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The Palo Alto VOTER

April 2020, Vol. 35, No. 8

Message from our President

First, I am happy to call you all my colleagues and friends. These are uncertain times and I am buoyed by our collective desire to do what's right for our voters, our community and each other. With the escalation of the COVID-19 outbreak, the League is committed to ensuring the health and safety of our members and community members. We've moved all our meetings online and suspended our work in the schools and community centers, in accordance with the County of Santa Clara's Health Department directives. Please keep yourselves, your families and your colleagues safe, and we'll look forward to seeing you in-person in the future.

Back on February 22nd (which seems like an awfully long time ago now), 100+ members of our community came together to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the national League of Women Voters and spotlight voting at our Vote-a-Palooza! Live music and laughter filled the room. Our speaker, Julie Lythcott-Haims, celebrated the League (and her mom) and inspired us to lean in living our values. The kids played games, participated in mock voting and danced to the live music. Adults marched across the street with our teen suffragists to vote, learned about the 2020 census and the new Voters Choice Act from our Santa Clara County partners. We are very thankful to our members who made donations in support of the 100th anniversary and to the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy for a generous grant to help cover our expenses. Our community came together to celebrate the League, a century of voting for women, and the future of voting – and it was joyous. (Please enjoy these photos taken by Jack Owicki of Pro Bono Photography.)

Our Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for May 16. Please stay tuned as that may have to be rescheduled or we may take it online. Thank you for your partnership and support.

Warmly,

[Terry](#)



LWVPA Board Meeting Highlights

The following motions were approved:

- The Board accepted the Program Planning Report for local program and the Program Planning Report for LWVUS.

Board Discussion and Other Business:

- The Board is not taking a position at this time on Measure A, the PAUSD parcel tax measure, nor on Measures G & H, for the funding of community colleges.
- The Board and other members will meet in March to discuss ways to improve member engagement.
- At the Annual Meeting on May 16, Alice Siu of Stanford University will speak about her work on a program for civil online deliberation.

– *Sue Hermsen*

Program Planning Report

On February 1, 2020, 24 LWVPA members joined in our annual planning discussion for League action at the local and national levels.

We agreed to recommend the following issues for LWVPA emphasis for 2020-21:

1. Affordable housing, including the unhoused and housing and employment impacts on transportation.
2. Climate education and action on local issues, including food production.
3. Local campaign finance regulation - spending limits.
4. Civics education.
5. Work for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in all we do.

Also, an active Responsible Gun Ownership Team is working on safe storage regulations.

For LWVUS action, we agreed to recommend:

1. Continue the Campaign for Making Democracy Work (CMDW): Voting Rights, Redistricting, Money in Politics, Improving Election.
2. Add the Climate Emergency to CMDW, per LWV California Climate Change Task Force.
3. Adopt by concurrence a position to support a variety of to increase participation.
4. Support action for government financing and building of social (permanent affordable) housing.
5. Advocate for affordable health care.
6. Expand advocacy for children's rights.

– *Ellen Smith*

Voter Services Report

As we move toward the November 3rd general election, there will be many opportunities to register and educate voters, and we will need your help!

If you are new to the League or a long time member looking to become more active, please mark your calendar for the [Voter Services 2020 Workshop](#) planned for Saturday, August 15, 9-11 a.m. at the League office, 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto.

Our very active Youth Vote Team has had to cancel plans to register and pre-register students at various schools this Spring but will be re-energized in the fall. Reach out to Kathy Miller if you'd like to be involved and/or know of any high school students who might be interested in joining the team!

If you are new to the League and would like to be part of the fun, please [contact Jeannie Lythcott](#) or [Kathy Miller](#), our co-directors of Voter Services.

“Deep Dive” into Active Policy Reflection (APR)

LWVPA member Dan Zalles has developed a tool that voters can use in deciding how to vote on ballot measures and propositions. On February 13, 2020, APR made its debut during the interactive segment of a forum by the Santa Clara County LWV's Civic Discourse committee and the City of Sunnyvale. This discernment process was needed for Sunnyvale's controversial Ballot Measure B, a redistricting issue on the March 2020 primary ballot.

[See “the rest of the story” here.](#)

Upcoming League Events

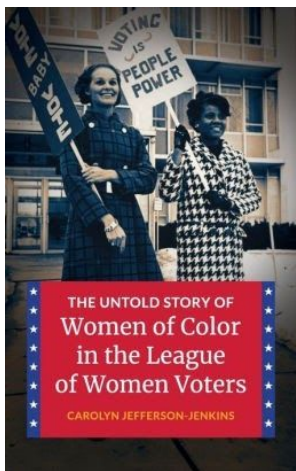
While in-person events are off for now, you can always find out about our upcoming events, including webinars and online events, on our web page. See more at lwvpa.org/calendar.html

Incoming Mail

One effect of Santa Clara County's new "shelter in place" directive will be to delay LWVPA's receipt and processing of incoming checks for renewals, new memberships and donations. The good news is that [joining](#), [renewing](#) and [donating](#) are all easily done online! We look forward to hearing from you. The [directive](#) currently extends through April 7.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters is finally available!



As the LWV commemorates its 100th anniversary, former LWVUS President Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins explores the ways in which women of color have been marginalized. She moves their significant work on women's suffrage from the League's footnotes

into its main narrative. Further, she recognizes how their contributions will positively influence the organization as it moves into its next 100 years.

Beginning with the early suffrage movement and continuing to the present, the book's structure reflects the evolving relationship between the LWV and its members of color as manifested in changes to its policies, practices, symbols, and messaging. Chapter titles disclose the philosophical shifts in attitude at each stage of the organization's evolution.

Pictured (right): Legislative Interview Marc Berman (AD 24) Feb. 21, 2020 with representatives from LWV Palo Alto, Cupertino-Sunnyvale, Los Altos-Mountain View, South San Mateo and North Central San Mateo.

Advocacy Report Headlines

[See full report here.](#)

National

LWVUS urges us to contact our Senators to support the removal of the ERA ratification deadline passed by the House.

In the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Juliana v. U.S.'s youth plaintiffs argue that government actions helping to cause climate change violate the younger generation's constitutional rights. LWVUS filed a brief arguing that courts must intervene because young people lack political power.

Local

CEDAW (U. N. Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) - The League signed an editorial calling for Palo Alto to adopt a CEDAW ordinance.

Legislative Interviews. Our League took part in legislative interviews with Sen. Jerry Hill (SD 13) and Assemblymember Marc Berman (AD 24) asking about League legislative priorities. Housing, homelessness, and climate change are Hill and Berman's top priorities.

Lisa Ratner



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[Senator Dianne Feinstein](#) (415) 393-0707

[Senator Kamala Harris](#) (415) 403-0100

[Rep. Anna Eshoo](#) (650) 323-2984

California

[Governor Gavin Newsom](#) (916) 445-2841

[Senator Jerry Hill](#) (650) 212-3313

[Assemblymember Marc Berman](#) (650) 691-2121

Santa Clara County

Supervisor Joe Simitian (650) 965-8737

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