

Date Sent February 1, 2024

From League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

Subject Subject: LWV Turns 104, Mourns President



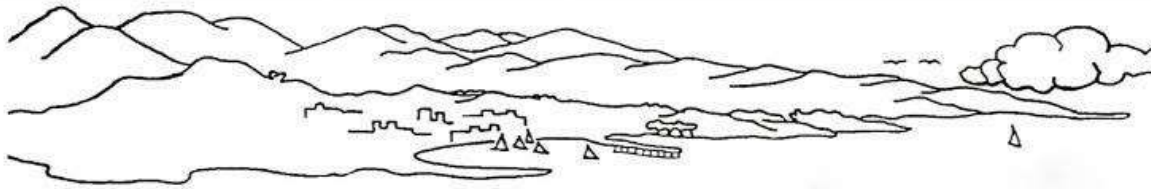
Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.



CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



February 1, 2024



League of Women Voters To Turn 104

The League was officially founded in Chicago on Feb. 14, 1920, just six months before the 19th amendment was ratified and women won the vote. Formed by the suffragists of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

With continued assaults on our democracy, LWV has adopted a program with the theme "Women Power Democracy" to tackle systemic challenges to voting rights through advocacy, litigation, and organizing.

Watch this space on Feb. 14 for more about democracy in a special issue of the Channel Voter.



League Mourns

Death of President

WASHINGTON — It is with profound sadness that the League of Women Voters announces the passing of our esteemed president, Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, who passed away on Sunday, January 28, 2024, from complications from a pulmonary embolism.

A fearless advocate for voting rights and women's rights, Dr. Turner devoted her life's work to impacting meaningful changes in the lives of voters across the nation. As the 20th president of the 103-year-old voting rights organization, Dr. Turner played a pivotal role in fighting for a more fair and representative union, while uplifting racial equity in the League's mission work.

Read more [here](#).

Election News



CANDIDATE FORUM **1st DISTRICT SUPERVISOR**

MONDAY, FEB. 5 AT 6PM

Das Williams, Incumbent

Roy Lee, Carpinteria City Councilmember

SB Women's Club - 670 Mission Canyon Rd.

Forum will be livestreamed on LWVSB's Facebook page if you can't attend & will be recorded by TVSB. Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish will be provided. Videos in English and Spanish will be on our YouTube channel for later viewing.



LWVSANTABARBARA.ORG | 805-965-2422

Sponsored by LWVSB and AAUW



Photo of 3rd District Supervisor Candidate Forum by Marian Shapiro. The video in English and Spanish is now on our [YouTube channel](#).

What to Know About Prop. 1

The League does both education and advocacy. On our website is a video with pros and cons and a statement of why the League of Women Voters of California opposes Proposition 1.

The measure on the March 5 ballot is: Mental Health Care and Addiction Treatment Reform & Bonds to Build Places for Treatment and Supportive Housing. If passed, Proposition 1 would:

- Authorize the issuance of bonds to raise \$6.4 billion: \$4.4 billion to build facilities for treatment of people with mental illness and substance use disorders, and \$2 billion to build or renovate housing for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, or who have mental illness or substance use disorders.
- Shift approximately \$140 million of annual MHSA funding, currently available to counties for community-based mental health services, to the state for its mental health services.
- Divert roughly one third of all county MHSA funding currently used to provide mental health services — including outpatient treatment, crisis response, early intervention, prevention and outreach, and treatment for people with substance use disorder — to housing and personalized support services like employment assistance and education.

The LWVC Opposition

The statement says, in part: “Although California has a critical need to resource better mental health and addiction services and to address our crisis of homelessness, the League of Women Voters of California opposes Proposition 1 for a number of important reasons. While the additional housing resources offered through Prop 1 are sorely needed, they do not outweigh its flaws.”

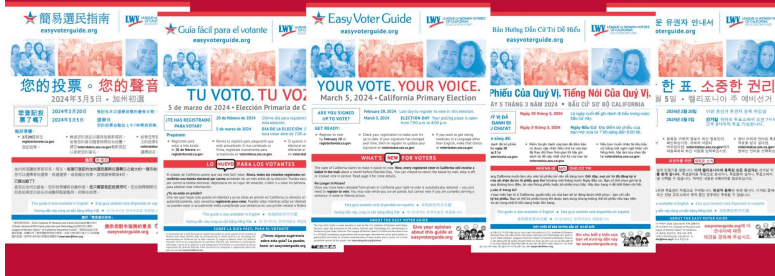
Watch a video about the pros and cons, download information and read about why LWVC decided to oppose the proposition. [Click here](#).

You can [find out more](#) in the March 5, 2024 Easy Voter Guide. The guide also explains how to register and vote in California and how to vote for a Presidential candidate in the Primary.

Easy Voter Guide

Available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean now at
easyvoterguide.org

Download your copy today!



[Download your copy here](http://easyvoterguide.org)



Where to get Your Information

In addition to the Easy Voter Guide, Vote 411 is replacing Voters Edge in 2024. We're looking forward to this change because the US League widely advertises Vote 411 on its website and elsewhere. [Contact](#) [t](#) Revae to help create this new voter information guide or if you are a candidate and wish to be included at no cost.

How does the guide work? Just enter your address and:

- Get Personalized Voting Information
- See What's On Your Ballot
- Check Your Voter Registration
- Find Your Polling Place
- Discover Upcoming Debates In Your Area
- And Much More!

To learn more [Click here](#).

Revae Moran and Claire VanBlaricum, Voter Service Co-Chairs

Our Committees



Housing Committee News: A Busy January

January was a busy month for the housing-related issues on the South Coast, and the Housing Committee continues to promote development and protection of affordable housing by monitoring the efforts of the County and three south coast communities.

Jan. 8 included three important housing items before local decision-makers, including:

- The County Board of Supervisors considered criteria for rezoning parcels to meet the County's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements for new housing unit production this cycle. Our letter to the Board of Supervisors emphasized the need to focus rezoning efforts on affordable housing for very low to moderate income households. The County has exceeded their need for above moderate housing by nearly 3,000 units, or 322% more than is required by RHNA, while 1,073 lower and 854 moderate income units are still needed. We continued to advocate for:

- 1) developing a permanent source of funding for affordable housing;
- 2) identifying more County owned sites to be used for affordable housing; and
- 3) establishing a local preference for all new housing developed as a result of the housing element, so that units go to those already living or working in our communities first.

- The Santa Barbara City Council approved the Local Housing Trust Fund ordinance, which the League has advocated for over the past year. This ordinance is an important first step toward a long-term source of funding for deed restricted affordable housing.

- The Santa Barbara City Council approved an ordinance focused on tenant protections through a just cause ordinance. The League advocated for strong protections including the right to return to a property after renovations at a rent no greater than 10% of the pre-renovation rent. While the protections that the City Council agreed on ultimately did not include a rent cap upon return to the property, tenant protections were strengthened to include protection from harassment and a right to return to a property after renovations.

The committee also previewed of an infographic about housing and the need for affordable housing on

the South Coast created by our intern, Yasmine Ibrahim. We expect to release a final version of the infographic in late March to League members and the community.

Our next Housing Committee meeting is on Friday, Feb. 16 at noon. Mike Becker with the Santa Barbara Council of Governments will be our guest speaker, discussing how SBCAG is using cell phone data to understand more about how people live, work, and move around our County. A Zoom link for the meeting can be found on the calendar.

Megan Turley and Dianne Black



Guest Commentary In Santa Maria Times

The Leagues of Santa Barbara and North Santa Barbara County wrote an opinion piece about the jail, which was published recently in the Santa Maria Times. Its message, in part, was:

"Because we lack proper mental health care services in our community, Santa Barbara County jails are often used as a last resort to house people with mental illness. Public Safety is not served by placing people suffering from mental illness in jail. Our county's new Jail Population Management Plan explains in detail how agencies are cooperating to safely reduce the jail population by providing more support for individuals involved in the criminal justice system, especially those with mental health and/or substance use disorders. The death of 61-year-old Scott Powers on Dec. 31, 2023 at the Santa Barbara Jail underscored the crisis of mental health care in our community and our jails. Arrested on Dec. 28 for misdemeanor warrants, Powers "jumped from the second floor of a housing unit at the jail intake and release center" and later died of his injuries at Cottage Hospital, according to the Sheriff's report...

"Residents of Santa Barbara's jails deserve more humane care while incarcerated. We hope that health care in the jail will improve as the Public Health Department increases oversight of jail health care in March (as directed by the Board of Supervisors). Many struggling with mental illness should not be jailed, but with the new plans, we anticipate more justice-involved people will get the care they need in the community reducing costs and making us all safer."

You can read the full version [here](#).

If you would like to be more involved in the League's criminal justice reform work, please [contact](#) me.

Black History Month

Community Events



Capturing and Recapturing A Day in the Life Of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Photographs by esteemed photojournalist Santi Visalli
At Santa Barbara Community Arts Workshop, 631 Garden St.
In honor of the MLK Federal Holiday and Black History Month
Open Friday, Feb. 2 from 1-6pm and Saturday, Feb. 3 from 10am-2pm, with Curator Helene Schneider

Photojournalist Santi Visalli has quite a story to tell that is sure to resonate with the public today. He was the photographer hired to document an event with Dr. King back on April 15, 1967. The assignment was from an Italian magazine, based in Milan, now long out of print, which only used two photos out of ten rolls of film he shot. The negatives were considered lost...until three years ago.

All shot in black & white, the event was a 1967 Vietnam War Protest in New York City outside the U.N. and there are poignant images of the nearly 125,000 people at the march, along with Dr. King addressing the crowd. Visalli hopes the photos will inform current generations about MLK's advocacy for peace in addition to his lifelong pursuit for Civil Rights.

For more information about the free exhibit [click here](#).

Keep Up To Date On Action Alerts

For LWV, [click here](#). For LWVC, [click here](#).

Find the latest Action Alerts on the climate crisis, voting rights, the ERA, fair redistricting, racial justice and more.

LWVC also has several different interest groups, including Advocacy, Communications, Voter Service, Climate Change, Criminal Justice Reform, Healthcare, Homelessness, Immigration, Money in Politics, Program Planning, Redistricting and Water. For details, [click here](#).

For Your Calendar



For information, registration and contact information, click on the event in the website calendar [here](#). Meetings are via Zoom unless an in-person location is listed. Check the website calendar for events and meetings added during the month.

Monday, Feb. 5, 6pm - **Candidate Forum 1st District Supervisor** - Santa Barbara Women's Club, 670 Mission Canyon Rd., Santa Barbara

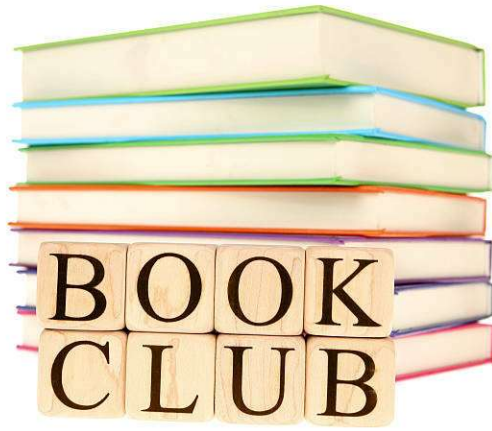
Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1pm - **Communications Committee**

Saturday, Feb. 10, 10am - **Board Meeting**

Wednesday, Feb. 14, noon - **Program Planning** - Community Environmental Council Hub, 1219 State St. and on Zoom

Thursday, Feb. 15, 1:30pm - **Book Club**

Friday, Feb. 16, noon - **Housing Committee**



TITLE: *The Power of Crises: How Three Threats - and Our Response - Will Change the World* by Ian Bremmer.

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 15, at 1:30pm via Zoom

If you are not a book club member you are welcome to join us. [Contact](#) Elaine Rudin for a Zoom invitation at elainerudin@me.com Free copies of the book are available - call Elaine at 949-355-5413.

Videos



The video of the Forum for 3rd District Supervisor candidates is now available in English and Spanish on our YouTube Channel. The video of the Feb. 5 Forum for the 1st District Supervisor candidates will be there soon. You can also find videos of past community forums: [watch here](#). Subscribe to the channel to be notified of future videos.



Both forums (English and Spanish) will playback on TVSB Channels 17 and 71 until March 5. The English Version: Fridays 9 am and Sundays 7 pm, and the Spanish Version: Saturdays 7 pm and Sundays 5:30 pm

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK[®]

Donate

Join



Done