

Date Sent March 1, 2024

From League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

Subject Subject: Your Vote is Your Voice: Use it on Tuesday



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



March 1, 2024



The Tuesday Election

Mail or Drop Off Your Ballot Or Vote In Person

The ballot you received in the mail must be postmarked on or before Election Day, March 5, 2024 and received by March 12, 2024. Ballots can be returned by mail, at a drop-off location, or at your county elections office. Polling places will be open, but only 7am-8pm on Tuesday. Be sure to sign the envelope before you mail or drop off your ballot.

Tracking your ballot - including being notified when it has been received - has never been easier! Just go to ballottrax.com and register to be notified (via email, text message, or a phone call - your choice) when your ballot is received. You are welcome to drop your ballot in the mail - you don't have to worry because you'll be notified when it is received! (The envelope has pre-paid postage on it, so you don't even have to put a stamp on it - just put it in the mail.)

Drop-off locations, election office addresses and more is inside your County Voter Information Guide and Sample Ballot.

Registering to Vote

Did you know that you have until Election Day to register to vote? Whether you're registering for the first time or updating your voter registration info, all polling places and vote centers allow voters to register and vote in the same visit!

If you are already registered, you will need to re-register if you've changed your address, changed your name, want to change your political party, need to update your signature, or are no longer serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony. For more about registering to vote, click [here](#).



Easy Voter Guide

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

Download your copy today!



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

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.

What Else is on Your Ballot?

The League has received several calls asking us to explain what the list of party committee members is all about (one of the first things listed on your ballot - if you are a registered voter with the Democratic or Republican Party. If you are registered as “No Party Preference,” this information will not be listed on your ballot.

For more information about the parties and what the party committees do visit their websites:

Democratic: [here](#)

Republican: [here](#)



Another Way to Get 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.

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!
Just [Click here.](#)

Revae Moran and Claire VanBlaricum, Voter Service Co-Chairs

News

What's Happening with State Street?

The State Street Advisory Committee will meet again on March 18 from 4-7pm at the Faulkner Gallery at the Main Public Library on Anapumu Street. The Committee has met in small groups focusing on the following guiding principles:

- People and placemaking are key to downtown's success
- Economic vitality downtown is critical to city-wide economic vitality
- Mobility and utilities provide essential functions downtown
- A volunteer group of architects is also working on graphics for the plan

All of this work will be presented at the next meeting. It should be an interesting one and I encourage anyone curious, concerned or other wise interested in Santa Barbara's downtown to attend.

Dianne Black, Advisory Committee and LWVSB Leadership Team

Our Committees



League's EAC Raises Concerns

Sandy Grasso-Boyd and Ann Bailey of the LWVSB Environmental Action Committee addressed members of Santa Barbara County's Equity Advisory and Outreach Committee (EA+OC) at its Feb. 7 online meeting.

Sandy recently stepped down from her role as chair of the EAC (previously the Sustainable Communities Committee) for health reasons. Given her knowledge and long involvement with local environmental issues, however, Sandy's presentation raised concerns about California state budget cuts that could undermine environmental safeguards such as Health Protection Zones and Oil Drilling Setbacks. Both of these are likely to especially – and historically – impact underserved/underrepresented and other vulnerable communities.

EA+OC is a subcommittee of the Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative, a multi-sector network of organizations working together to advance climate mitigation and resiliency efforts in Santa Barbara County. The Collaborative advances regional-scale climate solutions through coordination and partnership.

This is achieved by:

- Identifying specific challenges within the topic area or practice that would be best addressed through a regional collaboration
- Soliciting technical assistance & funding
- Conducting in-depth analysis, stakeholder engagement and developing recommendations
- Piloting and launching programs, policies and projects
- Developing tools and resources
- Making recommendations to the Steering Committee

Ann Bailey participates on the EA+OC to represent the LWVSB's interests in taking positive environmental action.

10 Ways to Promote Trees

The League's Environmental Action Committee will meet Friday, March 8 at 10:30am to hear from guest speaker Ken Knight, who will be discussing "The top 10 things you can do to promote trees where you live and why your grandchildren will thank you."

Knight is a Consulting Arborist approved by Santa Barbara County. He was Executive Director of Goleta Beautiful for 13 years and since 2014 has been President of Your Children's Trees.

Linda Honikman, who organized the program, said the speaker will answer questions from committee members.

If you would like to attend, get the Zoom link from the calendar [here](#).

Community Events



Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee

ACCESS | VOICE | POWER

23rd Presidents' Circle Luncheon

Friday March 8, 2024

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Cabrillo Arts Pavillion

"The Power of Women's Issues in the 2024 Elections" featuring



Kathy Spillar

Co-Founder and Executive Director of Feminist Majority and Feminist Majority Foundation. Executive Editor of Ms. Magazine.

REGISTER TODAY!

"Every Seat Matters"

In an interview with Jerry Roberts (watch it [here](#)), Kathy Spillar said, "Every seat matters, and every vote matters. This is a top issue for women, especially young women...It will be a top issue until we have restored abortion rights permanently across this country. And we intend to do that."

You can [get your ticket](#) now for the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee's Presidents Circle Luncheon. Scholarships for students are available.



THE
LATINO LEGACY AWARDS

IN RECOGNITION OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Date: Thursday, May 2, 2024

Time: 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Location: Hotel Corque, 400 Alisal Rd, Solvang, CA 93463
Fountain Courtyard

Honoring Latino Leaders

Daniel Gonzalez, organizing director of the local Future Leaders of America and a LWVSB board member, explained, "The Latino Legacy Awards Ceremony was initiated by Santa Barbara County community members who believe it is pivotal to honor and uplift the contributions of exceptional Latino leaders in our community. Leaders who take the daily initiative to go above and beyond through service, speaking out against injustice, and paving the way for young people.

Join Future Leaders of America for the 9th Annual Latino Legacy Awards as we honor local leaders in Santa Barbara County."

Nominations will close on March 17 for these leaders: North Santa Barbara County, Mid Santa Barbara County, South Santa Barbara County and Santa Barbara County Youth. The nomination form is available by clicking this [link](#).

Tickets are available [here](#). Be sure to grab your early bird ticket before prices increase in April!

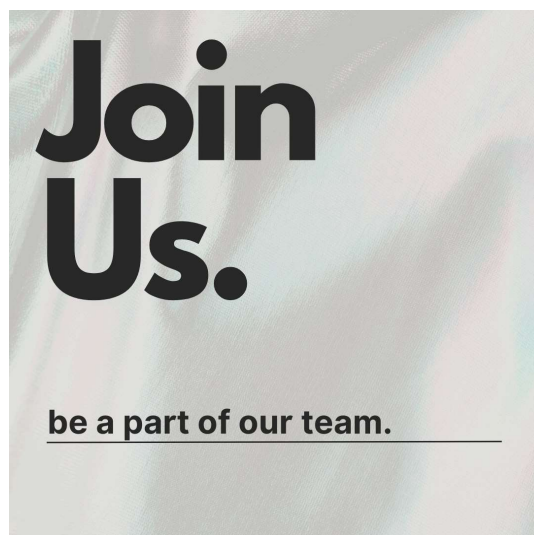
Inside the League

Come to a "Meet and Greet"

LWVSB is hosting a Meet and Greet party on Saturday, March 23 at 10:30 am at the home of a newer member on the Mesa. The gathering will be an opportunity for board members and new and potential members to socialize, learn more about the League, and for League members to learn more about what interests you.

We hope that you can join us for coffee/tea and good conversation. An rsvp will help us plan. For the location and any questions contact: Joanie Jones, membership volunteer, 805-683-1937 or by [email](#).

If you are not yet a member, please [join today](#).



Join Our Team

The Nominating Committee of our League is looking for you!

Do you have financial skills? We're looking for a Treasurer to begin July 1 and fill the shoes of Anthony Moran who has graciously and expertly served as our Treasurer since February 2020.

Do you like to meet new people? Are you a networker? We need a chair for the Membership Committee. That's how we grow and bring new talent into the League.

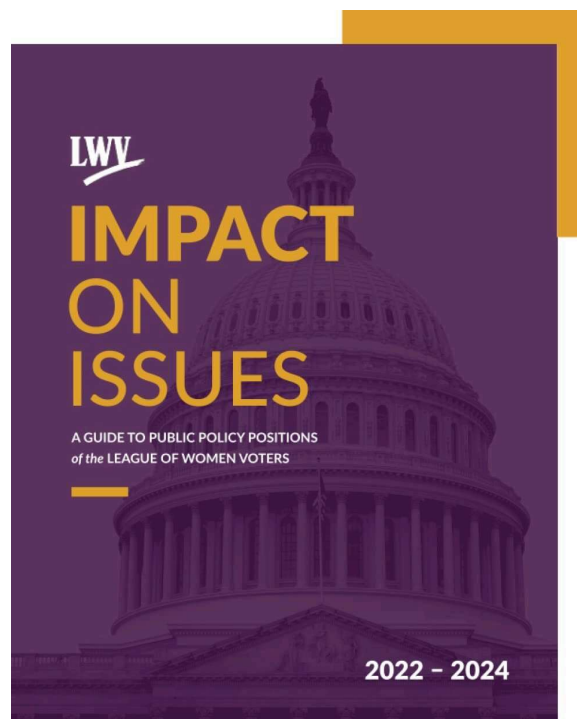
Are you young and energetic? We as a group are aging. We recognize the need to have younger and more diverse voices among us to carry on the work that the League of Women Voters has been doing for 104 years. We need you to join us. We also have a place for a Youth Advocate on our Board.

Are you passionate about protecting the environment and about environmental equity? The Environmental Action Committee needs a chair or co-chairs. Come join the committee (meetings are usually the first Friday of the month). Bring your ideas and energy.

Do you like to write? We could use help with publicity for forums and events to get the word out to the whole community.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, [send an email](#) today.

Gail Osherenko, Nominating Committee Chair



Our League Tells LWVUS Our Priorities

On Valentine's Day League members met at the Community Environmental Council's HUB to discuss Program Planning for the coming LWVUS 2-year cycle. Several members attended by Zoom and about six members were present for our discussion.

Program Planning is the grassroots process of recommending and selecting governmental issues for study and agreement in reaching a position at the national level or in odd numbered years at the state level. In our local League this is also an opportunity to consider where and how we will focus our

resources (time, money, energy, and reputation) to make the most impact in our community over the next year.

In reviewing the national League Positions we noted that we use positions from the state and national League in our local work: citizen's right to vote, redistricting, money in politics or dark money, citizen's right to know or citizen participation, constitutional amendment proposals (Equal Rights Amendment), public policy on reproductive choices.

Within resource management we have reviewed issues about transfer of federal public lands, air quality, solid waste, nuclear waste, climate change, and water resources.

We are also focused on public participation, criminal justice, equality of opportunity, fair housing, nondiscrimination and affirmative action, equal rights, mental and physical health care (especially in our jails), immigration, meeting basic human needs, our housing supply and homelessness, violence prevention, gun policy, the death penalty and sentencing policy.

Additionally we are interested in international relations and global collaboration with a goal of good global governance. And overall, we strive to view all of our work through the lens of diversity, equality, and inclusion.

This is a long list of topics and we tend to focus our energy on just a few at a time, remembering that many other issues are important to us as well. Specific topics may be addressed with community forums and committee meetings. As issues present in our communities we may strive to address them and use our previously written positions as a support for "making our case" with our local residents and officials.

Members are welcome to dig into any topic that is of particular interest to them and present their thoughts to committee chairpersons or our board of directors. The vibrancy of our local League depends on our interests and efforts in "moving the needle" on issues of concern in our communities thereby making democracy work.

Pam Flynt Tambo, Leadership Team

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.

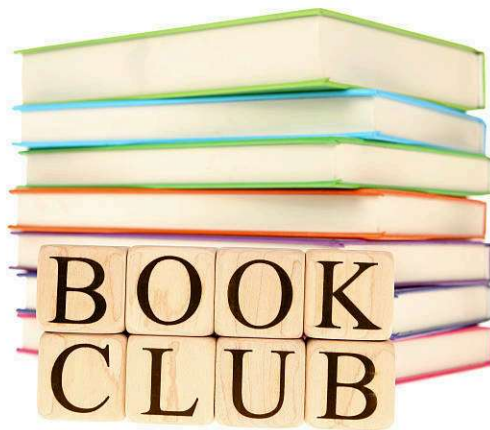
Tuesday, March 5, 1pm - **Communications Committee**

Friday, March 8, 10:30am - **Environmental Action Committee**

Saturday, March 9, 10am - **Board Meeting**

Friday, March 15, noon - **Housing Committee**

Thursday, March 21, 1:30pm - **Book Club**



TITLE: *Oath and Honor: a Memoir and a Warning by Liz Chaney*

DATE: Thursday, March 21 at 1:30pm via Zoom

This is a powerful book showing deep commitment to the U.S. Constitution and about the need for all of us to work to safeguard it and our democratic Republic.

The Zoom link is on our website calendar: lwvsantabarbara.org. All are welcome. If you are not a book club member you are welcome to join us. [Contact](mailto:elainerudin@me.com) Elaine Rudin, Book Club Chair, for a Zoom invitation at elainerudin@me.com or call 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 Forum for the 1st District Supervisor candidates was cancelled due to weather. You can also find videos of past community forums: [watch here](#). Subscribe to the channel to be notified of future videos.



The Forum (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



Calling All “Democracy Champions”

Inspired by all that LWV does at all levels to defend democracy, the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara is asking members and friends to nominate “Democracy Champions” in our community.

Be a voice for democracy! Help us push back against efforts to undermine our democratic system of government, which is of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Leading by example

Are YOU a Democracy Champion? Do you know a person, group, or organization in your community that is dedicated to advocating, promoting, supporting, or otherwise defending democracy? Tell us in your own words --500 or fewer please--about a person (yourself, your partner, friend, colleague, mentor, neighbor, instructor, etc.); a project; event; or program here on the South Coast that

exemplifies democracy in action. If appropriate, tell us how we can individually help cheer them on in their efforts.

Inspire us

We are hoping to honor local champions monthly in the Channel Voter. To share a story with, please [email](#) your submittal. All entries will be reviewed by our Communications Committee for relevance and possible editing for space and clarity before being published in the newsletter.

In Memoriam Lillian Lovelace 1927 - 2024

LWVSB wishes to recognize the death of one of our 50+ year members. At our June 2009 Annual Meeting Lillian Lovelace was honored as a Lifetime Member. Prior to moving to Santa Barbara Lillian was President of the Whittier League from 1968-1972. Through the years Lillian generously shared her resources with and showed continued interest in our local League as well as supporting many other Santa Barbara organizations.

**MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK®**

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[Join](#)



[Done](#)