



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY
Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities

www.LWVSSMC.org 650-325-5780 info@LWVSSMC.org

June 2018

Editor: Bernadette Burns, bernadetteburns362@gmail.com, 408-757-1250

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.

Our League's Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 7, 2018, 6 pm

The Old Spaghetti Factory, 2107 Broadway, Redwood City

**Speakers: Wynne Segal Dubovoy & Cathy Boone
From WIRE for Women**



Wynne

**Women Helping Women
enter public office in
Santa Clara and San
Mateo Counties**



Cathy

Contact Lucile Spurlock if you have not yet reserved your spot! 650-323-5358,
caspurlock@aol.com

From the President

Our merger effort is nearly complete. Patti Fry did an admirable job of explaining the complicated issue in last month's *Voter*. Our League Board and League Education Fund Board have approved the new Bylaws. Most changes were made to conform to State Law or to State or National League model bylaws. Look for Bylaws Revision Highlights following this article.

Thanks to Lucile Spurlock and Tracy Clark for planning our upcoming Annual Meeting, June 7. If you have not received your Annual Meeting Kit, please contact Lucile, caspurlock@aol.com immediately. You may also contact her to reserve your place at dinner, or you can register on our website, www.lwvssmc.org. You do not need to purchase dinner if you prefer to attend only the speaker and business portion of the meeting.

Our **Voter Services team** is wrapping up a very busy election season. They have monitored two **Candidate Forums** and a debate on the Santa Clara County judicial recall effort; and held **ten Pros and Cons** presentations, all of which included a discussion of **Voters Choice**, the new SM County voting system. And our **Voter Registration team** set up their table at numerous locations with registration forms and voter information. Heartfelt thanks to Tracy Clark, Ellen Hope, Linda Atkinson, Geoff Ryder and all team members. Your efforts will make a difference.

The **Schools and Communities First petition campaign** has been extended. The coalition decided to postpone their initiative to the November 2020 ballot, giving us a few more weeks to finish our petition drive. We need your petition by the middle of June. Please contact Lisa Conrad, darnoc@earthlink.net, to pick up a petition or just add your signature. If you are currently out there collecting signatures, THANK YOU! And please get your petitions to Lisa soon.

Shirley Des Marais, President

HIGHLIGHTS of BYLAWS REVISIONS

If you would like to see a complete copy of the new Bylaws, please contact Patti, menlopatti@gmail.com or Shirley Des Marais, sdesmarais@pacbell.net.

General changes–Capitalization and acronyms were changed to conform with LWV standards. LWV required wording for 501c3 was added. Some sections (or parts thereof) were moved to other sections to better conform with model LWV 501c3 bylaws. Some current provisions are assumed to move to Board Policies and Procedures (*i.e.*, responsibilities of vice-presidents, and who has authority to back up treasurer.) Changes made to conform to LWV model bylaws are indicated with “Consistency.” Due to changes, some article and section numbers have been modified.

- ARTICLE I Name and Form [same]
- ARTICLE II Purpose and Policy [adds required language for LWV 501c3; clarifies section 2]
- ARTICLE III Membership [Consistency; added high bar for suspension]
- ARTICLE IV Board of Directors [Consistency for board powers & duties; clarifies term of office]
 - Section 6. Powers and Duties. [Consistency; removes (b) - already in Articles of Incorporation]
 - Section 7. Meetings of the Board [allows for electronic participation; actions between meetings]
- ARTICLE V Officers [consistent with LWV and current EF bylaws]
- ARTICLE VI Committees [consistent with LWV model and law; note definition of committee; reworded nominating committee for 5 members]
- ARTICLE VII Financial Administration [allows pro-rating of dues for new members; consistent with LWV and current EF bylaws]
- ARTICLE VIII Membership Meetings and Voting Rights [allows flexibility for who can vote]
- ARTICLE IX Nominations and Elections [Consistency]
- ARTICLE X Program [adds member approval of program changes]
- ARTICLE XI Conventions and Councils [same]
- ARTICLE XII Parliamentary Authority [Consistency]
- ARTICLE XIII Amendments [Consistency; note it removes need for ratification of board amendments]

CANDIDATE FORUMS REPORT

During the last week of April LWV South San Mateo County moderated three candidate forums for the upcoming June election.

On April 24, 125 people gathered at the Stanford Law School to hear a discussion forum on the recall of Judge Persky. The recall measure for Judge Persky is on the Santa Clara County June 5 ballot. The South San Mateo County League was asked to moderate this event. Dean Chemerinsky from UC Berkeley's School of Law spoke against the recall. Stanford Law faculty member Mark Lemley spoke in favor of the recall. According to League format, questions were taken on note cards from law students in the audience. Both speakers responded to each question. League member Margaret Marshall moderated.

The following evening on April 25, 240 people gathered at the Woodside Road Methodist Church for the candidate forum for the office of San Mateo County Sheriff. Current Sheriff Carlos Bolanos and challenger Mark Melville answered questions from the audience after each making an opening statement. A reception was held after. This event was co-sponsored by the Interfaith Coalition for Human Integrity. Lisa Conrad served as moderator.

Finally, on Saturday April 28th, both candidates for San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools participated in the final spring forum also at the Woodside Road Methodist Church. 35 people attended and the questions were numerous. Ellen Hope served as moderator.

National Awards Finalists

Members may cast votes for awards to be presented to State and Local Leagues at the upcoming National Convention. LWV Palo Alto has entered their high school Voter Registration Drive, and is one of 3 finalists in the Strengthening Democracy category. You can read about their work as well as that of the other contestants. <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/vote-2018-convention-awards>

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/2018-convention-strengthening-democracy-local-league-finalists>

Palo Alto’s submission, in part:

In June of 2017 the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto Voter Services co-chairs set an intention to register 100% of Palo Alto eligible teens during the 2017-2018 school year. To meet this ambitious goal, they developed a pilot program for registering students during classroom visits, worked with multiple school administrators and teachers to schedule those visits, and then recruited volunteers to work with students in more than 60 classrooms at two local public high schools and five local independent schools.

The result: From October of 2017 through April 10, 2018, more than 750 students have been registered or pre-registered by Palo Alto's League volunteers, with an additional 250 likely to be registered or pre-registered by June.

(Editor’s Note: They have also developed a training program, and Jeannie Lythcott, Voter Services co-chair, told me they will be happy to collaborate with us. Also, when I attended their Annual Meeting, I spoke with their VOTER editor and incoming Communications Director, and we hope and plan to have more structured information exchanges with them in the future.)

HIGHLIGHTS from the May 10th BOARD Meeting: Your Board

Approved

- a grant request to help Get Out The Vote as presented by the League of Women Voters Bay Area.
- the new bylaws to be proposed for our legal entity created from the merger of our League and our Ed Fund.
- a motion requesting the New Voices program clarify their policies and procedures.
- a request from Palo Alto LWV to co-sponsor a meeting on our criminal justice system on June 4th.

Discussed

- Voter Services outreach.
- Pros and Cons outreach.
- LWVC request to support their drive for their Schools and Communities First campaign.

Learned

- Our League is looking forward to trainings planned for this summer on how to increase our technology knowledge; we will be getting trainings on Google products.
- Recent programs were very successful: **Lunch with the Mayor** of Redwood City; and **Making Democracy Work** (meeting with LWVUS officers).

Items of Interest—From National LWV

Fight for an Accurate Census Continues

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee [held a hearing](#) on the proposed inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census earlier this month, where acting Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, John Gore said [the request to include the citizenship question](#) was driven by enforcement of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

The Census has not included a question about citizenship in nearly 70 years. It is the responsibility of the Census to count all the people living in the United States – not just the citizens. We only get one chance every decade to get this right. An accurate count in the 2020 Census is critical.

It is up to Congress to exercise oversight authority over the Census Bureau and the League calls on this Committee to use their power and remove the citizenship question from the 2020 Census. [Stand with us as we fight back against this decision.](#)

LWV Ohio Challenges Congressional Districts

This month the League of Women Voters of Ohio have [joined a federal lawsuit](#) challenging the state's U.S. congressional districts as unconstitutional. The suit alleges the current map [violates Ohioans' right to have their votes count and their voices heard.](#)

"Ohio's current congressional map is clearly gerrymandered and unconstitutional," said LWV Ohio Executive Director Jen Miller. ["This lawsuit could lead to fair maps for all Ohio voters in the 2020 election."](#)

LWVBA's Bay Area Monitor

<http://bayareamonitor.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/jun18.pdf>

[Transporting Kids to Nature](#)

[Buffering the Bay Shoreline While Improving Water Quality](#)

[Air District Launches Community Health Protection Program](#)

[What's on the Horizon?](#)

The LWV of Cupertino/Sunnyvale presents:

How We Elect the President – the Electoral College or the People?

Saturday, June 16 • 3:00 – 4:30 pm Sunnyvale Public Library • Program Room 665 W.
Olive Ave., Sunnyvale

The American people do not elect their President. A process known as the Electoral College does. As a result, a President can be elected who did not win the popular vote - as was the case with George W. Bush and Donald Trump. Why did our founding fathers choose the Electoral College rather than trust the people to elect the President directly? Find out from **Professor Jack Rakove** of Stanford University as he takes us through their concerns, how the electoral college process works, what it would take to eliminate it and a current effort to work around it.

Co-sponsored by the LWVPA and the American Association of University Women.

Book Club Notes

Our book selection for this summer is ***Grant*** by Ron Chernow. We will meet at Lucile's on September 28th to discuss this book.

The selection for our October meeting is ***Facts and Fears: Hard Truths from a Life in Intelligence*** by James R. Clapper.

UPCOMING EVENTS		
JUNE		
4 Mon	6:30 - 8:30 pm	WHO HAS THE POWER TO BUILD A NEW CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM? Ashoka and LWV PA discuss incarceration issues. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto.
5 Tues		PRIMARY ELECTION DAY! LAST CHANCE TO CAST YOUR VOTE IF YOU HAVEN'T YET.
7 Thurs	6 – 9:30 pm	ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER. The Old Spaghetti Factory, 2107 Broadway, Redwood City. Contact: Lucile Spurlock, 650-323-5358, caspurlock@aol.com
9 Sat		CANCELLED!!!! TO BE RE-SCHEDULED... NEW VOICES FOR YOUTH VIDEO SCREENING. Contact: Kathleen Weisenberg, 650-232-7146, davkatweisenberg@att.net
14 Thurs	6 – 9 pm	JOINT OLD/NEW BOARD MEETING and Potluck at Lucile Spurlock's house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Lucile caspurlock@aol.com
16 Sat	3 – 4:30 pm	HOW WE ELECT THE PRESIDENT—THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE OR THE PEOPLE? Sunnyvale Public Library, Program Room, 665 W. Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale.

Save the Date! Fall Kickoff at Lida Urbanek's home!

Saturday, September 22

9 am – noon

