

Oct. 1 Channel Voter: Fall Events, News and More

From: League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (ChannelVoter@lwvsantabarbara.org) (mailer@mail2.clubexpress.com)

To: channelvoter@lwvsantabarbara.org

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**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**



**CHANNEL VOTER**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

*Serving South Santa Barbara County*

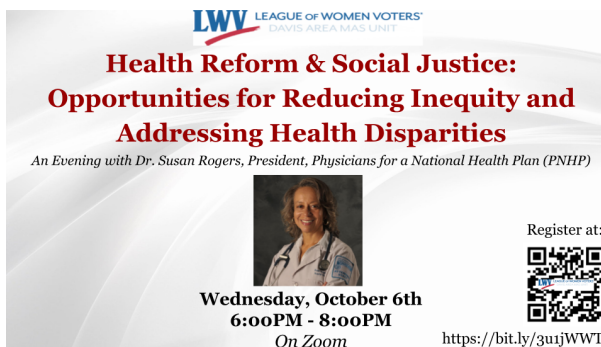


October 1, 2021

## Events



**Marches will be held around the county, including one in Santa Barbara. The League of Women Voters is supporting these events. We encourage members to participate, wearing masks.**



**LWVSB Co-sponsors Virtual Forum on Health Reform and Social Justice: Wednesday, Oct. 6 from 6-8 pm**

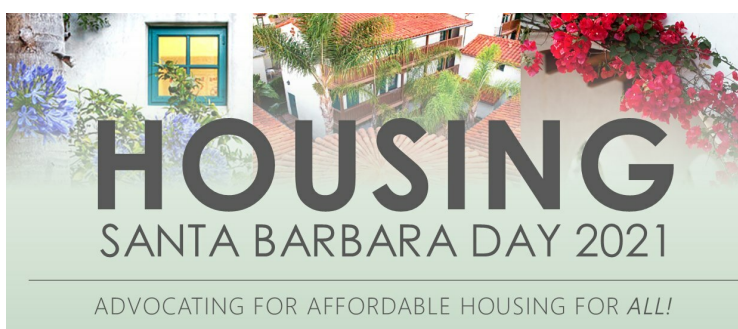
The full title of this important Forum is: "Health Reform & Social Justice: Opportunities for Reducing Inequity and Addressing Health Disparities: An evening with Dr. Susan Rogers, President of Physicians for a National Health Plan (PNHP)." (see email for graphics) It is hosted by the League of Women Voters Davis Area.

Dr. Rogers's presentation will include an overview of the U.S. healthcare system through a social justice lens, followed by a discussion highlighting disparities resulting from our current policies and opportunities to improve inequities through health reform. The forum will conclude with an audience Q&A.

Dr. Rogers, a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Rush University, spoke at the June California League of Women Voters Annual Convention, providing the presentation: "Health Care: Inequities and Opportunities."

This forum, co-sponsored by several Leagues, aims to educate voters about our current healthcare model and how it impacts local care access, affordability, quality and equity. Our guest speaker provides insights into how health reform can improve each of these to optimize community health and wellness. The LWVDA supports the National League healthcare positions in support of an affordable, accessible, quality, and equitable health care system, critical for the health, safety and economic security of all communities. Becoming an informed voter is fundamental to ensuring the engagement needed to affect meaningful reform. The future of our community health and healthcare systems will rely upon votes cast by those with a better understanding of current needs and resources and our opportunities to enact needed change.

To help speakers best address your concerns, questions, and issues, we encourage attendees to please submit them in advance to [komalh@lwvdavisarea.org](mailto:komalh@lwvdavisarea.org) before Oct. 4. Register [here](#).



## **Join LWVSB at "Housing Santa Barbara Day" Oct. 9 For Education and Dialog About Affordable Housing**

LWVSB is looking forward to having a bigger role in this year's Housing Santa Barbara Day, conducted by 2nd Story Associates and the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara on Oct. 9, 10 am - 2 pm in De La Guerra Plaza. We are hosting a new "Community Input Tent" featuring interactive exhibits related to our housing crisis from a Diversity/Equity/Inclusion perspective and some ideas for how Santa Barbara can lead the way with innovative solutions.

The back half of the LWVSB tent will host elected officials who will meet with residents to share thoughts related to housing needs. We will also have a voter registration table, a sign up area for our "Walk and Talk Neighborhood Tours," a City of Santa Barbara map that has publicly owned parcels identified, and images produced by the AIA-SB Charrette providing inspiration for a revitalized State Street. The following workshops will be conducted next to our tent: Accessible Housing, Tenant Rights & Responsibilities / Rental Mediation, Mexican Consulate Workshop (en español), Rent Relief Resources for Tenants and Landlords, Accessory Dwelling Units – Regulations Explained and Financial Literacy – How to Prepare for Homeownership. There will also be a Zoom session at 1 pm on Affordable and Workforce Homeownership.

Other activities include trolley tours of workforce housing, a jazz quartet, food trucks, 30 booths of housing and community service providers, ADU (Granny Flat) vendors and a kids activity related to houses. Masks will be required at all times. For more information click [here](#) or email [housing@lwvsantabarbara.org](mailto:housing@lwvsantabarbara.org).

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara supports affordable housing for all incomes throughout the community, and we examine housing needs for the workforce in downtown Santa Barbara. Look for us on Housing Day.

Linda Honikman, Housing Committee Chair

## **Member Tour of the County ReSource Center and Tajiguas Landfill: Monday Oct. 11, 1 pm-2:30 pm**

Santa Barbara County is now home to a cutting-edge waste management facility, the ReSource Center. This facility includes a state-of-the-art Materials Recovery Facility to sort recyclables and trash and an Anaerobic Digester to process organic waste. The ReSource Center tour experience will teach you all about these two big operations and how together they recover more than 85% of our waste and also generate green energy to power the facility and parts of our community.

Join a group of League members for a free educational tour of the Resource Center and drive around the Tajiguas Landfill. We will gather at the Resource Center at 12:45pm. The parking lot is large enough,

however, in the interest of reducing emissions, carpooling is encouraged.. Directions and more information are found on this [web page](#).

Program: 1- 1:45pm in the ReSource Center and then a driving tour in personal cars following the County tour guide around the landfill from 1:45-2:30. Masks are mandatory inside the ReSource Center Education Room. Closed-toe shoes are mandatory for the entire tour.

RSVP before Oct. 6t by 5 pm to [SusComm@lwvsantabarbara.org](mailto:SusComm@lwvsantabarbara.org)

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## **Virtual Santa Barbara Mayor and Council Candidate Forums: Oct. 18 and 20**

LWVSB is a co-sponsor of two virtual candidate forums organized by The American Institute of Architects Santa Barbara Chapter and partners from Downtown Organization of Santa Barbara, Coastal Housing Coalition, and American Planning Association Central Coast Section. The forums will be held on two separate evenings – one for Mayoral Candidates and one for Districts 4, 5, and 6 Candidates.

Mayoral Candidates: Monday, Oct. 18, from 5 pm - 6:30 pm

City Council Candidates - Districts 4,5,6: Wednesday, Oct, 20, from 5 pm - 6:30 pm.

The purpose of the Forums is to give the community the opportunity to ask questions and hear final words from candidates on important community issues such as Housing, Homelessness, Economic Vitality, Climate Crisis, and more before making final decisions and sending in ballots. Questions from the audience will be collected and posed to the candidates as determined by the moderator, given time available.

Moderator will be Brian Johnson, President of the Santa Barbara Association of Realtors. To register, [click here](#)



## **A Virtual Forum Wednesday, Oct. 20, noon-1:30 pm Community Choice Energy: A Greener Electric Power Option**

October marks the rollout of a South Santa Barbara County electric power option through Community Choice Energy aggregations (CCEs). CCEs are created by groups of local governments to provide a service, in this case electric power. The reason for forming the CCEs is to facilitate stronger action on climate change and to provide funds to support Green House Gas reduction programs mandated by the state. Older CCEs in other parts of CA have been major purchasers of solar energy and the main reason California's record in moving to clean energy is as good as it is. CCEs contract for more clean power, and if possible, more local power than Southern California Edison purchases. The CCE uses the income from the electricity sold to fund local programs to limit climate change and Greenhouse Gasses. This arrangement provides local input into power choices and programs not possible under Southern California Edison.

Different local governments of Santa Barbara County have adopted different CCEs. Santa Barbara City formed a CCE with the support of Lancaster, CA 's CalChoice and the County and other cities of Santa Barbara County joined Central Coast Clean Energy (3CE). Central Coast Clean Energy runs from Santa Barbara County through Santa Cruz County. North Santa Barbara County is part of Central Coast Clean Energy under Pacific Gas & Electric and it rolled out in Jan. 2021.

While each CCE purchases the power, your electric utility still delivers the power through its grid, charges for this service, and handles the billing. In the roll out everyone starts out in the CCE. Customers can opt out of receiving power from the CCE and rejoin their utility if they want to. Historically approximately 94% of electricity customers in California have stayed with their CCEs.

The forum will cover the types of CCEs formed here, their billing costs, net metering rates, programs, and actions on climate change compared to Southern California Edison. The LWVSB supports staying with the CCE because of its strong actions on climate change.

Forum speakers are: Oswaldo Martinez, Central Coast Clean Energy, Alelia Parenteau, Energy and Climate Manager City of Santa Barbara, and Colin Jones, of the League of Women Voters Santa Barbara.

Register in advance for this webinar [here](#).

Colin Jones

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## **Santa Barbara Mayor and City Council Election -**

**November 2, 2021**

Six candidates are running for Mayor of Santa Barbara in November: Cathy Murillo, incumbent; James Joyce III; Matt Kilrain; Randy Rowse; Deborah Schwartz; and Mark Whitehurst. In addition, three City Council seats are up for reelection this fall – Districts 4, 5, and 6. Kristen Sneddon, Eric Friedman, and Meagan Harmon are the incumbents. Eric Friedman is running unopposed. One candidate, Barrett Reed, is running against Kristen Sneddon for the seat in District 4 and three candidates are running against incumbent Meagan Harmon in District 6: Jason Carlton, Nina Johnson, and Zachary Pike.

The City Elections Office will mail ballots to every registered voter who lives in the city of Santa Barbara in early October. In-person polling places will be available as well as drop boxes where you can drop off your ballot if you are not comfortable mailing it in via the USPS. The locations will be listed in the materials mailed to you with your ballot.

LWVSB held a Candidate Forum for the Mayor's race on Sept. 30 and for the SB City Council on Sept. 22. You can view the videos of these Forums on YouTube by clicking on the YouTube icon at the bottom of every page on our website – [lwsantabarbara.org](https://lwsantabarbara.org). They are available in both English and Spanish, so please spread the word! Go to the Upcoming Elections page on our website for more information. Also, see [Voter's Edge](#) provided by the League of Women Voters, for more information about each candidate. Just enter your zip code to discover what will appear on your ballot!

Revae Moran, VP Voter Service



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## News

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### Oil Trucking Decision Follows Protest

LWVSB joined the Society of Fearless Grandmothers and other organizations to stop ExxonMobil's plan to truck oil on Santa Barbara highways. On Sept. 30 the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission held an all-day meeting and then voted to recommend denial of the trucking proposal to the Board of Supervisors. The planning staff will present additional information to support the denial on Nov. 3.

The proposal was to transport oil by tanker trucks along hazardous California highways so it can restart three drilling platforms off the Santa Barbara coast. The plan calls for up to 24,800 oil-filled truck trips per year on coastal Highway 101 and hazardous Route 166, 24 hours a day, to refineries for up to seven years or whenever a new coastal oil pipeline is completed, whichever is sooner. ExxonMobil's three offshore platforms near Santa Barbara were shut down in 2015 after the Plains All American Pipeline ruptured and spilled thousands of gallons of oil along the California coast.

ExxonMobil's oil trucking scheme is strongly opposed by a coalition of 35 community and conservation organizations, who recently sent a letter urging the commission to reject the project. They cited the project's threat of more offshore oil spills, fueling climate change, and endangering motorists and communities with dangerous oil tanker truck crashes.

"Now is not the time to turn the clock back and return to our old ways of relying on fossil fuels to meet our energy needs," the letter concludes. "The County of Santa Barbara is moving towards a clean energy future by adopting renewable energy targets and joining the Central Coast Community Energy program. Allowing ExxonMobil to resume oil production off our coast will lead to decades of fossil fuel production that we cannot afford."



## **League of Women Voters of California Lawsuit Ends With a Win for Voting**

Victory! California Governor Gavin Newsom just signed #AB796 - a bill to streamline the voter registration process at the DMV. This is a huge win that will make our democracy more accessible, especially for the 3 million eligible yet unregistered Californians. Thank you Governor Newsom for supporting this important legislation.

This bill will:

- +Make permanent the DMV's current practices that were put in place as the result of the League of Women Voters of California v. Annis court case.
- +Improve oversight and transparency of the Motor Voter program.
- +Ensure voter registrations are processed in a timely and equitable manner.

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## **A Profile**

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## **Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month Introducing LWVSB Member Rose Muñoz**

I am truly honored to be asked to share my story with the League of Women Voters. It is with much joy that I invite you to join me in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month.

I am the daughter of immigrants; my parents came to the United States from Mexico in the 1950's. I was the first in my family to graduate from college and I had an interesting journey to arrive where I am now. When I say 'family,' I am referring to a large extended family. My father was from a family of eight and my mother from a family of 14.

I was sixteen years old when my younger sister was diagnosed with leukemia at the age of eleven. Little did I know at the time how much our life would change and the long-lasting influence that my sister's illness would have on me. I had considered becoming a lawyer or a nurse since I wanted to help others in my earlier years. As her illness progressed and she was under the care of hospice, the people that came into our lives inspired me to pursue a career as a social worker. In our community of Santa Barbara and in Los Angeles where I helped my mother find Children's Hospital on her first time driving to the big city, I saw much that I felt could be improved.

The availability of health care for children in need of treatment for illnesses such as cancer, renal failure and many other health issues was not available locally. Availability of interpreters for families of various languages including Spanish were limited. Also, there were many Black families in the Eastside where we lived and several of my childhood classmates had parents who were Black and Latino. I say this because as people of color we are very diverse. I feel that it is best to ask a person how they identify themselves rather than make that decision for them. Financial resources were far and few for many in our community especially in certain neighborhoods. Many of us, as continues to be the case now in my opinion, helped our parents or grandparents navigate through the maze of the many systems such as health care, public assistance and employment. I feel that this gave me an increased awareness and also helped me along the path of life.

After graduating from high school, I attended UCSB. It was a different world and it took me a while to adapt; Storke Plaza was a place to listen to speakers and learn about different causes in the early 80's. The field of Sociology was fascinating to me and I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree. My father's lessons were put to good use as he had encouraged me to study very early in life. I knew that I had to forge ahead with my studies although our income and resources were very limited. I began to dream about attending graduate school and spent many hours both at the Eastside Library and in the UCSB library trying to find out about any financial resources to be able to reach my goal.

I applied and was hired as an instructional aide for the Migrant Program at Santa Barbara High School. With the Migrant Program, I had the opportunity to serve as a mentor for high school students, help students obtain their diploma and be an advisor for the Mecha Club. It was an excellent opportunity to work alongside community leaders. The community liaison at SB High was Ross Castro, he had come to California from Texas in his youth. Mr. Castro had been a member of the Brown Berets in his earlier years and was one of the founders of the Casa de la Raza. The high school youth and I myself in my early 20's learned about Chicano history from Ross Castro at a local and national level.

It was during this time that I was accepted to USC in the Master of Social Work program. I chose Policy, Planning and Community Development as my focus of studies.

My path kept leading me to increased involvement at the grassroots level and participation in local groups including the Cause Action Fund, the Pro Youth Movement and the Westside Neighborhood Group. I also worked on the passage of local school bonds and parcel taxes as a volunteer for the Santa Barbara Education Foundation. Local efforts to get the vote out in addition to social justice causes regarding immigrant rights, women's rights and tenant rights were of utmost importance to me.

I am often asked by friends and acquaintances how they can get involved in their community and make a difference. I suggest identifying issues that you are passionate about and signing up as a volunteer. The opportunity to network and learn from others is invaluable; the experience I have as a volunteer has been very fulfilling. Active participation in the League of Women Voters and attending the many forums they offer is very informative. The candidate forums are also very much appreciated. I invite all of our readers to be involved and to invite friends to participate. A positive side of Covid has been the possibility of participating from the comfort of our homes with Zoom.

My community involvement led me to the decision to run for the Santa Barbara Unified School District School Board because I knew that I could make a valuable contribution due to my experience and background. I had considered a seat on the school board for several years however I knew it would need to be at the right time in my life so that I could truly dedicate myself to the position and be effective in the capacity of school board member. I was also recently appointed as a Commissioner of the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara. I am honored to be able to serve my community.

*Celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, Hispanic Heritage Month honors the history, cultures, contributions, and resilience of Latinx, Hispanic and Latino-identified communities around the world. This is an opportunity to learn about those whose ancestry can be traced to over 20 Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America, including Mexico, Central and South America. Learn more about Hispanic Heritage Month [here](#) and about the League's diversity, equity and inclusion upcoming webinars [here](#).*



**For more information, registration and contact information, click on the event in the website calendar [here](#). Meetings are via Zoom. The Community Forums are live-streamed on Facebook (@LWVSB) and on our YouTube Channel (link at bottom of this newsletter).**

Friday, Oct. 1 - 10am - **Sustainable Communities Committee**

Saturday, Oct. 2 - noon - **Board Meeting** (new date for this meeting only)

Saturday, Oct. 9 - 10am-2 pm - **Housing Authority's Annual Housing Fair**, De La Guerra Plaza

Monday, Oct. 11 - 1-2:30 pm - **Resource Center + Tajiguas Landfill Tour** (RSVP by Oct. 6 to [SusComm@lwvsantabarbara.org](mailto:SusComm@lwvsantabarbara.org))

Tuesday, Oct. 12 - 12-1:30 pm - **Discussion Group on Redistricting**

Wednesday, Oct. 13 - 12-1:30 pm - **Housing Committee**

Wednesday, Oct. 20 - 12-1:30 pm - **Virtual Forum--Community Choice Energy: A Green Electric Power Option**

Thursday, Oct. 28 - 4:30-6 pm - **Social Policy Committee**

## Watch Forum Videos on TVSB

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

**English version:** TVSB Channel 17, "Voice" on Tuesdays 9 pm and on Fridays 2 am TVSB Channel 71, "Culture" on Wednesdays 9 pm on Thursdays 7 pm on Fridays 5 am, and on Saturdays 10 am League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Show

**Spanish version:** TVSB Channel 17, "Voice" on Wednesdays 9 pm and on Saturdays 3 am TVSB Channel 71, "Culture" on Mondays 7:30 pm, on Thursdays 3:30 am, on Fridays 3:30 pm, and on Saturdays 2 am.

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## Are you looking for an easy way to help the League? Membership is looking for you!

Membership is putting together a hands-on committee for the many activities we need to do to keep our organization together, especially during the pandemic, but also beyond. If you volunteer, you decide how much time you can give and when. You decide which activities you'd like to do. Some of the things we need help with are:

- \* Sending emails and making calls to welcome new members;
- \* Calling members who have forgotten to renew to see if they need a dues envelope sent or if they need help getting on the new Club Express website;
- \* Printing and mailing Directory or contact roster copies to those who do not have email;
- \* Checking in with older members who miss in-person gatherings;
- \* Checking and comparing report contents to produce a specific list of members to contact.

If any of these tasks has your name written all over it, email Membership Chair Gail Fairburn at [membership@lwvsantabarbara.org](mailto:membership@lwvsantabarbara.org) to set up a time to chat about getting involved.

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## Need help logging in to the website?

The new Club Express website ([lwvsantabarbara.org](http://lwvsantabarbara.org)) has a lot of information behind your member login, including the ability to print an up-to-date Directory or contact roster. If you need help logging in or navigating, email Membership Chair Gail Fairburn at [membership@lwvsantabarbara.org](mailto:membership@lwvsantabarbara.org) to set up a personalized time.

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**Help us keep these programs free and accessible  
with your gift today**

**Thank you!**

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