



# 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 2017

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

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The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose candidates or political parties.

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## *3 Great Programs— Look Inside!*

**NOVEMBER 15—ON THE TABLE Conversations**

**Menlo Park (lunch) & Redwood City (dinner)**

**NOVEMBER 19—PANEL ON IMMIGRATION**

**San Mateo Public Library, 2 pm**

**DECEMBER 7—HOLIDAY PARTY & ANNUAL PLANNING**

**Home of Kathleen Weisenberg, 167 Heather Drive, Atherton**

Contact: Suzanne Fouché, [safouche@comcast.net](mailto:safouche@comcast.net), 650-868-0320

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# **San Mateo County Perspectives on Immigration**

**Sunday, November 19, 2 pm**

**San Mateo Public Library, 55 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, San Mateo**

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Moderated by the League of Women voters, our **panel of experts** will talk about immigration in our county from their respective viewpoints.

**Sheriff Carlos G. Bolanos**

San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

**Marco Chávez**

San Mateo County Office of Education

**Kayla Ladd**

International Rescue Committee

**Araceli Martínez-Olguín**

Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto

**Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon**

Congregational Church of San Mateo

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## **Don't miss this opportunity!**

With a clearer understanding of the issues at the local level, you will be better able to understand and act on state and national immigration issues.

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The San Mateo Public Library facilities are being rented for this event. The viewpoints and materials presented at this event are not necessarily endorsed by the City of San Mateo or the San Mateo Public Library.

Sponsored by the Leagues of Women Voters of South San Mateo County and North & Central San Mateo County, and the San Mateo Public Library.

Contact: Suzanne Fouché, [safouche@comcast.net](mailto:safouche@comcast.net), 650-868-0320

**The League of Women Voters  
Of South San Mateo County**  
**On the Table**  
**Silicon Valley Community Foundation**  
**Conversations on Housing**

**Wednesday, November 15**  
**12:30 – 2:30 pm in Menlo Park**  
**OR**  
**6:00 – 8:30 pm in Redwood City**

**What is On the Table?**

This is part of a national effort taking place in numerous U.S. cities. On the Table Silicon Valley will focus on affordable housing because it is one of the primary challenges facing our region.

**What is the Goal?**

To bring together residents of Silicon Valley to discuss how we can work together to find solutions to the housing challenges facing our region. With **On the Table** we hope to get people talking about the problems and brainstorming about solutions that both residents and policymakers can put into action.

**To learn more:**

[siliconvalleycf.org/onthetable](http://siliconvalleycf.org/onthetable), Facebook or Twitter #onthetablesv

Come participate in a conversation on the need for more housing and better public transport in San Mateo County and the Bay Area. We'll share a meal and sit around tables of six to 8 to hold a structured conversation, responding to the call by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to hold 300 community discussions on this date. Ideas will be shared with community leaders after these gatherings. Please bring your thoughts about how we can address the regional housing crisis and of course, your patience to listen to and understand ideas on these complex issues.

**Please RSVP since we will be serving a meal**

12:30-2:30 Onetta Harris Community Center, Senior Center Building, 100 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park

<https://goo.gl/forms/Wu5eHmIipXpNK5ij2>

**OR**

6:00 - 8:30 pm Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City, 2124 Brewster Ave., Redwood City  
[On the Table: Talking about Housing & Transportation Tickets, Wed, Nov 15, 2017 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

## From the President

It's time to let our voices be heard! The League of Women Voters is a grassroots organization, soliciting the opinion of every member to determine where our efforts should be directed. The National League Convention will meet in June to determine what issues we will focus on for the next two years. The National Board will collect input from every League in the country, consider the recommendations, and determine a few to present for approval by convention delegates.

Now is the time to express our opinion. Our Annual Planning Meeting will be held December 7, and we have decided to try a new approach to our deliberations. In the past we have tried to discuss and come to consensus on recommendations for all levels of the League--Local, County, and State or National. This year, we will devote our entire discussion to National issues, with Local and County issues being considered at a later meeting.

There are many threats to our democracy right now, and we want our National League to concentrate their considerable resources on the goals deemed most important by our members.

Our December 7 meeting is also our Holiday Dinner. It's always a fun time to socialize with other League members. Please plan to attend, enjoy a delicious holiday meal, have a good time, and help us decide what our National League priorities should be for the next two years. The League's effort to make democracy work depends on your voice!

**Shirley Des Marais**  
President

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### Save the Date for our Holiday Party

December 7th, 5:30 pm - 9 pm at Kathleen and David Weisenberg's house, 167 Heather Drive in Atherton

Mark your calendars now for an evening of conviviality with other League members and the opportunity to influence our national League policy by way of an engaging new format.

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The 2017 California legislative session is a wrap, and **thanks to supporters like you, we have new laws** addressing many of the critical issues we face in California. Because so many of **you took action**, we're celebrating major legislative victories:

- The California Values Act passed, ensuring state and local resources are not being used to fuel mass deportations, destroy families, and cripple our economy.
- The passage of SB 2 and SB 3 will generate about \$5 billion for more affordable housing over the next five years.
- Campaign ads will have to identify their big money donors prominently on tv, radio, online, and in print with the passage of the Disclose Act.
- Community college students will be assessed more fairly, creating a clearer path to success and preventing them from being tracked into unnecessary non-credit remedial classes thanks to AB 705.
- The passage of AB 918 means the millions of voters with limited English skills will have access to more information in their language, including facsimile ballots—a critical step in ensuring all voices are heard on election day.

In addition to the many **action alerts** we sent, the League was also advocating for other bills at the Capitol. **This year, Governor Brown signed ALL of the bills supported by the League that came across his desk!** California now has **27 new League-approved laws**, improving California's policies on the environment, education, voting rights, and more. Make sure you are [signed up to receive our action alerts](#) on the issues you care about.

<https://lwvc.org/take-action>

**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.

## *Items of Interest*

### **Choosing our Local Representatives**

District elections, at-large elections, ranked choice elections? What's the best way to choose our local representatives? Several local governing bodies are changing the way we vote for our representatives. This is due wholly or in part to lawsuits being threatened on behalf of under-represented citizens.

According to an October 18 article in the Almanac, Menlo Park is being threatened "...if it doesn't move away from at-large elections toward a system that makes it easier for candidates in Belle Haven to get elected to the City Council."

The Menlo Park City Council will hold two Public Hearings to review and consider options regarding at-large and by-districts elections on October 30 and November 29, 7:00 – 11:00, City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St. Menlo Park. Please consider attending and adding your voice to these important local discussions.

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**Sustainable San Mateo County** presents

**Child Care, Education, and Community Health**

Wednesday, November 8, 2017, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

San Mateo Public Library – Oak Room

55 West 3rd Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94402

Join us and hear from local experts on child care, education, and healthcare, as we **explore how our community is managing the high cost of living in San Mateo County**. We will share highlights of this year's annual city survey focused on the cost of living and solutions to housing, transportation, and income challenges. Additionally, new data from the Indicators Report will reveal fresh statistics on income, jobs, agriculture, energy, and waste.

## **Journalist Ari Berman to Speak at National Voter Corps Event**

Ari Berman, a nationally known expert on voting rights, will speak locally and via livestream on **Saturday, November 11** from 10:30am - 12:30 pm at the Los Altos United Methodist Church (Creekside Room), 655 Magdalena Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94024. The event is open to the public.

The topic is "One Year Before the Midterms: A Conversation on Voting Rights with Ari Berman" and is sponsored by the National Voter Corps and ACLU of Northern California. Voting rights experts and activists from three states (Kansas, Virginia and Michigan) are also scheduled to take part in the livestream conversation.

For more information about this event, and to see the current status of the interactive NVC 50-State Volunteer Map, see [www.nationalvoter corps.org](http://www.nationalvoter corps.org).

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## **Watch Legislative Presentations**

I (that is, Bernadette, your editor) have uploaded to YouTube my video recordings from the Marc Berman and Kevin Mullin Town Hall discussions; each is in 3 parts. After we manage our transition to the new League web site format, videos should be available on that site. Meanwhile, I will learn how to make logical aliases!

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAmC\\_1l3w9Ku2AUgvPuAj5WBOQp5VNCWI](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAmC_1l3w9Ku2AUgvPuAj5WBOQp5VNCWI)

## **VOLUNTEER CORNER**

**Immigration Panel, Nov. 19** – We need helpers to collect cards for our Panel Discussion, greet attendees at the door, and supervise the refreshment table. We also need a card sorter and a timer. Please contact Shirley Des Marais if you can help. [sdesmarais@pacbell.net](mailto:sdesmarais@pacbell.net) or 650-322-0778.

**Program Planning** – Do you have great ideas for future meetings? Might you enjoy helping to plan our meetings, design flyers, help find venues, or assist in any way you can? Program Chair Suzanne Fouché needs a committee. For more information, contact Suzanne, 650-868-0320 or [safouche@comcast.net](mailto:safouche@comcast.net).

*We are delighted to welcome more than a dozen new members! I hope you will join us at some of our upcoming events.*

Jamie Clever  
Becca Gourevitch  
Lynne Mayer  
Linda Olson  
Juda Tolmasoff

Christine Elgin  
Sanneke Jang  
Joy McNab  
Pamela Schwarz  
Barbara Windham

Nimsi Garcia  
Judy Johnson  
Bebes Miller  
Caroline Simmard

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### **HIGHLIGHTS from the October 12<sup>th</sup> BOARD Meeting:**

#### **Your Board**

- Heard that the first meeting of the housing committee was a huge success, and that the group will sponsor two “On the Table” conversations on November 15.
- Was asked to participate in a San Mateo County transportation committee; new member Barbara Wallis will work with Jackie Jacobberger of North & Central.
- Was informed that members Debby Maio and Tracy Clarke have agreed to be observers of the Redwood City Council meetings
- Linda Craig has been and will continue to observe the County Supervisors via streaming video.

#### **Discussed**

- The positive results of the Lunch with the Mayor meeting; preparations for a Redwood City event; and possibly changing the title to Lunch with the League to have more flexibility in obtaining speakers.
- How to help the Bay Area League brainstorm ways to fund continued publication of The Monitor, including accepting advertising, and asking our members to subscribe to their email list at <http://bayareamonitor.org/subscribe/>

#### **Learned**

- Bay Area League Day will be at Laney College in Oakland on February 3, 2018; the topic will be land use.
- The Monitor Facebook page features daily posts of relevant articles from credible news outlets, event announcements of League interest, and photos from events attended by the Monitor editor. See [facebook.com/bayareamonitor/](https://facebook.com/bayareamonitor/)



**OFFICERS AND CONTACTS FOR OUR LEAGUE  
(LWV OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY, 2017-18)**

President: Shirley Des Marais, [sdesmarais@pacbell.net](mailto:sdesmarais@pacbell.net)  
 Vice-President Administration: Lucile Spurlock, [caspurlock@aol.com](mailto:caspurlock@aol.com)  
 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 (Climate Change and Local Issues), Ann Draper, [adtp@comcast.net](mailto:adtp@comcast.net)  
 Director (Ed Fund Rep): Patti Fry, [pattifry@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:pattifry@stanfordalumni.org)  
 Director (Housing): Lisa Conrad, [darnoc@earthlink.net](mailto:darnoc@earthlink.net)  
 Director (Membership & Fundraising): Ellen Hope, [ellenjhope@aol.com](mailto:ellenjhope@aol.com)  
 Director (VOTER Editor): Bernadette Burns, [bernadetteburns362@gmail.com](mailto:bernadetteburns362@gmail.com)  
 Candidate Forums: Diana Post, [dsuepost@comcast.net](mailto:dsuepost@comcast.net)  
 Media Relations: Rita Comes Whitney, [ravrita@aol.com](mailto:ravrita@aol.com)  
 Member Notices: Anne DeCarli, [anne.decarli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anne.decarli@sbcglobal.net)  
 Speakers Bureau: Sue Alvarez, [sbrock1944@aol.com](mailto:sbrock1944@aol.com)  
 Voter Registration: Joanne Bruggemann, [joannebrugg@att.net](mailto:joannebrugg@att.net)  
 Webmaster: Sanneke Jang, [sannekejm@gmail.com](mailto:sannekejm@gmail.com)  
 Chair of the Education Fund: Sue Gould, [susanbgould@gmail.com](mailto:susanbgould@gmail.com)

**League Office: LWVSSMC, 3723 Haven Avenue, Suite 112, Menlo Park, CA  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2244, Menlo Park, CA 94026-2244**

| <b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>        |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 7 Tues                 |                  | <b>ELECTION DAY!!!</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 9 Thurs                | 7-9 pm           | <b>LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> at Lucile’s house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley Des Marais, <a href="mailto:sdesmarais@pacbell.net">sdesmarais@pacbell.net</a> or Lucile Spurlock, <a href="mailto:caspurlock@aol.com">caspurlock@aol.com</a>                                  |
| 15 Weds                | 12:30 pm to 2:30 | <b>ON THE TABLE LUNCH</b> , Onetta Harris Community Center, Senior Center Building, 100 Terminal Avenue, Menlo Park. Contact: Lisa Conrad, <a href="mailto:darnoc@earthlink.net">darnoc@earthlink.net</a> 650-327-3288.                                                                      |
| 15 Weds                | 6 pm to 8:30 pm  | <b>ON THE TABLE DINNER</b> , Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City, 2124 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City. Contact: Lisa Conrad, <a href="mailto:darnoc@earthlink.net">darnoc@earthlink.net</a> 650-327-3288.                                                                       |
| 19 Sun                 | 2 pm             | <b>PANEL: SAN MATEO COUNTY PERSPECTIVES ON IMMIGRATION, JOINT GENERAL MEETING WITH NORTH &amp; CENTRAL SMC LWV</b> , San Mateo Public Library, 55 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue, San Mateo. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, 650-868-0320 <a href="mailto:safouche@comcast.net">safouche@comcast.net</a> |
| 23 Thurs               |                  | <i><b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!</b></i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

| DECEMBER |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 Weds   | 7 – 9 pm         | <b>World Affairs Council Talk: Dr. Anna Vassilieva</b> will address <i>Understanding Contemporary Russian Politics and Society</i> . Registration: <a href="http://www.worldaffairs.org/events">www.worldaffairs.org/events</a> 415-293-4600. Contact: Ralph Kuiper, <a href="mailto:rkuiper@earthlink.net">rkuiper@earthlink.net</a> |
| 7 Thurs  | 12 noon          | Book Group Meeting to discuss <i>This Fight Is Our Fight: The Battle to Save America's Middle Class</i> , by Elizabeth Warren. At Lucile Spurlock's, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Judy Orttung, <a href="mailto:jorttung@comcast.net">jorttung@comcast.net</a>                                                               |
| 7 Thurs  | 5:30 pm – 9      | <b>HOLIDAY PARTY AND ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING</b> , 167 Heather Drive, Atherton. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, 650-868-0320 <a href="mailto:safouche@comcast.net">safouche@comcast.net</a>                                                                                                                                                  |
| 11 Mon   | 11:30 am to 1 pm | <b>LWVPA WINTER LUNCHEON</b> featuring Professor Deborah Stipek speaking on the urgent need for improving Early Childhood Education. Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.                                                                                                                                |
| 14 Thurs | 7-9 pm           | <b>LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> at Lucile Spurlock's house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley Des Marais, <a href="mailto:sdesmarais@pacbell.net">sdesmarais@pacbell.net</a> or Lucile Spurlock, <a href="mailto:caspurlock@aol.com">caspurlock@aol.com</a>                                                                  |

## RESOURCES for On the Table from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation:

<https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/sites/default/files/publications/housing-brief-spring.pdf>

<http://flipflashpages.uniflip.com/2/88537/375842/pub/html5.html>

### 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 the editor, Bernadette Burns ([BernadetteBurns362@gmail.com](mailto:BernadetteBurns362@gmail.com)). Or, if you want to be mailed a paper copy and did not receive one, please contact Bernadette to be added to the mailing list for *The VOTER*.