

League of Women Voters Los Alto Mountain View

## ZOOM ANNUAL MEETING\*\*

Saturday, June 20, 2020



***Please Pre- Register by Friday, June 19, to confirm your attendance and help us reach our needed quorum count. Here is how.***

[Click to Register](#) Within a few days of registering you will receive an email with the Zoom LINK to join our ANNUAL MEETING.

Looking forward to seeing you virtually on June 20th.

**9:45-10:15 a.m. ZOOM Room opens. ZOOM Training 101/conversation**

**10:15 a.m. Call to Order: Annual Business Meeting**

**11:15 a.m. Break and Conversation**

**11:30 a.m. Reconvene**



**Guest Speaker: CA-13 State Senator Jerry Hill** joins us. After brief opening remarks about the impact of COVID-19 on Sacramento and adapting to the “new normal”, Senator Hill will devote his remaining time to answering your questions about issues in the district and what lies ahead.

***\*\* Special thanks to Abby Longcor and Max Beckman-Harned for their technical assistance in making our Zoom Annual Meeting possible.***

***PLEASE refer to this kit to prepare for the Annual Meeting.***

## Dues for 2020-2021 are due.

On July 1, 2020, it will be time to renew your membership for 2020-2021. To pay your dues, please go to <https://www.lwvlamv.org/join/>.

Follow the instructions for renewing your membership by paying online with your credit card. You may also pay by mailing a check payable to LWVLAMV 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 2020-2021 are \$75 for individuals, \$110 for households and \$5 for young people.

*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!*

## 2020 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 one minute**.
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.

### 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 20, 2020

### Agenda

**Parliamentarian:** Ellen Wheeler

**Secretary:** Martha McClatchie

9:45 a.m. **Check-In/ZOOM Review Chat**

10:15 a.m. **CALL TO ORDER**

Lisa McLain

(Welcome and introductions, Quorum Count  
Adoption of Rules & Agenda, Announce Committee to review  
2020 minutes: Natalie Elefant, Carole Katz, Claire Noonan)

2020 Proposed Bylaw Amendments (vote)

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Lisa McLain

Treasurer's Report

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Natalie Elefant

Budget Committee Report (vote)

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Sue Graham

Program Planning 2020-2021 (vote)

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Carol Kuiper

Affirm existing local positions (vote)

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Carol Kuiper

2019-2020 President's Review

Lisa McLain

Recognitions for 2019-2020

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Lisa McLain

Nominating Committee Report (vote)

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Sue Graham

Welcome to the New Board

Lisa McLain

Portfolio Reports

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Direction from the Membership for 2020-2021

Lisa McLain

11:15 a.m. **BREAK & CONVERSATION**

11:30 a.m.- **SPEAKER:** CA-13 Senator Jerry Hill

12:15 p.m. **TOPIC: Senator Jerry Hill** will bring to bear his wealth of experience of more than 20 years as a Bay Area legislative leader and dedicated public servant as he answers your questions regarding the impact of COVID-19, the environment, health, education and welfare and other timely issues affecting residents of the district.



# 2020 Proposed Bylaw Amendments

## 1. Allow Virtual Meetings (Wording from LWVC)

### **Article VIII: Membership Meetings and Voting Rights**

#### Section 2. Virtual Meetings

One or more members may participate in any meeting by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, and similar electronic equipment, so long as all participants in the meeting can simultaneously hear and communicate with each other. This is acceptable for all meetings, including board meetings, membership meetings, and the Annual Meeting. Business in virtual meetings will be conducted in the same manner that meetings conducted in person are, including the same notice and quorum requirements.

Renumber existing sections.

## 2. Board can update bylaws to be compliant (Wording LWVC)

### **Article XIII: Amendments**

Section 2. When required by law or amendment of the LWVUS or the LWVC bylaws, these by-laws may be amended by the board of directors.

## 3. Voice Vote optional

### **Article IX: Nominations and Elections**

Section 4. Election. The election shall be by ballot, except that if there is but one nominee for each office, it ~~shall~~ **may** be by voice vote, in which a majority vote of those members present, qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. If the election is by written ballot, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes of those persons voting are elected.



## **Treasurer's Report    Natalie Elefant, Treasurer**

The day-to-day finances for the 2019-2020 fiscal year as of May 10, 2020, have been somewhat uneventful. We usually collect about 15% to 20% of our dues when members register for the Annual Meeting in June. Since this year's meeting will be virtual, we may see a shortfall in dues.

Our League was most fortunate to receive a generous bequest from a former member this fiscal year. Because of this bequest and that of another member many years ago, we should not have to increase our dues in the near future. Since our dues only cover our essential expenditures, we will be using these donations to fund many of our one-time or discretionary expenses. This year, our contribution to *Voter's Edge* was taken from these donation funds.

On the expense side beside our standard expenses, our Board voted to run two ads in the *Mountain View Voice* encouraging voters to vote No on Measure D—which did go down to defeat.



# Proposed Budget for 2020-2021

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LOS ALTOS MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDGET WORKSHEET FOR FISCAL 20-21

	Actual 17-18	Budget 18-19	Actual 18-19	Budget 19-20	YTD 2.28.20	Proposed 20-21	Leopold-Richards Proposed 20-21
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Dues	15,145	13,175	13,095	\$ 13,500	10,280	\$ 13,000	
Contributions	11,058	2,000	2,714	\$ 2,000	1,755	\$ 1,500	
members		2,000	2,500	\$ 1,000	1,200	\$ 1,000	
non-members		1,000	1,515	\$ 1,000	0	\$ 1,000	
Annual mtg.	1,175		1,9824	\$ 17,500	13,235	\$ 16,500	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>27,378</b>	<b>16,175</b>	<b>19,824</b>	<b>\$ 17,500</b>	<b>13,235</b>	<b>\$ 16,500</b>	
Reserves to balance budget		5,825		\$ 5,975			
				\$ 23,475			
<b>EXPENSES:</b>							
Community/VS/Action		3,000	4806	2400	460		
Voter's Edge	1,000		2000	\$ 1,000	0		\$ 2,000
Pros/cons.FVV,Voters Guide	140		1362	\$ 100	122	\$ -0	
Public mtgs, Advocacy	0		1444	\$ 1,300	338	\$ 3,150	
Events	0				0		\$ 3,500
Financial Support for Leagues**	11,900	10,200	11851	\$ 10,400	8,860	\$ 9,300	
Member Services	507	1,200	1444	\$ 1,150	959	\$ 600	Member letters, PayPal fees
Convention/workshops	2,320	5,000	9146	\$ 6,000		\$ 2,000	SF
Annual mtg	800	1,000	1174	\$ 1,125	0	\$ 1,100	
Office/Adminstration	5,720	1,600	2285	\$ 2,500	683	\$ 2,350	Insurance 700, storage unit 500, POBox 125, taxes 200, Neon & other technology 700
Miscellaneous				\$ 100		\$ 100	KMVT donation
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>22,387</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,706</b>	<b>\$ 23,675</b>	<b>10,962</b>	<b>\$ 16,500</b>	<b>\$ 7,600</b>
<p>The Budget Committee recommends that a cap of 8%/yr be used for discretionary expenses from the Leopold-Richards Fund. The 20-21 budget has a one-time expenditure for the Rise-Up exhibit and 100th anniversary celebration.</p>							
Prepared N. Elefant 4.10.20							

**Income:**

Current dues for individual membership are \$75 and household membership is \$110. Honorary Life Members pay no dues and Students pay \$5. Contributions include member and non-member donations. Miscellaneous income includes interest income, receipts from the Annual Meeting, and any other income not appropriate to other categories. Reserve Contributions are monies used from prior year balances in asset accounts such as our checking accounts and the Leopold-Richards Fund.

**Expenses:**

**Community/Voter Services/Action** is made up of publications, among which are *Facts for Voters*, *Pros & Cons*, *Voters Guide* and all cost of supplies, printing, and mailing involved in their distribution; Public Meetings for voter education, including room rental, food, flyers and handouts; votersedge.org support; Public Meetings and flyers for advocacy projects; Study Committees including supplies and postage.

**Financial Support for Leagues** is made up of required Per-Member-Payments (PMP) to LWV Bay Area, LWV California, LWVUS, and the LWV Santa Clara County Council assessment.

**Member Services** is made up of the Member Directory and all cost of supplies, printing and mailing involved in its distribution; Annual Meeting and Kit including all costs of supplies, printing, mailing and any subsidy for food and decorations; and Meetings for League members, including incidentals such as flowers and snacks. It also includes Web Hosting.

**Convention/Workshop Attendance** is made up of Convention or Council attendance expense and Workshop Attendance. In both cases the Board gives specific details of covered expenses to the prospective delegate/attendee.

**Office Expenses and Administration** are made up of Board and Off-Board Expenses, Insurance, Storage Unit, Post Office Box, Supplies, Postage, Computer Maintenance, Telephone, Taxes and Information Technology.

**Budget Committee Report:****Members: Sue Graham, Katie****Zoglin, Lisa McLain and Natalie Elefant**

The Budget Committee met online on April 8, 2020, to prepare the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2021. The Board accepted the Budget Committee's recommendations at its May 4, 2020, meeting. Below are some conclusions and comments from the Budget Committee that help explain the proposed budget.

**INCOME:**

A long-time member, Erika Richards, left our League \$50,000 from her estate last year. This donation raises our Leopold Fund to \$95,148.69 as of March 31, 2020. We will now call this the Leopold-Richards Fund.

- Because of these robust reserves we did not hold a fund-raising campaign nor have we increased dues.

- Dues will remain at \$75 for individuals and \$110 for households. Dues have held steady since 2014-2015.

**EXPENSES:**

- The Community/Voter Services/Action budget has been increased to cover the anticipated expenses of the 2020 November election activities. These include candidate forums, explanation of ballot measures and videotaping events to post online.
- Our biggest expenses 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 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-Richards 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.



**Program Planning 2020-2021**

**Submitted by Sue Graham**

The League of Women Voters Los Altos-Mountain View held its all-member Program Planning meeting on Saturday, February 1 at the home of Katie Campodonico. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and recommend the issues we wish the LWVUS to prioritize over the next two years and the issues we wish to prioritize locally in the coming year.

Issues recommended to the LWVUS under the framework and campaign “Making Democracy Work” were Redistricting, Voting Rights, Improving Elections and Campaign Finance/Money in Politics.

We added Climate Change and support for LWV Illinois’ request for abolition of the electoral college for action focus.

Updates were given on the following local League activities.

1. Housing – Donna Yobs
2. Education – Ellen Wheeler
3. Natural Resources - Climate Change Team – Gary Hedden
4. Voter Services – Karin Bricker
5. Los Altos Community Coalition – Cathy Lazarus

Voter Services, Housing, and Climate Change were chosen as the local priorities for 2020-2021.





## **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.



**Thank you to the Outgoing 2019 Board, Off-Board Support, Observer Corps, LWV Reps.**

**Board of Directors**

**Officers**

President:	Lisa McLain
Vice President, Program:	Carol Kuiper
Vice President, Action:	Merrian Nevin
Secretary:	Martha McClatchie
Treasurer:	Natalie Elefant

**Directors**

Government:	Katie Zoglin
Natural Resources:	Gary Hedden
Social Policy:	Abby Longcor
Voter Service:	Karin Bricker
Data Manager:	Jennifer Brooks
*Membership:	
Tech Team:	Max Beckman-Harned
Directors-at-large	Lucy Zemanek

**Off-Board Support**

Housing Committee	Sue Russell & Donna Yobs
Membership	Sue Graham
Eblast Manager	Claire Noonan
Book Group	Marie Young
Member Directory	Catherine Vonnegut
Observer Corps Co-Ordinator	Sue Graham

**2019-2020 Nominating Committee** Crownie Billik, Gary Hedden, Catherine Vonnegut

**Observer Corps**

Mountain View City Council	Max Beckman-Harned
Los Altos City Council	Claire Noonan
Mountain View Whisman School Board	Bill Lambert
Bullis Charter School	Ellen Wheeler

**LWV SCC Education Chair**

**LWV SCC Voter Service Chair**

**LWV SCC U.S. Census Chair**

Ellen Wheeler
Crownie Billik
Julie Cates



## **Slate of Officers and Directors 2020-2021**

**2020-2021 Nominating Committee Members** Crownie Billik, Gary Hedden, Sue Graham, Ellen Wheeler

### **Board of Directors**

<u>Officers</u>	President:	Lisa McLain
	Vice President, Program:	
	Vice President, Action:	Cathy Lazarus
	Secretary:	Sue Graham
	Treasurer:	Natalie Elefant

<u>Directors</u>	Government:	
	Natural Resources:	Gary Hedden
	Social Policy:	Abby Longcor
	Voter Service:	Karin Bricker
	Data Manager:	
	Voter Editor:	Lisa McLain
	Membership:	Sue Graham
	Tech Team:	Max Beckman-Harned
	Directors-at-large	

**2021-2022 Nominating Committee** Chair, Crownie Billik, Ellen Wheeler



## **Report on the 2020 Census Complete Count Campaign** **Julie Cates, LWV Santa Clara County Representative to the Census**

Leagues across Santa Clara County support our County Census Complete Count Campaign. By constitutional mandate, every 10 years (i.e. in 2020) our nation is to complete the Census—a complete count of everyone living in the country. For the five Leagues in Santa Clara County, I am serving as the League representative for our county’s Complete Count Census Campaign. Over the last year, my task has included helping to coordinate Census Outreach training and activities across our five Leagues.

2020 Census Campaign Update: League action since the fall of 2019 has increased Census awareness and Census participation. To drive awareness for the Census, I co-led a Caucus on the Census at the LWVC State Convention last June. I have also been serving as the League’s representative to our county’s Census Steering Committee helping to plan outreach events for community colleges, families with young children and seniors. League leaders went on CreaTV to discuss the League’s role in support of the Census. During the fall and winter of 2019-2020, League members participated in multiple “Census Ambassador Training” workshops. League members staffed Census information tables at public events, libraries, community centers, Naturalization Ceremonies, farmers markets and other locations. League members spoke about the Census at City Council meetings and gave Census overview presentations to local community organizations. LWVLAMV members supported rallies at Foothill College and checked in with local school districts. We handed out 1,000s of flyers, posters, pens and other swag-promoting Census participation.

With the emergence of the Coronavirus this spring, like many other community organizations, Leagues have pivoted in our support of the Census. Instead of person-to-person outreach or large-gathering information sessions, League has relied on email, phone and social media communication to our League members and personal networks. Later this summer, League members will include Census participation messaging in voter registration and voter education events. Due to COVID-19, the US Census Bureau has extended their field operations in reach of the “hard to count” neighborhoods from the end of July to the end of October.

### **2020 Census Self Response Rates as of May 21, 2020**

**US: 59.8%; California: 61.0%; Santa Clara County: 69.5%; Mountain View: 68.4%; Los Altos: 81.2%.** Local League’s Census awareness activities have helped increase response rates across Santa Clara County.





## Portfolio Reports

### Voter Service Committee: Karin Bricker, Chairperson

Voter Service is a large, active committee with more than 30 members. We have met monthly from July, 2019-February, 2020 scheduling voter registration opportunities and becoming involved with the 2020 Census outreach. Then COVID-19 intervened, upending all voter education and outreach plans.

**BEFORE COVID:** The five County Leagues alternate providing volunteers to assist the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters (ROV) to register new citizens at monthly naturalization ceremonies at Campbell's Heritage Theatre. LWVLAMV registered in July, 2019 and January, 2020 at the four ceremonies held each day where about 1500 new citizens from 60+ countries were naturalized. The League and other volunteer groups registered more than 500 new voters after each ceremony. Our next turn in June 18. What a rewarding and moving events!

In August we enjoyed staffing a League table at the Los Altos Community Foundation Volunteer Fair. We also tabled at Assembly member Marc Berman's Early Education event and before the March primaries for the Senate District 13 Candidate's Forum. Julie Cates coordinated our collaboration with Foothill College to have two tables to register voters at the large and successful student Political Awareness Day.

Claudia Hevel and Claire Noonan spearhead our high school junior pre-registration drive. Claudia and Claire put together a great script and training for League volunteers who, in September, spoke to U.S. History classes at Los Altos High School about the importance of voting and registered students. We also talked about the importance of the 2020 Census. Since about one-quarter of the students were not yet citizens, informing them about the importance of theirs and their family's participation in the Census was especially relevant to all the students. Of 516 students, 240 completed and returned their voter registration or pre-registration forms, while 180 took their forms home to complete. We also handed out Voter's Edge bookmarks and wristbands that said, "Future Voter".

In late September LWVLAMV helped staff voter registration tables at Los Altos, Woodland and Mountain View libraries for National Voter Registration Day. Although many we met were not eligible to vote, we promoted to eligible voters registration and the use of Voter's Edge. We also talked to everyone about completing the Census by April 1 and the benefits to their communities financially and politically from their participation.

The new Voter's Choice Act came to Santa Clara County with the March Primary. Many Voter Service committee members attended training in San Jose last September so we could train others in spreading the word about universal mail-in voting, enhanced vote centers and other changes to increase access to voting. We brought home boxes of swag for outreach activities.

Voter Service has worked closely with Julie Cates, League rep to the County Census Steering Committee, focusing on women. Julie has organized monthly Census planning meetings coordinating with all five Leagues, resulting in idea sharing and collaboration beneficial to Voter Service. In November, LWVLAMV was well-represented at a training on the Census held at the Santa Clara City Library and led by Menlo Park Council Member Ray Mueller.

Leading up to the March 2020 Primary Elections, outreach efforts included compiling a master list and contacting organizations and entities about new Voter's Choice/Voter Registration and the 2020 Census. We presented to several senior living complexes, an ESL class at the Mountain View Senior Center and Los Altos Rotary. As a non-profit, we were able to table monthly at the Mountain View Farmers Market in January and February, reaching out to hundreds of market goers and answering questions about voter registration and the U.S. Census. We also gave away fun swag, which encouraged people to stop by our table to talk. Our displays included a large poster created by a committee led by Sue Graham that listed government services and a column for people to place a dot next to the services they most valued. The poster attracted people to stop at the table and led to discussion.

**DURING COVID-19:** Shelter in Place (SIP) ended for the foreseeable future our in-person outreach. The committee has stayed in touch weekly through email, sharing ideas for promoting the Census individually. Members have posted on Next Door and/or sent emails to their social contacts. We were pleased to learn that the Census deadline has been extended to October 31, creating an opportunity to promote the Census and the November 3 General Election—when outreach events resume. We currently are planning for virtual Candidate's Forums and Pros and Cons. Palo Alto, Cupertino/Sunnyvale, and Los Alto/Mountain View Leagues are sharing responsibility and working to confirm dates soon for Candidate's Forums for the local State Assembly, State Senate and Congressional races.

**AND AFTER:** We look forward to resuming Outreach this summer and will have many volunteer opportunities moving toward the 2020 Census deadline and the November 3 Elections.



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

This year the focus included monitoring the work of the State's Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), an independent, non-partisan commission that regulates campaign financing, conflicts of interest and lobbying, and reviews proposed legislation related to transparency in political contributions and advertising. We wrote a letter of support for Senate Bill 300, which would prohibit a foreign government from making any contribution, expenditure or independent expenditure in connection with the qualification, support or opposition to a state or local candidate. We are serving on the FPPC's Digital Transparency Task Force. The purpose of this task force is to advise the FPPC on what measures, if any, the FPPC might consider so as to regulate or require disclosures regarding digital political ads.



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

As of April 6, 2020, our membership count was 200. We have benefited from a renewed interest in local, state and national issues. People looked for and found helpful voting information on our website and on



Voter's Edge. We hope that the celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the League and the 19<sup>th</sup>. Amendment will encourage even more people to join. 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 advocacy efforts. The more members we have, the stronger our voice.

**Reminder:** On July 1, annual membership dues for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 are due. We will send dues reminders via email to members who have email. For non-email users, we will send postal reminders. Look for your dues notice in late July. We hope that all will continue to support our League with timely membership renewal. Dues are \$75, \$110 for households.



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

The continued roll-back of environmental protection at the national level is of concern. Consequently, at the LWVLAMV's Program Planning meeting in February, the members selected Climate Change as a top three area of interest. A Climate Action team was subsequently formed, with Donna Davies as Chair. On behalf of the League, we will monitor and report on new developments such as the evaluation of local climate action plans, efforts to promote fuel switching from natural gas to electricity, the implementation of new building codes—especially the so-called “reach codes”—the challenges of waste management as we adjust to the strict rules on recycled plastic waste, projects to conserve and better manage our water resources and storm water and finally, land use decisions that impact traffic and housing.



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

Our committee is the largest League committee in the county, with nearly 90 members. Many members are either former teachers or school board members, while others are “just” interested in education. I read dozens of education-related articles and studies every week and carefully send the most relevant or interesting ones to our members. We are fortunate that some of our members also read and send articles to me for wider disbursement to our committee.

We gather for a “live” meeting about every two months for a lunchtime meeting. Those meetings are a mixture of reports and discussions about the latest education-related news. As we know, public education is primarily a state function, so we base our followed topics on the League of Women Voters of California's education policies. Since LWVC tracks high quality preschool and childcare through college, that's what we do, too. And, since LWVUS also has positions on the federal role in public education, we also track that—although there hasn't been much real news on that front for a few years.

The most pressing CA education issues the League is following are the Schools and Community First initiative headed for the November 3 General Election ballot, providing for split rolls to address Prop. 13's impact on school funding and the budget cuts generally of 10% to education —necessitated by the impact of COVID-19—in the Governor's May Revise. These funding cuts will be felt most deeply by Early Childhood Education programs and the Local Control Funding Formula districts (LCFF or old

"revenue limit" districts). Ninety percent of the districts in the state are LCFF districts, as are many districts in Santa Clara County. Ten percent of the districts in the state are Basic Aid (AKA Community Funded) districts, funded primarily by their own property taxes, so the May Revise cuts do not affect them nearly as much. School districts in LWVLAMV's area are Basic Aid districts as are most of the neighboring school districts including Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara. Cupertino is an LCFF district, so will be deeply impacted by the May Revise cuts.

If you'd like to be added to our committee, please contact me. [ellenwh@aol.com](mailto:ellenwh@aol.com).



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

*The Voter* is the League's newsletter sent out periodically to our members and interested parties to inform them about what the League has been doing. It contains news from local, state and national levels of the League, points out important upcoming events or actions and highlights programs and articles of interest. We welcome articles from our committees.



### **Housing Committee: Sue Russell and Donna Yobs, Committee Chairpersons**

The Housing Committee continues to advocate on many issues in both Los Altos and Mountain View, as well as monitoring development proposals and affordable housing strategies in both cities and monitoring rent stabilization in Mountain View.

We have written to both the Mountain View and Los Altos Councils regarding Council priorities. In Mountain View, the stress was on policies to prevent and mitigate displacement of lower-income households, especially those in rent-stabilized apartments. In Los Altos, the stress was that affordable housing generally be prioritized. In both cities, we also endorsed changes to the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance which liberalize building ADUs in conformance with new State law. We co-sponsored a forum in February in Los Altos with Los Altos Affordable Housing Alliance and others, which focused on the nuts and bolts of building ADUs and drew about 130 attendees.

In Mountain View, we monitored potential modifications to the CSFRA (rent stabilization) and successfully urged our Board to oppose Measure D, which would have made changes to CSFRA that were inconsistent to our local League's rent stabilization position. We urged adoption of revised BMR policies, which strengthen the program in Mountain View. We supported building of BMR units in market-rate developments whenever possible, along with strong tenant relocation assistance.

In Los Altos, we have continued to advocate for adoption of impact fees, as the actual fee schedule has never been adopted. We have again asked Council to consider using one of its downtown parking lots as a site for affordable housing. We co-sponsored a meeting on Home Sharing last April with LAAHA. We wrote letters of support for several developments which include BMRs, especially 5150 El Camino Real which will have 28 BMRs, but also 4898 El Camino Real and 444-450 First St. Working with Palo Alto

Housing (now Alta) and staff, we have advocated for changes to the BMR program to modify the priorities and streamline its operation.

We usually meet on the second Monday evening of the month, but best to check with Sue Russell to confirm the date and place. During shelter in place, we are meeting via ZOOM. We welcome new members.



## ***Voter's Edge: Sue Graham, Liaison***

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

*Voter's Edge* has everything we loved about *Smart Voter*—a personalized ballot by address, 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.

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.



## ***Observers: Sue Graham, Coordinator***

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

- Claire Noonan, Los Altos City Council

If you are interested in attending city council or school board meetings on behalf of the League and writing up brief reports, we would welcome you. Contact Sue Graham [sgraham@batnet.com](mailto:sgraham@batnet.com). We'll show you how it is done.



## Events Committee: Lisa McLain, Chairperson

The Events Committee—formerly Sips & Civility—hosts both League and community events to raise awareness of local issues and increase League and civic engagement.

We held an End-of-Summer gathering in September where members enjoyed appetizers, margaritas and an opportunity to catch up with each other. Our spring new members event to help new members learn about the league and find opportunities for involvement has been postponed until summer and will be held virtually.

We also host educational events where the community and our members come together around issues of local concern. This year we had planned an educational forum in early May co-hosted with Leadership Mountain View and Stanford’s Center for Deliberative Democracy (CDD). Participants would learn about the lessons from CDD’s America in One Room gathering where Americans across the country discussed divisive issues in a non-partisan format. Later we would work in small groups to learn techniques for holding civil conversations on divisive topics. While we had to cancel this event due to COVID-19, we plan on rescheduling it in the future.



## Tech Team: Max Beckman-Harned, Chairperson

The highlight of the 2019-2020 activities of the Tech Team was a years-in-the-making refresh of our website! While our previous site (designed and implemented by Norma Schroder) served us well for several years, we felt that it was time to have a responsive site...that is, one that works just as well on phones and tablets as laptops and desktops. We also took this opportunity to clean up the site; updating content, streamlining the menus and navigation to make it easier for visitors to understand what our League does. A belated thanks to Tricia Jordan for her work getting this project going! Special thanks to Margaret Capriles—instrumental to getting the updates done—as well as the Communication Committee (Lisa McLain and Sue Graham) for their hard work in getting us past the finish line. We’ve started regular website analytic reports to the Board so we know how the public uses our site. Unsurprisingly, they use it a lot more at election time.

As the year proceeded, we decided to do a bit of an administrative cleanup—the duties of the Tech Team are being absorbed as part of the Communications Committee under the “Information Technology” role. Looking forward, the Tech Team will help support the League’s activities in a shelter-in-place world. Special thanks to Abby Longcor and her Zoom experience!



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