



The Sacramento Voter

May 2020



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Status of our Annual Meeting in Time of a Pandemic

We have been preparing for the League’s Annual Meeting despite the unpredictability of the covid-19 pandemic. At our Annual Meeting, we will strive to accomplish at least three things in preparation for the coming year: (1) adopt a local program (2) elect directors, officers and off-Board members from the Nominating Committee, (3) adopt a budget. We may conduct other business as appropriate.

Although we don’t know when we can hold this years Annual Meeting, we have three specific things ready for the membership’s consideration.

Our Program Planning Committee conducted a very comprehensive program-planning exercise and gave the Board their final “Recommendations to the Membership” at our April Board meeting.

Our Nominating Committee completed their broad survey of Board and Committee members and the membership and gave the Board their final “Recommendations to the Membership,” at the April Board meeting.

Our Budget Committee completed their analysis and recommendations and presented their final “Recommendation to the Membership” at the March Board meeting.

Our Bylaws require us to submit these recommendations, in the form of an Annual Meeting Kit, to the membership at least one month before the Annual Meeting. In order to keep our options open, we plan to send these recommendations to the membership within the month of April. Watch for this material in your email inbox or your mailbox.

By. S. Bakker

EVENTS
ALL EVENTS CANCELLED

Seeking Editor

When you serve as the editor for the *The Voter*, you can work from home: go to the fridge, take a walk and smell the roses in your garden. I have served as the editor for the past seven years and it has been an enjoyable and satisfying experience. The primary responsibilities are to ask members to submit articles related to positions the League studies, educates and advocates for, edit articles; and remind Board members to send a copy of their monthly reports to the editor by the 15th of the month, viz., August to April. *The Voter* is published from September to May. Publisher Eileen Heaser formats articles and photographs and does final edits.

Be at the HUB. Be in the know. See what is going on, from the core to the tips.

I am not leaving town, and will be reachable by phone (916-545-6015) or email aliceginosar@yahoo.com when you have questions. If ever you have wondered what it might be like to write for a newspaper, please consider volunteering.

By A. Ginosar

**2019-2020
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Claudia Bonsignore, President
Paula Lee, 1st Vice-President
Theresa Riviera, Vice-President
Terri Colosimo, Secretary
Suzi Bakker, Treasurer

Directors

Nancy Compton
Mahnaz Khazari
Nancy Lapp
Brenda Main
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Marge Patzer

Off Board Leads

Patricia Pavone, LWVC Children's Roundtable
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Bernadette Lynch, Nominating Comm.
Mahnaz Khasari, Membership
Marge Patzer, Voter Services, Voter Registration
Norma Nelson, Criminal Justice Committee
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Lana Wong, Instagram
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[face book@lwvsacramento.org](https://www.facebook.com/lwvsacramento.org)

**Web sites to check for
League news**

LWVC.org
LWV.org

Board Meeting Dates

May 13, 2020, 5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

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 or ehaserlwv@gmail.com

COVID (Coronavirus) Guidance for Leagues

As COVID-19 continues to affect more and more communities across the country, LWVUS offers these guidelines and resources for League work.

The coronavirus outbreak is an ever-changing situation. LWVUS will continue to watch CDC recommendations and do our best to provide updates on this page in real time.

From President LWVUS, Chris Carson

VOTE411, the one-stop voting shop that has empowered millions of voters, is a hub for everything you need to know about voting during COVID-19. Our team is updating this groundbreaking bilingual resource every day. Visit it regularly and share it with the people in your life. While you're there, be sure to check your voter registration status and learn about voting options in your state. By Jeanette Senecal, LWV,
4/7/2020

[Table of Symptoms for Some Viruses](#)

Locating Election information

www.Elections.SacCounty.net or 916-875-6451

URL to check your voting status

November 2020 election, ballot measures/initiative and referendum status as of April 23, 2020. By Alex Padilla, California Secretary of State.

Newspapers

“Legislature should work to save community newspapers,” *Opinion* by Charles Champion, California News Publishers Association, *The Sacramento Bee*, 4/12/2020, 2D. “In the last few weeks alone, six California newspapers wholly dependent on local advertising have suspended their operations; other papers have laid off many of their employees, begun furloughs ... asked staff to take pay cuts and other newspapers have closed.” Author Champion urges the Governor and the Legislature to take several actions: 1) policymakers must recognize the essential role of newspapers and provide priority funding to news organizations, 2) direct state agencies to prioritize local news and ethnic publications for placement of public outreach advertisements that in turn will help California news organizations inform the public about resources and key public health information, 3) the State should grant an extension of the law that allows newspaper carriers to be classified as independent contractors, and 4) “... Legislature can incentivize subscribers and advertisers to continue their financial support of the news industry. Californians should receive tax deductions if they subscribe to their local news organizations ... [and the] advertisers that continue to place their messages in printed and published newspapers.” Page 2D.

NewsReview independent journalism. If you want to keep up with local news, the former *Sacramento News & Review*, (*SN&R*), is available online. Access is free although donations are encouraged.
E. Heaser

Unit Meetings—May 2020 CANCELLED

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

Unit Meetings CANCELLED

May Unit-Meeting Discussion Topic

Needless to say, we will not be having traditional unit meetings in May. Still, we could learn about the League's "She Is Me" campaign either together in virtual meetings or on our own. This is an exciting campaign, and our 100th anniversary is the perfect time to build our history. If you have more time on your hands than usual, learning about She Is Me, and contributing your own story and/or someone else's, would be a great use of your time.

This content comes from the [LWVUS Management Site](#).

What is She Is Me?

She Is Me is an online campaign to celebrate 100 years of League work through the inter-generational stories of our actual League of Women Voters members.

The goal of She Is Me is to generate awareness of the League of Women Voters among new audiences, focusing on cultivating the next generation of LWV supporters.

The She Is Me campaign is a project of the national LWV office, and local and state Leagues are invited to join! Please know that participation in She Is Me is not a mandate from the national office. While we would love to see Leagues engage in the campaign, but please do not feel pressured to do so if your League is unable or has other priorities.

The link takes you to all the resources related to this campaign. For this unit "meeting," since it must be online, begin by watching this short, inspiring [video](#) and exploring the [microsite](#) that shows the beautiful results of the campaign so far.

Following that, consider how we can bring this campaign to life in our League community. Of course, during our centennial year, we are thinking about the trails our foremothers blazed. In addition to hearing their stories, we need to gather stories from our new and younger members to find out how they got where they are, and how we can make our League live on in the next 100 years.

A couple of questions: Is there any interest in forming a group of historians to collect stories from our long-time members? How else can we gather stories from our members, new and old?

Let us know what we have done, are doing or want to do to contribute to this campaign.

The national League has developed this toolkit with helpful messaging and social media resources. We could have fun with this!

By S. Bakker

Members

As of April 2020, the LWVSC has **146 members**.
Reported by M. Khazari

Count on Census 2020

For toolkits, videos, jobs, data protections and much more.

By T. Colosimo

19th Amendment Centennial Celebration POSTPONED

Due to the gravity of our state and national health care emergencies, our Next 100 Years of Women Voting organizing committee has postponed the August 22, 2020 19th Amendment Centennial Festival and Parade at Sacramento's Cal Expo until October of this year. In upcoming weeks, we hope to provide more details about our change in plans.

We urge everyone to be safe and mindful of how we may step up to meet our collective challenges in upcoming months. Please know we appreciate your support of our work to honor the struggle for basic rights by those laudable women who came before us. May we emulate their valiant work in what lies ahead.

Best Regards, Charlene Jones



POSTPONED
October
2020

19th Amendment
Centennial
Celebration
Sacramento, CA

Visit our website for more information
CAwomens100.vote

Fracking

Fracking's Bridge to Climate Chaos: Expanding the Fossil Fuel Industries Deadly Spin, Oakley Shelton-Thomas, researcher, [Food & Water Watch](#), 2020, "... shows how proponents of shale gas development push for continued drilling and fracking while communities across the globe experience the impacts of catastrophic climate change." "Rather than closing coal plants as proponents claim, a move to natural gas blocks clean renewable energy and locks us into fracked gas infrastructure designed to last for decades." Food & Water Action, *The Action! Report*, Spring 2020, page 6. Click link above to read the full *Report*.

By E. Heaser

**Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Actions Related to Housing/Homelessness and COVID-19**

At a Special Meeting on April 1, 2020, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved three emergency measures related to housing and homelessness during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The first was a resolution authorizing the Department of Human Assistance to accept \$997,067.17 in funding from the California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency to provide emergency services to protect the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness and to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The funding can be used for needs such as emergency shelter operation, expanding shelter capacity, providing isolation capacity, and supporting street outreach, transportation, and staffing. The resolution passed unanimously.

A second resolution authorizes the Director of the Department of Human Assistance to enter into temporary lease agreements to provide shelter for homeless persons at higher risk for COVID-19 complications. This award is intended for investment into COVID-19 prevention and containment efforts, including increased shelter capacity through the acquisition or leasing of structures such as hotels, motels, trailers, and other properties. The COVID-19 Homelessness Task Force, a collaboration between the Department of Human Assistance, Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, City of Sacramento, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, and Sacramento Steps Forward, will oversee shelter entry. This resolution passed unanimously.

The third measure, an ordinance, will temporarily prohibit evictions of residential tenants due to impacts of COVID-19. The ordinance applies only to residential tenants and requires repayment of past due rent within 120 days. The ordinance was adopted by a four to one vote.

At the Board meeting on April 7, 2020, the Board unanimously approved a resolution to adopt the Sacramento COVID-19 Homelessness Response Plan. The plan authorizes the Department of Health Services (DHS) to apply for, accept, and utilize funding available through state and federal governments, Sacramento Steps Forward, and the City of Sacramento to meet the requirements of the plan. The resolution also allows DHS to enter into emergency contractual agreements with service providers and agencies that can provide critical services and supplies needed to control the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak within the homeless population. The Sacramento City Council also approved this plan on April 7.

The plan focuses on three primary areas of direct services for people experiencing homelessness: (1) keeping existing shelters safe and operational through education and provision of supplies; (2) expanding sheltering capacity, focusing on isolation/quarantine needs; and (3) supporting encampments through outreach, supply delivery, and increased sanitation. The plan will open 990 beds for homeless individuals and provide for 500 meals per day, 50 sanitation stations, transportation (possibly through a partnership with Regional Transit), outreach, and other supplies at encampments.

By Brenda Main

***Blowout*, Rachel Maddow, 2019**

According to Rachel Maddow, MSNBC news program host, the oil industry is the biggest, the most consequential, the most lucrative, the MOST POWERFUL, and the LEAST governed in the history of mankind. It has caused mindless damage, laying the ground work for the global catastrophe that is climate change.

Starting in the 1920's, taxes were made very low for the oil industry to help it get started. It has been the longest running "welfare program" in U.S. history, under both Democrats and Republicans. In Oklahoma, huge tax breaks for oil have left schools, fire departments, and infrastructure poorly funded.

An Exxon spokesman said, "We are private investors, it is not our role to tell governments how to spend their money" and so Equatorial Ghana's tyrant, Obiang, established a relationship with Exxon's Rex Tillerson. The result was that millions of dollars were given to Obiang. Finally, in 1977, Congress passed the "Foreign Corrupt Practices Act," making it illegal to bribe foreign officials. Exxon ignored the law. President Obama said all U.S. companies must stop drilling in Russia; Exxon ignored the order.

In Russia, Putin thought that striking oil in the Arctic would make Europe dependent on oil from Russia. As Maddow writes, "This is the vexing predicament facing the Kremlin: Putin's thug dream of resurgent Russian dominance-fueled by oil and gas-is one that can't come true without international help to make his one indispensable industry capable of competing in the global market. And he can't get that international help as long as he's recognized as a gangster and treated like one." page 338

In Maddow's final chapter on "Containment," she writes about how to "contain" the corrupt oil industry: by making the industry make full disclosure of all payments to governments and government actors. This will reveal to congressmembers who are on the "take," according to Maddow, "The oil and gas industry-left to its own devices- will mindlessly follow its own nature. It will make tons of money. It will corrode and corrupt and sabotage democratic governance." (p. 365).

Summary: Maddow's book is researched, with notes on sources but no footnotes. It reads like a novel, is understandable and moves along quickly. Maddow writes like she speaks, cynically, using idioms and metaphors. The book is very depressing as it exposes the power of big oil.

By A. Ginosar

Update from Voter Services

All voter registration and education events were cancelled after March 3, 2020 due to COVID 19. We will resume as soon as possible. The primary election was very confusing to many people. We will need to do more voter education prior to the November election. The good news is that California has more registered voters than ever!

California Secretary of State's Report of registered voters

Report Date	Eligible Voters ¹	Registered Voters	Percent
February 18, 2020	25,251,216	20,660,465	81.82%
May 23, 2016	24,783,789	17,915,053	72.29%
May 21, 2012	23,713,027	17,153,699	72.34%
May 19, 2008	23,033,970	16,123,787	70.00%
January 22, 2008	22,948,059	15,712,753	68.47%
February 17, 2004	21,887,894	15,091,160	68.95%

¹The figures are unofficial but are based on U.S. Census data, as adjusted by information from the California Department of Finance and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The “needs improvement” news is that voter turnout for the 2020 primary election only increased by 8.1% over the 2018 primary election. More work is needed to increase the voter turnout for the general election in November 2020.

Sacramento County Voter Turn Out

Report Date	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Percent Turnout
3/3/2020 Primary	818,656	409,351	50%
11/6/2018 General	764,998	522,652	68.3%
6/5/2018 Primary	740,537	310,881	41.9%
11/8/2016 General	772,777	575,711	74.5%
6/7/2016 Primary	715,993	340,360	47.5%
11/4/2014 General	683,632	340,817	48.4%
6/3/2014 Primary	688,443	203,850	29.6%

DMV Statistics

Despite problems with the new California Motor Voter Program, since implementation 4/18 there has been an increase in voter registration, re-registration and updating addresses through the DMV from 142,413 per month to 371,015 per month. DMV statistics demonstrate that foreign language speakers are more likely to register to vote at DMV.

LWVSC has established relationships with many community organizations. We hope we will be back to the “new normal” soon. In the meantime, please let us know if you think of any ideas to help register and educate voters.

Submitted by M. Patzer, Voter Services

Books/Reports/Articles

E. Heaser

Sacramento Climate Plan, Draft

“*New Sacramento Climate Plan may change your commute and appliances,*” by reporter Theresa Clift, *The Sacramento Bee*, 4/23/2020, 3 A, describes the draft by the Commission on Climate Change launched by Mayors Steinberg and Cabaldon, November 2018. Some highlights: by 2023 mandate all-electric construction to eliminate fossil-fuel use in new buildings; appliances using natural gas – furnaces, stoves, water heaters and clothes dryers; by 2030, 30 percent of all residents’ trips are to be by active transportation (bicycles, scooters, transit, carpools, etc., with 50 percent by 2050, establish car-free districts on weekend nights; increase food security and access to healthy, affordable food ... by sourcing 25 percent of food locally within a 200 mile radius by 2030, and more. The Commission will meet virtually May 13, 2020 to discuss next steps. Send feedback to the Commission, link above.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

-“Supreme Court takes a stand for basic rights,” *Commentary*, by reporter Michael McGouch, *The Los Angeles Times*, 4/20/2020, as reported in *The Sacramento Bee*, 4/23/2020, 9A. “After Monday’s decision no state will be able to convict people of serious crimes by less than unanimous juries.” “... protections in the *Bill of Rights* that originally applied only to the federal government also apply to actions by state governments.” “This process is called ‘incorporation’: a reference to the court’s holding that some, but not all, rights specified in the *Bill of Rights* are incorporated against the states by the 14th Amendment ... added to the Constitution after the Civil War. That amendment mandates that people not be deprived of liberty without due process of law ... “ page 9A

-*Supreme Inequality: The Supreme Court’s fifty-year battle for a more unjust America, 2020*, by Adam Cohen, former *New York Times* editorial board member emphasizes “almost pure law,” according to reviewer Michael O’Donnell. [The Atlantic, March 2020](#) “The Supreme Court’s Enduring Bias: Over the past half century, siding with the powerful against the vulnerable has been the rule in almost every area of the law,” pages 74-76. O’Donnell continues: Unlike most past books about the Supreme Court that were more entertaining, e.g., *The Brethren*, B. Woodward and S. Armstrong or journalists, J. Toobin, M. Coyle, etc. O’Donnell lauds two judicial biographies that include more seminal cases: L. Greenhouse’s *Becoming Justice Blackman*, and *Justice Brennan: Liberal Champion* by S. Stern and S. Wermiel. The Cohen book describes the “erosion of individual protections.” “When the wealthy and powerful wanted to use their money to influence elections, the Court swept aside an elaborate campaign finance regime that had been enacted by Congress and signed by the president, responding to strong popular demand, to help a nation heal after a scandal [Watergate] that went all the way to the White House. When poor and middle class people challenged bans on their ability to hand out leaflets or post campaign signs, the Court suppressed their speech, out of deference to Postal Service mail box rules and municipal concerns about clutter.” page 75.

Reviewer Joseph Fishkin, Marrs McLean Professor in Law, University of Texas, Austin, sums up his review: “From the Nixon era onward, our Supreme Court has become as polarized as the nation itself. Conservatives have held the crucial fifth vote. This story does not explain every decision of the court for the past 50 years. But it explains a very high share of the important ones, both the famous rulings and those a little further from the limelight, in which the court has worked gradually and with surprisingly little fanfare to unravel the achievements of the only significant period in American history in which it regularly sided with the poor and other marginalized people.” [The Washington Post, 3/27/2020](#). Retrieved 4/6/2020

-*When Should Law Forgive*, 2019 by Martha Minow, reviewed by Nancy Gertner. Retired federal judge and Harvard Law school professor Martha Minow questions: “Why do some offenders get a fresh start while others receive harsh, one-size-fits-all sentencing?” [American Prospect](#), January/February 2020 pages 62-63. A *Goodreads* reviewer states: “... Minow explores the complicated intersection between law, justice, and forgiveness, asking whether law should encourage individuals to forgive and when should the courts, public officials, and specific laws forgive? Minow examines these questions through sometimes-troubling cases -- comparing the legal treatment of juvenile offenses in the U.S. with international responses to child soldiers, for example, and the legal forgiveness of corporate debt with the lack of forgiveness for consumer debt and student loans.” The author “... acknowledges that there are certainly grounds for both individuals and societies to withhold forgiveness, but argues that there are also many places where letting go of justified grievances can make law more just, not less. This type of lawful forgiveness might also nudge individuals and societies toward the respect and generosity that comes with apology and restitution. Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.” [Goodreads retrieved 4/14/2020](#)

-“A preventable cancer is on the rise in Alabama: The state’s refusal to expand Medicaid is causing poor women to miss out on life saving screening.” By Eyal Press, *The New Yorker*, 4/6/2020 [Retrieved 4/5/2020](#). Originally published in: *Annals of Medicine*, 3/30/2020. “Cervical cancer disproportionately effects poor women and women of color.”

-“How to destroy a government: The president is winning his war on American institutions,” [The Atlantic](#), April 2020, pages 55-74 by George Packer, *Atlantic* staff writer and author. A summation of a few statements by the author from this long article: “Trump has largely succeeded in making the executive branch work on his personal behalf. He hasn’t done it by figuring out how to operate the bureaucratic levers of power, or by installing leaders with a vision o policy that he shares, or by channeling a popular groundswell into government action. He’s done it by punishing perceived enemies, co-opting craven allies, and driving out career officials who have competency and integrity. The result is a think layer of political loyalist on top of a cowed bureaucracy.” “More that 1,000 scientists have left the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture, and other agencies ...” “Almost 80 percent of employees at the National Institute of Food and Agricultures have quit.” “The Labor Department has made deep cuts in the number of safety inspectors, and worker deaths nationwide have increased dramatically , while recalls of unsafe consumer products have dropped off.” page 74. And much more.

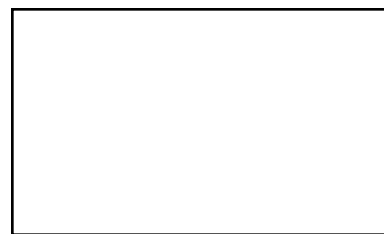


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Return Service Requested
MAY 2020
First Class Mail



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Cinco de Mayo 5/5/2020



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images.

The Voter will resume publication in September 2020.
Have a safe and healthy summer. Consider writing articles
for the fall issues of *The Voter*. E. Heaser

Memorial Day 5/25/2020



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