

## Monthly Meetings Continue on Zoom

### MAY MONTHLY MEETING MONDAY, MAY 3, 11:30 AM

AB-1400: California tries again to establish single-payer, universal healthcare!



Ash Kalra,  
CA Assembly - San Jose,  
primary author of AB-1400



Mike McGuire,  
CA Senate - Marin,  
Sonoma, up to the  
Oregon border,  
principal co-author of  
AB-1400

**AB-1400** is a fresh attempt to establish a single-payer, universal-coverage, system for financing healthcare in California. Kalra and McGuire will discuss the needs, challenges, prospects, politics and particulars behind AB-1400, the **Guaranteed Health Care for All Act** or **CalCare**. Don't miss this unusual opportunity to learn about healthcare reform from the bill's authors.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### 2021 ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 14, 10:30 AM



Once a year League members gather to adopt local program, elect officers and directors, adopt a budget, and consider other necessary business.

Again this year, we will be meeting on Zoom. Hopefully in 2022 we can gather in-person.

After the business meeting a panel of speakers will join us to discuss:

### Mental Health in a Time of COVID

Speakers:

Ella Green and Zach Lee, High School Leaders  
Anne Grey, Vivalon (formerly Whistlestop),  
Executive Director  
Dana Van Gorder, Spahr Center,  
Executive Director

See p. 2-3 for details about the program and speakers

Watch for the Annual Meeting Kit in Mid-May.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

The League's 2021 Annual Meeting will feature a much-needed look at the mental health needs of Marin during a time of COVID. People of all ages were affected by isolation and the lack of travel to see family members and friends. As Marin opens back up, we are learning more about mental health needs, both our own and those of others in the community. At the Annual Meeting, listen and learn from people on the front lines of thinking about mental health and working to help us all be well. We'll hear from leaders in youth, LGBTQ and elder communities - all sharing lessons that will bring us together in understanding how we can support each other.

**Speakers:**

High School Leaders Ella Green and Zach Lee  
Anne Grey, Vivalon, Executive Director (see p.3)  
Dana Van Gorder, Spahr Center, Executive Director (see p.3)

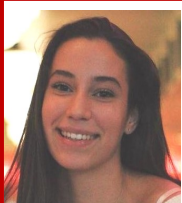
### Marin Students Tackle Mental Health

American students were experiencing widespread mental health issues long before the COVID pandemic took hold. Suicide has been on the rise, and the social isolation only served to increase loneliness, stress, sadness, and overall mental well-being.

Five Marin high school students, members of the Marin Youth Leadership Council, were concerned about their fellow classmates attempting to navigate mental health issues during the time of COVID. Virtual learning created even more isolation for those already struggling with depression, thoughts of suicide, stress, drug addiction and LGBTQ issues. Two of those students will share their experiences.

In collaboration with the Marin County Office of Education, the students helped bring together local agencies and non-profits, launching the "Marin County High School Wellness Series."

The three-month program has included toolkits, webinars, broadcast presentations, and links to local community resources to help students learn the skills to empower them as they struggle with these important issues. The participating nonprofits include the Spahr Center, RxSafeMarin, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Pure Edge.



**Ella Green**

I am a senior at Redwood High School. I joined this group because I wanted to provide a way for students to connect directly with their administrators during a time in which communication was limited. Additionally, providing students with outlets and speakers to improve their mental health during the pandemic was extremely important to me



**Zach Lee**

I am a junior at Marin School of the Arts at of Novato High School. I am passionate about student wellness and am actively involved in several county-wide leadership groups to help promote a nurturing and healthy learning environment on campus. Connecting with each other to create a support system is vital to me.

## More about Our Annual Meeting Speakers...



Anne Grey was appointed CEO of Vivalon in January of 2021. As CEO, Anne is responsible for the strategic oversight and overall management of Vivalon. Prior to joining Vivalon, Anne was executive director at the Alzheimer’s Association Orange

County Chapter, where she rebuilt the chapter from the ground up, making it one of the leading non-profits in Orange County. She also served as vice president at Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, executive director at OneLegacy Foundation, national director and executive director at Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and chief operating officer at American Heart Association Western States Affiliate.

Vivalon’s mission is to promote independence, well-being and quality-of-life for older adults and people living with disabilities in Marin County. Vivalon provides a comprehensive, integrated program of healthy aging services and activities, including: specialized transportation, nutrition programs, classes and other means of social connection.



Dana Van Gorder is the Executive Director of The Spahr Center, Marin County’s only non-profit organization exclusively dedicated to building the well-being of the LGBTQ community and to ending the HIV epidemic. His career has included

work as an advocate for appropriate government funding and policy to end the HIV and hepatitis C epidemics, as a legislative aide to local elected officials, and a political campaign manager. Dana is also the founder of the San Francisco LGBT Community Center.

Among its other HIV, harm reduction and LGBTQ+ programs, The Spahr Center provides mental health and psychosocial support to Marin’s LGBTQ+ and HIV communities. Our programs include: individual therapy (free and on a sliding scale); discussion and supports groups for LGBTQ+ youth, seniors, family of transgender people, and people living with HIV; social and recreational activities for all of our clients; and participation in advocacy to improve conditions in Marin County for LGBTQ+ people and people affected by HIV, with an emphasis on improving school culture for LGBTQ+ youth.

**See you on June 13, 10:30 on Zoom.**

### WEBSITE BUZZ

Our League website, [Marinlww.org](http://Marinlww.org), is constantly evolving to educate the public as well as to meet the needs of our members. Our Communications Committee keeps our website relevant because of its vital role in current communication strategies. Webmasters are Scott McKown and Robin Diederich . We encourage you to visit [Marinlww.org](http://Marinlww.org) often and check out everything our League has to offer!

The Committee Chairs have been working with our webmasters to make the **FOR MEMBERS** section of [Marinlww.org](http://Marinlww.org) a place for members to go for info about a variety of things. Please take a few minutes

to take a look: [Marinlww.org](http://Marinlww.org), main menu tab **FOR MEMBERS**.





**Call to Council: LWVBA Biennial Council Meeting 2021**  
**Saturday, May 1st 10:00 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Action, Advocacy, and Collaboration:**  
**A League Town Hall**

League leaders are invited to participate in the League of Women Voters Bay Area Biennial Council meeting. Agenda will focus on League priorities at the regional and local level with policy briefings on Climate Change--Sustainability; and Housing, Homelessness and Plan Bay Area 2050 implications, with speakers from LWV Berkeley, Albany & Emeryville's Climate Change group, and Michael Lane from SPUR.

A League Town Hall with Leagues and County Councils is the special feature. This Town Hall interactive forum is about League Action, Advocacy and Collaboration. League leaders will share their specific local League priorities for 2021-22 and report out successes during this pandemic climate and challenges---a time for League members to speak out and connect, with ample time for Q&A. Don't miss out, and sign up now!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



The LWVCalifornia Convention is the biennial gathering of League leaders from across the state who convene to provide direction to our state League, pass the budget, and direct the LWVC Education Foundation's program for the next two years. The Convention is an opportunity to engage with other Leaguers—to learn from one another and to share ideas, best practices, and proven solutions League to League.

Each local League sends delegates to participate in the plenary (business) sessions of the Convention and vote on behalf of their League. The number of voting delegates is based on membership. We are sending five voting delegates this year.

There are two other options for attending the Convention.

- ◆ You can register as a Nonvoting Attendee. This allows you to register for all workshops and to observe plenary sessions and caucuses (presentations/discussions put on by LWVC or local Leagues). The caucus schedule and registration links will be available on May 7.
- ◆ All LWV members, as well as members of the public, are welcome to observe the plenary sessions and caucuses, as they will be streaming live.

**All League members are encouraged to participate!**

Learn more at the Convention website : <https://lwvc.wordpress.com>

Questions? Send an email to [info@marinlwv.org](mailto:info@marinlwv.org)



## CLIMATE CHANGE SPEAKER SERIES

The Climate Change Committee is dedicating the first half of its monthly meetings to bringing in out-

side speakers to talk about Marin’s climate change-impacted future. All League members and guests are invited to join in (on ZOOM). Starting in May we will take a deeper dive into how climate change directly impacts Marin County, the issues around those impacts and the actions underway. Please plan to join us on ZOOM....it is open to all members.

**Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, 11A-12:30P.** More details about the speaker series and how to register will be available in forthcoming emails as well as on the website at [marinlwv.org/league-events](http://marinlwv.org/league-events)

**May 26: (special date) “Climate Change and Marin County, Part 1: An Overview”**  
**Alex Porteshawver, Senior Sustainability Coordinator Drawdown: Marin**

Since 2016, Drawdown: Marin has functioned under the auspices of the County of Marin Planning Department as a community driven campaign to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions below zero, prepare for climate change impacts, and address and integrate equity. Join us to learn more about Drawdown’s strategic plan and its next evolution as a newly created non-profit.

Future dates:  
June 15: - “Climate Change and Marin County, Part 2: Marin’s Report Card”  
Role of city/town climate action plans  
Grand Jury October 2020 report on Marin’s climate actions

July 20: - “Climate Change and Marin County, Part 3: The Players”  
Who are the active organizations addressing climate change issues in Marin County and what are they doing?

August: Summer break

September 21 - “Climate Change Impacts on Marin: Wildfires and Drought”

October 19 - “Climate Change Impacts on Marin: Sea Level Rise and Floods”

November 23 - “Climate Change Impacts on Marin: Governance”

You can check out the videos from past Climate Change Speaker Series presentations under the Climate Change heading on the “Committees” page [marinlwv.org/committees-1](http://marinlwv.org/committees-1)

If you would like to join the committee or have questions, please send an email to [climate@marinlwv.org](mailto:climate@marinlwv.org) .

Looking forward to having you join us.  
Nancy Bell and Linda Sula, Co-Chairs

Marin County Elections Dept. reminder to voters:  
**May 4th**  
Vote-By-Mail Special Election in the San Rafael City School Districts  
There are no polling places for this election

April 5: Ballots Mailed  
May 4: Election Day

Find drop box locations on our website  
MarinVotes.org | 415.473.6456

## Local Elections Matter

**May 4, 2021 Special Election – ALL Vote By Mail – Two San Rafael School Parcel Tax Measures**  
Information at [VotersEdge.org](http://VotersEdge.org), [Marinlwv.org](http://Marinlwv.org) and [MarinVotes.org](http://MarinVotes.org)

## Transportation/Land Use/Housing Committee



Judy Binsacca, after many years as Chairperson of the TLUH Committee, has stepped down as head of the committee. She plans to continue as an active member of that group.

Our thanks to Judy for all her work in promoting affordable housing in Marin.

Sally Pennypacker has agreed to become the new co-chair of the committee focusing on housing issues but not for six months while she handles some other commitments. Kevin Hagerty will serve as the other Co-Chair handling transportation issues and has agreed to serve as acting chairman of the TLUH Committee during this interim period.

### Housing

During March and April, the committee has been focused on developing strategies for the League's advocacy for the planning and construction of affordable housing in Marin cities and the County. The County and Marin cities are beginning the process to update their Housing Elements as required by the State.

At the April meeting, Bob Pendoley, a former planning director for San Rafael and Corte Madera, and a member of the TLUH Committee, provided a Power Point presentation on Housing Elements, Annual Reporting requirements and Housing Project approval processes. He also presented some strategies the committee could use to monitor and help influence housing decisions.

Chairman Hagerty has formed an Ad-Hoc Committee of several TLUH members to develop some specific strategies the committee could adopt and use to monitor and advocate for affordable housing. Those recommendations will be brought back to the TLUH Committee for action at its May meeting.

The Committee is recommending that Bob Pendoley's presentation be presented at the Marin League's Monthly Members Meeting in July.

### Transportation **SMART**



Members of the TLUH Committee have been serving on a Joint Marin-Sonoma LWV Committee to monitor the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) System. That committee was created in 2019 to determine whether the Leagues should support the SMART Sales Tax Renewal Measure that was on the March 2020 ballot. That committee recommended that the Marin and Sonoma Leagues not take a position on the Measure because of issues related to accountability, transparency, and communication. The current role of the committee is to work with the SMART Board of Directors and staff in identifying strategies to address these issues.

In August 2020, the SMART Committee met with members of SMART Board of Directors and staff in one of SMART's many listening sessions and shared with them our concerns and suggestions. The SMART board is in the process of deciding whether to implement ideas presented in the listening sessions. The SMART Committee will continue to monitor this situation and provide input to the SMART Board.

### ***San Rafael Transit Center***

The TLUH Committee has been monitoring and providing input on the progress of the new San Rafael Transit Center. Golden Gate Transit District, the project sponsor, is scheduled to issue a draft EIR, which will include a preferred site option in early June. In preparation for a District presentation to the San Rafael City Council on April 19, with an update on the Transit Center project, the TLUH Committee has prepared a letter for the Council. The letter identifies the elements that the League believes should be included in the site selected and identifies the Whistlestop Block site as the League's preferred site.

### ***Other News***

Kevin Hagerty, the League's representative on the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) Citizen's Oversight Committee, was recently elected Vice-Chair of the committee.

Kevin Hagerty, TLUH

## VOTER SERVICE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

### March Meeting

At the March 31 Voter Service meeting, we organized ourselves to Take Action and Make A Difference in 2021. There are plenty of actions our members can take even though there is no general election this year.

Members signed up to work on 10 Actions – you can too! Take a look at our 2021 Plans and Action List on our website at [marinlww.org/voter-service](http://marinlww.org/voter-service) and send an email to [VoterService@marinlww.org](mailto:VoterService@marinlww.org) with your interests. You can just send an email, and we will send you the list.

A few examples:

- Join the one-year 2021 Redistricting Committee.
- Distribute voter registration forms to physical locations in Marin County.
- Assist in building relationships with community organizations to increase our voter outreach.
- Participate in the Student Election Ambassador Program.
- More opportunities at [marinlww.org/make-a-difference-action-list](http://marinlww.org/make-a-difference-action-list).

**Join us and Make A Difference in 2021!**



### What are you curious about?

Is there a civic or democracy-related topic that you have been wondering about - the filibuster, U.S. Census, public health mandates, vote-by-mail security? Or is something else on your mind? If you're curious about a topic, then it's very likely that others are too! We are encouraging members to research and then consider sharing their findings in The Voter or our website. We have members researching topics such as the filibuster and California governor recall. Send an email to [VoterService@marinlww.org](mailto:VoterService@marinlww.org), and we'll get you started!

### Logic and Accuracy Test

On April 13, Becky Bingea and Robin Diederich assisted the Marin County Elections Department in testing the accuracy of its ballot-counting equipment for the May 4 Special Election. [Learn More Here](#) about this process.

### NEW Voter's Edge Team Leadership

Laurie Nardone is passing the baton of Voter's Edge County Coordinator to Becky Bingea – thank you, Laurie! Becky worked on the VE Team for the 2020 Election. We are grateful to have Becky working to ensure that the Marin County election information is posted on Voter's Edge. Take a look at the May 4 Special Election at [votersedge.org/ca](http://votersedge.org/ca).

More information about the VE team here:

[marinlww.org/voter-service](http://marinlww.org/voter-service).

Robin Dieterich, Voter Service





League of Women Voters of Marin County  
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**Officers:**

President: Ann Wakeley  
 Co-Vice-president: Sue Ream  
 Co-Vice-president: Linda Jackson  
 Secretary: Doug Cooper  
 Treasurer: Laurie Nardone

**Directors:**

Dee Dee Butori  
 Mary Caruso  
 Jackie Dagg  
 Robin Diederich  
 Kevin Hagerty

Anne Layzer  
 Suki Sennett  
 Barbara Strong  
 Cindy Wagner



## Drive Clean California

### Drive Clean with the League!

### On Zoom

### [Register Now!](#)

The LWVC and the LWVUS have declared a climate emergency, urging all local Leagues to include Climate Action as a high priority in 2021. The most important action a typical California resident can take to reduce carbon emissions is to switch to an electric vehicle.

Announcing the Marin League’s participation in LWVC’s “Drive Clean with the League” campaign, to be presented three different times for your convenience. Come and invite your friends and family!

Saturday, July 10	5:00-6:00 PM
Monday, July 12	12:00-1:00 PM
Wednesday, July 14	6:00-7:00 PM

The League of Women Voters of California has partnered with [Drive Clean California](#) , a collaboration of nonprofit organizations, agencies, cities, schools and businesses with the goal to greatly reduce carbon emissions by advancing the adoption of electric vehicles. Together they are sponsoring a special “Drive Clean with the League” campaign for League members, and your friends, to help you navigate through all of the noise.

At the event you will learn about the many advantages of electric vehicles and hear experts tackle the many myths, misinformation and misperceptions, giving you and your friends the information you need to decide if going electric is right for you.

***Join us to hear from experts, EV drivers, climate and clean air enthusiasts in a fun and educational, interactive ZOOM event about reducing emissions by driving electric cars.***

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.