



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

March 2018, Volume 60 No.7



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

Busy times are ahead for us. There are community Information forums and candidate forums to be arranged and put on. There are voter registration events scheduled for not only high school students but also their parents at high school open houses and back-to-school nights and there are 100,000 signatures that need to be gathered by April 24, in order to get the Schools and Community First Campaign on the ballot. And then, as if that were not enough, there are climate change actions that need our attention and other causes to be studied and advocated for. And then of course, the June 5, election day needs workers and observers. Participating in Civil Discourse is also on the agenda. Your participation will be crucial to how successfully we can carry out our mission. Please get out your calendar and mark it for any events you can attend including those you can help with (don't forget to let us know which events you can lend a hand to).

Thank you, Betsy Patterson for your fine efforts in developing the civil discourse program. Welcome all of you who have taken time to participate. Thank you too, Pat Butler, Carol Lindberg and Karen Savitt for always making sure we have a smiling, knowledgeable and enthusiastic group of greeters at our LWVVC membership table at all events in which we participate including most recently at a February Chautauqua in Ojai on “Beyond the Whistleblowers, What Comes Next? Power, Gender, and Writing New Rules”.

The LWV United States will be holding its National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, this year from June 28-July 1. It should be a great time to get to know League members from all over the United States and to learn firsthand what our national organization is doing. Now is the time to sign up if you would like to attend - let a board member know if you would like to go. Should be a fun-packed time of learning and camaraderie.

Thanks to all of you who have chosen to join the League of Women Voters. You are a patriotic bunch! Not so much in the flag waving way, but in the belief that “Democracy is not a spectator sport.”

Yours in League,

Pat Essick
President

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Schools & Communities First

Proposition 13 Commercial Tax Reform

Beginning on March 1, the LWV of California is joining with many other partners to attempt to gather 100,000 signatures on petitions to get the **California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018** on the California state ballot. If passed, this Act would close a corporate loophole that was created in 1978 with the passage of Proposition 13. Among other things it would reclaim \$10-11 billion every year for our schools and communities by closing the loophole that allows wealthy landowners and corporations like Chevron, Wells Fargo and Shell Oil (just to name a few) to pay property taxes less proportionally than any other businesses in the state. If passed, the legislation would affect homeowners, renters and small businesses and would allow new businesses and startups a more level playing field, tax-wise.

In order to meet our goal of 100,000 signatures by April 24, we need every member to help us gather signatures. I have agreed to be LWVVC's point person. I would like to give you all petitions and brief instructions regarding the rules for gathering signatures. If you are interested in helping gather signatures, please come to our March 8, board meeting at the College of Law, 4475 Market Street, Ventura. The meeting will begin at 11:00 am but we will not begin the training until Noon. Please contact [Pat Essick](#) with further questions or comments.

Submitted by, Pat Essick, President

Program Planning 2017-2018

LWVVC Program Planning Annual Ritual Reveals Way Forward

Members present at our February Program Planning meeting agreed by consensus to **support the LWV United States' proposed program focus, continuation of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work**. There was lively discussion about ways in which we could further this program over the next 2 years, including continuing voter registration efforts in local high schools and expanding our efforts to include registering parents at high school open houses as well as students on community college and university campuses; exploring ways to connect with students and harness their energy and activism to get them to vote; expanding our social media outreach and attracting younger and more diverse members. Finding a way to educate younger voters about what our elected officials do by developing a mentor program for high school students was also considered.

Participants also discussed topics for future programs including the future of artificial intelligence. Rather than pursuing a formal study it was decided to consider an educational program to lead to further discussion about this timely issue.

In addition to continuing our voter registration programs we will be working on getting signatures before the April 24, deadline for a proposal to reform current property tax laws for businesses that were enacted with passage of Proposition 13 in 1978. The new proposal, **The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 (Act)**, will reform commercial property tax rates by assessing them at their *current*

market value, not that of 1978, and reassessing them every 3 years. If passed, the Act would not affect residential property taxes nor agricultural taxes, and small businesses would be exempt from reassessment until they were sold. The estimated \$9 billion in new revenues would be divided with \$3.6 billion going to support schools and community colleges and the remainder shared with counties, cities and special districts to support community services. The LWV California is a co-sponsor of this proposal.

Submitted by Betsy Patterson, Director

EQUAL MEANS EQUAL

Why We Need an Equal Rights Amendment

- *“The Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex, the only issue is whether it prohibits it. IT DOESN'T. Nobody ever voted for that!”* - Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia

At 6:30 pm on February 8, the beautiful new Applied Science Building on the Ventura Community College campus was all lit up and welcoming over 137 people for the showing of the film, *Equal Means Equal*, a documentary made by Kamala Lopez. Before the showing, Pat Butler, Carol Lindberg, Karen Savitt, Betsy Patterson and Pat Essick greeted and shared the League's mission, gaining one new associate member and a list of people who want to learn more about what we are doing in the process. Co-sponsors wore yellow roses in honor of the Suffrage movement, reclaiming this symbol for the Equal Means Equal movement.



LWVVC's own Motley Crew advocating for equal rights for women

Setting the tone, preceding the showing of the film, Assemblywoman Jackie Irwin spoke of how in high school, as a competitive swimmer, she advocated for the creation of a girl's swim team and was turned down and discouraged for three years until, in her senior year, her Principal finally acquiesced. At the time, the Title IX law had been in effect for three years, yet the girls were denied until Irwin persisted to ask for what was her due. She stated that women need to be at the table pushing for their equal and fair treatment because if they are not, their rights will be on the menu. Honorary co-sponsors were also in attendance and introduced to the audience including Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard City Mayor, Pro-Term, Cheryl Heitman, Ventura City Councilmember and Christy Weir, Ventura City Councilmember.

“The film *Equal Means Equal* offered an unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today. The director Kamala Lopez, examined both real-life stories and precedent setting legal cases, uncovering how outdated and discriminatory attitudes inform and influence seemingly disparate issues, from workplace harassment to domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault to the foster care system, and the health care conglomerate to the judicial system. Along the way, she reveals the inadequacy of present laws that claim to protect women, ultimately presenting a compelling and persuasive argument for the urgency of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment. “

Following the film, June Marie Justis of The Acorn Project, interviewed Natalie Gosset, a leader in her field of bio-medical engineering, 2009 Engineer of the Year, and futurist speaker. Ms. Gossett has brought a sexual harassment case against the University of Southern California and though she was unable to speak about her specific case, she shared that non-disclosure and arbitration clauses in contracts of employment make it very difficult for women to protect themselves in the workplace. She shared that as laws exist at present she has great concern for her 20-year-old daughter's future.

At the end of the showing, audience members were asked to support the passage of the ERA. One suggested action was to contact their representatives asking them to press for the passage of ERA S.J. Res. 5, and ERA H.K. Res. 53 (the Deadline Removal Bills required to successfully get the ERA passed once two or more additional states ratify it).

Want to know what you can do to further the passage of the ERA? The Equal Means Equal maker suggests:

Board of Directors:

President:

Patricia Essick

Vice President:

Betsy Patterson

Secretary:

Judith Murphy

Treasurer:

Karen Savitt

Directors at Large:

Pat Butler

Barbara Doyle

Suzanne Harvey

Steve Lattimore

Carol Lindberg

Chelsea Sutula

- **TAKE THE PLEDGE** only to vote for elected representatives who support the Equal Rights Amendment!
- **SEND A LETTER** to your elected representatives telling them that you support immediate passage of the ERA and educating them on why they should support it.
- **HOST A HOUSE PARTY** to screen Equal Means Equal with up to 25 of your friends and family at a private. Contact Equal Means Equal for organizing ideas
- **SIGN THE CHANGE.ORG/ERA PETITION.** Join Patricia Arquette, Kamala Harris and the Equal Rights Advocates & the ERA Coalition to demand full equality for women now.
- **JOIN THE MOVEMENT.** Follow Equal Means Equal and the latest ways to engage the movement for equal rights.
- **DOWNLOAD THE EQUAL MEANS EQUAL LOGO** and make it your social media avatar.
- **TAKE A SELFIE** holding the Equal Means Equal logo. Tell us why you believe #equalmeansequal
- **SPREAD THE WORD** by pledging to tell three people each day that women in the United States still don't have equal rights under the law.

Submitted by Pat Essick, President

MEET TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE

Justice Speaks at Ventura County Women's Political Council Annual Meeting

The Ventura County Women's Political Council (VCWPC) held its annual meeting in January with special guest speaker, Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California. Sworn into office in January, 2011, she is the first Filipina American and second woman to serve as California's Chief Justice. Her role as Chief Justice includes being one of 7 State Supreme Court justices, chairperson of the Judicial Council which reviews complaints and sets the budget for the judicial branch. She also represents California in the Conference of Chief Justices.

She engaged in a conversation with VCWPC President Jeannette Sanchez Palacios who asked about her work history before becoming Chief Justice — it included working as a waitress dealing with rude and impatient customers as well as dealing black jack at Harrah's Casino where she learned to recognize body language and deception attempts by gamblers, which came in handy when picking a jury as a new lawyer.

She also spoke about her letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions and (then) Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly and her Washington Post *Op-Ed* piece from Spring, 2017, about the threats to the safety of our citizens as well as to the effective prosecution of crime when ICE agents appear in court rooms or arrest people whom they suspect are in this country illegally.

She talked about her role in creating an exploratory committee of state judges from a wide variety of backgrounds and political stances to develop a more equitable system for bail bonds in our state. This exploratory committee initially agreed on nothing but they interviewed judges, police officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, bail bondsmen and others and, after a year of working together, submitted a list of 10 recommended changes to the current system. These changes are being developed into legislation for the State Assembly and Senate to discuss.

The Meeting was well attended by a distinguished audience of about 150, including several Ventura County judges and elected officials as well as Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson and Assemblywoman Monique Limon and Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin.

Submitted by Betsy Patterson, Director

LWVVC Committee Reports

▶ **Advocacy Committee - Chelsea Sutula, Chair:**

▶ **Budget Committee - Cheryl Collart, Chair:**

The Budget Committee will meet in mid-March to begin planning for the next budget which will be presented for the membership's review and approval at LWVVC's June annual meeting.

As members may recall, our chapter changed its organizational structure to become a tax deductible (501(c)(3) non-profit organization with anticipation that members and friends may more readily contribute funds to support the on-going work of the LWV. Briefly, the budget includes income from membership dues and gifts, and expenses reflect various programs costs and the annual student scholarship.

Any member who would like to work on the Budget Committee or has questions concerning budget preparation, please contact [Cheryl Collart](#), Budget Committee Chairperson or by phone 805.644.2923.

▶ **Civil Discourse Committee - Betsy Patterson, Chair:**

Committee has an event scheduled and is looking for volunteers. See below for details.

▶ **Nominating Committee - Cheryl Collart, Chair:**

The Nominating Committee will meet on March 15th to begin preparing a slate of board officers for the coming year. The slate will be presented at the annual meeting in June. One-year terms of office

begin July 1st. At the present time, LWVVC has approximately 85 members. We are looking for up to 15 members to serve on the Board helping to develop and coordinate the specific programs for our community. The Board meets monthly (with a few exceptions) and has proven to be a collegial gathering place for members willing to share their time and effort. There are opportunities to hold a specific officer position (President, Treasurer or Secretary) as well as undertake duties like Voter Services, Program, VOTER Newsletter, Webmaster; and there are open board seats that provide the leadership for educational events and service projects.

The Nominating Committee is composed of Pat Butler, Sage Intner, Betsy Patterson and Cheryl Collart. We are specifically looking for a president or co-presidents for the coming year as our current president has served the maximum two-year term. Board positions are open to new members so please do not hesitate to consider a seat on the board if you have joined recently.

Members with questions about the Nominating Committee, or members with specific interests in joining the board may contact me directly for details. - [Cheryl Collart](#), Nominating Committee Chairperson or by phone 805.644.2923.

▶ **Program Committee - Steve Lattimore, Chair:**

▶ **Scholarship Committee - Geri Loe, Chair:**

▶ **Voter Registration Committee - Carmen Hurd, Chair:**

Committee has several voter registration events scheduled and is looking for volunteers. See below for the where's and when's. Contact [Carmen Hurd](#) if interested in volunteering

LWVVC BOARD DOINGS

All members are encouraged to attend monthly LWVVC Board meetings. See Calendar below for the when's and where's. Come and see what your Board is doing and learn about projects that are in the works.

Notes from February Board Meeting

Topics Covered and "To Do" List:

- Voter Service Report – David Maron and Cheryl Collart are working on plans to present an educational forum for the Oxnard's recall election including a history of recalls.
- President's Report – The Make It Fair Webinar by LWV California (Proposition 13 reform effort) awaits a title and wording from the Attorney General. LWVVC will determine how to support it.
- Board discussed details and logistics of (then) upcoming Program Planning Meeting. The focus will be on what we can do locally.
- Fund raising – Cheryl Collart suggested that we work on a fundraising letter. Board members agreed to submit leads.

■ Climate Change - LWV California has put together a task force on Climate Change, we are looking for interest among our members.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New members:

No new members since our last issue of VOTER

Donors – Thank you to our donors!!

No donations since our last issue of VOTER

LWVVC Scholarship Fund Donors – We thank you and so do the students

If you would like to donate to the LWVVC Scholarship Fund, please make your checks payable to “LWVVC Education Fund” with a notation “Scholarship Fund” on memo line of the check.

As a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization, all contributions to LWVVC are tax deductible.

VOLUNTEER A LITTLE TIME

• lwvvc needs you! •

If you have some time and are interested in volunteering a bit of it for the good of the League, following is a list of projects that could use your help. If interested, send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org and let us know what you would like to do, someone will follow-up.

Why Volunteer?

We know you want to be a part of it. We know you want to make a difference; that’s why you joined the League of Women Voters! Take the next step and volunteer.

Your voice is crucial. What you bring to your local League is priceless.

If you think you’re not ready – you're ready!

If you think you don’t know enough – you're enough!

Help out with a single task or event or sign on to something long term. Work remotely or in-person. We’ll find the perfect fit for you.

► **Voter Registration Opportunities.** LWVVC has been invited to register the parents of Oxnard Unified High School District students at their “Spring Showcase.” This is a first for us and we are very pleased to have been given this opportunity. If you would like to participate, contact [Carmen Hurd](#). This is a lot of fun folks and extremely rewarding. Here are the specific dates:

► March 5, from 5:00 pm to 8:00, at the Adolfo Camarillo High School, 4460 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo during its “Scorpion Showcase” Open House.

- ▶ March 15, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 at Pacifica High School, 600 E. Gonzales Road in Oxnard during its Open House.
- ▶ April 18, from 7:30 pm to 3:00 at Channel Islands High School, 1400 Raider's Way, Oxnard. It is not necessary to commit to volunteering for the entire day, shifts are available. Contact [Carmen](#).

Oxnard High School is also looking to register students, details have yet to be ironed out - watch this space.

▶ Needed, a **Voter Service Chairperson** to work closely with League member David Maron, city government offices and volunteers to help oversee our candidates forums including arranging location sites, organizing volunteers to run the forums, and inviting candidates to participate. This is a very important job and role for the League, especially in election years. Usually the person who fills this position becomes a member of the Board. If you have questions or would like to take on this position, please contact [Pat Essick](#).

▶ **Climate Change Task Force.** Needed, a member to serve as LWVVC's liaison to the LWV California Climate Change Task Force. This job can be done by anyone who is concerned about Climate Change and is willing to get information and updates on what the Task Force is up to and report back to our membership via brief articles for the VOTER. The Task force was formed to help California meet the challenging goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Learn more by visiting the [Climate Task Force](#) website. The task force will review state legislation and focus on continuing League education on issues around Greenhouse Gas reduction, climate change impacts, local actions, and trying to foster state level coordination of local Leagues. Let us know if you're interested in climate change or would like to become more engaged in action. Contact [Pat Essick](#) if you are interested.

▶ Soon we will be laying the groundwork for a **possible forum on artificial intelligence and up-coming candidates forums**. Start thinking about whether this is something you could participate in.

▶ **Civil Discourse.** Civil Discourse event at Cal State Channel Islands is on Thursday, March 29, from 11 am - 1 pm. Students have sent out a survey to determine which of these three topics has the most interest:

- 1) CSU Tuition Increase: Affordable for students vs having well-paid quality professors? Fees for food, parking and graduation included?
- 2) Politics in the Classroom: Should professors express their own political or social beliefs in class? Do students feel threatened to express their own opinions if contrary to professor's? Will it affect the student's grade? Does this come down to free speech?
- 3) Options for Dreamers (DACA): Old laws versus new laws; fairness to other immigrants coming to US through legal channels versus "dreamers" who came with parents illegally; what to do for the "dreamers" here now; are any current bills, such as RAC or Bridge act viable options?

If you are interested in helping with this event (as a participant or a facilitator), let [Betsy Patterson](#) know.

▶ **Advocacy (e.g. Electoral College Reform), Voter Registration, Program, join a Committee and get active.** Send [us](#) an email and let us know if you'd like to get involved. Here's a list of current committees:

- Advocacy Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Budget Committee
- Voter Registration Committee
- Program Committee
- Nominating Committee

▶ **Articles for the VOTER. We are always looking for articles** to include in the VOTER. Anyone who has a piece they think would be of interest to our members can email it to [us](#). If needed we may edit your pieces for length or in instances where language is "un-league-like" - we're all about civil discourse. **VOTER deadline is one week prior to ending of every month.**

▶ **LWV Nominations Committee has an opening for a general member.** The committee is composed of three general members and two board members and meets in the spring for purposes of putting together a

slate of officers and board members to be adopted by the membership at the annual June meeting. Please send [us](#) an email or contact Cheryl Collart if you are interested in serving or have questions.

Working on a project for the LWVVC and need some help? Send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org and tell us what you need. We'll include it in the next VOTER. Please include dates, location, time of day.

CALENDAR

• all league meetings are open to the public •

(Calendar Can Also Be Found On Our Website)

▶ **Monday, March 5** – Ojai Pub Night/Civil Discourse Opportunity - 5:30-6:30pm. Location: Jim and Rob's Restaurant, 214 W. Ojai Avenue, Ojai. Ojai City Council Member Suza Francina will come and discuss what it is like to be on the Ojai City Council. Attendees will be able to ask questions about the organization of meetings, how hot topics are handled, issues of concern, and any other questions they may have. Send us an [email](#) if interested.

▶ **Tuesday, March 6** - Webinar: "Food Production and Greenhouse Gases: Counting Carb Emissions" - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. LWV Palo Alto is co-sponsoring this webinar with featured speaker Chris Field, Director of Stanford Woods Institute. Field's presentation will focus on how food production impacts greenhouse gas emission levels with the resulting climate change consequences. This topic has increased significance to League members in California, now that part of Governor Brown's climate change initiative includes addressing the impact of food production.

For webinar attendance: [Please RSVP and reserve your seat at the webinar](#). Webinar spaces are limited, so please reserve early.

▶ **Thursday, March 8** - LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 am to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law, Classroom #1 located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members or anyone interested in learning more about the League. Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of every month. Following is the schedule for the 2018 League year:

- April, 12
- May, 10
- June, 14

▶ **Thursday, March 15** - Nominating Committee Meeting - Time TBA. Location: Committee Chair Cheryl Collart's home. Check your membership directory for address or send us an [email](#).

▶ **Thursday, March 15** - Budget Committee Meeting - Time TBA. Location: Committee Chair Cheryl Collart's home. Check your membership directory for address or send us an [email](#).

▶ **Thursday, March 29** - Civil Discourse event at Cal State Channel Islands - 11 am - 1:00 pm. Contact [Betsy Patterson](#) for specific location. See Volunteers section below for description of event.

▶ **Thursday., June 28 thru Sunday, July 1** - LWV United States 53rd National Convention. Location: Hilton Hotel, 720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. National Convention is for members of LWV. Click [here](#) for further information.



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