



CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



VOL. 78, NO. 2, OCT./NOV. 2016

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October Forum

Community Forum: Rental Housing In Santa Barbara **Wednesday, Oct. 19, noon-2 p.m. Louise Lowry Davis Center**

Recently the California League of Women Voters asked “What is your community doing to help provide more housing, especially for low-income people?” At the Wednesday, Oct. 19 Community Forum we will take up that issue. The stateⁱ and localⁱⁱ Leagues support efforts to develop and preserve affordable and moderate income housing. The LWVSB also has specific policies related to homelessness that call for an “emphasis on affordable housing, including subsidized rentals.” With this support for affordable and moderate income housing comes the direction to consider “where appropriate within the environmental constraints of water supply, air quality and transportation.”ⁱⁱⁱ

At times this has the potential to create a tension. LWVSB policy calls for the “coordination of social policy and natural resources.” And in advance of this Forum representatives of the Sustainable Communities and the Social Policy Committees are convening in order to discuss areas of agreement and areas of tension. At the October Community Forum longtime League members Connie Hannah (Sustainable Communities Committee Chair), Mickey

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November Forum

Wednesday, Nov. 16, Community Forum **Community Relations and Law Enforcement:** **Presenting Santa Barbara Chief of Police Lori Luhn**

The League will introduce Chief Luhn to League members and the community, and she will speak on the topic of “Community Policing,” as well as her 27 years of experience with the San Diego Police Department. Her work in that department has included overseeing officer training, and special operations, including Domestic Violence operations. She will explain her views on community policing as an updated way that police work on an ongoing basis with community members, as opposed to just coming onto events during a crisis.

Chief Luhn will also participate in a panel following her presentation, and will engage with several organizations that frequently interact with the police department, including youth organizations, other public entities, and the judicial system.

The forum, which is free and open to the public, will be from noon to 2 p.m. at the Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina St. Bring a brown bag lunch and your friends. Beverages will be provided. Parking behind the center is free during the forum.

Beverly Herbert, Gun Violence Chair

OFFICERS:

CO-PRESIDENTS
Community Education,
Membership & Administration
Amanda Pelch (2017)

Program & Action
Lindsey Baker (2018)

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS
Local Action & Program
Connie Hannah (2018)

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State & National Action
Linda Phillips (2017)

Voter Service
Claire Van Blaricum (2017)

Nominating Committee
Joanie Jones (2017)

Community Forums are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina St. noon to 2:00pm. They are always free and open to the public. You are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch and your friends. Parking behind the Center is free during the forum.



From Co-Presidents Amanda Pelch and Lindsey Baker

First Woman Nominee for President of the United States by a Major Political Party: Does the League of Women Voters Have Any Comment?

These were some of the comments that came out of the June national convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States:

“The League, along with all of our fellow Americans, must celebrate this historic event of a woman receiving the Presidential nomination of a major political party. It has always been a goal of the League of Women Voters to enable women to have an equal role in our nation’s political processes. It may have taken nearly 100 years since the first step of women receiving the right to vote, but that can’t diminish the historic significance of this moment and this achievement.”

“We fundamentally believe that our democracy works best when all Americans, of all backgrounds, have the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of our national political processes. This important moment sends the message that in *this* democracy, women finally are full participants in all aspects of the democratic processes.”

“The League was founded on a belief in the power of women and the equality of their political voice. Achieving the Presidential nomination of a major political party is another important milestone in that journey to full democratic equality.”

“The League has always believed in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy and the empowerment of all voters so that American democracy reflects the true diversity of our nation.”

“We are thrilled that so many voters, especially millions of first-time voters, were engaged in the primary process this year. We’ll be doing everything we can to make sure they cast a vote in November.”

“The League is the only living legacy organization from our nation’s fight to ensure that all Americans, men and women, can vote. This achievement of a presidential candidacy is an important historical moment in American democracy. So our entire nation, of all genders, ethnicities, races and political opinions, should celebrate and embrace what has happened.”

“This historic achievement is not about a particular woman or a particular political party. Rather it is a reflection of the fact that our country, the world’s greatest democracy, has realized a momentous goal of which we all can be proud.”

“Informed participation of all people in our democracy has always been the League’s highest priority. Such participation includes not only voting but also becoming candidates for public office. The League never supports or opposes candidates and we never support or oppose political parties. Rather, our aim is focused on enabling and encouraging all citizens to fully participate so that they can weigh in on the issues that matter most to *them*.”

Women will clearly serve an important role in the elections this year. Women statistically participate in elections more than men do. In 2012, the U.S. Census reports that women had a higher voting rate (64 percent of the total eligible population of women) than men (60 percent). That’s about on trend with other recent presidential elections.

This is across every age group, except in the over-75 category. And among those that reported voting, women outvoted men in every racial and ethnic group—African American, Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander and white.

It should be noted, though, that women do not have a single political point of view. Other demographic factors (geography, marital status, race, age, income) have much more impact on voter participation, or voters’ attitudes and preferences, than gender alone.

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, October 16, @ 2:00 p.m.
Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Main Public
Library, 40 East Anapamu St.

“FIX IT: Healthcare at the Tipping Point”
*Co-sponsored by Health Care for All - Santa Barbara
& LWV-Santa Barbara*

The movie will be followed by discussion, a Q and A period and light refreshments. FIX IT shows the growing support for an expanded and improved “Medicare for all” solution, with positive testimony from business owners and conservative politicians. The movie discusses how single payer can provide good coverage for all while saving money for individuals, families, businesses and public employers.

For information:
phone: (805) 682-5183.
<http://www.healthcareforall.org>

October Forum, cont.

Flacks (housing advocate) and Emily Allen (Social Policy Co-Chair) will discuss these policy intersections.

State and local League policies around affordable and moderate-income housing are made in the context of what is frequently referred to as an “affordable housing crisis” in California and particularly Santa Barbara. Locally the League has been a coalition partner of the Rental Housing Roundtable—which is made up of community organizations and concerned individuals working toward social justice in our community to address the lack of legal protections for Santa Barbara renters. The vision of RHR is to:

protect and encourage a diverse, inclusive, and representative community of very-low to moderate income renters and the development of healthy and vital communities to ensure the expansion of the local and regional sustainable economy and improve the wellbeing of present and future generations.

The RHR is interested in looking at solutions for addressing affordable housing. Some of the solutions the RHR recognizes have been the average unit density program, investment in affordable housing, support of legal services and mediation and inclusionary zoning programs.

RHR recently held a community forum on rental housing issues where the community was surveyed and identified issues related to rental housing. These issues can be broken down into “Affordability,” “Habitability,” “Protection from Unlawful Evictions,” and “Creation of A Tenants Union.”

Frank Rodriguez from CAUSE will join us at the upcoming forum to discuss the work of the RHR including the RHR’s decision to focus on a specific Rental Stabilization policy known as a “Just Cause Eviction.”

Emily Allen, Co-Chair, Social Policy Committee

ⁱThe League of Women Voters of California supports:

- Programs and policies to provide equal opportunity for access to housing without discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.
- An overall state plan for development with integration of housing, land use and transportation and with attention to factors such as natural resources and basic human needs.
- State financial assistance in the form of grants, loans, tax incentives and other means to encourage housing construction and rehabilitation.
 - Broad state guidelines for use of these funds with more local decision making.
 - Use of fiscal incentives and disincentives to encourage enforcement of state housing law
 - Enforcement of use of redevelopment set-aside funds for low and moderate-income housing.
- Standardization and modernization of local building and zoning codes to conform with a state code which:
 - is enforced by trained inspectors;
 - encourages new and innovative building materials & methods which can be used to cut housing construction costs;

encourages the use of density bonuses; mixed, cluster and inclusionary zoning; second units; infill development; air rights; and increased density along transportation corridors.

- Protection of the rights of both tenants and landlords.
- Removal of barriers which inhibit the construction of low and moderate income housing including eventual elimination from the Constitution of the provisions for voter approval before a low-rent housing project may be developed, constructed, or acquired by a public body.
- Education of state and local communities concerning need for affordable housing & methods by which this can be attained.

ⁱⁱThe League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Positions for Program Action:

preserve and increase the low and moderate income housing supply in the South Coast area.” Including, “financial incentives to encourage the building and rehabilitation of low and moderate income housing and considerations of density adjustments for low and moderate income housing where appropriate

ⁱⁱⁱThe League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Positions for Program Action:

See also LWVSB “supports efforts to manage growth within limits of South Coast natural resources.”

Topic for November Units

What Problems Do Our Libraries Face Today?

During the last two years League members have expressed concern about the conditions facing our libraries, with scheduling and hiring cuts. In our discussion Units in November we will talk about those issues and other new problems. The local League has long had a position that calls for “support of measures to

ensure funding of professional standards and services in public libraries.”

The schedule for three meetings will be on the Calendar page. Choose one or all three, and join us. If you have had concerns about your own library, this is the place to bring them to the League.

Connie Hannah, Co-Vice President, Local Action & Program

Voter Service

2016 will be remembered as one of the stranger Presidential Election seasons. In CA we have many issues on our ballot delineated by 17 CA ballot measures and multiple local measurers.

The foundation of LWV is *we never support any candidates or parties ever*. Outgoing LWV President Elizabeth McNamara stated this multiple times at the LWV National Convention in Washington DC this past June. New LWV President Chris Carson reiterated the same statement. Why do we do this in light of the first woman major party candidate running this year? Because we are a truly Non-Partisan organization; we literally live and die with this statement. It also goes without saying individual League members are free to support whomever they choose. But as a political organization *we never support any candidates or parties ever*.

Since our inception in 1920 the League all across the nation has worked tirelessly to inform voters about the issues; rigorous study of important issues has been our North Star. The LWV of Santa Barbara continues to support this effort.

So far we have the following Voter Service Forums planned. Our Forums normally last approximately two hours. A Voter Service moderator leads the Forum asking all candidates a series of questions to clarify their views on the important issues facing the office they are seeking. These questions are written by members of the Voter Service Committee and then vetted by the entire Committee.

At the beginning of the Forum we invite the audience to write down their questions on 3x5 cards; the LWVSB sorts and passes the questions to the moderator to be used in the second half of the Forum. The League does not permit questions being directly asked from the audience. This allows us to keep an open and nonpartisan atmosphere. We are about clear and concise information being delivered to the electorate. We are not about pontificating or politicking by individuals.

Please be advised that due to the busy schedules of candidates and volunteers there could be changes. To verify these Forums please check our website:
www.lwvsantabarbara.org.

The Channel Voter is published five times a year (in Sept; Oct/Nov; Dec/Jan; Feb/March & Apr/May) by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Sept. 27, 2016 (Tues) 7PM at IV School – **Goleta Water District Candidates and SB County Supervisors District 3 Candidates.**

Isla Vista Elementary School: 6875 El Colegio RD. Goleta, CA 93117

Oct. 2, 2016 (Sun) 2:30PM at Goleta Valley Community Center – **Goleta City Council Candidates Forum.** *Goleta Community Center: 5679 Hollister Ave, Goleta, CA 93117*

Oct. 9, 2016 (Sun) 2:30PM at Santa Barbara Public Library, Faulkner Gallery – **Pros and Cons of the CA Ballot Measures and Local Measures.** *Santa Barbara Public Library Faulkner Gallery, 40 E. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, 93101*

Oct. 16, 2016 (Sun) 3:00PM at First United Methodist Church, **Pros and Cons of the CA Ballot Measures and Local Measures.** *First United Methodist Church, 305 E. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, CA 93101*

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Forums.

Amanda Pelch, Co-President
CoPresCommEd@lwvsantabarbara.org.



EVENTS CALENDAR

FOR THE
NOVEMBER 8, 2016
PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION

October 10, 2016
↻ First Day Vote-By-Mail / Mail Ballots Will be Mailed ↻

October 24, 2016
↻ Last Day To Register To Vote ↻
Voter Registration cards postmarked on or before October 24
WILL be accepted through Election Day.
Deadline to register to vote using the COVR website (online registration)
is 11:59:59 P.M. on October 24, 2016.

November 1, 2016
↻ Last Day To Request A Vote-By-Mail Ballot By Mail ↻
Voters may come into the office to pick-up An Emergency Vote-By-Mail Ballot
Between November 2, 2016 & Election Day.

November 8, 2016
↻ ELECTION DAY ↻
Polls are open from 7:00 A.M. To 8:00 P.M.
To be counted, Vote-By-Mail/Mail Ballots must be received by the Elections Office
or any polling place in Santa Barbara County by 8 P.M. on Election Day.
OR
To be counted, Vote-By-Mail/Mail Ballots must be postmarked on or before
November 8, 2016 and received no later than November 14, 2016.

LWVC online resources for advocacy on the propositions:

The best page to find the LWVC's recommendations on propositions, and the reasons we support or oppose them, is <https://lwvc.org/vote/elections/ballot-recommendations>. Near the top of this page, you'll also find a link to LWVC's "Vote with the League" flyer.

Click on "Read more" under each measure (including those for which we have no position or are neutral) to see detailed information about them and why League supports, opposes, or has no position or is neutral on each.

LWVC Education Fund online resources for Voter Service:

<https://cavotes.org> is the LWVC Education Fund's site. It's the go-to place for a lot of "impartial voter service" information, including information on how to register and vote. Did you know that you can now register online in 10 languages? There are also handy links to Voters Edge and the Easy Voter Guide site.

Visit <https://votersedge.org> and check California to see what is on your ballot, find your polling place, and get unbiased information on all your voting choices. This should eventually include our local candidates and ballot measures, though this information isn't there yet (Sept. 15). This year Voters Edge is in both English and Spanish.

<http://www.easyvoterguide.org/> - The Easy Voter Guide is a joint project of LWVCEF and the California State Library: info for "new and busy voters". It's available online in 5 languages. It will also be available soon in hard copy, in English and Spanish.

Linda Phillips, State & Senate Action

Fundraising & LWVSB

There are two streams that keep our League moving: Our Members/Volunteers and Fundraising. We have many expenses: our Office at 328 E. Carrillo St, Ste A, nine monthly Community Forums that are free to members and the public (we rent the room and pay for video and sound), various Voter Service Forums throughout the many and varied election seasons, Channel Voter, Constant Contact e-mail messages, Conventions/Conference, and dues to LWVC and LWV. This is just a partial list.

During 2015-16 we did not do any major directed fundraising. Normally we have had our Garden Party or our mail campaign called Together and Together Again. Your Board was aware that we had not done this but volunteer power was low in this area. During the summer LWVC started a direct mail campaign for both the CA State League and any local Leagues that choose to participate. LWVSB said yes let's do this. One of the best parts is that it was at no direct cost to us.

Thus in September many of you started receiving letters from LWVC with a red banner on the front of the envelope saying: You can silence big \$ in California. Mine was postmarked on Sep 9, 2016. The return address was for LWVC. In the body of the letter, LWVC President Helen Hutchinson clearly states that you can add a gift to LWVSB. Then the reply card also clearly states I want to support my local League as well as the California League. I am donating to both; I'm anxious to see how this will work. Of course we can be assured that whatever an individual designates to the California League and LWVSB will reach each organization.

Your Board of Directors has pledged to have a fundraiser in the Spring. This is expected to be a very fun party. We have a small group beginning to plan this event. If anyone is interested in participating please contact me.

Please renew your membership now. Those dollars support our work.

Thank you all for your continued support

Amanda Pelch, Co-President
CoPresCommEd@lwvsantabarbara.org.
League@lwvsantabarbara.org Tel: (805) 965-2422

"We fundamentally believe that our democracy works best when all Americans, of all backgrounds, have the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of our national political processes..."

from Co-Presidents' message

Sustainable Communities Committee

What is Happening with Santa Barbara's Planning for Housing?

The League's Sustainable Communities Committee has been following the planning process for housing in the City of Santa Barbara for twenty years. For many years we found their overall planning process to be open and cautious. There were some large projects that the League opposed, but in general we saw that the City cared about its reputation for historic and beautiful traditions. The City's Charter committed us to "live within our resources," and the City did. We fully supported those efforts.

About three years ago, the City was very concerned about the lack of affordable rentals, and the large number of workers who had to commute in to their jobs. The Planning Department developed an Average Unit Density (AUD) program, to build smaller rental apartments, allow greater density, and see if such units could better serve the downtown workers. The High Priority Density was limited to 250 units, in the first phase, with a top density of 63 units per acre. When these units were occupied, the entire program would be analyzed to see if it had accomplished its goal. Our Sustainable Communities Committee supported that program, and the planned analysis of it.

A number of projects have been approved, but only four apartments have been built and occupied so far. The rental price for those units is market rate, or higher, so nothing has been achieved by building much bigger buildings than were previously allowed. League learned that there are almost 1,000 units in the City's processing pipeline, and many are already approved. Some are part of the High Priority program, but others are at different Variable Densities, permitting new larger buildings. The public does not know what these projects will be, or how fast these new projects will be built.

The League has recommended either closing the pipeline until this current development can be studied, or adopting a Growth Management Ordinance to pace development, as proposed by Councilman Bendy White. Both were rejected by Council, so it appears that there are almost no controls on these fast paced projects. We will be planning to attend all meetings regarding the AUD issue, and will plan a January Forum to discuss the program with you.

Connie Hannah, Chairman,
Sustainable Communities Committee
SusComm@lwvsantabarbara.org
Tel: (805) 965-2422

Nominating Committee

The League Nominating Committee would like to introduce itself. Joanie Jones, Barbara Godley and Jean Reiche were elected at the 2016 Annual Meeting and Beverly King was appointed from the Board. We hope to meet many of you this year and would like to know more about your talents and the areas you would like to learn about within the League. We have a mission to be a year-round support to developing leadership in the League.

All League members may contact us at Nominating@lwvsantabarbara.org. We look forward to getting to know you and involving you in our League. You can make a genuine difference in our community on the issues we study. We want to get know you. Please say hello at a Community Forum, a unit discussion or our Voter Service events this fall.

Joanie Jones, Nominating Committee Chair
Nominating@lwvsantabarbara.org
Tel: (805) 965-2422

COALITION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE
P.O. BOX 699 • SUMMERLAND, CA 93067
(805) 564-6803 • Fax (805) 568-0466
sbcagv@gmail.com www.sbcoalition.org

SAVE THE DATE!
EPIX ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY
UNDER THE GUN
IN THE GUN DEBATE, TRUTH IS THE ULTIMATE WEAPON

EXECUTIVE PRODUCED & NARRATED BY KATIE COURIC

WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 7-9 PM
WHERE: MARJORIE LUKE THEATER
COST: \$10 PER FAMILY

Sponsored by the Coalition Against Gun Violence
www.sbcoalition.org

For information about all the committees you can join, ask for our new Opportunity is Knocking brochure or go to our website at www.lwvsantabarbara.org



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SANTA BARBARA, INC**
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Santa Barbara, California 93101
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Email: league@lwvsantabarbara.org
Web: lwvsantabarbara.org

Co-Presidents: Amanda Pelch, Lindsey Baker

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization of women and men, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Printed on recycled paper

Calendar for OCT. & NOV. 2016

OCTOBER	21 FRI: Under the Gun – In the Debate, Truth is the Ultimate Weapon. Documentary film by Katie Couric. Marjorie Luke Theater. 7-9PM
2 SUN: 2:30PM - Goleta City Council Candidates Forum. At the Goleta Valley Community Center	24 MON: LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE
4 TUES: Supper Unit - 5:30PM Madam Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State Street. Contact Karen Bunker or Jane Honikman	NOVEMBER
8 SAT: LWVSB Board Meeting - 10:00AM League Office - 328 East Carrillo	1 TUES: Supper Unit - 5:30PM Madam Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State Street. Contact Karen Bunker or Jane Honikman
9 SUN: 2:30PM - Education Forum on Pros & Cons of CA Ballot & Local Measures. Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Public Library	8 TUES: ELECTION DAY – 7:00AM TO 8:00PM
10 MON: Valle Verde Unit - Noon to 2:00PM in private dining room off breezeway (parking in front lot.) 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact: Juliane Heyman	9 WED: Carpinteria Unit, - 10:00AM. Carpinteria Women's Club. 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Jane Benefield
12 WED: Carpinteria Unit, - 10:00am Carpinteria Women's Club. 1059 Vallecito Rd. Contact Jane Benefield	12 SAT: LWVSB Board Meeting - 10:00AM League Office - 328 East Carrillo
16 SUN: Movie & Q&As: "FIX IT: Healthcare at the Tipping Point"- 2:00PM. Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Main Public Library, 40 East Anapamu St.	14 MON: Valle Verde Unit - Noon to 2:00PM in private dining room off breezeway (parking in front lot.) 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact: Juliane Heyman
16 SUN: 3:00PM - Education Forum on Pros & Cons of CA Ballot & Local Measures. United First Methodist Church at 305 East Anapamu St.	16 WED: Community Relations & Law Enforcement Forum – Noon to 2:00PM. Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina Street. Bring bag lunch
19 WED: Community Forum About Landlords & Renters' Relations - Noon–2:00PM. Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina Street. Bring bag lunch	<p>UNIT DISCUSSION TOPICS OCTOBER - Ballot Measures NOVEMBER - Library Problems Today</p>