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Subject Subject: Turning Anger Into Action: The League National Convention



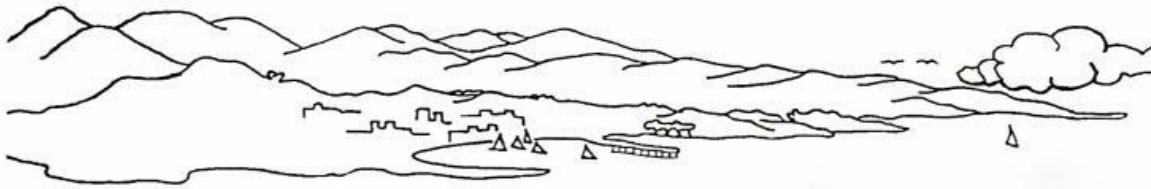
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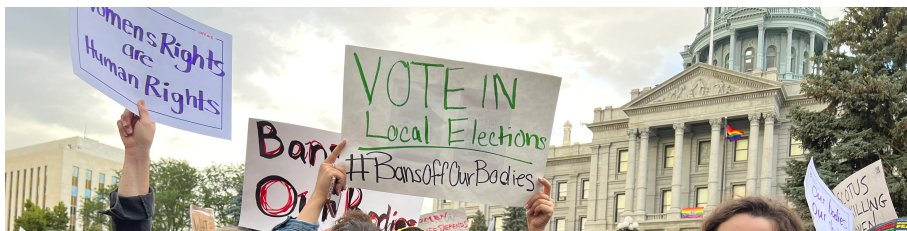
CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



July 1, 2022



The LWV National Convention: Turning Anger Into Action

It began with a dark cloud over it. Even before the call to order, delegates were digesting the news that the U.S. Supreme Court had overturned Roe v Wade and its constitutional abortion rights protections. But as the 55th League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) National Convention ended, some light was shining through.

As the convention organizers pointed out, “This past week reminds us of both the urgency of our work and the power of our members to create a more perfect democracy.”

This was the League's first hybrid Convention, with 1000+ members from all 50 states joining both virtually and in person in Denver, CO. Many older delegates remembered when women had no right to control their own bodies. Younger delegates took that freedom for granted since it had existed for 50 years.

In her [opening remarks](#), LWVUS board president Dr. Deborah Ann Turner reflected on her experiences as an obstetrician/gynecologist and the League's dedication to reproductive justice.

"We hold the power to create a more perfect democracy. Women's rights are human rights, and we will continue to fight until the right to abortion is restored," Dr. Turner stated. "This is the work that the League of Women Voters does...We fight for our freedom. And that's why we are here today at Convention."

Delegates voted to pass an “emergency resolution” reaffirming the League's support for a woman's right to control her body. Then, on Friday evening, June 25, convention attendees joined Denver activists in marching to the Colorado State Capitol Building and rallying for abortion justice.

Throughout the convention, speakers and delegates gave their visions of the future of the League and the need for action. For example, Dr. Turner addressed the “pain, anger and fear” many were feeling. “We must use our anger as fuel for action.” And she urged continuing to apply a DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) lens to everything we do. “We must continue being a League of the future.”

Other inspirational messages:

“The League will soar and in the end we will win.” (Dr. Turner)

“Standing on the side of justice and democracy is always the right thing to do...Change is the only way we can remain strong.” (CEO Virginia Kase Solomon)

Thoughtful action remained a focus throughout Convention. On Thursday, June 23, [a panel of women leaders](#) in the voting rights and social justice movements spoke to the ways in which women can power democracy. Later, MSNBC political analyst Joy Reid reflected on the essential nature of our work in her [keynote address](#).

The League also shared its 2020-2022 biennium report ([here](#)), which showcased the League's impact over the past two years. Throughout three days of plenary, delegates elected the 2022-2024 LWVUS Board of directors. Dr. Turner was once again elected as board president, a role she has held since 2020. Delegates approved the LWVUS budget and various bylaws amendment proposals. Read the decision summaries [here](#).

Delegates had the opportunity to attend dozens of workshops and caucuses throughout the convention on topics as diverse as mis and dis-information, activating young voters, using OutreachCircle, and more.

Due to time constraints, the presentation of Biennium Awards was postponed and will be held the week of July 11. (There will be a virtual invitation to this celebration.)

As the convention ended, Dr. Turner left us with parting words: "I believe in the power of women to form a more perfect democracy. I believe in us."

A post-convention message concluded:

"Thank you again to everyone who made our 55th Convention a time of community, action, and inspiration.

"The next two years will determine the course of our nation; as Dr. Turner said, we will 'keep on keeping on.'

"And we will win.

"Yours in League,

"Team LWV"

Just a few more thoughts from this virtual delegate: I was surprised at the how emotional many of the speakers were as they presented their arguments for or against proposed positions. The court ruling—and the pandemic--made this a different kind of convention. It was hard being there on a screen instead of in person. I missed the chance to meet Leaguers from other states and to compare notes about our successes and challenges.

Still, whether we were in Denver or on Zoom, we knew we are all in this together, proud of being a League member, impressed by the intelligence and calm of Dr. Turner, and awed by the 102-year history of an organization that was born in the fight for women's rights. We left the convention knowing that while there is still much work to be done, we will be working with League members throughout the country to continue that fight.

Vicki Allen, VP Communications and LWVSB delegate



The Votes

LWV President Dr. Deborah Turner announced the League's next "moonshot" goal: abolition of the Electoral College. The League has long supported this goal due to the college's racist history and many shortcomings. Read more [here](#).

Delegates also voted to approve:

- The proposed LWVUS program for 2022 – 2024: Campaign for Making Democracy Work®: ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics and Redistricting.
- To retain all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.
- To elevate the ‘direct election of the President by popular vote’ as a prominent, listed component of ‘Making Democracy Work.’ This motion includes both National Vote Interstate Compact and the Abolishment of the Electoral by Constitutional Amendment.
- Adoption of a concurrence with the LWV of New York’s Health Care Update (Reducing inequities in access).
- Adoption of a concurrence with LWV California’s Criminal Justice position (Advocating at every level to eliminate systemic injustice).
- Adoption of a concurrence the LWV of Connecticut position on Digital Equity.
- A motion that the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) be added to the LWVUS program so that resources and focus be used to accomplish its passage and further our mission.
- A motion that stated: Whereas the League of Women Voters has had a long-standing immigration position since 2008 and a strong commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI); Be it resolved that LWVUS actively advocates and supports Immigration Reform at all levels of LWV. - LWV San Diego
- A motion to call upon the LWV US Board and state and local Leagues to urge state and local governments to adopt and publicize Declarations of Climate Emergency appropriate to local conditions and take appropriate action to implement the Declarations of Climate Emergency.” - League of Women Voters of Radnor Township
- A motion that stated: Therefore, be it resolved that LWVUS will provide continued and renewed support for the admission of the state of Douglass Commonwealth into the United States of America with equal status to the existing 50 states. - LWV Douglas Commonwealth
- A motion that LWVUS recognize there is an immediate, ongoing, & urgent problem of Missing & Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP). LWVUS recognizes the leadership of the Dept. of Interior on this issue as well as the need for additional Congressional attention. We resolve that LWVUS advocate for comprehensive data collection & inter-agency cooperation to address MMIP issues across the country. - LWV Wyoming

Because of all the important information that came out of the LWV National Convention, we will be compiling a special edition of the newsletter with reports on the workshops LWVSB delegates attended, links to positions and programs and to the recordings of speeches and panels. This should serve as a resource for members and League friends until the next National Convention two years from now in Washington, D.C.



Yes, I had an Abortion

Fifty-one years ago I lived in Muncie, Indiana, near Ball State University. I was married and we had two children, ages two and three. My then-husband was completing his undergraduate degree and working full time. I was working on a graduate degree, working part time and homemaking full time. We supported the idea of Zero Population Growth—that was a movement back then—perhaps a precursor to the Climate Change movement today.

I became pregnant on New Year's Eve after 3 very long games of bridge (we played until the guys won a game). At 3:30 a.m. I just did the math wrong and did not use contraception—the very next morning I realized that I had miscounted the days it was safe to have sex and I may have gotten pregnant. I confirmed that two or three weeks later with my ob-gyn doc: I was pregnant. Both my husband and I were devastated—we had just the family we wanted and could handle—financially and emotionally. The prospect of a third child was overwhelming for us. Abortions were becoming legal in a few states, but not in Indiana.

A few days later I was at a car dealership having our VW's oil changed with my toddlers playing in the showroom when I found a Ball State News—the university's newspaper. On the back page was a smallish

ad: “Abortions—Legal in New York City”—with a phone number. I took that paper home with me and I made a call the very next day. I made an appointment and after finding care for the kids with close friends, my husband and I drove 900 miles to NYC. I had an abortion by aspiration at a simple, tidy clinic and we then quietly celebrated Valentine’s Day that year in New York City at a Holiday Inn. I was too miserable to dance, but I was also greatly relieved.

Two years later, my then-husband decided that he wanted a different lifestyle and our marriage ended. My ex-husband moved several hundred miles away to Chicago and I reared our kids mostly on my own. If I had had three children to care for financially and emotionally, life would have been much more difficult and it would have been difficult for my kids, too.

I have never, ever regretted our decision to end that pregnancy. Having a child is a commitment for more than 20 years—emotionally, physically, and financially. It’s a decision that deserves to be carefully considered for oneself, the family, and the anticipated child.

We voters must be sure that all women who may become pregnant have the opportunity to judge and decide for themselves whether or not having a child is a good decision for them and their family. And we need to assure that the means to have appropriate healthcare is available to them. It’s a challenge that is now changing, but it is essential that we address it.

Pam Flynt-Tambo, VP Program

Events

Guests to Meet with League To Discuss Affordable Housing

Many of you have shared your thoughts about what kind of community you would like to see across the South County over the next nine years and how the housing element updating can contribute to that vision. We are now in the final stretch of that process and will need to find extra energy to get through a hectic July schedule. The LWVSB Housing Committee believes all of those efforts will be worth it because the needs are urgent and the overall community, staffs and elected officials seem to agree, with a nudge from the state, that we must go beyond **hoping** for a significant amount of new affordable housing.

We have moved our monthly joint LWVSB Housing and Sustainable Communities Committees to Friday, July 8, 10:30 am. The South County Roundtable of SBCAN will join us.

From 10:30-11:50am we will review important environmental issues to consider during the housing element updating and learn more about the EIR and CEQA processes with four special guests:

Scott Cooper from the Audubon Society

Brian Trautwein and Rachel Kondor from the EDC and

Luz Reyes-Martin from the Sierra Club and Central Coast Climate Justice Network.

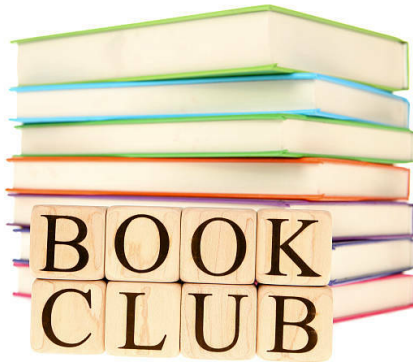
We will review maps of potential areas for affordable housing in the City and County (if available). We hope to find common ground now to avoid specific environmental protection and housing project conflicts.

From noon to 1:30pm we will focus on other aspects of the housing element including the social justice/equity issues with Frank Rodriguez of CAUSE and members of the SB Tenants Union from noon to 12:30pm, land use/zoning changes proposed for City of SB and County from 12:30 to 1pm [Special attention will be given to proposed 'affordable housing overlays' in the City and areas proposed for upzoning in the County.], other issues that need our attention from 1 to 1:30pm. [We will stay until 2pm for informal Q & A.]

LWVSB will prepare letters with specific comments on the housing element drafts to submit to the City of SB's Planning Commission on July 14 and the City Council on July 20. The Goleta Housing Element has already been submitted to the state, but the Goleta Planning Commission will be reviewing the latest EIR associated with the Heritage Ridge project in July. At this time we do not know when the County will be releasing their HE plan but we will have 30 days to comment before it is submitted to the state.

To help with the review of City or County draft plans (beginning July 5), or to get the Zoom link for July 8 please email housing@lwvsantabarbara.org.

Linda Honikman, Housing Committee Chair



DATE: Thursday, July 21 at 2pm

TITLE: Fight: How Gen Z Is Channeling Their Fear and Passion to Save America by John Della Volpe

Della Volpe covers the coming of age of the 70 million young people in America born in a 20-year period beginning in the mid-1990s. Volpe examines the political awakening of this generation during the Trump era, as well as what he describes as a "significant mental health crisis," intensified by the state of the country's politics.

Hybrid (Zoom and in person) and lunch (12:30 pm). Contact bookclub@lwvsantabarbara.org

Elaine Rudin, Book Club Coordinator

For Your Calendar



For more information, registration and contact information, click on the event in the website calendar [here](#). Meetings are via Zoom.

Community Forums are livestreamed on Facebook (@LWVSB) and on our YouTube Channel (link at bottom of this newsletter). Some events are featured in separate articles.

Tuesday, July 5 - noon-1pm - **Communications Committee**

Friday, July 8 - 10:30am-2pm - **Sustainable Communities and Housing Committees**

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

Wednesday, July 13 - noon - **Forum Planning Meeting**

Thursday, July 21 - 2pm - **Book Club: Fight: How Gen Z is Channeling Their Fear and Passion to Save America**

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Note: no Community Forums until September

Keep Up to Date on Action Alerts From the state and national League

For LWV, [click here](#).

For LWVC, [click here](#).

Videos



The video of the latest Community Forum, "New Approaches to Youth Justice: Breaking the School to

Prison Pipeline," is available on our YouTube Channel.

If you missed the Community Forum on "South Coast Housing 2030: Coming Together Now" or the Feb. 16 Community Forum "Fighting for Voting Rights Then and Now" you can see those videos. The video of the Jan. 29 "Vigil: Shine a Light on Injustice in Our Jail" is there too.

For these and other Forums, [watch here](#). Subscribe to the channel to be notified of future videos.

Watch Forum Videos on TVSB

Tune in: TVSB Channels League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Show.

LWVSB Show - Weekly Spots

League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Show - English version:

Channel 17, "Voice": on Tuesdays 9:00 p.m. and on Fridays 2:00 a.m.

Channel 71, "Culture": on Wednesdays 9:00 p.m., on Thursdays 7:00 p.m., on Fridays 5:00 a.m., and on Saturdays 10:00 a.m.

League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Show - Spanish version:

Channel 17, "Voice": on Wednesdays 9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays 3:00 a.m.

Channel 71, "Culture": on Mondays 7:30 p.m., on Thursdays 3:30 a.m., on Fridays 3:30 p.m., and on Saturdays 2:00 a.m.

Inside the League

Planning for Community Forums in 2022-23

Come to our planning meeting for the 2022-23 Community Forums on Wednesday, July 13 from noon to 2pm. Topics may include Climate Change, Criminal Justice Reform, Housing, Immigration (our program planning topics submitted to LWVUS on March 1). We may also include other topics such as Energy, Behavioral Wellness, Voting Rights, Poverty, Homelessness, Women's Equality.

This is the meeting when we determine who does what and when in the coming League year. Creative thinking expected. Curious folks welcomed.

We'll meet by Zoom and create our plan for the coming League year. Bring your lunch or a tall glass of iced tea and your creative energy. (You have probably thought of something that should be a topic for one of our forums.) If you don't have the expertise to organize it—see who else may be able to make your idea happen. We'll brainstorm, hone down the list, decide who can do what and where we go from there.

Some additional decisions that need to be made for our Community Forums are whether to Zoom them or hold them live. Do we want to hold the four minimum member meetings we should have for our League requirements or shall we have more than four? (We held six last year.) Is the third Wednesday of the month, 12-2pm still the best day and time? Do you have other concerns and ideas? Come share them, please. I'm looking forward to having some spirited discussion about what we plan to do this year.

The link to the meeting is on the calendar on our website (lwvsantabarbara.org). Or [email](#) Pam Flynt Tambo to receive a link before the meeting on July 13.

Don't Forget to Renew Your Annual LWVSB Dues

You can log in to your Club Express account on our local League website and pay securely online, using a credit card or PayPal. This is the fastest and most convenient way to renew your participation in the League's valuable work for the coming year. If you have already established your account, your login is only a few clicks away at lwvsantabarbara.org (click on Member Login in the upper right corner of the screen).

If you need assistance in getting back into your member account or setting it up, [contact me](#) to set up a personal appointment. There are many member advantages to having your login available, beyond renewing your membership each year.

Once you are logged in: click on your name in the upper right and then on Profile. From there, click on the RENEW button and follow instructions

The \$3.00 credit card processing fee has been added into your dues; it saves our local League from having to pay that.

If you are not yet a member, you can [Join today!](#) And if you can add a donation with your dues renewal, thank you in advance. All amounts are eligible for tax deduction. LWV-SB is a 501(c)3.

Gail Fairburn, Membership Chair

Please welcome our newest members:
Kathleen Donahue and Laura Haston



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