



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

January 2018

Volume 45 Number 5

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PROGRAM PLANNING

LWV's Public Policy Work: Part 1 Getting Ideas on the Table Seizing the Desire for Change

Date: Saturday, January 13, 2018
Time: 1 to 4 PM
Place: St. Jude Episcopal Church
 20920 McClellan Rd, Cupertino
 Classroom #5.

Are you frustrated with the political environment? Are there changes you want to see in your city, county, state, or nationwide? Not sure how to make those changes happen?

Speaking for myself, there are lots of changes I want to see happen and I know an important part of seeing those changes come to fruition is working with the League during the Program Planning process.

Program Planning is a true grassroots process. It allows our members opportunity to advocate for what we want to tackle in the coming year. Program Planning is our opportunity to have our voices heard, set priorities, and set a plan in place to take action. Program Planning is the very best of what the League stands for and what it does.

We value you all as members but really need to hear from you. So we encourage all League members to come to this meeting, and bring a friend. Please help us shape the agenda for the coming year. Please help make the changes in government about which you are most concerned.

Help set the agenda for 2018!

The first hour of the meeting is for people new to Program Planning and then 2 to 4 PM for everyone else.

Tracey Edwards

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

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Vice President	Tracey Edwards
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Pros and Cons Scheduling	Judi Pogue

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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoy the holidays and time with friends and family. We always look forward to going to Green Bay, Wisconsin and usually have a white Christmas there. So much fun to visit with the family. And then I love coming back to the warmer weather in California.

As we start the new year, our focus turns to Program Planning which is the League's terminology for "What do we want to work on in the coming year?" As you know, we have been working on Civil Discourse and Housing and we will receive reports on the progress of those committees at our meetings. For those of you that have not been to one of these meetings, please join us at 1 PM on January 13 where Tracey and I will explain the process and some of the terminology. Then at 2 PM we'll review what is planned at the national level, as well as Bay Area and local levels. We can choose to continue on the Committee work we are doing and/or choose to add other issues if we have enough volunteers. It is a very interactive meeting and your input is very important. Once we get a sense of direction, we'll have the second meeting in February to finalize our goals and then we can report the findings to the National League and prepare to share it with the entire membership at our Annual Meeting.

In the meantime, you are welcome to participate in the Civil Discourse Committee. [Marieann](#) has done an outstanding job of hosting informative trainings. Please contact her if you'd like to get involved.

The e-blast that our Communications Committee recently emailed to you has quite a few events. I hope you'll participate in several of them. And do please check out our Facebook page. Lynne Houghton has created a great series of postings. We have so many wonderful volunteers with so many talents. You are appreciated. We do need more help so do please consider volunteering more in our League in 2018.

"To all of us together, doing all we know we can do to make this country what it should be, what it can be, what it always has been."

Ronald Reagan, January 20, 1981

I look forward to seeing you at an event soon,

Elaine Manley



**Women's March 2018
Saturday, January 20
Downtown San Jose**

The Women's March is a national movement to unify and empower everyone who stands for human rights, civil liberties, and social justice for all. We stand together in solidarity for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families -- recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country.

To join others who will be going to the march, contact Judi Pogue, judipogue@comcast.net.

For more information on the Women's March go to <https://womensmarchbayarea.org/mission/>.

Board Briefs

At its December meeting your board:

- learned that the Holiday Party on December 3 at PF Chang's in Sunnyvale was a big success. Twenty nine people attended, including some potential new members. Thank you to Elaine, Rosemary and others for putting the event together.
- set the dates for the Program Planning meetings; two sessions will be on Saturday, January 13, 1 - 4 PM and Saturday, February 17, 1 - 4 PM, location TBD.
- were told that the County Housing Committee has launched and it recently commented at the Cupertino City Council about the Brown Act and the need to follow both the spirit and letter of the law.
- heard that our Facebook page is now live, please like and follow the page to get information about upcoming events and activities.

Membership and Contributions News

Welcome new members: Leigh Anne Gillis and Lori Cunningham. Lori thank you for your donation.

Thank you to Jacqueline Hall for your donation.

MAKE IT FAIR

Big News! After almost 40 years, the League of Women Voters of California is seizing the moment to close the corporate loophole in Proposition 13 that keeps too many companies from paying their fair share.

Since 2015, the League has been a part of the Make It Fair coalition—which today [December 15] filed an initiative to do just that. The League campaigned against Prop 13 in 1978, and we're excited to continue our leadership and help pass this critical reform.

Californians deserve world-class schools and universities, quality healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and affordable homes. That is what our taxes should pay for. It's past time to close this loophole and stop letting big business rob our schools and local communities, impoverish future generations, and endanger California's economic future. The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 is the responsible, fair, and long-overdue tax system to ensure California can thrive now and in the future.

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 will create a "split roll"—non-residential, non-agricultural commercial property will be reassessed on a regular basis. This will lead to an estimated increase in property tax of over \$11 billion per year—revenue that will go directly to schools and local governments.

Sincerely,
Helen Hutchison, President
League of Women Voters of CA

STEFFENS APPOINTED SUNNYVALE CITY MANAGER

The city of Sunnyvale announced Thursday that Kent Steffens has been selected as its new city manager.

Steffens has been serving as interim city manager since October, when Deanna Santana left Sunnyvale to become Santa Clara's city manager. The city said in a statement that Steffens was chosen after a national recruitment effort, which included inviting business and community leaders to interview him.

"Kent's familiarity with the city organization, collaborative management style and proven track record on significant projects for Sunnyvale made him an ideal choice," said Mayor Glenn Hendricks in the statement.

Steffens' appointment is pending the City Council's approval of his employment agreement, which is expected to be considered during a public meeting next month.

Steffens joined the city of Sunnyvale in 2011 as director of public works. He was appointed assistant city manager in September 2014 to oversee special projects such as the modernization of the civic center.

He has more than 30 years of experience with public agencies, including the cities of Menlo Park, Palo Alto and Foster City.

He has served as department head responsible for public works, and has worked as a senior engineer for a Bay Area utility district and construction manager for the U.S. Navy.

"I'm truly honored by the council's decision and am looking forward to working with them, our talented employees and our community on the tremendous opportunities ahead," Steffens said in the city statement.

Bay Area News Group

PUBLISHED: December 14, 2017 at 4:43 pm

UPDATED: December 15, 2017 at 4:48 pm

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP THE LWVC GEAR UP FOR THE 2018 ELECTIONS!

Voters turn to the LWV to give them useful unbiased information. The LWVC is already making plans to provide it. We want to let you know of these interesting, absorbing, and exciting Voter Service opportunities:

Voter's Edge California More than 1.7 million users consulted our site in 2016; we anticipate even more in 2018. League volunteers are crucial to getting local candidates and local ballot measures to appear on Voter's Edge. We love and appreciate all our volunteers, but in particular, we need volunteers in Humboldt, Imperial, Kern, Riverside, Santa Cruz, and Tulare counties. Contact [Sharon Stone](#) with questions.

Pros and Cons Ballot-Measure Writer/Researchers are needed for the November 2018 edition. This is the perfect opportunity for those who like to dig into the meat of ballot measures. Our writers and researchers draft the Pro & Con according to a set format, based mostly on the material from the Legislative Analyst's Office and the Secretary of State's Official Voter Information Guide. Training is available. The work is done in the months prior to the November election and writers must be available to begin work as propositions are qualified for the ballot. If interested, contact [Carol Moon Goldberg](#).



Winds of Change

Impact of Regional Government on Local Government and Community Intersection and Interconnection

Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018

Time: 9:30 AM Registration, Networking, Continental Breakfast
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Panels and Roundtable Discussion

Place: Laney College, 900 Fallon Street, Oakland 94607

- Panel I:** Cross Currents of Local Government, Community, Urban, and Regional Planning
- Panel II:** Today's Microclimate and Head Winds: Micro-Climate of Regionalism, Regional Governance, and Today's Head Winds
- Regional Roundtable:** Regional Climate Forecast ~Today and Tomorrow
- Cost:** \$35 advance (with lunch)
\$40 at the door (with lunch)

[BUY MY TICKET](#)

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 decision, 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 government bodies?

[How to get to Laney College in Oakland by Bus, BART, Train, Light Rail](#)

Parking located across the street from Laney College at the Kaiser Convention Center Parking lot. Follow the signs to the event.

To **carpool to BART**, contact [Roberta Hollimon](#).

JANUARY

- Mon 4 7:30 PM **Board Meeting**
Sunnyvale Toyota
898 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale
- Sat 13 1 - 4 **Program Planning Part I**
St. Jude's Episcopal Church
20920 McClellan Rd., Cupertino 95014
- Sat 20 11 AM - 2 PM **Women's March**
San Jose City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara, San Jose 95113

FEBRUARY

- Sat 3 9:30 - 4 **Bay Area League Day**
Laney College
900 Fallon, Oakland 94607
- Mon 5 7:30 PM **Board Meeting**
Sunnyvale Toyota
898 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale
- Sat 13 1 - 4 **Program Planning Part II**
Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church
728 W. Fremont Ave. Sunnyvale, 94087

Permission is granted to reprint any part of this newsletter with credit to the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

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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- Congressman Ro Khanna** 408-436-2720
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