



# Voter

## of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

October, 2016

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# Voters Service

for this  
Presidential Election Season



and

# PROS & CONS

See page 4 for a schedule of Candidates Forums and Pros & Cons for the elections during October.



## President's Letter

With the election less than six weeks away, our League is shining with its efforts to help make democracy work. This is an important time for our country and our local communities. Even though the League's work continues year round, September and October are our busiest months in an election year. In this November's election, we are standing together to support our progressive values and further our mission to provide information to the electorate so that all voters are informed and educated when they cast their ballots. Our League is sponsoring several Candidate Forums, which give the communities the chance to hear all the candidates at one time, in the same place responding to audience questions.

In addition to eight Candidates Forums planned by **Wendy Hendry and Kathy Murtfeldt** we will offer at least nine Pros & Cons presentations organized by **Terry Zaccone and Eleanor Yick**, explaining all the state and local ballot measures. You can read the details of these events in this *Voter* and our English and Spanish *Easy Voter Guide* booklets which will be available at all of the events we are sponsoring.

Our League is also making a difference with the help of Jackie Costanzo and many volunteers in registering new voters at the New Citizen Ceremonies. We are providing them with the opportunity to make their voices heard about the candidates and issues on this fall's ballot.

In 2008, six million Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration

deadline or didn't know how to register. In 2016, we want to make sure no one is left out. On September 27, 2016, volunteers, celebrities, and organizations from all over the country "hit the streets" for **National Voter Registration Day**. This single day of coordinated field, technology and media efforts created a pervasive awareness of voter registration opportunities—allowing volunteers to reach tens of thousands of voters who could not have been reached otherwise. So this year, we joined the movement and hosted a Voter Registration Event on September 27, from 9:00A.M. - 3:00P.M. in the Campus Center at West Valley College. Everyone was welcome to drop by and join the team of volunteers.

**Election day is Tuesday, November 8, 2016.** Every VOTE Counts! **The Voter Registration form must be postmarked by October 24, 2016.** Encourage your children and/or grandchildren (eighteen years or older) to register to vote A.S.A.P. And remember that if you have moved or changed your name or political affiliation, you must re-register to vote. **October 24 is the last day to register to vote** for the November election; and November 1, 2016, is the last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot by mail. **Ballot DROP-OFF SITES** are available 24 hours a day at local libraries and colleges, from October 11 until 8:00P.M. on Election Day.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our Candidate Forums and Pros & Cons events. And, **remember that your Vote is your voice.**

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all for helping our League to grow and thrive.

Hana Itani, President LWVSWSCV  
408-1wv-1842, [hana.lww@gmail.com](mailto:hana.lww@gmail.com).

**Welcome!**  
New Member  
**Josephine Stein**  
We're glad you have  
joined the League!

## 2016-2017 Board of Directors

### Officers

- President, Hana Itani
- Vice President, Barbara Lea
- Secretary, Nancy Rucker
- Treasurer, Danice Picraux
- Action, Eleanor Yick
- Education, Eleanor Yick
- Finance Drive, Tom Picraux
- Membership
  - Chata Alfaro & Sharon Graham
- Natural Resources, Meg Giberson
- Observers Chair, Raquel Durand
- Programs, Sue Cooney
- Public Relations, Eileen Barnes
  - Assistant, Nancy Rucker
- Voter Editor, Cherri Nelson
- Voters Service
  - Kathy Murtfeldt, Wendy Hendry

### Nominating Committee

- Chair, Pat White
- Members
  - Lois Smallwood, Wanda Alexander

### Off-Board

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

## 2016-2017 Elected Officials

### United States

President Barack Obama  
(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 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](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 Sep 12, 2016

**Treasurer:** Danice Picraux read the amounts, reporting finances for 2015 to be in stable condition. This is also true for June, July, and August.

**Announcements:** Hana thanked Tom Picraux for being the Voter's Edge contact.

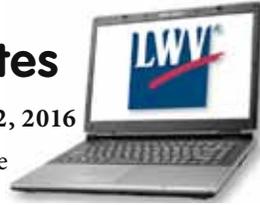
The Voters Guide was ordered for display at election events with Eleanor & Terry handing them out at Pros & Cons.

**If you help** with or attend a Forum and there is any criticism of the League, please just listen to it politely and thank them for the input. We may learn something useful!

**Programs:** Sue Cooney reported on the showing of the movie, "Making a Killing", with 40 people attending. Barbara Lea noted a big response on Nextdoor.com to the showing of the film.

Silicon Valley Clean Energy program was moved to November. And, plans are being worked on for the Annual Program Planning meeting in January.

**Voters Service:** Kathy and Wendy are very busy planning Candidates Forums. There's a need for lots of helpers, at least 24 of them. An email blast for volunteers will also go out.



Hana requested flyers for Pros & Cons and Candidate Forums events be a single-page.

Kathy will get estimate for an adjustment to our insurance for the Los Gatos Council Chambers use requirement.

**Great Decisions:** Terry Zaccone reorted that the series will start in February and run 8 sessions until May.

**Membership:** Possible two new members. The Board agreed with Sharon Graham's suggestion to keep track of the year members joined.

**Action:** Eleanor Yick wanted to remind all Board members to respond to Action Alerts so we can influence action happening on important issues.

**Voter/Social Media:** With only four renewals this year, the Board was encouraged to acquire more business ads as they pay for the printing and mailing of the *Voter* to members without digital access.

It was suggested, agreed to, that we use our League gmail phone as the contact number on our web site.

**Education:** Eleanor Yick is working with the teacher who requested a government presentation to her class by the League and requested volunteers for this project.

Nancy Rucker, Secretary

## League Volunteer Opportunities

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

\* **Voters Service**, Register voters at the New Citizen's ceremonies. Contact Jackie Costanzo at [jjc717@aol.com](mailto:jjc717@aol.com).

**Candidate Forums Timers**, question sorters, greeters and question card distributors are needed. Contact Kathy Murfelt at [kmurfeltd@aol.com](mailto:kmurfeltd@aol.com) and/or

Wendy Hendry at [wenhendry@comcast.net](mailto:wenhendry@comcast.net). They will show you how!

\* **Social Media Manager(s)** for our the Web and Facebook accounts, contact Cherri Nelson at [cherri1@comcast.net](mailto:cherri1@comcast.net).

\* **Local Elections Finance Study**, if interested in participating in this study contact Danice & Tom Picraux at [dpicraux@gmail.com](mailto:dpicraux@gmail.com) or 408)356-8129.

*The Ballot Is Stronger  
Than the Bullet.*

Abraham Lincoln

# Candidate Forums Pro & Cons



## Candidate Forums

### Monte Sereno Town Council

October 6 • 7-8:00 P.M.

#### Monte Sereno Council Chambers

18041 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road

**Lon Allan • Curtis Rogers  
Roman Dimitrov**

### Saratoga City Council

October 11 • 7-8:00 P.M.

#### Saratoga Civic Center

13777 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga

**Manny Cappello  
Howard Miller • Dede Smullen**

### Saratoga School Board

October 11 • 8:15-9:15 P.M.

#### Saratoga Civic Center

13777 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga

**Rue (Rita) Cao • Sophia Kao  
Arati Nagaraj**

### Los Gatos Town Council

October 13 • 7-9 P.M.

#### Los Gatos Town Council Chambers

110 E. Main Street, Los Gatos

**Marcia Jensen • Larry Maggio  
Barbara Spector**

### Los Gatos Union School Dist.

October 20 • 7-8 P.M.

#### Los Gatos Town Council Chambers

70 N. 1st Street, Campbell

**Mani Farhadi • Daniel Snyder  
Stephen Dale Parsons**

### Los Gatos Saratoga Joint Union High School District

October 20 • 8:15-9:15 P.M.

#### Los Gatos Town Council Chambers

70 N. 1st Street, Campbell

**Ron Jones • Rosemary Rossi  
Kyle Park • Katherine Tseng**

Candidate Forums will be needing **Timers, Question Sorters, and Greeters**. Contact Wendy Hendry at [wenhendry@comcast.net](mailto:wenhendry@comcast.net) or Kathy Murtfeldt at [kmurtfeldt@aol.com](mailto:kmurtfeldt@aol.com).

## Pros & Cons

### Redwood Estates Pavillion

October 3 • 11:00 A.M.

21450 Madrone Dr., Los Gatos

### Saratoga Library

October 3 • 7:00 P.M.

13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga

### Sacred Heart Church

October 6 • 12:15 P.M.

13716 Saratoga Av., Saratoga

### Campbell United Methodist Church

October 7 • 11:00 A.M.

1675 Winchester Blvd., Campbell

### The Meadows

October 7 • 4:00 P.M.

110 Wood Road, Los Gatos

### Corinthian House

October 10 • 2:00 P.M.

250 Budd Ave., Campbell

### Saratoga Retirement Center

October 19 • 7:00-9:00 P.M.

13777 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga

### Arab American Center

October 21 • 7:00 P.M.

3952 Twilight Dr., San Jose

### Shir Hadash

October 23 • 9:30 A.M.

20 Cherry Blossom Ln., Los Gatos

### Los Gatos United Methodist Church

October 23 • 2:00 P.M.

111 Church St., Los Gatos

### Campbell Library

October 29 • 10:30 A.M.

77 Harrison Ave, Campbell

**Requests Are Still Coming In To Add More Candidate Forums and Pros & Cons**

Watch Your Emails, Check Facebook and Our Web Site Calendar for Changes & Additions

### 🌀🌀 Important Dates 🌀🌀

**October 11** – Last Day to Register and Receive Voter Info and Sample Ballot

**October 24** – Last Day to Register to Vote, Postmarked or Submitted Electronically

**November 1** - Last Day to Mail a Request for a Vote-By-Mail Ballot



## VOTERS SERVICE – Voter Registration



**LWV National Voter Registration Day is September 27.** Our League will be holding a Voter Registration Event at West Valley College from 9A.M. to 3P.M. on that day to register voters.

The November 8 general election is less than 2 months away. The deadline for registering for the election is October 24. As members of the League, we need to continue to encourage our family, neighbors and friends to be registered and to vote.

Registration can be done online at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration) or by picking up an application at your county elections office, library, Department of Motor Vehicles offices, or U.S. Post Office. It is important that your voter registration application be filled out completely and be postmarked or hand-

delivered to your county elections office at least 15 days before the election.

If sharing your address could put you in a life-threatening situation, then you may qualify for the Safe At Home, [www.sos.ca.gov/registries/safe-home](http://www.sos.ca.gov/registries/safe-home), confidential address program.

- Victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault are able to use a free P.O. box instead of their home address to help them maintain their privacy when receiving first-class mail and registering to vote.
- Safe at Home registrants can receive their voter information and sample ballots at this P.O. box.
- While in the program, participants are required to vote by mail.

Please do not apply to register to vote using the Secretary of State's online

registration site. Contact the Safe At Home program toll-free at (877) 322-5227 or by using the Safe at Home email, [www.sos.ca.gov/registries/safe-home/contact/email-safe-home](mailto:www.sos.ca.gov/registries/safe-home/contact/email-safe-home).

### Are You Already Registered to Vote?

To find out if you are currently registered to vote, visit Check Status of Your Voter Registration. [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/registration-status](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/registration-status).

### When to Re-Register to Vote

You will need to re-register to vote when: moving to a new permanent residence, changing your name, or changing your political party choice.

Kathy Murtfeldt, Voters Service Co-Chair



## LWVUS – Presidential Debates

### Our Open Letter to the Presidential and Vice Presidential Debate Moderators

#### PRESS RELEASE

September 21, 2016

To: Anderson Cooper, Lester Holt, Elaine Quijano, Martha Raddatz and Chris Wallace

#### Keep Voters at the Forefront of Debates

Today, we asked the moderators of the upcoming presidential and vice presidential debates to focus on the needs of VOTERS.

“With nearly 1 in 4 Americans saying the debates could sway their vote, and 74% saying they plan to watch the first debate (ABC News/SSRS poll, 9/11/16), you have the extraordinary responsibility of ensuring the debates are fair, substantive, and valuable to voters.” Read full article at <http://lww.org/content/our-open-letter-presidential-and-vice-presidential-debate-moderators>.

Wylecia Wiggs Harris, CEO, League of Women Voters of the United States

## How to Evaluate Initiatives

**Who** are the real sponsors and opponents of the measure? Investigate the names of groups with which you are not familiar.

**Does** the measure deal with one issue that can easily be decided by a “yes” or “no”? Or is it a complex issue that should be thoroughly examined in the legislative arena?

**Is** it well written? Are there conflicts in the measure that may require court resolution or interpretation? Is it “good government” or will it cause more problems than it will resolve?

**If** the measure amends the State Constitution, consider whether it really belongs in the Constitution. Amending the Constitution is cumbersome and costly and requires a vote of the people. Would a statute accomplish the same purpose?

**Does** the measure create its own revenue source? Does it earmark, restrict, or obligate a specific percentage of General Funds revenues? Consider the effect on the overall flexibility of the budget.

**Examine** the measure by its merits. During the campaign, be wary of distortion tactics and commercials that rely on image, but tell nothing of substance about the measure.

**Finally**, remember you do not have to vote on every issue. If you do not feel comfortable voting on a measure or initiative, then don't. This holds true for candidates also. If you do not feel you know enough about candidates for a specific office, then do not vote for anyone for that office.

## Sample Ballots Go Green!

The Sample Ballot & Voter Information Pamphlet is the informational booklet that is sent to registered voters before every election. Recent changes in state law now give voters the option to receive their Sample Ballot & Voter Information Pamphlet electronically instead of by regular mail. Go Green and join the Registrar of Voters in our commitment to save tax dollars today and ensure a better world for tomorrow!

- It's Convenient
- It's Paperless
- It's Good for the Planet
- It's Free
- It's Optional

This free paperless optional choice does not enable you to vote online or by e-mail. This environmentally friendly option is only for electronic delivery of your Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet (SBVIP). Casting a ballot electronically is not permitted under California elections law. See the Frequently Asked Questions at [www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Voting/Pages/Go-Green.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Voting/Pages/Go-Green.aspx)

## Pizza & Politics – For Teens by Teens



**FREE**

**Pizza & Soft Drinks  
for Early Arrivers**

**Thursday • October 20 • 7 P.M.**

**Quinlan Community Center**

10185 N. Stelling Rd., Cupertino

### Speakers & Mock Debate

- Mayors of Cupertino, Saratoga & Campbell
  - Presidential Mock Debate with Local Representatives
  - Open to the Public
- Questions? Call (408-777-3120 or email [dannym@cupertino.org](mailto:dannym@cupertino.org))

## Selfies at the Polls

**Thinking of Taking “A Selfie”** in the voting booth or marking your ballot and using your cell phone picture as a reference while voting may not be a good idea. California law limits the use of recording devices in and around polling places.

**Cal. Elec. Code § 18541(a)(3)** explicitly prohibits, within 100 feet of a polling place, “[p]hotograph[ing], video record[ing], or otherwise record[ing] a voter entering or

exiting a polling place.” The Elections Division of the California Secretary of State’s Office has interpreted this statute together with other California law to prohibit all recording at polling places, while giving local officials the discretion to allow recording in specific circumstances (e.g., for a “credentialed media organization” that wants to “photograph or film a candidate voting”).

## Vote With the League

<b>Prop 51</b> School Bonds .....	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Prop 63</b> Safety For All .....	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Prop 54</b> Legislative Transparency Act .....	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Prop 67</b> Plastic Bag Protection .....	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Prop 55</b> School Bonds & Healthcare .....	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Prop 59</b> Constitutional Amendment Advisory .....	<b>No</b>
<b>Prop 57</b> Public Safety & Restoration .....	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Prop 66</b> Death Penalty Shortening Appeals .....	<b>No</b>
<b>Prop 58</b> Multilingual Education .....	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Prop 65</b> Plastic Bag Ban Confusion .....	<b>No</b>
<b>Prop 62</b> Death Penalty Abolition .....	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Prop 56</b> Cigarette Tax .....	<b>Neutral</b>

**NO POSITION** on Prop 52, 53, 60, 61 and 64

Refer to the full descriptions at [lwvc.org/vote/elections/ballot-recommendations](http://lwvc.org/vote/elections/ballot-recommendations)

## New Citizens Voter Registration

Thanks go out to the following members for stepping up to help the San Jose/Santa Clara League at the New Citizen Ceremonies on July 21st:

There were two New Citizen dates on September 15 and on National Voter Registration Day, the 27th. Thanks to those volunteers who said yes to working a shift on one or both of these dates: Helen Athey, Jane Voigts, Chata Alfaro, Judy Zaccone, Anne Stewart, Sue Cooney and Jackie Costanzo. Jackie Costanzo, Voter Registration [jjc717@aol.com](mailto:jjc717@aol.com)



## City & Town Council Observers

**Campbell:** There are four candidates running for two open seats on the Campbell City Council. Our league is sponsoring a candidate forum for these candidates on Monday, September 19 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The State of the City address will be given by Campbell Mayor, Jason Baker, on Thursday, September 22 at 5:30 P.M. in the Orchard City Banquet Hall at the Campbell Community Center.

Jackie Costanzo, Observer

**Los Gatos:** The Los Gatos Town Council continued discussion regarding the multiple developers for Phase 1 North 40 applications in meetings held on August 16, September 1, and September 6. Ultimately, by a 3-2 vote of council members, these applications were denied, citing

concerns on whether the developers' applications met the Town's Specific Plan for the property's development. The Town Council issued a resolution stating so. The developers' responses are pending and could include litigation, alteration of plans, or resubmission of entirely new plans.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

### Monte Sereno: No Report

Barbara Hawkes, Observer

**Saratoga: Sept. 7** The Council reviewed, discussed and approved the Parker Ranch Trail Easement. The trail is dedicated to pedestrian and equestrian use. The



City Manager was authorized to sign a Certificate of Acceptance.

The Council proceeded to adopt a resolution approving the Prospect Road Median project for improvements and beautification. The City Manager was authorized to file a notice of exemption from California Environmental Quality Act with the County of Santa Clara. There was a brief description of the improvements. The project is to generally make it safer for pedestrians and bicyclists while still keeping space for vehicular traffic. Located near Prospect High School, it's heavily used for access to the major shopping centers in this area. Local residents have been asking for these improvements for more than 10 years.

Raquel Durand, Observer Chair

## LWVUS Updates

### Presidential Debates New Resources

LWVUS has freshened up our debate watching tips. Watching debates is one of the best ways that we can educate ourselves before we head to the voting booth. Some tips and information;

*Tips for Hosting A Debate*

*Watch Party*

*Debate Watching 101*

*Evaluating Candidates*

League is working to update more content in time for the presidential and other debates. Take a look at our resources, [lww.org/content/2016-debate-watching-kit](http://lww.org/content/2016-debate-watching-kit), and please plan to share them widely.

### Voting Rights Case

League won a major federal voting rights court case in blocking the illegal action of Brian Newby, U.S. Election Assistance Commission Executive Director when he unilaterally allowed Alabama, Georgia and Kansas to require voters to produce difficult-to-obtain proof of citizenship documentation to complete federal mail voter registration forms. <http://lww.org/press-releases/voters-league-prevail-federal-voting-rights-case>

### Claims of Voter Fraud

A letter was sent to major parties, in partnership with Election Protection Coalition, [lww.org/content/league-sends-letter-major-party-leadership-claims-voter-fraud](http://lww.org/content/league-sends-letter-major-party-leadership-claims-voter-fraud), calling for increased law enforcement and election observers at polling places in November.

### LWVUS Amicus Briefs

**Ohio Purging Case.** League joined Common Cause and Project Vote on Ohio's decision to remove voters from the rolls. This action violates provisions in the *National Voter Registration Act* and the *Help America Vote Act*. [lww.org/content/league-joins-amicus-ohio-purging-case-phillip-randolph-inst-v-john-husted](http://lww.org/content/league-joins-amicus-ohio-purging-case-phillip-randolph-inst-v-john-husted)

**Climate Change.** League supports the 21 young people from across the United States who have filed a landmark constitutional climate change lawsuit against the federal government, via the Eugene, Oregon-based organization, Our Children's Trust. [lww.org/content/league-files-amicus-brief-landmark-us-federal-climate-trust](http://lww.org/content/league-files-amicus-brief-landmark-us-federal-climate-trust)

**Virginia State Board of Elections.** Filing argues that the Virginia legislature's

redistricting map was intentionally gerrymandered on the basis of race and therefore cannot be legalized. [lww.org/content/league-joins-amicus-bethune-hill-v-virginia-state-board-elections](http://lww.org/content/league-joins-amicus-bethune-hill-v-virginia-state-board-elections)

### Census Bureau

The League sent comments, [lww.org/content/league-sends-comments-census-bureau](http://lww.org/content/league-sends-comments-census-bureau), in regard to listing addresses for incarcerated citizens at their prison rather than their home addresses, thus undermining the redistricting process in states across the country.

### Aid for Flint

The League joined with many organizations urging the Senate to deliver much needed federal aid to the community of Flint, Michigan. [lww.org/content/league-joins-letter-senate-urging-aid-flint](http://lww.org/content/league-joins-letter-senate-urging-aid-flint)



## Clip n' Come



After a delicious potluck lunch, I sit quietly (but not for long) and listen, learn, get outraged, feel sad, or sprout a grin of delight as each person presents their clip of interest. These reports and newsworthy stories from newspapers, magazines and online web sites are read out or verbally described. Included is an explanation of why it particularly caught the reader's interest; often it's new information not known previously, but it varies. Everyone then expresses their reactions to what they've heard. A rousing discussion follows!

Sometimes passions are raised with resulting incessant chatter until Dale Hill, who facilitates the Clip 'n Come gathering, announces it's time for the next presenter. Many times I learn of issues I didn't know about. Always what's been presented has been interesting,

sometimes fascinating. Opinions abound where discussion is encouraged. Not all presentations are political reports. There's a wide range of subjects touched on, such as the list below:

- Bagpipe Lung Disease - Apparently bacteria can lurk in the pipes of that instrument causing serious illness. Who knew?
- Center for Survivors of Torture - Sympathy and empathy were ignited for the waves of immigrants arriving in the U.S. especially for children who arrive. They don't speak the language, and the culture is completely unknown to them.
- Outreach Targeting Seniors - Efforts by Commission Chairman Tom, with his wife Danice Picraux (our own LWVSWSCV Board Members) bring more free and low cost services to seniors.

- Tech Sector & Political Participation - Most tech workers we refer to as "nerds" are scientifically or technically competent, but uninterested in politics. There is an organization that is targeting that group to encourage political interest.

- Ballot Measure Committees - Sacramento politicians are getting around the legal regulations in receiving donations from special interest groups through these committees.

- Family Boosts Longevity - A recent University of Toronto study suggests family bonds are more important to adult well being than friendships.

An offshoot of the League of Women Voters, Clip n' Come meets every second Thursday of the month. All are welcome and everyone gets heard.

Cherri Nelson, Voter Editor

## Great Decisions 2017

Great Decisions, America's program by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA), is the largest discussion program on world affairs. Anyone can participate. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions *Briefing Book*, watching the DVD and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Background information and policy options are provided for the eight most critical issues facing America each year and serve as the focal point for discussion groups across the country. Read further at [www.fpa.org/great\\_decisions](http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions). FPA has released its list of study topics for 2017.

Locally the program is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Southwest Santa Clara Valley, The American Association of University Women Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch, the Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Council (SASCC) and the Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC). The 2017 program is expected to function with two groups, as it has done in previous years.

**Group One** is expecting to enroll about forty members. As in past years each of this group's sessions will begin in the SASCC's Oak Room which is a modular classroom. The initial assembly is for viewing a DVD, provided by the FPA, pertaining to each session's scheduled topic. Half of Group One then adjourns to the Magnolia Room. Separating into the two sub-groups facilitates greater individual participation in discussions.

**Group Two** meets in the SRC's Barnes Hall and is expected to attract about 20 participants. It will also function in 2017 as it did in 2016. Both groups will hold their first study session on February 2, 2017. As in past years, **Group One** will meet from 1-3 P.M. on the first and third Thursday of each month. **Group Two's** participants will hold their first study session at 2 P.M. **Group Two** will then meet weekly thereafter from 2-4 P.M. in Barnes Hall.

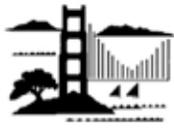
For **Group One** only, course materials will be distributed at a planning session beginning at 1 P.M. on January 26, 2017, in the SASCC Oak Room. The 2017 regular

sessions, again beginning for both groups on February 2, will be dealing with the following topics:

- 1) EU, 2) Trade, 3) China
- 4) Gulf Cooperation Council/Saudi Arabia
- 5) Geopolitics of Energy
- 6) Latin America
- 7) Afghanistan/Pakistan
- 8) Nuclear Security.

The **registration fee** for Great Decisions 2017 is **\$35 for an individual and \$45 for a couple sharing a workbook**. Everyone desiring to participate is urged to sign up as soon as possible. The absolute sign-up **deadline is November 30, 2016**, to insure that course materials are received in time for the start of the local program. **Checks** should be made out to **Rosalie Price, mailed to her at 14500 Fruitvale Avenue, Cottage #6610, Saratoga, CA 95070**. It is important for those wanting to participate in **Group One** to write "**Group One**" on their checks. For questions please contact program coordinators **Terry or Judy Zaccane at (408) 257-6575 or Rosalie Price at (408) 741-7670**.

Terry Zaccane, Facilitator



**League of Women Voters  
of the Bay Area**  
[www.lwvbayarea.org](http://www.lwvbayarea.org)



Inter League Organizations (ILOs) are formal organizations recognized by the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). In California, there are four ILO's: San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange County and the Bay Area. The Bay Area ILO, or LWVBA, serves 20 local Leagues from Napa County to Mountain View. Created in 1961, the Bay Area ILO functions within the geographic lines bounding the nine Bay Area counties.

LWVBA has regular meetings. Meetings consist of one representative from each Bay Area League. It is suggested, that to ensure attendance, that each League have a second person designated as a stand-in.

At the June National Convention in Washington, D.C. there was a breakout workshop titled Your ILO and Effective Outreach. Those attending voiced a need for more information sharing among Leagues. One take-away from the group was that more effort is needed in describing the Bay Area ILO role and encourage more communication of ideas between leagues.

LWVBA hosts Bay League Day annually, a day long presentation of guest speakers centered on topics of interest. In 2017 the topic will be on Housing. There are also two publications to read, the LWVBA Voter and the Bay Area Monitor, a bimonthly review of regional issues. Read at [lwvbayarea.org/publications.html](http://lwvbayarea.org/publications.html).

## **LWVBA Voter Content September 2016**

*Transportation News  
CA SB32 Climate Win  
Air District Outreach  
LWVBA History  
Rent Stabilization/Rent Control  
League Day Input Needed  
LWVA Supports BART Bond  
E-Observers Needed  
Events Around the Bay*

## **Bay Area Monitor**

*National Park Service at 100  
Environmental Upside of CALGREEN  
Newest Rail System Nearly Ready  
Beach Bacteria*

## **Single-payer Health Care, What Do You Know?**

**This article is the first in a series on myths and lies about single-payer health care**

Let's start with a definition of single-payer health care. Physicians for a National Health Program describe it as follows:

Single-payer national health insurance, also known as "Medicare for all," is a system in which a single public or quasi-public agency organizes health care financing, but the delivery of care remains largely in private hands. Under a single-payer system, all residents of the U.S. would be covered for all medically necessary services, including doctor, hospital, preventive, long-term care, mental health, reproductive health care, dental, vision, prescription drug and medical supply costs.

The program would be funded by the savings obtained from replacing today's inefficient, profit-oriented, multiple insurance payers with a single streamlined, nonprofit, public payer, and by modest new taxes based on ability to pay. Premiums would disappear; 95 percent of all households would save money. Patients would no longer face

financial barriers to care such as co-pays and deductibles, and would regain free choice of doctor and hospital. Doctors would regain autonomy over patient care.

I am going to be sharing information provided by a group called Public Citizen, which is a non-profit, non-partisan, consumer rights advocacy group and think tank based in Washington, D.C. This group advocates before all three branches of the United States federal government. They have been working for 25 years, supported by donations, to provide information to citizens.

### **What are the Myths and Lies about Single Payer?**

- **Myth** – The Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") provides universal coverage and protects patients from abusive insurance companies, so we don't need Single Payer.

**Wrong** – Under the Affordable Care Act, you are required to purchase coverage from a for-profit insurance corporation.

Corporations like Aetna, Blue Cross/Blue Shield and others still control access to doctors, hospitals and coverage; the insurance industry arguably has more power with the Affordable Care Act in place than before. Meanwhile 33 million Americans still lack access to health care under Obamacare. This means thousands of people will continue to die in the United States each year because they lack access to health insurance.

- **Myth** – Single payer is government-run health care.

**Wrong** – That would be the Veterans Administration. Or the British health care system where the government pays for the doctors and hospitals. Under single payer, you get a health care card, and you can go to any doctor or hospital in the United States. Doctors are not employees of the government. Hospitals remain in private hands. You get free choice of doctor and hospital.

Barbara Lea, Health Care & VP Administration

# Our League Strirs Up the Neighborhood

In support of the National LWV position advocating for gun control, we showed the film *Making a Killing* on August 25 at the United Methodist Church in Los Gatos. About 40 people attended and viewed the film that most people agreed was too long, but I think it was a good place to start a discussion on gun control since it emphasized the influence of the NRA on legislators and the incredible profits being made by gun manufacturers.

We advertised the event on *Nextdoor.com* and received almost 200 responses—an unprecedented amount for anything we have ever put up before. There were 10 thank you messages and the rest were pros and cons. Several questioned the appropriateness of our advertising this film on *Nextdoor.com*; so not only was this a *Second Amendment* discussion, it also became a *Free Speech, First Amendment* discussion. We had definitely caught the public’s attention.

I found one message particularly thoughtful and well-written and asked for and received Karen Rubio’s permission to reprint her letter, to follow, which was a response to someone else’s message on *Nextdoor*.  
...you haven’t offended me at all. I like to hear people’s opinions because only together

*can we solve problems. I understand your analogy with cars being used as weapons to kill people. However guns are specifically made to shoot something—kill it or hit it for target practice. We do have gun laws but they are either inadequate or*



Eleanor Yick, Moderator, and Chief Assistant District Attorney Jay Boyarsky answering audience questions.

*misdirected. Massacres have become so commonplace they are almost not shocking anymore, and that in itself is shocking. I agree that many other problems are at play, such as inadequate care for mental illness and the rich/poor disparity. But I stand by my view that gun manufacturers are responsible for the huge proliferation of guns in America. They are, quite literally, making a profit while innocent people die. I believe that we as Americans can come together to implement reasonable gun legislation that will protect the rights of*

*law-abiding people such as yourself while abating rampant gun violence.*

*The three hours that I waited for my son at UCSB to call me and let me know he was OK during the massacre there were the longest three hours of my life.*

*I got the good news; the parents of Christopher Martinez and other slain students did not. Those people lost their children forever—just like the parents of the Sandy Hook children and so many more.*

*I too have had family members in the military. My father was in the Air Force. My husband’s grandfather served in WWI and WWII and survived the Bataan Death March. This isn’t about taking away the rights of law-abiding citizens, or disrespecting the service of our veterans. This is about protecting our citizens and children from random gun violence. I too am in the latter half of my life and want to make the world a better place. We just disagree how to go about it. Hopefully, the discussion will continue in our society, and we’ll reach a point in time when logical and sane restrictions are put in place.*

Now, the question remains, what do we—as a League, as a state, as a nation—do next?  
Barbara Lea, Vice President

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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(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 Chata Alfaro at [calfaro@aol.com](mailto:calfaro@aol.com) or call 408-374-5077 and Sharon Graham at [sharona.graham@gmail.com](mailto:sharona.graham@gmail.com) or call 408-204-2585.

# Twin Tunnels – Billions More Costly, Taxpayers on the Hook?

The League of Women Voters of California said—in its October 15, 2015, letter—that it could not support the two 35-mile long, forty-foot wide twin tunnels project (formerly “BDCP”, now “WaterFix”) proposed to carry water under the San Francisco-San Joaquin Delta to agricultural and urban areas to the south. (See <https://lwvc.org/sites/lwvc.org/files/press-releases/WaterFix-comments-from-LWV-of-CA.pdf>)

One reason for LWVC’s determination of non-support for WaterFix was the project documents’ failure to fully assess “the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of the project.” Information obtained through public records requests now reveals some problematic WaterFix cost-benefit statistics.

A 2015 cost-benefit analysis of the tunnels commissioned by the state—only available thanks to the requests—indicates that

billions of dollars in federal and/or state subsidies would be needed to pay for the tunnels. The \$3.9 billion subsidy mentioned in the report rises to \$6.5 billion when actual, not discounted, costs are considered (according to one economist who reviewed the analysis).

Officials had previously maintained that only those receiving export water—not the taxpayers— would pay the tunnels’ costs. But rural/agricultural water users would face more costs than benefits, accounting for the need for subsidies (according to the analysis). Taxpayers would be one source of such subsidies.

The 2015 study also analyzed benefits based on the assumption that the tunnels would make more export water available. This was despite official claims that the tunnels would not result in extra water availability. In fact, under high sea level rise predictions, Santa Clara County

could receive less imported water (from its largest source of imported water) if the tunnels were built, than it would without them, according to the study.

Indeed, climate change, drought and potential regulatory reduction of exports may mean that less, not more, water will be available for export in the future. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has already issued draft regulations that would require less water to be taken from San Joaquin (southern) watersheds. SWRCB regulations governing water from Sacramento (northern) watersheds are due in 2018.

These new revelations affirm the validity of League’s long-standing policies regarding wise use of water, as well as League’s advocacy for full and transparent disclosures to the public.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

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## Event Calendar

- Oct 5 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- Oct 13 Thu **Clip 'n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share Home of Ann Roberts, 18833 Harleigh Dr., Saratoga  
Call (408) 867-1834 **Please let hostess know you will be coming.**

### Voters Service

### Candidates Forums and Pro & Cons

**See Page 4** for Dates, Times & Locations

Watch Emails, Facebook Postings and the Web Site Calendar for Possible Changes and Additions of more Events

## Save the Date

- Nov 12 Sat **Water Bond Spending**, 12-2:00 P.M. San Jose Club House
- Nov 14 Mon **Silicon Valley Clean Energy**, 7-9:00 P.M. Campbell City Hall

## Contact Information for LWVSWSCV

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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.