

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

The Future of SMART



Speaker:
Eddy Cumins,
SMART General
Manager

SMART General Manager, Eddy Cumins, will discuss the current challenges and opportunities that SMART faces, including

- rebuilding and increasing ridership, lost because of the Covid pandemic
- extending the voter-approved rail service to Windsor, Healdsburg and Cloverdale and
- building community support for the rail system.

He will share what SMART is currently doing to address those issues and what should be done in the future. This event will also allow you an opportunity to ask questions and to provide input to Mr. Cumins.

Hosted by the Transportation, Land Use and Housing Committee

[REGISTER HERE](#)

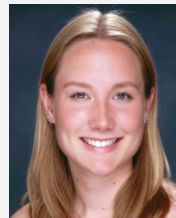
April Monthly Meeting
Monday, April 3
11:30am-1:00pm on ZOOM

Marin County Student Elections Ambassador Program

The Student Elections Ambassador Program (SEAP) enables Marin County high school and college-aged students to serve as a crucial link between the Elections Department and their peers.

Join us to hear from members of the SEAP committee and current Ambassadors about how students engage their peers to become active, civic-minded voters.

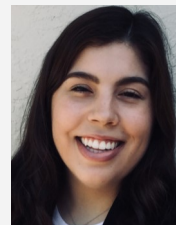
Speakers



Ella Clark is a senior at Tamalpais High School. This is her second year as a Student Elections Ambassador and her first as a Student Liaison.



Pam Cook serves as League leader of the SEAP Steering Committee and Youth Outreach Team. She has been a member of the LWVMC since 2017.



Megan Stone oversees the vote-by-mail division and voter outreach for the Marin County Registrar of Voters. She has been the Elections Department leader for the SEAP since its inception.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Some Background Information about the Monthly Meeting Speakers

Eddy Cumins is the General Manager of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) District. As General Manager he is responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations of SMART's transit and freight services. Eddy is also responsible for the planning and construction of SMART's multi-use pathway network and rail extensions. Prior to joining SMART as GM in November 2021, he served as Chief Operating Officer for the Utah Transit Authority. Eddy earned a Master of Science Degree in Organizational Leadership from Colorado State University and holds a B.S. in Human Resource Development from Southwestern College.

The Marin County Student Elections Ambassador Program

One of the most important institutions in our democracy is our elections system, which entrusts individuals with the power to vote. The Student Elections Ambassador Program (SEAP) was designed to allow high school and college-aged students who live in Marin County to serve as a crucial link between the Elections Department and their peers. The SEAP has two main objectives: to pre-register and register Marin County students to vote, and to highlight the importance of youth engagement and participation in elections.

Ambassadors undergo training where they learn about the importance of youth voter participation, voting in Marin, and how to pre-register and register individuals to vote. Then through a peer-to-peer approach, Ambassadors educate their peers throughout the school year.

Ella Clark

Ella is a senior at Tamalpais High School. She has a passion for civil service and politics that shines through as President of her school's Junior State of America and Model United Nations clubs. She is also Activism Commissioner in Tam's Leadership program and Chairwoman of the Mill Valley Youth Advisory Council. This is her second year as a Student Elections Ambassador and her first as a Student Liaison. And yes, she is that high schooler who tried to unionize her local Starbucks store.

Megan Stone

Megan Stone has worked for the Marin County Registrar of Voters since May 2018. She oversees the vote-by-mail division and voter outreach. Megan was born in San Francisco and raised in Marin. She graduated in 2017 from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations. There, she was a writer for the International Relations student academic journal. Megan is an alum member of the organization IGNITE National, a group dedicated to advancing young women's political engagement.

Pam Cook

Pam Cook serves on the Marin Student Elections Ambassadors Program (SEAP) Steering Committee. She has been a member of the LWV of Marin County since 2017. Pam is on the board of the College of Marin Foundation and heads its Program Advisory Committee. She also serves on the Marin Advisory Board of 10,000 Degrees and is a Pro Bono Instructor for the YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley. Pam co-founded Cook Silverman Search, managed The Clorox Company Foundation, and served in leadership positions in development with Stanford University, the California Academy of Sciences, and the University of Virginia. An avid pickleballer, Pam enjoys her book group and women's giving circle. Pam is a graduate of Duke University (BA), the University of Virginia (MA) and was a Fulbright Scholar at the Australian National University. She is delighted to be the grandmother of a 2-year-old grandson.

SAVE THE DATE

LWVMC ANNUAL GALA DINNER

Thursday April 20, 2023 6-9pm

Spinnaker Restaurant, 100 Spinnaker Dr., Sausalito

Announcing

Guest Speaker - Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq.
“Dismantling Structural Racism”



A fourth-generation leader of faith and social justice, Jennifer Jones Austin has fought for equity her entire life. As CEO and Executive Director of FPWA, an anti-poverty, policy and advocacy organization she has led and secured monumental changes in social policy to strengthen and empower the disenfranchised and marginalized. Ms. Jones Austin has chaired many influential boards and commissions, including the New York City Racial Justice Commission where she led the development and passage by the NYC electorate in 2022 of three unprecedented proposals to amend the city’s charter to dismantle structural racism and embed racial justice and equity in all government functions. She is Vice Chair of the Board of National Action Network and a founding member of the New York State 400 Years of African-American History Commission. Ms. Jones Austin also chaired the NYC Board of Correction presiding over the process to end solitary confinement in NYC jails and was a lead advisor for the 2020-2021 NYPD Reform and Reinvention Collaborative.

Student Ambassadors Celebrate Martin Luther King Day



On Monday January 16, 2023, a Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration called “Beloved Community in Action” was held in Marin City. The event which was held at the namesake school, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Academy, gathered a diverse group of students and advocates coming out to support. There were performances by students from the school and booths were set up in the auditorium. One of them, which was also a sponsor for the event, was County of Marin Office of Equity led by the Marin County Student Elections Ambassador Program. Student liaisons Alysha Lee and Ella Clark took the lead to spur attendees to take action. The mission of the Student Elections Ambassador Program is to educate about the importance of voting and to assist eligible voters,

especially high school and college students, to pre-register or register to vote. Younger students in elementary or middle schools also got a glimpse of what voting was about that day. With over 200 people attending, this event was a true community collaboration to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in a unified way.

Our help is needed to keep College of Marin students in school!

None of us had any idea of the tidal wave of need that was to come from students at College of Marin (COM) due to COVID-19 impacts. The Education Foundation decided to do what it could to help.



In 2020, 2021, and 2022, the Education Foundation -- along with donations from many League members and friends -- was able to send a total of \$31,000 to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund (SEAF) for COM students.

As we come out of the pandemic, those with the greatest need continue to be students of color, low-income students, and students with disabilities.

Our work is not done.

Once again, the Education Foundation will match your donations with an equal grant of up to \$6,000.

- ◆ Our assistance has helped keep students in school by providing technology, book purchases, and short-term support for personal needs.
- ◆ In addition to laptops, the emergency fund has already spent \$4,800 in the campus bookstore for students' textbooks.
- ◆ The fund has been invaluable to COM's ability to meet students' needs swiftly with a minimum of red tape. That could mean replacing a flat tire, paying for unexpected medical expenses, providing short-term childcare, or any other challenge that jeopardizes a student's ability to get to class.

Please mail your check made out to LWV Education Foundation, 4340 Redwood Highway, Suite F-133, San Rafael, CA 94903, or go to the League's website www.marinlww.org to donate to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund for COM Students.

**With your generosity, we can do this together
and continue to build a better community for everyone.**

VOTER EDUCATION & OUTREACH



We've been busy sharing information to empower the voters of Marin County for the March 7, 2023 Special Election! We're using our website, social media, electronic and printed resources, and in-person tabling at community events like the MLK Day and Clean Slate events in Marin City, the Marin Communications Forum (Feb.24) and Oakmont of Novato senior residence.

Take a look at our [Election Overview](#) and [Local Voter Guide](#) for the March 7 Special Election. There's still time to vote! Registered voters in the City of Mill Valley and the Novato Unified School District were sent ballots Feb.6. Please encourage family and friends in these districts to vote! Send them to our website, [Marinlww.org](#), or the Elections Dept, [MarinVotes.org](#), for information and resources. Thank you to Cindy Wagner and Linda Sula who assisted the Elections Dept with the Logic & Accuracy Test of the vote counting equipment for this election and all the members who put a "Your Vote Matters" sign in their yard for the March 7 Special Election.

During the Program Planning process last month, the Voter Education and Outreach Team finalized Priorities and Plans for 2023 (and 2024).

PRIORITIES AND PLANS FOR 2023 (& 2024)

- ◆ Educate voters for March 7, 2023 Special Election (and any other 2023 local elections TBD).
- ◆ Continue to promote voter registration including fulfilling contract with Marin County Elections Dept.
- ◆ Recruit more VEO Team members for this year and 2024 March Primary and November Presidential Elections.
- ◆ Continue to build strong community partnerships to share voting information with high potential voters.
- ◆ Complete our Outreach Event Kit and participate in community events.
- ◆ Explore new opportunities to empower voters as time allows – youth vote, restoration of voting rights, and CA voter education legislation.

We're excited to be out into the community with our Outreach Event Kit – custom table cover and tent canopy, table, chairs and more! Check the website [CALENDAR](#) and [Voter Outreach Events](#) pages and our social media accounts to learn more.

We encourage you to join the Voter Education and Outreach Team to not only learn about registering, educating and empowering voters, but also do it!

Robin Diederich- votereducation@marinlww.org

Pat Beaupre Becker – Outreach@marinlww.org

EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES



Our Website Needs You

We are looking for a member to manage our League website, Marinlww.org. No experience is required, but it would be helpful. Our website platform is Squarespace. Training for this position is available. If you are interested, or want more information, please contact our League president, Ann Wakeley, at annwakeley4@gmail.com.



ARE YOU SOCIAL?

We're looking for someone who is comfortable with social media to post on our 3 social media accounts – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Or maybe just one of these. Check us out @LWVMarin and see what you think. Please Follow us if you don't already!

If you're interested or have questions, then send an email to Robin Diederich at info@marinlww.org

Your kids and grandkids will be so impressed with your new-found skills.



For information about this election

- [City of Mill Valley](#)
- [Novato Unified School District](#)
- [LWVMC LOCAL VOTER GUIDE](#)

REPORTS FROM LWVMC COMMITTEES

What you need to know about what our committees are doing.



School and Library Boards and Commissions Diversity Study

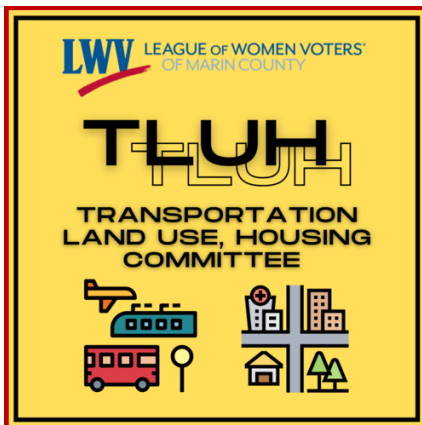
The **Education/Libraries Committee** is embarking on a new local study with the goal of supporting increased diversity on school and library boards and commissions. Our aim is to use an equity lens to map out the factors that impact an individual’s election or appointment

to a school district or library governing board or commission in Marin County. At the conclusion of our study, the committee will consider and recommend possible solutions to removing barriers and increasing equity on these boards.

We will begin by gathering information on the demographic make-up, both current and historical, of our local school and library boards in order to document any racial, ethnic, gender, age, and socio-economic disparities. We will also explore systemic and structural barriers that may have contributed to the disparities. Much of our learning will be through conversations with individuals who have been impacted by these barriers, including those who have overcome them to serve on boards, and community members who have been involved in efforts to increase board diversity.

We invite you to join us in this new and exciting endeavor! Our committee meets the third Thursday of the month at 10:00am. The next meeting is March 16.

January TLUH Committee Meeting



2023 Transportation Goals

Monitor and Provide Input:

- San Rafael Transit Center Project
- Highway 101/580 Connector Project
- Highway 37 Corridor Project
- SMART Train System – Building Community Support

Work Plan: Ongoing monitoring of projects by working with project staff, public officials, community organizations and examining information on websites including how these projects are or will be impacted by sea rise. Consult and Coordinate with Bay Area League in providing written and oral comments as appropriate.

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Advocate for Regional and Local Cities and Towns support and an Implementation for Vision Zero or similar Programs resulting in Safer Environment for Drivers, Cyclists, and Pedestrians.

Work Plan: Work with regional and local government officials and their staff in advocating for Vision Zero or similar programs for their communities. Provide written or oral input as appropriate

Monitor and Provide Input Regarding Future of Public Transit Systems in North Bay

Work Plan: Monitor activities of Metropolitan Transportation Commission regarding the future of public transit in the Bay Area with special interest to public transit systems serving Marin County. Special emphasis will be regional coordination of transit funding and operations and how these issues will impact local riders.

Coordinate positions and advocacy strategies with the Bay Area and State Leagues. Meet with transit system managers and community organizations representing local transit riders. Provide written or oral input as appropriate.

2023 Housing Goals

Continue Education and Advocacy of Affordable Housing in Marin

Work Plan: Work with government officials, their staff, community groups and builders supporting the construction of affordable housing in Marin. Meet with and/or communicate with elected officials and City and County staff to advocate support for these projects.

Monitor and Advocate for Effective Implementation of the State Approved 12 Housing Elements in Marin and Related Local Legislation.

Work Plan: Survey the status and perform ongoing monitoring of approved housing elements of the Marin cities and towns and those of the County. Work with local elected officials and their staff to ensure progress and compliance with those elements.

Advocate and Support Efforts by Marin Cities and Towns and the County to Develop Effective and Efficient Solutions for the Homeless and the Unhoused Persons in their Communities.

Work Plan: Monitor the status of Homelessness in Marin Communities and advocate and assist local jurisdictions in their efforts to acquire funding for these programs as well as community support in implementing the programs.

Urge State League to Advocate for the Planning and Construction of Affordable and Market Rate Housing.

Urge State League to Monitor the Status of Related Housing State Legislation and to coordinate that Information with the Local League Chapters. Also consult and work with Bay Area LWV on the work of Bay Area Housing Finance Authority's (BAHFA) affordable housing efforts.

Work Plan: Work closely with State League and LWV Bay Area in developing strategies and legislation that result in more affordable and market rate housing being built.

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February Committee Meeting

Housing Issues

Update and discussion of Status of Marin District's Housing Elements - *Discussion leader: Bob Pendoley*

Committee member Pendoley noted that the Marin County, cities and towns had until January 31 to submit their Housing Elements. Some met the deadline, not all are in compliance, and a few "self-certified." Bob described the consequences of this, the "Builders Remedy" Law, which allows for developers to get building permits if a city's Housing Element has not been certified by the State. He cited, as an example, the City of Santa Monica, where the city missed the deadline, so developers got permits for 4000 units to be built.

Committee members discussed the difficulty of these requirements. Bob noted that as of this date, in the Bay Area only San Francisco, Alameda and Emeryville are in compliance.

Action: The Committee will continue to monitor this process and agrees that it is important for League members to encourage their jurisdictions to continue to work with the State to get their housing elements approved and once approved implemented.

Transportation Issues

Guest Speaker: Molly Graham, Public Outreach Coordinator, Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM)

Update on New Funding for Marin Transportation Projects

Ms. Graham provided the Committee with an update on Transportation Funding for Marin County. Recently, the California Supreme Court provided a favorable ruling on RM3 (Bridge Tolls revenues). This action will result in Substantial funding for San Rafael Transit Center Project, the US Highway 101 to Highway I80 Connector Project, the Sonoma/Marin Narrows Project and the SMART expansion projects to Windsor and Healdsburg.

Ms., Graham also reported the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District received Hundreds of Millions of Dollars in Federal Infrastructure funding for the Golden Gate Bridge

Update on Northbound Highway 101 to Eastbound 580 Connection Project

Ms. Graham provided an overview of TAM. She gave the Committee an update on the newly re-named 101-580 Multimodal and Local Access Improvement Project. The project includes a new freeway-to-freeway connection between NB US 101 and EB I-580 to improve connectivity and traffic flow for local and regional traffic. The Committee had questions about a Southbound Connector, the impact of the project on San Rafael residents, the environmental impact, and the length of time and dollars needed to make this project work for the people most impacted.

Action: Committee members will continue to monitor this project closely and encourage TAM to continue to consider the impact of the project on all users, including under-represented communities and the older populations in Marin.

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Update on SMART

Committee member John Eells gave an update on SMART’s Citizen Oversight Committee changes. The committee has all new members, many with financial backgrounds. There were no representatives from the League, or the Bike/Ped community selected for the Committee.

Action: *The LWV Marin/Sonoma League Committee on SMART will continue to monitor this situation.*

Announcement: *Eddie Cummins, the General Manager of SMART will be featured speaker at the March Monthly Members Meeting on March 6.*

Update on Committee Goals for 2023

Committee member Barbara Strong briefed the Committee on the six LWVMC Issues for Emphasis for 2023. Of the six, three are key to our TLUH Committee:

- Adequate shelter and professional care for the homeless and mentally ill
- Adequate affordable housing
- Adequate and affordable public transit service

Next meeting: The next TLUH Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 10:00 am.



The Voter Education and Outreach Committee Puts our New Tent to Good Use

Pat was at the Clean Slate event hosted by the Marin County DA with Nancy Weber, Ella Clark and Jordan Harrosh (Student Elections Ambassadors), and Danny Straub from the Elections Department. This will be used many more times in the future.

Hello All,

I tuned into the LWVUS Birthday virtual pep rally. It was a ZOOM meeting that was streamed live on Facebook.

I'm sharing it with you all because I found it very inspiring, and it made me feel proud to be a member of the League.

Here's a link: <https://fb.me/e/2iPW0eLUH>

It's about 30 minutes long.
Hope you enjoy it!

In League,
Robin Diederich



Celebrating the 103rd Birthday of the League of Women Voters with Tea and Goodies

