



Santa Cruz Voter

League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County

May 2012

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June Ballot Measures Presented in May

Thursday, May 10
10 A.M to Noon
Aptos Library
7694 Soquel Drive

Calendar

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

1 -3 P.M.

LWVSCC Board Meeting
 Santa Cruz County Bank
 720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Thursday, May 10, 2012

10 A.M. - Noon

June Ballot Measures Pros and Cons
 Aptos Library
 7695 Soquel Drive
 Aptos, CA 95003

Saturday, June 2, 2012

11:30 A.M - 2 P.M.

LWVSCC Annual Meeting
 Bruno's Barbeque Restaurant
 King's Village Shopping Center
 230-G Mount Hermon Road
 Scotts Valley

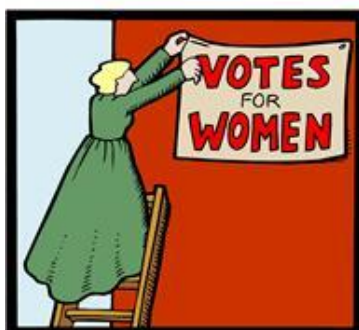
See Page 2 for Details

Free and open to League members and the public.

Should California change the limits on legislators' terms in office? Should we impose an additional tax on cigarettes for cancer research? What are the rules governing California's new Top Two Open Primary System?

Learn more about these ballot measures and how the new primary system works at our Pros and Cons meeting coming up this month. On Thursday, May 10 from 10 A.M. to noon, Voters Service Coordinator Morgan Rankin and League member Eve Roberson will give an unbiased public presentation of the ballot propositions on California's June ballot at the Aptos Branch Library, 7695 Soquel Drive in Aptos. The meeting is free and open to the public.

The last day to register to vote is May 21. For information about voting, call the Santa Cruz County Elections Office at (831) 454-2060.



News Briefs

✓ Court Rulings in [Arizona](#) and [Wisconsin](#) have set back attempts to require voters to show ID at the polls. Meanwhile, after many [organizations put pressure on corporations](#) to withdraw their support, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) announced that it is discontinuing its Public Safety and Elections Task Force, which promoted 'model' voter identification and stand-your-ground legislation.

✓ On March 27, the LWVUS, along with 49 other concerned organizations, signed a [letter to the House of Representatives](#), urging them to reject the Ryan budget plan, which makes deep cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, education, and other vital programs that serve low-income families, children, individuals with disabilities, the jobless, and the uninsured, while drastically lowering tax rates in a way that favors the wealthiest Americans. The Ryan budget plan passed the House by a vote of 228-191.



LWV of Santa Cruz County 47th Annual Meeting

**Saturday
June 2, 2012
11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.**

Bruno's Barbeque Restaurant
King's Village Shopping Center
230-G Mount Hermon Road
Scotts Valley 95066

*\$20 Per Person
Send check, payable to LWVSCC,
by May 30 to
Sandy Warren
150 Scenic St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060*

At the LWV of Santa Cruz County's 47th Annual Meeting members will consider proposed changes to our bylaws, adopt a budget, and elect officers and directors for 2012-2013. Look for your [Annual Meeting Kit](#), with the complete meeting agenda as well as the proposed budget, recommendations for local programs, and nominations for the board of directors, to arrive by e-mail (or by US mail for those who do not have internet access) soon.

Need some books to bring along on vacation this summer? At the annual meeting we will have a summer reading book exchange. Bring a few good books to the meeting and exchange them for books brought by other members. If any of your books don't get exchanged, you may take them home or leave them to be donated to the Santa Cruz Public Library.



Don't forget to bring your meeting kit with you to the meeting.



Leslie Goodfriend



Rama Khalsa, Ph. D.

County Health Services Prepared for Affordable Care

On April 26 the League held a luncheon with talks by retired director of the County Health Services Agency, Rama Khalsa, Ph. D., and Leslie Goodfriend, a senior manager in the County Health Department, substituting for the previously scheduled Giang Nguyen, who was unable to attend.

Rama Khalsa, who has 30 years experience working in healthcare, 26 of which were in Santa Cruz, spoke first about the unique aspects of health care in Santa Cruz County. “Santa Cruz has assets and resources other communities don’t have,” she said. There are three hospitals, two strong medical groups, and a range of safety net clinics. The level of collaboration among healthcare leaders is high, and people work together to problem solve. Funding is pooled across organizations, which is not typical elsewhere. The use of electronic medical records was begun in 2005. The fire department and ambulances work together in responding to emergencies, rather than competing for patients, which increased response times by 60%. In addition, we have one of the state’s few locally controlled non-profit health insurance plans in the Central California Alliance for Health which includes Monterey and Merced counties, as well as Santa Cruz. Every local doctor in Santa Cruz accepts Alliance patients. When the Affordable Care Act is fully implemented, 60,000 additional patients will be added to the almost 1 million in the Alliance currently.

Leslie Goodfriend, who has 21 years of experience in public health, spoke next. She is director of the new Medicruz Advantage program for very low income adults, 19-64 years old, who don’t qualify for regular Medi-Cal. Fifty percent of funding comes from the County general fund, and 50% comes from the federal government. The program is a comprehensive medical plan, which includes primary and specialty care, hospitalization, medical equipment and supplies, medicines and mental health, and substance abuse services with no co-pays. Fourteen hundred patients have been enrolled since January 1. Over 400 have already received specialty services. The program will run until December of 2013 when it will be absorbed by Medi-Cal, which is scheduled to expand upon full implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

There were many questions from the audience after the talks about the Affordable Care Act, financing, insurance exchanges and hopes for universal coverage in California. Dr. Khalsa suggested websites to go to for additional information: [California Healthcare Foundation](#) and the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) .

—Kathy Van Horn, Secretary

Get Ready for June with the League’s Election Resources

Ready for the June 5 primary election? The League can help you prepare with these nonpartisan resources:

[SmartVoter.org](#) provides trusted, comprehensive information on all federal, state, and local candidates and issues.

[EasyVoterGuide.org](#) has resources for new and busy voters, including a special four-page guide with basic information for voters to understand how the new Top Two Primary works and summaries of the two statewide ballot measures.

[CAvotes.org](#), the League’s Education Fund Web site offers additional in-depth information.

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.

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

___ \$97.50 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 _____

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President's Message



I hope you have found this past year's League's luncheon meetings, study sessions and our Voter newsletter interesting and informative. We've covered a wide range of timely issues, including education, county finances, public safety realignment and

health care. On May 10 we will discuss the June ballot and then wrap up the year with our Annual Meeting on June 2. During the summer, our local League takes a hiatus: a time when the new Board will meet to become oriented and develop a calendar of projects and events to begin this fall.

Please plan to attend the League's presentation of the Pros and Cons of the ballot measures on Thursday, May 10, at 10:00 a.m. at the Aptos Library. Morgan Rankin and Eve Roberson will also explain how California's new Top Two Open Primary System will work.

On June 2, our local League will hold its 47th Annual Meeting at Bruno's Barbeque Restaurant in Scotts Valley. Please be sure to make your reservation for a delicious lunch. Prospective League members are also welcome.

At the Annual Meeting we will not only have a chance to greet old and new friends, enjoy good food, and exchange good books, we will also take care of important League business by adopting new Bylaws and next year's budget, recommending topics for next year's League meetings, and electing new officers and directors.

Members who do not have internet access will receive copies of the Annual Meeting Kit via U.S. Mail. Members who have internet access are advised to go to the [calendar page](#) of our website to find a link to the Annual Meeting Kit and Bylaws. Please be sure to bring your copy of the Annual Meeting Kit and Bylaws with you on June 2. I look forward to seeing you then.



—Jan Karwin, President