

VOLUME XXXX ISSUE 6

July/August 2023

May Monthly Meeting Monday, July 10 11:30am-1:00pm on ZOOM



Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Marin County Supervisor and current Board President

At our July Monthly Member meeting, we will welcome Stephanie Moulton-Peters. Among the issues she will cover are the Board of Supervisors' recent actions regarding housing, including

- how the County is addressing the State mandated Housing Element,
- housing in Marin City and
- progress on the county's homelessness issues.

She will also update us on current transportation related issues, including Highway 37 and the proposed County Transportation Plan.

Those attending the meeting will have an opportunity to ask our speaker questions during the program's Q&A period.

REGISTER HERE





history from marginalized peoples' perspectives.

The League traditional

of Women Voters of Marin County lives and meets on the ancestral, lands of the Coast Miwok people.

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Meet Stephanie Moulton-Peters July Monthly Meeting Speaker

Stephanie Moulton-Peters is the Marin County Supervisor for District 3, which includes Sausalito, Floating Homes, Marin City, Tam Valley, Almonte, Mill Valley, Alto-Sutton Manor, Strawberry, Tiburon, and Belve-dere.

Stephanie is dedicated to transparent, responsive, effective, and inclusive government that serves the needs of all constituents.

Stephanie serves on several local and regional boards including the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District, Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) of which she is past Chair, and she is currently Chair of the Marin County-City Sea Level Rise Collaborative, BayWAVE. She also serves on the Marin Housing Authority, Marin Flood and Water Conservation District, and other commissions, boards and subcommittees.

Prior to being elected Supervisor, Stephanie served three terms on the Mill Valley City Council and as Mayor in 2010, 2014 and 2018. She worked at PG&E Company managing environmental regulatory compliance for air, water, and toxic substances and climate change programs.

She is a graduate of Stanford University's Program in Human Biology with concentration in environmental policy. In Summer 2022, she completed the Harvard Kennedy School Program for Senior Executives in Local and State Government. Stephanie and her husband live in Mill Valley, and have two adult sons.

Three Cheers and a Big Thank You to Intern Max Gold!



Robin Dieterich, Max, Pat Becker at 2023 Annual Meeting

Max Gold worked as an intern to support our website maintenance work April – June this year.

Max is a hard worker and we appreciated the opportunity to work with our first college student intern.

Max is transferring from College of Marin to U.C. Santa Cruz this fall and will be majoring in feminist studies.

Gook luck Max! Your future is bright.

Local students from high schools and young adults in Marin County had the opportunity to engage with their mayors and learn about their experiences working in politics at an inspiring Youth Town Hall hosted at the Marin Civic Center on Sunday April 23, 2023. By Alysha Lee

This youth-oriented Town Hall was organized by the Marin County Student Elections Ambassador Program, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Marin County Office of Education, and Marin County Elections Department. It was designed to provide a platform for the community's youth to engage with local government and learn about the roles and responsibilities of local mayors. The event was a great success, with close to 40 people attending and having the chance to ask questions and share their concerns with the

attending and having the chance to ask questions and share their concerns with the mayors.

Student Elections Ambassador Liaisons Alysha Lee and Ella Clark facilitated the day's event. The Youth Town Hall was held on the day after Earth Day and became the perfect way to celebrate.

Alysha Lee, a junior from Novato High said, "Our Youth Town Hall provides young people a voice in shaping the future of our planet and to ensure that policies are in place to protect the environment and safeguard the well-being of future generations." Lee kicked off the event by sharing a video message from the California Secre-



tary of State, Dr. Shirley N. Weber. "Civic engagement - Everywhere you go is important and it is not something that you do once. It is not a destination. It truly is a journey. Because if you are going to be engaged, you should be



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engaged all your life... It is our democracy. It is our freedom. It is our life," Weber said.

After welcoming the attendees, Clark, a senior from Tamalpais High, introduced the panelists for the day. Elected officials from cities across Marin County were present, including Mayor James Lynch from Belvedere, Mayor Charles Lee from Corte Madera, Mayor Chance Cutrano from Fairfax, Mayor Gabe Paulson from Larkspur, Councilmember Stephen Burke from Mill Valley, Mayor Susan Wernick from Novato, Mayor Steve Burdo from San Anselmo, Vice-Mayor Maika Gulati from San Rafael, Mayor Melissa Blaustein from Sausalito, and Mayor Jack Ryan from

Tiburon. Each of them offered valuable advice to the students on how to get involved in local government.

One of the highlights of the event was the Q&A session where the audience members had the opportunity to ask the mayors a range of questions on topics such as sustainable energy and disaster preparedness. The students asked insightful questions such as, "What is one thing that you hope to achieve in your term or something that you're really proud of?" and "What are some of the actions being implemented to help fight against food insecurities in Marin County?"

Mayor Lynch responded to the question about his term, stating, "I think we've made serious progress on encouraging more selflessness in the thinking of our government officials and communities when we are doing policy and we are thinking about others. I think when we are more selfless and more courageous in making decisions to protect the underrepresented, we will be in a better place."



Voter Outreach Presentations Reach 250 Students in the Bay Area By Caroline Foster

"The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it."

These powerful words of civil rights leader John Lewis served as the inspiration for a series of presentations to elementary and middle school students on the importance of voting and the critical role it plays in our democracy. During the 2022-2023 school year, Caroline Foster, a Student Elections Ambassador, and Vida Harband, a member of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Marin County, spoke with students at local schools, including Neil Cummins Elementary School in Corte Madera and Fr. Sauer Academy in San Francisco. In total, Caroline and Vida delivered the voter outreach message to 250 students.

In the presentations, Caroline discussed the role of elections within our democracy and how voting empowers young people to affect change in their communities. Caroline encouraged the students to pre-register to vote before they turn 18. The students participated in a mock election activity, in which they cast votes on issues of interest to them and then received the voting results. Vida Harband discussed her involvement in the League of Women Voters and her personal experiences with voting. Lastly, Caroline emphasized the importance of informed voting by encouraging the students to research propositions and candidate positions through official Voter Information Guides and nonpartisan news sources.

In the next year, Caroline plans to take the voter outreach message to more schools. Hopefully, the presentations will inspire the next generation of voters to cast their ballots and help determine the future of the country and their local communities.





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

Advocating for a Better California

LWVC has co-sponsored several important bills this legislative session. Check out our <u>Bill Status Report</u> to see all bills on which we're taking action. Hear are a few highlights:

ACA 4 (Bryan), the Free the Vote Act would place a measure on the ballot and allow voters to decide if California should amend the state's Constitution to restore voting rights to Californians serving sentences in prison, allowing them to fully participate in our democracy.

SCA 1 (Newman) would place a measure on the ballot to ensure that recall elections for statewide and legislative offices in California are democratic, fair, and free from political manipulation.

AB 764 (Bryan) and AB 1248 (Bryan & Allen) would help ensure that local jurisdictions adopt electoral maps that result in fair representation for all Californians.

You can stay up to date on LWVC work by subscribing to LWVC Communications here: <u>https://secure.everyaction.com/UPMwMpapwU2euVnkNjx0BQ2</u>



Litigation empowers our fight for the issues that matter most to communities: protecting the right to vote, promoting fair and accessible elections, ending big-money corruption, and reinforcing the dignity that people across the country deserve.

ANDERSON, IN — Today, the League of Women Voters of Indiana, Common Cause Indiana, Anderson-Madison County NAACP, and two individual voters, filed a federal lawsuit against the city's Common Council for failing to draw new district maps before the Dec. 31, 2022 redistricting deadline in violation of state and federal law.

JACKSON, MS — Today the League of Women Voters of Mississippi, Disability Rights Mississippi (DRMS), and three Mississippi voters filed a federal lawsuit challenging SB 2358, newly passed legislation that significantly diminishes access to the ballot for Mississippians with disabilities. The plaintiffs are represented by Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), Mississippi Center for Justice, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), ACLU-MS, and Disability Rights Mississippi.

TALLAHASSEE, FL — Today, the League of Women Voters of Florida, represented by Campaign Legal Center (CLC), <u>sued</u> Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody and Secretary of State Cord Byrd to block provisions of Florida's recently enacted omnibus election law that would restrict and penalize basic nonpartisan civic engagement efforts. The law, Senate Bill 7050, directly targets and drastically restricts the ability of nonpartisan civic engagement organizations, like the League of Women Voters of Florida, to engage with voters, violating their right to freedom of speech and association.

For more information about court cases go to Legal Center | League of Women Voters (lwv.org)



& OUTREACH

Summer is finally here! We hope you have some plans to enjoy the season however suits you best – do make sure to recharge yourself because we will be gearing up for the 2024 Presidential Primary and General Elections this fall!

The next election in Marin County is the <u>August 29, 2023 Vote By Mail Special Election</u>. This local election is for residents of the Town of Tiburon only – they are voting to fill a vacancy on their town council. The election is vote by mail only, so there will be no Vote Centers. However, the Marin County Elections Dept office will provide voter assistance and there will be ballot drop boxes available. Ballots will be sent to registered voters July 31. Election information is posted at MarinVotes.org and MarinIwv.org.

Please encourage anyone you know who lives in Tiburon to regis-

ter and vote in this election – local elections are often determined by a small number of votes!

Live in Tiburon and want a lawn sign to promote voting? Send Robin an email at <u>VoterService@marinlwv.org</u>.

Our recent Community Outreach activities included the Celebrating Immigrants in Marin on June 1 and Juneteenth Freedom Festival in Mill Valley on June 17.

We are planning to table at three events in September! Interested in engaging with the community to share voter education and League membership info? Send an email to <u>VoterServ</u>ice@marinlwv.org.



Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy one community event at a time!



Pat Becker with her new collapsible carrier



Sandy Smith & Dee Dee Butori at Junteenth event



Robin Diederich and Pat Beaupre Becker at immigration forum

If you weren't able to attend the LWV Bay Area Council meeting on June 16 that featured a guest speaker and discussion about election issues in the SF Bay Area, then look for the recording on the LWV Bay Area's <u>website</u> or <u>YouTube Channel</u> – great information!

votvotereducation@marinlwv.org outreach@marinlwv.org

July/August 2023





The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) held its biennial Convention in San Francisco this year, May 19-22. Our League sent five delegates, pictured here: Carol Inkellis, Pat Becker, Ann Wakeley, Nancy Weber, and Shelley Hamilton.



On alternate years, the state League convenes representatives from local Leagues throughout California to adopt a budget and Program (Issues for Emphasis), approve any changes to Bylaws or Positions, and elect LWVC leadership. The Convention this year was well attended, with nearly all local Leagues represented.

The business sessions went quickly and smoothly as there were no new studies or proposed changes to the <u>current LWVC positions</u> and no changes to Bylaws. The Convention endorsed the Board's recommended Issues for Emphasis for 2023-2025. The following issues will be the focus of LWVC's advocacy, education, and study for the next two years.

- Making Democracy Work in California, with a focus on election reform, voting rights, expanding the electorate, redistricting, money in politics and civic education
- Climate Change/Sustainability, including a focus on water
- Housing and Homelessness
- Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice Reform, expanding our education and advocacy on policing and criminal justice/juvenile justice reform

Delegates elected board Directors and Officers. Of particular note, President Carol Moon Goldberg is stepping down and Chris Carson, who has held many League leadership positions over the years at both the state and national level, will assume the presidency.

In addition to business, our delegates had the opportunity to network with other Leagues, to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. We also heard from several excellent speakers and attended in a range of engaging workshops and caucuses.

The Saturday caucus "Educate, Register, Participate! Engaging Young Voters! Youth Outreach Panel" was a highlight. Marin was one of three Leagues presenting on our youth outreach programs. Ann Wakeley spoke, with great enthusiasm, about our Marin Student Elections Ambassador Program. Linda Bytoff and Sheila Durkin from Alameda shared their innovative online civics, voting and news literacy game, VerifyIt! Alice Fredericks inspired us all with accounts of young people's experiences in the Solano County League's Democracy Matters youth civic engagement training programs. You will be hearing more about youth outreach in Marin and elsewhere the coming months!

Want to know more? You will find links to the PowerPoint slides from the Youth Outreach caucus, along with other caucuses, workshops, and speeches, on the LWVC Convention 2023 website at https://lwvc.wordpress.com.





On June 5, League members and friends gathered for our Annual Member Meeting at the Club Restaurant at McInnis Park. We were delighted to come together once again in person to socialize over lunch, review this year's accomplishments, share ideas and future plans, hear from an inspiring speaker, and get some business done.

Members heard from outgoing Treasurer Laurie Nardone that our League continues to be in good financial shape, and we adopted a budget for 2023-2024; approved recommended amendments to the Bylaws, including moving the starting date for terms of our elected leaders to July 1, corresponding to the beginning of our fiscal year; readopted our local positions, and adopted our Local Program (Issues for Emphasis) for 2023-2024; elected Board Directors and Officers.

The newly elected officers are President Kevin Hagerty, Vice-President Dee Dee Butori, Treasurer Sue Ream, and Secretary Ann Wakeley. We have three new Directors: Carol Joy Harris, Carol Inkellis, and Jan King. Continuing or reelected Directors are Becky Bingea, Doug Cooper, Vida Harband, Linda Jackson, Laurie Nardone, Barbara Strong, Cindy Wagner, and Nancy Weber. The new Board, along with outgoing Director Pat Becker, is pictured here.



Kay Noguchi delivered the LWVMC Education Foundation Annual Report. We were proud to learn that the 2023 Spring Campaign to Support College of Marin's "Student Emergency Assistance Fund" exceeded expectations! As of the Annual Meeting, out League raised \$6,531 in donations from members and friends. Together with the Education Foundation's match of \$6,000, our total grant to COM is 12,531!

Our keynote speaker was Katy Mann McKnight, Director of Community Engagement for the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank. She eloquently described the rise of food insecurity in Marin over the past few years and the important work the Food Bank is doing to provide food to all who need it. She reminded us that this critical service depends on community support and engagement.



July/August 2023

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

Officers:

President: Kevin Hagerty Vice-president: Dee Dee Butori Secretary: Ann Wakeley Treasurer: Sue Ream

Becky Bingea Doug Cooper Vida Harband Carol Joy Harris Carol Inkellis Linda Jackson Jan King Laurie Nardone Barbara Strong Cindy Wagner Nancy Weber

