

# ANNUAL MEETING KIT

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
Los Altos - Mountain View Area**

**Annual Business Meeting**

***Come Celebrate Another Successful Year***

**Saturday June 2, 2018  
10:00 a.m.**

**Michaels at Shoreline**  
2960 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View  
(past Shoreline Amphitheater near the Golf Course)  
(650) 962-1014

10:00 a.m.	Registration
10:20 a.m.	Meeting Called to Order
11:45 a.m.	Break and Conversation
Noon	Lunch
<i>See reservation instructions on page 17</i>	
12:45 p.m.	Speaker: Maya Perkins, Executive Director of Bay Area Forward

***PLEASE BRING THIS KIT WITH YOU***

## Dues for 2018-2019 are due

On July 1, 2018 it will be time to renew your membership for 2018-2019. To pay your dues, please go to [lwvlamv.org](http://lwvlamv.org) and click on the red "Join" button. There are instructions for renewing your membership by paying online with your credit card.

You may also pay by mailing a check to: League of Women Voters, PO Box 3492, Los Altos, 94024

Be sure to include the member's name, address, telephone number and email address. Dues for 2018-2019 are \$75 for individuals and \$110 for households.

*The League believes that sensible, responsible civil discourse and action, based on substance rather than partisanship, is essential for civic improvement. We believe that with members like you, we can make democracy work. Renew your membership and be part of the solution!*

## 2018 Annual Meeting

"An Annual Meeting of Local League Members shall be held between May 1 and June 30, the exact date to be determined by the Board. At the Annual Meeting, the Local League Members shall:

- (a) Adopt a local program
  - (b) Elect directors, officers and Local League Members to serve on the Nominating Committee
  - (c) Adopt a budget; and
  - (d) Transact such other business as may properly come before it; ..."
- Local Bylaws, Article IX, sec. 2
- "A quorum for the Annual Meeting of Local League Members ... shall consist of 10% of the Local League members." Local Bylaws, Article IX, sec. 4

### Proposed Rules of the Annual Meeting

1. Accepted parliamentary procedure (Robert's Rules of Order) shall govern the conduct of the meeting.
2. All speakers must be recognized by the Chair and address their remarks to the Chair.
3. During discussion, each speaker will be limited to two minutes.
4. All lengthy motions must be submitted in writing to the Secretary.
5. Majority vote is required to adopt the Agenda and Annual Meeting rules. Once adopted, a two-thirds vote is required to change them.
6. Majority vote is required for Budget adoption and the Election.
7. A Bylaw change requires a two-thirds vote.

### Useful criteria to consider when considering or recommending a New Study:

1. Is the issue one on which government action is needed?
2. Will political realities permit effective action?
3. Does the issue involve a current need or is it well addressed without this study?
4. Will the issue be important and timely in two years, the time generally needed to complete a study and reach member consensus?
5. Does the issue fall within LWV principles?
6. Does it have member interest and commitment?
7. Would the study attract new members and community interest?

**League of Women Voters Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, June 2, 2018**  
**Agenda**

**Parliamentarian:** Crownie Billik

**Secretary:** Abby Longcor

10:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION	
10:20 a.m.	CALL TO ORDER	Sue Graham
	Welcome and introductions	
	Quorum count	
	Adoption of Rules & Agenda	
	Accept 2017 minutes	
	Announce Committee to review 2018 minutes	
	Treasurer's report	Natalie Elefant
	Budget Committee report (vote)	Sue Graham
	Program Planning 2018-2019 (vote)	Sue Graham
	Overview of new Rent Stabilization Position	Sue Russell
	Affirm existing local positions (vote)	Sue Graham
	2017-2018 Review	Sue Graham
	Recognition of 2017-2018 Board, Directors, Consultants and Observers	
	Nominating Committee report (vote)	Crownie Billik
	Welcome to the new Board	Sue Graham
	Direction from the Membership for 2018-2019	
11:45 a.m.	BREAK & CONVERSATION	
Noon	LUNCH	
12:45 p.m.	SPEAKER: Maya Perkins, Executive Director: Bay Area Forward TOPIC: Bay Area Forward is a broad-based coalition fostering inclusive communities as a special project fund of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. There is a growing revival of people willing to try to work together on our shared concerns. We don't have to agree on everything but can we move forward together? Are you willing to try?	

**League of Women Voters of the LosAltos-Mountain View Area  
Proposed FY 2018-2019 Budget  
Reviewed by Board 04-17-18**

	FY 2016-17 Actual 16-17	FY 2017-18 Budget 17-18	FY 2017-18 YTD 03/31/18	FY 18-19 Proposed Budget
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>				
Dues	\$13,548	\$14,000	\$10,280	\$13,175
Contributions	\$2,927	\$1,200	\$4,120	\$2,000
Annual mtg	\$1,430	\$1,000		\$1,000
Miscellaneous Income			\$620	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$17,905</u></b>	<b><u>\$16,200</u></b>	<b><u>\$14,400</u></b>	<b><u>\$16,175</u></b>
<b>Reserve Contribution</b>	<b>\$7,887</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>		<b>\$6,425</b>
<b>Total Income &amp; Reserve Contribution</b>	<b><u>\$25,792</u></b>	<b><u>\$19,200</u></b>		<b><u>\$22,600</u></b>

\*Dues collected at Annual Mtg for next fiscal year are recorded in current fiscal year.

<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>				
<b>Community/VS/Action</b>	\$4,105	\$700	\$960	\$3,000
Voter's Edge	\$1,062	\$0		\$1,000
Pros/cons,FFV,Voters Guide	\$497	\$0	\$135	\$1,000
Public mtgs, Advocacy	\$2,546	\$700	\$825	\$1,000
Study Committees	\$0	\$0		\$0
<b>Financial Support for Leagues*</b>	\$9,398	\$10,700	\$10,206	\$10,200
<b>Member Services</b>	\$1,214	\$1,200	\$742	\$1,200
<b>Convention/workshops</b>	\$6,651	\$4,000	\$0	\$5,000
<b>Annual mtg</b>	\$1,182	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
<b>Office/Adminstration</b>	\$3,017	\$1,600	\$1,444	\$2,200
<b>Leagueathon</b>	\$225	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				\$0
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b><u>\$25,792</u></b>	<b><u>\$19,200</u></b>	<b><u>\$13,352</u></b>	<b><u>\$22,600</u></b>

**Balance in Leopold account 3/31/18 is \$51,018**

## **Budget Committee Report (Members: Sue Graham, Pat Kassner and Natalie Elefant)**

The Budget Committee met on March 6, 2018 to prepare the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2018 and ending on June 30, 2019. The Board accepted the Budget Committee's recommendations at its April 17, 2018 meeting. Below are some conclusions and comments from the Budget Committee that help explain the proposed budget.

### **INCOME:**

- We did not hold a Leagueathon fund raising event this year as we have ample reserves in our Leopold Fund, a generous bequest made many years ago by a League member. As of March 31, 2018 we had \$51,018.
- Dues will remain at \$75 for individuals and \$110 for households. Dues have held steady since 2014-2015.

### **EXPENSES:**

- The Community/VoterServices/Action budget has been increased to cover the additional expenses for the 2018 November election activities. These include candidate forums, explanation of ballot measures, and videotaping events to post online.
- Our biggest expense are the payments that we send on to the National, State, and Bay Area Leagues. They depend on local Leagues for a large part of their revenue. Unlike local Leagues, State and National Leagues have paid staff such as an executive director, an administrative assistant, and, of course, lobbyists who advocate on behalf of League positions.
- Our next biggest expense is convention. Each year we send several members as delegates to our State and National conventions as we believe this helps new board members learn and appreciate how the local League fits in with the other Leagues.
- Our policy for use of the Leopold Fund is that it is to be used for one-time expenditures only. We consider convention to be a one-time expenditure as it can be cut back in any given year. If as we approach the end of the 2018-2019 fiscal year our revenues do not cover our expenses, we will either consider reducing the number of people we send to convention or cover the convention expense from our Leopold Fund depending on our overall financial situation.

## **Treasurer's Report (Natalie Elefant)**

The finances of our League this fiscal year have been uneventful this year. We have received some very generous contributions from non-members that have increased our income. Our Board voted to donate \$5000 to LWVUS 2018 Youth Voter Registration project from the Leopold Fund. Although our expenses for the coming fiscal year exceed our expected income with more than \$50,000 in the Leopold Fund, budget shortfalls can be covered with monies from that fund. Also our US Bank account is quite healthy. Since we will be holding a number of forums for the November election, hopefully we may get some new members and may receive contributions from the community.

## Program Planning 2018-2019

Every year in January League members meet to decide on which issues to focus in the coming year. In even numbered years, we choose issues for the LWV of the United States to study or to advocate for, as well as for our local League.

On January 20, 2018 members of the LWV of Los Altos-Mountain View met to review and discuss our priorities for the years 2018-2020 for LWVUS and for the year of 2018-2019 for our local League. The following is a summary of our discussion.

League members agreed to accept a LWVUS request that we not add any new studies or reviews to their program for 2018-2020. We agreed that focusing on Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance Reform/Money in Politics and Redistricting were the most important issues facing LWVUS and our country and should, therefore, receive the most attention. The request by the LWV of Palos Verdes Peninsula to recommend a study on Artificial Intelligence was not agreed to. Members cited the complexity of Artificial Intelligence and the fast-moving changes in the field, made it a difficult issue for us to study as we lack the technical expertise.

Our discussion about local priorities centered on growing our membership and elevating our public profile. We all agreed that while the League is well regarded, most people don't know what we do. We captured the following ideas:

### Recommendations

- write to city councils and commissions
- write and call legislators
- improve our outreach by using Nextdoor, PTAs, parent groups, MV Moms, Tech Bay Area, Lean-In, neighborhood associations, Facebook, twitter, text messages
- tell the Hilde Leopold story and history
- develop an elevator pitch
- connect LWV positions to local issues
- 'think before you sign' regarding all of the petitions that circulate
- e-blast to non-members
- determine what is our essence and what makes us unique

We agreed that we should continue to focus on housing and transportation in our community. We did not add Criminal Justice Reform to our list of priorities as requested by the LWV of Los Angeles.

We discussed our current teams and committees and what they are doing. Members wishing to get more involved were encouraged to join a team. The upcoming elections, June and November, will create work for us as we prepare to offer our signature events - candidate forums and ballot measure presentations.

We reviewed and voted to keep all current positions at the local level and at the state level.

## **The Rent Stabilization Study has ended and a position has been crafted.**

In November, 2016 voters in Mountain View passed Measure V, a charter amendment which provides rent stabilization and 'just cause' eviction policies in Mountain View. The LWV Housing Committee requested approval from the League membership to do a local study on this issue and was granted

approval at the 2017 Annual Meeting. The Housing Committee wanted to be prepared to respond to or advocate for possible changes to this charter amendment.

On March 31, 2018 the Rent Stabilization Study group held a consensus meeting for all League members to discuss the consensus questions that would inform our new position on rent stabilization as it applies to Mountain View. Subsequently, study committee members and board members met to craft a position. If you would like to find out more about the data that went in to the study and the subsequent position go to our website:

<https://www.lwvlamv.org/rent-stabilization-study/>

Here is the position.

Support rent stabilization and just cause programs that are fair and reasonable to landlords, tenants and the community.

The League finds that:

1. The community benefits when people have stable housing and can afford to live near their work, when businesses have access to workers of all skill and socioeconomic levels, and when rent stabilization is cost neutral to the city.
2. These programs benefit current and future tenants in units subject to rent control by minimizing displacement and providing stable and predictable housing costs, while also providing a fair rate of return to landlords because of vacancy decontrol.
3. These programs benefit tenants in units covered by just cause from arbitrary evictions but allow landlords to evict tenants for nonpayment of rent, breach of the lease, and other specified causes.
4. Banking is fair and reasonable to tenants and landlords so long as tenants receive an annual notification explaining that the landlord is banking the allowed rent increase.
5. Tenants should have the right to petition if their units are not kept in proper repair or their services are decreased or new costs, such as utilities, are charged.
6. Landlords should have the right to petition if they are not making a fair rate of return.
7. The fair rate of return should be based upon a non-volatile index to benefit both tenants and landlords.
8. It is appropriate that the fees to operate the program shall be cost-neutral to the city.

Glossary:

*Vacancy decontrol* – Vacancy Decontrol refers to the situation that occurs when a tenant voluntarily vacates a unit; the landlord can then charge whatever the market rent is at that time.

*Just cause* – Just Cause for eviction means the Landlord has a good or just reason for terminating a tenancy.

*Banking* - Banking allows the landlord to give the tenant a larger percentage increase in rent if the landlord has not increased the rent in the year(s) prior.

## Local Los Altos-Mountain View League Positions

### Local Government

- Support of General Plans in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Mountain View, which set forth goals and plans for achieving those goals. Each city's plan should reflect that city's needs and values. State

guidelines for general plans should be guidelines and not mandates. Background information should be expressed in a form that allows comparison of data on a regional basis. Los Altos Hills' plan should provide for services compatible with the rural nature of the area and should recognize LAH responsibilities to the region.

- Support for revision of general plans on a regularly scheduled basis with enough flexibility to allow early revision of any section that needs changing sooner than scheduled. Action plans should be revised more often than policies or goals. Early citizen input and public review are essential. Planning Commission should make proposals for revision. City Council should initiate unscheduled review if they see a need for it.
- Support of long-range capital improvement programs in Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills based on effective city planning and sound financing.

### **Education**

- Support of programs that develop and maintain quality education in local schools with curriculum that meets the needs of all students based on efficient administration and adequate financing.
- Support of merger of school districts as an option when class offerings are restricted so severely that more choice can only be brought about by merger. Mergers should maintain the community identity feeling and preserve neighborhood schools, particularly for primary grade students.
- Support of unification as a goal of school district reorganization.
- Support for annexation in concept.
- Support for school district reorganization in order to provide continuity (articulation) and to be a mechanism for handling school district integration.

### **Foothill-De Anza Community College District**

- Recognition that standards at state level are necessary for academic and transfer programs.
- The diversity from community to community within the state requires a measure of local control and local implementation to meet the specific needs of the broad spectrum of the student community.
- Support efforts by the Community College Board of Trustees and the local administration to achieve adequate State funding for the local districts.
- We support a locally controlled public community college district that meets the diverse needs of the district's population.
- The objective of this position is to support the following programs:
  1. General Education program
  2. Transfer program
  3. Associate degrees program (A.A. & A.S.)
  4. Employment Training
  5. Counseling
  6. Learning Center/Library
  7. Basic Skills and Remedial program
  8. In-service training program
  9. Tutorial services
  10. Life-long learning
- The Community College District should be supported by public funds controlled by the Board of Trustees. Objective of this position is to support public funds that are adequate, equitable, flexible, fair, predictable, and collectible.



## **Libraries**

- Support of funding for local libraries sufficient to maintain essential services, continuing the present level of funding plus an inflation factor.
- Support for supplemental library funding by the cities of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills and by the Santa Clara County General Fund representing unincorporated areas for the Los Altos and Woodland Libraries.
- Support for continuing Sunday hours at Mountain View Public Library and Los Altos Library, realizing it may be necessary to reduce other hours to achieve this.

## **Housing**

- Support for ordinances against age discrimination in housing.
- Support for retention of city ability to refuse conversion of apartments to condominiums when such conversion is not in the best interest of the city.
- Support of the following ways to cope with jobs/housing imbalance and related transportation problems:
  1. Increased densities where appropriate if a feeling of open space is retained.
  2. Cluster zoning, which provides open space.
  3. Retention of non-conforming use dwellings.
  4. Rezoning commercial to residential or mixed use.
  5. Improvement of CalTrain passenger service.
  6. Improvement of present freeways without expansion of system.
  7. Encouragement of car pooling, company buses, use of bicycles.
- Support rent stabilization and just cause programs that are fair and reasonable to landlords, tenant and the community.
  1. The community benefits when people have stable housing and can afford to live near their work, when businesses have access to workers of all skill and socioeconomic levels, and when rent stabilization is cost neutral to the city.
  2. These programs benefit current and future tenants in units subject to rent control by minimizing displacement and providing stable and predictable housing costs, while also providing a fair rate of return to landlords because of vacancy decontrol.
  3. These programs benefit tenants in units covered by just cause from arbitrary evictions but allow landlords to evict tenants for nonpayment of rent, breach of the lease, and other specified causes.
  4. Banking is fair and reasonable to tenants and landlords so long as tenants receive an annual notification explaining that the landlord is banking the allowed rent increase.
  5. Tenants should have the right to petition if their units are not kept in proper repair or their services are decreased or new costs, such as utilities, are charged.
  6. Landlords should have the right to petition if they are not making a fair rate of return.
  7. The fair rate of return should be based upon a non-volatile index to benefit both tenants and landlords.
  8. It is appropriate that the fees to operate the program shall be cost-neutral to the city.

## **Healthcare**

- Support for increasing the number of skilled nursing facilities which accept Medicare and Medical in order to make nursing home care more accessible to all.

- Support for continuation of the ombudsman service to patients of skilled nursing facilities.
- Support for services (e.g., hospice, day health, home health) which enables the chronically or terminally ill to be cared for outside of institutions.
- Support for programs which make health education and outreach services (e.g., nutrition, transportation, social services) accessible and affordable to those in need.
- Support for the use of health insurance plans which encourage the most appropriate and cost-effective care.
- Support for programs which seek to educate consumers about health insurance coverage.

### **El Camino Hospital**

- Support efforts to preserve the hospital as presently located and to continue to serve the health care needs of the community.
- Support efforts to attract enough primary care physicians to meet the health care needs of the community.
- In the interest of good public relations, both the El Camino Hospital District Board and the El Camino Hospital Board should communicate with the public regularly, make frequent progress reports, and have periodic meetings open to the public.
- El Camino Hospital District should continue to collect property tax moneys and should make detailed reports to the community on how the taxes are used.
- El Camino Hospital District should not transfer the hospital land to any entity without a vote of the electorate. El Camino Hospital District should not be dissolved without a vote of the electorate.
- The LWV study of El Camino Hospital District and El Camino Hospital Board should remain active to monitor the collection and use of tax dollars and any changes in the organization of the district, in order to reach new consensus as appropriate and take action in a timely manner.

## LWVLAMV Slate of Officers and Directors 2018-2019

2018-2019 Nominating Committee members: Crownie Billik, Gary Hedden

<u>Officers</u>	President:	Sue Graham
	Vice President, Program:	Carol Kuiper
	Vice President, Action:	Merrian Nevin
	Secretary:	Martha McClatchie
	Treasurer:	Natalie Elefant
<u>Directors</u>	Government:	Katie Zoglin
	Natural Resources:	Gary Hedden
	Social Policy:	Ellen Wheeler
	Voter Service:	Vicki Gilfix
	Data Manager:	Catherine Vonnegut
	<i>Voter</i> Editor:	Sue Graham, Lisa McLain
	Membership:	Sue Graham
	Tech Team:	Max Beckman-Harned, Tricia Jordan
	Directors at large	Katherine Campodonico

2019-2020 Nominating Committee: Crownie Billik, Gary Hedden

## Portfolio Reports

### **Voter Service Committee: Vicki Gilfix, Chairperson**

2017 was an extremely exciting time for me to step into one of the most important Committees of League of Woman Voters. We found ourselves in the throes of much political upheaval. The 2016 elections were followed by marches and movements such as “Women’s Marches”, “# Me Too” and “March for our Lives”. We needed to channel this energy in a positive way.

Starting in early fall of 2017, a Voter Service Steering Committee was formed. Our initial purpose was to determine the direction for this committee. We knew the Committee had several programs in place. We held Candidate Forums and Pros & Cons sessions to full houses. We also participated in New Citizens Ceremonies in spring and fall of the year.

As we moved forward, we found additional programs to consider, that were the heart of Voter Services. They were:

1. Our primary function of Registering New Voters, with National Voter Registration Day scheduled for late September.
2. Learning that in 2016, the California Senate had passed SB 450 (California Voter’s Choice Act). This bill is not mandatory, and Santa Clara County has until 2020 to determine whether to enact in the County. We realized we needed more information.
3. We found another program called “Teen Voter’s Registration Day”. We learned that we could reach out to 16 1/2 - 17 year-olds to pre-register young people to vote, important because they have been traditionally unrepresented at the polls. We contacted the local High Schools and found there were existing programs where we could provide information and assist in registering them to vote. When the “Walk-out Day” happened, MVHS invited us to step in and participate. This be will addressed by the Committee to become a continuing program.

We have also reached out to LAHS and Foothill College.

4. As Registering new Voters is so important to this Committee, we found we needed to be better informed to be sure we were giving out correct information. We reached out to the Registrar of Voter’s office, with questions about how we, as LWV could work together most effectively. We set a list of goals:

- A. work directly with the ROV at polling places
- B. Identify which Volunteer programs would fit with League programs, with an eye to the 2020 Presidential Election.
- C. Work with ROV to encourage Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to consider adopting SB 450, and work with them to roll out the program. SB 450 is a “Vote by Mail” program and a major change from local polling places. There will be a need for an extensive education program, creating an entirely new way of operating the voting process. League could be of help organizing Town Hall meetings to help with a smooth rollout across the county.

As we move forward, Voter Services is continuing to work with fulfilling our primary programs. We are looking toward the 2018 election cycle. In February we fulfilled our commitment to the “New Citizens Ceremony. We are working with MVHS to create a program where we will be on Campus quarterly to assist the Associated Student Body with a program to inform, educate and pre-register Teens to Vote. Our Goal is to provide information through Voter’s Edge, Easy Voter’s Guide and materials provided by ROV.

We are looking forward to an extremely busy 2018. Please consider joining the Voter Services Committee.

### **Government: Katie Zoglin, Chairperson**

Impartial Judiciary. In the October, we held a well-attended panel discussion on "An Impartial Judiciary: A Cornerstone of Democracy." Our panelists were U.S. District Court Judge Beth Labson Freeman, Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Rise Pichon, and attorney John Steele. The panelists explored the meaning of judicial impartiality and independence. They explained some of the rules that govern how judges work.

Recall Election. We developed an informational flyer that explains recall elections.

Understanding Local Government. Last year, we designed a presentation to help members of our community better understand how local government works in Mountain View and Los Altos. The presentations provide the tools and information to help people have a voice in shaping City policies, and to learn how decisions are made in each jurisdiction.

Please contact Katie Zoglin if you are interested in helping connect organizations or community groups that are interested in seeing this presentation with the League.



### **Membership: Sue Graham, Chairperson**

As of April 16, 2018, our membership count was 217. The activism created by the 2016 election, the #metoo movement and the March for our Lives has brought the League new members. And we are grateful to our longtime members for renewing their membership. We know that not everyone can commit time to do League work but your membership helps increase the effectiveness of our League’s advocating efforts. The more members we have, the stronger our voice.

Reminder: On July 1, annual membership dues for July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 are due. We will send dues reminders via email to those members who have email. For non-email users, we will send regular mail reminders. Look for your dues notice in late July. We hope that all of you continue to support our League with your timely membership renewal. Dues are \$75, \$110 for households.



## **Natural Resources: Gary Hedden, Chairperson**

The League will monitor and report on new developments, e.g. initiatives by Silicon Valley Clean Energy to promote fuel switching from natural gas to electricity, the impact on recycling and waste management due to the strict rules imposed this year by China on plastic waste, projects to conserve and better manage our water resources, the evaluation and enhancements to our local climate action plans and relevant land use decisions.



## **Education: Ellen Wheeler, Chairperson**

The education committee of LWV Santa Clara County has met all year in essentially bimonthly lunchtime meetings on the 4th Monday of the month. Its chair is Ellen Wheeler of our Los Altos-Mountain View LWV. We have representation from all 5 Leagues in Santa Clara County. Our group includes Leaguers with lots of history and new Leaguers, many of whom are school board candidates or trustees who have been recruited by Ellen. We've benefitted by having Roberta Hollimon, chair of LWVSCC County Council as a regular attendee of our meetings since she adds continuity and common sense reflections to our discussions. Having this wide range of knowledge is beneficial to the robustness and relevance of our committee. We share education news and issues and always have great discussions. Our meeting topics range from quality early childhood education to higher education and various education issues such as Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), Common Core, testing, and A-G requirements. (A-G requirements refers the high school classes students are required to take in order to be admitted to a UC or CSU).

We continue to be grateful to the local and state members who worked on and completed our LWVC study on "Public Higher Education in California." After all, it was our delegates from LWVLAMV who got that study off the ground!



## **The Voter: Sue Graham & Lisa McLain, Co-editors**

Our newsletter, the Voter, has migrated to an online publication. Many people have told us they prefer to receive communication this way and it saves the League money. Electronic versions of *The Voter* make it easier for readers to link to expanded stories or to easily sign up for an event.

Every month, *The Voter* contains in-depth observer's reports, news from local, state, and national levels of the League, mentions of local events sponsored by other community members of interest to League members. *The Voter* team includes Sue Graham, content editor, and Lisa McLain, production editor.

*The Voter* Team acknowledges and thanks our many observers and board members who contribute outstanding articles every month. They make *The Voter* the informative and interesting newsletter that it is.



**Housing: Susan Russell & Donna Yobs, Co-chairs**

The Housing Committee has been advocating on many issues in both Los Altos and Mountain View, as well as monitoring development proposals and affordable housing strategies in both cities.

We have sent letters to the Mountain View Council and Environmental Planning Commission urging a higher percentage of below-market-rate units (BMRs), particularly since State law has now overridden the Palmer decision, allowing local jurisdictions to require BMRs in rental developments. We have also supported the City's affordable housing goal of achieving 20% of all housing units in North Bayshore as affordable units. We have supported similar guidelines for East Whisman. We have supported all-affordable developments such as the Midpen proposal for additional units at Shorebreeze. We will continue to monitor the Mountain View impact fee programs and BMR strategies, as changes are due to be proposed to these programs shortly.

In Los Altos, we have advocated for adoption of impact fees based upon a nexus study completed last spring. We have supported allowing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on smaller lots and loosening other requirements for such units. Although a new ordinance was passed, it was pulled at the time of second reading and now won't come back to Council for several months. We will continue to monitor this issue, as well as the impact fees. We have also written letters urging the Council to use one of its downtown parking lots as a site for affordable housing; we are hopeful this will be included in the downtown visioning scenario to be adopted by Council within a few months.

We usually meet the second Thursday evening of the month, but best to check with Sue Russell to confirm date and place. We welcome new members.



**Juvenile Justice: Ellyn Corey, Chairperson & Crownie Billik, Social Policy Director**

Our committee is studying the current state of Juvenile Justice in Santa Clara County and is planning a series of articles to inform membership about issues related to this. We anticipate hosting a forum regarding Juvenile Justice and the education system within the year. New members are welcome!



**Voter's Edge Liaison: Lois Rosenblum**

The League now posts candidate profiles and ballot measure information on **Voter's Edge California**, a partnership between the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund's **Smart Voter** and MapLight.

Voter's Edge has everything we loved about Smart Voter – a personalized ballot by address including polling place location, candidate profiles, and ballot measures - now with campaign finance and even

more election information! It is a comprehensive, nonpartisan online guide to federal, state, and local elections in California, Illinois, and New York.

With Voter's Edge, voters can:

- Access their full, personalized ballot by entering their address.
- Get in-depth information on candidates, measures, and who supports them.
- See candidate biographies, top priorities, photos, policy videos, endorsements, and detailed information about who funds their campaigns.
- Read neutral summaries of ballot measures, see the latest news on the measures, and find out who supports and opposes them.
- Check where, when, and how to vote, including information on their local polling locations.
- Keep track of their choices to make voting easier.
- Share information about the election with friends and family.

Voter's Edge has been managed by Lois Rosenblum but she is now stepping down and we are looking for a new Voter's Edge liaison.



### **Observers: Sue Graham**

Through regular attendance at public meetings of local governmental agencies, the Observer Corps seeks to keep elected officials aware of the League's ongoing interest in local government and to better inform League and local community members about the issues and governmental processes affecting their communities.

This past year we have been ably represented by:

- Lucas Ramirez, Mountain View City Council
- Claire Noonan, Los Altos City Council
- Devon Conley, Mountain View Whisman School District
- Sally Ahnger, Mountain View-Los Altos High School District
- Ellen Wheeler, Bullis Charter School

We were sad to say goodbye to Julie Lovins who died this year. She had represented us at the Mountain View City Council meetings for many years. We are grateful to Lucas Ramirez for stepping in to fill her shoes. We welcomed Devon Conley who attends meetings of the Mountain View Whisman School District. Sally Ahnger is stepping down so we need a new observer for the high school board. We still have openings at Los Altos School District and Los Altos Hills Town Council. If you are interested in becoming a League observer contact Sue Graham. We'll show you how it is done.





## **Sips & Civility Committee: Lisa McLain and Catherine Vonnegut, Co-chairs**

Sips and Civility hosts forums for the community to come together to discuss issues of local concern in a relaxed atmosphere. League and interested community members can socialize, listen to speakers and then break out into small groups to discuss the evening's topic.

Our first event was a social for our League members to meet for drinks and appetizers at Pacific Catch. It was a nice opportunity for new and veteran members to meet, chat and learn a little more about the League.

In February of this year we held our first public event, "Campers and RVs in our City", exploring the increasing number of vehicle dwellers living on the streets of Mountain View. We had panelists from the city, police department and CSA who discussed why more vehicle dwellers are living in MV, what the City and CSA are doing to be supportive and to minimize their impact on local residents. Given the topic we chose the traditional League format where the audience submitted questions by card. It was a very successful event with approximately 100 attendees.

We are currently planning our next event which will be in late spring or early fall. We hope to host small group discussions around important local concerns and to encourage us all to become more involved in their solutions. Please join our committee.



## **Tech Team: Max Beckman-Harned, Chairperson**

*The LWVLAMV Tech Team supports the activities of our League through implementation and support of digital infrastructure; which currently includes a WordPress-powered public website, the NeonCRM constituent management system, a SharePoint instance for Board documents, MailChimp mass email communication, and managed email forwarding.*

The Tech Team has worked in the 2017-2018 year to make the League's tech investments both more useful and more manageable.

Completed technical projects throughout the year include:

- Updating our internal email aliases at the beginning of the fiscal year
- We moved our domain registration from its current provider to the same provider who hosts our website; simplifying our online presence and updating our official contacts.
- We migrated our Mailchimp newsletter/e-Blast contacts and subscribers into NeonCRM. NeonCRM is now our single source of truth for membership and contact information and we push this data to Mailchimp on a regular basis. After this work, it was easy for us to add special membership notices in our fall Voters that only showed to members who had not renewed (letting them know when their membership expired) and subscribers who were not members, encouraging them to renew.
- To showcase the Housing Committee's excellent housing terms glossary during our League's rent stabilization study and as to enhance the readability of our observer reports, we integrated the terms

into our website. Our website now automatically adds a hover popup/link for any term in the glossary.

- We encouraged the Voter's Edge website to transition to full HTTPS usage, and once they had done so, added their widget to our front page (just in time for election season!)
- Adding website forms for event submission and Annual Meeting registration
- We regularly update the software and plugins in use on our public website to keep it safe and secure!

Our biggest continuing project is the redesign and reformat of our public website, spearheaded by Tricia Jordan. We are performing a holistic examination of our public website, figuring out how to best explain the League to the public and to showcase our work. We are looking to reduce the clutter of our website's current design and make our new website responsive, meaning that it will work equally as well on mobile phones, tablets, and computers. Beth Hondl and Xiaoyan Zhao have also been working with Tricia in this effort.

Beth Hondl has also taken over management of our Facebook page, and bringing her professional social media management expertise to bear has dramatically improved the quantity and quality of our posts. She finds content, adds images, writes up enticing summaries, and schedules posts to make sure we have a variety of content releasing on our site regularly. If you are on Facebook and have not already liked our page, what are you waiting for? Go to <https://www.facebook.com/lwvlamy> today and admire (and Like) Beth's work!

The Tech Team has also been working closely with Catherine Vonnegut, our data manager and event e-blast sender, supporting her use of Mailchimp and NeonCRM. Lisa McLain, our Voter editor, has been posting and categorizing all the Voter articles on our website. Interested in what a school board, city council, or the Mountain View Rental Housing Committee has been up to? No need to read through all our back issues of the Voter (although you can if you want)—just navigate to “Newsletter”, then “Observer Reports”, and the desired group to get a chronological list of all recent observer reports.

Finally, the Tech Team again thanks Sue Graham, who despite being President still finds the time to work closely with the Tech Team (and likely every other Team) to keep our League running smoothly and engaging new members in our work.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
LOS ALTOS-MOUNTAIN VIEW AREA  
97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022-3740  
(650) 429-8382

**ANNUAL MEETING KIT**

Annual Meeting LWV Los Altos - Mountain View Area  
Saturday, June 2, 2018

PREPAID RESERVATION REQUIRED FOR LUNCH  
Michaels at Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View

Go online to [lwvlamv.org](http://lwvlamv.org) to reserve and pay  
or  
return this portion with your check for \$30.00 per person (tax & tip included) to:  
League of Women Voters, PO Box 3492, Los Altos CA, 94024

Luncheon includes iced tea service.  
Please mark your entrée of choice:

- Breast of Chicken Marsala
- Chicken Caesar Salad
- Grilled Vegetable Brochette with Wild Rice

Make checks payable to League of Women Voters. **Respond by May 26th.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest \_\_\_\_\_

[Click here to pay online](#)

or

**Cut out page, complete and mail with Payment**