



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

December 2017

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CELEBRATE

Sunday, December 3, 2017

2 - 4 PM

PF Chang's

390 W El Camino, Sunnyvale 94087

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale League is celebrating the Holiday Season by sharing good wishes & great food and honoring two very special members who are leaving the area. **Marilyn Howard** has rendered valuable service over the years in many arenas as a Board member and activist. **Susan Hough** has been our star Pro/Con presenter and dedicated Board member. Join us for networking and appetizers – and bring a friend!

Please let Elaine know if you plan to attend at elaine.manley@comcast.net, so we order the correct amount of food.

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President	Elaine Manley
Vice President	Tracey Edwards
Secretary	Bena Chang
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	Michael Lusk
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Off Board	
Nominating Committee Chair	Linda Davis
Pros and Cons Scheduling	Judi Pogue

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: WHY IS IT ESSENTIAL TO OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE?

Monday, December 11

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Mitchell Park Community Center

El Palo Alto Room

3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 94307.

The speaker is **Professor Deborah Stipek**, a former Dean of the Stanford University Graduate School of Education is presently the Judy Koch Professor of Education in the Graduate School of Education and the Faculty Director of the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford.

Cost \$35 - send a check by 12/8 payable to LWVPA, 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We need you! To fulfill the League's mission to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government it takes many people with many different skills. If you want to make sure our democratic processes stay strong, community engagement in government is effective, and voter rights are protected, then please raise your hand to help. We are looking for people who are willing to invest just a little time to help deliver on our big mission.

Specifically are you:

- handy with Excel, familiar with Constant Contact or PayPal?
- strong in finance and/or bookkeeping?
- a good writer or public speaker?
- familiar with the use of social media, marketing, or graphics? or
- willing to research ballot measures?

If you can say yes to any of the above please do raise your hand. If you want to simply learn more please raise your hand.

The League needs your help to start getting ready for the 2018 election season so please raise your hand and say "yes, count me in." You will meet and work with great people and feel really good about what you contribute to your community. If you are interested, please email us letting us know the best way to reach you and the skills you think may be of help. You can contact us at: membership@lwvcs.org and use Raise Your Hand in the subject line.

Housing update

The state and local government activity on affordable housing is at an unprecedented level. The state has passed 15 bills in support of housing and the city of San Jose has recently released a comprehensive housing plan. Our League has been meeting with many housing focused NGO's located in Santa Clara county to best understand how together we can have the greatest impact. While this has been moving slowly, a plan is starting to emerge and we hope to provide greater details shortly.

League in Action

The League educates, sometimes advocates, and sometimes endorses local measures all of which we did in 2016 on County Measures A and B. With both measures having passed and the Leagues of Santa Clara County having put so much energy into each measure we wanted to do more. The local Leagues decided we should now work to ensure the measures were properly implemented, by encouraging our members to apply for the Citizens' oversight committee associated with each measure. We are very pleased to report that we now have a League member on each of the Oversight committees. This speaks not only to the quality of our members who applied but to the regard in which the League is held.

That is all for now, and please do raise your hand!

Take Care,
Tracey Edwards

Editor's note: The president and vice president are now sharing the writing of the President's Message and will be alternating the job every other month.

Board Briefs

At its November meeting your board:

- Received a report from the Civil Discourse Committee, which recently learned about the Focused Conversation Method. The committee also did a well-received session with the San Mateo League, using the methodology from Martha Cox .
- Learned the Annual Holiday Party is on December 3 from 2-4 PM at PF Chang's in Sunnyvale. All members are encouraged to attend and to bring someone new to the party.
- Voted to continue our membership with the Cupertino Chamber for 2018.
- Heard that Susan Hough is retiring from the League Board.

Membership

Thank you for including a donation with your member renewal: Cheryl and Bob Bartholomew.

Welcome new members: Adrienne Friedman and Larry Klein

STATE ROUTE 85 TRANSIT GUIDEWAY STUDY COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

LWV members recently attended one of three community workshops about the State Route 85 Transit Guideway Study. The study, approved by voters with the passage of the Measure B sales tax last November, will evaluate alternatives to reduce noise and traffic congestion within this 23.7 mile corridor. A projected \$350 million will be available for these improvements, which will be collected over the next 30 years.

The study covers the entire length of SR 85, and will analyze whether there is enough physical space and funding to build several potential improvements. It will also evaluate the construction costs, operating costs, and projected ridership of these alternatives.

Options to manage traffic congestion.

At the meeting the Valley Transit Authority (VTA) staff members gave a brief overview of the study. Under consideration are “Express Lanes” — a modification of HOV lanes (carpool lanes) to allow non-carpool vehicles to purchase access to the express lane for a fee that varies based on the level of congestion. Non-carpool vehicles could only enter the express lane if travel speeds are higher than 45 miles per hour. Another option is to construct addi-

tional lanes of traffic. Each additional lane would allow SR 85 to handle an additional ~1,800 cars per hour at maximum flow rate.

With regard to alternative/mass transit options, VTA staff members pointed out a significant physical constraint. Highway 85 consists of two sections: one north of 1-280 to 101 which is too narrow to accommodate mass transit options (like light rail) and one south of 1-280 to Highway 87 which could include mass transit options in the median strip.

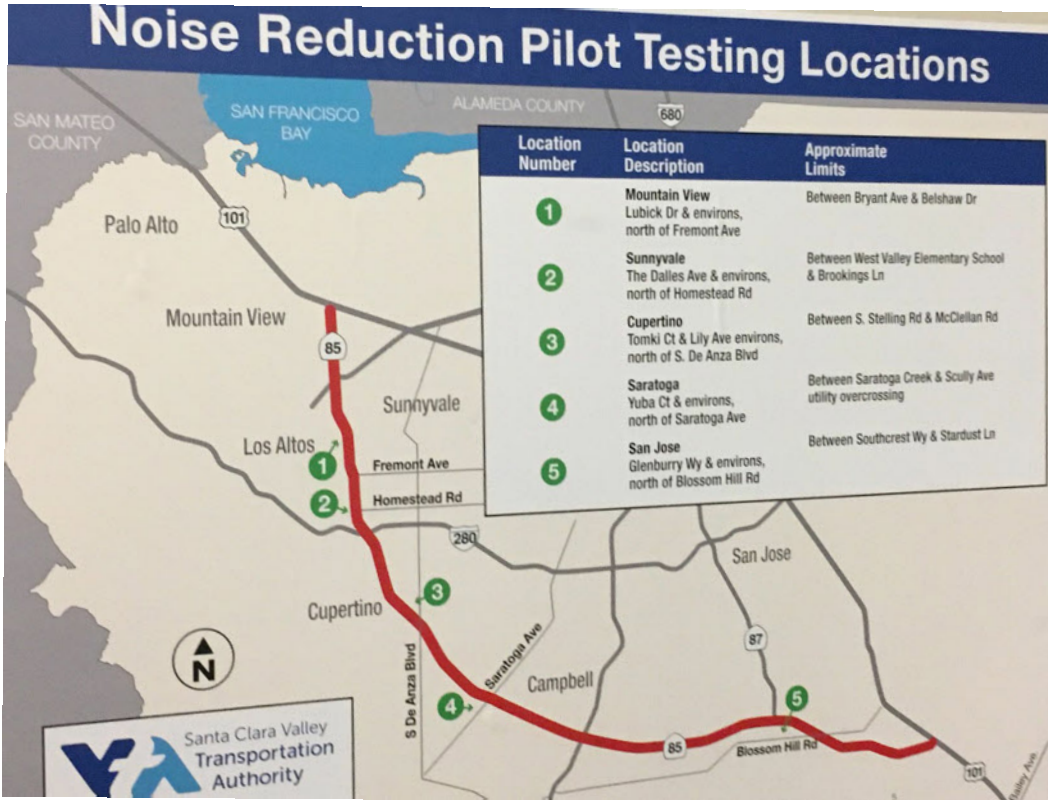
Options for noise abatement.

VTA is undertaking a related study and pilot projects to reduce noise. They have identified quieter pavement and noise barrier treatments and intend to test these at five locations along Highway 85 with the goal of implementing the most effective treatments throughout the corridor.

VTA is studying how people travel along the corridor using data collected from mobile phones and employers along SR 85. While that data will tell VTA where people are going, it doesn't tell VTA what types of transit they might be willing to use in this corridor. For the balance of the workshop, participants were asked to visit several stations where they could

complete a mapping exercise within the Highway 85 corridor, providing their ideas and opinions on transit options, and complete a poll to gauge participant priorities (reduction of green house gases, moving more people along the corridor, increasing travel speed, increasing the number of transit options). Participants were also asked to complete a more detailed survey which is available online for all interested citizens at short survey through November 30, 2017.

Leslie Larson



ON THE TABLE SV – NOVEMBER 15

On the Table SV brought together thousands of people in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties to eat and talk about our region's housing challenges. Silicon Valley Community Foundation with the support of other local foundations made the evening possible with the intent of more creatively exploring what could be done differently to create more housing. LWVCS enthusiastically sponsored an event at Oren's Hummus where 12 members of the community had a very lively and passionate discussion on the topic of housing.

As a back drop for the evening we reviewed some stark facts:

- In the Valley from 2010 to 2014, 182,000 jobs were created and only 16,000 housing units were built,
- The median household income is \$95,000 but it takes an income of \$126,000 to afford a two bedroom apartment, and
- According to a 2017 poll, 40 percent of respondents indicated they were likely to leave the Bay Area in the next few years due to housing costs.

Over the evening we discussed the very real challenges facing the folks around the table and their friends and colleagues. Some of things we heard included:

- I have lived my whole life in this community and I can't afford to stay,
- I am a single parent and affordable housing is a consistent worry,

on the table®



- When I retire I will be forced to move out of the area but my family and social network is all local, and
- I would like to downsize my home but I can't afford what my new property tax bill will be.

These conversations led to an array of suggested solutions including:

- Let me take my property tax base with me when I downsize, and
- Get our city councils to be more public and creative about housing solutions.

What was clear from the evening is housing is a problem that will take the entire village to solve. So please join the dialogue and let your voice be heard.

Last and very important we extend a big thank you to our new member Jean Bedord for bringing several friends. And big welcome aboard to Adrienne Friedman as our newest member also in attendance.

Tracey Edwards

SAVE THE DATE

Bay Area League Day

Saturday, February 3, 2018, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Topic: Bay Area Regional Governance- Winds of Change.

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) are merging and there are many options for a combined organization being considered. The current agencies focus primarily on housing, transportation and social equity. Questions are being asked such as: how much authority should the regional agency have on local land use decisions; should the regional decision makers be appointed by other elected officials (as it is now) or be directly elected; and how might this new regional agency relate to other governing bodies?

NOVEMBER

Wed 29 7 – 9 PM **How to Present Ballot Measures to Groups**
1075 Hamshire Ct, Sunnyvale 94087

DECEMBER

Sun 3 2 - 4 PM **Holiday Event**
PF Chang's
390 W El Camino, Sunnyvale 94087

Mon 4 7:30 PM **Board Meeting**
Sunnyvale Toyota
898 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

Mon 11 11:30 – 1 **Early Childhood Education**
Mitchell Park Community Center, El Palo Alto Room
3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 94307.

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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.

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