



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

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March 24, 2017

Washington, DC – Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, issued the following statement after the House Speaker pulled the “American Health Care Act” (AHCA) from the House floor, canceling the House vote:

“Today we saw further proof that the American Health Care Act is the wrong solution to healthcare in this country. This unpopular legislation is bad for women, bad for families and bad for seniors. The House took the right step by not voting on this un-American bill that would take away health coverage for millions of Americans.”

- See more at: <https://lwvc.org/news/american-health-care-act-fails#sthash.BwsApVNI.dpuf>

In a Call to Action last week, LWV said, “Legislation that would repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was introduced this week by the leadership in the House of Representatives.

“This new bill, developed in secret and being rushed to passage, will rip apart our healthcare and revoke coverage for millions of Americans while raising costs for millions more. Tell your Representative that this is unacceptable.

“The ‘American Health Care Act’ is un-American. It will:

- increase costs for seniors and those with pre-existing conditions
- slash assistance for lower-income households in obtaining coverage
- threaten the essential care that women need.

“In fact, the only real winners under this new legislation are the big interests and the wealthiest Americans. Hundreds of billions in tax breaks are included for the wealthy and the pharmaceutical and insurance industries.

“Tell your Representative that covering fewer people, weaker protections for our vulnerable populations, and higher costs are unacceptable.

“The League remains committed to ensuring that Americans have the coverage and access to care that they need to take care of themselves and their families. We will not stand by while members of Congress dismantle protections for the health and well-being of the American public.

“Stand with the League today and tell Congress that their plan to ‘replace’ the Affordable Care Act is unacceptable.”

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We recently had an outstanding training presented by our LWVC President Helen Hutchison and LWVC Director Christina Dragonetti. All of the attendees came away with improved skills on getting the audience to understand the problem, the solution and to take action. For example, one of the problems is people are alone dealing with increasing costs in health care, rent, or tuition as well as immigration challenges, voting rights and more. The solution is to unite and work together to address these topics for the greater good. The action is to join the League as one of the best groups to help make it happen. Our membership is increasing each week and the new members are engaged and already helping with events and other tasks. I hope you are proud to be a member and please encourage your friends to join and become active.

Our League has been very busy – strategizing next steps after the women’s march, co-hosting the training on Leadership and powerful presentation skills, co-sponsoring the event to discuss how the community and the public safety departments can improve relations, and another one on discerning fake news from real news. Coming up, we have the opportunity to hear from the author of “Dark Money” which fits well with our “Money in Politics” Action kit. And we have several members researching what we might do locally regarding civil discourse, housing, and transportation. If you’d like to get more active, please contact me. We’ll be able to accomplish even more with your help.

Elaine

Board Briefs

At its February Board Meeting your board:

- decided to send Elaine Manley, Marieann Shovlin, and Tracey Edwards to serve as delegates to the League of Women Voters of California Convention.
- formed a budget committee.
- formed an ad hoc group to look at existing local and county positions.
- heard that we are working with the Los Altos/Mountain View League on potential workshops on civil discourse.
- learned that a committee reviewed the By Laws and other policies and will submit the report to members at Annual Meeting.

Member News

Welcome new members: Craig Haggart and Rebecca Horton.

ACT NOW

Dear League Members in Assembly District 28 (Cupertino),

Are you disgusted by the influence of big money in politics? Did you know that in most California local elections, there are no limits on the size of campaign contributions to candidates?

Tell your Assembly Member, Evan Low, to support AB 1089 to end unlimited money in our local elections!

California is one of only four states that limit campaign contributions to state candidates, but not local candidates. And in about two-thirds of counties and a whopping 78 percent of our cities, wealthy special interests can give unlimited amounts of money to candidates. In some cases, a candidate for local office has taken \$100,000—or even more—from a single wealthy donor. That's outrageous!

AB 1089 would safeguard democracy by ending that local loophole. It provides a general contribution cap to stop the worst abuses, while respecting the autonomy of our counties, cities, and districts to set their own limits tailored to their communities' needs.

Your representative is the Chair of the Assembly Elections Committee that will soon consider AB 1089. Please tell your Assembly Member to vote YES on AB 1089 to prevent corruption, curb undue influence, and protect local democracy.

Sincerely,

Helen Hutchison, President LWVC

BUILDING TRUST WITH PROCEDURAL JUSTICE

A panel discussion with:

Dennis R. Burns, Retired Police Chief , City of Palo Alto

David Honda, Police Chief, City of Watsonville

Phan Ngo, Chief, City of Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety

Barbara Marshman, Editorial Page Editor, San Jose Mercury News - Moderator

Our League co-sponsored an event with Silicon Valley Reads, the Cupertino Library, and the Commonwealth Club. Barbara Marshman from the San Jose Mercury News was the moderator. Panelists spoke about how our local officers work to protect the citizens and discussed how things could be improved. Our police departments want to continue to partner with their communities to build trust and strong relationships and work together to understand and solve the community's issues. They feel we need to have greater focus on prevention programs, develop positive pathways for youth, and review how we do sentencing. You can see a full recording on the Cupertino City website at <http://www.cupertino.org/index.aspx?page=792>.

The discussion started with a brief synopsis of the Silicon Valley Reads' selected books, *Unfair* by Adam Benforado and *Writing my Wrongs* by Shaka Senhorg and continued with definitions of Procedural Justice and Restorative Justice. Progressive Justice is a national initiative that focuses on the way police and other legal authorities interact with the public. It is based on four principles: treating people with dignity and respect, giving citizens a voice during encounters, being neutral in decision-making, and conveying trustworthy motives. Restorative Justice is an approach to justice that personalizes the crime by having the victims and offenders mediate a restitution agreement to the satisfaction of each, as well as involving the community. This is sometimes used in the juvenile justice system.

Police departments are partnering with their communities to build trust and strong relationships. They work together to understand and solve the community's issues/problems. California has very progressive police departments that serve as models for other police departments across the nation. Police training has changed over the years and is continuing to change to address current major issues such as mental health, homelessness, immigration and law enforcement, and keeping youth out of the criminal system.

Panelists stressed the importance of education and youth programs in the community creating good pathways to constructive and productive lives that give youth hope for their futures. Programs such as the San Jose Police Department Leadership Academy for Youth, a seven-week

program for youth 14 - 18 years old, and the Palo Alto Basic Citizens Police Academy, have been very successful. They require funding and not all cities can afford these types of programs.

The speakers feel we should focus on rehabilitation and mental health issues rather than incarceration. Prisons are overcrowded across America. Too many people are locked up for offenses that are not serious. In particular it is not a good idea to lock up youth who have not committed serious crimes with youth who have committed serious crimes. There is a potential for these young people to be corrupted while in lock-up.

Speakers noted that cameras in squad cars have been in use for 10-20 years and are very helpful to law enforcement. All agreed that the use of body cameras is a good tool that protects both the officers and the citizens.

However, it is very costly to maintain and store data and not all cities can afford them.

On the issue of immigration, they said that the police departments' role is to partner with their communities to provide protection and work with their communities. Using police to enforce immigration policies is not in the communities' best interests and will not make communities safer. They do not want to drive the immigrants into the shadows so that they are afraid to step forward as witnesses and/or report crimes.

When asked what one or two things they would like to change in the criminal justice system, the responses included: more focus on prevention programs, addressing what the prison system is doing to our society, developing positive pathways for youth, and looking at how we do sentencing.

Citizens can help police departments by becoming involved in their communities, ensuring that good education is available to all, and strengthening our mental health services. It is said that prisons are the largest mental health institutions in America.

Citizens can ride along in squad cars for a day to gain first hand knowledge of a typical day in the life of a police officer. All they need to do is call the police department and set up a time.

Margaret Lindberg and Mareiann Shovlin



LEADERS FOR DEMOCRACY CONFERENCE CALL; MARCH 22, 2017

On March 22, 2017, via conference call, we heard from our LWVUS President, Chris Carson and several of her senior leaders. The one hour call covered seven topics which are briefly summarized below. You can watch the recording by clicking here: Watch Recording <<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/viewRecording/3046420546506666498/9015679069909164035/tkaye752@gmail.com>>

LWV and the 2016 election

During 2016 the League's program activities reached approximately 30 million people. League members registered approximately 120,000 new voters.

Threats to Voter Rights

The League is actively working to protect voter rights. Specifically the League is working for the retention of the Elections Assistance Commission (EAC). This is the only federal agency that is exclusively dedicated to improving elections. In the proposed Federal budget this agency is slated to be discontinued. Among other areas the EAC is a clearing house for election best practices and establishes standards for voting machines.

Redistricting

Chris Carson specifically addresses redistricting as an issue that broadly energizes all members because:

- it is essential to voter rights reform.
- it engages Leagues at all levels, and engages new members in exciting ways.

LWVUS works in a coordinating capacity with all state Leagues on redistricting.

LWVUS Current Legal Initiatives

The LWVUS is actively supporting litigation or directly litigating issues that block citizens from being able to vote. These matters include: reducing undue burden on documentary proof of citizenship, preventing unnecessary burdens on voter registration, preventing states from illegally purging voter polls, and advancing a first amendment challenge to Gerrymandering.

State Level Actions

Similar to the national level activities the LWVUS is aggressively working at the state level to prevent threats to voter rights. Efforts here have focused on: documentary proof of identification, ease of registration including on-line registration, and fairness in automatic registration.

Advocacy Programs

LWVUS advocacy efforts include:

- Safeguarding the National Voter Registration Act.
- Retention of the EAC, mentioned above.
- Working to prevent a Constitutional convention to create a Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA). (Concern here is twofold; LWVUS believes BBA is a bad idea and a constitutional convention opens the entire Constitution to amendment.)
- Working to defeat repeal of the ACA.
- Working to prevent repeal of the Clean Power Program.
- Opposing recent immigration bans as discriminatory based on religion and in violation of due process.

2017 Initiatives

Activities for the balance of 2017 will be focused on:

- Registration; a push to register new citizens and high school students.
- Voter Education.
- Mobilization of the infrequent voter.

Tracey Edwards

SENIOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Affordable housing for seniors is coming to Cupertino. At a community meeting, Charities Housing presented their proposal to build a project with 18 studio apartments for seniors plus a one 2-bed apartment for a property manager at 19160 Stevens Creek Blvd. near Tantau Avenue. These will be rental units designed for independent living.



The project could start construction in 2018.

Charities Housing’s statement, “Charities Housing is committed to developing and managing affordable housing and strives to create developments that contribute positively to communities. Healthy communities start with people who care, who fulfill a vision, and who gladly perform meaningful services. That is what you will find in each and every affordable housing developed, owned, and managed by Charities Housing throughout Silicon Valley. We firmly believe our contributions are essential to the creation of healthy communities.”

Join the League of Women Voters

Voting membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all men and women 16 years of age and older. 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.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$70 Individual member <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 for each additional member in a household <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Student <input type="checkbox"/> Contribution \$ _____	Name(s): _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone(s): _____ Email(s): _____
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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.”

APRIL

Wed. 12 7:30 p.m. **Board Meeting**
Sunnyvale Toyota
898 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

JUNE

Fri. 2- **LWVC Convention**
Sun. 4 The Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel
1230 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Sat. 17 2:00 p.m. **LWVCS Annual Meeting**

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

UNITED STATES

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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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