



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

VOTER



FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

April/May 2017

**IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND ELECTION OVERSIGHT**

**Monday, May 8, 2017  
Fremont Library  
2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont**



**Speaker: Ann Ravel**

*Former Commissioner  
Federal Election Commission*

*Former Chair  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
(FPPC), CA*

**Come hear Ann speak about her experiences with elections both at the State and Federal levels and her ideas about civic engagement.**

**LWVFNUC and Greenbelt Alliance Present  
AT RISK:  
THE IMPACT OF SPRAWL ON  
THE BAY AREA GREENBELT**

**Monday, April 24th  
7.00 pm to 8.45 pm**

**Fremont Senior Center  
40086 Paseo Padre Pkwy  
[See Map](#)**



**Come join in a conversation with Jeremy Madsen, CEO of Greenbelt Alliance, about what is at stake with the Bay Area's open spaces and the balance between conservation and smart growth.**

**In the hottest housing market in decades, is the Bay Area still stopping sprawl and promoting smart growth?**

**We have the answer in  
*At Risk: The Bay Area Greenbelt.***

**For more information go to  
[www.greenbelt.org](http://www.greenbelt.org)**

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



For this President's Message, we'd like to bring your attention to two issues:

Firstly, as many of you know, the Council will have to move from city-wide elections to elections by district. How this happens is going to be the issue. We could have 5 to 7 districts with a mayor elected city-wide, but how those districts are drawn, and who draws them, may be a point of contention. Co-President Syeda Inamdar spoke up on behalf of the League at the City Council meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> about the importance of having a transparent and independent process for electing Councilmembers by district. To ensure a fair and unbiased process, we would like to see an independent commission draw the boundaries and then present the choices to the Council. The districts should be drawn with long-term viability in mind and not to address short term conflicts for current councilmembers. The League would be happy to be a part of this process. Making sure that there is wide community input is critical.

Secondly, all indications are that the President's budget is going to impact many social services. One of those scheduled to be 'zeroed-out' is the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). LSC provides civil legal aid to people who desperately need help to navigate the legal process. Without this assistance, courthouse doors will slam in the faces of millions of Americans, denying them equal access to justice. Supporting LSC saves lives for veterans, victims of domestic violence, the elderly, and victims of natural disasters. LSC is only .001% of the national budget, but each dollar spent returns multiples to our state: child support payments made, returning people to work to become taxpayers, federal benefits received, and much more. Every year since President Nixon, the Legal Services Corporation has provided legal aid for 1.9 million Americans and their families. Please remember this when you talk to your representative about the budget.

Pauline and Syeda

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The article below on housing ties in with the April 24th meeting featuring Greenbelt Alliance. The LWV Bay Area's February/March issue of The Monitor contains 4 separate articles about housing - ***Finding A Way Home, Building Breathable Neighborhoods, Can We Quench Both the Thirst for Housing and Housing's Thirst? and Placemaking and Activation: How to Create an Urban Oasis.***

If you want to subscribe to The Monitor online Contact us at (510) 839-1608 or email [editor@bayareamonitor.org](mailto:editor@bayareamonitor.org)

## **Finding a Way Home**

*By Cecily O'Connor*

This summer, officials are expected to adopt Plan Bay Area 2040, the region's land use and transportation roadmap. While the plan advances environmental goals and transportation system improvements, more work is needed to resolve a confounding Bay Area problem: affordable housing.

That's why regional agencies are forming the Committee for Affordable and Sustainable Accommodations (CASA), a task force that will draw up a housing implementation strategy to accompany Plan Bay Area. CASA will identify actions to fix plan targets moving off course, focusing on displacement risk, access to jobs, and the high costs of rent and mortgages facing low-to-middle-income households.

"The Bay Area is an amazing place to live," said Leslye Corsiglia, co-chair of CASA and executive director of SV@Home, an advocacy group. "It has beauty and is one of the most successful places in the world for innovation and opportunity — yet we have failed in providing sufficient housing for people who live here," she added.

Plan Bay Area grew out of California Senate Bill 375, the state's 2008 climate change legislation requiring California's 18 metropolitan areas to integrate land use and housing into regional transportation plans. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) lead efforts to update

Plan Bay Area every four years. In a crucial step toward adopting the next update this summer, the agencies approved a "Final Preferred Scenario" last fall, establishing forecasts for transportation and

housing needs through 2040 while addressing population growth and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Plan Bay Area scenario earmarks more than \$300 billion in revenue to operate, maintain, and modernize the regional transportation system. It also meets intended environmental targets, including protecting open space and guiding expansion within existing urban growth boundaries. However, housing affordability is a sticking point.

"The math shows that, in terms of affordability, we are moving in the wrong direction," said Ken Kirkey, MTC's planning director. "Over the course of time, we will see those with incomes in the lower half of the spectrum spending two-thirds of their income on housing and transit," he explained.

CASA's formation is the result of a request from groups (such as the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California, Greenbelt Alliance, and Public Advocates) that asked MTC and ABAG to delve deeper and create a strategy that resolves affordability issues.

"Our hope is that it will address a number of topics covered by [Plan Bay Area] like housing affordability and open space protection, while creating more transit choices for Bay Area residents," said Matt Vander Sluis, head of Greenbelt Alliance's Homes and Neighborhoods initiative.

Fred Blackwell, CEO of the San Francisco Foundation, will serve as CASA's co-chair with Corsiglia. Individual task force members have yet to be selected, but will likely represent a cross-section of advocacy groups and business interests, among others, Corsiglia said.

One of the biggest issues they will address is the tendency for low-income residents to be priced out of the market. Low-wage earners are expected to spend 67 percent of their income on housing and transportation costs by 2040, according to the Plan Bay Area scenario. That's up from 54 percent in 2005.

In addition, CASA will consider population growth and other factors influencing the local economy and quality of life. The Plan Bay Area scenario estimates the number of households in the region will jump by 820,000, hitting 3.4 million in 2040, up from 2.6 million in 2010. Employment will grow by 1.3 million jobs, reaching a total of 4.7 million over the next 23 years. By comparison, the 2013 iteration of Plan Bay Area forecasted 660,000 new households and 1.1 million jobs by 2040.

Stated more bluntly, job creation is happening faster than housing supply can respond. Regionally, one house was built for every eight jobs created between 2011 and 2015, according to MTC. Certain areas along the Peninsula are experiencing even greater gaps, with one housing unit built for every 15 jobs.

Limited housing production is one of several factors contributing to displacement risk, which increases 9 percent under the Plan Bay Area scenario. Other drivers include wage polarization, as well as rising demand by high-earners for homes in gentrifying low-income neighborhoods close to transit and amenities, according to a 2015 ABAG white paper, *Addressing Displacement in the Bay Area*.

While displacement has occurred in San Francisco for some time, it's now more common in places like Oakland and within Sonoma and Contra Costa counties, said Miriam Chion, director of planning and research at ABAG.

"The concern about displacement is substantial throughout the region," she said.

To address this and other housing issues, Corsiglia said it is important to focus on factors such as density and location. Not only does the Bay Area need more investment in transit-oriented development, but planners should also maximize infill development opportunities within existing urban areas, a goal that fell short in a recent high-profile project. Corsiglia cited a Palo Alto development on Maybell Avenue as an example in which plans to build five dozen low-income senior housing units and 12 family homes were scrapped in favor of 16 large family homes. Local voters rejected the first proposal by defeating 2013's Measure D.

"We got 16 units instead of 72," Corsiglia said. "We have to be better about that," she declared.

CASA's efforts could inspire legislation, incentives, and funding solutions that reward smart growth to ensure the Bay Area becomes a more sustainable and affordable region.

"Local election results in the Bay Area show that residents want more affordable homes and protected natural and agricultural lands with a functional transit system," Vander Sluis contended. "It's time for our regional agencies to take the next step in providing the region what its voters want," he added.

*Cecily O'Connor covers transportation for the Monitor.*

### **About the Bay Area Monitor**

Launched in 1975, the Bay Area Monitor is published six times a year by the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund, and covers transportation, air quality, water, open space, and land use issues in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The publication is distributed to League members, elected and appointed officials, government employees, libraries, media outlets, nonprofit organizations, business leaders, and engaged residents. Every edition is also posted online at [www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org).

Subscriptions to the Monitor are free, but reader donations are encouraged and help to sustain the publication. Donations are tax-deductible, as the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

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## Honors for our League Member Anu Natarajan

On Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> Senator Bob Wieckowski honored former Fremont Vice Mayor Anu Natarajan, Santa Clara city librarian Hilary Keith and River Oaks Neighborhood Association President Jean Marlowe.

*“These three women are making terrific contributions to our region through their day to day activities in closing the digital divide, improving STEM education, community planning and cultural events,”* Wieckowski said. *“Their community leadership has enriched the areas they are active in and improved neighborhoods, parks, libraries and educational opportunities for all ages.*

Natarajan served on the Fremont City Council for 10 years. She represented the city on regional and national boards and chaired the Housing Authority of Alameda County and the Measure E Citizen Bond Oversight Committee. She is the executive manager of School2Home at the California Emerging Technology Fund. She is also chairs the board of Greenbelt Alliance.

Anu currently serves on our League board as co-program chair. Congratulations!!!

## Thank You to Our Donors

A special donation was received by our League from Alice Cavette, a member of Fremont’s Planning Commission. Her note that accompanied the donation said simply, “Thanks for what you do.” Thank you Alice for your donation!!!

Another special donation was received from Syeda’s father, Sayed I Inamdar, former City of Fremont Senior Citizen Commissioner. Mr. Inamdar respected and appreciated the work of the League of Women Voters, especially our local chapter. He passed away shortly after the donation was received.

Other donors to the League this fiscal year include Jane Mueller, Pat Schaffarczyk, Evelyn LaTorre, Kathryn McDonald, Alex and Peter Starr, and Raquel Riffel

The volunteer donations of time and support come from each of our members. You have attended meetings, brought soup, cookies, and home made goodies to meetings. You have worked tirelessly to register voters at schools and during National Voter Registration Day at BART stations. You have volunteered to help run candidate forums, collect and distribute our mail, answer phone messages especially before the November election. You worked at the polls and donated your paycheck to the League. You have observed so many local councils and boards and alerted us to what was happening. You have participated in our studies with comments and suggestions. You have asked penetrating questions of our guest speakers.

**All of this adds up to YOU helping  
Make Democracy Work!!!**

# LWVC Climate Change Action Policy

*Adopted by the board of directors March 26, 2017 - See more at:  
<https://lwvc.org/issues/climate-change#sthash.RurBSL56.dpuf>*

## Introduction

The League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of the environmental protection movement for decades, consistently supporting legislation to preserve our nation's natural resources and protect our public health and safety. We support legislation that seeks to protect our country from the physical, economic and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity. Global climate change is the greatest environmental challenge of our generation.

The LWVUS, in response to the growing concern about climate change and its impact on the environment, created a Climate Change Task Force in 2006 to provide information and assistance to the national board and staff and to develop materials for use by League members at the local, state and national levels. The task force developed and maintains a Climate Change Toolkit.

California plays an important role in the climate change discussion, and what this state does is crucial. California produces seven percent of U.S. greenhouse gases (GHG) and is in 18th place in global emissions of GHG among countries (2013).

California is also playing a leadership role in reducing emissions, and regions within the state and local communities are taking steps to minimize the impacts of climate change by adoption of Climate Action Plans, Regional Climate Plans, and Sustainability Strategies, addressing sea level rise, and creating Adaption and Resiliency (Readiness) Plans.

Along with national League positions, LWVC positions on Air Quality, Energy, Land Use, and Transportation and the Growth Management

and Sustainable Communities Action Policies all work together to support action.

This LWVC Climate Change Action Policy is designed for use by California state and local Leagues and Inter-League Organizations (ILOs) to guide specific action and education at their respective levels.

## Action Policy

*The League of Women Voters of California supports actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change in order to protect our state from the negative physical, economic, and public health effects. Local Leagues and ILOs are urged to engage at their local and regional levels. Our actions are to:*

- a. Promote energy conservation and efficiency in transportation, buildings, and infrastructure, including energy efficiency standards and land use policies that reduce vehicle miles travelled.*
- b. Promote carbon pricing by market mechanisms such as cap and trade systems and carbon taxes.*
- c. Promote a clean, low-carbon energy economy that is sustainable, including all forms of renewable energy and transportation infrastructure.*
- d. Promote policies that mitigate impacts of climate change by adaptation in urban, rural, agricultural, and natural settings.*
- e. Promote basic research and technology development, encouraging the use of a portfolio of technologies.*
- f. Promote solutions that ease consequences of climate-related hardships to low and moderate income households.*
- g. Promote public access and involvement in the decision-making process.*

Mon, Apr. 24	Greenbelt Alliance "At Risk"	7.00 pm to 8.45 pm Fremont Senior Center 40086 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont
Mon. May 8	General Meeting Speaker Ann Ravel	7:00 PM Fremont Library 2400 Stevenson Blvd. Fremont
Thurs. May 11	Action Group	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Mon. May 15	Board Meeting	6:45 PM League Office 3375 Country Drive Fremont
Fri. June 2	LWVC Convention	Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel Sacramento, CA 95814
Sat. June 10	LWVFNUC Annual Meeting	9:00 AM Domnican Sisters Mother House 43326 Mission Circle, Fremont 94539

ALL MEETINGS ARE FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WHEEL CHAIR ACCESSIBLE

**Mission**

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**Diversity Policy**

LWVFNUC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of our communities in our membership and actions. We believe diverse views are important for responsible decision making and seek to work with all people and groups who reflect our community diversity.

**Join the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY!**

Any person, man or woman, who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League may join. To be a voting member, one must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. Members under 18, or non-citizens, are welcome as non-voting Associate Members. Dues include membership in LWVFNUC, Bay Area League, and the California and National Leagues. Financial support for dues is available through our scholarship program. Contact Evelyn La Torre, Membership Chair, for information.

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