



Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

March, 2016

Tour

League of Women Voters

LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley

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Bay Area League of Women Voters

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Santa Clara County's Largest Homeless Service Center & Shelter

Tuesday, April 26

2 Small Groups

10:00 A.M. or 11:00 A.M.

10 in Each Group

Learn What is Being Done to Solve Homelessness in Our Area
~ **It's More Than Just a Shelter** ~

Further details on page 4.



President's Letter

My sincere thanks to all members of the three Committees of the studies that our League was able to participate in and conclude in the past few months. More thanks to all members who participated so actively and passionately. Consensus meetings are very interesting indeed; great information provokes deep thoughts and good conversations.

Our Leaguers are working hard in preparing events for this election season. There are various opportunities to serve on the Voters Service Committee and help to guide voters to become better informed. Only 30% of eligible Californians voted in the previous election. If this number alarms you, then join with our League to be a force for change. Let's get more voters to the polls this election—our democracy depends on it! Members who would like to assist can contact our Voters Service Directors Wendy Hendry and Kathy Murfeldt. They will be happy to hear from you. And of course contact Jackie Costanzo if you are interested in helping register voters on campuses or at the New Citizens' Ceremonies. You'll be glad that you did participate in these inspiring activities.

A newly released report by researchers at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute determined that Santa Clara County ranks as the third healthiest county in the state of California while Marin County ranks as the healthiest county in California. The rankings compare

counties throughout the state based on both physical and socioeconomic factors.

Researchers determine the health of a county by using thirty main factors including premature deaths, low-birth-weight infants, the percentage of people who say they are in poor or in fair health, the number of days people reported being in poor physical or mental health, smoking, obesity rates, teen births, preventable hospital stays, childhood poverty rates, education, high school graduation rates, access to healthy foods, air pollution levels and more... Some counties lag far behind others in how well and how long people live—which is referred to as a health gap.

Communities use the rankings to help identify issues and opportunities for local health improvement, as well as to garner support for initiatives among government agencies, health care providers, community organizations, business leaders, policy makers, and the public.

We are among the fortunate individuals who live in a healthy community, but there is always room for improvement. Marine County has been in the lead for several years now, while San Mateo County advanced from ranking fourth last year to second best this year.

Homelessness is a big problem in Santa Clara County and our League has arranged a tour of Santa Clara County's largest homeless service center and shelter, the HomeFirst Boccardo Reception Center. Come to the tour and learn what is being done to solve homelessness in our area; it's a lot more than a shelter. You'll learn about medical services, transitional housing for veterans, street outreach, and a lot of other services. You'll find

Continued on Next Page.

**Remember to
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www.facebook.com/lwvswscv

2015-2016 Board of Directors

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First VP – Administration
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Treasurer, **Danice Picraux**

Action: State & National, **Patty Weber**

Education, **Eleanor Yick**

Finance Drive, **Dale Hill**

Natural Resources, **Meg Giberson**

Observers, **Raquel Durand**

Public Relations, **Eileen Barnes**

Voter Editor, **Cherri Nelson**

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Kathy Murfeldt, Wendry Hendry

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Bay Area Representative, **TBD**

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Database Manager, **Zina Lou Dyer**

Great Decisions, **Terry Zaccone**

Health Care, **Barbara Lea**

Hospitality, **Judy Zaccone**

Housing, **Margaret Bard**

Immigration, **Patty Weber**

Publications, **Gail Pedersen**

Smart Voter, **Deborah Miller**

Telephone Tree, **Natalie Heling**

Voters Service Assistants
Pros & Cons, **Terry Zaccone**
Registration, **Jackie Costanzo**

Web Page Co-Chairs
Barbara Lea, Cherri Nelson

2013-2014 Elected Officials

United States

President Barack Obama
(202) 456-1414

www.whitehouse.gov

Senator Dianne Feinstein
(415) 393-0707

www.feinstein.senate.gov

Senator Barbara Boxer
(415) 403-0100

<http://boxer.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>

Assemblyman Evan Low
(408) 446-2810

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

Santa Clara County

Supervisor Joe Simitian
(408) 299-5050

supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org

Supervisor Mike Wasserman
(408) 299-5010

mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org

Supervisor Ken Yeager
(408) 299-5040

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 By

Board Meeting on
March 2, 2016

Programs: A new job description for Program Director was discussed. It will be rewritten and voted on at the Annual Meeting.

The **Bay Area League Convention** is on May 7, 2016 in San Mateo.

The **Annual Meeting** details have been decided for Friday, May 13 at the Los Gatos Lodge from 10:00A.M.-2:00P.M., at a cost of \$25.00. As always we should have an interesting and timely speaker.

LWVUS Convention June 16-19, 2016 in Washington, DC. Voting delegates for our League are still pending.

Natural Resources Meg Giberson attended an excellent Planning and Conservation League Conference at UC Davis School of Law on 2/27/2016. It is interesting to note that "beneficial and reasonable water use" is in the California State Constitution. The conference was entitled The Future is Now. She shared some of the details of the conference.



Membership Barbara Lea and Ann Roberts reported that the League now has 126 members and that they will contact prospective members.

Health Care There will be a march in support of SB 10 in Sacramento on Sunday, May 15, regarding single payer coverage in California. There is also action regarding expanded senior coverage in California.

Finance Drive: Dale Hill reported on amounts. A list will be sent to the Board for suggestions on potential donors.

Clip 'n Come: Dale Hill announced details for next meeting, noting the opportunity to get to know members, the lively discussions on current events and the delicious food brought. There's a shortage of hostesses; if you would like to volunteer to participate, please contact Dale Hill, the Clip 'n Come Chair as soon as possible. A night-time meeting was proposed to accommodate working members.

Public Relations: Eileen Barnes would like an assistant as soon as possible.

Hana is continuing to pursue Netflix as a donor to our League.

Pat White, Secretary

President's Letter (Cont.)

more information about this tour on page four.

And I am looking forward to seeing you all on Friday, May 13, at our Annual Meeting. The luncheon will take place at Los Gatos Lodge, and our guest speaker this year will be Assemblyman Evan Low. I hope that you'll try your best to save the date and attend this important meeting.

Hana Itani, President LWVSWSCV
408-lwv-1842, hana.lwv@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

Below are some ways to participate and contribute to League:

- **Public Relations** Assistant, contact Eileen Barnes at (408) 871-1040

- **Clip 'N Come** hostess, contact Dale Hill at (408) 356-7679

- **Observers**, Monte Sereno, call Raquel Durand at sra_durand@yahoo.com

~ Hoodwinking of the American Public ~

The League sponsored Presidential debates in 1980 and 1984 but withdrew prior the 1988 debates following pressure from the candidates' campaigns'. Upon our withdrawal, League President Nancy Neuman declared, "The League has no intention of becoming an accessory to the hoodwinking of the American public." LWVUS.org

Tour HomeFirst Homeless Service Center and Shelter

2011 Little Orchard Street
San Jose

Tuesday • April 26

Join fellow League members at the Boccardo Reception Center (BRC) at 2011 Little Orchard Street in San Jose to visit the County's largest homeless service center and shelter, which serves homeless adults year-round, providing emergency shelter and extensive support services, with emphasis on our large veteran population.

HomeFirst's BRC year-round shelter serves adults, with approximately 150-170 beds reserved for regular programs. There is a special Cold Weather Program for nights with low temperatures and the probability rain. At these times, extra beds are made available for men, women, and families and funded by the County of Santa Clara and donors.

Currently, Santa Clara County has the highest percentage of unsheltered homeless veterans of any area in the United States. The challenges they face range from unemployment and substance abuse to ongoing health issues like PTSD and mental illness. Although veterans who served in the late Vietnam and post-Vietnam era are at greatest risk of homelessness, veterans returning from the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq often have severe disabilities that are known to be correlated with homelessness.

The Supportive Housing Program has eighteen dedicated transitional housing beds at the BRC for mentally ill homeless adults and older adults referred to HomeFirst by

the Department of Mental Health. Case management and other support services are provided to enable them to obtain the skills and income needed to move into stable housing and maintain their housing in a way that satisfies health, safety, and quality standards.

Santa Clara County's Medical Respite Center at HomeFirst's BRC is a collaboration between the Valley Homeless Health Care Program, the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California, and HomeFirst. The newly expanded program provides 20 beds for homeless patients who are being discharged from participating hospitals. They are individuals who are recovering from infections or surgeries who, if they had stable housing, would be discharged to their homes with necessary supplies.

HomeFirst's New Start Program assists clients who demonstrate a strong interest in becoming employed to help them achieve self-sufficiency and housing stability. New Start provides a shelter stay for up to six months, job training and employment workshops, and supportive services to 30 homeless individuals. Applicants accepted into the program volunteer a minimum of 24 hours a week at the BCR performing janitorial or kitchen services. New Start allows clients to sharpen and add skills through their volunteer work experience. They will be trained on their position and will attend workshops that help them become more employable.

Our trip is planned for the morning when there will be few clients at the center, and they are used to having visitors, so you don't need to be concerned about being intrusive. But space is limited—there is room for only ten guests at 10:00A.M. to be followed by a second group of ten at 11:00A.M. Please contact Barbara Lea to sign up for the time you would like to attend.

Barbara Lea 408-354-2287 or barbara.lea@comcast.net.



Save the Date

for the
LWVSWSCV

~ Annual Meeting ~

with Speaker

California Assemblyman

Evan Low

Friday • May 13

10:00A.M. – 2:00P.M.

Los Gatos Lodge

50 Los Gatos-Saratoga Road, Los Gatos

Lunch \$25

Lemon Garlic Chicken

Vegetables & Rice Pilaf

Pasta Primavera

Topped with Tomato Basil Sauce
Asiago Cheese & Garlic Raviolis

Topped with Pesto Cream Sauce

Salad & Coffee/Tea Included

Please Make Check Out To:

LWV-SWSCV

Send Menu Choice & Check To:

Danice Picraux,

108 Panorama Way,
Los Gatos, CA 95032

Deadline for Payment

~ May 9 ~

The Battle Over Gun Policy in America

LWV Palo Alto

Presents Speaker

Professor

John Donohue

Stanford Law School

Tuesday • April 19

11:45 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Bay Café Restaurant

1875 Embarcadero Road

Buffet Lunch \$20 Per Person

Reservations Required to:

lwvpaoffice@gmail.com

or (650) 903-0600

City & Town Council Observers

Campbell: No Report

Los Gatos: March 1 – Council chambers were filled with residents to hear Mayor B. Spector deliver her 2016 State of the Town address. She focused on three areas of work for the upcoming year: infrastructure, finances, and transportation.

The Finance Director presented the mid-year Budget Performance and Status Report. There was considerable discussion regarding loss of state sales tax revenue over recent years due to Netflix’s change in business model away from DVD rental to internet streaming.

Residents from Alpine Avenue turned out to support the implementation of a six-month pilot preferential parking program which will limit parking to 90 minutes without a permit, Monday-Friday, due to overcrowding by LGHS students.

March 16 – Two properties were declared surplus, Dittos Lane and Winchester at Lark, to the needs of the Town. Residents

Voters Service

Registration Deadlines

The deadline to register or re-register to vote for any election is on the 15th calendar day before that election. If you submit your application after this time, it will be processed for future elections.

There is a Special Mail Ballot election for the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union School District. The deadline for registration is April 18, 2016.

Registration for the June 7, 2016 Primary Election is May 23, 2016. Additional information regarding registration and voting can be found at www.sccvote.org

LWW Voting Resources

Voter’s Edge – An online resource for authoritative, nonpartisan coverage of election contests, candidates, ballot measures and the funding behind them. www.votersedge.org/en/ca

Vote 411 – A “one-stop-shop” for election related information providing nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information. www.vote411.org



voiced ideas for desired uses as well as concerns on being sold. Town staff explained the Dittos Lane property will become state-owned property in 2017 if not developed or sold by the Town this year; a prior effort to develop this property failed. There will be opportunities this year for more public hearings before final decisions are made.

Town Council received the report by the Ad Hoc Citizen Committee on revenue-raising ideas. A consulting firm will survey residents regarding a proposed town sales tax (.25 or .50%) or a utility user tax. An alternate proposal is to raise the Transient Occupancy Tax (hotel tax) from the current 10% to 12%. The Town will plan to place one of these tax measures on the November 2016 general election ballot.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: February 17 – Mayor Cappello reported a grade of C on tobacco control policies mandated by the American Lung Association. He declared that efforts will be made to obtain a better grade. The report evaluated cities on smoke-free outdoor air, smoke-free housing, and a reduction of the sales of tobacco products. The Mayor remarked that ending the sale of tobacco products at CVS

contributes to the creation of healthy communities. He emphasized that the city’s work in this area is not complete.

The Council plans to consider addressing provisions to ban smoking specifically in multi-family dwellings, including apartment, condominium complexes, proximity to commercial establishments, restaurants, back and front entrances and outdoors. Banning smoking inside of units of new complexes and outdoor events where children are attending will be considered. Ultimately, consideration and respect will be afforded to folks who engage in any smoking activity, but city authorities want to protect innocent bystanders who lead a healthy life style. Unincorporated Santa Clara County received a grade of A by the American Lung Association. Campbell and San Jose received B’s. Los Gatos and Sunnyvale D’s.

February 27 – Mayor Cappello gave the State of the City address, remarking on the skills of hardworking staffers, volunteers, highlighting finance sector projects, and citing commendations. It lasted two hours summing up the individuals and social service groups who contributed so much to the community and city of Saratoga.

Raquel Durand, Observer Chair

National Party Registration Percentages

Date	Democrat	Republican	Indep. & Misc.
October, 2014	41.17%	29.79%	26.67%
October, 2012	41.85%	30.10%	25.79%
October, 2008	43.62%	30.72%	23.98%
October, 2004	42.10%	32.79%	23.15%
October, 1992	47.76%	32.97%	18.26%

It is interesting to note that both Democrat and Republican registration figures are declining—with the Democrats going down faster than the Republican—while the Independent and other miscellaneous voter ranks are increasing. The Democrats have stayed consistently ahead of the Republicans by at least 11% points but are still unable to achieve a congressional majority probably because the Republicans do a better job of getting out the vote.

Source: Ballot Access News, March 1, 2016 issue, richardwinger@yahoo.com

Barbara Lea, VP Administration

Program Planning Results

On February 8, 2016, twenty of our members attended and participated in our Annual Program Planning Meeting. Since LWVUS is holding its convention this year, local, bay area, and national positions were reviewed.

I. Local Positions:

Reviewed by Kathy Murfeldt

- Gave detailed information about status of the North 40 Development in Los Gatos.
- Issue of affordable housing in our local communities discussed. Very little is available, land is very expensive, yet ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments) mandates that each locality provide so many units. Local communities have identified potential sites but need developers to sponsor projects.
- All positions to remain the same except a **Recommendation** was made to follow up on information gathered during the Money In Politics study regarding local regulations governing the financing of local elections and transparency. Tom Picraux reviewed the chart that had been developed which indicated that our local communities do not have any election finance regulations in place other than those mandated by the state.

Recommendations/Decision: Approved:

- Committee to be convened to study local election finance issues in more depth. The goal is information, education of our membership, and transparency.
- Committee to suggest/craft a position on local election financing and transparency regulations under our Local Government position.

II. Bay Area Positions:

No Recommendations for changes. Some were further reviewed during the Natural Resources presentation.

III. NATIONAL POSITIONS:

reviewed by Wade Ellis

A. LWVUS areas of focus for 2014-2016 were Protection of Voting Rights,

Money in Politics, Citizens' Right to Know, Completion of 2 Studies: Money in Politics and Constitutional Amendment.

- LWVUS suggested program focus for 2016-2018: continued focus on Protection of Voting Rights at all levels and after the election of 2016. (Making Democracy Work!)
- A majority of members voted to support program focus.

B. Review of National Positions:

Wade Ellis

No changes were recommended EXCEPT to those positions related to proposals suggested by other Leagues.

Proposals were suggested related to the following 3 positions:

1. Voting Rights – 2 By-law Changes: Proposal made by the LWVMN, requesting support for:

- Proposed two amendments to the By-Laws under the theme of universal access and universal suffrage:
- DECISION: After much discussion, members voted NO on both proposed bylaws changes.

2. Equality of Opportunity – Proposal from LWV Tacoma-Pierce to change wording on position:

From: “equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.”

To: “equality of opportunity in all aspects of society for all persons in the United States, regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.”

Decisions: YES, we support this proposal. Suggest that the word “public” be inserted before the word society.

3. Health Care – Concurrence : Proposal from the LWVCO

LWVCO asks that state and local leagues across the county support LWVUS’s

concurrence with LWVCO’s updated and 2015 adopted Health Care position.

Position in Brief: Support access to adequate health care with funding by state and federal monies where necessary. LWVCO supports access to affordable, quality in-and-out patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services, for all people. LWVCO supports access to behavioral health care that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care.

Decision: YES, support LWVUS’ concurrence with LWVCO’s updated health care position that includes provisions for behavioral health care.

IV. Natural Resources

Reviewed by Meg Giberson

- Natural Resource positions at the local, Bay Area and National Levels were reviewed, clarified, and commented upon. Comment was made that LWVUS has really good policies in place.
- Comments were made about transportation and housing; need to limit growth; California Water Fix is not supported by LWVC and did not provide the required timespan to fully review the document; big question about water resources — who owns it and who distributes it; what is the “checklist” referred to in SCC Natural Resources: Water — “additions to the LWVC Checklist on Privatization provisions on protection of infrastructure, public input and disaster preparedness.”

Recommendation Approved for LWVUS by unanimous YES Vote:

LWVUS to update water position to include use of wastewater and pros and cons of desalination.

Recommendation Approved for LWVSWSCV Local Focus:

- More and continued education on water issues, particularly use of wastewater, recycling, pros and cons of desalination.

Continued on Next Page.

LWV Constitutional Amendment Study Results

Following its January 29-31 meeting, the League of Women Voters board announced two new positions: 1) considerations for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals, and 2) safeguards to govern the constitutional convention process. State Leagues can use these new positions to address the ongoing debates in many legislatures regarding constitutional amendment proposals; for example, as they relate to proposals for a balanced budget amendment.

These LWVUS positions agree closely with the decisions reached by SWSCV at our consensus meeting. We are in total agreement in regard to the Article V Convention process. On the evaluation of amendment proposals, our League did not reach consensus on point c) below. It was felt that there could be other reasons for seeking a constitutional amendment. However we strongly agreed that the two reasons cited are primary considerations.

Considerations for Evaluating Proposals

Adopted January 2016

The League will only support a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution if it advances and conforms to an LWVUS position. In addition, the League believes the following should be considered in identifying an appropriate and well-crafted constitutional amendment:

a) Whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and

abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed. Amendments are changes to a document that provides stability to our system and should be undertaken to address extreme problems or long-term needs.

b) Whether the amendment as written would be effective in achieving its policy objective. Amendments that may be unenforceable, miss the objective, or have unintended consequences may not achieve the policy objective.

c) Whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights. Most adopted amendments have sought to make our system more representative or to protect the rights of minorities.

d) Whether the public policy objective can be achieved by a legislative or political approach that is less difficult than a constitutional amendment. In order to expend resources wisely, it is important to consider whether legislation or political action is more likely to succeed than an amendment.

e) Whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach. It is important to consider whether the goal can best be achieved by an overall value statement, which will be interpreted by the courts,

or with specific statutory detail to resolve important issues and reduce ambiguity.

Position Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution

Adopted January 2016

The League is concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. The League believes such a convention should be called only if the following conditions are in place:

a) The Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret. The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on;

b) Representation at the Constitutional Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote, and delegates should be elected rather than appointed. The delegates represent citizens, should be elected by them, and must be distributed by U.S. population;

c) Voting at the Constitutional Convention must be by delegate, not by state. Delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes;

d) The Constitutional Convention must be limited to a specific topic. It is important to guard against a "runaway convention" which considers multiple issues or topics that were not initiated by the states;

e) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Constitutional Convention should be called. Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a Convention and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process; and

f) The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission must be respected by Congress.

Tom & Danice Picraux

Program Planning Results (Cont.)

- Investigate and educate our membership on Local Water Testing: awareness of issues, testing, by whom, when, how communicated, what do results mean.

V. Proposal from LWV Tacoma-Pierce County to update wording of the LWVUS position on Global Climate Change

Add current language to our current positions in all four categories Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social

Policy) to recognize the impacts of climate change and help mobilize positive action toward community resilience in the face of climate change.

Decision: YES, support the update of wording of the LWVUS position on Global Climate Change.

VI. Special THANKS to Kathy Murfeldt, Wade Ellis and Meg Giberson for their facilitation, skills, and leadership.

Eleanor Yick

Estuary On the Edge

An estuary is a “partly enclosed coastal body of brackish water with one or more rivers or streams flowing into it... with a free connection to the open sea.” Our San Francisco Bay is both a bay and an estuary, whose parts include San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and the Delta (at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers), according to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecology_of_the_San_Francisco_Estuary. It is the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas (www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/docs/factsheets/rb2_cw101.pdf).

But, our estuary is in trouble. Less water flows through—and out of—the Delta to the rest of the estuary than we need to protect public trust resources (fisheries, wildlife, aesthetics and navigation), the State Water Resources Control Board found in 2010, www.nap.edu/read/13394/chapter/3#28.

“Decades of pollution and water exports have led to sharp declines in Bay Delta



fish[,] contributing to the collapse of California’s salmon fishing industry,” says the United States Environmental Protection Agency, www.epa.gov/sfbay-delta/what-are-challenges.

Losing 50% of the freshwater flows to the Bay has been the prime driver of the 95 percent decline in species’ abundance that we have seen in the past 50 years, Dr. Christina Swanson (NRDC) noted at the

recent Senate Select Committee hearing in San Francisco on March 11. The lack of sufficient freshwater flows and water quality standards could mean the potential collapse of our great estuary, according to Dr. Swanson and Gary Bobker (Bay Institute), who both spoke at the Planning and Conservation League Symposium on February 27.

These low freshwater flows through the Bay estuary also mean more frequent toxic algae blooms as well as negative impacts on drinking water taken from the system.

What can be done?

Part of the solution is to take less water from the Delta through local reliance: water reuse, wastewater recycling, stormwater capture, and greater water efficiency in all sectors—municipal, industrial and agricultural. Or we could watch our Bay continue to decline.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

Climate Change Update: TV Coverage of Climate Change Falls

In a blog on *The Guardian* web site and in a recent NPR broadcast, it was reported that Media Matters for America has published a report detailing U.S. broadcast news coverage of climate change in 2015, <http://mediamatters.org/research/2016/03/07/study-how-broadcast-networks-covered-climate-ch/208881>. Their findings are stunning. “2015 was a banner year for climate news. The record for hottest year recorded was shattered... The pope delivered a **climate encyclical**. Investigative journalists at *Inside Climate News* **discovered that Exxon knew** about the dangers of human-caused global warming while it funded a climate misinformation campaign, and the New York attorney general **launched an investigation** into the company’s behavior. President Obama’s Clean Power Plan went into effect, and he rejected the Keystone XL pipeline. And most importantly, **195 countries agreed to cut carbon pollution** as much as possible to stem global warming.

Despite all these critically important stories, climate change, as in the presidential debates, was largely absent from US broadcast news. Climate coverage fell in 2015.

Most of the decline was due to ABC, which spent only 13 minutes in 2015 covering climate change—three times less than even Fox News. While Fox’s coverage increased, most of the network’s climate segments featured interviews with guests who criticized efforts to address global warming.

When it came to interviewing or quoting scientists and doing segments about climate science research, PBS NewsHour again rose above its peers, while ABC’s World News Tonight flunked.

Climate change affects some of the most critical components of our society: food security, national defense, extreme weather, the economy, public health, the environment, and so on. The broadcast

networks touched on some of these, like extreme weather, but largely missed others.”

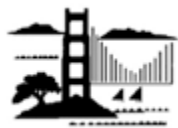
Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) reacted to the Media Matters report:

“As the co-founder of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, I read Media Matters’ new study and it’s a wake up call to the news networks. The most important long-term global and national issue shouldn’t be getting short-thrift. People need more information, not less.”

These findings may help explain why **Americans aren’t concerned about climate change**. We rely on the media to inform the public, and on the most important issue of our time, the US broadcast news media are failing to adequately inform Americans.”

As Rep. Israel noted, “they’re moving in the wrong direction and need to do much better.”

Dave Yick, LWV Climate Change Committee



**League of Women Voters
of the Bay Area**
www.lwvbayarea.org



June Ballot Measure AA LWVBA Supports the Bay Restoration Authority – June, 2016 Ballot

LWV of the Bay Area has endorsed Measure AA, the \$12 per parcel tax that will be on the June, 2016 ballot in all nine Bay Area counties. This measure needs 2/3 voter approval total within the region to pass. Our Bay Area positions support conservation and development of the SF Bay, and also enhancement and preservation of the Bay and its shorelines. LWVUS policies on climate change also support adaptation activities related to climate change, such as sea level rise.

This measure will generate funding for restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands, benefitting people, wildlife, and the Bay

Area economy. More wetlands will improve the bay by filtering out pollution for cleaner water, increasing habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife. The measure will expand bay trails and shoreline access and protect low-lying communities and infrastructure from floods. We have asked the SF Bay Restoration Authority to develop improved procedures for project selection and oversight. LWVBA will be preparing Pros and Cons for League use as soon as ballot arguments are filed.



Plan Bay Area 2040

Meanwhile, the next round of regional planning continues. On February 20th a workshop was held on the topic of housing and displacement. More information is at <http://mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/>

recap-calling-bay-area-home-tackling-affordable-housing-and-displacement. This site also includes key “white papers” from important regional stakeholders on housing solutions.



LWVBA Convention Saturday • May 7, 2016 San Mateo • 9:30A.M. to Noon

This is our biennial convention where we elect officers, adopt a budget, and approve our program priorities for the next 2 years. Also, we will be considering amendments to our Articles of Incorporation and By Laws to merge with our LWVBA Education Fund to become a 501(c)(3) organization. Be sure to save the date!
<http://lwvbayarea.org>

An online resource and tool for authoritative, nonpartisan coverage of election contests, candidates, ballot



measures as well as the funding behind the ballot measures in California. www.votersedge.org/en/ca

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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 Barbara Lea at barbara.lea@comcast.net or call 408-354-2287 and Ann Roberts at aroberts22@comcast.net or call 408-867-1834.

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🌀 Event Calendar 🌀

- Apr 6 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- Apr 7 Thu **Great Decisions (5) Korean Choices**, 1:00-3:00 P.M.
Guests, please call Terry Zaccone (408) 257-6575 for details.
- Apr 14 Thu **Clip 'n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share Home of Eileen Barnes, 1655 Winchester Blvd, Campbell (at Hamilton) Park in church parking lot next door
Call (408) 871-1040 **Please let hostess know you will be coming.**
- Apr 21 Thu **Great Decisions (6) United Nations**, 1:00-3:00 P.M.
Guests, please call Terry Zaccone (408) 257-6575 for details.
- Apr 26 Tue **HomeFirst Tour**, 10:00 A.M. or 11:00 A.M. **R.S.V.P.** by April 22 to Barbara Lea at (408) 354-2287 or barbara.lea.comcast.net

🌀 Save the Date 🌀

- May 7 Sat **LWV Bay Area Convention**, 9:30 A.M. – Noon, San Mateo
- May 13 Fri **LWVSWSCV Annual Meeting**, Assemblyman Evan Low
10 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Los Gatos Lodge

Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League neither supports nor opposes political candidates and parties, but does take action on issues. League membership is open to all women and men who are U.S. Citizens and of voting age.