



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

April 2018

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Calendar

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

10 a.m.-noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Saturday, April 14, 2018

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

A Voter's Guide to News Sources

Featuring Lyle Troxell

Santa Cruz Library

Downtown Branch meeting room

224 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Bring your own lunch

Free and open to the public

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

10 a.m.-noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Saturday, June 9, 2018

10 a.m.-noon

LWVSCC Annual Meeting

Featuring Carlos Palacios, SCC CAO

An update on Vision Santa Cruz

Seascape Golf Club

610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos 95003

Hot breakfast buffet: \$20 per person

RSVP with payment to:

LWVSCC, P.O. Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010

Tuesday

June 12, 2018

10 a.m.-noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

A Voter's Guide to News Sources

*Distinguishing fact from fiction
in a changing media landscape*

*Featuring Geek Speak Host
Lyle Troxell*

Saturday

April 14, 2018

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Santa Cruz Library

Downtown Branch meeting room

224 Church Street, Santa Cruz

Bring your own lunch

Free and open to the public



In today's rapidly changing media landscape, it's hard to know who or what to trust for accurate and reliable news. Economics, politics, legal challenges, and public opinion all influence how the media report news. Learn how to find high-quality journalism, stay well-informed, and keep up with breaking news, and find out how six mega-corporations have come to own 90% of US news and entertainment media.

Lyle Troxell, host of the radio show/podcast Geek Speak, will discuss how to navigate the murky waters of today's media. Troxell has been talking about the intersection of media and technology since 2000 and helped develop a two-year masters in fine arts program in digital media arts at UCSC.

The program will be held on Saturday, April 14, 11:45 to 1:15, at the Santa Cruz Downtown Library, 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA, and is co-sponsored by Santa Cruz County's League of Women Voters and American Association of University Women. Attendees may bring their own lunch. For more information, go to lwvsc.org/calendar (you'll find links here to download a printable flyer to share with your friends), email league@lwvsc.org, or call 831-325-4140.

Voter Service Report

Our local League is coordinating with the County Elections Department on voter education and registration in the local high schools. On March 14 there was tremendous enthusiasm from local high school students to register to vote during their walk-out demonstrations.

Our county will participate in a statewide voter outreach at high schools from April 16 to 27, designated as California High School Voter Education Weeks by the California Secretary of State. We are calling for volunteers to teach a 50-minute class to high school students in government and economics classes. Volunteers will teach from lesson plans prepared by Helen Ruiz-Thomas, who is the program coordinator for voter education and outreach at our county's elections department. Voter registration will be offered in conjunction with this outreach.

This is a great opportunity to reach out to younger would-be voters and some who will vote in June for the first time. If you can help with this very important service or would like information on other voter registration opportunities, please contact Dottie Fry at 831-688-9234 (email: <mailto:fryfrydl@comcast.net>) or Sue Becker at 831-462-4160 (email: <mailto:suebecker108@sbcglobal.net>).

The deadline to register for the June primary is May 21. Remember, if you have changed your name, address, or party affiliation, you must re-register by submitting a new request to register to vote. You can find voter registration cards at libraries, post offices, city halls, and the County Elections Department at 701 Ocean Ave, room 310. To re-register online, fill out and submit a registration request at votescount.com.

There are five state ballot measures on the June primary ballot. All the propositions on the June primary ballot were placed there by the state legislature.

Prop 68—California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act: This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects.

Prop 69—Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes: This constitutional amendment would ensure that the existing transportation revenues we pay at the pump and when we register our vehicles can only be used for road and transportation improvement projects.

Prop 70—Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund: This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB (California Air Resources Board) of cap-and-trade allowances after 2024.

Prop 71—Effective Date of Initiatives: This measure would provide that an initiative would take effect five days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results.

Prop 72—Property Taxation: new construction: rain water capture system

This measure would allow an exclusion from additional property taxes for construction or installation of rain water capture systems.

To see the [pros and cons for this June's ballot measures](#) or get the [Easy Voter Guide](#) go to lwvc.org.

Here are the local measures that will appear on ballots, depending where you live:

Measure P—Mountain Elementary School Bond (requires 55% vote)

Measure Q—Happy Valley Elementary School Parcel Tax (requires 2/3 vote)

Measure R—Loma Prieta Joint Union School Bond (requires 55% vote)

Measure S—Santa Cruz City: Sales Tax (requires majority vote)

Measure T—Santa Cruz City: Cannabis Enforcement Repeal (requires majority)

Measure U—Santa Cruz City: Oppose UCSC Growth (requires majority vote)

There will be a detailed report in the May Voter about candidates for local, state, US senate and congressional offices. The list is not final until March 29. In mid-April candidate information will start to appear on [Voter's Edge California](#). For current election information, go to votescount.com, the County Elections Department website.



— Dottie Fry, Voter Service co-chair

President's Message



Our March 8 local program planning meeting at Sandy Warren's home was very productive. I would like to thank our hostess and the other members and guests who attended. Local program positions

were read by League members as follows: County Government: Sandy Warren; Education: Dorothy Fry; Health Care: Marcia Minnihan; Land Use and Library: Barbara Lewis; Transportation: Jan Karwin; Voters' Rights: Dorothy Fry; Water Use: Jan Karwin. There was some discussion and historical review of the League's positions over the years. No new studies or updates were recommended.

Programs recommended for inclusion in the Annual Meeting kit, which also received support of the board of directors on March 13, are: wealth and income inequality: how to shrink the gap (proposed by Suze Shane) and continuing the media topic, with focus on journalism and print media (proposed by Caroline Elam and Barbara Lewis). The final wording of proposals would be decided by the board of directors.

A tour of the City of Santa Cruz recycling facility, based on LWVC Vertical position on solid waste (proposed by Pam Newbury) also received the support of those present and was approved by our board of directors. This is a summary and does not include everything that happened at the meeting or detail about proposed speakers. Thank you to all our presenters and to those who gave us ideas to consider for the 2018-19 year.

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

Help Fund Our Schools and Communities

The LWV of California is gathering signatures for the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018, a proposed ballot initiative that seeks to restore funds to California schools and communities by closing the corporate property tax loophole.

Since 1978, when Proposition 13 limited property tax increases by allowing reassessment only when a property changes ownership, California schools, infrastructure, and public services have been underfunded.

Prop 13 protected homeowners and agricultural property as intended, but soon wealthy corporations found ways to exploit its ambiguous language by structuring changes of ownership in ways that avoid reassessment, allowing them to shirk paying their fair share. The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 will close that loophole and restore over 10 billion dollars of reliable revenue every year for our communities and schools while continuing protections for residential, agricultural, and small business properties.

This act retains full protections from property tax increases for homeowners, renters, agricultural land, and small businesses. Commercial real estate will be reassessed every 3 years, generating funds that will go directly to education, public safety, libraries, transportation, health clinics, job training, and other local services. Small businesses are protected, and all businesses are exempt from paying tax on up to \$500,000 in business personal property.

Here's how you can help qualify the initiative for the ballot:

- Sign the petition! We will have petitions available to sign at our April 14 event (see page 1).
- Gather signatures from your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers.
- Volunteer to gather signatures at community events.

Every signature gets us closer to our goal! To find out how to get petitions or volunteer to collect signatures, contact email us at petitions@lwvsc.org or call Pam Newbury at 831-423-6904.

For more information about the initiative, go to evolve-ca.org.

To view a [video of Robert Reich](#) discussing this reform, go to makeitfairca.com.

LWVSCC Interviews Assemblymember Mark Stone

In March, Barbara Lewis, Dottie Fry, Sue Becker, and Cecilie Schulze from LWVSCC and Marie Arnold from the San Jose/Santa Clara League interviewed Mark Stone, representing district 29 in the California State Assembly, on topics of concern to League members.

They began by asking if Stone supported changes to California's money bail system to ensure that people are not kept in jail solely because they cannot afford bail. Assemblymember Stone responded that he supports and co-authored SB 10, the California Money Bail Reform Act. The act would get rid of money bail and create a risk assessment-based system, making release contingent on preventing violence in the community rather than the arrestee's finances. The bill, currently stalled in the Assembly, needs to be passed this year; it has a chance if the speaker will make it a caucus priority. Courts are starting to move in this direction: counties like Santa Cruz already use a risk assessment-based system. Stone says the current system is unfair: holding somebody merely because they can't afford to pay results in loss of jobs for the individuals involved. Opposition from the bail industry is one of the obstacles to this proposed change to a more just and humane system throughout the state of California.

The second question concerned reform of CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act, a statute requiring state and local agencies to identify and consider the environmental impacts of their actions. Issues include the use of CEQA to delay affordable housing project and whether legislative changes to CEQA are needed. Stone stated that the notion that CEQA is being abused is simply not true. To take public review out of the process is not good environmental policy. Assemblymember Stone votes against CEQA exemptions and in favor of affordable housing bills that are limited to in-fill and do not include riparian corridors. Communities should come together and be heard in the planning process: sometimes delays are there for a reason. He supports creating affordable housing from existing

structures, such as the conversion of mobile home parks for affordable housing. Mark Stone says no legislative changes are needed to CEQA.

The next question asked about possible legislation to respond to sea level rise and the possibility of a regional, coordinated effort among several state agencies to protect our infrastructure. Assemblymember Stone spoke about the [California Ocean Protection Council](#) and the study of sea walls to prevent erosion. Additionally, he mentioned concerns about emergency permits from storms resulting in illegal structures. The California Coastal Commission is also important in dealing with sea level rise.

Stone listed his personal legislative priorities as bail reform; housing, including resources for affordable housing; plastic in our oceans from such products as cigarette filters, single use plastic straws, and packaging; child welfare reform; juvenile justice, including record sealing and shutting down some of the state facilities.

—Barbara Lewis, President, LWVSCC

LWVSCC members also interviewed state Senator Bill Monning. Look for his responses in the May VOTER

LWVSCC Annual Meeting:

An update on Vision Santa Cruz

Last fall, Santa Cruz County embarked on its first-ever strategic plan with county administrative officer Carlos Palacios at the helm. At the LWVSCC June annual meeting, Palacios will update us on Vision Santa Cruz, a process that will lead to a defined vision and mission with community-based goals and objectives for our county.

To learn more about Vision Santa Cruz, join us at our annual meeting on Saturday, June 9, 10 a.m. to noon at Seascape Golf Club, 610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos. To RSVP for the event, which includes a hot breakfast buffet, send a check for \$20 per person to LWVSCC, P.O. Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010.

To participate in Vision Santa Cruz, check out their website at www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/VisionSantaCruz.aspx

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 Individual annual membership
____\$100.00 Two members in a household
____\$30.00 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.



Coalition Formed to Promote Sustainable Access to Healthcare Services for Substance Use

Elected officials, health services providers, law enforcement leaders and community advocates will gather on the steps of the Santa Cruz County Courthouse on Thursday, April 5, to announce the newly-formed Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County. The coalition will advocate for public health policies and programs to promote evidence-based approaches to support people with substance use disorder.

The 4 p.m. announcement will coincide with National Public Health Week (April 2-8) and include remarks from Assemblymember Mark Stone, Santa Cruz County Sheriff Jim Hart and County Public Health Officer Dr. Arnold Leff.

Santa Cruz County has an overdose rate that is four times the state average, which demonstrates the need to advocate as a collective for a compassionate approach to addressing issues related to substance use including overdose, HIV, hepatitis C, access to drug treatment, and general stigma directed at people who use drugs. The coalition was formed to support existing and continued access to Harm Reduction Services in Santa Cruz County, including naloxone to prevent fatal overdose, syringe access, HIV and hepatitis C testing and treatment, drug treatment services including methadone and suboxone, mental health counseling, housing placement assistance, and other wrap-around services that promote wellness. The coalition represents a diverse group of community members, service providers, and people who use drugs and their friends and family.

The event takes place at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 5 on the steps of the Santa Cruz County Courthouse, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz.

Expand Your Horizons with the League

If you have leadership experience or want to gain some, working on the LWVSCC board is a great opportunity. It's a great way to learn more about how the League works and to help us educate the public and work for change in our community.

From "one-and-done" jobs to being on a committee to serving as an officer on the board, we have a job that fits your interests and availability. To learn more about how to share your time and talents with the League, contact the nominating committee member of your choice:

Stephanie Harlan: 475-7184 slharlan@sbcglobal.net

Dottie Fry: 688-9234 fryfrydl@comcast.net

Laura Grossman: 475-9442 laurag@baymoon.com

Lydia Parker 462-3921 lydiaparker3@yahoo.com