



Vol. XXVIII No. X  
September 2013

# The Palo Alto *VOTER*

The League of Women Voters of Palo Alto  
[www.lwvpaloalto.org](http://www.lwvpaloalto.org)



**Please join us at  
LWVPA's  
Fall Kick-Off!**

with  
Assemblyman  
**Rich  
Gordon**



**Focus on Education and  
Education Funding**

**Wednesday, September 18,  
7 - 9 pm**

**PAUSD Board Room  
25 Churchill, Palo Alto**

**Co-sponsored by the  
Palo Alto Council of PTAs**

**Free and open to the public. Invite a  
friend. Bring a potential new League  
member.**

**RSVP to [lwvpaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lwvpaoffice@gmail.com)  
or 903-0600**

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***LWVPA -75 years in  
Palo Alto!  
We will be celebrating this  
fall!***

## Message from our President



My two very different weeks of vacation in August have been wonderful and relaxing. Now I am trying to play catch up with messages in my inbox, including a plea for this letter for the September *VOTER*. Where to begin?

Our **Fall Kick-Off** meeting is featured on the front page of this issue. I am especially pleased that we will hold the meeting in the **PAUSD Board Room**. Parents of school-age students are encouraged to attend to hear from our **Assemblyman Rich Gordon**. One of the goals that the League Board set at our summer retreat is to co-sponsor more events with the Palo Alto PTA, so this is a good beginning.

There will be an **election on November 5 on Measure D**, the 60-unit affordable senior housing and 12 single-family homes at Maybell and Clemo in Barron Park. Even though the LWVPA Board voted to support the Palo Alto Housing Corporation project and to sign the ballot statement urging a Yes vote on Measure D, the board also voted to do voter service and education as well, providing written pros and cons and an organized debate.

**The League mission is to advocate for our positions, and also educate voters, something that we have been providing to the Palo Alto community for 75 years.**

**Lunch with the League** begins again this month at Hobee's Restaurant; see page 3 for details. The Housing and Transportation Committee welcomes new members for their next meeting on September 17, and the County Education Committee begins bimonthly meetings, with the first one on October 28; details on page 6.

The five Leagues of Santa Clara County will be sponsoring two meetings on the **Affordable Care Act**, one of which will be in North County, probably in November.

In early December we will be hosting a special celebration of our **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** and you are invited. We will be announcing more information as it becomes available.

Once again the LWV of Palo Alto is launching another **full and exciting League year**. Please join us for as many events as your time and passion permit.

Mary Alice Thornton

### LWV of Palo Alto: Officers, Directors, Off-Board Roster (650) 903-0600, [www.lwvpaloalto.org](http://www.lwvpaloalto.org)

#### OFFICERS

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Phyllis Cassel  
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## August Board Meetings Summaries

At its **August 6 meeting**, your board took the following actions:

- Voted to sign the ballot statement in support of the referendum on the Palo Alto Housing Corporation project at Clemo and Maybell. Because the League would be advocating in support, the board decided not to do voter education on this issue. This latter item was reconsidered at the August 15th board meeting (see below).
- Agreed to have County Council be a co-sponsor for **symposium "SJ/SV2020 -- Closing the Achievement Gap: What We Can Learn From World Class, High Performing School Systems"** to be held all day at the Santa Clara County Office of Education on Wed., September 25.

The board also learned that:

- Plans are continuing for the LWVPA's **75th Anniversary celebration** in early December. Veronica Tincher and the committee are open to suggestions and encourage member input.
- The **Summer Social** is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 27, 7-9 pm at the Garden Court Hotel** featuring our Palo Alto City Councilmember and League member Liz Kniss. New Voices Video will also be featured.

- **Wednesday, September 18, is our Fall Kick-Off** with **Assemblyman Richard Gordon** from 7-9 pm. *[Editor's note: It will be at PAUSD board room, 25 Churchill].*

*Submitted by Virginia Pirrotta, Secretary*

At its **August 15 special meeting** your board took the following actions:

- Reconsidered its August 6th decision to do advocacy but not education on the referendum on the Palo Alto Housing Corporation project at Clemo and Maybell. The Housing Committee and Voter Service Chairs did not participate in these discussions and votes.
- Voted to sponsor a debate on the referendum (Measure D) with the idea of having it in City Council Chambers with filming by the Media Center and moderated by a non-Palo Alto League member.
- Voted to prepare a written Voters' Guide containing pros and cons on Measure D, to be mailed to the membership and community donors and widely distributed throughout the city.

*Submitted by Mary Alice Thornton*



### LUNCH WITH LEAGUE

## The Palo Alto Homeless

Speaker TBA

Wednesday, September 11, noon to 1:15 pm

Hobee's Restaurant

4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

Select your own lunch - a buffet is available at \$6.00 and up.

RSVP to [lwvpaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lwvpaoffice@gmail.com) or 903-0600

At the **first Lunch with the League series for this year**, we will explore issues of homelessness in Palo Alto. Who are the homeless people? What services are available? What is working and what is needed? Gail Price said at a recent City Council meeting, "I thought that I understood homelessness in this town but I found that there is much more to learn." Come and learn more. We are working to find a knowledgeable speaker with a broad perspective.


The next two **Lunch with the League** events on **October 9** and **November 13** will also be at Hobee's. Hobee's has a room for 15-25 people and offers a lunch buffet starting at \$6.00. Each person can choose his/her own food. The subjects at our future Lunch with the League events will be Palo Alto focused. The purpose is to gain additional insight into those issues. The October meeting will probably take up one of the transportation concerns.


For more information, please contact Phyllis Cassel.




## Advocacy Report - Phyllis Cassel

**LWVPA:** The LWVPA Housing Committee has been following three major housing issues in Palo Alto:

 The first involves **people living in vehicles** on Palo Alto streets and in community centers. What happens when people have no shelter and cannot even find a place to park a vehicle - their only shelter? Is a better alternative available? Our first **Lunch with League** on **September 11** (see page 3) will discuss issues of **homelessness** in Palo Alto.

 The second issue is the potential sale of **Buena Vista Mobile Home Park**, a recognized source of affordable housing. The residents have sought legal counsel. Some parents of the Barron Park Elementary School, affordable housing developers, community groups, Barron Park residents and many others are seeking solutions to this knotty problem.

 The third issue is the City-approved project for 60 units of affordable senior housing and 12 single family units at Maybell and Clemo in Barron Park known as **Maybell Orchard**. City Council unanimously approved the PC zoning and the mitigated negative declaration for the project in late June. Those opposed to the project gathered sufficient signatures for a referendum on the City Council zoning decision. This is on the ballot for the November 5 election as **Measure D**. The opposition has also filed a CEQA lawsuit challenging the mitigated negative declaration. At its August 6 board meeting, the **LWVPA board voted to support the Maybell Orchard project** and to sign the ballot statement in support of the referendum. **LWVPA will advocate for Yes on Measure D.**

**LWVC Calls to Action:** For more information on these bills, go to LWVC web site: <http://ca.lwv.org/act-now>.

**CEQA: Please call our Assemblyman Rich Gordon** and urge him to keep CEQA strong and to oppose any weakening of the California Environmental Quality Act. The League was one of the original supporters of CEQA in 1970. Call, fax or e-mail and say you are a constituent. There is suggested wording on the **LWV website under Action Center: Act Now** <http://www.lwvc.org/act-now>.

**Campaign Finance Reform:** The Sunshine in Campaign Act, Bills SB 2, SB 3 and SB 27, have passed the Senate and the Assembly Elections Committee. The bills will be voted on at the Assembly Appropriations Committee soon. If they pass this hurdle, the next step will be the Assembly floor vote. **Please call Rich Gordon's office and leave a message that you, as a constituent, support these bills.** The **DISCLOSE Act**,

**SB 52**, passed the Senate but in the Assembly it was turned into a two-year bill. Action is delayed until next year.

**AB 800**, Gordon (amendments to the Political Reform Act of 1974) passed the Assembly in June and is in the Senate third-reading file scheduled for vote August 30.

LWVC is supporting or opposing a number of other bills including bills on **health care, gun control, hazardous materials - the list of issues is long**. Of particular importance is **AB 1229** which will allow but not require cities to establish as a condition of development **inclusionary housing requirements**. AB 1229 passed the Assembly and is pending in the Senate Assembly File for its third reading. To see more details on bills the LWVC supports or opposes go the LWVC web site: [www.lwvc.org/act-now/bill-status-report](http://www.lwvc.org/act-now/bill-status-report)

**LWVUS: Support President Obama's Plan to Cut Carbon Pollution:** President Obama's plan to fight climate change is a turning point in the fight against climate change. Power plants are the largest source of dangerous carbon pollution in the United States and carbon pollution is the leading cause of climate change. Despite this, there are currently no federal limits on the amount of carbon pollution power plants can release. After months of calling on the President to move forward with life-saving measures to protect our children, our nation and the world from the damaging effects of climate change, the League was proud to stand by while he announced his plan to cut carbon pollution. Join LWVUS and support the President as he moves ahead to fulfill his commitment to people, not polluters. [Ask your Senators to support the Obama Administration's plan to cut carbon pollution.](#)

**Immigration debate is now in the U.S. House:** After vigorous argument from both sides of the aisle on a path to citizenship for current immigrants, border security and other contentious issues, the debate over comprehensive immigration reform has moved from the U.S. Senate to the U.S. House. [Tell your Representative you support comprehensive immigration reform](#)

**LWVNC springs into action within hours of Suppressive Voting Bill Signing** North Carolina Gov.



Pat McCrory signed the nation's most suppressive omnibus voter bill into law.

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina went straight to action, filing a federal lawsuit to challenge the voting restrictions as racially discriminatory and to request that the state be placed back into preclearance under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Read [LWVUS blog post](#) or the [complaint](#) for more information.

*(continued on page 5)*

To link to the [websites](#) in the VOTER, you need to read this in a PDF format on a computer. Go to our website at [www.lwvpaloalto.org/VOTER.html](http://www.lwvpaloalto.org/VOTER.html) or email [bbpucker@comcast.net](mailto:bbpucker@comcast.net) to start receiving the VOTER as a PDF via email.

## Plan Bay Area Charts Course for Stronger Economy, Cleaner Air



On July 18, 2013, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) **adopted**

**Plan Bay Area, an integrated transportation and land-use strategy through 2040** that marks the nine-county region's first long-range plan to meet the requirements of California's landmark 2008 **Senate Bill 375**. (SB 375 calls on each of the state's 18 metropolitan areas to develop a **Sustainable Communities Strategy** to accommodate future population growth and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks.) Working in collaboration with cities and counties, the Plan advances initiatives to expand housing and transportation choices, create healthier communities, and build a stronger regional economy.

MTC and the ABAG Executive Board jointly approved both the final Plan Bay Area, which includes the region's **Sustainable Communities Strategy** and the **2040 Regional Transportation Plan** and an associated final Environmental Impact Report. The ABAG Executive Board separately **approved a state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation for 2014 through 2022**. MTC separately approved the **2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**, which updates the list of Bay Area projects that receive federal funds, are subject to federal action, or are considered regionally significant; as well as a final **Air Quality Conformity Analysis** that establishes that both the TIP and Plan Bay Area comply with federal air pollution standards.

"Plan Bay Area is an historic and important step forward for our region," explained Napa County Supervisor Mark Luce, who also serves as President of the ABAG Executive Board and as an MTC Commissioner. "It's the product of more than three years of collaboration between cities and counties to do our part to create a more sustainable Bay Area for current and future generations."

Noting that Plan Bay Area is the successor to Transportation 2035, the long-range plan adopted by MTC in 2009, Commission Chair and Orinda Mayor Amy Rein Worth described the new plan as

evolutionary rather than revolutionary: "For decades, MTC has been charged by state and federal law to produce a long-term regional transportation plan, while ABAG has been responsible for assessing regional housing needs. Plan Bay Area puts these elements together in a way that makes sense."

Projecting a healthy regional economy, the Plan anticipates that the Bay Area's population will grow from about 7 million today to some 9 million by 2040. "Maintaining our region's high quality of life," continued Worth, "will depend on making wise decisions about transportation, housing and land use."

**Plan Bay Area provides a strategy for meeting 80% of the region's future housing needs in Priority Development Areas (PDAs)**. These are neighborhoods within walking distance of frequent transit service, offering a wide variety of housing options, and featuring amenities such as grocery stores, community centers, and restaurants. Identified by cities and towns across the region, the PDAs range from regional centers like downtown San Jose to suburban centers like Walnut Creek's West Downtown area, and smaller town centers such as the Suisun City Waterfront. The Plan funds mixed-income housing production and locally led planning in PDAs.

**Plan Bay Area's transportation element specifies how some \$292 billion in anticipated federal, state and local funds will be spent through 2040**. Nearly 87% (or \$253 billion) will be used to maintain and operate the transportation network we already have. Another way of looking at the distribution of the revenues - which include fuel taxes, public transit fares, bridge tolls, property taxes and dedicated sales taxes - is by mode of transportation. Maintenance and operation of the Bay Area's existing public transit services will receive about 54% (\$159 billion) of the revenues. The remainder includes 32% for street, road, highway and bridge maintenance; 7% for transit expansion; and 5% for roadway and bridge expansion. A \$3.1 billion reserve comprised of anticipated future funding through the California Air Resources Board's Cap-and-Trade program for greenhouse gas emissions accounts for another 1% of expected revenues.

From [www.onebayarea.org](http://www.onebayarea.org)

*(continued from page 4)*

**March for the Dream.** LWVUS was a partner of the 50th anniversary March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom Saturday, August 24, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. LWVUS encouraged League members to attend. **Members of our Palo Alto League attended the celebration here at Palo Alto City Hall on August 26.**

**LWVUS Urges U.S. House to Vote No on Repeal of Presidential Public Financing Law.** LWVUS joined reform groups in sending a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives urging them to **vote no on H.R. 2019, legislation that would repeal the presidential public financing system**. The letter argues that H.R. 2019 would repeal an important anti-corruption campaign finance law which worked well for most of its existence and provided ordinary Americans with a critical role to play in financing presidential elections.

## National Voter Registration Day

**September 24, 2013**, is National Voter Registration Day. See [www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org)

We are beginning to plan educational activities and may do some Voter Registration. Are you registered to vote? Since you voted last:

- have you moved
- changed your name
- have you changed your party, or
- will you be 18 years old on Election Day?



If so, you will need to register or re-register.

California now has online registration. Go to the **Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters website** [www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx) and click on the Register To Vote button to link to the California form.

Registration is also available at the Department of Motor Vehicles. It is not automatic. Registration forms must be completed. Forms are available at Palo Alto libraries (not at the Main Library which is closed temporarily).

Last year our League successfully registered people at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital. We may do some registering again this year.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Liza Taft or Phyllis Cassel.

*Submitted by Liza Taft*

## New Voices For Youth Needs Funds



It's back to school for kids at Menlo-Atherton High and the Siena Youth Center in Redwood City. **New Voices for Youth project directors, Ana Angel and Tanuj Chopra**, will be there to recruit and start guiding students to

find issues that matter to them and their communities and to help them learn video skills to put those issues into products. **Last year's videos on teen parenting were especially widely received including an article in the Mercury News.** You can check them out on the New Voices for Youth Facebook page.

But New Voices, a joint youth outreach project of the Palo Alto and South San Mateo County Leagues, will not be able to continue this year because **our funds are nearly exhausted.** New Voices has been going for nearly 10 years, mostly supported by foundations, organizations and our own Leagues. (LWVPA gave a generous

## Education Committee



The next meeting of the LWVSCC **bimonthly education committee** is on **Monday, October 28, 11:15 am - 1 pm**, at the Round Table Pizza at 157 E. El Camino Real, Mountain View. Representatives from the Palo Alto, San Jose/Santa Clara, Cupertino/Sunnyvale, Southwest Santa Clara Valley and Los Altos/Mountain View Leagues will continue discussing the **new LWVC study on public higher education** to include the California Community Colleges, University of California and California State University systems.

**Carole Stein has been named to the LWVC Education Committee.**

*Submitted by Carole Stein [steingroup89@gmail.com](mailto:steingroup89@gmail.com) and Liz Russell [efrussell@gmail.com](mailto:efrussell@gmail.com)*

The **County Council League** is one of many co-sponsors of the **Santa Clara County Office of Education SJ/SV2020** symposium for school district leaders:

**SJ/SV 2020**

**"Eliminating the Achievement Gap: What We Can Learn From World Class, High-Performing School Systems."**

The symposium will look closely at six key drivers and how they translate into increased student success in the county. These are: early learning; personalization and pathways for student success; teacher selectivity, quality and growth; focus on learning; education linked to economic development; and cultural expectation of value.

**Wednesday, September 25, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm**

Santa Clara County Office of Education  
1290 Ridder Park Dr., San Jose, CA 95131

Register by Sept. 18 at [www.sjsv2020symposium.org](http://www.sjsv2020symposium.org)

contribution of \$3,000 last year.) Foundations and organizations have continued their support but in smaller amounts. We need to raise about **\$20,000** to run our program this year.

Our strategy is to use crowd-raising/fund-raising web sites. Watch for us on [www.indiegogo.com/](http://www.indiegogo.com/) for our fun and exciting campaign: **"Kids Have a Lot to Say."** You will learn more about this campaign when it is launched in the coming weeks.

*Submitted by Veronica Tincher, LWVPA member of the New Voices for Youth Steering Committee*

**LWVPA Housing and Transportation Committee** continues to monitor the many **housing and transportation** issues coming before the City this year. We are looking for more members to help follow these issues, so please consider joining us at our next meeting on **September 17** at the Downtown Library small conference room from 4:30 - 5:30 pm. For more information please email **Jeff Rensch**, [jrenschi@gmail.com](mailto:jrenschi@gmail.com)





Thanks to all of you who have sent in your dues renewal. But there are some of you who still have not renewed. Please send in your dues

renewal **NOW** and include your completed Member Survey with your payment! We also appreciate your donations! To be sure any changes are listed in the member directory, please send in your renewal form ASAP!

*Chris Logan, Membership Chair*



Thanks to **Isabel Arabian, Georgina Bailie, Janet Creelman and Mitzi Henderson** for helping with the mailing of the August *VOTER*. And special thanks to **Mitzi Henderson** for organizing the **Channing House mailing party**.

Also thanks to all the Board and off-Board members who reviewed this *VOTER* and a special thanks to **Ellen Forbes, Betty Gerard and Trina Lovercheck** for their extra careful and invaluable proofreading.

*Submitted by Bonnie Packer, VOTER editor*

**Welcome, New Members**



**Judy Creek  
Valerie Driscoll  
Emily Harcourt  
Lisa Ratner**

***We are so glad you have joined the League!***

*Thank You*

Thanks to the **Garden Court Hotel** for helping make our **Summer Social** possible, **Luise Maier** for getting the delicious cake and **Pat McGuire** for greeting our members and guests!



**All are invited to the LWVPA Book Club!**

The next selection of the LWVPA Book Club is **"Eastward to Tartary: Travels in the Balkans, the Middle East and the Caucasus"** by **Robert D. Kaplan**

(This replaces the second meeting previously scheduled for Robert A. Caro's "The Years of Lyndon Johnson: the Passage of Power".)

The meeting will be **Friday, October 11, 10 am**, at Rosalie Lefkowitz's home. All members interested in attending are welcome. Please call Betty Gerard for more information.



**It's easy to join the LWVPA—Do it now! You will be glad you did.**

**Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels:  
National, State, Bay Area and Palo Alto.**

**Men are encouraged to join. Dues grants are available.**

**For more information, call the League office (650) 903-0600.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

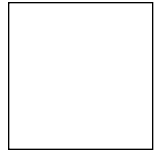
Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual membership: \$70. Additional membership, same address: \$35. Student membership: \$35.**

**Mail check with this form to LWVPA, 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Suite 209, Palo Alto, CA 94303**

*Membership dues to the LWVPA are not tax deductible.*

**League of Women Voters of Palo Alto**  
**3921 E. Bayshore Road, Suite 209**  
**Palo Alto, CA 94303**  
**(650) 903-0600**



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**How to contact your elected officials:**

**CALENDAR**

**UNITED STATES**

**President Barack Obama** (202) 456-1414  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/>

**Senator Dianne Feinstein** (415) 393-0707  
<http://feinstein.senate.gov> - click "email me"

**Senator Barbara Boxer** (415) 403-0100  
<http://www.boxer.senate.gov/>

**Rep. Anna Eshoo** (650) 323-2984  
<http://eshoo.house.gov/>

**CALIFORNIA**

**Governor Jerry Brown** (916) 445-2841  
<http://gov.ca.gov/home.php>

**Senator Jerry Hill** (650) 688-6384  
<http://sd13.senate.ca.gov/contact-us>

**Assemblyman Rich Gordon** (650) 691-2121  
<http://asmdc.org/members/a24/>

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

**Supervisor Joseph Simitian** (650) 965-8737  
[joe.simitian@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:joe.simitian@bos.sccgov.org)

**LWVC GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT**

Locate your elected officials with your street address  
<http://www.guidetogovernment.org/>

**Tue, Sep 3, 7-9:30 pm**  
**Board Meeting**  
Packer

**Wed, Sep 4, noon**  
**VOTER Deadline**

**Wed, Sep 11, noon-1:30 pm**  
**Lunch with the League**  
Hobee's

**Tue, Sep 17, 4:30 pm**  
**Housing Committee**  
Downtown Library

**Wed, Sep 18, 7:00 pm**  
**LWVPA Kick-off**  
25 Churchill (PAUSD)

**Wed, Sep 25, all day**  
**County Education Symposium**  
San Jose

**Tue, Oct 1, 7-9:30 pm**  
**Board Meeting**  
Lovercheck

**Wed, Oct 2, noon**  
**VOTER Deadline**

**Wed, Oct 9, noon-1:30 pm**  
**Lunch with the League**  
Hobee's

**Fri, Oct 11, 10 am**  
**Book Club**  
Lefkowitz

**Tue, Oct 19, 4:30 pm**  
**Housing Committee**  
Downtown Library

**Mon, Oct 28, 11:15 am-1 pm**  
**LWVSCC Education Committee**  
Mountain View

**Wed, Nov 6, 7-9:30 pm**  
**Board Meeting**  
Thornton

**Wed, Nov 13, noon-1:30 pm**  
**Lunch with the League**  
Hobee's