



League of Women Voters of Palo Alto

Highlights of our 80 Years of Achievement

1938-

The League is founded by Mrs. Paul Eliel. She invites forty women from Palo Alto and Stanford campus to organize the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto. By January 1940 membership grows to 128.

1940s-

- Campaigns for the establishment of the United Nations
- Studies the Palo Alto school system and successfully supports campaigns for school bonds
- Studies city finances, city planning and traffic (!)

• 1950s-

- Supports bond measures to build City Hall on Newell Road, recreation programs, the expansion of the Palo Alto Hospital, and a \$700,000 bond issue to build a new main library and the Mitchell Park Library
- At the national level, studies water resources

1960s-

- Supports acquisition of Foothill Park
- Studies proposals to solve parking problems of downtown Palo Alto
- Supports City Charter changes to reduce the size of the City Council and reduce terms from 6 to 4 years
- Supports civil rights and an end to racial discrimination at all levels
- Supports housing for low-to-moderate income families
- At the national level, supports promotion of trade, United Nations
- Rents the first League office and becomes incorporated

1970s-

- Studies Palo Alto baylands
- At the national level, supports the Equal Rights Amendment, helps promote Presidential and Gubernatorial Debates
- At the state level, opposes Proposition 13
- Men are admitted as members of the League

1980s-

- Initiates studies of health care issues
- Focuses on financing of local needs for housing for a broad range of income levels and transportation planning in the post-Prop.13 era
- Promotes efforts for recycling, reduced usage
- Works for passage of statewide "Bottle Bill" initiative
- Conducts a letter-writing campaign, "Write Now" in support of the League's position on arms control, military policy and defense spending
- Develops curriculum for high school teachers to promote citizen participation in government
- At state level, studies Initiative and Referendum Process, Reapportionment and Redistricting

1990s-

- Reviews and updates position on Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan
- Opposes Measure R, which would have restricted City Council's role in land use planning
- Supports measures to improve Sand Hill Road and the building of affordable housing on Stanford lands
- Continues to support affordable housing projects at Lytton IV, Alma Place and graduate student housing on Stanford land
- Supports inclusion of child care facilities and programs in Stanford and Palo Alto Medical Foundation projects
- Studies and supports programs in Juvenile Justice for delinquents and dependents
- Supports local school bond measures
- Conducts Voter Service events and publishes and distributes Voters Guides at election time
- Encourages voter registration at naturalization ceremonies in conjunction with the other Santa Clara County Leagues
- Promotes the state League's new web site "Smart Voter" as a one-stop voter information site

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2000s-

- Invites 80 Primary candidates to participate in a Candidates Fair
- Supports PAUSD parcel tax
- Conducts first candidates forum live on TV with teleconferencing participation by a candidate
- Goes live with the League's first web site
- Partners with the Midpeninsula Media Center to broadcast Candidates Forums on public TV
- Studies the governance and finance of California Community Colleges
- Updates City Charter positions affirming that the mayor should be elected from the council by the council
- Updates positions on natural resources, land use and planning, housing, transportation and energy
- Studies Instant Runoff Voting process for the election of County Supervisors and state elected officials
- Supports a growing number of affordable housing projects for seniors, families and homeless
- Initiates annual Summer Social with an informal evening program
- Launches a youth outreach program, New Voices for Youth, with the LWV of South San Mateo County
- Supports state legislation to fund single-payer health care
- Studies and reaches consensus on measures to reform immigration
- Continues to support laws protecting reproductive rights
- Publishes and annually distributes more than 2,000 "Facts for Voters"
- Endorses library bond measures
- Launches an Essay Contest to promote high school student interest in civic government
- Studies the Federal Role in Education and supports state measures to fund education Pre-K through Community College levels

2010s-

- Advocates for affordable housing in Palo Alto and support of the Comprehensive Plan
- Affirms LWVUS' support for Equal Rights Amendment
- Builds partnerships and acts on ballot issues with Santa Clara County and Bay Area Leagues
- Increases membership to 400 members (3rd largest League in CA!)
- Initiates and implements Voter Services' visionary goal to register 100% of the eligible teens in Palo Alto: over 1000, 16-18 year olds registered in high schools.
- Develops robust and enviable speaker events and educational talks on pressing national, state and local issues ranging from housing, climate change, immigration, voting rights, information integrity
- Wins 2017 "Hot Off the Press" award for our topical monthly lectures series @ Convention
- Increases community outreach to partner organizations
- Expands Voter Services election events to over 20+ Pros & Cons/multiple Candidate Forum presentations
- Harnesses the power of the digital age with interactive social media and website redesign
- At the state level, supports bills that make voting more accessible with vote-by-mail ballots, drop-off boxes, early voting, and vote centers, and supports the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) to protect voting rights, and the Disclose Act for ballot funding transparency
- At the national level, supports initiatives to 'Make Democracy Work' to protect voting rights, legislation for campaign finance reform and redistricting
- Supports immigration rights, due process and California Values Act SB 54 ('sanctuary cities')
- Advocates for a fair and accurate count to safeguard the 2020 Census from question on citizenship
- Commits to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion initiatives
- Successfully advocates for Prop 13 reform measure "Schools and Communities First" to get on the CA 2020 ballot
- Supports PAUSD Strong Schools Bond