



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities

www.LWVSSMC.org

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May 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.

Making Democracy Work

With Kim Lauth & Kate Kennedy

Friday, May 4, 10 am - noon

Redwood City Main Library, Community Room

1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City

LWVUS Board member Kim Lauth and Chief Development Officer Kate Kennedy will tell us firsthand of National League's current campaign to **Make Democracy Work**, then take your questions and hear your ideas. Don't miss this chance to learn how you can help defend democracy as we approach the League's 100th anniversary!

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/making-democracy-work-tickets-44931741047>

or RSVP to clouchheim@yahoo.com

or **Just Come Anyway!**

The Impact of The Affordable Care Act: Evidence from California's Hospital Sector with Mark G Duggan, PhD

Tuesday, May 15, 7 - 9 pm
Woodside Road United Methodist Church
2000 Woodside Road (at Alameda) Redwood City



The effect of the ACA has varied substantially across the country.

What impact has it had in California?

Join us to learn more about a subject that concerns us all.

There will be time for Q&A afterwards.

Professor Duggan's research focuses on the health care sector and also on the effects of government expenditure programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid on the behavior of individuals and firms. Some of his more recent research is exploring the effect of federal disability programs on the labor market and of the Affordable Care Act on the labor market and health care costs.

Mark Duggan is the Trione Director of SIEPR and the Wayne and Jodi Cooperman Professor of Economics at Stanford. He served as the Senior Economist for Health Care Policy at the White House Council of Economic Advisers from 2009 to 2010.

Contact: Suzanne Fouché, safouche@comcast.net

From the Board--We are Merging!

As of July 1st, our League and Ed Fund will be consolidated into a single 501(c)(3) organization, if approved by our members. For many years, the possibility of a merger or consolidation had been contemplated to allow our resources to more efficiently **Help Democracy Work** in our communities and more effectively leverage our volunteers. Last year, the Boards of our South San Mateo County League and Ed Fund decided to launch a conversion effort. With guidance from our experienced LWVUS merger adviser, the process has been proceeding smoothly. **Our Boards believe that the consolidation would result in:**

- **Greater accountability:** a single Board would be responsible both for directing the programmatic activities of the League (like voter service, civic education, and advocacy) and for raising the money to fund these activities.
- **More effective use of our volunteers:** only one Board would be needed to oversee our activities and financial statements; our Treasurer and Secretary roles would only need to prepare one set of regular financial and governmental reports and minutes, respectively, rather than two.
- **Tax advantages for members and donors:** all member dues AND all contributions to the League would be tax-deductible to those who itemize their deductions, to the extent allowed by law. Additionally, donations to support League operations and Ed Fund activities could be made in a less confusing way: donors can make a payment to a single entity rather than to two. As always, any designations of support would be honored (e.g., for voter education activities, for advocacy, for projects like New Voices).

Ultimately, it is our members who must approve or not approve the consolidation plan at our League Annual Meeting in June. Between now and the Annual Meeting we would like to hear from members who have questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact League President Shirley Des Marais, Ed Fund President Sue Gould, or me--Patti Fry, Consolidation Leader; Board Member, LWVSSMC; Secretary LWVSSMC Ed Fund PattiL Fry@gmail.com 415-606-4046

Frequently Asked Questions About the Merger

1. Q: *Isn't this complicated to do?* A: The Boards have received guidance from the LWVUS Financial & Tax Consultant, who has had extensive, successful experience working with other Leagues converting to a single tax-exempt organization and in dealing with state government requirements. He has shared a timeline/checklist used by other California Leagues; that is facilitating our implementation. More than 80 other US Leagues have made/are making this kind of change.

2. Q: *How would the structure change?* A: Currently, our League and Ed Fund are organized as separate 501(c) organizations according to the Internal Revenue Service—that means that both are exempt from paying income taxes. The Ed Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization (a “public charity”), which means that dues and contributions to the Ed Fund are tax-deductible for the donor. The League currently is a 501(c)(4) “social welfare” organization, which means that dues and contributions to the League are not tax-deductible for the donor. The LWVUS Consultant’s recommendation is that our League do what other Leagues, including other California Leagues, have been doing—shift all League operations and assets to the Ed Fund, which is already a 501(c)(3) organization. There is no need to apply to the IRS for approval of this transaction. The Ed Fund would be renamed as part of this process.

3. Q: *What steps are necessary?* A: The Ed Fund's Articles of Incorporation and the League's Bylaws need to be updated to reflect and better support the new organization. The CA Secretary of State has approved our revised Articles of Incorporation. The Ed Fund Board and the League Board would approve the revised Bylaws. At the Annual Meeting, the League members would vote on the proposed new, merged organization. Then the Ed Fund would also vote to merge, accept League members as its members, and elect new officers and directors. For continuity, several members of the anticipated new Board now hold positions on one or both current Boards. Following the Annual Meeting, the consolidation team will complete the required paperwork and make any needed changes so that contracts, agreements, and processes are consistent with the new Bylaws.

4. Q: *What changes will occur with the League's Bylaws, positions, and programs?* A: The new organization's Bylaws will be substantially the same as the current League Bylaws—with some practical changes to make sure the newly-consolidated organization can operate efficiently and effectively, and to be consistent with LWVC recommendations. At this time, no changes to the League's positions or programs are anticipated. At the Annual Meeting, the new organization's members would approve League programs and positions.

5. Q: *Will the new organization still be able to advocate, based on League positions? If so, are there any new considerations?* A: Yes. A “public charity” is allowed to advocate as long as advocacy is a minor part of its activities. Our new organization will need to track and report expenses (including in-kind donations), related to advocacy, voter services, and other activities.

Pros & Cons on the June 2018 Ballot

As you may know, each election season our League organizes a series of presentations on the propositions on the upcoming ballot, working largely from materials researched by the California League. These are referred to as Pros & Cons and give the background and arguments for and against each proposition as made by the supporters and opponents. Speakers are trained to make neutral presentations so that the audience should not be able to tell whether they favor or oppose a particular measure. This June there will be five State propositions and one local (Bay Area) measure on the ballot. We will be covering all six of these. Additionally, there will be a brief optional presentation on the Voters Choice Act, which San Mateo County is piloting for the state.

The following Pros & Cons presentations are **open to the general public**. We hope that each of you can come to one of them! Please invite your friends and neighbors!

Tues May 8 at 1 pm, Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Avenue, Menlo Park

Weds May 9 at 7 pm, Community Room, Menlo Park Main Library, 800 Alma Street, Menlo Park

Mon May 21 at 7 pm, Woodside Road United Methodist Church, 2000 Woodside Road (at Alameda de las Pulgas), Redwood City

Contact: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com 650-839-8647

CANDIDATE FORUMS REPORT

Tracy Clark did an outstanding job coordinating 3 events in one week; especially noteworthy being the San Mateo County Sheriff Candidate Forum with well over 200 attendees! Thanks also to all her helpers--Margaret Marshall, Lisa Conrad, Ellen Hope, Jennifer Bestor, Joanne Bruggeman, Georgia Jack, Terri Train and Barb Wallace were among those I could identify, along with our hosts and co-sponsors at the Woodside Road United Methodist Church and Stanford Law School.

If you were not able to attend, you can watch replays of the 2 SMC Candidate Forums on local cable TV in Menlo Park and Atherton. The Sheriff Forum will be shown on Channel 30 on May 10 at 5 pm; on May 11 at 12 am and 9 pm. The

Superintendent of Schools Forum will be shown on Channel 28 on May 10 at 7:30 pm; on May 11 at 10:30 pm and May 12 at 9 pm. On Channel 30 starting at 7 pm on May 12 the two of them will be shown back-to-back.

Also <http://midpenmedia.org/local-tv/watch-now/>

For on-demand access: <http://midpenmedia.org/government/san-mateo-county>

Also check out Berkeley Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky on free speech:

<https://youtu.be/cqHEIAVoTLY>

Community Convening: Connecting Housing & Transportation: Today & in the Future

Thursday, May 24, 2018 8:30 am – noon
Belmont Sports Center, 550 Island Parkway, Belmont

Home for All supports solutions to create more homes people can afford, reduce traffic and make San Mateo County a place everyone can call home. This Community Convening will highlight the connection between housing & transportation planning.

Keynote speaker Dr. Bruce Appleyard is Associate Professor of City Planning and Urban Design at San Diego State University, a lead author of *The Transportation/Land Use Connection* textbook, and a Top Ten Living Heroes Awardee.

The Convening will feature a panel of local San Mateo County housing experts addressing parking and congestion challenges. In addition, Home for All will introduce the work it is partnering on with the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI), and the website where information will be available on best practices and strategies learned.

RSVP ***before the May 17 deadline*** to Carrie Dallman (cdallman@smcgov.org) as ***seating is limited*** and prior Convenings have been at capacity ***before*** the RSVP deadline.

For more info, contact: Barb Wallis barbwallis@gmail.com 650-644-7895

New Voices Finishes Strong AND Save the Date, June 9!

Classes at Siena Youth Center and the EPA Boys and Girls Club are in full swing as students get down to work shooting and editing their final pieces for Spring, 2018.

At Siena, Nimsi Garcia, project director, is supported by Luis Cruz, high school student and New Voices veteran. Students work in small groups to maximize their time with cameras. Recently, they participated in an **Interviewing** workshop with Elliot Margolies from the MidPen Media Center. Nimsi and Luis “recycled” Elliot’s themes when they offered a workshop on interviewing at OYE, the North Fair Oaks Youth Initiative conference that targets Latino teens.

At the EPA Boys and Girls Club, students are preparing to interview three guests – two BGC high schoolers and a staff member from Foundation for a College Education. Students have collaborated with students from a BGC YouTube class!

On June 9, at the **MidPen Media Center, 900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto**, New Voices will host a screening of our videos from the last couple of years. We’re calling it **“Celebrating the Power of New Voices”** and we hope you’ll come. You’ll see some of what students have produced and learn how you can support New Voices so that our work with students from underserved communities will continue.



LWVSSM hosts table at 7th Annual OYE conference

On April 28, at Cañada College, LWVSSM created a resource table at the annual youth-led conference that targets Latino youth—acronym OYE (Orgullo y Educación, or Pride & Education). With workshops on subjects as varied as Interviewing (led by NV4Y), the Financial Aid process, and Leadership, plus resource tables about Healthy Food, the Siena Youth Center, and Voter Registration, participants had opportunities to learn and have fun as well. Plus, there’s free food and lots of music and dance, so prepare yourselves for next year!

Legislative Interview with Assemblymember Kevin Mullin

Question 1: Money Bail Reform

Currently, release pending trial is based on an arrestee's capacity to post money bail. Do you support legislative changes to a risk-assessment based system, so that release is contingent on preventing violence in the community, rather the arrestee's finances?

Assemblymember Mullin agrees that release should not be determined by ability to pay, but by public safety. He supported AB 42, which did not move forward, but there is action in the Senate with SB 10 which is supported by Attorney General Xavier Becerra. He believes that the political will for judicial reform is building and bail reform is the next step forward in government efforts at change.

Question 2: CEQA Reform

What is your view regarding the use of CEQA to delay affordable housing projects? While recent legislative changes have streamlined the CEQA process for in-fill projects, do you think other legislative changes to CEQA are needed?

Further reform is necessary, but how do we craft it and what is the political process? Conditions are ripe for change because trade unions support more building, but environmental concerns remain. Change in CEQA is politically difficult and Mr. Mullin doesn't foresee any major changes in an election year. Transportation corridors targeted toward regional government networks may be more successful than a statewide effort.

Question 3: Sea Level Rise

We need a regional, coordinated effort of several state agencies. And since the threat is swift in terms of typical infrastructure projects, we need to coordinate now. What is the path forward to assure continuity of infrastructure as we approach 2050 and beyond? What can be done legislatively?

This is a huge looming issue for San Mateo County, because we have a great deal of infrastructure in the inundation zone. Our county and state legislators are all active on this issue. Mr. Mullin sits on the Sub-committee for Resources and Transportation where he focuses attention to issues around the Bay.

It is a priority to get more active with federal and county partners. He forecasts a continuing effort to put together local, regional, state and federal resources. But it is difficult to deal with issues that are generational. Government tends to focus attention on more immediate concerns.

Questions 4 & 5:

What other major issues do you think the legislature must deal with in 2018? What are your personal priorities?

His core effort will be to build on the success of the **Disclose Act**, by introducing a bill that would require similar reporting for social media. We want to be sure that social media platforms are partners in the discovery of funding behind messages, make that information available to the public and maintain proper records.

As Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore, Mr. Mullin wants to give voice to issues of **affordable housing and transportation**. He is a co-author on a bill that would reinstitute redevelopment agencies. He has also co-authored a bill to make it easier for the Department of Housing and Community Development to set interests rates on loans for affordable housing developments.

In **transportation**, he is involved in identifying funding for managed lanes on Highway 101 through the Peninsula. It is a very impacted corridor and is getting lots of attention right now because of its financial impact on California.

There are several **sexual harassment bills** coming forward now. He feels that we will be better off with real reform, and it's time to end protection of members.

Assemblymember Mullin is passionate about **tax reform**. The current tax structure is too dependent on capital gains. We need a conversation on how to stabilize revenue. We have an antiquated structure that must be dealt with as a public/private deal, and it will need to be led by someone with political heft, such as the next governor.

HIGHLIGHTS from the April 12th BOARD Meeting:

Your Board

- Noted that the Annual Meeting will run later than usual this year, with a longer agenda due to the proposed Merger (see From the Board).
- Heard that Geoff Ryder has planned several Voter Services events, and that our presence at the Menlo Park Farmers' Market provided good interactions with the community.

Discussed

- Certain proposed changes to Bylaws—terms of office to coincide with July 1 fiscal year; clarification of roles of Vice Presidents, with 1st VP to maintain Bylaws, and 2nd VP to maintain positions.
- The need to develop reporting forms for in-kind donations.
- Verifying consistency in policies and contracts in advance of merger.
- What should be our policy on membership and proration, given that National counts as of January 31, and our fiscal year ends June 30?

Learned

- Guest speakers at Annual Meeting will be from WIRE for Women, a nonpartisan organization comprised of women and men committed to increasing the number of women in appointed and elected office in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. WIRE identifies and recruits candidates for public office and supports their efforts by providing a broad network of resources.
- Members have been working to get signatures to place the Schools and Communities First proposition on the state ballot, which had been planned for November. The initiative's backers have postponed this until the 2020 election; signatures may still be gathered through June.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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MAY		
4 Fri	10 am - noon	MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK—FIRSTHAND REPORT FROM LWV US LEADERSHIP. Community Room, Redwood City Main Library, 1044 Middlefield Road. Contact: Kathleen Weisenberg, 650-232-7146, davkatweisenberg@att.net
8 Tues	1 pm	PROS & CONS PRESENTATION—League Members and the Public Invited! Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Avenue, Menlo Park. Contact: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com 650-839-8647
9 Weds	7 pm	PROS & CONS PRESENTATION—League Members and the Public Invited! Community Room, Menlo Park Main Library, 800 Alma Street, Menlo Park. Contact: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com 650-839-8647
10 Thurs	7 - 9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock’s house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Lucile caspurlock@aol.com
15 Tues	1 - 3 pm	CENSUS 2020: LWV North and Central General Meeting. Silicon Valley Community Foundation, 1300 South El Camino Real, San Mateo. Contact: Susie Raye, 650-342-5853, program@lwnvncsmc.org
15 Tues	7 – 9 pm	IMPACT OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT; MAY GENERAL MEETING WITH STANFORD’S MARC DUGGAN. Woodside Road United Methodist Church, 2000 Woodside Road, Redwood City. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, 650-868-0320 safouche@comcast.net
20 Sun	12 noon	PROS & CONS PRESENTATION—League Members and the Public Invited! St. Bede’s Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Contact: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com 650-839-8647
21 Mon	7 pm	PROS & CONS PRESENTATION—League Members and the Public Invited! Woodside Road United Methodist Church, 2000 Woodside Road (at Alameda de las Pulgas), Redwood City. Contact: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com 650-839-8647
24 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting. <i>Political Tribes: Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations</i> , by Amy Chua. At Lucile Spurlock’s house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Judy Orttung,
24 Thurs	7 pm	PROS & CONS PRESENTATION—League Members and the Public Invited! St. Matthias Church, 1685 Cordilleras Road, Redwood City. Contact: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com 650-839-8647
JUNE		
5 Tues		PRIMARY ELECTION DAY!
7 Thurs	6 – 9:30 pm	ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER. The Old Spaghetti Factory, 2107 Broadway, Redwood City. Contact: Shirley Des Marais sdesmarais@pacbell.net
9 Sat		NEW VOICES FOR YOUTH VIDEO SCREENING. MidPen Media Center, 900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Contact: Kathleen Weisenberg, 650-232-7146, davkatweisenberg@att.net
14 Thurs	7 - 9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock’s house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Lucile caspurlock@aol.com