



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

February 2017

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LWV's PUBLIC POLICY WORK: Part 2 – Forging Ideas into Proposals

Saturday, Feb 11, 2017, 10am – 12pm

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church
728 W. Fremont Ave, Room 501

Where should our local League focus its energy in work on public policy issues? Should we engage in advocacy on some of the many issues on which the LWV has existing positions? Can we provide community education on timely issues? Where is the LWV most needed in our communities? Where can we have impact?

At our first “program planning” meeting on January 7, twenty participants engaged in a first exchange of program ideas. A summary of that meeting is available in the January 7 listing at calendar.lwvcs.org.

The ideas generated so far will be fleshed out before the upcoming “Part 2” meeting. On February 11, brief program proposals will be presented, followed by group exchange about their relative merits. Group response to the program proposals will inform the LWVCS board’s choices of what to recommend to the membership as local program. Group dialogue on February 11 will also inform our League’s program input to the county and state levels of League.

Pre-meeting materials, including summary program proposals, will be available online by February 4. Go to calendar.lwvcs.org and look under the listing for February 11. Reading those materials is not a pre-requisite for the February 11 meeting but may enrich your participation.

We encourage all League members to come to this meeting and add their voice to dialogue that will help set the direction for our League.

**COME TO THIS LIVELY EXCHANGE
& HELP SET OUR AGENDA**

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

| | |
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Pros and Cons Scheduling

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

Published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

This newsletter is posted on our website: www.lwvcs.org.

Editor: Roberta Hollimon
lwvcseditor@comcast.net



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hopefully your 2017 is off to a good start. We are finding many opportunities to participate in good government already and encourage you to join us at events and make your voice heard.

The January 7th event for our Program Planning was very valuable in brainstorming issues we might want to focus on in this coming year. Thank you Linda Davis for organizing and moderating this event.

On February 11th, we’ll go over these topics in more detail to see which ones our League will work on and what we’d like the State League to work on. Your input is needed so please attend this event – see the Calendar section for time and location.

January 28th is the panel on Housing hosted by the Bay Area League. If you attend, please send a brief write-up to Roberta. In light of Measure A passing, this is a very timely topic.

Tracey, Morgan and I attended the event hosted by Beth Am and the Palo Alto League on the topic of “Can we replace the Electoral College?” Over 300 attendees were there and we’ve written a brief article here in our newsletter. You can find all event information by going to LWVCS.org and clicking on Calendar. You can also Google the other Leagues to find their events. There is plenty to do and many hands make light work so do please get involved this year.

I look forward to seeing you at an event soon,

Elaine

NAME BADGES – WOULD YOU LIKE ONE?

We have found a supplier to make updated name badges with our LWV open logo. Please let me know if you would like one. Just send an email to me at elaine.manley@comcast.net and let me know how you want your name to be printed as well as do you want to have our local League name or not. See the photo below for an example (remember we will update the logo for the new badges). We want to place the order by February 5 so please let me know soon. Thank you.



Board Briefs

At its January Board Meeting your board:

- agreed to co-sponsor Silicon Valley Reads 2017 focused on the theme “...and justice for all.”
- will participate in the County Council's housing and transportation committees.
- considered establishing a PayPal account for LWVCS.
- formed a By-Laws Committee.

Membership

Thank you for including a donation with your dues renewal: Jim Jackson and Andrew Kao.

Welcome new member Jane Gregorzek and returning member Richard Grindeland.

Thank you Martha and Carl Plescia for your donation to the Community Appeal.

Opportunities for Involvement

Join the County Council’s transportation and housing committees.

Attend the Public Policy Work meeting.

In Memoriam

We sadly report the passing of Louise Levy. Louise joined the Cupertino-Sunnyvale League when it organized in 1973. She served as president, secretary, and VOTER editor. She will be missed by many.

POST-TRUTH POLITICS

January 21st there was a panel discussion on the topic of Post-Truth Politics co-hosted by the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale and the Friends of the Cupertino Library. The speakers were Devin Fehely, an Emmy award winning general assignment reporter for KPIX 5, and Professor Larry N. Gerston, PhD, a Professor Emeritus of Political Science at San Jose State.



The hour-long discussion centered on the role of the citizen in a world where news sources are more varied and may be less credible. Dr. Gerston made the point several times that it is up to each reader of information to consider the trustworthiness of the source. He also pointed out the importance of gathering information from a variety of media outlets.

The moderator, a librarian at the Cupertino Library, also informed the audience of local, national and international sources for news that are available to Santa Clara County library cardholders. The New York Times is available online through the library at www.sccl.org/newspapers, [PressReader](#) allows access to the Washington Post, Mercury News, and more at www.sccl.org/newspapers and Zinio is an online resource for over a hundred magazines at www.sccl.org/zinio.

Reporter Fehely informed the audience about a website called Snopes.com where readers can research the truthfulness of a news story if they are unsure of its veracity. As more people worldwide get their news from

social media outlets and are “liking” stories that reflect their own bias, companies like Facebook are grappling with how to respond to “fake news.”

Professor Gerston pointed out that this is a new problem and that as a society we will learn how to manage this information. Issues also arose with the introduction of the car, radio, television, etc.

Reporter Fehely said that his personal experience is that those in his profession do have integrity and are doing their best to report important stories that people are interested in.

The Cupertino librarian who moderated the event ended with a poem by Emily Dickinson:

Tell all the truth but tell it slant — (1263)

By Emily Dickinson

*Tell all the truth but tell it slant —
Success in Circuit lies
Too bright for our infirm Delight
The Truth's superb surprise
As Lightning to the Children eased
With explanation kind
The Truth must dazzle gradually
Or every man be blind —*

Kristine Kelly

[Click here](#) for a link to the video of the meeting.

“In general it requires two-thirds of Congress or Legislatures of two-thirds of the States to vote for it and then requires three-quarters of the states to vote for it in a National Convention of the States.”

It should have read:

“In general, Congress may propose constitutional amendments by two-thirds vote in each chamber or the legislatures of two-thirds of the states (34 at present) may ask Congress to call a national convention for the purpose of proposing amendments. Amendments proposed by either method go into effect only after ratification by three-quarters of the states (38 at present).”

A LETTER FROM SUPERVISOR SIMITIAN

January 12, 2017

Dear Friend:

As you may know, I hosted a public information meeting regarding the Lehigh Quarry and Cement Plant on November 16, 2016 at Cupertino Community Hall. This was the second informational meeting on this topic that I've convened since re-joining the Board of Supervisors in 2013. We were joined by about 100 members of the community, and representatives from seven different regulatory authorities, all with jurisdiction over the facility.

Community members had an opportunity to pose questions to the regulators regarding matters at the quarry and cement plant. While the meeting lasted two full hours, and we made it through most of the questions, we did leave some questions unanswered.

To follow up, I asked my staff to work with the appropriate regulatory agencies to track down answers to the remaining questions. We've done that, and you'll find the remaining questions and answers posted on County Planning's website (go to: sccplanning.org, then select development projects/previous projects/permanente-lehigh).

There you will also find a link to the video of the meeting, and a list of the questions that were asked and answered (with a notation of the time on the video when it takes place for easy reference). I hope that if you attended this meeting you found it helpful and informative. As always, I value your feedback, both positive and constructively critical (!), so please get in touch if you have comments to share or suggestions for improvements.

Sincerely,

S. Joseph Simitian
County Supervisor, Fifth District
S. JOSEPH SIMITIAN SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT FIVE
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, EAST WING 70 WEST HEDDING STREET, 10TH FLOOR
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95110
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www.supervisorsimitian.com

LEAGUE POSITION ON PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

The League has completed its state study of Public Higher Education and has announced its position.

Position in Brief:

The League of Women Voters of California supports a comprehensive system of public higher education that serves the personal, professional, and occupational goals of all adult Californians and advances the social, economic, and civic needs of the state. To achieve these objectives, public higher education must prioritize access, affordability, equity, and excellence. These priorities require state funding, including student financial aid, that is stable, predictable, sustainable, and timely.

To read the complete position go [publichigheredposition](#).

LEAGUE NEWS

National - LWVUS board voted to join the Women's March. President Chris Carson said, "In the spirit of democracy and in honor of the champions of human rights, dignity, and justice who have come before us, we join in diversity to show our presence in numbers too great to ignore. The Women's March on Washington will send a bold message to our new administration on their first day in office, and to the world, that **women's rights are human rights**. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us."

County - The Council of the Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County appeared before the County Board of Supervisors to support the Board's plan to take a leadership role in ensuring that the subjects of mass deportation receive due process of law by legal representation.

The Council also appeared on the Supervisors' panel, **Women's and Children's Issues**, speaking on the importance of Civic Engagement in these uncertain times.

CAN WE GET RID OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE?

This event was held on Jan 11, 2017 and hosted by Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills along with the Palo Alto League of Women Voters.

Over 300 attended and completely filled the synagogue. The guest speaker was Professor Jack Rakove – Professor of History and American Studies and Political Science at Stanford University. He's written 6 books. He was speaking to advocate for the elimination the Electoral College.

The Professor spoke about four main areas regarding the Electoral College:

Origin – our founders researched other governments. At that time the world had mostly monarchies and dynasties and very few democracies. They found the electoral college to be the "least malattractive option."

Evolution of the Electoral College – 12th Amendment in 1803 changed the vote from top two vote getters become President and Vice President to electing the President & Vice President as a one party ticket.

National Popular Vote (NPV) – 1 person 1 vote and ban the Electoral College. This would require using Article 5 which describes how to amend the Constitution. In general, Congress may propose constitutional amendments by two-thirds vote in each chamber or the legislatures of two-thirds of the states (34 at present) may ask Congress to call a national convention for the purpose of proposing amendments. Amendments proposed by either method go into effect only after ratification by three-quarters of the states (38 at present). His view was the NPV would incentivize getting votes from everywhere.

Solution – start discussing the topic and start working on using Article 5 to change our Constitution.

For more information on the LWVUS position on the selection of the President go to [electoralcollege](#). To learn more about Professor Rakove's work on Executive Power and the Electoral College go to [rakoveelectoralcollege](#).

Elaine Manley

Join the League of Women Voters

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all 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 LWVCS to LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale, P.O. Box 2923, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

___ \$70 Individual member

Name(s): _____

___ \$105 Two members in a household

Address: _____

___ \$35 Student

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

___ Contribution \$ _____

Phone(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Membership checks are made out to "LWVCS" and are not tax-deductible. Donations to "LWVCS" are also non-deductible.

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

FEBRUARY

- Sat. 11 10:00 a.m. - **LWV's Public Policy Work: Part 2**
12:00 noon Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, Room 501
728 W. Fremont Ave. Sunnyvale 94087
- Wed. 15 7:30 p.m. **Board Meeting**
Sunnyvale Toyota
898 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

JUNE

- Sat. 7 2:00 p.m. **LWVCS Annual Meeting**

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

UNITED STATES

- President Donald Trump** 202-456-1414
comments@whitehouse.gov
- Senator Dianne Feinstein** 415-393-0707
senator@feinstein.senate.gov
- Senator Kamala Harris** 213-894-5000
www.harris.senate.gov

CALIFORNIA

- Governor Jerry Brown** 916-445-2841
governor@governor.ca.gov
- Senator Jim Beall** 408-286-8318
senator.beall@senate.ca.gov
- Senator Jerry Hill** 650-212-3313
senator.hill@senate.ca.gov
- Assemblyman Evan Low** 408-371-2802
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- Assemblyman Marc Berman** 650-691-2121

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

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The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

FIRST CLASS

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