

# LWV THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARIN COUNTY

VOLUME XXXV ISSUE VI

JULY/AUGUST 2018

## MEMBER MEETINGS



**MONDAY July 9**  
**Conference Room #F-138**  
**11:30-11:45 coffee and**  
**conversation**  
**11:45-1:15 program**

**Time for more Q&A**



**Speaker: Dr. Sean Peisert**

**“ELECTION SECURITY: CAN WE  
KEEP OUR VOTING SYSTEMS  
SAFE?”**

As the November mid-term elections draw near, the national news continues to cover concerns around the security of our vote. Are these concerns valid? In today's political environment, it is not too far-fetched to anticipate that there will be those who will raise the specter of outside tampering with the vote. Understanding vulnerabilities and the steps needed to protect the vote provides a basis for assessing any claims of tampering.

Plan to attend the July 9 Monthly Members' Meeting, hosted by the Governance/Voter Service Committee, to learn more about what you don't know, and need to know, about securing the vote.

**See p. 2 for more program details and speaker's background**

**MONDAY August 6**  
**Conference Room #F-138**  
**11:30-11:45 coffee and conversation**  
**11:45-1:15 program**  
**To be Announced**

**Watch for an e-blast with program details**



The 2018 League of Women Voters' national convention is in Chicago, at the end of June. Board members Laurie Nardone and Linda Jackson are Marin's representatives to the convention this year.

[Convention 2018 | League Management Site](#)

The list of topics gives a preview of the voting and policy happenings across the country:

- Redistricting
- National popular vote (i.e., no electoral college)
- Kids in Climate Change lawsuit
- Gun Safety
- ERA (it's back!)
- Youth Vote
- Immigration
- Civility and respect

The keynote speaker is Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour* about the fight to ratify the 19th amendment. Add this to your book list!

Look for a complete Convention2018 report in the September newsletter



## MORE DETAILS—JULY MEMBER MEETING

### *“ELECTION SECURITY: CAN WE KEEP OUR VOTING SYSTEMS SAFE?”*

As the November mid-term elections draw near, the national news continues to cover concerns around the security of our vote. Are these concerns valid? In today’s political environment, it is not too far-fetched to anticipate that there will be those who will raise the specter of outside tampering with the vote. Understanding vulnerabilities and the steps needed to protect the vote provides a basis for assessing any claims of tampering.

A recent report issued by the Brennan Center for Justice, “Securing Elections from Foreign Interference”, suggests the two most critical parts of America’s election infrastructure are at risk: (1) voting machines, which could be hacked to cast doubt on the integrity of vote tallies, or (2) change the voter registration databases, which could be manipulated to block voters and cause disorder when citizens attempt to vote.

Plan to attend the July 9 Monthly Members’ Meeting, hosted by the Governance/Voter Service Committee, to learn more about what you don’t know, and need to know, about securing the vote.

Our speaker, Dr. Sean Peisert, is in the forefront of this research, serving as:

**Chief Cybersecurity Strategist** Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC)

**Associate Adjunct Professor**, Dept. of Computer Science, University of California, Davis

**Associate Adjunct Professor**, Dept. of Public Health Sciences, University of California, Davis School of Medicine

**Staff Scientist**, Data Science and Technology Dept., Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Dr. Peisert’s research and development interests cover a broad cross-section of usable and useful computer and network security solutions. In recent years, his R&D has focused on developing security techniques that improve and enable the use of distributed, high-performance, and cloud computing resources to conduct scientific research, and improving the secure functioning of power grid control systems.

Nancy Bell, Governance/Voter Service



KEEP UP WITH LWV  
ACTIVITIES ON THE  
LEAGUE BLOG -  
[lww.org/blog](http://lww.org/blog)

### A SAMPLE FROM THE BLOG THAT APPEARED ON 6/25/18

#### Policymakers Focus on Immigration Reform and Family Separation

[Jessica Jones Capparell](#)

Immigration was the major policy focus of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Trump Administration, and most Americans last week. The U.S. House voted on legislation, and President Trump signed an Executive Order around family detention at our borders.

On Thursday, the U.S. House failed to pass [H.R. 4760, the Securing America’s Future Act of 2018](#). This legislation, sponsored by Judiciary Chairman, Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), focused on militarizing our borders. It also failed to provide a pathway to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of Dreamers or address the issue of uniting immigrant families at our borders. Another piece of legislation, [H.R. 6136](#), a compromise bill put together by House Republican leadership, was pulled before a scheduled vote.

THESE BLOG POSTS ARE WRITTEN BY THE LWVUS  
STAFF



## Governance/Voter Service Committee

### “RAMPING UP FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION...WE NEED YOUR HELP!”



The League of Women Voters’ “Making Democracy Work” campaign is taking a sharp focus on empowering voters for the upcoming November elections. In Marin County, the League’s Governance/Voter Service Committee is where most of this work takes place providing services to voters, including voter registration, sponsoring candidate debates, and performing impartial analyses of ballot measures.

The Committee needs your help!

As we speak, work is underway to create teams for:

- Pros & Cons – ballot issue research, analyses and public presentations
- Candidate Forums – the coordination and running of candidate panels where they can express their positions

In the next few weeks the committee will send out details explaining the duties for each team and the time commitment.

While November seems a long time away, there is no time to lose. Marin County candidate and ballot measure filings for the November ballot will open mid-July and close mid-August. Several ballot measures have already been submitted and accepted. Governance/Voter Service committee members are monitoring these developments on an ongoing basis.

If you have any interest in signing up for of these teams to help empower Marin County voters, please contact: Lynn Dooley  
[lasdooley@comcast.net](mailto:lasdooley@comcast.net)

Please include:

- Your name
- Your preferred phone number
- Your email address
- And if you have a preference, state Pros & Cons or Candidate Forums

Meanwhile, stay tuned for more detailed information about the teams, coming to you in the next few weeks.

Thank you for your support!!

Nancy Bell, Governance/Voter Service



## Welcome Sue Ream to the Board of Directors of LWVMC!

**At the June meeting Sue Ream was appointed to the LWVMC Board.**

Sue was born and raised in Marin County, attended Sir Francis Drake High School and the College of Marin. After graduating from the University of Washington with a BS in Psychology, she returned to Marin and has resided in Fairfax and San Anselmo. Prior to retiring in 2017, Sue worked for 40 years in the San Francisco advertising industry, most recently as Partner and Senior Vice President/Media Director at H&L Partners. Sue also attended UCB Extension attaining certificates in Marketing, Market Research and Advertising. During her advertising tenure Sue channeled her love of sharing knowledge by conducting classes in Media and Advertising through her consultancy, Media Matters, teaching at UCB Extension, and spearheading the summer internship program at the agency. Sue currently serves on the board of Marin Literacy Program as Treasurer and is a commissioner on the Marin Library Commission. Upon joining the League, Sue also attends the Education Committee meetings to further her commitment in promoting education and literacy for all. In her spare time, Sue can be found in the kitchen experimenting with new recipes, working on her family genealogy or planning her next travel destination.



## TRANSPORTATION/ LAND USE/ HOUSING COMMITTEE

At our May meeting, we discussed the letter the League will send to the Golden Gate

Bridge District with our comments and suggestions for development of the new Bettini Transit Center.

The District is holding its next public meeting in June.

The Transit Center Ad-Hoc Committee, which is headed by our Kevin Hagerty and includes Linda Jackson, sent a letter to its constituent groups for suggestions for letters they will send to the District by the May 18 deadline. Concepts to be considered include the need for the new center to be multi-modal—it must work with all local transit providers; there must be good circulation around the site (traffic congestion is a major concern); the focus on community input must be kept paramount.

Update: The League's detailed letter went out May 13. The District's public meeting was held June 12. It was clear the District had listened to the suggestions from the constituent groups: new locations were presented, replacing those the District presented at its earlier meeting, and many suggestions on related issues were included in the District's materials. There will be two more opportunities for public input, the next coming in September. (for more details, visit the Bridge website at [www.goldengate.org/SRTC](http://www.goldengate.org/SRTC))

Linda issued a call to action by board members to speak before their city/town councils in May or June in support of the growing need for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs). They would speak on "Items Not on the Agenda", and she will supply supporting materials, including sample statements to make. Six board members agreed to speak; I'll call other League members to find more participants.

Betty Pagett and Linda Jackson attended the county-sponsored public meeting in West Marin regarding the process of turning the old Coast Guard Station site into affordable housing, an action strongly supported by local residents. They were very critical of how the county ran the meeting, and Betty had drafted a letter

to the county critical of the process. Because Julie Monson lives in West Marin, she was shown the letter but felt it was too strong but agreed to work on a new draft with them. Then, after she heard that local residents were as critical as Betty and Linda, she supported the final draft. The board approved the letter.

In June we had an introductory meeting with Alan Burr, who joined the Marin Community Foundation as Director of Housing and Community Lending two years ago. He spends a majority of his time on grantmaking activities, and also manages MCF's loan program, which targets Marin County nonprofits. His affordable-housing grant budget is \$2 million per year. Among the current grants are those for Homeward Bound and a CLAM house purchase.

The local, chronic homeless problem is potentially solvable, but the affordable-housing (AH) problem is more difficult. Every new multi-unit development should include some new AH. The Victory Village project has had strong public support, but a delay in the start of construction, due in part to the drawn-out approval process, has contributed to an increase in construction costs. (Update: gap funding support for the project has been approved by the County and MCF, which, with additional potential funding from the developer, Tamalpais Pacific, will put the project on track for a 2018 construction start.)

Looking forward, Opening Doors Marin (formerly known as the Marin Chronic Homeless Action Task Force) is a new group focusing on ending chronic homelessness in Marin with efforts that will include new AH along with homeless housing projects. Habitat for Humanity, following the successful completion of its 4th Street project in Novato, is actively looking for a new Marin site for its affordable homeownership model. Two projects on the horizon are the Whistlestop /Eden Housing collaboration at the BioMarin site in San Rafael (54 units of affordable senior housing) and the potential conversion of Coast Guard property in Point Reyes Station to AH (36 homes).

We are facing issues of political will as well as the financing need. Local funding plays an important role and is a major influencer in federal funding. The (continued on p. 5)



## NEWS FROM THE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### Immigration, local concerns

Two California laws that regulate cooperation between law enforcement and ICE are mentioned in a February 2018 report by the Canal Alliance titled, *Does my Jail Cooperate with ICE?* The laws are the **TRUTH Act (AB 2792)**-effective Jan 1, 2017) and the **California Values Act (SB54)**-effective Jan 1, 2018). The above report can be reviewed on the Canal Alliance website [www.canalalliance.org](http://www.canalalliance.org). Copies of how the Sheriff's department interacts with ICE can be found on the Marin Sheriff website at [www.marinsheriff.org](http://www.marinsheriff.org).

### Federal Immigration Legislative update as of June 21, 2018

The League of Women Voters of the United States sent a letter on June 19, 2018, to the members of the U.S. House of Representatives opposing two bills on immigration. The bills are the **H.R.4760 Securing America's Future Act of 2018**- Recorded vote 6/21/2018. This bill failed 193-231, 190 Democrats opposed and 41 Republicans opposed. The **Ryan compromise to protect Dreamers**, the second bill, was postponed on 6/21/18, while provisions are added that could potentially increase support allowing it to pass to the Senate.

Kira Skomer, Justice

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA



Sign up to take action on key issues in CA!

[lwvc.org/news/sign-take-action-key-issues-ca](http://lwvc.org/news/sign-take-action-key-issues-ca)

Join our grassroots action network to advocate on the issues you care about in your community.

Sign up to receive our Action Alerts today!

[lwvc.org/stay-informed](http://lwvc.org/stay-informed)

What are we working on?

Check out the legislation we are supporting or opposing in our Bill Status Report.

[ctweb.capitoltrack.com](http://ctweb.capitoltrack.com)



Wednesday, October 24, 2018

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Marin Center Exhibit Hall

**LWVMC BOOTH**  
**Volunteers needed**  
**Two-hour shifts**

**Email Ann Batman if you would like to help**  
**[abatman229@aol.com](mailto:abatman229@aol.com)**

(continued from p. 4)

support of local jurisdictions through favorable AH policies is important to attract developers.

Dave Coury brought us up to date on the federally required Assessment of Fair Housing being conducted by the county. The Board of Supervisors is hearing from staff an update on the AFH work-plan tonight (June 20). HUD regulations, adopted in 2015, called for robust public engagement, but no public meetings or discussion have been held. Apparently, the county is afraid of a backlash against Fair Housing. The BOS will take no action tonight, and the AFH process will continue at least until 2019. We need more relevant local participation.

Judy Binsacca, T/LU/H



League of Women Voters of Marin County  
4340 Redwood Hwy. Suite F-133  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**Officers:**

Vice President: Ann Batman  
Secretary: Doug Cooper  
Treasurer: Laurie Nardone

**Directors:**

Nancy Bell  
Judy Binsacca  
Jackie Dagg  
Robin Diederich  
Kevin Hagerty  
Linda Jackson  
Anne Layzer  
Sue Ream  
Suki Sennett  
Kira Skomer  
Ann Wakeley

Through study and action, we work every day to educate citizens on the important issues that impact all of us.  
The goal of the LWV is to empower citizens to shape better communities. We invite you to join us. Visit us at [marinlwy.org](http://marinlwy.org)

## C A L E N D A R

### JULY

Friday 9:30	6	Governance - Not this month
Monday 11:30	9	Member Meeting - Conference Room See p. 1 & 2
Tuesday 10:00	10	Transportation/ Land Use/Housing
Wed. 11:30	11	Board Meeting - Not this month
Thursday 10:00	12	Justice - Not this month
Tuesday 10:00	17	Membership Relations Committee
Tuesday 11:30	17	Communications - Not this month
Thursday 9:45	19	Education & Libraries - Not this month
Thursday 1:00	19	Healthcare - Not this month

### AUGUST

Friday 9:30	3	Governance - Not this month
Monday 11:30	6	Member Meeting - Conference Room
Wed. 11:30	8	Board Meeting
Thursday 10:00	9	Justice
Tuesday 10:00	14	Transportation/ Land Use/Housing
Thursday 9:45	16	Education & Libraries
Thursday 1:00	16	Healthcare
Tuesday 10:00	21	Membership Relations Committee
Tuesday 11:30	21	Communications - Not this month

All meetings are In the League office, 4340 Redwood Hwy. Suite F 133, San Rafael, unless otherwise noted. Conference room is F 138.