

Monthly Meetings Continue on Zoom

JULY MONTHLY MEETING MONDAY, JULY 19, 11:30 AM

Getting to YES on Housing



In the next 18 months, Marin County and its 11 cities and towns will be required to develop a Housing Element Plan for 2023-2031 that will identify how those jurisdictions will accommodate the State mandated housing allocations.

Mr. Pendoley will review what a housing element is, why it is important and how residents can use it to promote new and affordable housing for their communities. He will talk about the required Annual Housing Report which identifies how much housing each jurisdiction was produced and whether jurisdictions are meeting their housing goals and, if not, what can be done about it.

He will review with us what is involved in the housing approval process and what residents can do to ensure housing gets build to meet their community needs, using the Northgate Mall as a case study.

Finally, Bob will share what the League's TLUH Committee is doing to monitor and participate in this process.

The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer period.

Bob Pendoley's background:

Mr. Pendoley has been a professional planner for 37 years. In his career he served as Planning Director for Solano County, the City San Rafael and the Town of Corte Madera. Bob is an active member of the League's Transportation, Land Use and Housing (TLUH) Committee. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Marin Environmental Housing Collaborative and is an active member of the Marin Organizing Committee. He has been a San Rafael resident since 1989.



From the LWVMC Education Foundation

The Education Foundation’s spring campaign raised a whopping \$5,500 for College of Marin’s Student Emergency Assistance Fund. With matching funds of \$5,000, we are sending \$10,500 to COM for this program which has been so helpful in supporting students to continue their education. We thank our members and friends who donated so generously to this campaign.

At the Foundation’s June trustee meeting, we also agreed to make a grant of \$7,500 to University Prep! a program at Canal Alliance that provides comprehensive tutoring, tech support and counsel-

ing to selected students, giving them the experiences and learning they will need to go to college. This spring 18 graduating high school seniors in this program will be heading to college next fall.

The Education Foundation’s assets, originally established by the Dorothy Belcher bequest, have grown the last few years, making it possible for us to make these grants. Four years ago, we decided to conduct a spring campaign as something of an experiment with the intention of making larger grants than our estimated assets could provide. Our first grant was to College Marin for a program that provided transportation cards for students with financial need. Last year, as Covid hit and severely impacted students at COM, we agreed to support the Student Emergency Assistant Fund, as we have again this year.

Educational Foundation trustees: Julie Monson, President; Ann Wakeley, Ann Batman, Scott McKown, Kay Noguchi, Elaine Bigiani, Laurie Nar-

REDISTRICTING IN MARIN

The County of Marin is on its way to initiating the redistricting process. At its May 15 meeting [staff provides](#) an initial overview of what to expect in the coming months.

The County's demographer estimates the 2020 census will show population changes within supervisors’ districts requiring adjustments to district maps. There is an expected underpopulation in District 4 and slight overpopulation in Districts 2, 3, and 5.

The mandatory criteria for District composition beyond balanced population are ranked as follows in order of priority:

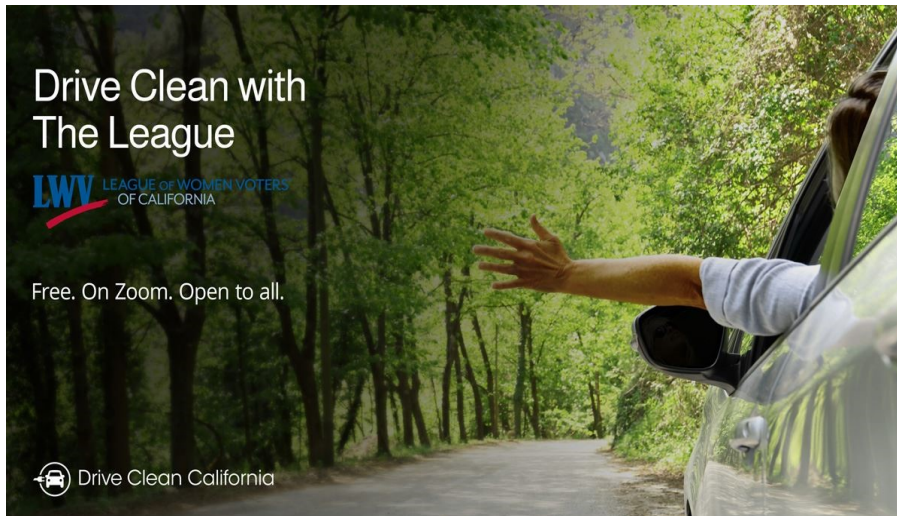
1. Contiguity
2. Unifying neighborhoods and communities of interest
3. Unifying cities and [Census Demographic Profiles](#)
4. Easily identifiable and understandable boundaries
5. Compactness

Communities of Interest (item two on the list above) are populations that share common social or economic interests, so should be included in a single district for purposes of effective and fair representation. The high emphasis on Communities of Interest calls for a robust outreach program inviting public participation to identify communities.

A ten person Ad Hoc Working Group is being formed. Members are being drawn from the [Marin Election Advisory Committee](#) and the [Community Development Block Grant Priority Setting Committee](#). The Working Group, besides serving as a community champion to raise awareness of the County's redistricting initiative, will provide feedback to the County's outreach efforts.

The Working Group membership and redistricting website are expected to be available soon. More about local redistricting can be found under Redistricting-2021 at marinlww.org.

Scott McKown, Redistricting



DRIVE CLEAN WITH THE LEAGUE

Come Learn Everything You Wanted to Know About Electric Cars!!!

IT'S FREE. ON ZOOM. OPEN TO ALL.

**Saturday, July 10, 5:00-6:00PM
or
Wednesday, July 14, 6:00-7:00PM**

League of Women Voters of California, together with Drive Clean California, is co-sponsoring "Drive Clean with the League," a tell-a-friend campaign designed to greatly increase awareness of the importance and benefits of EV driving.

During the one-hour ZOOM event, experts from Drive Clean California, EV drivers and climate and clean air enthusiasts will share their interest in clean air and a cool planet.

The event will feature electric vehicle and e-bike experts:

- Owners will share their experiences, the latest trends, vehicles, costs, and considerations when moving to electric
- Experts discussing government incentives, solutions for residents who live in apartments and additional financial incentives for disadvantaged communities
- Debunking of common EV myths and answers to your questions

Invite everyone you know. Word-of-mouth is the best way to accelerate EV adoption, and Drive Clean is designed with this in mind. Share through email or post on social media. Your guests and their friends can then invite their social media circles.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP.](#)



News & Views: Campaign for Single-Payer Healthcare in California

On May 4 our Health & Human Services Committee hosted a Monday Members Meeting on proposed legislation for a single-payer universal healthcare program in California. Our speakers were Ash Kalra, State Assemblymember (San Jose), and Mike McGuire, State Senator (Marin to the Oregon border), main author and co-sponsor, respectively, of AB-1400, the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act. Both speakers were marvelously enthusiastic and informative, covering way more than we can hope to relay here.

In brief, AB-1400 would create a program, CalCare, to provide comprehensive universal single-payer healthcare coverage and a cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the State. CalCare would seek to pool revenue streams from existing Federal and State healthcare programs (e.g., Medicare, Medical, Workers Compensation) into one system. This would require getting Federal waivers and likely some changes in California law. CalCare would also expand coverage to include dental, vision and hearing care; all prescription drugs; and long-term care in licensed facilities or at home. An important aspect is that AB-1400 “would prohibit specified provisions of this act from becoming operative until the Secretary of California Health and Human Services gives written notice to the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the Assembly that the CalCare Trust Fund has the revenues to fund the costs of implementing the act.”

At the time of our meeting, AB-1400 had just been tabled in order to specify funding mechanisms before being re-introduced in the 2022 legislative session. Assemblyman Kalra explained that he had hoped to pass AB-1400 as the first of a pair of bills, the first laying the groundwork for obtaining Federal waivers, and the second to come in 2022 to detail funding sources and mechanisms. Because of Covid-19, how-

ever, committee reviews and expert analysis (e.g., by the [California Health Benefits Review Program \(CHBRP\)](#)) had been so delayed that Assembly passage in 2021 appeared doubtful. The [CHBRP report](#) was released one day later on April 22 and concluded, “The meta review and other studies suggest that single-payer health care would reduce financial burden, increase efficiency, and result in net savings.”

On June 15 a rally for single-payer care was held on the steps of the Capitol in Sacramento. Two of our committee members, Ruth Carter and Brian Stompe, attended and reported that a speaker from the Governor’s office stated that a letter had just been sent to President Biden requesting the needed waivers to establish CalCare. Also, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon agreed to support passage of AB-1400, an important step because in 2017 he blocked Assembly consideration of a similar bill, SB-562, for lack of funding specifics.

So, AB-1400 will return in January with key support, hopefully having obtained needed waivers and with time for needed negotiations with many stakeholders to arrive at financial compromises and specifics. The H&HS Committee will be paying close attention, report back, and prepare to inform voters.

Changing topics somewhat, the caucus on “Health Care: Inequities and Opportunities”, which LWVMC co-sponsored for the June LWVC Convention, received wide praise and was well-attended. [Video](#) and [associated materials](#) from that presentation by Susan Rogers, M.D. are available online. One purpose was to raise interest in restarting the long lapsed LWVC Health Committee. Organizing efforts are proceeding. We hope to have news for you soon.

Jackie Dagg and Doug Cooper for the Health & Human Services Committee - Health@marinlww.org



**Tuesday, July 20
11am on Zoom**

***Marin's Climate
Change Action
Plans***

The Climate Change Committee continues its deeper dive into how climate change directly impacts Marin County.

***Speaker: Christine O'Rourke
Planning Consultant and
Sustainability Coordinator -
Marin Climate &
Energy Partnership***



Marin Climate & Energy Partnership is a countywide partnership that allows partner members to work collaboratively to address each agency's Climate Action Plan.

Christine will share how the quantification of greenhouse gas emissions and implementation of designated strategies will meet state dictated gas reduction requirements.

Please plan to join us on Zoom on the 20th.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



**Thursday,
August 19,
1:00pm on
Zoom**

Ageism in Marin

***Speaker: Linda Jackson, Program
Director of the Aging Action Initiative***



Marin is a wonderful place to work, raise a family and enjoy retirement. At the same time, there are challenges facing people as they age in Marin. Older renters, older African-Americans, and older immigrants face unique challenges.

Ageism makes it harder for all of us, including the youngest and the oldest among us, to live well. Learn about ageism, and how Marin is preparing for the year the first baby boomers celebrate their 80th birthdays.



[REGISTER HERE](#)

Transportation/Land Use/Housing Committee



The Transportation, Land Use and Housing (TLUH) Committee is continuing its efforts in these categories:

Housing

The Committee remains focused on monitoring activities of the County and the eleven cities and towns in Marin regarding their work in the developing their State mandated Housing Elements for 2023-2031. The Committee prepared a letter, approved by the League Board. It is being sent to these jurisdictions to inform them that, as part of the League's support for the development of affordable housing, we will be monitoring the progress of each jurisdiction's Housing Element. Additionally, if the jurisdictions are planning to create a Housing Element Advisory Committee, the League would welcome the appointment one of our local members to serve on that Committee.

The TLUH Committee will also be monitoring new housing proposals as they are being planned and developed. One example is the Northgate Mall housing development project in San Rafael.

TLUH Committee member Bob Pendoley will be giving a presentation, "Getting to Yes on Housing," at the Monthly Members Meeting on July 19.

Transportation

The TLUH Committee is closing monitoring and commenting on the progress of these projects and/or operations:

San Rafael Transit Center

The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District, the project sponsor, recently approved a Draft EIR with the Whistlestop Block option as the

preferred site for the new transit center. This site is the one that the League favored. There will be 45–60-day public review period. The TLUH Committee will review the draft document when it is released at the end of the month and plans to develop a letter with the League's comments pending Board approval.

The Highway 101/580 Connector Project

The TLUH Committee continues to monitor this project. TLUH Committee Acting Chairperson, Kevin Hagerty, serves as the League's representative on the project's Stakeholder Working Group. The Committee also had the project sponsor, the Transportation Authority of Marin's (TAM) staff, provide Committee members with several presentations on Project options. In late June, the TAM Board is scheduled to narrow the nine project options to a fewer number that will be studied in the draft EIR for the project.

SMART

The TLUH Committee continues to monitor the progress of SMART in addressing issues of transparency, accountability, and communication that may have contributed to the failure of last year's sales tax extension measure. The Committee, working together with a similar group from the Sonoma League of Women Voters, has expressed these concerns to the SMART Board in several letters and in a listening session meeting that included some members of the SMART Board and Staff. Additionally, in the last months of 2020, SMART conducted a series of listening forums in Marin and Sonoma Counties that provided opportunities for members of the public to express their interests and concerns.

SMART has begun to make some changes in response to this input. They have stated plans to continue these actions in the next months and to take up others later this year, once they have hired a new General Manager to replace Farhad Mansourian, who is retiring.

Kevin Hagerty, Acting Chairperson, TLUH Committee



VOTER SERVICE

New Election Model for Marin County

On May 25, the Marin County Board of Supervisors gave final approval to the Voter’s Choice Act Implementation Plan. The changes modernize our elections and will start in June 2022. This election model is similar to the process we used in the November 2020 Election and provides greater flexibility and convenience for voters. These are the major components:

- Mailing every voter a ballot
- Expanding in-person early voting
- Providing secure, convenient ballot drop boxes to return ballots
- Allowing voters to cast a ballot at any [VOTE CENTER](#) within their county

We have a new page on our website to educate our members and the public. <https://www.marinlww.org/vca-vote-centers>

Governor Recall – watch this space!

California voters are anticipating the upcoming recall election of Governor Newsom. The date of the election is unknown at press time. We have added a page to our website to keep our members and the public informed on this topic. <https://www.marinlww.org/ca-governor-recall-2021>

All voters will receive a ballot in the mail for this election (2021 law for COVID19 safety). The ballot will have two questions.

In the first question, the voter can vote Yes or No to recall the governor.

In the second question, the voter will have an opportunity to select a replacement candidate.

There will be in-person voting options and secure ballot drop boxes, but the details are not known at this time.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

You can learn about this federal legislation at <https://www.marinlww.org/for-the-people-act> . LWV is putting a lot of energy into passing this critical voting and democracy reform legislation. You can Take Action by calling our Senators at 202-224-3121 or using the LWV Action posted on our website: <https://www.marinlww.org/action-summary>

Have questions about any of our League’s Voter Service work? Want to get more involved? I’d love to hear from you, just send me an email at voterservice@marinlww.org .

Robin Diederich, Voter Service



[MARINLWV.ORG](https://www.marinlww.org)

Take note of our new NEWSROOM and always helpful FOR MEMBERS tabs in our Main Menu! Our GOVERNMENT tab has information to help you find your elected officials or attend local public meetings. Please share our website with family and friends to help empower them as voters and inform them on how to engage in their democracy.

Feedback? Send an email to lwvmc@marinlww.org

Scott McKown & Robin Diederich



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Officers:

President: Ann Wakeley
Co-Vice-president: Sue Ream
Secretary: Laurie Nardone
Treasurer: Laurie Nardone

Directors:

Pat Becker
Becky Bingea
Dee Dee Butori
Doug Cooper

Jackie Dagg
Robin Diederich
Kevin Hagerty
Vida Harband
Linda Jackson

Anne Layzer
Barbara Strong
Cindy Wagner
Nancy Weber

Most League activities will take a break in August. However, committees have set their own schedules so be sure to check the member calendar at marinlwv.org under For Members for up-to-date committee meeting schedules.



HAVE A HAPPY SUMMER!