



# THE VOTER

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

*Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities*

[www.LWVSSMC.org](http://www.LWVSSMC.org)

650-325-5780

[info@LWVSSMC.org](mailto:info@LWVSSMC.org)

November 2016

Editor: Bernadette Burns, [bernadetteburns362@gmail.com](mailto:bernadetteburns362@gmail.com), 408-757-1250

### **Our November Monthly Meeting is an OFFICE-WARMING PARTY!**

The November general meeting will be an office-warming party at our new location, 3723 Haven Avenue, Menlo Park. Please drop in on Saturday afternoon, November 19<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4 pm. Check out the office itself as well as the conference room, visit with the board, and discuss the election results while you enjoy a beverage and snacks. Bring a friend!

Suzanne Fouché and our official historian Linda Craig will be there to share information from the League's scrapbooks and discuss some historical highlights of LWVSSMC. The address is:

**3723 Haven Avenue, Menlo Park  
Suite 112 and conference room**

Contact: Suzanne Fouché, [safouche@comcast.net](mailto:safouche@comcast.net), 650-306-9096

### **Save the Date in December!**

The Annual Holiday Party Potluck and Program Planning Meeting will be at 6 pm on Thursday, December 8, at Kathleen and Dave Weisenberg's home, 167 Heather Drive, Atherton.

Program planning is an opportunity for League members to choose the issues they would most like to focus on, particularly at the local level. County and state positions will also be reviewed.

At the meeting, Duane Bay will speak to us about the housing crisis. Duane is now Assistant Director of Planning and Research at the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and was on our Housing Committee.

## **BOARD ENDORSES LOCAL MEASURES—VOTE YES**

### **County of San Mateo Measure K**

Extends ½ cent sales tax for 20 years

### **Redwood City Elementary School District Measure U**

Renews parcel tax for 14 years, with small rate increase

## **FROM THE BOARD\***

### **PROS & CONS**

One of the most critical missions of the League is to help create and maintain an informed electorate. Our most visible manifestation of this mission is our Pros & Cons presentations during the pre-election season. It is an oasis of sanity in what can be a confusing and tumultuous blast of government generated legalese and special interest publicity. Groups and individuals search out the League for honest information. We go to great lengths not to disappoint them.

This year our Pros & Cons team of presenters (Karen Schwartz, Linda Liebes, Lisa Conrad, Sue Alvarez, Ellen Hope, Lida Urbanek, Joyce Shefren, Suzanne Fouché, and Bernadette Burns) made over twenty formal presentations. All seventeen of the ballot propositions were reviewed, analyzed, and explained at each event. Presentations normally ran from ninety minutes to two hours, depending on questions. Some of the propositions were very confusing and there were many needs for clarification. Almost all of the audiences stayed until the last proposition was explained. Sue and Lisa also made a television appearance on “Talking With Henrietta” and several of the presenters made informal presentations to smaller groups. All together, we reached over six hundred voters.

Pros & Cons presentations are one of the few times the public actually sees the League in action. The faces of this team of presenters becomes the public face of our League. They are an admirable representation of all we stand for. They spend untold hours in study and preparation. If their knees are knocking at speaking in front of a group, it never shows. They are poised, professional and totally competent. They are also the recipients of many, many compliments and expressions of gratitude. Many of our events are repeats from those who come to depend on us. New groups are always impressed and grateful.

Now their presentation season has ended with a profound feeling of a job well done. They are looking forward to next time (but, the group confesses, they are hoping that there won't be as many propositions on the ballot). The best news is that you too can become part of this team. Watch for announcements in *The VOTER* in about a year.

***Sue Alvarez, Pros & Cons Coordinator***

**\*Editor's Note: "From the Board" is usually written by a different member of the LWVSSMC Board every month.**

## Meet Our Television Stars!



From left, Sue Alvarez, show host Henrietta J. Burroughs and Lisa Conrad are shown on the **Talking with Henrietta** television set after the taping of their show discussion on Thursday, October 13, 2016.

Their Pros & Cons presentation will air again on Midpen Media Center's Comcast Channel 30—**IF** you live in Atherton, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, or Palo Alto. If you live in Redwood City, Portola Valley, etc.—you're out of luck—apparently, we get the San Carlos public television.

Show times are on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8 at 2 pm, and on Wednesday, November 9 at 5 pm. If you are in range, set your DVR/VCR to record it! Then we will figure out how to save it for other League members, and perhaps have a showing at the Open House...

## Report on Candidate Forums

The League held four Candidate Forums this Election season. All the forums were well attended. Each one was videotaped by Midpen Media Center, and you can watch them here:

<http://midpenmedia.org/government/san-mateo-county/>

The four forums were:

City of Menlo Park School District Governing Board Members, five candidates competing for two open seats, on September 29 at the Hillview Middle School Performing Arts Center. About 50 citizens attended in person and there have been 155 views on the Midpen site.

Ravenswood School District Governing Board Members, with three candidates vying for two open seats, held on October 1 at the Ravenswood School District Board Room. About 20 citizens attended, and there have been 51 views on the Midpen site.

City of Menlo Park City Council, with six candidates contesting three open seats, held at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers on October 10. Over 30 citizens attended and there have been 91 views on the Midpen site.

City of East Palo Alto City Council, with four candidates running to fill three open seats, held on October 11 at the East Palo Alto Council Chambers. Over 25 citizens attended, and there have been 43 views on the Midpen site.

Thanks to our League participants who worked variously as moderators, question collectors, question sorters, and timekeepers: Bernadette Burns, Joanne Bruggemann, Lisa Conrad, Shirley Des Marais, Ann Draper, Ellen Hope, Corrie Potter, and Diana Post.

Diana Post, Candidate Forums Coordinator ([dsuepost@comcast.net](mailto:dsuepost@comcast.net))

**Reminder: Go see the Owl.** This is the 3-D reality viewfinder showing what changes in sea level might look like, at the Coyote Point Recreation Area. Docents will be present from 10 am-2 pm on November 19 (so make it a League day and go before the Open House!) and December 3. You can also visit any time the park is open, without a docent.

**Quotations:**

Real person from Woodside Plaza via Nextdoor Redwood Oaks forum:  
“PS I agree with you entirely. The League of Women Voters is a great place to start for non-partisan information.”

Unsolicited real-life story...chatting with a neighbor with an ‘I Vote...’ bumper sticker... she said “I was in Germany in 1936, and we could vote...in fact we had to vote, because those who didn’t ended up in a concentration camp or shot. The ballot had one box--Hitler. There were no write-in options.”

**BOARD NOTES from the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

- Meeting was rescheduled from customary second Monday as October 12<sup>th</sup> was the only option for moderating the Menlo Park City Council candidates’ forum.
- Board unanimously approved supporting Measure U, the Redwood City school parcel tax.
- Discussion had of need for members to have name badges when appearing at public meetings. Shirley will investigate ordering them.
- T-shirts, bags and Just Vote signs available at Ellen’s that night, or for us to pick up at the office.
- Updated membership brochures are now printed and available; as are Voters Edge bookmarks
- Joanne sent out fundraising letters to non-member donors

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

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**Review Sea Level Rise Reports and Community Asset Profiles**

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Attend the presentation in your community. We would like to have a team of people to provide their thoughts and insights regarding the materials and the presentations. In total, the time commitment would be two to three hours.

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Please contact Ann Draper at [adtp@comcast.net](mailto:adtp@comcast.net) if you are willing to help and be a part of the League team.

**Ballot Proposition Haikus  
by Damian Carroll of LA**

This November 8th  
Seventeen propositions  
Are on the ballot:

**Proposition 51**

Nine billion dollars  
Of bond funds for school buildings  
Term: thirty-five years

**Proposition 52**

A hospital fee  
Matched with federal dollars  
Funds Medi-Cal boost

**Proposition 53**

Bonds for big projects  
(Like high speed rail and Delta)  
Would need people's vote

**Proposition 54**

Bills must be posted  
On the web, for three days straight  
Before they are passed

**Proposition 55**

For high-earning folks  
An income tax that funds schools  
Would remain in place

**Proposition 56**

The cigarette tax  
Would go up, two bucks a pack  
E-cigarettes, too

**Proposition 57**

Earlier parole  
Of prisoners serving time  
For non-violent crimes

**Proposition 58**

Kids learning English  
Won't need a waiver to take  
Bilingual classes

**Proposition 59**

Asks to overturn  
Citizen's United, but  
Shucks, it's non-binding

**Proposition 60**

Adult film makers  
Would have to require condoms  
Or risk a lawsuit

**Proposition 61**

In theory, lowers  
The cost of some state-bought drugs  
(But it could backfire)

**Proposition 63**

Requires a permit  
Issued by the DOJ  
To purchase ammo

**Proposition 64**

Legalizes pot!  
Also raises some tax funds  
(Perhaps a billion?)

**Proposition 62**

Vote for this one if  
You want to eliminate  
The death penalty

**Proposition 66**

If you want the state  
To execute more people  
This one is for you

**Proposition 65**

Plastic bag makers  
Put this one on the ballot  
To punish grocers

**Proposition 67**

To ban plastic bags  
Vote "yes" on 67/"No" on 65

## **Advocacy: Major Victories for the League and California!**

### *Money in Politics*

- **SB 1107** removes the ban on public financing of campaigns and helps level the playing field for candidates.
- **SB 1349** modernizes the state's online database of campaign finance and lobbying information.

### *Climate Change*

- **SB 32 and AB 197** reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect disadvantaged communities and those most affected by this pollution.

### *Voting Rights and Redistricting*

- **AB 2466** makes it less likely for Californians to be unfairly denied their voting rights after a criminal conviction.
- **SB 450** makes voting more accessible with vote-by-mail ballots, early voting, and vote centers, starting in 14 counties in 2018.
- **AB 958** establishes a Citizens Redistricting Commission for Los Angeles County, and **SB 1108** allows all other California cities and counties to have these commissions too.
- **AB 350, AB 2220, and AB 2389** promote better representation and protect voting rights when local governments change to district-based elections.
- **AB 2010** helps local candidates reach voters with more affordable, online options for displaying their statements in official election materials.

### *PreK-12 Education and Juvenile Justice*

- **AB 1014 and SB 527** reduce truancy and serve students at risk of dropping out of school, as required by Proposition 47.

### *Immigration*

- **AB 2792** protects the rights of immigrants in local custody.

### *Natural Resources and the Environment*

- **SB 122** supports the public's voice in land-use decisions by streamlining the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.
- **SB 7** promotes conservation by requiring individual water meters in new multifamily housing.
- **SB 1262** protects our long-term water supply by preventing the overuse of groundwater in new developments.
- **AB 2480** puts funding of watershed restoration projects on an equal basis with other water infrastructure.

**OFFICERS AND CONTACTS FOR OUR LEAGUE  
(LWV OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY, 2016-17)**

President: Ellen Hope, [ellenjhope@aol.com](mailto:ellenjhope@aol.com)  
 Vice-President Administration: Shirley Des Marais, [sdesmarais@pacbell.net](mailto:sdesmarais@pacbell.net)  
 Vice-President Program: Suzanne Fouché, [safouche@comcast.net](mailto:safouche@comcast.net)  
 Secretary: Joyce Shefren, [jshefren@gmail.com](mailto:jshefren@gmail.com)  
 Treasurer & Database Manager: Jack Morris, [jhmsvcs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jhmsvcs@sbcglobal.net)  
 Director (Media Relations): Rita Comes Whitney, [ravrta@aol.com](mailto:ravrta@aol.com)  
 Director (Membership): Lisa Conrad, [darnoc@earthlink.net](mailto:darnoc@earthlink.net)  
 Director (Candidates Forums): Diana Post, [dsuepost@comcast.net](mailto:dsuepost@comcast.net)  
 Director (Climate Change and Local Issues), Ann Draper, [adtp@comcast.net](mailto:adtp@comcast.net)  
 Director (at large): Patti Fry, [pattifry@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:pattifry@stanfordalumni.org)  
 Director (Speakers Bureau): Sue Alvarez, [sbrock1944@aol.com](mailto:sbrock1944@aol.com)  
 Member Notices: Anne DeCarli, [anne.decarli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anne.decarli@sbcglobal.net)  
 Voter Registration & Fundraising: Joanne Bruggemann, [joannebrugg@att.net](mailto:joannebrugg@att.net)  
 Chair of the Education Fund: Lida Urbanek, [lidaurbanek@gmail.com](mailto:lidaurbanek@gmail.com)  
 VOTER Editor: Bernadette Burns, [bernadetteburns362@gmail.com](mailto:bernadetteburns362@gmail.com)

**NOTE OUR NEW OFFICE LOCATION & P.O. BOX!**  
**League Office: LWVSSMC, 3723 Haven Avenue, Suite 112, Menlo Park, CA**  
**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2244, Menlo Park, CA 94026-2244**

650-325-5780

[info@LWVSSMC.org](mailto:info@LWVSSMC.org)

<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>		
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
14 Mon	7-9 pm	<b>LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> at Ellen Hope’s. Contact: Ellen Hope, <a href="mailto:ellenjhope@aol.com">ellenjhope@aol.com</a>
19 Sat	10am– 2pm	Docents hosting the Owl, Coyote Point Recreation Area.
19 Sat	2-4 pm	<b>OPEN HOUSE and General Meeting</b> at our new office, 3723 Haven Avenue, Menlo Park. Suite 112 and conference room. See Page 1. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, <a href="mailto:safouche@comcast.net">safouche@comcast.net</a> , 650-306-9096
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
1 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting to discuss <b><u>Without You, There is No Us: My Time with the Sons of North Korea’s Elite</u></b> , by Suki Kim. At Geri Alber’s, 925 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Contact: Judy Orttung, <a href="mailto:jorttung@comcast.net">jorttung@comcast.net</a>
3 Sat	10am – 2pm	Docents hosting the Owl, Coyote Point Recreation Area.
8 Thurs	6 pm	Program planning and holiday potluck, 167 Heather Drive, Atherton.
6 Tues	7 pm	Menlo Park City Council Meeting, with presentation on Sea Level Rise.
12 Mon	7-9 pm	<b>LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> at Ellen Hope’s. Contact: Ellen Hope, <a href="mailto:ellenjhope@aol.com">ellenjhope@aol.com</a>

**Bay Area League Day** is scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2017.