



# THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

*Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities*

Website: [www.LWVSSMC.org](http://www.LWVSSMC.org) Phone: (650) 325-5780 E-mail: [info@LWVSSMC.org](mailto:info@LWVSSMC.org)

OCTOBER 2014

Editor: Evan Hughes, [evanhughesphd@aol.com](mailto:evanhughesphd@aol.com), (650) 329-8698

## OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING: "Pros & Cons"

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6:45-8:45pm

at

Menlo Park Library (downstairs meeting room)  
800 Alma, Menlo Park

Sue Alvarez and her team of volunteers are presenting the Pros and Cons of the six propositions on the November ballot to groups across our region, from San Carlos to Menlo Park and from Redwood City to La Honda. On the evening of Tuesday October 14 Pros and Cons will also be our October program, at 7:00 in the community meeting room of the Menlo Park main library. This meeting is open to the public. Invite your friends, neighbors, and family!

Other public meetings will include those at Woodside Village Church, St. Bede's Episcopal Church and the Little House in Menlo Park, The Sequoias in Portola Valley, and La Honda. Presentations for particular groups (by invitation) will include those to the Woodside/Portola Valley Rotary, Congregation Beth Jacob, the AAUW, and Oakwood Convent.

Presentations to St. Matthias Church in Redwood City and News and Views in San Carlos have already been made, and reached a total of more than fifty attendees.

The schedule for presentations open to the public follows:

Oct 12	St Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park	11:45 AM
Oct 14	Menlo Park Main Library	7:00 PM (in the downstairs meeting room)
Oct 19	Woodside Village Church	11:30 AM
Oct 20	The Sequoias, Portola Valley	7:00 PM
Oct 28	Little House, Menlo Park	1:30 PM

Our Pros and Cons presenters are our face and voice in the community, and they do a great job representing us. Thanks to them all! *Ellen*

***If you have a transportation need or want more information, contact Ellen Hope at [ellenjhope@aol.com](mailto:ellenjhope@aol.com), or 839-8647.***

**PROS & CONS PRESENTATIONS BY OUR LEAGUE**

**Contact: Sue Alvarez, Director, Speaker Services, [sbrock1944t@aol.com](mailto:sbrock1944t@aol.com)**

**VOTER INFORMATION: CANDIDATE FORUMS, "Pros & Cons" (above) and other services. See above, and on Page 2.**

**For the Nov. 4 state and local ballots, our League is, and will be, in action.**

## FROM THE BOARD\*

And so it begins...

We have started our countdown to election day! This week [Sept. 23 and 25] our volunteers made two Pros and Cons presentations, one to St Matthias Church in Redwood City and one to the News and Views group in San Carlos, to a joint audience of more than fifty people. Both meetings drew interesting questions, discussion and (particularly in the case of Prop 2, which is particularly complex and difficult) comments from the audience which will be incorporated in future presentations. We have another eight or ten Pros and Cons upcoming, and requests are still coming in.

REMEMBER that the October general meeting will be a Pros and Cons presentation at the Menlo Park Main Library, at 7:00 on Tuesday October 14. Coffee and refreshments, and bring a friend!

In addition, in October we are organizing four Candidate Forums, Atherton Town Council on Tuesday Oct 7 at the Pavilion in Holbrook Palmer Park, Menlo Park City Council on Thursday Oct 9 at the City Council chamber, and East Palo Alto City Council and Ravenswood School District Governing Board, both on the morning of Saturday Oct 25 at the EPA City Council chamber.

Planning for the November program is still in process, but we have already scheduled our Holiday Party for Thursday December 11 at Kathleen Weisenberg's beautiful home.

In January our League and the Palo Alto League will hold a joint meeting on sea level rise in the Bay Area, with an update from Len Materman who spoke to us on the same topic last January.

February will bring County League Day, organized this year by the North/Central SMC League, and on Thursday March 19 we will have a very special speaker, Helen Hutchison, who is the President of the California League. Helen will give us a legislative update and a preview of the State Convention in May.

Thanks to all of you who are contributing to an exciting year ahead! *Ellen*

*Ellen Hope, President, LWVSSMC (ellenjhope@aol.com)*

*\* The "From the Board" column is written by a different Board member each month.*

## OUR LEAGUE'S VOTER SERVICES FOR THE NOV. 4 ELECTION

### 1. Candidate Forums (Contact: Diana Post, Director, Candidate Forums, [dsuepost@comcast.net](mailto:dsuepost@comcast.net))

- **Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7:00-9:00pm: TOWN COUNCIL OF ATHERTON** in the Pavilion at Holbrook Palmer Park on Watkins in Atherton, co-sponsored by the Atherton Civic Interest League (ACIL).
- **Thursday, Oct. 9, 7:00-9:00pm: MENLO PARK CITY COUNCIL** in the Council Chamber in the Menlo Park Civic Center, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park.
- **Saturday, Oct. 25, 9:00-10:30am: EAST PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL** in the East Palo Alto Council Chamber in the EPA City Hall at 2415 University Ave., East Palo Alto (same place and day as below).
- **Saturday, Oct. 25, 10:45am-12:15pm: RAVENSWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD** in the East Palo Alto Council Chamber in the EPA City Hall at 2415 University Ave., East Palo Alto (same place and day as above).

### 2. Pros & Cons Presentations (See Page 1. And, to help out and learn how these are done, contact Sue Alvarez, Director, Speaker Services, [sbrock1944t@aol.com](mailto:sbrock1944t@aol.com))

### 3. Voter Registration (Joanne Bruggemann, [joannebrugg@att.net](mailto:joannebrugg@att.net)): NOTE THAT THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IS MONDAY, OCT. 20, 15 DAYS BEFORE THE NOV. 4 ELECTION.

### 4. And, by the State League, [SmartVoter.org](http://SmartVoter.org) and [CAvotes.org](http://CAvotes.org), with the Pros & Cons online at: <http://cavotes.org/announcement/2014/sep/pros-and-cons-november-ballot-measures-are-here>

## BOARD NOTES

At its September 8 meeting, the Board:

- Learned of plans for LWVSSMC monthly meetings this fall: Oct. 14 on Pros & Cons, November on a topic not yet selected, the December dinner party with program planning session, and Len Materman giving an update on sea level rise and San Francisquito Creek in the first part of January;
- Heard Ann Draper, who is arranging the sea level rise meeting, also mention that this year the Bay Area League's annual Bay Area League Day, January 31, will be on Climate Change *[Ed. Note: See Page 4.]*;
- Accepted Debby Maio's offer to give the Board a brief tutorial on use of Dropbox at the Board's October meeting;
- Approved Ellen Hope's speaking at the Board of Supervisors meeting on September 9 to present the advocacy position of the State League (LWVC) in favor of Proposition 47. (San Mateo County Sheriff Greg Munks has asked the Board to pass a resolution opposing Prop. 47.) *[Ed. Note: See Page 5 on the LWVC's recommendation and reasons. Proposition 47 includes changing some felonies to misdemeanors.]*
- Heard Sue Alvarez report on Pros & Cons presentations, and discussed the need for more presenters, in addition to the six that she has already;
- Heard Diana Post report on the Candidate Forums being organized for city council elections in Redwood City, Atherton, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto, plus one school board: Ravenswood School District; and
- Discussed the number of copies of **Pros & Cons** that we need to print for use in South San Mateo County.

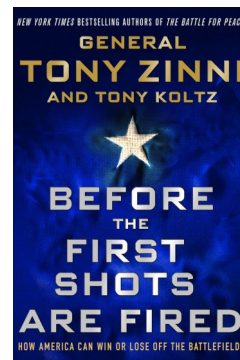
The next meeting will be at 7pm on Monday, Oct. 13, at Ellen Hope's house.

*Evan Hughes, VOTER Editor, using minutes by Joyce Shefren, Board Secretary*

## BOOK GROUP

The LWV Book Group Meeting for October will be held at Lucile Spurlock's home (856 Creek, Menlo Park) on Thursday, October 23rd at noon. We will be discussing ***Before the First Shots are Fired: How America Can Win or Lose Off the Battlefield*** by General Tony Zinni and Tony Koltz. Please bring your own lunch. Beverages will be served. For further information please contact Judy Orttung at

[jorttung@comcast.net](mailto:jorttung@comcast.net).



## WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL PENINSULA CHAPTER

Wednesday, October 1, **Paul Wise**, a professor of Child Health and Society and a Senior Fellow at the Stanford Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, will draw upon his experiences with the National Institute of Health and the World Health Organization to discuss "Ebola and the Risk to Global Health and Security." He will describe what steps are being taken to combat the outbreak and prevent an even more serious global problem. The event is free and open to the public at the Los Altos Youth Center, 1 San Antonio Road in Los Altos. The doors open at 7:00 for refreshments and the program is from 7:30 to 9:00 PM including Q&A. *[Ed. Note: Next meeting, is Peter Gleick, on Wed., Nov. 5, as listed in the Calendar of Events on Page 6.]*

*Ralph Kuiper, Chair, Peninsula Chapter, World Affairs Council of Northern California*

Are you looking for fair and balanced non-partisan voter education material? Find it at [CAVotes.org](http://CAVotes.org).

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## New Voices Goes Back to School

The NV Steering Committee held a retreat last Saturday to set priorities and to identify opportunities, threats and options to address them. Facilitated by Mary Alice Thornton, PA LWV past-president, the group prioritized staffing, growing the Steering Committee and developing a fund-raising strategy. NV Director Tanuj Chopra is taking a leave of absence to direct an independent feature, ***Chee and T***, a comedy about the only two South Asian guys in Palo Alto who have nothing to do with technology! (For details, <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/chee-and-t>.) We are, therefore, seeking an Assistant Director to help Director Ana Angel who is juggling increased responsibilities at the Palo Alto Housing Corporation. Let us know if you can recommend someone with video experience who would be interested in getting youth excited about civic engagement!



Ana started meeting with ten students in the Siena program at the end of August. She and Branessa Kunitz (from YLAC) welcomed seven returning students to the M-A program and are recruiting additional participants. They begin meeting this week. This fall, the YLAC/NV4Y collaboration, known as Project VOICE, will create videos about discrimination at M-A, particularly as it affects young women and students of color.



**League of Women Voters  
of the Bay Area**  
An Inter-League Organization of the San Francisco Bay Area

[lwvBayArea.org](http://lwvBayArea.org)



### ***Bay Area League Day - SAVE THE DATE !!!*** ***January 31, 2015 — 9:30am-2:00pm***

The theme of this year's Bay Area League Day will be Climate Change. The event will be held in Oakland at the MTC headquarters on 8th Street at Oak, across 8th Street from the Lake Merritt BART station. Speakers and panels will address Bay Area wide impacts of climate change; national, state and, especially, regional actions and policies that can mitigate the inevitable adverse effects of climate change, point the way to local and global solutions, and contribute to economic growth and environmental justice. For information and to suggest topics or panel members, contact Linda Craig at [craighughes@earthlink.net](mailto:craighughes@earthlink.net).

**Online on Sept. 30: Oct./Nov. Issue of the *Bay Area Monitor*;  
go to [bayareamonitor.org](http://bayareamonitor.org) and see the articles under "Current Issue"**

### **ACTIVITIES**

**SMALL GROUPS:** Do you want to be part of a small group (e.g., Book Group or Climate Change and Local Issues), participate in a League study such as the California study on higher public education, or study ways the League should change? Do you want the League to consider a position or to take an action? Are you interested in taking a closer look at responsible lending with a joint task force together with LWV North/Central San Mateo County? **CONTACT: Ellen Hope (President), or any one of those listed on Page 10.**



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## **ADVOCACY: THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS**

In its “advocacy on issues” role, LWVC has taken positions on only two of the six propositions that will appear on the November 2014 statewide ballot. Selections from [LWVC.org](http://LWVC.org) follow:

### **PROP 2 Rainy Day Fund—State Budget Reserve**

**SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of California supports Prop 2 because it takes an important step toward fiscal discipline in our state government. It requires the state to make contributions to its rainy day reserve fund and pay down debts and liabilities when times are good, with increased contributions in years when revenues spike upwards. In bad times, those reserves can be used to reduce cuts in spending on schools, health care, public safety, and other vital services. Prop 2 requires joint action of the Governor and the Legislature to reduce the amount put in or to take money out of the rainy day fund.

### **PROP 47 - Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act**

**SUPPORT**

Prop 47 will ensure that prison spending is focused on violent and serious offenses and will maximize alternatives for non-serious, nonviolent crime. The savings generated will be invested in prevention and support programs in K-12 schools, victim services, and mental health and drug treatment. Prop 47 will change low-level nonviolent crimes such as simple drug possession and petty theft from felonies to misdemeanors; sentences for people convicted of dangerous crimes like rape, murder, and child molestation will not be changed. The League believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime.

## **NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT:**

### **PROP 1 Water Bond**

**NEUTRAL**

The LWVC could enthusiastically support many of the projects funded by Prop 1, such as the cleanup and prevention of polluted groundwater; drinking and wastewater treatment projects; and water recycling, rainwater capture, conservation, and water-use efficiencies that will help reduce demand on water resources over the long term. However, we have serious concerns that the measure favors large surface water storage projects and gives control over that spending to a commission composed of political appointees with no budgetary oversight by the legislature. Balancing the positive and negative aspects of the measure, we remain neutral.

### **PROP 45 Healthcare Insurance. Rate Changes**

### **PROP 46 Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors. Medical Negligence Lawsuits**

### **PROP 48 Referendum on Indian Gaming Compacts**

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Propositions 45, 46, and 48, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures. For more detail: <http://lwvc.org/ballot-recommendations>

## **GOVERNOR SIGNS LEAGUE-SUPPORTED INITIATIVE REFORM**

Gov. Brown signed SB 1253 (Steinberg) on 9/27/2014. The measure introduces a 30-day public review period at the beginning of the initiative process. Proponents can amend the initiative in response to public input during that review period. The signature gathering period would also be extended to 180 days instead of the current 150 days. "California's initiative process leaves little room for alternatives and compromises in making public policy. SB 1253 changes the timetable in a way that allows the Legislature to engage with proponents and find ways to implement legislative solutions. We look forward to participating in the new process and encouraging Californians to do so," said president of the League of Women Voters of California Helen Hutchison. *[Ed. Note: California Forward, Calif. Common Cause, Calif. Chamber of Commerce and the Think Long Committee for California also supported SB 1253. The League's Trudy Schafer was seated next to Senator Darrell Steinberg at the signing ceremony (See the photo at <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18735>.)]*

# OFFICERS AND CONTACTS FOR OUR LEAGUE (LWV OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY, 2014-15)



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## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR (LWVSSMC)

OCTOBER [*** Note that there are other Pros & Cons presentations listed on Page 1.]		
1 Wed	7:00; program 7:30-9:00pm	<b>WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL PENINSULA CHAPTER</b> Paul Wise, a professor of Child Health and Society at Stanford and formerly of World Health Organization, on "Ebola and the Risk to Global Health and Security." Los Altos Youth Center, 1 San Antonio Rd., Los Altos. <i>(See Page 3.)</i>
6 Mon	n. a.	<b>VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS ARE SENT TO THOSE VOTERS WHO HAVE REQUESTED THEM.</b>
7 Tues	7:00-9:00pm	<b>CANDIDATE FORUM: ATHERTON TOWN COUNCIL</b> in the Pavilion at Holbrook Palmer Park on Watkins in Atherton, co-sponsored by the Atherton Civic Interest League (ACIL). Contact: Diana Post, Director (Voter Service), LWVSSMC, <a href="mailto:dsuepost@comcast.net">dsuepost@comcast.net</a> . <i>(See Page 2.)</i>
9 Thurs	7:00-9:00pm	<b>CANDIDATE FORUM: MENLO PARK CITY COUNCIL</b> in the Council Chambers in Civic Center at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Contact: Diana Post, <a href="mailto:dsuepost@comcast.net">dsuepost@comcast.net</a> . <i>(See Page 2.)</i>
13 Mon	7:00pm	<b>LWVSSMC MONTHLY BOARD MEETING</b> at Ellen Hope's. Contact: Ellen Hope, President, (650) 839-8647, <a href="mailto:ellenjhope@aol.com">ellenjhope@aol.com</a> .
14 Tues	6:45-8:45pm	<b>Pros &amp; Cons on the State Ballot Propositions (our LWVSSMC Oct. Meeting)</b> in the basement meeting room at the Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma in the Menlo Park Civic Center. <i>(See Page 1.)</i>
20 Mon	before 5pm	<b>LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE NOV. 4 ELECTION !!!</b>
23 Thurs	noon	<b>LWVSSMC BOOK GROUP</b> on <i>Before the First Shots are Fired</i> by General Tony Zinni; at Lucile Spurlock's. Contact: Judy Orttung at <a href="mailto:jorttung@comcast.net">jorttung@comcast.net</a> . <i>(See Page 3.)</i>
25 Sat	9:00-10:30am	<b>CANDIDATE FORUM: East Palo Alto City Council</b> in the EPA Council Chamber, 2415 University (at Bay Road), East Palo Alto. <i>(See Page 2.)</i>
25 Sat	10:45am-12:15pm	<b>CANDIDATE FORUM: Ravenswood School District School Board</b> in the EPA Council Chamber, 2415 University (at Bay Road), East Palo Alto. <i>(See Page 2.)</i>
NOVEMBER		
4 Tues	7am-8pm	<b>ELECTION DAY—Remember to vote and remind others !!!</b>
5 Wed	7:00; program 7:30-9:00pm	<b>WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL PENINSULA CHAPTER</b> Dr. Peter Gleick on California water, drought and climate change. Meeting, as usual, and as for Oct. 1 also, at Los Altos Youth Center, 1 San Antonio Road in Los Altos, 94022. <i>(See Page 3 for the Oct. 1 event.)</i>
10 Mon	7:00pm	<b>LWVSSMC MONTHLY BOARD MEETING</b> at Ellen Hope's. Contact: Ellen Hope, President, (650) 839-8647, <a href="mailto:ellenjhope@aol.com">ellenjhope@aol.com</a> .