



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



The

VOTER



Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / September 2016, Volume 89, Number 1

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Pros & Cons Forum - Measure Z on November Ballot

"Protect Our Water: Ban Fracking & Limit Risky Oil Operations"



The Monterey Shale Formation underlies substantial portions of central California, including south Salinas River Basin in Monterey County. The Formation contains valuable heavy viscosity oil not recoverable by standard drilling methods. The most common method used locally is cyclic steam injection. More extreme oil methods include acidization and hydraulic fracturing, or a combination of these with cyclic steam injection. Protect Monterey County, a coalition of community volunteers, has placed a county-wide initiative, to ban fracking and limit oil drilling on the upcoming November ballot, Measure Z. Presenters (to be announced) will have equal time to speak, followed by a question and answer session with the audience.

PRO MEASURE Z

For decades oil companies have had 'blanket permits' in Monterey County to drill unlimited numbers of wells with limited regulation. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors refused to consider a moratorium and new regulations in 2015. Fresh water used in extreme oil extraction becomes wastewater contaminated with benzene, heavy metals, and radioactive substances. Since 2008 about one-third of the wastewater is treated to tertiary levels and re-injected. Another two-thirds is not treated and disposed via injection wells. Of 44 injection wells, 35 have been cited by the US Environmental Protection Agency for violating the Clean Water Act. Groundwater aquifers are threatened with contamination. Measure Z will help keep California in the forefront combating climate change impacts. (continued on next page)

LWVMC September 14, 2016 General Meeting

11:30am Informal Socializing / 12 noon Lunch (\$17 per person)

12:30 to 1:30 Presentation

(Lunch main course, salad, beverages, & dessert by Café Athena)

Reservations are a must for lunch!

Contact Lorita Fisher by Saturday, September 10.

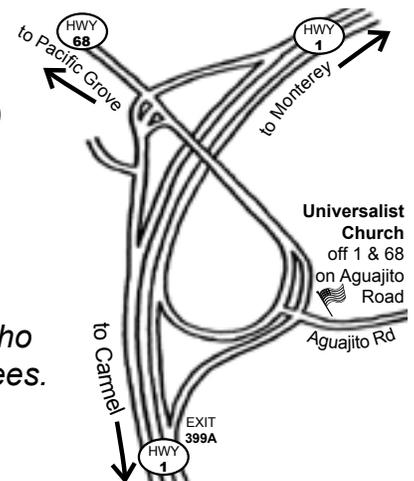
(phone 375-8301 or e-mail GLFisher@redshift.com)

Pay at the door for lunch: meeting/presentation is FREE.

Reminder: The League pays the caterer in advance for everyone who makes a luncheon reservation, and guarantees a minimum of attendees.

L&L meets at: Unitarian Universalist Church http://uucmp.org

490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404



(continued from page 1)

CON MEASURE Z

Fracking can revitalize local economies by bringing jobs and revenue to the County. Abundant, affordable energy from shale supports domestic manufacturing and lowers energy prices. Hydraulic fracturing is safe and well-regulated by federal and state agencies. Horizontal drilling, proper well construction, water recycling, and other industry solutions minimize the environmental impacts of fracking. Technologies and processes continue to improve through experience. Development of energy from shale has helped lower US energy-related emissions of carbon dioxide to its lowest level in two decades, which helps fight climate change. Wastewater impoundment ponds recharge the Salinas River Basin. **Measure Z** could reduce tax revenues and lead to costly litigation.

George Riley georgetriley@gmail.com

THE LEAGUE HAS A NEW ONLINE VOTER GUIDE, VOTER'S EDGE CALIFORNIA



Get the facts before you vote on **November 8: Visit votersedge.org/ca before Election Day**

Use your address to get a **PERSONALIZED BALLOT**.

Get in-depth info on **CANDIDATES, MEASURES**, and who supports them. Check where, when, and how to **VOTE**. Keep **TRACK** of your choices and use them to vote.

Share and start the **CONVERSATION!**



LWVMC CANDIDATE FORUMS

ELECTION NOVEMBER 2016

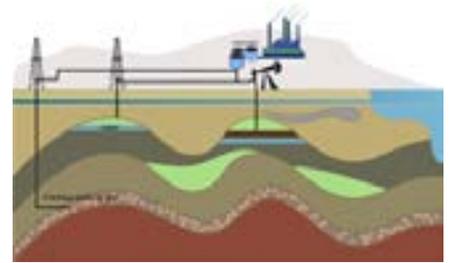


<p style="text-align: center;">City of Pacific Grove <i>(co-sponsored with the PG Chamber of Commerce)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, September 8th PG Community Center, 515 Junipero Avenue, Pacific Grove CA 93950 5:30-6:00 meet and greet 6:00-6:35 Mayoral forum Break 6:45-8:00 City Council candidate forum</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAYOR Bill Kampe and Dan Miller</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CITY COUNCIL <i>(three seats)</i> Alan Cohen, Cynthia Garfield, Robert Huitt, Andrew Kubica, Jenny Mcadams, and Nicholas W. Smith</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jeanne Turner, Voter Service Monterey Peninsula, JTurner215@comcast.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">City of Seaside <i>(co-sponsored with the NAACP Monterey County and Sustainable Seaside)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, October 4th Oldemeyer Center, 986 Hilby Avenue, Seaside CA 93955 6:30-7:00 Information tables; submit written questions for candidates 7:00-8:30 candidate forum</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAYOR Felix Bachofner, Kay Cline, Ralph Rubio, and Gertrude Smith</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CITY COUNCIL <i>(two seats)</i> Kayla Jones, Ian Oglesby, and Dave Pacheco</p>
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LWVMC ENDORSES MEASURE Z: COUNTY INITIATIVE TO BAN ENHANCED OIL EXTRACTION METHODS

WV Monterey County voted to support the countywide initiative on the November ballot, "**Protect Our Water: Ban Fracking and Limit Risky Oil Operations.**" Measure Z:

- Bans fracking, acidizing, and other risky well stimulation treatments
- Bans new wastewater injection wells and wastewater ponds, and phases out existing wastewater injection wells and wastewater ponds
- Bans new oil and gas wells within Monterey County
- Does not affect Monterey County's 1,500+ existing oil and gas wells, which may continue to operate



The League based its decision on **national and state LWV vertical positions** related to: (1) need to avoid potential depletion or pollution of water supplies; (2) need to reduce water pollution from direct point-source toxic discharges and from indirect non-point sources; (3) need for stringent controls to protect the quality of current and potential drinking-water supplies, including protection of watersheds for surface supplies and of recharge areas for groundwater; and (4) need to protect lakes, estuaries, wetlands and in-stream flows.

George Riley, Natural Resources Committee Director, georgetriley@gmail.com

★ ★ ★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2016 ★ ★ ★

Welcome to a new year with the LWV of Monterey County. The Board met in June to plan programs for the upcoming year. They include September's **Measure Z** program (as detailed on page one); the October program on Pros and Cons of some of the more than **19 measures on the November ballot**; and in November, an excellent documentary on the **condors of Big Sur**.

Our winter and spring programs will include an update on **water issues, land use projects** on the former Fort Ord, and **foster care and/or early education**.

April's program is open, so if you have suggestions, let me know.

It was a busy summer with a great deal of legislative action taken plus a decision to support the **TAMC Sales Tax** (see page 6).

Also, we appointed **Katie Ball** as our new **Public Relations Director**. She replaces **Sherrie Mermis** who is leaving the County in September to move to Portland. Sherrie has done an outstanding job.

We reluctantly say farewell and send her off with all of our best wishes.

The local study committee on **Costs and Benefits of Special Events** has started to meet with a current focus on city and County permit requirements for special events. **Kemay Eoyang** and **Marilyn Maxner** will co-chair the committee. Thanks to **George Riley** for getting the study off the ground. If you are interested in participating in the study, contact either Kemay or Marilyn.

Looking forward to seeing you at our September meeting.

Janet Brennan, JanetB@montereybay.com

WHERE THE ACTION IS

*The Board took action on many important issues this summer.
The below letters were sent and actions taken.*



To the Board of Supervisors on Transferring Ownership of Jacks Peak County Park to MPRPD

In 2013 the League of Women Voters of Monterey County supported acquisition of the 850-acre Aguajito property owned by the Pebble Beach Company. Our action was based on the League's support for preserving open space through public acquisition of land and planning to perpetuate scenic assets and a beneficial environment and to protect natural resources.

The property was purchased by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District in 2014 more than doubling the size of Jacks Peak County Park and the preserved area of the unique Monterey Pine habitat at the park. With that purchase, a second phase of the preservation of the unique Monterey Pine Forest habitat at Jacks Peak is in process.

Efforts are underway to transfer the management or ownership of Jacks Peak County Park to Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District which is eminently qualified for management of special ecosystems. This will assure the combined area can be consistently managed for habitat values and for significant County budget savings. Completing the transfer process as soon as possible would be mutually beneficial to the two agencies, and it would hasten the time when the public can have increased access to the park.



To Senator Bill Monning and Assemblymember Mark Stone on AB 1882

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County strongly supports AB 1882, which will protect groundwater from underground injection of oil and gas wastewater and help fix the "broken" underground injection control (UIC) program. Groundwater resources play a vital role in maintaining California's economic and environmental sustainability. California's 515 alluvial groundwater basins and sub-basins provide close to 40 percent of the state's water supply in an average year. And in dry or drought years, groundwater accounts for as much as 60 percent of the state's water supply. Many disadvantaged communities rely on groundwater for 100 percent of their water supply. Monterey County has 35 class II wastewater injection wells that are injecting illegally into protected non-exempt aquifers.

The revelation that over 6,000 oil and gas wells in California were inappropriately permitted by the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to inject wastewater and other fluids into federally protected aquifers shows that action must be taken to protect California's groundwater. These injections violate the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and fail to protect groundwater that potentially could be used for drinking water, irrigation or other beneficial uses. Considering we are currently in our fifth year of extreme drought, the time to act is now.

AB 1882 enhances oversight and accountability within the UIC Class II program and requires that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) or the appropriate regional water quality control board (RWQCB) ensures that water that could be used as drinking water or irrigation, is not being contaminated by oil production. Specifically, AB 1882 will:

1. Require DOGGR to provide an opportunity and the information necessary for SWRCB and/or the appropriate RWQCB to review, comment on, and propose additional requirements for UIC projects.
2. Require SWRCB or the appropriate RWQCB to review, comment on, and propose additional requirements it deems necessary for those projects to ensure that the injection of fluids will not affect the quality of water that is, or may reasonably be, used for any beneficial use.
3. Requires written concurrence from SWRCB or the appropriate RWQCB as part of the of UIC permitting process, which includes describing the rationale for the concurrence and explanation as to why additional requirements, such as groundwater monitoring, were or were not required for those projects.

The requirements of AB 1882 are a crucial step forward in protecting our groundwater resources from oil and gas production. For these reasons we urge you to support AB 1882.



***To the Monterey County Planning Commission
on the Pebble Beach Affordable Housing Project***

The Pebble Beach Affordable Housing Project is development of 24 affordable (inclusionary) housing units on 2.7 acres and preservation of Monterey pine forest as open space on 10.5 acres. The site is zoned for housing (4 units/acre) and abuts an area with a similar density (Del Monte Park area of Pacific Grove).

We have reviewed the plans and Final EIR (FEIR) and have visited the site. The location for the Project is next to a built up area of Pacific Grove, with schools and stores either within walking or biking distance or a short car drive away. As identified in the FEIR, the project has the best access to shopping and schools of all the alternatives evaluated in the EIR.

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County supports measures which would ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing throughout Monterey County and sustainable communities that meet current economic, environmental, and social needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. When workers live in the community where they work, the result is a more sustainable community, reducing their commute and integrating their lives and families into the community.

The League supports this project because it will create much needed affordable housing for the Pebble Beach workforce in close proximity to their work. Finally, the project balances the need for affordable housing while conserving land for open space.



To Senator Monning on SB 1107

SB 1107 (Allen), an important bill to reduce the influence of money in California elections will soon be up for a floor voter in the State Senate and we are asking for your support of that bill.

This bill will restore local control by allowing our state and local governments to adopt voluntary public financing options like those that are in place in six charter cities. A long-standing ban on public financing currently prohibits innovative approaches to campaign financing that can revive

participation and encourage trust in government.

SB 1107 would remove that 28-year-old ban on public financing of campaigns that keeps our state and local governments from finding innovative ways to approach campaign regulation. This bill does not establish a public financing program or require any government to offer public financing. It merely provides an option for innovation, including voluntary programs like those already in place in six charter cities.

Other provisions of the bill work to combat corruption and undue influence, by banning foreign money from California State and local candidate elections and requiring public officials convicted of corruption to donate their unspent campaign funds to the general fund.

We have long worked to promote maximum citizen participation in the political process and combat public cynicism about government. SB 1107 will create flexibility for local governments to explore public financing options that increase voter participation, restore public trust, and strengthen our representative democracy. Please join the League of Women Voters in support of this important bill.



Support for the TAMC Sales Tax Initiative

This initiative, unlike the previous four efforts, focuses on maintenance and includes almost 16 percent of the funds for alternative forms of transportation. (This percentage does not include funds included in the share for cities and the County which would increase that share further.)

The TAMC Sales Tax initiative is for \$600 million over 30 years with 60% going to cities and the County (local share) for the following:

- Road and street maintenance and repairs including repairs of walkways and bikeways.
- Road safety and operations including, but not limited to, roundabouts, traffic signals, safety barriers, etc. Road widening or other automobile capacity improvements are not eligible except for a City of Soledad bypass for a connection to the Pinnacles National Park.
- Walkability and pedestrian safety – projects designed to make neighborhood corridors safer for walking including, but not limited to, sidewalks, lighted crosswalks, traffic calming, etc.
- Bike safety projects designed to support bicycling for all levels including, but not limited to, new or improved bikeways, bike racks or lockers, etc.
- Street enhancements – streetscape projects that enhance the safety of the transportation corridor including, but not limited to, lighting, landscaping, drainage improvements, etc.
- New technology – projects that use new technology to promote safety, mobility, cost savings or improved air quality including, but not limited to, electric vehicle chargers, traffic signal synchronization, etc.



To the California Coastal Commission on Moro Cojo

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County requests the California Coastal Commission find “substantial issue” in the above-referenced appeal of the January 26, 2016 Board of Supervisors decision (Parker dissenting) to terminate permanent affordability on 161 Moro Cojo homes. The decision amends existing condition no. 99 of the Moro Cojo Coastal Development Permit, so that instead of the homes being permanently affordable, they may be sold at market rate 20 years from date of purchase. Since most of the homes were purchased in 1999-2000, it means that in most cases, Moro Cojo homes which are currently affordable to low income families will

become unaffordable when they change to market rate four years from now, in 2020.

Coastal Commission staff has recommended the Commission find NO substantial issue. The staff report (p. 17, paragraph 5) characterizes the appeal as raising only a fact-specific situation involving financing of affordable home ownership through sweat equity and long-term ramifications relating to the structuring of that financing which is unlikely to be a recurrent issue in other parts of the region or State. An examination of the appeal belies staffs' characterization.

The appeal challenges the impending loss of affordable housing at the Moro Cojo project in North Monterey County. Public Resources Code §30614, subdivision (a), provides the legislature's guidance to the Coastal Commission regarding when a coastal development permit protecting existing affordable housing gets amended. Subdivision (a) of Section 30614 states:

(a)The commission shall take appropriate steps to ensure that coastal development permit conditions existing as of January 1, 2002, relating to affordable housing are enforced and do not expire during the term of the permit. (Public Resources Code §30614,(a).)

Condition no. 99 of the Moro Cojo coastal development permit relates to affordable housing and existed prior to 2002. On January 26, 2016, Monterey County amended condition no. 99 to end permanent affordability restrictions on 161 Moro Cojo homes. Commission staff takes the position that Public Resources Code §30614 is inapplicable to the appeal because it is not one of the grounds for appeal under Public Resources Code §30603. Nonetheless, §30614 demonstrates that preservation of existing affordable housing is of statewide concern because the legislature wants the Commission to take appropriate steps when amendment of a coastal development permit condition will affect such housing. Thus, Appeal A-3-MCO-16-0017 raises an issue of statewide concern.

The appeal alleges blatant violation of North Monterey County Land Use Plan policy 4.3.6.D.1, which states:

1. The County shall protect existing affordable housing opportunities in the North County coastal area from loss due to deterioration, conversion, or any other reason. The County will:
a) Discourage demolitions, but, require replacement on a one by one basis of all demolished or converted units which were affordable to or occupied by low and moderate income persons. b) Promote housing improvement and rehabilitation programs for low and moderate income persons in both owner-occupied and renter-occupied units. c) Study relaxation of building code requirements and if appropriate adopt minimum building code regulations for the rehabilitation of older housing units. d) Replacement affordable housing units shall be retained as low and moderate income units through deed restrictions or other enforceable mechanisms.

The appeal rests on three bases:

(1) inconsistency with North County Land Use Policy 4.3.6.D.1,
(2) failure to meet criteria for amendment a final subdivision map set forth in Monterey County Coastal Subdivision Ordinance Section 19.08.015, and (3) the requirement of Public Resources Code §30614. Those bases go far beyond a "fact-specific situation involving financing of affordable home ownership." Those three bases address the same issues which the California Legislature and courts consider to be of statewide concern.

The League of Women Voters supports measures which would ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing. We recognize that the scarcity of affordable housing constitutes a crisis. Appeal

A-3-MCO-16-0017 challenges amendment of a coastal development permit that will result in excluding 161 Monterey County low-income households from future opportunity to own a decent home.

NOTE: *At the August 10, 2016 California Coastal Commission Meeting the majority found substantial issue with the issue and agreed with the LWVMC position that affordable housing is of statewide importance.*



MINIMUM WAGE IN MONTEREY COUNTY



The League of Women Voters United States has made it a priority and action for 2015-17 to address the minimum/living wage across the country. Federal law mandates that the minimum wage be \$7.25 per hour. But what does that mean for California and Monterey County?

California law mandates that the minimum wage be \$10 per hour. Some California cities mandate even higher minimum wage, ranging from \$10.30 in San Jose to \$12.55 in Oakland. So which one applies to workers? Employers must follow the stricter standard, that is, the one that is most beneficial to the employee (<http://www.minimum-wage.org/states.asp?state=California>). In Monterey County employees are paid what is mandated by California law.

The New California Minimum Wage Law

In April 2016, **Governor Jerry Brown** signed into law an increase of the minimum wage in California to \$15 per hour over the next 6 years. On January 1, 2017 the minimum wage in California will increase to \$10.50. On January 1, 2018 the minimum wage will increase to \$11.00. Then over the next four years the minimum wage will increase by a dollar each year until it tops out at \$15 on January 1, 2022. Businesses with 25 workers or fewer will be allowed to delay paying the wage increase for one year. If the economy weakens or the state's budget deteriorates, the Governor may put the increases on hold for one year. Some think this is groundbreaking, but **Los Angeles, Mountain View, and San Francisco** already enacted identical increases over shorter time spans.

Employers can't pay less than the minimum

wage. They can't ask employees to waive their right to the minimum wage, even under collective bargaining. Employers can't pay minors less than adult employees. Waitstaff can't be paid less than the minimum wage. Tips can't be used as a credit against the minimum wage (www.ca.gov).

Exceptions to the Minimum Wage Law

There are some exceptions to California's minimum wage:

- \$** A new employee who is under the age of 20 years of age may be paid a "training wage" of \$4.25 for the first 90 days of employment.
- \$** A full-time high school or college student who works part-time may be paid 85% of minimum wage for the first 160 hours of employment.
- \$** Employees who are in the immediate family of their employer
- \$** Outside salespersons
- \$** Disabled employees and workers at nonprofits where the employer has obtained a certificate from the California Division of Labor Standard Enforcement

(<http://minimum-wage.org/states.sp?state=California>)

Minimum Wage vs Living Wage

One way to view *minimum wage* is to calculate how much an employee would earn. A full-time employee in Monterey County working 40 hours a week (no overtime), 52 weeks a year (no vacations), will earn \$80 per day, \$400 per week, and \$20,800 per year. By 2022 when the minimum wage will be \$15 per hour, the same full-time employee will earn \$120 per day, \$600 per week, and \$31,200 per year.

In a survey published in 2016 by **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, a living wage is what a person needs in order to support themselves or their family. In Monterey County, a single adult makes a **living wage** when earning \$12.28 per hour. That adult with one child needs \$24.64 per hour to earn a living wage. That adult supporting another adult and two children needs \$25.58 per hour. That adult with a working partner and two children each need \$15.48 per hour for a living wage (livingwage.mit.edu/counties/06053). There are no breakout figures for comparing different parts of the County.

Effects of Increasing Minimum Wage

What does the increase in minimum wage mean for California employees? At present, the federal government and California give the **Earned Income Tax Credit** (EITC) to low and moderate income people who work part-time or full-time. An income tax return must be filed. A tax return for the previous three years may be amended to file for the EITC with no penalty. Today, a person and their spouse with no children and working all year at minimum wage today would qualify for federal EITC. They would not qualify for California EITC unless they worked part-time at minimum wage (a maximum of \$6,580 earned income in the year). By 2022, it is unlikely that a full-time minimum wage worker will qualify for the federal EITC.

California has social services programs to help low and moderate income individuals and families. They include those that grant food, housing, and employment benefits to low income and the unemployed. There are income thresholds which disqualify individuals and families for these programs (www.cdss.ca.gov).

The two major food programs are **CalFresh** and **WIC** (Women, Infants, and Children Program). The CalFresh program provides benefits to buy fresh food (no dry goods, tobacco, alcohol, or food heated/eaten in the store). Today an individual or family earning minimum wage would qualify. By 2022, they would not qualify. The WIC program benefits pregnant or breastfeeding or postpartum

women. Children under five years of age also benefit. Under the WIC program, special checks are issued to buy healthy foods such as milk, eggs, bread, cereal, juice, and peanut butter. Today a woman or their families will qualify. By 2022, a family of three will not qualify. Because CalFresh and WIC are tied to federal poverty levels, by 2022 the net effect of the increase in minimum wage is to move Californians off these programs.

Under the **Monterey County's Inclusionary Housing Program**, an employee today would be considered extremely low income and qualify for Monterey County inclusionary housing. By 2022 when this employee earns an increased minimum wage, this employee would still be considered low income and still qualify for inclusionary housing.

Is increasing the minimum wage beneficial?

Economists continue to debate whether increasing the minimum wage is beneficial. Much depends on the economy in each part of California, the dominant industries, and the health of small businesses. In parts of California which have high wages (e.g., San Francisco and San Jose), the impact of higher minimum wages will be minimal.

In parts of California dependent on tourism, the increase in minimum wage can be passed on to customers who are seen to be less price-sensitive than locals.

In parts of California with low wages, low prices, low costs, and low home prices such as Fresno, there is fear that increasing the minimum wage will drive small businesses to lay off workers, increase prices, and lose customers.

In the middle are economists like **Michael Reich** at the **University of California Berkeley** who think the effects will be neutral because higher wages are offset by the greater purchasing power of workers, leading to increased economic activity (www.nytimes.com, "**\$15-an-hour Minimum Wage in California? Plan Has Some Worried,**" March 28, 2016).

Kemay Eoyang, ckeoyang@msn.com

★ LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: STEPHANIE LOOSE ★

Stephanie Loose, who was the **Monterey County coordinator for Smart Voter** through the end of the 2015 election season, has been a League member for more than 20 years. She originally joined the **Salinas Valley chapter** at the urging of the late **Larry Newton**, who taught political science at **Hartnell Community College**. *“I was pretty naïve about government and Larry asked me if I’d like to meet the Salinas city manager,”* Stephanie recalls.



their polling place and even see a Google map to locate it.”

Stephanie says two of her biggest passions are civil rights and voting rights. In addition to her work for the League, she served the hungry at **Dorothy’s Kitchen** for about 14 years, served on the board of the **ACLU**, volunteered for many years at the **Monterey County Elections Department** and once put together an election for some Salinas medical clinics.

She grew to love the League and once served as **President of the Salinas Valley chapter**. She also served as Voter Service chair for the Salinas Valley chapter “for lots of years,” she says.

Stephanie’s expertise was crucial in setting up Monterey County’s portion of the **Smart Voter** website. *“I was the one who got it going,”* she explains. *“I would make contact with the elections department, contact all local candidates and ask each a minimum of three questions. The idea is that voters can go to the website and find out who and what is on their ballots. It includes those candidates who want to participate, plus links to various forums, relevant newspaper articles, local measures, etc. I would contact cities for arguments and set up the tools for voters to find their specific ballots.”*

“It was a lot of work and it was fun,” she recalls. *“It was a big deal to sell it to the county, encourage candidates to participate, educate voters. Now they can go to the website, click on a link to find*

In her professional life, Stephanie is a **Certified Public Accountant**. *“I love preparing taxes and accounting,”* she says. She has a **BS Degree in Accounting** from **Golden Gate University**, *“but I got that after I became a CPA.”* She also has volunteered at the **Internal Revenue Service**, teaching people how to do their income taxes.

Despite her busy work and volunteer schedule, occasionally Stephanie finds time to travel, clearly displaying her adventurous side. Her most recent trip was to Zimbabwe and Zambia and included “a bungee swing over Victoria Falls,” she says.

“The older I get, the more I do. I prefer to go to less traveled countries now—I’ve been to a lot of Third World countries. When I get older, then I’ll do Europe.”

When asked what goals she has for the League, she replied that she’d like to see many more young people join and the overall membership increase.

She also says she *“can’t wait for the Equal Rights Amendment to pass so we can take ‘Women’ out of our name. I think the name insinuates it’s a sexist organization, which it isn’t. I’d like us to get past that—to have it better known that we’re about educating voters and taking action.”*

Nancy Baker Jacobs,
Nancy@NancyBakerJacobs.com

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

We miss Stephanie's important work as **Smart Voter/Voters Edge website Coordinator**. Help us continue to provide voters with comprehensive information on local, city, and state candidates / measures!
Contact: Any LWVMC Board Member



REPORT FROM LWVUS CONVENTION, WASHINGTON DC, JUNE 2016



What was it like to attend a National Convention of the League of Women Voters? It was tremendously exciting, thought provoking, inspiring, and an affirmation of the League's mission. Imagine, instead of our LWVMC annual meeting with 42 members, there were 762 Leagues with 784 voting delegates, almost 20 times the size of our LWVMC annual meeting.



Everyone was crowded into a huge ballroom with barely room for aisles. The room filled with women, mostly older women, but a scattering of men, young women, minorities, and at least one transgender woman. Many had an opinion and were very willing to speak at length. Over two days, June 17 to 18 we heard from a variety of speakers.

The theme of this convention was **Make Democracy Work for All**. There were three strands to the theme.

Protecting Voters

Since the **Voting Rights Act of 1965**, there has been an erosion of voter rights with more restrictive voter laws enacted. The 2016 election may see the further erosion of the Voting Rights Act. During the primary debates there were no discussions about voting rights. The media ignored the issue.

Alarms were raised for the voting rights of women, new voters, minorities, the poor, and the elderly. Women voters were concerned with rights for women and fair treatment of women. Of young people, 75 percent (ages 13 to 25) never talk about politics with family or friends because that is seen as confrontational. Instead, the millennials want to volunteer or lead a non-profit organization. Among those who are interested in running for office, high

school boys and girls are equally interested. But that changed in college. Twenty percent more men than women were interested in running for office.

Fear of social change and "outsiders"—Black, Hispanic, and Asian voters—has led to new voting rights restrictions in seventeen states, include requiring photo ID and prohibitions on early voting. For example, in Texas, a

gun license is accepted as a photo ID but a student ID card is not. For the 2016 election, Hispanic voters in Texas, Florida, Nevada, and Colorado (battleground states) are targeted. Meanwhile Hispanic voters in other states are not targeted. Asians are the fastest growing minority but with the lowest voter registration rate. Today Asian voters feel targeted by anti-immigrant rhetoric even though it is primarily leveled at Hispanics and Arabs. This may drive what were formerly unlikely voters into the voting booth.



Reforming Money in Politics

It was disheartening to hear the effects of the 2010 Supreme Court case, Citizens United. Corporations and unions are donating unlimited amounts of money to super PACs. Candidates can appear at super PAC events, synchronize their message with super PACs, and get discounted TV rates thru super PACs. Some candidates

are delaying announcing their candidacy to allow super PACs to collect more money. Disclosure of campaign contributions online is nonexistent. **The Federal Elections Commission** requires campaigns to send data on paper, then the FEC converts the data to digital form.

Educating and Engaging the Voter

Several speakers suggested the LWV engage in new methods for promoting voter rights. These included: focusing on high school girls to encourage increased participation in politics, reaching out to minorities through ethnic media, training voters on the mechanics of voting once in the voting booth, promoting early voting and weekend voting, making Election Day a national holiday, and using social media to inform voters. On the other hand, LWVUS pressed for candidate forums, registration of new citizens at naturalization ceremonies, voter registration events, and meeting with local elections officials.

Convention: Not All Speeches

There were innumerable work-shops on issues like voter outreach, **Vote411**, gerrymandering, redistricting, Facebook, Twitter, the criminal justice system, carbon pricing, water, and gun safety.



Early arrivals to Convention went up to Capitol Hill to lobby Senators, Members of Congress and their staff. But most importantly, we got to meet League members from across America, from Alaska to Connecticut.

Remaining Nonpartisan

Weighing over the LWVUS convention was the issue of **Hillary Clinton's** run for president. How does the League remain nonpartisan when the media asks the League to comment on her or asks about **Donald Trump's** effect on voter registration? Instead of saying the League is nonpartisan, members say that *"the League does not support any candidate or party."* The League answers the media with its stand on issues. League members should remind the media that the League has been supporting voters for 96 years.

Changes in the League

Finally, the League itself is changing. First, the delegates voted to **change the bylaws allowing non-citizens to become members**. It is hoped that this will encourage persons in naturalization classes, or others interested in elections, will have an opportunity to learn more about voting and community issues. Second, the **minimum age for joining the League was lowered from 18 to 16**. It is hoped that this move will get high school students to join the League.

Thank you for sending us to the LWVUS convention!

Kemay Eoyang and Carson Eoyang
ckeoyang@msn.com

\$\$\$ \$ LWVUS POSITION ON MONEY IN POLITICS \$\$\$ \$

The League of Women Voters of the United States issued a position paper in April stating that it believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should:

- Enhance political equality** for all citizens;
- Ensure maximum participation** by citizens in the political process;
- Protect representative democracy** from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns;
- Provide voters sufficient information** about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices;
- Ensure transparency** and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections;
- Enable candidates** to compete equitably for public office;
- Ensure that candidates have sufficient funds** to communicate their messages to the public; and
- Combat corruption** and undue influence in government.

The League's Position also states the meaning of **"political corruption"** by candidates, office holders and staff, and what it supports to achieve goals for **campaign finance regulation**.

For the complete LWVUS Position go to:

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/lwvus-position-money-politics>

FIRST CSUMB OCEAN CANDIDATES FORUM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, 2016

California State University Monterey Bay have announced their first *Ocean Candidates Forum*. Up to now, the environment has taken a back seat in American elections, both at state and federal levels, to issues like the economy and national security.

In 2016, even with the potentially catastrophic effects of global climate change looming large over other domestic issues, climate change itself has barely registered as a topic this presidential season.

Further, where the environment has been discussed by candidates and the journalists who cover them, the ocean has rarely received its due given the central role it plays in many of the most pressing current and future environmental concerns.

The coast of Central California has always played a critical role in both the science and policy of ocean management across the state and the nation.

This **Ocean Candidates Forum** will provide an unprecedented opportunity for interested stakeholders to see how candidates seeking to represent them in Washington DC and Sacramento handle challenging questions of marine science and policy.

Moderator Honorable John Laird

The Forum, moderated by **California's Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird**, will feature candidates competing for the **US House of Representatives** seat in District 20 being vacated by the **Honorable Sam Farr**, as well as candidates for **State Senate District 17** and **State Assembly District 29**.

Forum Program

The event will feature a reception with the candidates from 6:00 – 6:45 pm to be followed immediately by the Forum from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

Forum Reservations

To RSVP contact the **World Theater Box Office** (831) 582-4580.

Submit Forum Questions in Advance

CSUMB request that questions for the candidates from any and all interested stakeholders in the region send questions ahead of the forum.

Send questions (and if you are attending the Forum, your RSVP name, affiliation, # of seats), to MarineScienceCSUMB@gmail.com by **Friday, October 14th**.



Forum Contact

For questions about the forum itself contact **Dr. James W. Rote, Distinguished Professor of Marine Science and Policy & Director of the Institute for Applied Marine Ecology**, CSU Monterey Bay, 100 Campus Center, Seaside CA 93955, (831) 582-4662

For Those Unable to Attend

The Forum will be live-streamed online and through local public television and will be archived digitally for viewing after the event.

Forum Sponsor

The event is sponsored by the **James W. Rote Distinguished Professorship in Marine Science and Policy at CSUMB**. Donations to the Rote Professorship to support educational outreach in science and policy are welcome at <https://donate.csUMB.edu/>.



Join the League of Women Voters of Monterey County



Any person of voting age, male or female, may be a member of the League!

Renew Your LWVMC Membership.

If your membership has lapsed, please use the form below, or go to <http://lwvmryco.org>. Timely responses are appreciated as they help keep our local chapter strong.

Renewal letter and form gone astray?
Uncertain of your membership due date?
Wish to make a donation?
Want to become a new member?

Use the form below or contact:
Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director
LHoivik@comcast.net or 375-7765

Checks payable to **LWVMC**
Mail to **LWVMC PO Box 1995**
Monterey, CA 93942

Membership Levels

- \$250+ Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200 Sojourner Truth
- \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony
- \$ 95 Household (2 persons, 1 address)
- \$ 65 Single membership

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

- Send e-mail reminders for luncheons
- Call to remind me of luncheons
- Scholarship requested

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMC are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund.

However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thanks to all who responded promptly to renewal letters in early July!

New members who joined from January 1 to April 1 paid half the annual rate. If you're unsure if you're a paid-up member, please call or e-mail me.

Welcome New Member

Dena Weber, 1124 Lincoln Avenue
Pacific Grove CA 93950, 375-7226

Change of Addresses

Kurt Brux & Patti Fashing
701 Las Casitas Dr., Salinas CA 93905-1291
Judy Higginson
1515 Shasta Dr., Apt. 2205, Davis CA 95616
Arlene Guest
PO Box 263, Vermont 05045-0263

THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL DONORS

We appreciate your donations on top of basic dues (\$95 for household, \$65 for single, 50 year member - no dues)

Sojourner Truth Level

Marianne Gawain \$235

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Level

Gillian Taylor & Peter Nuemeier \$155

Ann Clifton (50 Year Member) \$150

Susan B. Anthony Level

Barbara Baldock & Phil Butler \$105

LWV Education Fund Donors

Robin Tokmakian \$135 (poll worker fee)

Dennis & Susan Mar \$105

Janet Brennan (50 Year Member) \$100

Diana Martinetto \$100

Bob Evans \$135 (poll worker fee)

Roberta Myers \$135 (poll worker fee)

Kneale & Jean Marshall \$100

Susan Ganzhorn \$50 / Kalah Bumba \$35 (poll worker fee) / Anne Bell \$25

Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund Donors

Julie Tucker \$60 / Anne Herendeen \$35 / Betty Matterson \$35

☞ **LWVMC General Fund Donors** ☞

Mary Adams \$85 / Harriet Mitteldorf \$85 / Sherry Mermis \$65 / Amy Anderson & George Somero \$55 / Howard & Linda Fosler \$55 / Janet Bruman \$35 / Kathleen Dale \$35 / Lorita Fisher \$35 / Don & Frances Gaver \$35 / Nancy Green \$35 / Tamara Harris \$35 / Mary Julien \$35 / Karen S. Kauffman \$35 / Janet Mooers \$35 / George Riley \$35 / Ann Smallwood \$35 / Jeanne Turner \$35 / Jean Stallings \$10

☞ **Election Poll Worker Fee Donations** ☞

A total of \$1,645 was earned and donated to the LWVMC by our dedicated volunteers!

Beverly Bean / Anne Bell / Beth Benoit / Kathleen Bonner / Janet Brennan / Max Chaplin / Linda Deutsch / MaryEllen Dick / Jean Donnelly / Colette Ereca-Norris / Robert Evans / Patti Fashing / Alice Ann Glenn / Tamara Harris / Mary Haredeen / Judy Higgerson / Troy Ishikawa / Beverly Kreps / Judy Lind / Dennis Mar / Roberta Myers / Marilyn Maxner / Candace McCarthy / Anton Prange / Lynn Santos / Suzanne Schmidt / Sylvia Shih / Darrold Skerritt

Lisa Hoivik, LHoivik@comcast.net

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Smart Voter / Voters Edge

Vacant: Volunteer Needed

LWVMC The VOTER

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LWVMC Voter Editor ReginaDoyle@aol.com



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LWVMC 2016 Calendar



SEPTEMBER

Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Thursday, 8 September, 12 noon

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

Contact: **George Riley**, 645-9914

GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

LWVMC Board Meeting

Monday, 12 September, 5:00pm

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

Contact: **Janet Brennan**, 659-2090

JanetB@montereybay.com

Lunch & Learn with the League

Wednesday, 14 September, 12 noon

"Pros and Cons of Measure Z - Ban Fracking in Monterey County"

Contact: **George Riley**, 645-9914, GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

OCTOBER

Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Thursday, 13 October, 12 noon

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

Contact: **George Riley**, 645-9914

GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

LWVMC Board Meeting

Monday, 10 October, 5:00pm

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

Contact: **Janet Brennan**, 659-2090

JanetB@montereybay.com

Lunch & Learn with the League

Wednesday, 12 October, 12 noon

"Pros & Cons"

Contact: **Dennis Mar**, 372-9388, DennisRMar@yahoo.com