



# 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)

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January 2017

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

## **Community Action Rally**

Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 11 am to 2 pm

Courthouse Square

2200 Broadway St, Redwood City

Join **local leaders** for a non-partisan, multi-generational gathering to affirm community values about:

- Environment
- Education
- Healthcare
- Religious Tolerance
- LGBTQ+
- Immigrants' Rights
- Breaking the Glass Ceiling



***You will leave with the information you need to take positive community action in 2017!***

Join Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, Supervisor Carole Groom and other local leaders at this non-partisan, multigenerational gathering to affirm community values. Speakers will include San Mateo County Supervisor Carol Groom, Rev. Kristi Denham, County Superintendent of Education Anne Campbell, Sequoia Healthcare District CEO Lee Michelson---and the list is growing.

Community groups include the AAUW, Sierra Club, and LWV SSMC. Local musicians and poets will perform, including San Mateo County's own legendary folk singer, JOAN BAEZ!

Check for updates on Facebook, at [Community Action Rally](#) (San Mateo County).

#### **FROM THE BOARD**

#### **State Ballot Proposition Results: Many League-Supported Positions Passed, But Major Disappointment in Death Penalty Outcome**

The LWVC, after much consideration, opined on 11 of the 17 propositions placed on the November 2016 ballot. Prop 59, an advisory measure condemning the *Citizens United* decision, was considered an incorrect way to address a legitimate problem, but California's voters did pass it. More troubling was the failure of Prop 62 (to repeal the death penalty) and the concurrent passage of Prop 66 (supposedly improving death penalty procedures by imposing rapid resolution, but without adequate safeguards).

Nonetheless, state voters did agree with League positions on 8 other important issues, as elaborated below in excerpts from a press release from the LWVC communications manager.

*On Tuesday millions of Californians finally had their say on 17 state ballot measures. The voters stood up for transparency in government, better schools, safer communities, and environmental protection.*

*"Voters spoke loud and clear when they passed Proposition 54, demanding transparency, accountability, and the right of all Californians to participate fully in crafting the laws we live under," said Helen Hutchison, LWVC President.*

*Across the state, California voters affirmed their willingness to improve and invest in public education by passing Props 51, 55, and 58. “With Prop 55 in place, the wealthiest taxpayers will continue to pay their fair share and California can continue moving toward financial stability,” added Hutchison. “The work to restore adequate funding for schools and health care will continue, but today was a big win!”*

*Californians sided with the environment by passing Prop 67 to retain a plastic bag ban statewide. “We’re pleased that voters saw through the plastics industry’s slick attempt to end the bag ban and turned down the manipulative Prop 65,” continued Hutchison.*

*Criminal justice and public safety measure results were less consistent. Californians got it right on common-sense gun safety and much-needed sentencing reform by passing Propositions 63 and 57, respectively. However, the League is deeply disappointed in the failure of Prop 62. “We had the opportunity to replace our death penalty with life without possibility of parole,” said Hutchison, “but despite the moral and financial imperatives, voters rejected that measure. Instead, California passed Prop 66, an ill-conceived, irresponsible, and expensive measure that increases the chances we will execute an innocent person.” Prop 66 will likely be tied up in court challenges for quite some time.*

**Bernadette Burns, VOTER Editor**



## **The Union Edge**

The League is excited to partner with The Union Edge, the only nationally-syndicated labor talk radio program in the country. Starting in January 2017, League leaders will participate in regular radio segments to discuss voting rights, public policy issues and advocacy, every first and third Tuesday of the month, at 1:30 pm ET.

# Our January General Meeting



**Wednesday, Jan. 25, 6:30-8:30 pm**

Redwood City Main Library Community Room

1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City

## What Can You Do About Climate Change in Your Own Back Yard?



Kirsten Andrews-Schwind is Communications and Outreach Manager at Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE). She has worked on local climate change policy in the Bay Area for ten years. Peninsula Clean Energy is the new official electricity provider for San Mateo County, offering residents and businesses a choice of 50% or 100% renewable energy at competitive rates.



**There will be a Q&A session after.**

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

# BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY



## BAY AREA HOUSING CRISIS

Saturday, January 28

9 am - 3 pm

Camden Community Center

3369 Union Ave

Multipurpose Room

San Jose, CA 95124

**Keynote Speaker: State Assemblymember Tony Thurman**

Plus a Four-Panel discussion on the current housing situation in the Bay Area

### Program

9:00 am - Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:30 am - Opening Remarks; PANEL ONE: Measuring the Affordability Gap & Its Impact

10:30 am - PANEL TWO: The Relationship Between Housing Production & Affordability, and Displacement in the San Francisco Bay Area

11:30 am Keynote Speaker: Tony Thurmond, Assemblyman, District 15

12:00 pm - 12:45 pm - Lunch

12:45 pm - PANEL THREE: State, Regional & Local Roles in Addressing Affordability

1:45 pm - PANEL FOUR: The Agenda Moving Forward

**For registration information go to:**

[http://www.lwvbayarea.org/2017\\_League\\_Day.html](http://www.lwvbayarea.org/2017_League_Day.html)

Early Bird with Lunch \$35 or Early Bird without Lunch \$20. Day-of registration will be available at the door (\$40 with lunch; \$25 without).

## **REMINDER: MAIL FORWARDING WILL SOON END!!!**

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If you have any old envelopes pre-addressed with the Santa Cruz Avenue location (say, from dues reminders or fundraising letters) PLEASE don't use them inadvertently. The Post Office will soon no longer forward them to our new address, so your efforts will be wasted.

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### **BOARD NOTES from the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

- Heard requests to participate in Menlo Park general plan meetings and non-partisan projects with Palo Alto Media Center.
- Treasurer Jack Morris reiterated the need for formal receipts for expense reimbursement—not just a purchase order, but proof that payment was made. Expense forms can be found in his file in the office.
- 2017 events discussed; program director Fouché would like input on potential partners for our general meetings.
- We need to find a speaker for our annual meeting in May.
- Discussed state and local priorities identified at December planning meeting/holiday party:
  - **Water**, *i.e.* water availability and quality, especially for low income or disadvantaged users; sustainable management of ground water.
  - **CEQA** (California Environmental Quality Act) *i.e.*, oppose proposals that limit the public's chance to weigh in on community land use and environmental decisions; support proposals that streamline but do not weaken the CEQA process.
  - **Health care** in California.
- Agreed that short video produced by Bernadette Burns, featuring Sue Alvarez discussing Pros & Cons, should be published on our web site.
- Determined that Bernadette Burns should connect with New Voices members to learn more, and potentially work jointly on additional video productions.
- Noted that Ellen Hope could contact New Voices participants about returning to their 'home' schools and developing stories about what is happening in their local base.

## BOARD NOTES from the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Treasurer reported 125 active members now.
- Board vote was required to confirm our December 8, 2016 adoption of local and state LWV positions.
- Continued discussion of topics to be presented for our 2017 program. Many topics under consideration.
- Discussed the need for each board member to review their job description and bring it, with any proposed changes, to our February board meeting.
- Our interviews with our legislators are due to the State league in March 2017.

### **KEPLER'S "COMMUNITY PARTNERS" INCLUDES OUR LEAGUE**

Don't forget when you are buying books, or anything, at Kepler's any time of year, to mention the League when you check out. They will donate back to us 6% of the sale. If you make your purchase online through Keplers.com, begin your shopping by clicking Community Partners, then Shop For Your Nonprofit, and then League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Our **Program Director** could use a volunteer to help with refreshments and set-up at our next General Meeting on **January 25**, at the Redwood City Main Library. Contact Suzanne Fouché, 650-306-9096, or [safouche@comcast.net](mailto:safouche@comcast.net).

Our **Membership Chair** needs assistants to help with outreach and welcoming duties. Contact Lisa Conrad, 650-323-2343 or [darnoc@earthlink.net](mailto:darnoc@earthlink.net)

### **Mailing List for *THE VOTER***

**If you received a paper copy of this issue of *The VOTER* and do not want it mailed to you, please tell Shirley Des Marais ([sdesmarais@pacbell.net](mailto:sdesmarais@pacbell.net)). Or, if you want to be mailed a paper copy and did not receive one, please contact Shirley to be added to the mailing list for *The VOTER*.**

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

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<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>		
<b>JANUARY</b>		
21 Sat	11 am – 2 pm	<b>COMMUNITY ACTION RALLY with local leaders, musicians and poets,</b> Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. <i>(See pages 1-2)</i>
25 Weds	6:30-8:30 pm	<b>Peninsula Clean Energy Presentation,</b> Redwood City Main Library, Community Room, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City. <b>THIS IS OUR GENERAL MEETING FOR JANUARY.</b> <i>(See page 4)</i>
26 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting to discuss <i>Hillbilly Elegy</i> by J. D. Vance. At Lucile Spurlock's, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Judy Orttung, <a href="mailto:jorttung@comcast.net">jorttung@comcast.net</a>
28 Sat	9 am – 3 pm	<b>Bay Area League Day,</b> Camden Community Center, 3369 Union Avenue, San Jose. <i>(See page 5)</i>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
13 Mon	7-9 pm	<b>LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> Contact: Ellen Hope, <a href="mailto:ellenjhope@aol.com">ellenjhope@aol.com</a>
25 Sat		<b>County League Day—SAVE THE DATE—MORE INFO SOON</b>