

March 1 Channel Voter: The ERA, Housing Solutions, The Election

From: League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (channelvoter@lwvsantabarbara.org)

To: ChannelVoter@lwvsantabarbara.org

Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 07:03 AM PST

[View in your browser](#)



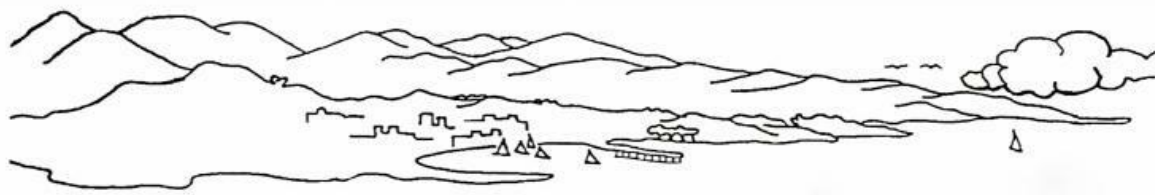
Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.



CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



March 1, 2022



March is Women's History Month Time to Pass the Equal Rights Amendment

It's Personal—When Will We Ever Publish the ERA in Our Constitution?

For many of us the Equal Rights Amendment will not affect our day-to-day lives. But for many women in our country it can make a difference—especially if a woman finds herself on trial for defending herself against an abusive partner. Believe it or not, that's due to a carryover from old English law that says a man's home is his castle and he has rights (that women do not have)! It also affects equal pay, and equal educational opportunities—all women lose when this happens. And, for all of us, it will make a difference in how we view ourselves—that we have the same rights as men. We've been following the ERA for many years—50 or so. It was supported by both political parties when it was first passed in the U.S. Congress in the early 1970s. That picture has now changed and most elected Republicans do not support it.

The LWVUS supports the ERA. Under its Summary of Policy Positions, Social Policy, Equality of Opportunity Positions it states:

*“Equal Rights: Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA. Support equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.
“Education, Employment, and Housing: Support equal access to education, employment, and housing.”*

LWVUS now urges us to Take Action: Thank our California Senators for Supporting the Equal Rights Amendment. [Click here](#)

The two requirements for an amendment are that they be approved by a 2/3 majority in both houses of Congress and then that they be ratified by 3/4 of our states—that's it. Two years after that final ratification, the amendment is to become law. It took a long time to get that 38th ratification—until Virginia passed it in January of 2020. Some states have tried to rescind their ratification, but that has not been allowed for other amendments that have become law. And the time limits have been ignored for other amendments—one was even published after more than 100 years! But after that last required ratification by the state of Virginia, this amendment was blocked by the Trump administration with a memorandum sent to the National Archivist requesting that the Amendment be held and not published in our Constitution.

So, what's up with the ERA now? The Biden administration is leaving it to Congress to decide. A joint resolution that the ERA was validly ratified passed the House in February 2020 and again in March 2021. It has been blocked in the Senate with Republicans using the filibuster. According to Ms. magazine, "Democrats must either carve out an exception to the filibuster rule for the ERA joint resolution or convince 10 Republicans to vote to end the filibuster." So far, only two Republican Senators support the ERA joint resolutions: Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine. Election outcomes in the midterms next fall may make a difference in some Senate seats and that could swing the vote for the ERA in the Senate. It's likely that states other than California will have to make the difference—influencing voters across state lines is in order. LWVUS supports the ERA—they can help make a difference, too. For more information, [click here](#)

A February 10, 2022, opinion written by Moira Gill in the Independent says it well: "There is no deadline on equality. Remove the insult. Remove the arbitrary timeline that is blocking the publication of the ERA. Now." Read the full opinion [here](#)

Pam Flynt Tambo, VP Program and Advocacy

Events

LWVSB Community Forum
**South Coast Housing 2030:
Coming Together Now**



March 16, noon-1:30 pm

email housing@lwvsantabarbara.org for link to forum zoom and pre-forum survey

A Panel of Experts Will Discuss Housing Solutions

Please complete the "South Coast Housing Concerns and Vision" survey

Our pre-Forum survey seeks input from across the community that answers tough questions about our commitment and our ability to compromise in order to make meaningful progress on the affordable housing front. [Click here](#) for the survey link.

Join us for our March 16 Virtual Forum, from noon to 1:30 p.m. This will be our second annual housing Forum. [Click here](#) to register.

After many years of good intentions that did not produce a significant number of affordable units, we need to come together as renters and homeowners, young and old, county and cities, to get to the next step of affordable housing solutions.

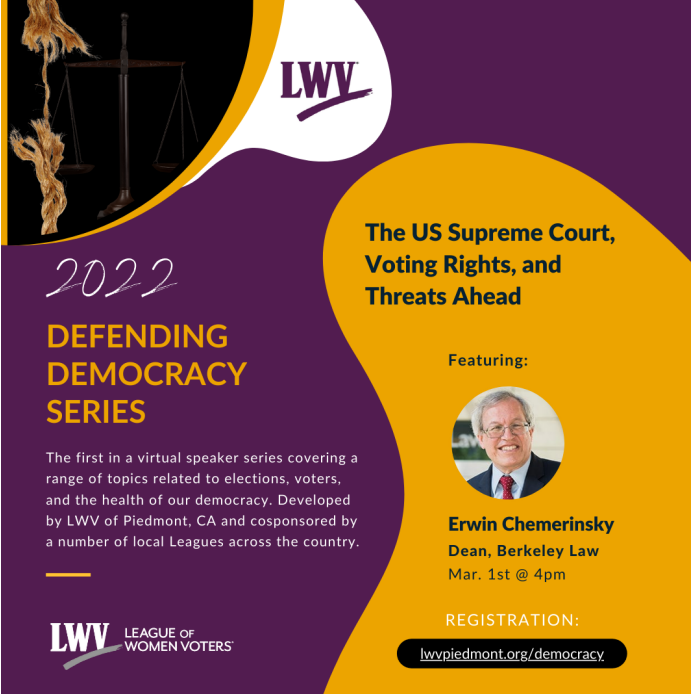
The following presenters will be sharing their expertise to help us move forward:

Part I: Stanley Tzankov (CAUSE and SB Tenants Union) and Nadia Abushanub (SBCAN and SB Tenants Union) will present data and stories from the Renter Perspective.

Part II: Rob Fredericks will update us on Affordable Housing News from the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara and lead a discussion about the many housing production hurdles we have that would address the needs of very low to moderate income households. The feasibility for development on publicly owned land identified in LWVSB 'Walk and Talks' will also be explored.

Part III: Santa Barbara County Affordable Housing News will be presented by John Polanskey, Director of Housing Development, Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara, and Jennifer McGovern, CEO of the Housing Trust of Santa Barbara County who will cover resources for new home buyers as well as the 3D printed home planned for Goleta.

Linda Honikman, Housing Committee Chair

A poster for the 2022 Defending Democracy Series. The poster has a purple and yellow color scheme. On the left, there is a graphic of a scale of justice with a tree branch. The text '2022' is in a large, white, cursive font. Below it, 'DEFENDING DEMOCRACY SERIES' is in bold, yellow, sans-serif font. A paragraph of text describes the series as the first in a virtual speaker series covering a range of topics related to elections, voters, and the health of our democracy. It is developed by LWV of Piedmont, CA and cosponsored by a number of local Leagues across the country. The LWV logo is at the bottom left. On the right, the title 'The US Supreme Court, Voting Rights, and Threats Ahead' is in bold, white, sans-serif font. Below it, a circular portrait of Erwin Chemerinsky is shown. His name and title, 'Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean, Berkeley Law', are listed below the portrait. The date and time, 'Mar. 1st @ 4pm', are also listed. At the bottom right, the registration information is provided: 'REGISTRATION: lwvpiedmont.org/democracy' in a black box.

2022


DEFENDING DEMOCRACY SERIES

The first in a virtual speaker series covering a range of topics related to elections, voters, and the health of our democracy. Developed by LWV of Piedmont, CA and cosponsored by a number of local Leagues across the country.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The US Supreme Court, Voting Rights, and Threats Ahead

Featuring:



Erwin Chemerinsky
Dean, Berkeley Law
Mar. 1st @ 4pm

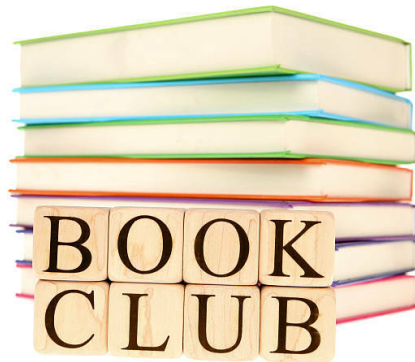
REGISTRATION:
lwvpiedmont.org/democracy

Defending Democracy Series

Sign up [here](https://lwvpiedmont.org/democracy) to attend the LWV of Piedmont's Defending Democracy Series, which is co-sponsored by the Santa Barbara League of Women Voters and six other local Leagues. The series covers a range of topics related to elections, voters, and the health of our democracy.



Watch on Facebook @League of Women Voters of the U.S.



DATE: Thursday, March 31, 2:30 p.m.

TITLE: How Civil Wars Start: How to Stop Them by Barbara Walter

Walter, a political science professor at the University of California San Diego, serves on a CIA advisory panel called the Political Instability Task Force that monitors countries around the world and predicts which of them are most at risk of deteriorating into violence. Walter's bottom line: "We, in America, are closer to civil war than any of us would like to believe." She lays out the arguments in detail in her book. "No one wants to believe that their beloved democracy is in decline, or headed toward war," she writes.

Email elainerudin@me.com for a Zoom invitation.

Election Information



Who Will Be on the Ballot in June's Primary Election?

7th District State Assembly seat

So far, three candidates are running for the newly formed 37th District State Assembly seat: Gregg Hart, Gabe Escobedo, and Bruce Wallach.

Sheriff

Only the current Sheriff, Bill Brown, has filed to run, however Juan Camarena announced in December that he plans to run against Bill Brown.

3rd District Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

So far, only one candidate, Laura Capps, has filed to run for this seat, but there are lots of rumors about others. The filing deadline is March 11, so stay tuned.

We will hold Candidate Forums for the offices with more than one candidate (possibly by working with the Santa Barbara Independent). Anyone who would like to help organize these, including developing the questions to be asked, please contact me by sending an email message to

VoterService@lwvsantabarbara.org

Revae Moran, VP Voter Service

March Voter Service Team Meeting: St. Paddy's Day

Anyone interested in meeting to discuss our Voter Service Team work this year is welcome to attend our Zoom meeting on Thursday, March 17 at noon. The Zoom link to this meeting [here](#)

We will discuss what voter education events we need to have, the timing, and who would like to help out with these meetings.

With luck, we'll be able to have a couple of in-person events at places such as Paseo Nuevo in Santa Barbara and/or in Goleta and Carpinteria to let people know what will be on their ballots in the Primary Election in June and the General Election in November.

Revae Moran, VP Voter Service



From the League of Women Voters of California: Voter's Edge and Easy Voter Guide

Voter's Edge

The State League is already hard at work getting Voter's Edge ready for June 2022. Voter's Edge is an online voter guide produced by LWVCEF in partnership with MapLight. It provides in-depth information about what's on your ballot. During the 2020 election season, 1 in 10 California voters used Voter's Edge to get a personalized list of candidates and ballot measures, including biographies, top priorities, campaign finance information, and more! And we plan to grow that number this year.

A dedicated group of volunteers across the state reaches out to candidates and gathers local election information to ensure voters have a one stop shop for all of their non-partisan ballot information and can confidently cast their ballots. Contact Bonnie Lassen, VotersEdge@lwvsantabarbara.org for more information or to volunteer to help collect local information.

Easy Voter Guide

The Easy Voter Guide (EVG) provides plain language, community reviewed voter information in five languages, and LWVC is already beginning production for the 2022 elections. With no state ballot measures on the June 2022 Primary ballot, there will be a digital version of the EVG online to provide California's diverse voters all of the information they need to exercise their power and vote. Visit easyvoterguide.org on April 4 to download the June 2022 EVG in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean.

Action Alerts



It's Time to Pass the Racial Justice Act for All

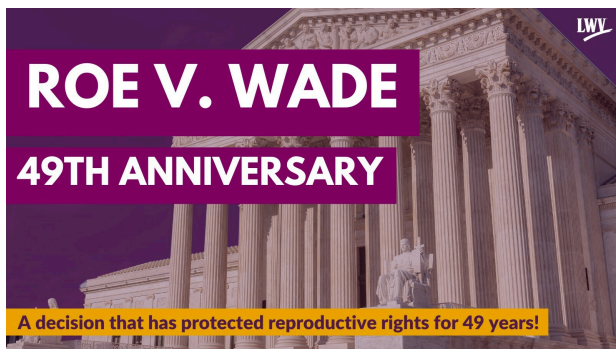
From the League of Women Voters of California:

This is the year that we will pass the Racial Justice Act for All (AB 256, Kalra). The landmark bill, which will extend civil rights in the courtroom to ALL people impacted by racist convictions and sentencing, is closer than ever to passing. We just need to secure enough votes in the State Senate and then earn the Governor's signature. If you believe that justice delayed is justice denied, stay tuned for chances to support the #RJA4All this Spring.

Can't wait that long? Use our action tool [here](#) to contact your State Senator today.

Want to learn more about the #RJA4All and our commitment to confront racism in our courts? [Watch](#) Racially Charged: America's Misdemeanor Problem and a follow up panel discussion we hosted in January.

"If you are interested in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice you should make sure to watch this video," commented Joanie Jones, LWVSB Director for DEI.



Support for the ERA and Reproductive Justice

The ERA: LWVUS has joined the ERA Coalition and partners to rally support for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. [Visit](#) the Coalition website to learn more.

"Just like how we need a national standard for voting rights, we need a national standard of equal rights!," according to the League statement.

Reproductive Justice: "Across the US, more abortion laws were enacted in 2021 than in any other year since Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973!," the League observed.

Here are two actions you can take to support reproductive justice:

Join your local or state League to learn about reproductive rights in your community
Support reproductive health organizations

Note: Find alerts like these on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and share them with your own friends, along with event information and photos. For more information visit these websites: [LWVSB](#), [LWV](#) and [LWVC](#)

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

Friday, March 4 - 10 a.m.-noon - **Sustainable Communities Committee**

Wednesday, March 9 - noon-1:30 p.m. - **Housing Committee**

Saturday, March 12- 10 a.m.-noon - **Board Meeting**

Wednesday, March 16 - noon-1:30 p.m. - **Community Forum: South Coast Housing 2030:**

Coming Together Now

Thursday, March 17 - noon - **Voter Service Team Meeting**

Thursday, March 24 - 4:30 p.m. - **Social Policy Committee**

Monday, March 28 - noon-1 p.m. - **Communications Committee**

Thursday, March 31 - 2:30-3:30 p.m. - **Book Club**

Friday, April 1 - 10 a.m.-noon - **Sustainable Communities Committee**

Videos



New Videos!

If you missed the Feb. 16 Community Forum--Fighting for Voting Rights Then and Now--you can see the video.

The Jan. 29 Vigil: Shine a Light on Injustice in Our Jail is also on our YouTube Channel.

For these and other Forums, [watch here](#).

Public Safety: Beyond Police and Prisons (in English only)

Community Choice Energy: A Greener Electric Power

People Powered fair Maps: Why Redistricting Matters

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

Dear Members,

This is a memo that was sent to the LWVSB Board after the announcement of Vijaya Jammalamadaka that she was resigning from her position as President.



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 17, 2022

TO: Board of the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

FROM: Executive Committee, LWVSB

SUBJECT: Leadership Decisions Following Resignation of President

On February 14, 2022, the remaining LWVSB Executive Committee (EC) members--Vicki Allen, Pam Flynt Tambo, Anthony Moran, and Reva Moran--met to discuss how to proceed following the resignation of President Vijaya Jammalamadaka. This memo serves to inform the Board of the immediate decisions taken by the EC and some of the next steps to follow as we move forward.

To preface this, you should know that we are fortunate to have the support of Chris Carson, a former president of LWVUS and our local League coach. She has offered to provide guidance during this transition period. (She said,

“Please keep me in the loop. I’ve been with LWVSB for a very long time and my role here is more than simply an outside voice. In a lot of ways I feel like an honorary member.”)

1. Leadership Structure

- a. LWVSB Bylaws specify that the EC will replace the President until such time as a majority of the Board elects a new President
- b. The 4 EC members then decided that, since no one was willing to immediately take over as President, the League will be governed by a Leadership Team composed of the EC.
 - i. Many other Leagues govern through a Leadership Committee, Steering Committee, or other similar collective governing body in either the temporary or permanent absence of a President or Co-Presidents
 - ii. LWVSB Coach Chris Carson has confirmed that this is appropriate for our current situation
- c. The EC then voted to add Joanie Jones to the EC
 - i. Joanie’s wealth of experience is considered both invaluable and essential during this transition period.
 - ii. This decision will need to be ratified at the next Board meeting
 - iii. Mary Rose, Chair of the Nominating Committee, will be informed of the strategy, and will be encouraged to work with the Leadership Team to nominate a candidate or candidates for President for the next term
 - iv. Board members Ann Bailey and Emily Engel, who are members of the Nominating Committee, will be asked to coordinate with the Board to this end

2. Replacing Vijaya’s Presidential Functions and Legal Requirements

- a. LWVSB requires two signatures for all written checks
 - i. Anthony Moran, as Treasurer, signs all checks
 - ii. Joanie Jones will continue to have second signature authority
 - iii. The EC decided that Pam Flynt Tambo and Vicki Allen will also have second signature authority
 - iv. Revae Moran will not have the authority so as to avoid a conflict of interest
- b. Any contracts that require signatures will be approved collectively by the EC, with signing authority determined on a case by case basis
- c. Vicki Allen, as VP for Communications, will sign all LWVSB general correspondence, including donation thank you letters
 - i. All issue-specific correspondence will be signed by the appropriate VP for the subject matter
- d. Since Vijaya was chair of the Budget Committee, her role needed to be replaced
 - i. Anthony is precluded from being Chair per the Bylaws
 - ii. Joanie Jones, as a current member of the Committee, was appointed Chair by the EC
- e. Vijaya as President served as the League representative on certain Boards and organizations
 - i. The EC will try to identify which of these organizations needs immediate League representation.
 - ii. The full Board will be asked to assist in this effort, and appropriate Board members will be asked to fill these roles as needed

3. Steps before the next Board meeting

- a. This memo serves to notify the Board how we are going to operate under a Leadership Team for the next few months
- b. Revae Moran agreed to make changes to the LWVSB website to reflect the new leadership situation
- c. League members will be notified of Vijaya’s resignation in the next edition of the Channel Voter
- d. Anthony Moran, who has access to the League’s Network Solutions account, will change all email addresses that were previously forwarded to Vijaya to a generic League website that he will monitor
 - i. Additional changes will be made after consultation with Board members – for example, SusCom will need to provide the EC with a new point of contact.

4. March 12th Board Meeting

- a. Pam Flynt Tambo will Chair the meeting.
- b. The EC will meet two weeks prior to the meeting to collectively generate an agenda.

**Learn About Your League
From Other Members**

New, prospective, and current League members are invited to a special Zoom event Tuesday, March 15, from noon to 1 p.m. The gathering will be an informal opportunity to learn more about LWVSB activities, ask questions, and request more information.

[Click here](#) to attend.

It would help us to know how many attendees to expect so please RSVP to membership@lwvsantabarbara.org and we will send a reminder email with the Zoom link, the day before the event to those who respond. You can also just show up and join the fun.

If you are not yet a member and would like to be, click on the JOIN button at the bottom of the newsletter.

Gail Fairburn Membership Chair

Program Planning for 2022 with LWVUS

Every two years, several months before the LWVUS convention approximately 700 local Leagues meet to each help plan the program focus for the next 2-year period. Early in February 2022 LWVSB members gathered via Zoom to discuss our plans for this next year locally and to make recommendations to LWVUS for the 2022-24 biennium.

By poll the attendees agreed to support the proposed program focus for 2022-2024 by LWVUS to continue the campaign Making Democracy Work and allowing local Leagues to work on the topics most important to each. The LWVUS topics include Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Redistricting, and Money in Politics. Our local emphasis with the Campaign for Making Democracy Work has always been Redistricting, Elections, Voter Education and Vote with the League, and Combating Dis/Misinformation.

Additional suggested focus areas for our local League's emphasis include these:

- Housing & Homelessness led by Linda Honikman
- Criminal Justice Reform led by Pam Flynt Tambo
- Immigration led by Anna DiStefano

Our League members would also like to continue working with our 2020 program priorities: Climate Change, ERA as part of Making Democracy Work, Health Care, and Gun Safety.

Our local Program Planning Priorities for 2022-23 will be presented at our annual meeting in early June for approval by our membership.

Pam Flynt Tambo and Joanie Jones

Join the Board!

Nominating Committee is looking for your recommendations for our 2022-24 Board of Directors. How about you? If you or someone you know might be interested please email Mary Rose at nominating@lwvsantabarbara.org.

New Twitter Feed on Our Website

You don't even need a Twitter account to follow League tweets. Just go to our Club Express website (lwvsantabarbara.org), look right and scroll down to see all the latest from LWVSB. We share tweets from

LWV and LWVC, as well as information about our events and information relevant to the League.

The website also has a lot of information that is only available if you log on the website as a member by setting up your member account. This includes registering for events such as the the Community Forums, printing an up-to-date directory or contact roster, and viewing documents available only to members, including Board meeting minutes.

If you need help setting up your member account, logging in or navigating the website, send an email to Membership Director Gail Fairburn at membership@lwvsantabarbara.org or Revae Moran at projectmanager@lwvsantabarbara.org to set up a personalized time for us to help you.

Please welcome the following new members to our local League:

Jeanne Sparks
Ken Hough
Paula Perotte

Financing LWVSB

Donations to our local League are essential.

League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation. We are financed by member annual dues and donations. The dues you pay to our local League are shared with the LWVC and the LWVUS. Dues and donations are tax deductible. The Santa Barbara League is an all-volunteer group and so the \$20 amount we retain supports our educational forums.

Because member dues do not cover all our expenses, supplemental fundraising is necessary to cover our program and administrative expenses. Member and non-member contributions are solicited from civic-minded individuals, businesses, and community members. The League accepts bequests and donations. All memberships and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Your donations are appreciated and stay right here in our local League.

Joanie Jones

The League of Women Voters was founded 102 years ago
and as you see in this newsletter,
we continue "Making Democracy Work."

Celebrate Women's History Month by making a donation today.

MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK®

Donate

Join



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