



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

October 2018

Volume 53, Number 3

LWVSCC presents five opportunities for

A NONPARTISAN LOOK AT NOVEMBER'S BALLOT MEASURES

Saturday, October 6, 2 p.m.

Calvary Episcopal Church

532 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Wednesday, October 10, 10:30 a.m.

Dominican Oaks

3400 Paul Sweet Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95065

Saturday, October 13, 10:00 a.m.

*Co-sponsored with the American Association of
University Women*

Aptos Library Meeting Room

7695 Soquel Drive, Aptos, CA 95003

Monday, October 15, 1:30 p.m.

Temple Beth El

3055 Porter Gulch Road, Aptos, CA 95003

Saturday, October 27, 10:00 a.m.

Downtown Library Meeting Room

224 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

The League of Women Voters will present nonpartisan explanations of the November 2018 California state ballot measures at five separate events in October. Each presentation will inform voters about all eleven propositions on this fall's ballot, including provisions, fiscal effects, main arguments for and against, and their supporters and opponents. Presentations generally run one hour with time afterwards for questions and answers. All pros and cons presentations are free and open to the public.

Educate yourself on these important issues so you can vote with confidence and improve your participation with U.S. democracy.

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Calendar

Tuesday, October 9, 2018
10 a.m.-noon
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
75 River Street, Santa Cruz, CA

Saturday, October 13, 2018
10 am
Ballot Measure Pros and Cons
Aptos Library Meeting Room
7695 Soquel Drive, Aptos, CA 95003
Free and open to the public
(See feature article on this page for more dates and times)

Saturday
October 20, 2018
1-4:30 p.m.
Ending Child Exploitation
Bayside Baptist Church
1335 Seabright Ave. Santa Cruz
Free and open to the public



Membership Report

The League of Women Voters Santa Cruz County member roster will be sent to all members in October. If anyone has not renewed membership for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, which began in July, please send your dues (check payable to LWVSCC) to: League of Women Voters SCC, PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010.

Membership is \$65 for individual memberships, \$100 for household memberships, and \$10 for students. Remember, you may pay online using PayPal. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact me at membership@lwvsc.org. or call (831)325-4140.

The League looks forward to your continued support. We hope to see you at one of the many events planned for this month to inform you of your choices this election year, as well as our other upcoming educational events throughout the year.

A democracy depends on informed active participants!

—*Lydia Nogales Parker, Membership Chair*

Protecting Children from Exploitation

Our October program will focus on preventing and ending the sex trafficking of our children and youth. Featuring Shared Hope ambassadors Cari Hershel and Krista Carey, the program includes a screening of the video Chosen and a question and answer session with L. McKinney from the District Attorney's office, incoming county superintendent of schools Faris Sabbah, and others.

This free event, titled Ending the Exploitation of Children, is open to the public and will take place on Saturday, October 20, 2018 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the Bayside Baptist Church, 1335 Seabright Avenue in Santa Cruz, and is co-sponsored by LWVSCC and the American Association of University Women. Light refreshments will be served and a raffle will be held, proceeds to go towards ongoing activities of the Ending Human Trafficking Committee.

President's Message



I encourage you to read this October VOTER carefully to prepare for the November election. To vote with the League, see the quick list the LWVC recommendations on California ballot measures on page 6 or, for more information, check out [this link](#).

At our state League's voter education website, cavotes.org, you can find your polling place, check out your ballot, read information about local and state candidates and measures, and consider the [pros and cons of state ballot measures](#) (or download a printable version at lwvc.org). You can also find links to voter education sites such as VotersEdge and our County elections department website at our local League website, lwvsc.org.

If hearing the pros and cons in person with a chance to ask questions is your preference, we've got you covered. Our Voter Service team is moving into high gear in October with five presentations on the pros and cons of state ballot measures by Dottie Fry, Sue Becker, and Sandy Warren. All of these presentations are free and open to League members as well as to the general public (see details on page 1).

Thank you to all who helped make the September 22 program with Robin Musitelli happen, including our program chair Stephanie Harlan and our publicity chair Kathy Van Horn. The Press Banner ran a feature story on the program before the event, mentioning the League of Women Voters and the Valley Women's Club as co-sponsors. Our board of directors has been working to ensure another year of continued voter service and programs on topics of interest and increased opportunities for members to get acquainted with each other. Please join in, and spread the word about our League of Women Voters to friends.

—*Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC*

Voter Service Report

Thank you to the League members who made possible the candidate forum on September 25 for the San Lorenzo Valley Water Board. Stephanie Harlan was our moderator, Dee Takemoto the timekeeper, and Sue Becker and Dottie Fry were question sorters.

Also, on September 25, National Voter Registration Day, we had League members at various Starbucks locations throughout the county. This was done in collaboration with Helen Ruiz-Thomas from the County Elections Department. Many thanks to all the participants.

On this November's ballot, we have eleven state ballot measures from housing and water bonds to repeals of the Gas Act and the Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act. The League can help you get the facts at our nonpartisan pros and cons educational presentation on October 13 (for details on this and our other four pros and cons presentations, see page 1).

—Dottie Fry, Voter Service Co-chair

Websites for Voters

For more information about the November 6 election, check out these websites:

votescount.com Santa Cruz County Registrar of Voters site: register to vote or check your registration status or address. Request a vote-by-mail ballot and other voter services. Local election information for candidates and county measures in nine languages.

votersedge.org/ca A comprehensive, nonpartisan online guide to elections covering federal, state, and local races in the state of California. Personal ballot information, find your polling place, information on candidates and measures, keep track of your choices and share with others. English and Spanish versions.

easyvoterguide.org Download a concise guide for first-time and busy voters with general voting information and a brief summary of state ballot measures. Available in five languages.

voterguide.sos.ca.gov The official, in depth voter information guide from the California Secretary of State available in nine languages.

cavotes.org A comprehensive information guide to the pros and cons of the state ballot measures.

lwvsc.org Links to voter education sites such as VotersEdge and our County elections department website at our local League website.

Local Ballot Measures

The ten measures on our local Santa Cruz County ballot include:

- Measure A—Scotts Valley Unified School District parcel tax
- Measure B—Soquel Union Elementary School parcel tax
- Measure G—Santa Cruz County sales tax: Increases sales tax in the unincorporated areas of the county by one-half cent for twelve years. Funding is for emergency response, sheriff, fire, parks, street maintenance, mental health services, affordable housing and homelessness programs.
- Measure H—Santa Cruz County affordable housing bond: Levies a property tax of \$16.77 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for a \$140 million bond to fund affordable housing.
- Measure I—City of Capitola: cannabis business tax
- Measure J—City of Capitola: transient occupancy tax
- Measure K—City of Capitola: changes treasurer from elected to appointed
- Measure L—City of Capitola: Greenway Initiative: Preserves and maintains the Capitola segment of the Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission's rail corridor and trestle over Soquel Creek: Prohibits spending to route traffic from rail corridor to Capitola streets and sidewalks.
- Measure M—City of Santa Cruz rent control initiative: enacts rent control; establishes a rent board and limits on evictions.
- Measure N—City of Scotts Valley transient occupancy tax

November Ballot Statewide Offices

California voters will choose the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, controller, treasurer, attorney general, insurance commissioner, and superintendent of public instruction for the next four-year term, elect one of two U.S. senators, and elect state and federal legislative representatives.

Voter information continues on page 6 with a list of local candidates.

Home-grown News: The New Democracy

Robin Musitelli, now-retired local political analyst and journalist, spoke about her career and the intersection between community reporting and democracy at the League's September meeting. League member and Capitola councilmember Stephanie Harlan introduced Musitelli, mentioning her journalism career at local papers and stints working for county supervisors Ellen Pirie and Bruce McPherson.

Musitelli spoke about her beginnings working at her family's small newspaper in Lander, Wyoming, doing everything from stuffing envelopes to delivering papers on horseback. Her father ran the news side, her mother sold advertising and did the proofreading. The most important story they broke was when, in the late fifties and early sixties, hundreds of eagles were being killed. At the time, bald eagles were federally protected, but golden eagles were not. Their family paper reported the story, and eventually the law was changed to protect golden eagles. "From that time on," said Musitelli, "I knew I was going to be a journalist."

Musitelli reflected on the practical nature of community newspapers that report "mundane

concerns of everyday life: who won ribbons at the county fair, who was born, who died, who was engaged, who got married (and woe be to the country editor who forgot to include every last detail of the bride's wedding). The school lunch menus were printed and along with the menu of the lunch at the White House when her father, along with other editors of rural publications, met with President Kennedy." Musitelli reflected that, at the time, editors were respected and sought out for their views: "They knew the community and they knew the issues, and President Kennedy appreciated that."

One of the truths of community journalism that separates it from the larger daily papers is that they are concerned with the small things in life, they are people-oriented and location specific.

After high school, Musitelli headed to California to study journalism at San Jose State University. At the time, the curriculum included local and state politics, gathering information, the first amendment and privacy laws as well as writing and editing. Now, students can get a degree specifically in online journalism, with courses in digital production, multimedia storytelling, digital content and management, and ethics. "As far as I know," said Musitelli, "journalists are the only ones who are trained in how local government works."



Robin Musitelli speaks about community journalism and democracy.

On her return to Wyoming, Musitelli went to work for a Cheyenne daily covering the state legislature. Asked to compile a list of influential and important sources on her beat, Robin was heartbroken when her editor laughed at her inclusion of women on the list. Shocked, angry, and hurt, she packed up and moved back to California to work at the Scotts Valley Banner, San Jose Mercury News, and the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

“Community newspaper reporters learn really quickly the importance of accountability and honesty,” said Musitelli. Illustrating her point, she tells of an incident early in her career where she accidentally translated “BC” in her notes as Boulder Club (a roughneck bar in Boulder Creek) instead of Brookdale Club (a lady’s tea and book club). “Readers do care very deeply about what newspapers say about them. It’s their newspaper and it gives them a voice. Readers trust their hometown newspaper above all other news sources,” said Musitelli, “I don’t think you could put fake news in a local newspaper without getting called out on it.”

The key difference, says Musitelli between large media outlets and smaller community papers is that local journalists are more likely to make a judgement call based on what is best for the community as opposed to what sells the most papers, and to consider who will benefit and who will be hurt by disclosing sensitive details.

Journalists that report on the communities they live in err on the side of kindness in their reporting because they are reporting on people they know, and a small-town paper that printed every last detail wouldn’t last long. Social media has given community newspapers great tools to interact with their readers and help with their research.

One concern with small papers is that they are seen as a training ground for larger papers, and don’t invest in their reporting staff like they should, so they don’t give reporters incentives to stay long term.

[LION Publishers](#) (Local Independent Online News Publishers), has funded hundreds of new online and local sites to create a resurgence in community journalism. They are the fastest growing and most promising of the emerging local news ecosystem.

Some reporters, who Musitelli refers to as “backpack” journalists, carry the whole means of production in their backpacks. They may produce their own content from start to finish or are correspondents for larger media, but they are independent voices who work for themselves.

New local sites are breaking out of chain ownership. Musitelli credits chain ownership as the most destructive force in the decline of newspapers, not because they all print the same material or have a shared viewpoint, but because they are saddled with so much debt that the local papers could never make enough money to be as profitable as the chains want them to be.

Musitelli sees the future of journalism in the many engaged journalists who are creating collaborative solutions and in citizen journalists (many of whom have been given seed grants from a group called [Civil](#)).

Musitelli spoke about her career change from journalist to a county political analyst, first in the office of second district supervisor Ellen Pirie and then for fifth district supervisor Bruce McPherson, who was her former editor at the Sentinel. She worked on the same issues with the same people, but from a different perspective.

“It was mostly helping get people to the right places to get the answers that they needed and make sure those answers worked for them,” said Musitelli, “As a former journalist, I had an advantage: I knew the county government and how it worked, where to probe, who to ask, and how to make changes in the system. I knew how to untangle complex issues, and as a county analyst I had the added advantage of being able to resolve issues, not just highlight the problems.”

Both journalism and county government are about public service and relationships. Whether you are an engaged journalist, a citizen online journalist, or county analyst, good journalism and good local government are about real people and their stories. Musitelli concluded, “grab a local newspaper or log on to one online and breath in the authentic, home-grown news that would be overlooked by larger media. Cherish them: they are our democracy.”

—Pam Newbury, *VOTER Editor*

Watch a [video of Robin Musitelli’s complete talk](#), including the questions and answers, at lwvsc.org/videos.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to LWVSCC, Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

___ \$65.00 Individual annual membership

___ \$100.00 Two members in a household

___ \$10.00 Student membership

___ Contribution \$ _____

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWV Education Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



LWVC Positions on November Ballot Measures

The California LWV has taken positions on seven of the eleven measures that we will vote on in November. Here's a list of their positions.

- YES on Prop 1: The Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond
- YES on Prop 2: The Homeless Housing Bond
- NO on Prop 3: Water Bond
- NO on Prop 4: The Children's Hospital Bond
- NO on Prop 5: Property Tax
- NO on Prop 6: Gas Tax Repeal
- YES on Prop 10: Repeal Costa Hawkins

For more information on the League's positions on these measures, go to lwvc.org.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in the following measures, the LWVC takes no stand on Prop 7 (Daylight Savings Time), Prop 8 (Dialysis), Prop 11 (Ambulance Drivers), and Prop 12 (Farm Animals). Prop 9 was removed from the ballot.

Local Offices

Continued from Page 3

Local offices to be voted on in the November election include:

- County Supervisor–4th District
- Cabrillo College–Trustee Area 6
- Pajaro Valley Unified School District–Trustee Areas 4, 5, 7
- Santa Cruz City School District–Trustee Areas 1 (2 seats), 3 (1 seat)
- Scotts Valley Unified School District–2 seats
- Soquel Union Elementary–2 seats
- Capitola City Council–3 seats
- Santa Cruz City Council–3 seats
- Scotts Valley City Council–2 seats
- Watsonville City Council–Districts 3, 4, 5, 7
- Aptos/LA Selva Fire District–2 seats
- Water Districts: San Lorenzo Valley–3 seats; Scotts Valley–3 seats; Soquel Creek–3 seats
- Santa Cruz Port–2 seats

Register by October 22 to vote in the November 6 general election.