscape irrigation and similar uses, saving more conventional water for personal use. With traditional water sources becoming less dependable, this is one more way we can diversify sources of usable water.

# LWVUS Statements

## Homeland Security Provision is Another Attack on our Democracy

3/12/2018

Washington, DC – League of Women Voters president Chris Carson issued the following statement in response to a Department of Homeland Security bill provision that would allow President Trump to dispatch Secret Service agents to polling places:

“Polling places must be safe, accessible and welcoming to all voters—not places where eligible Americans will feel threatened and intimidated.

“Elections are the life blood of our democracy and sneaking in a provision that allows the President to order armed Secret Service agents to polling places is simply appalling. This is just one more attempt this Administration has made to attack voters and flagrantly dismantle core tenants of our democracy.

“The League will continue to stand against these shameless assaults. The best way for all of us, as Americans, to fight back against attacks on our rights is to get registered and vote in 2018.”

## LWVPA Statement on Supreme Court Upholding New Maps

3/20/2018

Harrisburg, Penn. - The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania president, Susan Carty, issued the following statement on the Supreme Court decision refusing to block the redrawing of Pennsylvania’s congressional districts:

“This victory is for the voters. The League brought this lawsuit to ensure that Pennsylvanians’ votes were not diluted by the unconstitutional extreme partisan gerrymandering of our congressional districts; and now voters will be voting in new, fairer congressional districts in

this upcoming election. Voters deserve the right for their voices to be heard regardless of party affiliation or address. This victory is an important first step toward slaying the gerrymander.

“With today’s decision, voters can focus on educating themselves on the candidates and issues on their ballot while making sure they are registered and plan to vote on May 15.

“We celebrate this success, but we know that it is not enough. Unless we can change how we draw both our legislative and congressional maps, we will be right back here in a few years. That’s why we continue to fight alongside many organizations, policymakers and individuals from both sides of the aisle to pass legislation to implement an independent redistricting process.”



## Join the League of Women Voters or Give a Gift of Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership Renewal:  New Member:  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
 An (Elected or Appointed) Public Official:  Yes  No  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this coupon with your dues to:  
**LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley**  
 PO Box 2865  
 Saratoga, CA 95070-0865


\$ _____ Individual	\$80.00
\$ _____ Household	\$120.00
\$ _____ Student	\$30.00
\$ _____ Voter Mailed to You	\$20.00
<b>\$ _____ Total Enclosed</b>	
\$ _____ Donation to LWV-SWSCV Ed Fund (include as a separate check)	

Membership year is from July 1 to June 30. Members joining after January 1 shall pay one-half the annual dues amount. Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: County, Bay Area, State, and National. Financial assistance is available; please address questions regarding membership to at [barbara.lea@comcast.net](mailto:barbara.lea@comcast.net) or call 408-354-2287.

# Support LWV SWSCV Supporters!

We appreciate the support of the following businesses and business professionals!  
Please remember to mention seeing the ad in our *Voter* when you utilize their services.



**LOS GATOS DENTAL CENTER**  
DENTAL IMPLANTS • INVISALIGN®  
ELITE TOP 1% INVISALIGN® PROVIDER  
WWW.LOSGATOSDENTAL.COM

---

**Ahmed A. Moneim, D.D.S, ABOI**  
Assistant Professor, University of California San Francisco  
Diplomate of the American Board of Oral Implantology

220 Oak Meadow Drive Los Gatos, CA 95032 Tel: 408.354.7333 Fax: 408.354.7433 Email: info@losgatosdental.com	14513 S. Bascom Avenue Los Gatos, CA 95032 Tel: 408.356.8146 Fax: 408.358.3614
---	---




**POSTALANNEX+**  
*Your Home Office.*

**The Rinconada Center**  
1484 Pollard Road, Los Gatos, CA  
Phone: 408-374-9255 • Fax: 408-374-9258  
PA455@Postalannex.com  
Hours: M-F 9am - 6pm • Sat 10am - 5pm

**Rob Rennie, Owner**

**Notary • Mailbox Rental • Printing & Binding • Flyers  
Passport Photos • Expedited Passports • Video Transfer**

**20% Discounts to Non Profits**



**Clayton G. Zeidler, DDS**  
*Aesthetic & Restorative Dentistry*

The Zeidler Dental Group  
5150 Graves Avenue, Bldg. 1  
San Jose, CA 95129  
www.zeidlerdentalgroup.com

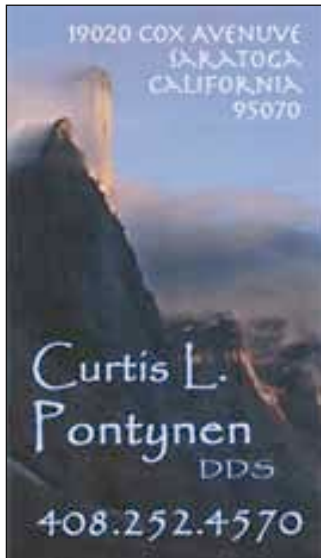
(p) 408.257.3530  
(f) 408.257.0341  
drzee@sbcglobal.net

**Laura Young**  
Hair Colorist

● ● ●

**Capelli Salon**  
408-354-8920 • laurayoung9@gmail.com

Please remember to mention seeing these ads in our *Voter* when you utilize these businesses services.



19020 COX AVENUE  
SARATOGA  
CALIFORNIA  
95070

**Curtis L. Pontynen**  
DDS  
408.252.4570



**BASHAM EYE ASSOCIATES**  
PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS

**Ryan P. Basham, M.D.**  
Comprehensive Ophthalmology and  
Cataract Surgery

Ph: 408-354-4740  
Fax: 408-354-8161  
www.bashameye.com

212 Oak Meadow Drive  
Los Gatos, CA 95032

THE STORE FOR NATURE LOVERS



**LOS GATOS Birdwatcher**  
**Lisa Myers | Owner**

**HOURS**  
Mon-Sat: 10am-6pm  
Sun: 12-5pm

Kings' Court Shopping Center  
792 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95032  
408-358-9453 | fax 408-358-4673  
info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com

## 🌀 Event Calendar 🌀

- Apr 4 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- Apr 5 Thu **Great Decisions – Turkey**  
3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. Joe Pisani Community Center, Saratoga  
7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. Wesley Manor, Campbell
- Apr 9 Mon **Political Book Club**, 7:00 P.M. Discuss *Guide to Political Revolution*, by Bernie Sanders, Wesley Manor Library, 1655 S. Winchester Blvd., Campbell
- Apr 12 Thu **Clip ‘n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share Home of Gail Nishimura, 81 College Ave., Los Gatos  
Call (408) 425-3596 • **Please let hostess know you will be coming.**
- Apr 19 Thu **Great Decisions – U.S. Defense Budget**  
3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. Joe Pisani Community Center, Saratoga  
7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. Wesley Manor, Campbell
- Apr 21 Sat **Rising Water Rates** 1:00 P.M.–3:00 P.M. Campbell Library–Community Room, 77 Harrison Ave., Campbell

## 🌀 Save the Date 🌀

- May 3 Thu **LWVSWSCV Annual Meeting**, 9:45 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.  
The Terraces in Los Gatos

---

### Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

<b>Phone:</b> 408-lwv-1842/408-598-1842	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:lwv.swscv@gmail.com">lwv.swscv@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org">www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org</a>	<b>Web:</b> <a href="http://www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org">www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org</a>
<b>Facebook:</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/lwvswscv">www.facebook.com/lwvswscv</a>	<b>Twitter:</b> lwv_swscv	<b>Instagram</b> Name: lwv.swscv

**Mission Statement:** The League of Women Voters is a diversified, nonpartisan political group of women and men, influencing public policy through education and advocacy and encouraging informed and active participation in government.