

## November Monthly Meeting Monday, November 6 11:30am-1:00pm on ZOOM



### Speaker

Lynda Roberts,  
Marin County  
Registrar of Voters

“Looking Ahead to the  
2024 Presidential Elections in Marin”

Lynda will speak to our League about voting in the upcoming 2024 Presidential Elections, focusing on getting ready to vote in the March 5, 2024 Primary Election. She will also discuss how the Voter’s Choice Act is working in Marin and answer your questions about voting and elections in Marin County.

Hosted by the Voter Service Teams



[REGISTER HERE](#)

**Watch your email for details about the  
December Monthly Meeting.  
Save the Date - December 4**



## What Does Nonpartisan Really Mean?

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 6:00pm

As we look towards Election 2024, all League members are invited to join the LWVC Local League Coaches discussion – What Does Nonpartisan Really Mean?

Please register at the link below. Session will be recorded for those unable to join at this time.

[LWVC League Nonpartisan](#)



from Pat Beaupre Becker and Robin  
Diederich for all your work with  
Voter Service.

Lauren Vreeland-Long, Regina B. Rus, Cindy Wagner, Sara Thorpe, Bill Becker, Robin Diederich, Linda Sula, Kay Noguchi, Nancy Wagner, Jan King, Laurie Nardone, Kevin Hagerty, Dee Dee Butori, Ann Batman, Carol Inkellis, Becky Bingea, Kevin Hagerty, Jordan Harrosh, Danny Straub, Pat Beaupre Becker

## Some More Information about Lynda Roberts, November Monthly Meeting Speaker

Lynda Roberts has been the Marin County Registrar of Voters since July of 2014. Before this appointment, she was the Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in Mono County, California, for seven years. She lived on the Big Island of Hawaii from 2005-2007 and worked in the development department at Parker School, a private K-12 college prep school. Her career in public service and elections started with Salt Lake City municipal government in 1977.

Lynda earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Utah in 2005 and graduated from the San Rafael Leadership Institute and the Marin County Leadership Academy in 2017. She is a member of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO), a professional association.



The League of Women Voters of the United States has joined nearly 650 other organizations in a letter to congressional agriculture committee leadership, urging them to protect the \$20 billion investment in climate-smart agriculture and conservation technical assistance, funded by the Inflation Reduction Act, and to maintain it in the 2023 Farm Bill. Read the letter [here](#).

### **[Contact your federal representatives NOW to urge the protection of climate-smart agriculture.](#)**

California's agricultural industry employs almost 10% of our workforce, provides more than 50% of the fruits and vegetables consumed in the United States, and is vital for our nation's food security. Our agricultural lands are also an integral part of the state's climate strategy. Climate-smart agricultural practices build healthy soil, protect topsoil, increase water efficiency, improve biodiversity, increase carbon sequestration, and are an essential tool for farmers to build resilience to drought. Our farmers need assistance to build a resilient, equitable and sustainable food system. To learn more about our policies and work in this area, read the [Climate Smart Agriculture and Food Action Policy](#).

**Please ask your federal representatives to protect climate-smart agriculture and conservation technical assistance in the 2023 Farm Bill.**

## HELP US DEFEND DEMOCRACY – NOW!

How? Start volunteering for the League of Women Voters of Marin County. League volunteers work all year to **EMPOWER VOTERS AND DEFEND DEMOCRACY.**

2024 is going to be an especially consequential election year, with a Presidential primary and general election, a Marin County Supervisors race, and many important local elections.

We need volunteers to help round out our Voter Service teams, all dedicated to empowering voters! We produce many education and outreach functions in Marin:



**Candidate Forums** - need moderators, timers and question sorters, Spanish interpreters  
**Voter's Edge online voter guide** – reach out to candidates to encourage participation in this important voter information resource

**Voter Education & Outreach** – assist with sharing voter education information at community events around the County

**Distribution of voter registration** and how-to-vote info at sites around the County

**Pros & Cons for propositions** – need presenters, Zoom support, organization outreach, PowerPoint assistance

Volunteer with one of our expert Voter Service teams in 2024. Click [here](#) to find out more about our Voter Service teams.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, political organization, whose mission is *to defend democracy and empower voters.*

For more info about volunteering with a Voter Service team in 2024, please email [volunteer@marinLWV.org](mailto:volunteer@marinLWV.org)



# LWV VOTER SERVICE

**VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH –**  
Robin Diederich and Pat Beaupre Becker

Fall is a busy time for voter education. We participated in many outreach events and shared information with community organizations, our members and the public through social media, our website and emails!

September was National Voter Registration



Month and October was National Voter Education Month. We participated in National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, Sept. 19 by collaborating with several Marin County or-

ganizations to host voter information tables at nine locations! We appreciated working with the Marin County Elections Dept., Canal Alliance, Marin County Libraries, Hope Housing and San Francisco Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (SFAC).

Thank you to everyone who volunteered (see Thank You section on p. 1)!



One of our many fall outreach events was the Naturalization Ceremony at the Pt Reyes National Seashore on Sept. 13 where we worked with our Elections Department to

register new citizens to vote. Read more in the separate article in this issue.

Note: One of the new citizens sworn in at the October Naturalization Ceremony waited until National Voter Registration Day so she could register to vote at our Marin Civic Center event. It was a very special moment!!

This is a great time to get Ready to Vote in 2024 by checking your voter registration status and re-registering if needed. Go to

[Register-ToVote.ca.gov](https://www.register-tovote.ca.gov).



Check that you are registered with the political party you want to vote for in the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary. If you are registered as No Party Preference, then watch for a mailer coming from the Elections Department about your voting options in the March Presidential Primary.

We also encourage everyone to sign up for free ballot tracking from the CA Secretary of State at [WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](https://www.wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov). You will receive automatic email, SMS (text), or voice call notifications about your ballot.

Please share this advice with family and friends so they are Ready to Vote in 2024 too!

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## Naturalization Ceremony at Point Reyes National Seashore



On Sept 13, 2023 the League participated in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Bureau’s naturalization ceremony at Point Reyes National Seashore. On that day 38 immigrants were sworn in from 22 nations and became newly eligible voters. It was also the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Point Reyes National Seashore.

The day was spectacular, with clear skies and bright smiles. As the participants entered the area, it was a thrill to announce, “Now you can register to vote!” Pride, accomplishment and joy were felt by all.

Danny Straub, of the Elections Department, shared our table and we were elated to have new citizens register on-site! Of course, we offered our Voter Registration Information Cards to everyone to take home. The card provides on-line registration links and a QR Code.

We want to thank Christine Beekman, M.Ed., Interpretation, Education and Volunteer Program Lead and Public Information Officer of the Point Reyes National Seashore, for organizing a day to remember. Also, congratulations to Christine who is retiring at the end of the year!

We also want to let the community know that the Marin County Free Library is committed to helping qualified persons apply for [US citizenship!](#) Point Reyes Library and its trained staff offer bilingual (Spanish/English) assistance with the full naturalization process, completely for free.

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/38-new-citizens-naturalized-pt-reyes-national-seashore>

### Voter Service - Continued from p. 4

[VoterService@marinlww.org](mailto:VoterService@marinlww.org)

#### Fall 2023 Activities

We are working on opportunities for you to get out and meet our communities. We have weekdays, weekends, mornings and evening events, hoping to meet everyone’s availability and interest!

If you have any questions or interest in volunteering to staff our voter information table at an event, you can email [outreach@marinlww.org](mailto:outreach@marinlww.org) or call Pat Beaupre Becker at 415-680-4817.

#### Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, Nov. 1** – League Field Trip to the Marin County Elections Dept – RSVP required:

**Saturday, Nov. 4** – Environmental Health Fair in Marin City, 10:30am – 3pm. We especially need volunteers for the 1-3pm shift.

**Monday, Nov. 6** – Voter Service Teams are hosting the November Member Meeting (see the front page of this issue.) Our speaker is Marin County Registrar of Voters, Lynda Roberts. Join us to learn about the 2024 Presidential Elections.

**Saturday, Nov. 11** – Play Marin Walk-a-Thon Community Table – Rocky Graham Park, Marin City (date and time to be confirmed).

## Fall Kickoff - 2023

On September 30, League members and friends gathered at the Key Room at Marin Homeward Bound in Novato to celebrate our 2023 Fall Kickoff. This is our second year at the Key Room, and all agreed it was great success—a beautiful setting with delicious food and excellent company!



As is our Kickoff tradition, we presented the LWVMC *Outstanding Community Service Award* for exemplary contributions to our Marin County community. This year we honored two individuals for their stellar



leadership and service to public education: Mary Jane Burke, retired Marin County Superintendent of Schools, and Dr. David Wain Coon, retiring Superintendent/President of College of Marin. Ms. Burke was unable to be with us; Sue Ream accepted the award on her behalf. Dr. Coon was there to accept the award in person, to great applause!

Our Keynote Speaker was Alison Howard, Professor of Political Science at Dominican University. Professor Howard spoke with us about the 2024 national election. She captivated the audience with information and insights about the upcoming presidential, senatorial, and congressional elections—what’s at stake, a framework for thinking about campaigns and elections, what to make of early polls, and much more about our country’s electorate and how elections might go next year.



Special thanks to President Kevin Hagerty for providing an overview of what our League is doing and will do in the coming year. Thanks, also, to the Kickoff Planning Committee, Becky Bingea, Dee Dee Butori, Kevin Hagerty, Carol Joy Harris, Carol Inkellis, Jan King, Sue Ream, Cindy Wagner, and Nancy Weber, for all they did to make our Fall Kickoff a resounding success!

Ann Wakeley

A note from Mary Jane Burke

Dear Kevin

I want to thank you and the Marin County League of Women Voters for the honor of being recognized as one of the recipients of the 2023 LWV Outstanding Community Service award. I am so very touched by this meaningful recognition.

Please know that the important work of the LWV is appreciated by a grateful community. Empowering and educating constituents about voting, encouraging voter registration and defending democracy are gifts that are part of the foundation of our country.

Thank you again Kevin.

With deep appreciation and respect,

Mary Jane Burke  
Marin County Superintendent of Schools Emerita

## LWVMC Transportation, Land Use and Housing (TLUH) Committee

Committee Chairperson: Kevin Hagerty

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

### Meeting Summary

This meeting time was used to assess where we are with County housing and transportation issues and to assess what subjects and possible speakers to have at our meetings during the next six months.

#### Discussion of 2024 Ballot Measures on Transportation and Housing Issues that we will follow these.

John Eells provided the following summaries:

#### ACA I – Assembly Constitutional Amendment #1 (Aguiar-Curry)

**Supported by LWVC** - will be on statewide ballot in Nov 2024; will require a simple majority to pass if the Constitutional Amendment sponsored by the CA Business Roundtable on the same statewide ballot does NOT pass. May require a 2/3 vote to pass if the Constitutional Amendment sponsored by the CA Business Roundtable DOES pass.

This would lower the threshold for passing special taxes and bond measures for public infrastructure projects from 66.67% to 55%. This WOULD apply to capital costs for a wide array of public infrastructure projects including transportation, housing, water, sewer, flood control, libraries and parks, and open space. This would NOT apply to operating costs, so would not be much help to transit operators in avoiding their “fiscal cliffs.”

#### ACA 13 – Assembly Constitutional Amendment #13 (Ward)

**Will be on the statewide ballot in March 2024. Supported by the LWVC** - will require a simple majority to pass. Would require the Constitutional Amendment sponsored by the California Business

Roundtable to pass by a 2/3 majority, rather than a simple majority.

#### Taxpayer Protection Act Constitutional Amendment Sponsored by the California Business Roundtable;

will be on the statewide ballot in Nov. 2024. Will require a simple majority to pass if ACA 13 on the March 2024 ballot does NOT pass. Will require a 2/3 vote to pass if ACA 13 DOES pass in March 2024. Would require ALL local and regional taxes to pass by a 2/3 vote, even the special taxes which are placed on the ballot through the Initiative Process.

*John Eells made the point that when we vote YES on a tax with a 2/3 requirement, our vote doesn't count as much as someone who votes NO. So, one-person-one-vote is diluted.*

#### Housing topics to consider, in addition to following the Ballot Measures in 2024

#### How do we provide more HOUSING? Preservation, Production, Protection.

In addition to the San Rafael Northgate project, another huge project coming up is the development of the former Fireman's Fund Site in Novato. (Regina Rus)

**Northgate Project, San Rafael.** Issues discussed include that the City has been slow on design/development standards that the rest of the County have adopted; the need for integrating transit into the design, early on. We should provide comments/support at the Planning Commission, since by the time it gets to the Council it may be too late.

Our letter(s) should be oriented toward adopting legislation that supports developing affordable units, and strong, efficient, and timely transit. We need to read our LWV Positions on Affordable Housing and Transit so that we are well-versed as advocates.

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**Actions:**

Kate Powers and Bob Pendoley will craft some talking points for discussion at the next TLUH Meeting in October.

Kevin Hagerty will send committee members the link to the LWV Positions on Housing and Transit.

The Committee will continue to monitor the Northgate Project, as one of the largest affordable housing efforts in Marin.

**Transportation**

**Bay Area Transit Tax in 2026.** (John) There are efforts to put together an MTC Regional Tax Plan. Should it be a Gas Tax? Sales Tax? This will require a 2/3 vote, to benefit all Transit in the Bay Area, to avoid the fiscal cliff they are facing.

**San Rafael Transit Center.** We are continuing to follow the plans.

**Vision Zero** (Kevin, Kate) The goal is to reduce major injury accidents to zero. Public Works design, Public Education, increasing safety. This is included in Transit Plan Bay Area 2050.

**SMART** (Kevin, John) SMART is moving forward with Grand Jury recommendations, hiring a consultant to plan the Ballot Measure (2024? 2026? 2028?). We suggested SMART look at the example of TAM's Citizens Oversight Committee as a model for re-building a coalition of interested groups/advocates for SMART to work with. Continued issues with funding and need for increased revenues, especially if SMART continues route plans to Cloverdale, etc.

**Actions:** Our joint Marin-Sonoma LWV sub-committee will continue efforts to encourage SMART to immediately begin the community-building needed to support passage of the Sales Tax in 2024 or 2026.

*The Committee will continue to advocate for contin-*

*ued transit services, improvements, funding, and the collaboration of Housing and Transit leaders and agencies at all levels of planning and implementation. We will continue to be involved and monitor efforts to include under-represented communities as stakeholders in all areas of Housing and Transit planning and projects.*

*Kate made the point that we need a regional approach to focus on how Land Use and Transportation must work together to create the future we want.*

**Future Meetings**

**The Next meeting** of the TLUH Committee will be on Tuesday, 10/11/23, 10-11:30am.

Summary prepared by Barbara Strong



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**Officers:**

President: Kevin Hagerty  
Vice-president: Dee Dee Butori  
Secretary: Ann Wakeley  
Acting Treasurer: Laurie Nardone

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

