

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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CHANNEL VOTER

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



A Message from the LWVSB President

Systemic racism significantly impacts the health, physical safety, and economic survival of people and communities. Inequities in housing, income, healthcare, education, and other social determinants of health have historically prevented Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (aka BIPOC) from having fair opportunities for economic, physical, and emotional health.

We thank our County Board of Supervisors for voting on a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis, and we look forward to seeing bold action to ameliorate this long-standing problem. At our Annual Meeting on June 5, the League will ask our members to adopt a strong local position on housing to use as the basis for our advocacy to reduce housing inequity.

The trauma for Black, Asian, Latinx, and indigenous communities due to systemic racism in the criminal justice system is ongoing. Police across the country continue taking the lives of Black and brown individuals. See the article below for the League's statement to the County Board of Supervisors about the public safety budget.

The justice agencies will be returning to the Board in June to provide an update on diversion and jail population reduction efforts. Our League stands in solidarity with the BIPOC community, and pledges to stay engaged in reforming the criminal justice system to help ensure that continual and corrective progress is made in Santa Barbara County.

To recount the words National League President Deborah

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Turner, "As the fight for just treatment of Black and brown Americans continues, we encourage Leagues to take bold action in solidarity with the Black community. And please remember: 'If you see something, say something.' Change will come about only if everyday citizens speak up and speak out. We the people have the power to push our leaders to act."

Vijaya Jammalamadaka

Annual Meeting June 5

Dear LWVSB Member,

You are invited to the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara's 2021 Annual Meeting via Zoom Webinar.

Members will be receiving more information soon by email, but you can register in advance for this webinar [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Get more information about joining and participating [here](#).

We look forward to your attendance.

If you are not yet a member or want to renew your membership, do it by May 15. Just click [here](#).

Club Express Launch in Early June

For several reasons, including delays in getting our new LWVSB website pages designed by Club Express, we have decided to postpone the move to our new website and member database to early June. As soon as we "go live" with the new system, you'll be notified via a message from Club Express, welcoming you to the new system and letting you know how to set up your new LWVSB account. Please forgive the delay and stay tuned.

Authors Revae and Anthony Moran



State League Convention June 7-13

The League of Women Voters of California convention is not just for delegates from local Leagues. Non-voting attendees can pay \$25 to observe the plenary sessions

and have access to workshops and caucuses. And the plenary sessions and caucuses are open to everyone for free. Those who are not LWV members might be inspired to join by learning more about what the League does. [Get more information.](#)

LWVSB Letter to Board of Supervisors About Public Safety

Workshops were held in April for Santa Barbara County Departments. We participated with other local organizations and sent a letter to each supervisor as well reading that letter into the record at the Budget Hearing on April 12.

Our statement included the following comments:

"The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara supports a careful review of and changes to the 2021-2022 budget requests, particularly the budget of the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department. Reductions in the Sheriff's Department can provide needed funds to accomplish positive, justifiable goals for a corrections system that has rehabilitation as its primary goal. In 2019-20, 57% of those held in our jails were not yet sentenced...The county can have substantial savings by holding the jail population to a target of 550 (the 37% reduction achieved during COVID 19)....

"The Sheriff Department budget has consumed roughly 60% of the criminal justice budget in 2019-20. At \$154.8 million, this was \$26.7 million OVER the sheriff department budgets of comparable California counties with 165 full time equivalent staff (FTEs) more than benchmark averages....

"Programs which provide alternatives to incarceration, such as those in the Public Defenders Office, can help meet the goal of reducing recidivism and provide community members with the opportunity to have productive lives, a preferable societal outcome to continued emphases on jails and prisons. Therefore, we believe that a dramatic increase in funding is appropriate for the Public Defenders Office...

"Our Community Defender Division with a Client-Centered Approach is successful; however, it is funded by grants....The Public Defender Division needs more social workers, more behavioral wellness specialists, more multilingual front-line staff, more funds for translation and more resources in our North County area. These programs also address some of the issues of equity for the Black, Indigenous, and Latinx members of our community—a serious concern for many years and magnified by this past year's events....

"Lastly, we believe that the implementation of a Civilian Oversight Commission for the Sheriff's Department would involve the community in understanding and contributing to the criminal justice system we have in the county...."

In a response we received from Gregg Hart, who stated "The justice agencies will be returning to the Board in 60 days to provide an update on diversion and jail population reduction efforts. The County Executive Office has contracted with Sherrill Ellsworth, a retired Judge, to help steer this reform initiative. Implementing alternatives to criminal justice involvement for non-serious offenses is critical for advancing racial equity and creating a healthier community."

Please [contact](#) Pam Flynt Tambo if you would like to see the entire letter to the Board.

How to Watch Climate Emergency Forum

Videos in English and Spanish of the most recent Community Forum--"Our Climate Emergency:

TVSB Schedule

The English version will be available on Channel 17 "Voice" Tuesdays at 9 pm, Fridays at 2 am and on Channel 71 "Culture" Wednesdays at



Nature Based Adaptive Solutions"--is now available on the LWVSB [YouTube Channel](#) and is being shown on TVSB.

If you missed any of our other forums on a variety of important issues, they are also available on YouTube.

9pm, Thursdays at 7pm, Fridays at 5am, and Saturdays at 10am.

The Spanish language video will be on Channel 17 Wednesdays at 9pm and Saturdays at 3am, and on Channel 71 Mondays at 7:30 pm and Thursdays at 3:30 am.

Candidate Forum for SB Mayor's Race is a Go!

All four candidates who've announced they are running for Santa Barbara Mayor have agreed to participate in our Candidate Forum in September. The forum will take place at the Santa Barbara Woman's Club, 670 Mission Canyon Road (across the street from the Natural History Museum) on Thursday, Sept. 30 at 6 pm. TV Santa Barbara will be there to livestream the event on our Facebook page, and record it in both English and Spanish for later viewing on YouTube. Silvia Uribe will provide simultaneous interpretation in Spanish during the event. Mark your calendars!

Revae Moran, Voter Service Director



Voter

Service Team to Meet Thursday, May 13

Are you interested in registering voters and/or helping voters update their registrations? How about setting up and running Candidate Forums that engage individuals running for office in local elections, such as the Santa Barbara Mayor's race, City Council, the Board of Supervisors, and County Sheriff? If so, please [contact me](#), Revae Moran, LWVSB Voter Service Director. You also are invited to attend the Zoom meeting on Thursday, May 13 at 2 pm and see what activities we have planned through the end of 2021 and for early 2022.

Now that it looks like we'll be able to start meeting in person and attending local marches and festivals, there will be many opportunities to help make democracy work in South Santa Barbara County!

Redistricting Update: Excellent Presentation Available!



If you are interested in the topic of redistricting and the work to be done by Santa Barbara County's Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission, watch the presentation by David Becker, Executive Director of the Center for Election Innovation and Research at the Commission's meeting on April 21. It is available at <https://countyofsb.org/redistricting.sbc>.

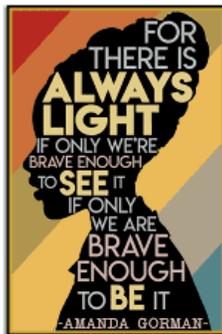
Becker's clear, concise presentation begins at the 16-minute mark and lasts about 45 minutes, lays out all factors that will be used in redrawing the maps for our county, and includes some excellent questions asked by the Commissioners and the public. Many thanks to Lindsey Baker, Chair of our Observer Corps, for monitoring these meetings and reporting on them at our monthly Board meetings.

Although the Census data needed to draw the new maps probably won't be available until September, the apportionment data was released last week. The numbers are at a high level and are not as precise as the block-by-block Census data needed to redraw the maps, but they show that California is growing more slowly than the rest of the country and will lose one congressional seat in the House of Representatives (from 53 seats to 52).

That means our state will get one less vote in the Electoral College and will receive less federal money for programs like Medi-Cal, food stamps, highway construction, and affordable housing. It also means the state's Independent Redistricting Commission must draw new congressional maps with one less district--a process with high political stakes that will have to be completed under a massive time crunch.

Also, the effort to recall California Governor Gavin Newsom garnered enough signatures to move forward. That means the recall election, which our county election officials have estimated will cost us \$2-2.5 million, will happen later this year.

Revae Moran, Voter Service Director



For Our Future

What an incredible time we are living through now. After more than a year of COVID-19 concerns with distancing, masking, isolating, event cancellations, vaccines, and then finally, national acknowledgement of our responsibility (individually and collectively) for racism and the harm it is doing to the health, wealth, education, and many other aspects of our society.

The guilty verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial in late April has left many of us with very mixed emotions. Can we make our country better in the future? What will it take? I'm remembering a hopeful reading during the inauguration this past January by a beautiful young woman and how many of us were thankful for her wisdom and insight as she told us this:

"...We are striving to forge our nation with purpose
To compose a country committed
To all cultures, colors, characters,

And conditions of man.
And so we lift our gazes not
To what stands between us,
But what stands before us.
We close the divide,
Because we know to put
Our future first, we must first
Put our differences aside....."

From "The Hill We Climb"
An Inaugural Poem for the Country
by Amanda Gorman
January 20, 2021

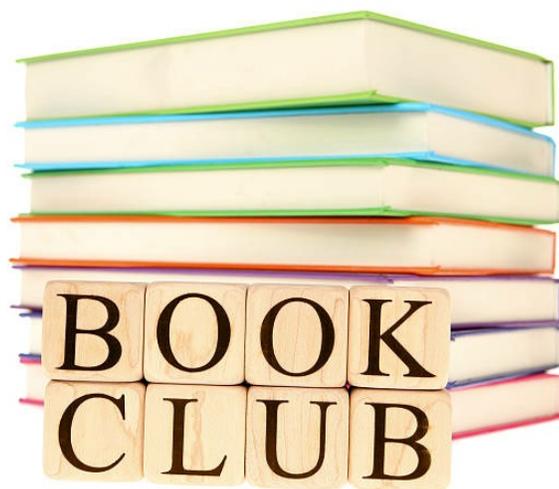
Pam Flynt-Tambo, VP, Social Policy Chair

BOOK CLUB ON ZOOM!

LOCATION: Zoom
DATE: Thursday, May 20,
3-4 pm

BOOK SELECTION:
"When They Call You A
Terrorist: A Black Lives
Matter Memoir" by Patrisse
Cullors and Asha Bandele

It was selected as UCSB
Reads for 2021--and Patrisse
Cullors will appear at UCSB
Arts and Lecture on May 12 at
5 pm. The virtual event is free
but [registration](#) is required.



At our last club meeting we discussed "The Curse of Bigness: Anti-Trust in the New Gilded Age" by Tim Wu. The author asks the question: "what is the impact of allowing unrestricted growth of concentrated private power, and abandoning most curbs of anticompetitive conduct?"

As the first gilded age has taught us, extreme economic concentration yields gross inequality and material suffering, feeding an appetite for nationalistic and extremist leadership. Are we now going down the same path? For example, look at Google, Facebook, and Amazon, who have gained extraordinary power over our lives. "With this centralization of private power has come a renewed concentration of wealth, and a wide gap between the rich and poor." This is also a threat to democracy itself. Tim Wu is a recent Biden appointee so we will surely be hearing a lot more about anti-trust and monopolies in the next few years.

To join the discussion on May 20, contact elainerudin@me.com for 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 and register [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.

May 7, Friday - Sustainable Communities Committee - **10am**

May 8, Saturday - Board Meeting - **10am**

May 13, Thursday - Voter Service Meeting - **2pm**

May 20, Thursday - DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) Committee - **6pm**

May 27, Thursday - Social Policy Committee - **4:30pm**

June 4, Friday - Sustainable Communities Committee - **10am**

June 5, Saturday - Annual Meeting for members - **10am** (see article for registration information--join by May 15)

NOTE: There will be no Community Forum in May. Forums will resume in September after our usual summer break.

Give Today

Thanks to dedicated volunteers we regularly hold webinars on climate change, transforming the criminal justice system, and other topics of vital importance. Our recent session on housing drew around 200 participants!

But that's just not enough. Can you help us reach more people?

Our new remote educational forums must be heavily advertised. We need spontaneous interpreters and translators that will connect us with the Latinx community. Can you help? Your gift will go directly to the costs like advertising and hosting forums, spontaneous interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing, and educational materials.

Give now to make a difference!

Donate [HERE](#)

Join [HERE](#)

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