



# The Sacramento Voter

## January 2020



### President's Message

It is a new calendar year for the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County. As a Presidential election year, 2020 promises to be a very exciting year. We kick off the Women's Civil Rights rally on Saturday, January 18, 2020 in Sacramento with a march to the Capitol. Our League will be there; please join us. League members will be meeting at Southside Park, 8<sup>th</sup> and T Streets at 10:15 a.m. The Women's March begins at the Park.

On Saturday, 1/25/20, 9:30 a.m., we will convene a new and current member meeting at the Casa Garden meeting center, 2760 Sutterville Road, Sacramento. The theme is "Making Democracy Work." See below.

Our Program Planning meeting will convene in February, more to follow. As a grassroots organization we can set our agenda and priorities with our members' input and help. There is a saying "Democracy is not a spectator sport." One important focus will be on voter registration and education. We will have tables at community events and be working with several high schools in Sacramento County. We are looking forward to 2020.  
By C. Bonsignore

### Contents

- 1-President's message
- All-member meeting
- Events
- New member
- 2-Redistricting Commission
- Day of Action
- Voter status
- 3-Unit meetings
- Dist. 7 Forum
- Unit report
- Voter Service
- 4-Restorative justice
- Observer corps
- 5-Women's rally
- Indigenous women
- 6-Census
- Unequal-census
- New member orientations
- 7-Books/Reports
- Democracy- PBS
- 8-Voter images
- Initiatives 2020

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### Making Democracy Work

An all-member meeting will be held on January 25, 2020 from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Casa Garden meeting center, 2760 Sutterville Road. Bring your lap top computer if you wish to learn about the LWV's MyLo functions.

#### Meeting Agenda

1. How the LWVUS, LWVC and LWV Sacramento County work together to accomplish established goals
2. Voter Services and how we can be involved in the next election
3. Local volunteer opportunities
4. Communications including MyLo, Facebook, etc.

#### Breakout Sessions

1. Ranked Choice Voting
2. Observer Corps
3. Communications – help with computers
4. Unit meetings including starting a new unit for members who want a different location and agenda

By M. Patzer-Hall [margepatzer@gmail.com](mailto:margepatzer@gmail.com)

### EVENTS

Tuesday, 1/14/2020 OR Wednesday, 1/8/14/2020. Unit meetings, page 3.

Saturday, January 18, 2020: Women's Civil Rights rally and resource fair begins at Southside Park at 9:00 a.m. Enjoy the festivities, then assemble with other League members at 10:15 a.m. at the corner of 8th & T streets. March departs at 10:30 a.m.; rally on the west steps of the State Capitol at 11:45 a.m. Page 5

Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 10:00-12:00 p.m.: Homeless Environmental Justice, Trinity Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Ave.

Saturday, January 25, 2020, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.: All-Member Meeting, Making Democracy Work. See above items for location & agenda.

Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.: Congressional District 7 Candidate Forum, Rio Americano High School. Page 3

### Welcome New Member

Laurel Tamariz

2019-2020

Contact Us

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 Mahnaz Khasari, Membership  
 Marge Patzer, Voter Services, Voter Registration

*Voter editor*– Alice Ginosar  
*Voter publisher*– Eileen Heaser

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**City Seeking Applicants for First-Ever Independent Redistricting Commission**

The City of Sacramento has what many city and county voters in our state dream of—an independent redistricting commission! For the first time, citizens, not politicians, will draw the council district lines. Since our League was instrumental in getting this commission adopted by charter amendment, it is important that we participate in the implementation to ensure its success.

The first step is to make sure we have a commission that is ethnically diverse and representative of all council districts. If you are a League member living in the city and are knowledgeable about Sacramento neighborhoods, please consider applying. There are other qualifications to insure you are truly an independent voice, free from political influence.

In addition, we need you to help us find and encourage others who meet the qualifications to apply. We need 13 commissioners. What a great learning experience this would be! The City Clerk needs a minimum of 40 qualified applicants including at least three from each of the eight council districts. The Ethics Commission will be involved in the vetting of applicants.

The League will be working with other community partners, as we did for the Voter's Choice Act, to help recruit applicants and we need YOU as a League member to help recruit commissioners. A one-page recruitment flyer will be posted on the LWVSC website soon and a webinar is planned for the middle of January.

By P. Lee

Related article from [SN&R](#), 12/05/2019, pg.4, by Foon Rhee: "We draw the lines."

**LWVC Needs Support for National Day of Action**

You may recall that February 14, 2020, is the League of Women Voters' 100th anniversary. To commemorate this day in a meaningful way, the League declared its centennial "Women Power the Vote—Day of Action."

Leagues all over the country will be participating in a National Day of Action on February 14, 2020. In California, we will be lobbying our state legislators and members of Congress in their district offices. We could add lobbying local offices about redistricting if there is interest.

To make this happen, we need a few people to help organize the work by promoting the event, and recruiting and coordinating local League volunteers.

Some specific jobs:

- making appointments with legislators' offices
- coordinating with local Leagues — who will go to each appointment
- taking photos
- social media posting - both before and after
- pulling together the lobbying material (most of the writing is completed; materials must be put together in a cohesive package)

If you are willing, contact Helen Hutchison [HHutchison@lwvc.org](mailto:HHutchison@lwvc.org) Please help recruit others to assist with this work.

By S. Bakker

Locating Election information  
[www.Elections.SacCounty.net](http://www.Elections.SacCounty.net) or  
 916-875-6451

**Web sites to check for LWV news**  
[LWVC.org](http://LWVC.org)  
 &  
[LWVUS.org](http://LWVUS.org)

**Board Meeting Dates**  
 Jan. 8, 2020, 5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.  
 Feb. 12, 2020, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.  
 Mar. 11, 2020, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.  
 April. 8, 2020, 5:30 p.m.– 8:30 p.  
 May 13, 2020, 5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.

Articles for *The Voter*  
 Members are encouraged to write articles relevant to LWV issues, word length up to approximately 350 words. Please provide attribution when appropriate.  
 Email: [aliceginosar@yahoo.com](mailto:aliceginosar@yahoo.com) or [cheaserlwv@gmail.com](mailto:cheaserlwv@gmail.com)

[Link for Easy Voter Guide, yard signs, Pros & Cons.](#)

Publications will be online in early January 2020.

Link to check your voter status.

[My voter status –California Secretary of State.](#)

**Unit Meetings—January 2020**

Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 10:00 a.m.	Roseann Kerby 916-392-1267	Mary Hopkins 45 Sunlit Circle, Sacramento, 95831, 916-422-6958
Outlier’s Folsom	Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 11:45 a.m.	Nancy Compton 916-600-1992	Lunch, Cliff House, Folsom, 9900 Greenback Lane. 916-989-9243
Suburban	Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner 916-944-1042	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608

**Unit Meetings - Discussion Topic**

At this month’s meetings, we will review the *Fair Maps Act* of 2019 (AB 849). This bill establishes redistricting criteria for those counties and cities in California whose constituencies are represented by districts. It prohibits gerrymandering, standardizes criteria, and prioritizes intact neighborhoods and diverse communities.

Sacramento County has seven cities. The county and two cities, Sacramento and Elk Grove, are represented by districts. However, only the City of Sacramento has an independent redistricting commission that establishes district boundaries.

As part of our work on the Sacramento City Good Government Framework, the LWVSC has been and will continue to be active in the City of Sacramento’s redistricting activities. A separate article in *The Voter* discusses the City’s Independent Redistricting Commission and applications for serving on the Commission.

The *Fair Maps Act* provides an opportunity for us to engage in the County’s, and, if there is interest, the City of Elk Grove’s redistricting processes as they begin.

Sources: <https://cavotes.org/issues/redistricting-california>  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB849](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB849)

By. S. Bakker

**Congressional District 7 Candidate Forum Tuesday, January 28, 2020**

The forum will be held from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Rio Americano Performing Arts Center co-sponsored with Rio Americano high school’s CIVITAS program. LWV SC will work with Nina Seibel, government teacher to engage students in the forum as well as registering and pre-registering voters.

There are five candidates who have filed to run for the seat currently held by Ami Bera. Contact M. Patzer [margepatzer@gmail.com](mailto:margepatzer@gmail.com)

By. P. Lee

**Voter Service Events that are Tentatively Scheduled for 2020 Include**

- Saturday, February 22, 10:00 a.m. Parkside Community Church, 5700 South Land Park Drive (voter education)
- Tuesday, February 25, CSUS Hinde Auditorium, time to be determined
- Monday, March 2, CSUS Hinde Auditorium, time to be determined

We will assist the Registrar of Voters with mock elections and registration/pre-registration for high school students in Sacramento County high schools starting after January - details pending.

One of our members is seeking voter opportunities at Sacramento Community Colleges: Sacramento City College, American River, Cosumnes and Folsom.

If you know of any fairs or other indoor events where we could register voters please let me know and I will arrange for volunteers.

Your participation is important and appreciated!

M. Patzer. [margepatzer@gmail.com](mailto:margepatzer@gmail.com) 209-815-5787

**Unit Meeting Report**

On December 10, 2019, Suburban Unit members in Carmichael discussed the "Schools and Communities First" proposition that may appear on the November 2020 ballot. The measure, if passed, would reclaim \$12 billion per year for K-12 schools, community colleges, local communities and parks by closing the commercial property tax loopholes. This proposition would increase taxes on commercial properties, thereby making more equality in taxation since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978.

The members attending support this proposition. At the same time, are there any safe guards that would discourage landlords from passing on the tax to tenants by increasing rents?

A. Ginosar, note taker

## Restorative Justice

The primary goal of this kind of justice for nonviolent crime is – community repair. The San Francisco District Attorney summarizes the contrast thusly:

The traditional justice system focuses on three questions:

- What law was broken?
- Who broke it?
- How should they be punished?

In contrast, restorative justice asks:

- Who has been harmed?
- What are their needs?
- Whose obligation is it to meet those needs?

Gandhi suggested we ‘hate the sin and love the sinner.’ This means reducing crime by investigation, analysis and rehabilitation. The San Francisco DA’s website describes a new concept, procedural justice, which apparently has the goal of making the existing legalities more humane and effective.

Yolo County has been piloting restorative justice programs such as neighborhood courts in the last few years, and most recently San Joaquin County has received funding for a pilot program.

About two decades ago, I was briefly involved in a Sacramento Victim-Offender Mediation Program, that had some connection to the Sacramento Mediation Center. I attended a training but was never called to volunteer. It appears that there is much interest in this approach in California.

Different categories of crime, such as victimless crimes, property crimes, and violent crimes undoubtedly require somewhat different restorative justice programs. South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission offers a model for healing a community after violent crime.

Civil lawsuits can also benefit from mediation and restorative justice concepts. Too often civil remedies are simply financial, when real-world remedies, such as community service, offer more complete justice.

But underneath it all, a key problem is that admitting fault and saying you’re sorry creates legal liability that can be used against you in a conventional court of law. At the same time, the theory that the traditional adversarial process is a reliable way to discern the truth is not holding up very well. Making the other person wrong is no guarantee that one is right.

By M. Strand

## LWVSC Observer Corps Getting New Energy

At our September unit meetings, attendees discussed the League’s long-standing Observer Corps. For those unfamiliar with the program, the basic idea is to let our local officials know we are paying attention. The League’s publication, “Observing Your Government in Action,” provides guidance for the program.

At the Greenhaven/Land Park unit meeting, several long-time League members shared their experiences from years past, but the program is not currently active. Even if members do attend (or watch) public meetings to observe their government at work, they have not had a process for sharing that information with the League until recently.

This year, members of our Criminal Justice Reform Committee have attended several public meetings and have submitted their Observer Corps reports to the Board. We expect the committee will continue to observe and report given our current priorities.

In the coming year, we expect other members will be tracking county and city redistricting activities to address the 2020 census data. Observing this redistricting activity is especially important since California enacted the *Fair Maps Act* this year. This act requires affected counties and cities to develop districts in an open, nonpartisan process, to actively seek public input and to prioritize intact neighborhoods and diverse communities.

If you are interested in being a part of our newly energized Observer Corps, we would like to help you get started. Please contact us at [lwvvs@sacramento.org](mailto:lwvvs@sacramento.org) for information. In the next few months, we will be working to develop effective ways to share these Observer Corps reports with our members and the public. There are several other Leagues in California and throughout the country that can help guide our development.

By S. Bakker



2020  
WOMEN'S  
MARCH  
SACRAMENTO



**JANUARY 18, 2020**  
WOMEN'S RIGHTS RALLY  
& RESOURCE FAIR

Begins at Southside Park  
9 a.m.  
Departs for Capitol  
10:30 a.m.  
Rally on West Steps  
11:45 a.m.



**WE'LL BE THERE!**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

League members  
& friends  
meet up @ 10:15 a.m.  
8th & T Streets



EVENT Allied with  
Women's March Global



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

### Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Taiko drums were booming, then vibrating into my body and soul. The audience was moved, often to tears, by the story told by the grandfather of one of thousands of missing and murdered indigenous women. Khadijah Britton, was kidnapped in February 2018. Violence continues happening to Native American women. More than four out of five native women (80%) experience violence in their lifetime and the perpetrator is more than likely to be non-native.

Many Americans (including myself) have been unaware of these atrocities. Awareness is our first step toward action. Marc Engstrom, Legislative Director for Assemblyman Frazier (Fresno), told the audience of about 200 that were gathered for the concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, 11/23/2019, about AB 1653 that is pending. This bill would establish the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Task Force to collect data and organize more effective data collection and coordination of resources.

Songs were sung by All Voices Choir Project under the direction of Lee Hoffman, including: *Say Her Name*, *Let It Matter*, *All Things are Connected*, and *When Thunder Comes*, accompanied by taiko drums.

How troubling it is that many of us have been unaware of the magnitude of this recent genocide against Native American women. Of course, we know the history of the United States government genocide over our 243 years. In *The Peoples History of the United States*, Howard Zinn documents the facts and estimates the numbers. He notes that the renowned historian Arthur Schlesinger, in his writings about Andrew Jackson, did not mention the atrocities President Jackson committed against Native Peoples, especially the "Trail of Tears" in 1830. We can begin changing our shameful history by individually following and supporting AB 1653.

Contact Marc Engstrom at [www.Marc.Engstrom@asm.ca.gov](mailto:www.Marc.Engstrom@asm.ca.gov).

By Alice Ginosar

## Census

On Friday, 11/22/2019, Jennifer Berdugo, advocate and education employee with the American Association of Retired Persons, (AARP), addressed the CSUS Renaissance Society. AARP works with local and state governments to assist the aging with communication, housing, transportation, etc. Regarding the census, AARP provides presentations in the community in order to encourage people to fill in the census forms and provides volunteers to assist people in their homes. The census helps to explain how our country works. The first census in the world was authorized in 1790 by George Washington. Representation to the congress is determined by the population count. "Every 10 years the census is used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets. The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs." (AARP flier) California may lose one representative this year, therefore it is extremely important to have an accurate count. California has 55 representatives now.

Census 2020: On April 1 the 2020 census launches online. Beginning July 1 through December 2020 enumerators will work with people needing assistance. The census count begins in Alaska in January, well before the April 1 date, due to the vast and rural areas covered. Citizens can request a paper form [English or Spanish]. **Nine** demographic questions regarding the occupants are asked; census collection will be online, occupants will receive a postcard notice in the **mail** instructing how to access the online form (postcard address will be from Jeffersonville, IN or Phoenix, AZ, only). Online information should have **.census.gov** at the end of the URL/computer address. Immigrants and foreigners SHOULD be counted; census information is NOT shared with ICE, FBI, IRS, or police. Census enumerators take a lifetime oath to protect citizens' privacy. Information is encrypted. If citizens do not respond enumerators are sent to assist: You SSN, money requests, threat of jail time, or request to support a political party will never be asked for.

Beware of scammers: to verify, call the National Processing Center: 800-523-3205 or 800-642-0469 or 800-877-8339 (TDD/TTY)

For census jobs: [census.gov/partners](https://census.gov/partners) OR [jberdugo@aarp.org](mailto:jberdugo@aarp.org) OR see [2020 census](#)

Mike Schneider, *Associated Press*, 11/23/2019 wrote: "[5 states resist creating panels to promote census.](#)" In the article he states: "... Florida, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Texas—have not set up 'complete count committees' that would create public awareness campaigns to encourage people to fill out the questionnaire." "... committees can separate census winners from losers."

Retrieved 11/25/2019 By E. Heaser

### Unequal Preparation for 2020 Census

Before the next nationwide head count, some states are spending millions of dollars in an effort to maximize population totals and, by extension, their share of federal resources and representation in Congress. Other states are spending nothing.

Spending state funds on census outreach is a fairly new idea, but there's a clear political divide: Seventeen of the 24 states that aren't devoting money are Republican-controlled, while Democrats lead 22 of the 26 states that are.

Why it matters: An accurate census would include more people from harder-to-count groups like Hispanics and the poor, who tend to vote Democratic. If they don't participate, the census would skew Republican, as would political maps based on the results.

The details: California, with nearly 40 million residents, is set to introduce a \$187 million campaign to encourage participation. Texas, the second-most-populous state, with 29 million residents, has elected not to spend any money, although volunteers are trying to fill the gap. *The New York Times*, "Morning Briefing," by Chris Stanford, retrieved 12/16/2019

E. Heaser

### Small Group New Member Orientations

Over the last few months, on a trial basis, the membership committee has conducted small group orientation sessions at times and days customized to the needs of the new members. The small group sessions are designed to augment general meetings for members and meet the needs of individual schedules.

Roseanne Chamberlain coordinates the meet-ups with new members in groups of one to four persons depending on availability of the participants. The orientation covers the basics about League, including organization, units, the consensus process, our positions (national, state and local), annual planning meeting, and more. We also try to focus on each member's interests and on connecting them with opportunities to participate in the wide range of activities available in the area of their interests. These small group sessions empower new members to find their preferred activities and get involved early in our efforts to make democracy work.

Contact Roseanne Chamberlain ([Roseanne.ch@gmail.com](mailto:Roseanne.ch@gmail.com)) if you want to schedule a session. You can participate even if you are a "not-so-new" member.

By R. Chamberlain

## Books/Reports

E. Heaser

*Exposure: Poisoned Water, Corporate Greed, and One Lawyer's Twenty-year Battle Against DuPont*, by Robert Bilott, lawyer. As stated by a Simon & Schuster review: “*Exposure* is an unforgettable legal drama about malice and manipulation, the failings of environmental regulation, and one lawyer’s quest to expose the truth about this previously unknown—and still unregulated—chemical that presents one of the greatest human health crises of the 21st century.” Retrieved 11/29/2019. *Kirkus Review* cautions that the author is an advocate and thus his assessment of DuPont’s scientists, lawyers and top executives needs to be read with that in mind. The case against DuPont took approximately 20 years to litigate. The chemicals in question are described as Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and many others. May be referred to as C-8, commonly known as Teflon. PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe, including in the United States since the 1940s. *Deep Water* is the just-released docudrama about this disaster.

*Secondhand: Travels in the New Global Garage Sale*, 2019, by Adam Minter, author and journalist, researches the multibillion-dollar industry of reuse: thrift stores, vintage shops, flea markets, from the United States to Japan and Southeast Asia. “A history of the stuff we’ve used and a contemplation of why we keep buying more, it also reveals the marketing practices, design failures, and racial prejudices that push used items into landfills instead of new homes.” [Amazon.com](#) retrieved 12/5/2019.

*America for Americans: A History of Xenophobia in the United States*, 2019, by Ericka Lee. “Lee shows that an irrational fear, hatred, and hostility toward immigrants has been a defining feature of the nation from the colonial era to the Trump era. This text explains how xenophobia works, why it has endured, and how it threatens America.” *Book Marks*, retrieved 12/16/2019

*Just the FACTS. “Poverty in California”* by Sarah Bohan, Caroline Danielson, and Tess Thorman, Public Policy Institute of California, July 2019. The Report provides definitions and charts poverty in California’s counties.

*It’s Not Just Poor White People Driving a Decline in Life Expectancy* A new study shows that death rates increased for middle-aged people of all racial and ethnic groups. By **Gina Kolata and Sabrina Tavernise** *New York Times*, 11/26/2019. Retrieved 11/27/2019 “The whole country is at a health disadvantage compared to other wealthy nations,” the Study’s lead author, Dr. Steven Woolf of Virginia Commonwealth University, said. “We are losing people in the most productive period of their lives. Children are losing parents. Employers have a sicker work force.” A Falling Life Expectancy map of the United States shows between 2010 and 2017, death rates for people aged 25 to 64 increased in nearly every state. The Study was reported in *JAMA*.

Don’t Suppress the Votes of New Citizens by Terri Gerstein, *The Progressive*, 11/18/2019. “On November 14, 2019, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services proposed hiking the application fee for most people from \$640 to \$1,170 and eliminating a reduced-cost option for lower wage earners; they’ve also made it harder for very low-income applicants to obtain fee waivers.” “Meanwhile, the administration has been processing applications at a snail’s pace, creating a tremendous backlog. The wait has doubled in recent years, with the nationwide amount of pending naturalization applications totaling nearly 700,000 as of June—more than the populations of Wyoming or Vermont. The government’s efficiency in handling the backlog is at its lowest level in a decade, and in some places, the estimated wait exceeds two years.”

“Using Texts, Kaiser Signs Up 11,000 Patients for CalFresh,” by Cathie Anderson, *The Sacramento Bee*, 12/2/2019, pp. A1, A10. Kaiser Permanente will be giving up to \$200 per month to the food insecure for groceries. In August, after identifying ZIP codes where people are more likely to have poor health outcomes, 435,000 households were texted, more than 11,000 Kaiser members completed applications and 21,000 are in the process. Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield are developing programs to assist with housing, food assistance, transportation, and health services.

“New Test Scores Show U.S. Students Continue to Trail Global Peers in Reading and Math in Europe and East Asia.” by Elliot Hannon, *Slate*, 12/3/2019. The Program for International Student Assessment, PISA, found that, among 600,000 students in 79 countries, American students ranked eighth in reading, eleventh in science and below average at thirtieth in math. A national test found that American students were not proficient in reading. Retrieved 12/4/2019.

*Offshore Drilling, Onshore Damage: Broken Pipelines, Dirty Refineries, Pollution Impacts of Energy Infrastructure*, Fall 2019. A report released by Environment America Research & Policy Center and Frontier Group, by Elizabeth Ridlington and Kelsey Lamp. To read the *Report* click on the title. Retrieved 12/7/2019

## Democracy Rebellion

“A sweeping survey of the political reform movement is coming to televisions across the country next month, when PBS stations in more than 100 cities begin airing “The Democracy Rebellion.” The documentary is the culmination of three years’ work by **Hedrick Smith**, one of the most accomplished journalists of the past half century. The film, which debuts January 6, features footage from successful and ongoing campaigns to fix the governance system in almost a dozen states: Florida, California, Connecticut, North Carolina, South Dakota, Ohio, Michigan, Colorado, Missouri, Utah and Washington. This is the missing story of American politics, a story people have been hungering for. Not Washington, but grassroots America.” Retrieved 12/26/2019

Notice sent by P. Lee



The League of Women Voters of  
Sacramento County

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**Return Service Requested**  
**JANUARY 2020**  
**First Class Mail**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



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[https://outlook.office.com/mail/deeplink?  
version=2019090902.09&popoutv2=1](https://outlook.office.com/mail/deeplink?version=2019090902.09&popoutv2=1)

By S. Bakker

Initiatives for 2020 ballot