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Hot Topics

Feb. 17 Forum: How You Can Help Make Democracy Work

An Invitation for New Members

Climate Change

Black History Month: Hear From LWV's First Black President

Action Alerts

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CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA
Serving South Santa Barbara County



The Channel Voter is the name that we used for many years on our printed newsletters. Many of us have missed the name and drawing that went with it. Now that we communicate electronically, we are bringing the Channel Voter back to this emailed newsletter. We hope you like it!



A Message from the LWVSB President

As we welcome a new era in our country with President Biden and Vice President Harris, the League of Women Voters marvels that 100 years after women won the right to vote, America has elected a woman to serve in the White House. We will not allow another 100 years to pass before we have many more women in the White House and the presidency.

The League has long supported more women running for office at every level, and we will continue working toward the day when seeing women elevated to the highest positions of government is not only the norm but is expected. This accomplishment is even more significant because VP Kamala Harris is a woman of color — a Black, Indian American daughter of immigrants. While the League never endorses candidates or parties, we celebrate because we cannot deny the historic significance of this moment.

Stay safe!
Vijaya Jammalamadaka



How You Can Help Make Democracy Work League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Community Forum Wednesday, Feb. 17, noon-1:15pm

Because democracy is not a spectator sport, we invite you to this virtual Forum to meet some of our activists and learn how you can get involved.

Helen Hutchison, Past President of LWV of California and a member of the Oakland LWV, will give us an introduction to redistricting. Both Santa Barbara County and the City of Santa Barbara have recently formed citizen redistricting commissions.

Vijaya Jammalamadaka, LWVSB President and Chair of the Sustainable Communities Committee

Revae Moran, LWVSB Voter Service Director

Vicki Allen, LWVSB Vice President for Communication and Outreach

Daisy Beamon, LWVSB member who recently helped interview our newly-elected representatives to the state legislature and reelected Congressmember Salud Carbajal

Pam Flynt Tambo, LWVSB Chair of Social Policy Committee and our representative to the statewide Criminal Justice Committee

Register [HERE](#)



Dear New Members, An Invitation For Thursday, Feb. 11, 5:30pm

Welcome to the League of Women Voters!

You are invited to a gathering from 5:30-6:30pm for an introduction to your League. This short event is an opportunity to meet the President and a few very active Board Members to find out what the League accomplished in 2020

and what we hope to do in 2021. You can tell us what you might want to do. And even if you are not new, we hope you can join us.

Thank you for joining our organization. The League supports voting rights, balanced reporting on issues, and providing the information to help voters make informed decisions. We deeply appreciate your investment in us.

Now that you have joined, you may be asking yourself: What next? How do I meet other members? Is there a way to find out what the League's committees are doing? How do I get involved?

Twice a year, we hold an Orientation Session to introduce new members to some of our League members, provide information on committees you may want to join, and describe our activities—past, present, and future—and our long-term goals.

For this Feb. 11 Zoom Register [HERE](#)

I look forward to (virtually) meeting you soon! If you have any questions, please call me at 612-207-5359 or send me an email at membership@lwvsantabarbara.org.

Susan Moore
Membership Director
League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara



Talking Climate Solutions With Kathi King

The Sustainable Communities Committee meets monthly on the first Friday of every month at 10am. Please join us at our next virtual meeting on Friday, Feb. 5 at 10 am to participate in a discussion with our guest speaker and new League member, Kathi King from the Community Environmental Council.

As we move into the "Decision Decade," the span of time in which we must drastically decrease emissions in order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we are focused on "zero carbon" in our cities, "carbon negative" actions via nature-based solutions and "climate protection" with plans to create resiliency in our food and energy systems.

Kathi King, CEC's Director of Outreach and Education, will provide an update on what's being done in our region and what you can do to get involved. For the Zoom link information email SusComm@LWVSantaBarbara.org

Join the California Climate Change Google Group

Moderator: Diz Swift, LWVC Climate Change Program Director

This is a group for sharing ideas and discussion about local League activity around climate change, and sharing relevant resources and articles about climate change topics. Join the lwvc-climate-change Google group by emailing: lwvc-climate-change@googlegroups.com

Feb. 9 Discussion of the Successful Community Forum
Visions of Hope: Pandemic-Inspired Success Stories of

Supporting Our Most Vulnerable Neighbors

Many thanks to the team: Pamela Flynt Tambo, Susan Moore, Revae Moran, and Vijaya Jammalamadaka, who all collaborated to make this a successful Forum. We owe much gratitude to our speakers, who spoke about promising new efforts to address our societal problems in what one of them called our "new reality" vs. the "new normal," adding that we will eventually go back to a situation that will not be "normal" at all. They spoke about their organizations' efforts to address homelessness, food insecurity, child care, and mental health.

Barbara Anderson, Santa Barbara Alliance for Community Transformation (SBACT), Homelessness Collaborative Facilitator

Lacey Baldiviez, Ph.D., Director of Community Programs and Education, Foodbank of Santa Barbara County

James Kyriaco, Councilmember, Goleta City Council

Jina Carvalho, Executive Director, Santa Barbara Response Network

We will have a follow-up discussion of this Forum on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 5:30 pm. Contact Revae Moran at revae.moran@gmail.com to obtain the Zoom link if you are interested in participating. A copy of the recording of the Forum Webinar will be added to [our website](#) soon--check the videos that can be viewed via YouTube.

It's Black History Month Watch Video of First Black President of LWVUS

Dr. Deborah Turner is the current President of the United States League. She is Black. But Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins was the first. We were honored to have her speak at the LWVSB February 2020 Community Forum. Her topic was "The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters," which is also the title of her recent book.



Watch the video on our [YouTube Channel](#).

Speaking of Videos... Did You Miss Something?

For several years LWVSB has posted its forums on our YouTube Channel. They are easy to find and many of them also have a Spanish translation version. Just search YouTube.com or click the YouTube button on [our website](#). If you know the title of the forum, the subject covered, or the date it was made you can add it to the name: "League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara" and see if it leads you where you want to go.

Our videos go back several years—I started watching one from March 2017 called "Keeping People with Mental Illness Out of Jail." I found it by looking for "League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara mental health." There are also videos of our candidate forums—perhaps a little out-of-date, but if a candidate is running again—why not see what they had to say before their last race.

Our recent forums are listed on the main page of our website. We held a very popular forum titled "Confronting Racism in Santa Barbara" in November. The most recent forum was "Visions of Hope..." It will be posted to YouTube soon.

This spring we're planning a forum on current issues with housing and another on climate change. Just remember, if you miss them, look for them on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Keeping up with the League can be easy.

Pam Flynt Tambo, VP Administration



LWVUS Action Alerts

In her January 28 League Update, LWV's president, Dr. Deborah Turner, wrote:

"Let us remember and continue to remind America that the 2020 election was a fair and secure election. This is a FACT to be celebrated by all and to be proudly touted

by LWV because of the important part we played in making it so. This FACT has been confirmed in all courts, election offices, and communities across this country. Moreover, we must acknowledge the attempt to overturn the will of the majority of the American people was a clear attempt to disenfranchise millions of votes – many of those votes in communities with large numbers of voters of color. Social injustice and racial animus continue to hamper America's efforts to form a more perfect union, but it can be done, and the League will and should be a part of that effort.

"As we keep our eye on the ongoing developments, we turn with delight to the change being generated in Washington. We are officially one week into the new administration, and I am excited to see movement on some of our priority issues. In the legislature, the For the People Act (H.R. 1) has been introduced in the House, and yesterday, the Senate introduced the D.C. Statehood bill (S. 51). The League has worked diligently to advance these pieces of legislation, and we hope to see them enacted in the months ahead."

LWV has Action Alerts for both bills, as well as for the Equal Rights Amendment. Click on [this link](#) to take action on H.R. 1, the For the People Act. Rep. Carbajal was a co-sponsor of this Act last year (when it passed the House but not the Senate) and he supports it again. So you may want to change the wording in the standard message to thank him, rather than imploring him to vote for it. I expect an Action Alert soon for the Senate version (probably with the same wording as the one for H.R. 1, or for both versions together).

The D.C. Statehood Bill (H.R. 51) also has an [action alert](#). Both of our Senators are co-sponsors of the Senate bill, and Rep. Carbajal is a co-sponsor of the House bill.

For the ERA, [click here](#).

Last but not least, here is [a summary](#) of LWVUS' priorities in the new Administration.

We have a busy year ahead!

Linda Phillips, State and National Action

Five Big Questions for Our Legislators

The annual League of Women Voters of California Legislative Interviews for 2021 in our region were led locally by Lindsey Baker and Susan Horne with assistance from Daisy Beamon.

When and Who? In January we arranged one-hour interviews with CA State Senator Monique Limon, CA Assemblymember Steve Bennett, and US

Representative Salud Carbajal. Each interview was conducted on Zoom.

How many regional Leagues participated? Four Leagues: three members from LWV Santa Barbara (Lindsey Baker, Susan Horne, Daisy Beamon), two from Ventura County (Betsy Patterson, Matty Park, plus four observers), two from Santa Maria Valley (Roz Silva, Virginia Souza), and one from San Luis Obispo (Patti Dale).

Who wrote the Questions? Four questions were given by LWVC for every League in the state to ask, along with copious background for the person asking. One optional question was developed by the Santa Barbara League on local issues.

What were the Questions about?

1. Climate Change and Land Use, focusing on sequestering CO2 in healthy soils of both natural and agricultural lands.
2. Housing and Homelessness, focusing on potential local zoning changes to increase affordable housing in formerly exclusive zoning for single family homes.
3. How can the most vulnerable have equity in economic recovery from the pandemic?
4. What are the legislators' priorities for the upcoming year?
5. Locally-developed question: How can CA and US/Federal laws be passed to prevent the killing of Black and People of Color. The model is the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, passed in June 2020 in the US House of Representatives and stopped in the US Senate.

How did it go? All three legislators were friendly, accessible and very knowledgeable. We saw that each one was intensely devoted to their job to improve the lives of their constituents, including the natural environment, housing, racial justice and the nation's increasing inequality.

Lindsey Baker and Susan Horne are writing our report on what the three Legislators told us. This report will go to the LWVSB Board in February and then to the State League (LWVC). The full report will then be available on our website, www.lwvsantabarbara.org

BOOK CLUB ON ZOOM!

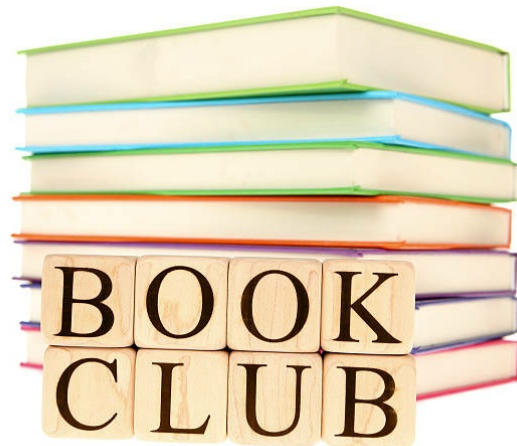
LOCATION: Zoom

DATE: Thursday, March 4, 3-4 pm

BOOK SELECTION:

"Unrig: How To Fix Our Broken Democracy" by Dan G. Newman.

All are welcome to attend. Email elainerudin@me.com to receive a Zoom invitation. We invite you to use your computer, iPad, laptop or Kindle to click on a link that Elaine will send you.



ALL MEMBERS FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Keep up to date with upcoming events [HERE](#). All meetings are by Zoom.

LWVSB is working remotely using electronic meetings. Check the Calendar on our website and email the organizer for instructions. All League members are welcome to join our Board and committee meetings as observers. Registration links are also in these articles.

February 5, Friday - Sustainable Communities Committee, with Kathi King, **10am.**

February 9, Tuesday - Visions of Hope Discussion, **5:30pm.**

February 11, Thursday - New Member Gathering - **5:30pm.**

February 13, Saturday - Board meeting - **10am.**

February 17, Wednesday - Community Forum: How You Can Make Democracy Work - **noon.**

February 25, Thursday - Social Policy Committee - **4:30pm.**

All Donations are Now Tax-Deductible

If you joined or renewed your membership, we thank you. Since the merger of LWVSB and the Education Fund, all gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed law--including those made at the end of the year. We hope you will continue to support LWVSB. Click here to [donate](#) or [join](#).

Join The Board?

We are looking for new Board Members for a term that begins July 1, 2021. If you or anyone you know are interested in helping to continue Making Democracy Work, please contact Gail Fairburn, Nominating Committee Chair, Nominating@lwvsantabarbara.org.



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