



The Voter



League of Women Voters of North & Central San Mateo County, California

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

March 2018

General Meeting

Tuesday March 20, 2018
1-3 p.m.

Silicon Valley Community Foundation
1300 South El Camino Real, San Mateo, California 94402

California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018

The *California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018* is an initiative that will restore over \$11 billion per year to California's schools, community colleges, health clinics, and other vital local services.

Join the League of Women Voters California, PICO California, California Calls, Advancement Project California, Evolve California, and a growing coalition of organizations to fund California schools by closing the Corporate Property Tax Loophole in Proposition 13 while continuing to guarantee protections for homeowners, residential renters, agricultural land, and small businesses.

Speaker: Helen Hutchinson, President, League of Women Voters California

Helen will provide details on this initiative and how we can become involved to gather signatures to place this on the November ballot.

For more information, go to the Make It Fair website at <http://makeitfairca.com>.

Directions: From Hwy 92, exit at El Camino Real, go North for .6 mile; Silicon Valley Community Foundation is on the left (west) side, parking is available in the lot and on the street.

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Ann Kuchins, President • Marie Baldisseri, Membership Chair • Ann Kuchins, Editor

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President's Message



At its February meeting, the board voted to work with the LWVC on *The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018* initiative that would close a loophole in Proposition 13 that currently benefits millionaires, billionaires, and corporations. If this initiative makes it to the ballot and is passed by the voters, approximately \$11 billion will go to California's schools, community colleges, health centers, and other local services per year. LWVC president **Helen Hutchinson** has been working with the Make It Fair campaign (<http://makeitfairca.com/>) and she is coming to our March meeting to inform us of this initiative and to enlist our help.

The first step in the campaign is to get enough signatures to put the initiative on the ballot. This will require a lot of work in a relatively short period of time. If you are interested in this reform, you can meet the public and solicit signatures. However, if this is not your style, you can focus on your family and friends for signatures. You can turn in an initiative form with only one signature. There is room for everyone who is interested in getting involved. At our meeting on March 20, we will reserve a few minutes to talk with Helen on how to take action.

After months of meticulous planning, the Observer Corps is getting underway! **Marie Baldisseri** and **Marta Bookbinder** began their observation of the City of Burlingame by meeting with the City Clerk to review the policies and procedures of the City of Burlingame as they relate to the Observer Corps mission to "promote accountability, transparency and genuine access to government that values the public's participation in their government." They will follow up by attending city council meetings and reporting on their findings to the public with the approval of the LWV North and Central San Mateo County board. If you are interested in participating with the Observer Corps, contact **Maxine Turner** or **Marta Bookbinder**. See the Member Handbook for their information or leave a message on the League phone.

On the Voter's Choice Act (VCA) front, **Pedro Gonzalez** has organized an informational meeting on the VCA for Spanish-speaking voters of San Mateo County at the Community Learning Center in SSF on Saturday, March 3, 10:00 -11:30 a.m. Our next meeting for the VCA committee is Saturday, March 3 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the League office located at 444 Peninsula Ave. Suite 1, San Mateo. If you are interested in getting out the vote, please join us.

At our Pros and Cons presentations, we will be adding information on the VCA as it is crucial that voters know where and when they can vote in the June primary.

For newer members, Pros and Cons is a staple activity for all local Leagues. We provide a nonpartisan analysis of the state ballot propositions. At the state level, the League does make recommendations on measures related to our positions. However, we do not mention those recommendations at a Pros and Cons presentation. Our Voter Service director, **Gayle Hardt**, provides a script that is objective in outlining the pros and cons of a ballot measure. We will be announcing training sessions for the Pros and Cons presenters, so stay tuned. This is one of our most valued services and we need you!

The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all. – John F. Kennedy



The Nominating Committee is looking for a few people to fill out our Board of Directors. The commitment depends upon what position you hold on the board but always involves attending the monthly board meeting. If you are interested in serving on the board, please talk to one of the Nominating Committee members: Betty Fleming, Marie Baldisseri, Kristi Denham, Shirley Roberson, or Kathee Tyson.
(wvncsmc@sbcglobal.net)

Ann Kuchins, President

Board Highlights

At the February board meeting:

- Heard that Ann Kuchins has been representing the League at several VCA meetings and will be on the steering committee for the San Mateo County Hub
- Learned that we will have an interview with Assemblymember Kevin Mullin on February 21, one with State Jerry Hill via phone on February 12 and one with Assemblymember Marc Berman on February 16
- Will write a letter based on our housing position to the Millbrae City Council supporting the inclusion of affordable housing in the Gateway Station Project
- Decided to participate in the Make It Fair Campaign – California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018
- Heard that our Observer Corps has plans to observe the City of Burlingame procedures
- Learned that Generation Citizen will start their program at Mills High School this month. We will watch their progress.

Jean Johnson, Secretary

Bay Area League Day 2018

Think regionally. This was the theme of Bay Area League Day's program Winds of Change: Regional Government-Intersections and Interconnection. The main issues that impact the Bay Area region, which includes nine counties and 101 cities, are housing, transportation, climate, air quality, and water. The one thing that all counties have in common is that all nine counties border the San Francisco bay. In fact, one of the first most successful organizations that instituted regional planning was the Save the Bay movement, founded by 3 women in 1961, Esther Gulick, Sylvia McLaughlin, and Catherine (Kay) Kerr.



The keynote speaker, State Senator Bob Wieckowski, stated that how well we accept regionalism will determine the success for the Bay Area. It is too expensive for cities and counties to resolve these problems on their own. He cited Measure AA, a nine county parcel tax to restore the wetlands passed in June 2016, as an example of how we can put personal interests aside to deal with regional issues.

The morning session included a discussion on Today's Swirling Cross-Winds: Creation of a New Comprehensive Regional Planning Agency. Julie Pierce, a Clayton council member, discussed the merger of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Center (MTC). The integration of these two groups is in process and has resulted in a more holistic and consistent mission.

The afternoon session was a roundtable discussion, Regional "Weather" Forecast – Today and Tomorrow with representatives from Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC), MTC, Committee to House the Bay Area (CASA), Bay Area Council/Economic Institute, San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), Nonprofit Housing of Northern California, and Working

Partnerships USA.

The participants were asked to comment on how their organization promotes equity and touched on the following topics:

- Approaching problems from an equity perspective means determining who is going to benefit and how to protect the vulnerable.
- Working collaboratively on both climate adaptation and mitigation goes hand in hand.
- Counties must address regional issues more directly.
- Increasing housing includes the three Ps: protection, preservation, and production.
- Affordable housing is missing the middle income earners, which includes workers such as teachers and nurses.
- Regionalism and local control are often at odds with each other.
- Everyone deserves an affordable home.
- Silicon Valley is the epicenter of inequality with successful high wage earners on one end of the spectrum and the homeless and poor on the other end.

A surprise visitor was Oakland mayor Libby Schaaf, who gave credit to the League for inspiring and promoting her interest in government. She was emphatic on the importance of working regionally on problems. The quality of life is unsustainable when too many people have impossibly long commutes and miss out on home and family life.

What's coming up next to promote regional government? MTC worked with the Legislature on Senate Bill 595 (authored by Senator Beall of San Jose) and signed into law by Governor Brown. This bill increases Bay Area bridge tolls by \$3. The proceeds will go to several transportation-related projects throughout the bay area. California voters will have the opportunity to vote on this measure.



Ann Kuchins, President

Thank You!

Thank you to our members who generously volunteered their time to count ballots at Shelter Creek on February 13. **Maria Barr, Marta Bookbinder, Betty Fleming, Jean Johnson, Sheila Musselman, Diana Stephens and Don Jacobberger** were efficient and the process was completed in two hours. Opening the ballots is always the most tedious and time-consuming part of the process and they cheerfully slit all those envelopes. We were fortunate to have members from the northern area of our League willing to help with this project.

This is the eleventh year that the League has been asked to be Inspector of Elections for Shelter Creek and we anticipate that the League will be asked again to provide this service. These projects help relieve the need for other fundraising efforts. Several years ago we conducted training on how to manage these elections but it is time to recruit new people to learn the basics of the process. The state law is very specific about how these elections are to be conducted. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me (email office@lwnvncsmc.org or leave a message on the League phone 650-342-5853).

Jackie Jacobberger

Action

LWVUS

The League just celebrated the 98th anniversary of its founding. Hurray for longevity and the dedication of its members over this long time span. As ever, more work needs to be done. The LWVUS legislative priority will be to continue to focus on the core Campaign for Making Democracy Work (MDW) issues with special emphasis on protecting voting rights. The League recognizes that the next year will be full of the unexpected, and as other important topics come up, the LWVUS will respond and alert Leagues as to how they can support those efforts. The Dream Act, immigration reform, climate change, and health care defense remain important. The board can re-examine or realign legislative priorities as the situation may dictate throughout the coming year.

Of immediate concern to Leagues affected by offshore drilling is this change in the rules. The public comment period ends on March 9, 2018. To make a comment, email the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) at <https://www.boem.gov/National-Program-Comment>.

The EPA has extended the deadline for receiving public comments on the rollback of the clean power plan to April 26, 2018. The LWVUS has submitted comments, but more are needed. To comment on the proposed repeal, go to <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/clean-power-plan-proposed-repeal-how-comment>.

LWVC

June, 2018, is the date for a statewide primary election. Get interested and remind all voters you know that they can register and vote as late as Election Day by going to a voting center anywhere in the county. The center can be close to where you work and not in your residential district. Some voting centers open 29 days before the election and more centers will open as Election Day nears. The San Mateo County Elections Office will publicize the location of these voting centers and they will be listed in the mail-in ballot. This applies to San Mateo County residents and other select counties as this is part of the Voter's Choice Act. Other California counties can opt into this voting model in 2020.

Diana Stephens, Action Director

Welcome to Our New Member!

Doris Lapworth

March Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Saturday March 3	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Voter's Choice Act Committee Meeting	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Monday March 5	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Board Meeting All members welcome	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Saturday March 10	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Voter Registration at the CSM Farmer's Market	CSM Farmer's Market 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd, San Mateo
Wednesday March 14	Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Brown Bag Lunch with the League	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Tuesday March 20	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	General Meeting California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018	Silicon Valley Community Foundation 1300 South El Camino Real, San Mateo

JOIN THE LEAGUE!

Where new members just like you are taking advantage of leadership opportunities and making an impact.

Name(s)

Address

City Zip Code

Phone Number (daytime)

E-mail address

Amount enclosed \$ _____

(\$75 one member; \$115 two members, same household; \$40 each additional member, same household. *Dues are tax deductible.*)

Mail to: LWVNCSMC 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo, CA 94401

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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