

Monthly Meetings Continue on Zoom

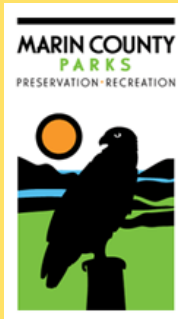
**Monday, January 10
11:30am - 1:00pm**

January Monthly Meeting Parks Measure A is Back for Renewal!



Speaker: Max Korten, Director and General Manager of Marin County Parks

In 2012, voters approved Measure A, a quarter cent sales tax to support parks, open space, and agricultural lands across Marin. The sunset date for this tax is March 31, 2022.



Plans are currently underway to place a measure on the June 2022 ballot to extend Measure A.

Join us on January 10 when Max Korten presents the proposed changes to the ordinance and expenditure plan.

This will be our first step in forming a special Measure A Study Group. For more information about Measure A and how to join the study group, please see the article on page 2.

[Register Here](#)

**Monday, February 7
11:30am - 1:00pm**

February Monthly Meeting



National and Local League Program Planning

**Join other League members to
decide our priorities for the next two years!**

We will review the LWVUS recommended program priorities for 2022-2024 that comprise the Campaign for Making Democracy Work, and provide our input.

The LWVUS board will review all responses from Leagues across the nation then send its final Recommended Program for 2022-2025 for review. The program planning process culminates in the delegates' adoption of the nationwide program at our 2022 convention.

The LWVMC board will follow a similar process. It will take recommendations from members at this meeting and propose a program for 2022-2023 to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in June.

[Register Here](#)

January Monthly Meeting



WHY MEASURE A IS SO IMPORTANT

In 2012, voters approved Measure A, which authorized a countywide, one-quarter cent sales tax to support parks, open space, and agricultural land across Marin. Measure A sunsets on March 31, 2022. A community survey conducted last summer found that 80% of respondents favored extending the measure. With these results, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) directed the Marin County Parks Department staff to work toward preparing a renewal measure for the June 2022 ballot.

This tax has generated an average of \$14 million per year over the last nine years. The funds have been used for a range of county open space and parks projects including the following:

- ◆ wildfire fuel reduction
- ◆ sea level rise adaptation
- ◆ county parks maintenance and improvement
- ◆ equity programs to ensure access to recreation opportunities
- ◆ farmland preservation and acquisition
- ◆ assistance to cities, towns, and special districts for management of parks, open space, and recreation

The Parks Department is in the process of developing a revised ordinance and expenditure plan for Measure A. The biggest proposed change is a reduction in the share allocated to agriculture, from 20% to 10%. The proposed plan has proven to be very controversial. Some members of the public have called for eliminating the allocation for agriculture entirely, while others, including several supervisors, have objected to reducing funds for farmland protection.

Further revisions to the plan will be presented to the Parks Commission and Board of Supervisors January 25 and February 1. The deadline for submitting final language for the June ballot is March 11.

We are delighted that Max Korten, Director of Marin County Parks, will be our speaker on January 10. This is a wonderful opportunity for our League members to learn more about plans for Measure A.

MEASURE A STUDY GROUP

Because of the critical nature of this measure, our League is forming a special Measure A Study Group. We believe it is vital that we have a good understanding of the impact of Measure A funds and what is proposed going forward. Please contact us if you are interested in joining the study group.

Ann Wakeley
email: annwakeley4@gmail.com

Nancy Bell
email: nancyj.bell@comcast.net

WHAT IS PROGRAM PLANNING?

Program planning is the grassroots process of recommending and selecting governmental issues for study and agreement in reaching a position. During January and February 2022, local and state Leagues will conduct program planning and make program recommendations in a general membership meeting or a board meeting. Leagues are also asked to share information on how their work will impact the Campaign for Making Democracy Work[®] as well as identify LWVUS positions that they intend to use in education and advocacy. This is a hallmark of the League of Women Voters grassroots' role in study and action.

League program is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward. Every two years in the months leading up to convention, Leagues around the country meet to review LWVUS program and propose issues for study or action.

[More information about program planning](#)

A message from Virginia Kase Solomon, Chief Executive Officer, LWVUS

Happy Holidays!

As I sit back and reflect on the year we've had, I'm blown away by everything we've been through. A health care crisis, attempts to disempower voters, a new administration, racial injustice — it's a year that has challenged us physically and psychologically.

Despite this, we have not stopped striving to build a better, more just country. I'm thinking of just a few of the things I've seen:

- Activists across the US risking arrest so that all Americans have the power to cast their vote;
- Redistricting advocates working to make sure our new maps reflect the people's needs, not politicians';
- People taking to the streets to march for reproductive rights; and
- Anti-racist activists fighting for racial justice in the courts, on the street, and even from home.

As the late, great civil rights activist Bob Moses, who passed this last April, said, "Do what you think actually needs to be done, set an example, and hope your actions will click with someone else." This year, you did what needed to be done, setting the stage for an even more dynamic 2022.

[For the full message click here](#)

Our Voter Service Teams



Need YOU in 2022!

We are recruiting members to empower Marin County voters, focusing on the Voter's Choice Act election changes, the Primary Election: on June 7 & General Election: on November 8.

Read on to find out how you can participate on one or more of the following teams:

- Voter Education & Outreach
Pros & Cons (ballot measures)**
- Voter's Edge
Candidate Forums**

NEW IN 2022! VOTER EDUCATION & OUTREACH TEAM



The *NEW* Voter Education & Outreach Team will educate voters about the voting process and encourage them to participate. This is at the very heart of our mission to *Empower Voters*.

We will support the Marin County Elections Department's outreach work to educate voters about changes coming with the implementation of the Voter's Choice Act (VCA). One of the messages used by counties around the state to engage voters and help them learn about the positive changes of the VCA is More Days, More Ways! We'll spread this important information using messages created by our county elections department!

Join this team to do this exciting work! You will learn about the VCA voting process changes firsthand and then be a part of a critical effort to educate voters – your family, friends and community.

Find more information on our website: Marinlww.org/vca-vote-centers and the Marin County Elections Department website: MarinVotes.org

Questions? Ready to sign up? Contact Robin Diederich at VoterService@marinlww.org



VOTERS EDGE WEBSITE TEAM

Want to become familiar with candidates in local elections through direct contact, primarily via email and data entry? If so, volunteer for the Voter's Edge team!

The **Voter's Edge website** is a comprehensive, unbiased online voter guide, used by more than 2 million Californians in 2020. It is a project of the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund and Maplight, which provides design and web structure. All eligible **candidates** are invited to post a profile on Voter's Edge. **Voters** can access their full, personalized ballot and get in-depth information on candidates, measures, and who supports and funds them; check where, when, and how to vote; and keep track of their choices to make voting easier, simply by entering their address.

Tasks and Commitment: Under the leadership of the Voter's Edge Marin County Coordinator, you will research candidates' contact information, invite them to participate, and follow-up with them, as needed. The amount of time required will depend on the number of contests, candidates, and team volunteers. We typically begin work three months prior to Election Day, so hope to ascertain and train volunteers in January and February in preparation for the June primary.

For more information, contact Becky Bingea, at: votersedge@marinlww.org

YOU CAN IMPACT VOTER TURNOUT IN 2022!



Join the 2022 Pros & Cons team and deliver front line information to the Marin voting public. The 2020 election taught us we can be effective in reaching voters virtually. We presented to over 500 individuals on Zoom and our YouTube videos received over 4,000 views!

The 2022 Primary and Midterm elections will be vitally important. The public will be relying on LWVMC to deliver an unbiased perspective on all the issues and measures on the ballot.

While we still do not know what those issues and measures will be, we need to prepare for this important work. Our goal is to line up our team by the end of January. The bulk of the work will take place in March/April and again in August/September (NOTE: this is a limited time commitment).

Our team will consist of

- Researchers to digest all sides of each issue and prepare a script,
- Presenters to deliver the message to the public, probably via Zoom,
- One or two coordinators to work with the organizations to schedule the presentations,
- And, a couple of Zoom helpers.

The bottom line is this is a fun way to participate in our League and our democracy. Plus, you'll get to know your fellow League members and have some fun. Please let me know how you'd like to participate. We'll hold our kick-off meeting with more details toward the end of January.

Thank you!

Lynn Dooley prosandcons@marinlwv.org 415-722-9017

RECRUITING CANDIDATE FORUM TEAM MEMBERS!



2022 is going to be a banner year in terms of local elections. Races will include Board of Supervisors, city and town councils, school districts, fire districts, water districts, and more!

Candidate forums, hosted by the LWVMC, allow candidates to answer questions from the public, as well as express their positions on key local issues. For the voters, this is the best opportunity to understand how candidates will represent their interests and those of their community.

Our League is committed to providing fair, nonpartisan candidate forums that are open to the general public. In 2022 we will host, moderate and co-sponsor candidate forums for key contested, local elections, both during the June primaries and November general election.

To meet this challenge, we are in the process of forming a robust team to fulfill the roles of
Moderator Timekeeper Question Reviewer

Not only will you learn a lot as a member of the team, this is an opportunity to work with fellow League members in making our democracy work by empowering voters. If you are interested in learning more about the candidate forum team, contact Nancy Bell at forums@marinlwv.org today.

Thank you, Nancy Bell 415-377-0830

The 2021-2022 Student Elections Ambassador Program is in full swing!

The League of Women Voters of Marin County is again partnering with the Marin County Elections Department and the Marin County Office of Education to recruit and train students to serve as Student Elections Ambassadors. The program, which was founded in 2018, has three main objectives:



- ◆ To preregister and register Marin County students to vote
- ◆ To expand the Marin County Department of Elections Student Poll Workers Program
- ◆ To highlight the importance of youth engagement and participation in local, state, and federal elections.

We currently have 17 Marin Student Ambassadors who will be registering their peers to vote in both the Primary Election and the November Midterms. Our next Ambassador training is February 2nd at 4:15pm.

Our goal is to have at least one student from every high school in Marin. If you know a high school student or recent high school grad who is civic minded and would like to participate, please email us at youthambassadors@marinlww.org or have them register at MarinVotes.org.



More information about the program and an application form can be found at <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/rv/voter-resources/student-elections-ambassador-program>

Pam Cook

A Big Win!

LWVC Education Fund Wins Eight National Awards for Get-Out-the-Vote Efforts In the 2020 election

The LWVC Education Fund earned grants to design and execute a cutting-edge digital get-out-the-vote campaign designed to increase voter turnout in 18-24 year olds with a specific focus on young Black and Latino/a/x voters. Working with our partners at Mixte Communications, the TikTok and Snapchat campaign centered the voices of diverse youth content creators to drive their peers to vote. Wildly exceeding even the most ambitious goals, the campaign reached more than six million people and provided a case study in the effectiveness of meeting youth voters where they are, in ways that resonate with them to drive voting and civic engagement.

The campaign has since received a total of eight national awards from the Public Relations Society of America, Hispanic Public Relations Association, and Platinum PR Awards. [For a complete list of awards](#)



League of Women Voters of Marin County
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Officers:

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Robin Diederich
Kevin Hagerty
Vida Harband
Linda Jackson
Anne Layzer
Barbara Strong
Cindy Wagner
Nancy Weber

Justice Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 13 10:00am on Zoom

Speaker: Joana Castro Simonini, Managing Attorney for
Canal Alliance



Joana earned her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, majoring in History, in 2002 and her J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 2008. During law school, she worked as an intern and clinical student at Canal Alliance focusing on U Visa cases and as a fellow, clinical student and research assistant at the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies at Hastings, where she gained extensive experience in asylum law. After law school and prior to joining Canal Alliance, Joana was an intern at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague and worked as a contract attorney for a private firm in Oakland, CA, gaining experience in removal defense. Joana joined Canal Alliance in December 2014 to represent children and youth before EOIR, the asylum office and USCIS. She also worked on U and T Visas cases, VAWA, Naturalization, DACA, Adjustment of Status and TPS applications, family petitions and consular processing. Joana became Managing Attorney in 2017 and directly supervises the attorneys and DOJs. Working closely with the Operations Manager and Supervising Attorney, she determines and oversees the department's legal and operational strategies. Born in Brazil, Joana is a native Portuguese speaker and is fluent in Spanish and English.

[REGISTER HERE](#)