

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



A Message from the LWVSB President

March is Women's History Month, a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society. Women's History has been observed annually in the month of March in the United

States since 1987.

The 2021 theme is Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced. This theme captures the spirit of these challenging times. It is the right time to [advocate for the Equal Rights Amendment \(ERA\)](#) to finally be added to our constitution. Leagues have worked passionately for decades to see the ERA ratified by the states, and 2021 is the year that we could get it past the finish line.

International Women's Day (IWD), marked annually on March 8th, is one of the most important days of the year to:

- celebrate women's achievements
- raise awareness about women's equality
- lobby for accelerated gender parity
- fundraise for female-focused charities.

The IWD 2021 campaign theme is: #ChooseToChallenge. A challenged world is an alert world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions--all day, every day. We can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality. We can all choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world. From challenge comes change, so let's all choose to challenge.



Housing on the South Coast in 2030: What's Ahead?

**Community Forum:
March 17, noon**

Starting today, what steps can we take to begin resolving our community's housing crisis? We have a chance to embrace big ideas which could make a significant and positive difference for our community's future. Just as the earthquake of 1925 led to a rebirth of the City of Santa Barbara, there is an unprecedented opportunity to reshape the entire South County landscape in more equitable, healthy, economically viable and sustainable ways.

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The March 17 Community Forum hosted by the League will feature local leaders and housing experts offering their visions and paths forward for improved housing in 2030.

Four key aspects of housing will be addressed by the panelists:

The Problems and Causes of our Local Housing Crisis

Rob Fredericks, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer, HACSB (Housing Authority City of Santa Barbara)

Frank Rodriguez, Policy Advocate, CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy)

Kristen Miller, President & CEO, Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce

Dick Flacks, Chair, SUN (Sustainable University Now)

Countywide Approach to Planning, State Policies and Goals, ADUs

Frank Thompson, Frank Thompson Housing Consultants

Dan Kleman, Deputy Director, Long Range Planning, Santa Barbara County Planning

Jane Benefield, Vice Chair, Carpinteria Planning Commission

Katie Maynard, Chair, Goleta Planning Commission

Sustainable Communities

Katie Maynard, UCSB Sustainability Coordinator

Detty Peikert, Architect, AIA Design Charette for State Street

Downtown Vision to Implementation for Workforce and Higher Density Housing

Detty Peikert, Architect, RRM Design Group

Renee Brooke, City Planner, City of Santa Barbara Planning

Geoff Green, HACSB Commissioner & SBCC Foundation CEO

Rob Fredericks, HACSB Executive Director

State Assemblymember (37th District) Steve Bennett will also share thoughts and answer questions related to his interest in affordable housing.

Advance registration is required to attend this free online Community Forum. [RSVP](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the webinar.



How YOU Can Help Make Democracy Work: Join the March 9, 5:30pm Discussion

All members are cordially invited to a small, informal discussion meeting as a follow up to the How YOU can Make Democracy Work Forum. If you missed the Forum please watch it [here](#).

This is your opportunity to socialize and talk to League leaders on mentorship, opportunities and any other topic of your interest. Fund Development Director Gail Osherenko will lead the discussion. Email President@lwvsantabarbara.org for Zoom Link.



Club Express Is Coming to Our League!

A group of League members who have been concerned about how to meet our technology needs recently formed a Technology Task Force and held

meetings during January and February to discuss those needs. We knew that the National LWV had developed a partnership with a software company to allow local Leagues to purchase a new association management system called Club Express for a special price.

After reviewing Club Express and talking to several local Leagues that are now using it--including one for more than four years--the Task Force voted to recommend to the Board that we move forward in purchasing it. I also volunteered to be the Project Manager in implementing Club Express.

At the last Board meeting, I presented information on Club Express, and the Board members voted to purchase it and make me the (gulp!) Project Manager.

I am now working with Club Express staff and several League members to implement the program and use it to:

- update and manage our website,
- manage our member and donor databases,
- manage and publicize events,
- manage our finances,
- make photos and documents available to our members,
- set up volunteer activities, and
- much more.

Once we have uploaded all of our member files into Club Express, each of you

will receive a message with information about your newly established member profile. You can customize your profile (or not) to your heart's desire, adding information about your interests; a picture of yourself (don't worry - that's not required); and updating your contact information on a real time basis, such as if you move or obtain a new email address or phone number.

Because of the special pricing the League has set up, Club Express will cost us less annually than the stand alone programs we have been using for all of these activities.

We all are working hard to implement these new, exciting changes and hope to have everything in place by the end of our fiscal year (i.e., by June 30, 2021) or sooner, so stay tuned.

If you would like to know more about Club Express and its capabilities, see the League page on their [website](#).

Revae Moran

Information on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Lens

LWV (at a national, state and local levels) is an organization fully committed to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity and inclusion or DEI are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.



DEI is the lens we focus as Individuals, as an Organization and with our local Community partners.

First, at the Individual level and as a group of diverse individuals, we focus on understanding the basics of DEI and analyzing our individual biases and diverse dimensions. We may join our League's Book Group and read the same book, such as From Here to Equality, How to be an Anti-Racist, or Unrigg. Currently League members are forming a DEI group (nicknamed JEDI, for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and learning about what our direction will be in our DEI work.

The Organizational level examines ways in which Leaguers can represent their community through the course of equitable and inclusive participation and with collective leadership opportunities.

The Community level analyzes ways in which Leaguers are helpful to their partner organizations by sharing their strengths that will uplift underrepresented voices and acknowledge value in democracy.

At our first gathering we introduced ourselves, our reasons or ways we came to be involved, then we brainstormed ideas about "how LWV of Santa Barbara could advance understanding in DEI." Our plan is to develop the purpose as a committee that allows it to work beyond the individual educational level into ACTION based on our League policies on issues.

There are a wealth of DEI webinars and materials on the national League website. [Here](#) is the link.

Our League's goal is to look through a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Lens at all our activities; for example, in our statements to governmental bodies and in our Community Forums on housing, schools, or climate crisis and our recent

forum: Confronting Racism in Santa Barbara.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is not a new focus for League and everyone is welcome to be involved in our new Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) group or as partners in this important work.

Joanie Jones

(Information drawn from lwv.org and current local League activities)



LWV Action Alert: Support the For the People Act, H.R. 1 and S. 1.

The National League recently posted an alert about this legislation. It puts power back into the hands of American voters by making

voting easier and more accessible and by modernizing future elections. Over the last two years, this bill was passed by the House of Representatives, but it was stalled when it went to the Senate. The House is set to vote again on the For the People Act the first week of March 2021. It addresses some of the most pressing issues facing our democracy because it will:

- Restore the Voting Rights Act
- Modernize our voter registration system
- Update the public financing of elections through small donor matching funds
- Curb partisan gerrymandering
- Make campaign contributions more transparent

Contact your Representative TODAY through the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and urge them Vote Yes on the For The People Act. If you are local, thank Rep. Carbajal for being a co-sponsor of this important bill.

Other State and National Actions

Soon the League of Women Voters of California will be advocating on bills in the legislature and issuing action alerts. [Sign up here](#) to take action on the issues you care about.

Read about LWV's 2020 advocacy work [here](#). The League is working on criminal justice issues, voting rights, climate change, housing and more! Make sure your voice is heard in Sacramento!

Some recent actions by LWVUS:

In addition to the bills we mentioned in our last newsletter, LWVUS has been advocating for important issues that aren't in Congress:

League Calls for TPS Protections for Mexican Immigrants

LWV joins over 125 advocacy and civil rights organizations to call upon President Biden and DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to exercise their executive authority to designate Mexico for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) as a result of the country's worsening COVID-19 crisis. [Read the letter.](#)

LWV Calls on Biden to Reinstate Moratorium on Death Penalty

League urges President Biden to fulfill his promise of equality, equity, and justice in our criminal legal system by immediately commuting the sentences of all individuals under federal sentence of death and reinstating the federal moratorium on the use of the death penalty. [Read the letter.](#)

LWV Joins Amicus to U.S. Supreme Court, *Cochran v. Gresham*

The League joined our partners at the National Women's Law Center and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in a case involving challenges to Health and Human Services approval of Medicaid demonstration projects in Arkansas and New Hampshire that impose work requirements as the condition for receiving Medicaid benefits, among other coverage changes. In the brief, we highlight the devastating impact that these projects will have on women and people of color, and underrepresented communities. [Read our press release.](#)

Linda Phillips, State and National Action

For Your Information: Some City of Santa Barbara Opportunities

The City of Santa Barbara is seeking the public's input to help develop new standards for multi-unit housing projects. Through the City's new community outreach platform, you can learn about this latest work effort and weigh in on proposed building size standards for new apartment and condominium projects. This "[Online Workshop](#)" will be available through March 3, offering community members an opportunity to provide input over a 13-day period (replacing a typical one- or two-day in-person workshop) and at any time of day that is convenient for you.

TOGETHER TO ZERO Climate Action Plan Zoom Workshops with the City of SB
Wednesday, March 3 - Community Climate Brainstorm (1)

Sunday, March 7 - Community Climate Brainstorm (2)

[For more info and registration](#), scroll down on the same page and take the survey: *A Community Survey to Help Santa Barbara Fight Climate Change*



Civic Engagement Series:
Learning from Local Insight

**Defeating the Puente Power Plant:
Victory for People & Planet**

**Tuesday, March 9th
5:30-7:00pm**

Hear from activists, organizers, legal experts, and elected officials who were at the heart of the three-year struggle to defeat another proposed polluting power plant in Oxnard in 2018. For this Virtual Panel we are joined by:



Maricela Morales
Executive Director, CAUSE

Linda Krop
Chief Counsel, Environmental
Defense Center

Carmen Ramirez
Ventura County
Supervisor

RSVP + MORE INFO: bit.ly/DEFEATINGPUENTE

We are Forming a Membership Team Will You Join Us to Welcome and Support Members?

We need help in sharing essential tasks like these:

1. Sending our Welcome Packet to new members with follow-up calling.
2. Connecting new members to the LWV Chairs/leaders in their areas of interest.
3. Mailing this Channel Voter newsletter to about 15 members who are without email. (2-3 hours once a month.)
4. Helping to organize 3 to 4 meetings each year for Orientation to the League.
5. Organizing follow-up reminders for the annual renewal of membership and dues.
6. Assisting with revising and designing League publications of information, surveys, and the Directory.
7. Coordinating with database/entry for accurate records of new and renewing members.

To learn more, contact Nominating Committee Chair Gail Fairburn,
Nominating@lwvsantabarbara.org.

Also, Office Help Needed

Do you have a little time to take messages from our phone answering machine (can be done remotely) and stop by our downtown office twice or three times a week to sort mail? We need one or two people to volunteer for these jobs. Contact Gail if you are interested.

BOOK CLUB ON ZOOM!

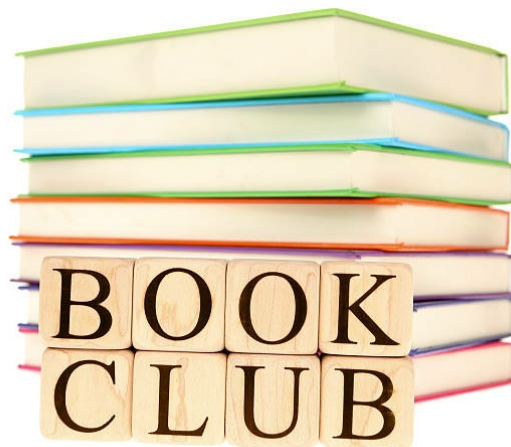
LOCATION: Zoom

DATE: Thursday, March 4, 3-4 pm

BOOK SELECTION:

"Unrig: How To Fix Our Broken Democracy" by Dan G. Newman.

All are welcome to attend. Email elainerudin@me.com to receive a Zoom invitation. We invite you to use your computer, iPad, laptop or Kindle to click on a link that Elaine will send you.



ALL MEMBERS FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Keep up to date with upcoming events [HERE](#). All meetings are by Zoom.

LWVSB is working remotely using electronic meetings. Check the Calendar on our website and email the organizer for instructions. All League members are welcome to join our Board and committee meetings as observers. Registration links are also in these articles.

March 4, Thursday - Book Club - 3pm

March 5, Friday - Sustainable Communities Committee **10am**.

March 9, Tuesday - Discussion Group - **5:30pm**.

March 13, Saturday - Board meeting - **10am**.

March 17, Wednesday - Community Forum: Housing on the South Coast in 2030: What's Ahead - **noon**.

March 22, Monday - DEI Committee - **6pm**.

March 25, Thursday - Social Policy Committee - **4:30pm**

All Donations are Now Tax-Deductible

If you joined or renewed your membership, we thank you. Since the merger of LWVSB and the Education Fund, all gifts are tax-deductible, including those you made at the end of the year. We hope you will continue to support LWVSB. Click here to [donate](#) or [join](#).



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