

Date Sent March 1, 2023

From League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

Subject Subject: Housing Forum: Saying Yes, other March events...



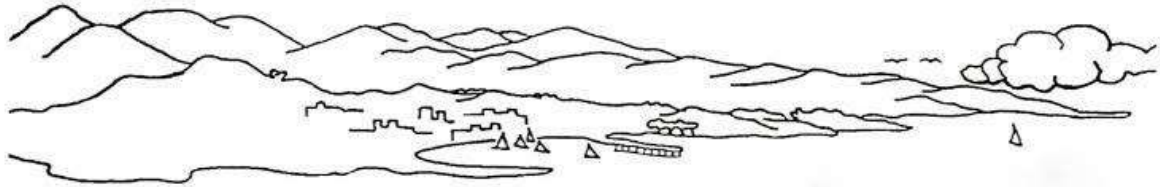
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CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



March 1, 2023

League of Women Voters Santa Barbara Community Forum

South Coast Housing 2030: Saying 'Yes' Today



Wednesday, March 15, 2023 12:00 to 1:30 pm

Forum to Feature Community Leaders

Speakers will share ideas and answer questions about what we should say "Yes" to in order to provide housing security in the South County:

Julia Hamilton, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

Hilda Maldonado, Superintendent of Schools, Santa Barbara Unified School District

Gabe Escobedo, Board Member, SBUSD and former Chair, City of SB Planning Commission

Frank Rodriguez, CAUSE, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy

Stanley Tzankov, Santa Barbara Tenants Union Co-Founder

Laura Capps, SB County Supervisor and former Board Member, SBUSD

Lisa Plowman, Director of Planning and Development, Santa Barbara County

This annual housing forum hosted by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (LWVSB) comes at a time when everyone has more questions than answers about how to tackle our ever growing housing crisis. Cooperative planning that should be happening now with the Housing Element process is being threatened by polarizing pressure from the state. Legislators had good intentions to force cities and counties to make up for the affordable housing deficit that has built up over decades.

But as our cities and county push to plan for the state mandated RHNA numbers (Regional Housing Needs Allocation), residents fear that Santa Barbara may lose its character and natural beauty, and jurisdictions have not had a clear path forward. The LWVSB is pleased to host a stellar panel who are looking at lights at the end of this housing crisis tunnel.

We know what we don't want:

- Local workers, many with essential jobs, and families with children not being able to live here
- Full time residents being displaced by second home residents and illegal airbnbs
- A loss of diversity and permanent residents that could contribute to our cultural and economic vitality
- More commuters that increase greenhouse gas emissions

But what can we say 'yes' to for housing that doesn't create more problems such as:

- Reduction of our critical water supply and other natural resources
- Loss of prime agricultural parcels, open space and view corridors that get upzoned
- Threats to our livability with increased traffic and inadequate parking

Community leaders and County planners are taking on this challenge and as a recent letter from three local School Districts highlight, it's time to step up as our community did more than fifty years ago when confronting another crisis:

"Equitable, affordable housing projects are essential to any path forward for South Coast housing. Our county has led unprecedented efforts such as environmental impact protections and can become a leader in this critical area as well." - letter to the County from Santa Barbara, Hope and Goleta school district superintendents and teacher associations.

[Click here](#) to register.

Linda Honikman, Forum Chair

March 3 Housing Committee Meeting

For anyone interested in joining the next League Housing Committee at noon on March 3, send an [email](#) to request the Zoom link. We will be discussing allowable uses for the City of Santa Barbara's new HOPE affordable housing fund, which will be considered by the Council on March 7. We will also consider possible committee and date changes for the monthly Housing Committee meetings that would begin in April.



Sustainable Communities Committee To Hear from EDC Watershed Director

The LWVSB Sustainable Communities (SusComm) Committee will meet Friday, March 3 at 10:30-11:45am. Our guest speaker will be Brian Trautwein, Senior Analyst and Director of the Watershed Program at the Environmental Defense Center (EDC).

Trautwein's focus is on streams, rivers, watersheds, and sensitive habitats. He has played a major role in several EDC victories such as the Cat Canyon Onshore Oil Projects (2016-2020) and open space preservation projects, such as Hearst Ranch (100,000 acres). He leads creek cleanups which have removed over 20,000 pounds of garbage, recyclables, and hazardous materials from local creeks. He also founded the Urban Creeks Council and facilitates the Watershed Alliance of South Coast Organizations of which the League is a member.

Guests are welcomed. Please [contact](#) Sandy Grasso-Boyd, SusComm chair.

Earth DayVolunteers Needed

The Community Environmental Council is heading up the Santa Barbara Earth Day festivities at Alameda Park on April 29-30, 2023. Its goal is to emphasize the on-the-ground momentum to reverse the threat of the climate crisis.

LWVSB plans to participate by having a booth on Saturday April 29. It's a great opportunity to engage the public and especially prospective new members.

Please help by volunteering for a 1- 2 hours shift. It should be fun and a good time to connect with each other and a climate-forward audience.

[Contact](#) Gail Osherenko to say you will volunteer.

Public Meetings

Task Force Presents Petitions For Reducing Jail Population

On Feb. 28 at the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meeting, the joint criminal justice reform working group of LWVSB and CLUE (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice) presented petitions signed by over 350 individuals calling for reduction of the number of residents in our county jails.

The two jails now house about 750 people, many of whom do not pose a threat to the community and are simply awaiting trial or disposition of their cases. The task force said the jails should not be serving as holding places for the homeless and those struggling with mental health and addiction challenges.

"It is time for the county to fund and provide services in the community that offer real treatment. Jailing people repeatedly for minor offenses does not make us safer. Instead it traumatizes those unnecessarily left in jail, destabilizes families, causes job losses, and stigmatizes people who by law are presumed innocent."

The letter made three specific requests of the board:

- Direct the South County Jail Remodel/Rebuild Team to plan for a reduced total jail population of 550 or fewer.
- Direct the South County Jail Remodel/Rebuild Team to compare design options for that facility with expansion of the North Branch Jail.
- Direct Staff to pursue preparation of a Live Data System which tracks the availability of community beds for persons in need of mental health and/or addiction treatment.

We anticipate that the board will receive an updated report on progress in criminal justice reform from their consultant Retired Judge Sherrill Ellsworth sometime in April. Additionally, the board will be holding workshops on the budget for 2023-24 in April with the focus on the budgets of the four public safety agencies (Sheriff, Probation, District Attorney, and Public Defender) and General Services and health (Behavioral Wellness, Public Health, Health and Human Services, and Fire) in late April.

If you would like to join our Criminal Justice Task Force, contact gail.osherenko@gmail.com

County's Draft 2030 Climate Action Plan Ready for Public Input

The public is encouraged to comment on the County of Santa Barbara draft 2030 Climate Action Plan, available now--[click here](#)

Three public workshops are scheduled – two in-person and one online – to provide an overview of the Climate Action Plan document, display key actions and strategies from the plan, and offer instruction on how to comment directly on the plan. Here are the dates, times, and locations of the Santa Barbara County's Climate Action Plan Open House:

SOUTH COUNTY – March 1, 12:30pm to 2pm at the Santa Barbara Public Library, Faulkner Gallery

NORTH COUNTY – March 1, 5pm. to 6:30pm at the Santa Maria Public Library, Shepard Hall

VIRTUAL / ONLINE – March 7, noon to 1pm

Register [here](#). Food and prizes will be offered at the in-person locations.

Ann Bailey, LWVSB Board Member and Climate Action Commission Equity Advisory and Outreach Subcommittee Member

Action Alert



Take Action Today!

[Click here](#) to read about two LWVUS Action Alerts.

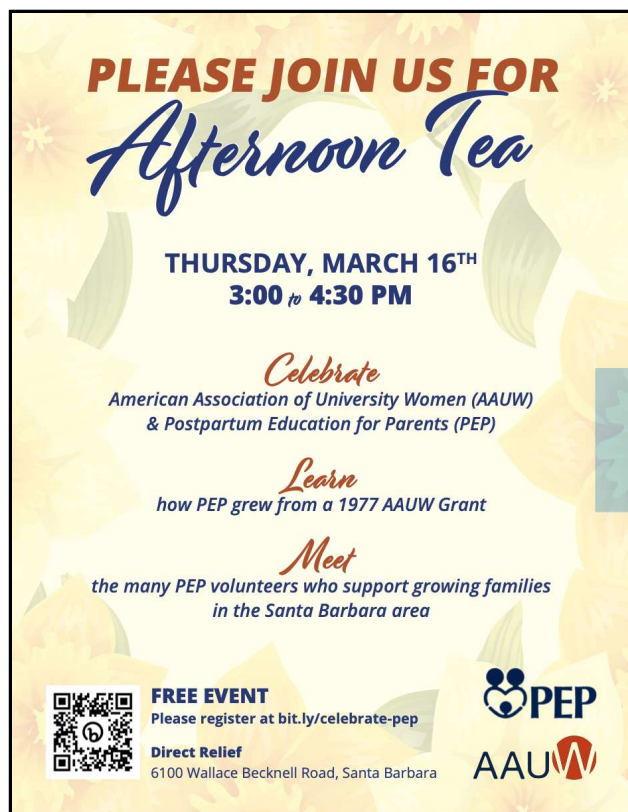
Time to Publish the ERA

More than 100 years after some women gained the right to vote, people in the United States are still not constitutionally guaranteed equality on the basis of sex. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) will update the US Constitution to protect the equality of rights under the law regardless of sex.

Root Out Dark Money

Contact your representatives today and tell them now is the time to root out dark money that has an increasing influence on our federal elections.

For Your Information



Webinar: Crisis at the Border

The League of Women Voters of Pasadena Area is holding a Zoom Webinar on Thursday, March 2 from 10am to noon. It will focus on the questions: What is it really all about? and What can LWV do about it?

Speakers will be: Dr. Susan Martin, steering committee, LWV Immigration Interest Group; and Esmeralda Flores, Southern Region Policy Manager of Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights. Dr. Martin will explain the evolution of US immigration policy and how we arrived at the present situation. Flores will discuss the humanitarian, legal and political crisis at the border.

Register [here](#). For questions, email events@lwv-pa.org

Equity Advisory and Outreach for Climate Resilience

Collaborating communitywide to address climate change is the focus of the Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative. This network of public agencies, non-profit and for-profit entities, and community-

based organizations is working to identify, prepare for, and mitigate the impacts of climate change in our region.

Equity Advisory and Outreach is one of six subcommittees formed by the Collaborative to identify specific challenges, solicit technical assistance and funding, and engage community members in order to develop tools, resources, and build climate change problem-solving capacity. The other committees are Clean Energy Assurance; Sea Level Rise Adaptation; Land Stewardship and Carbon Farming; Business Advisory; and Building Decarbonization.

Among the County Collaborative's achievements was the November 2022 announcement of three local sites chosen to participate in a Resilience Hubs program. A resilience hub is a community focused facility that can coordinate the distribution of services and resources before, during, and/or after a natural hazard event. The initial three sites are the Blue Sky Center in New Cuyama, the Franklin Neighborhood Center and Eastside Library in Santa Barbara, and Girls Inc. of Carpinteria. Funding for the Resilience Hubs program is provided by a \$200,000 grant from the California Resilience Challenge, and a \$25,000 grant from PG&E.

Ann Bailey, LWVSB Board Member and Equity Advisory and Outreach Subcommittee Member

For Your Calendar



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

Friday, March 3 - 10:30-11:45am - Sustainable Communities Committee

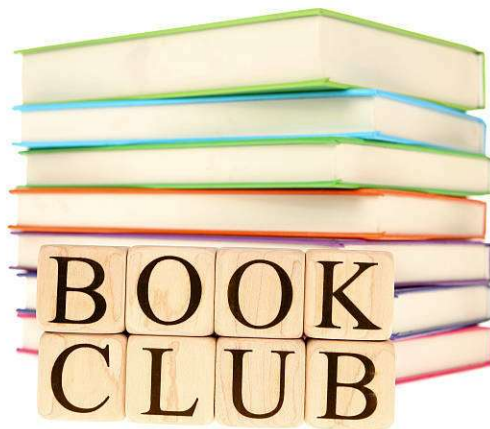
Friday, March 3 - noon-1:15pm - Housing Committee

Tuesday, March 7 - 1-2pm- Communications Committee

Saturday, March 11- 10-noon - Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 15 - noon-1:30pm - Community Forum--South Coast Housing 2030: Saying 'Yes' Today

Thursday, March 23- 1:30-2:30pm - Book Club



TITLE: *Unraveling: What I learned About Life While Shearing Sheep, Dyeing Wool, and Making the World's Ugliest Sweater*

AUTHOR: Peggy Orenstein

DATE: Thursday, March 23 at 1:30pm via Zoom

This book was recommended by our climate change expert, Sandy Grasso Boyd, just in time for Earth Day.

The book *Our Malady* by Timothy Snyder will be discussed on Thursday, April 27, 1:30 pm. This title is about the author's experience with our U.S. healthcare system.

Contact Elaine Rudin, bookclub@lwvsantabarbara.org for Zoom links.

Inside the League



Board members tell new LWVSB members about the League at a recent Meet and Greet

Get Involved Now

Visit [our website](#) to see all the things the League is doing--and find something you are interested in. Then contact the new 2023 Nominating Committee. The Committee is looking for a slate of candidates for next year's Board and would really appreciate your suggestions, ideas, and possible interest.

The members of the Committee are: Revae Moran, Chair; Dianne Meester Black, Jane Honikman and Suzanne Cohen.

Send an [email message](#) and one of the members will contact you right away to discuss what you would like to help with in FY 2023!

If you are not yet a member and would like to join, [click here](#)

Keep Up to Date on Action Alerts From the State and National Leagues

For LWV, [click here](#).

For LWVC, [click here](#).

Videos



Recordings of election and community forums in both English and Spanish are on our YouTube Channel-- [watch here](#). Subscribe to the channel to be notified of future videos.

LWVSB Videos are 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.



Experience Selections of Black Music

February was Black History Month. Throughout history, Black artists have captured the joy and sorrow of the Black experience through music. As a result, music has been at the center of efforts to raise awareness of and fight for issues important to Black people, like voting rights and social justice.

The League of Women Voters of the United States brings you some examples. [Click here](#) to find three mini-playlists featuring just a fraction of the music by Black artists that is rooted in activism, hopefulness, and Black joy.

[Donate](#)

[Join](#)



[Done](#)