



# The Sacramento Voter

## September 2020



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### President's Message

#### 2020 Annual Meeting

Our League has successfully completed its 2020 Annual Meeting in two phases.

Phase 1: We held an in-person meeting to amend our bylaws so we could safely conduct the rest of our annual meeting virtually.

Phase 2: We held the second phase using Zoom, an application with which many of us have become quite familiar recently. We approved the 20-21 Fiscal Year Budget; elected the Board and off-board Nominating Committee members for 20-21, as presented by the 19-20 Nominating Committee; and approved the 20-21 *Issues for Emphasis*.

Thank you to everyone who participated in these meetings. I especially appreciate the willingness of our participants in the in-person meeting. Everyone maintained a safe distance and wore masks to minimize the risk of exposure. While this year's experience was ultimately successful, I hope we do not have to conduct another annual meeting in the same way. It left much to be desired! Our annual meetings are always an opportunity to see and talk to members we haven't seen in a year or more; engage in give-and-take conversation about people, places and politics; hear speakers who challenge and inspire us; and conduct the required business of an annual meeting. Let us hope we can return to normal next year.

#### Thank you to our retiring board members

Please join me in thanking our retiring board members, Paula Lee and Nancy Compton. We are planning to publish a profile of each of them in *The Voter*, so watch for those. We will miss both Paula and Nancy on the Board, but they are committed to remaining active in the League. Thank them in person when you see them.

### Welcome to our new Board members

We elected three new members to the LWVSC Board this year: Norma Nelson, Dolores Delgado Campbell, and Rita Champlion (in reverse alphabetical order, for a change). You will be hearing from and seeing them in the coming year. Norma is leading the LWVSC Criminal Justice Reform Committee, Dolores is co-chairing the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee with Theresa Riviera, Rita is our new treasurer. Please join me in welcoming each of these talented go-getters.

At a Board orientation we appointed Carol Enns to the Board. Virtually everyone knows Carol as our webmaster, and she has proven to be a real asset in helping to organize us for the overwhelming task of the coming year.

You will find this month's *Voter* is full of news about what we have been doing. It is a challenging time, but our teams are creative, energetic, and motivated.

By S. Bakker, President, LWVSC

### Latinas Advancing Women's Suffrage

As much as I am proud of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial celebration, I remind us that women of color - Latinas, Asian American, Native American, and African American - have also participated in acquiring suffrage for American women.

As a Latina/Native American emeritus professor of history, I would like to introduce you to two Latinas who participated as their situation, state, time and place would allow.

In Laredo, Texas, in 1914, Jovita Idár was a journalist at *La Cronica*, a Spanish language newspaper, and an activist focusing on the civil rights struggle. Idár wrote about equal rights for women, encouraging women to get educated and become independent from men. She started La Liga Femenil (League of Mexican American Feminist). She and her husband established the local Democratic club in Laredo, Texas.

Lucy (Lucia) Gonzáles Parsons was an activist and labor organizer who fought for the rights of workers and the liberation of women. In 1879 she became active in the Chicago Working Women's Union. She called for a suffrage plank in the Socialist Party platform and demanded equal pay for equal work. Parsons was a founder of the IWW, the Industrial Workers of the World.

Continued on page 2

**2020-2021  
Contact Us**

**League of Women Voters  
of Sacramento County**

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[lwvs@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:lwvs@lwvsacramento.org)

**Board of Directors Officers**

Suzi Bakker, *President*  
Claudia Bonsignore, *1st Vice-President*  
Theresa Riviera, *2nd Vice-President*  
Terri Colosimo, *Secretary*  
Rita Champlion, *Treasurer*

**Directors**

Dolores Delgado Campbell, *Diversity,  
Equity & Inclusion*  
Carol Enns, *Communications*  
Mahnaz Khazari, *Membership*  
Nancy Lapp  
Brenda Main, *Observer Corps*  
Norma Nelson, *Criminal Justice*  
Joan Normington  
Inga Olson  
Marge Patzer, *Voter Services*

**Off Board Leads**

Patricia Pavone, *LWVC Children's  
Roundtable*  
Claudia Bonsignore, *Budget Committee*  
Paula Lee, *Nominating Committee*

**The Voter**

Vacant, editor  
Eileen Heaser, publisher

**Social media**

Carol Enns, *Webmaster*  
Karen Redman, [Facebook](#)  
Hazel Bergholdt, [Twitter](#)  
Lana Wong, [Instagram](#)  
Suzi Bakker, [Flickr](#)

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

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: [eheserlwv@gmail.com](mailto:eheserlwv@gmail.com)

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Lucia González Parsons is one of a long list of Latinas, such as Dolores Huerta, Luisa Moreno, Emma Tenayuca, Jovita Idár, Sara Estela Ramírez, and María Hernández who have struggled to end the exploitation of women and labor in the United States and to obtain civil rights for Latinas.

The struggle to obtain the vote in states like Texas and other Southern States was difficult, often bloody and violent. A poll tax was to be paid to vote. Poor Latinos, like my parents, could only afford to pay \$1.50 fee for one person. There were Jim Crow laws enforcing racial segregation and limiting the rights of Mexican Americans in South Texas, often signs were posted in stores and restaurants saying, “No Negroes, Mexicans, or dogs allowed.” Abuse and harassment by law enforcement including the Texas Rangers was common. Schools were segregated, with facilities for Mexican Americans (Latinos) dilapidated and inferior. Speaking Spanish in or around school was prohibited and punished.

As we speak of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, we should do just that. When celebrations, news stories, viral programs, and spokespersons are invited to participate in the 2020 centennial celebration, include us, ask us. Sisterhood is powerful!

Sources: “Overlooked Obituaries:” Jovita Idár, *New York Times*, 8/10/2020. *Timelines of American Women’s History*. Sue Heinemann, 1996, Perigee, Berkeley Publishing Group. *La Chicana*, Alfredo Mirandé & Evangelina Enriquez, 1979, University of Chicago Press

By Dolores Delgado Campbell. Emeritus Professor of History. American River College.

**National Convention**

Hot off of the presses: June 2020 League of Women Voters National Convention just finished ... Congratulations to the Sacramento League and member Paula Lee for establishing a voter rights position at the NATIONAL level! The LWVSC adopted this concurrence position at its May 2019 meeting, now at National it has been adopted. We support electoral systems that:

- Encourage voter participation and voter engagement
- Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities
- Are verifiable and auditable
- Promote access to voting
- Maximize effective votes/minimize “wasted” votes
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting
- Require the winner receive a majority of the votes for executive and other single seat offices
- Are compatible with acceptable ballot-casting methods, including vote-by-mail

**Welcome New Members**

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Claudia Anderson         | Stevie Sanko     |
| Melinda Avey             | Lee Seale        |
| Melinda Beckham          | Mary K. Williams |
| Chastity Benson          | Jennifer York    |
| Gerri Berg               | Karen Zito       |
| Jessica Birch            |                  |
| Julia Burrows            |                  |
| Barbara Evans            |                  |
| Leslie Frye              |                  |
| Karen Gale               |                  |
| Steven Goldberg          |                  |
| Eric Guerra              |                  |
| Maggie Hart              |                  |
| Madison Levesque         |                  |
| Nafeesah Mustafa-Rasheed |                  |
| Cheryl Patzer            |                  |
| Stephanie Reid           |                  |
| Brandon Rose             |                  |

**Joint Press Release** – A Call to Meet this Moment of Civil Unrest, League of Women Voters of Sacramento County Black Women Organized for Political Action – Sacramento Chapter

League of Women Voters of Sacramento County: [Claudia Bonsignore](#), Past President, Black Women Organized for Political Action-Sacramento, [Kula Koenig](#), President

<b>Unit Meetings—September 2020</b>	<b>CANCELLED</b>
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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

### Why I Joined the League (Profile)

By Nancy Compton

In 2009 my sister and I were rummaging through an old box of papers and mementoes that had belonged to my mother when we came across a tattered three-page newspaper clipping from August 1920 titled, "The Right to Vote." It was a story about the women of Evansville, Indiana, who had launched a suffrage movement and then taught women how to use voting machines. Featured in that article was Nancy Hitch – my Great Aunt Nan – a legendary boomer of a woman whose capers and actions are family stories that live on to this day.

With that spirit in my DNA, it seemed an extension of my passion for civic participation to join the League of Women Voters after retirement from a long career in public education. I joined the League, and almost immediately was asked to lead a study on the role and responsibilities of the federal government in public education.

I barely knew any of the League protocols or members, but I agreed to take this project on. This involved scheduling three panels of four educators each, including specialists from a wide spectrum of the educational arena presented by local district educators and the California Department of Education. The sessions were well attended, and our League consensus was that the federal government does, indeed, have a vital role to play in our public education.

The following year I was asked to lead a study on the privatization of public services, which was equally as significant, and involved a broad variety of speakers from disparate governmental agencies. This was as vital, with the consensus being that public services need to continue being officially supported and equally accessible to all.

Following the two successful studies, I was asked to serve as co-president with Paula Lee, a long-time League member, from whom I learned so much about League history and protocols, and proudly served in that capacity for three years. The following year I remained on the Board as co-president with Claudia Bonsignore, a roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-it-done leader who went on to serve as president for another two years.

Though I have stepped down from the Board to make way for a new group of strong leaders, I am proud to serve as chair of the Scholarship Committee which annually awards a \$2,000 scholarship to a highly qualified female student majoring in Public Policy or Public Administration.

The League of Women Voters continues to play a vital role in ensuring that eligible voters are registered, informed, and conversant in public policy issues and ballot propositions, and I am proud to be part of a nationally-recognized good government group known for encouraging the active participation of citizens in their government.

### Poll Workers and Poll Places Assistance Requested

**Poll Workers:** New Statewide Poll Worker Portal Launched to Assist Counties to Recruit Poll Workers for the 11/3/2020 General Election

**Sacramento, CA** – The California Secretary of State's office has launched a new central statewide poll worker sign-up portal ahead of the November 3, 2020, General Election. Eligible Californians can sign up to serve as a poll worker in their county at [PollWorker.sos.ca.gov](http://PollWorker.sos.ca.gov). Poll workers are paid, with amounts varying by county.

**Poll Places:** Help us locate **VOTE CENTER** facilities to be used from **10/31/20 – 11/3/20**. Provide us with **contact information for that facility. Please email me directly at [baileyc@saccounty.net](mailto:baileyc@saccounty.net) for any facility contact information, emails, phone numbers, names ...** We will consider ANY space, large or small. **We really need help in Natomas, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, and Folsom.** Willing to look at ANY space ANYWHERE. To be included in our *County Voter Information Guide*, locations needed by 8/28/20. By [Courtney Bailey-Kanelos](#), Registrar of Voters, Sacramento County

## Girl Scout Troop 1386 “Behind the Ballot” Badge

In 2011, the Girl Scouts developed a “Behind the Ballot” badge to teach young women about elections and voting. A scout from the Sacramento Girl Scout Troop #1386 wrote an eloquent letter to the LWVSC requesting information for the troop about voting in Sacramento County. We responded to the request and scheduled a Zoom meeting after discussion of desired content by the troop leader and troop representatives.

Around the same time Theresa Riviera, Sacramento County Registrar’s Office of Voters (ROV), Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC), reported to the Board that the LAAC would like to have a poster created for low propensity voters messaging. The message should be in English, clear and relevant for the recipients. The Registrar’s Office can translate the message in Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, Hmong, Korean, Punjabi, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Hindi, Laotian, Mien, Telegu or Urdu. The primary message is “Vote at Home, Vote by Mail.” The Board discussed a poster contest and recommended that LWVSC members judge the posters and offer a gift card. The Board decided to present this offer to Troop 1386.

On 5/17/2020 a Zoom meeting was hosted by Marge Patzer with the Girl Scout leader and eight Girl Scouts. The content designed for the Girl Scouts included: history of voting, what the LWVSC does, importance of voting, how to register/pre-register to vote, voting in California, what happens to the ballot after it is mailed, and how the troop can help with pre-registering high school students and encouraging voting - especially to underrepresented demographics.

The Girl Scouts eagerly agreed to participate in a poster contest to meet the requirements of the Sacramento Registrar’s Office, LAAC. The poster contest ended 6/30/2020. Voting was conducted by 40 League members who selected first and second place winners. Each winner received a \$25 gift certificate.

The ROV requested photos of the participating Girl Scouts who posed for a photo shoot demonstrating how to place the completed ballot in the mailbox. The LWVSC provided all the Girls Scouts of Troop1386 with masks with the logo – “Register to Vote, Vote by Mail” and posters of the prize winning artwork. The ROV has decided to use the winning poster artwork on postcards to mail to voters before the election.

One of the Girl Scouts is working on her Gold Star Badge. This honor is given to Girl Scout seniors and ambassadors whose Gold Award projects demonstrate extraordinary leadership, have a measurable and sustainable impact, and address a local challenge related to a national and/or global issue. These young women are taking matters into their own hands, generating much-needed change! Nancy Lapp LWVSC will serve as a mentor for the Girl Scout working on this badge.

Article and Photo below and on page 5. By M. Patzer-Hall



[Vote Centers and Drop Boxes](#)  
Information available in September.

### **Vote Early Day [September 22] 2020 & National Voter Registration Day [October 24] 2020**

LWV is proud to serve as a premiere partner for two important holidays this year: Vote Early Day and National Voter Registration Day! Already 164 Leagues have signed up for NVRD 2020; make sure your League is part of the biggest national celebration of registering to vote! Leagues are also encouraged to sign up for Vote Early Day, a national day of focused media, grassroots, and organizational activities drawing attention to early voting opportunities across the country. By Chris Carson, LWVUS President

### **Count on Census 2020**

For toolkits, videos, jobs, data protections and more. [#Census2020](#)

By T. Colosimo

**Voter Service Report and Activities**

**For more information about volunteering for activities:** [voterservices@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:voterservices@lwvsacramento.org)

-Send postcards to Sacramento area registered voters who have not voted in recent elections. League volunteers are completing postcards to registered voters in low-turn-out areas. A script about importance of voting, colored stickers and addresses are provided to volunteers. Thank you Theresa Riviera for obtaining the local addresses. Postcards will be mailed by September 30.

-Distributing fliers about “Register to Vote” in English and Spanish with QR codes. Flyers have been distributed to Sacramento Food Pantries and various charitable organizations to help register residents in areas of low voter registration. These are available for distribution.

-LWVSC Masks: “Register to Vote - Vote by Mail” masks are available for \$10.00 each or mailed for \$11.00.

-Yard Signs: The LWVC is planning to sell yard signs that say “Your Vote Matters” in red/blue on one side and “Get the Facts Before you Vote/ VotersEdge.org” in green/black on the other side. Watch for a notice when available.

-Girl Scout poster contest winner. The Registrar of Voters will be sending postcards to voters before the election that have a picture of the winning poster. Congratulations to the Girl Scouts! Two colorful 8x11½ posters -“Register to Vote - Vote by Mail” - are available to distribute to stores.

-Voter Education via Zoom. Claudia Bonsignore will be teaching disabled students about voting and how to register to vote at the Community Integrated Work Program in North Highlands. Volunteers for doing virtual voter registration events are welcome to participate in this program with other groups.

By M. Patzer-Hall



**Statement Read by LWVSC at SMUD Director Meeting, July 16, 2020**

Scientific consensus indicates if the world does not achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, feedback loops in natural systems will likely be unleashed that humans cannot control and the consequences cataclysmic. Therefore, fast action is critical and that is why the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County is a member of the Sacramento Climate Coalition.

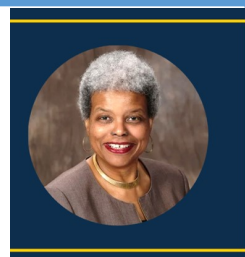
The League applauds and supports the Directors of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District’s Emergency Climate Declaration. This Declaration is critical because it specifies the 2030 date to achieve carbon neutrality, and it places great importance on addressing equity issues. Justice is empty without a livable world and an unjust world is not a livable world.

We are pleased and thrilled that you intend to pass a strong climate declaration in this evening’s meeting; by doing so, your action says Sacramento can do its part to make climate justice happen before it’s too late.

By Inga Olson

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy

On Friday [6/26/2020], our League delegates elected Dr. Deborah Ann Turner as the 20<sup>th</sup> board president of the League of Women Voters of the United States for our 2020-2022 biennium. Deborah has an impressive resume, as a doctor, an attorney, and a long-time League member. Open link above to read more. By Virginia Kase, CEO, 6/29/2020





**In Memory**  
**Mildred Alyce Wisler**  
 2/27/1921-7/3/2020

A LWV member from 1992-2008 and a close friend of Olga Batey, a long time LWV active, engaged member. Mrs. Wisler was active

with the Friends of the Library, Patrons Club, Cosumnes River College Book Club: and had positions with the Elk Grove Elementary and High Schools, Gibson winery and was the executive assistant to Hon. Judge Godfrey Mix.

Abstracted from *The Sacramento Bee, Life Tributes*, 7/7/2020, 14A  
 By E. Heaser

**Election 2020, Information on California Propositions**

*Props to you, Californians: A preview of what's on your November ballot*, by Ben Christopher, *CalMatters*, 6/29/2020

Other links to propositions : [Secretary of State \(SOS\)](#)

[www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org) | [www.cavotes.org](http://www.cavotes.org) |  
[www.easyvoterguide.org](http://www.easyvoterguide.org) | [www.votersedge.org/ca](http://www.votersedge.org/ca)

Sacramento County [www.Elections.SacCounty.net](http://www.Elections.SacCounty.net) or 916-875-6451.

URL to check your voting status By E. Heaser

**Criminal Justice Committee**

Honorable Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County, Criminal Justice Committee, we request the following immediate actions:

- 1) Sacramento County takes due care to assure that military forces and equipment are not used against our citizens.
- 2) Sacramento County develops a policy establishing a Civilian Law Enforcement Oversight Board with authority to recommend Sheriff Department budget modifications to the BOS that includes staff support from the County Executive.
- 3) Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services establishes Mental Health Trauma Centers in each District to help families and individuals address the mental health effects of this Civil Unrest;
- 4) As a policy mandate, remove the "Chokehold" as a lethal weapon option by the Sheriffs department and help standardize throughout the region; and
- 5) As a policy, order the County Executive to establish a vetting/employee screening process that would prohibit the hiring and retention of employees with prior misconduct involving excessive use of force.

Thank you for your time. We request a written response to our request confirming that the Board of Supervisors has received the request and its deposition.

Respectfully,  
 Norma Nelson, Criminal Justice Committee Chair, LWVSC. June 4, 2020

**Book Review**

In *Supreme Inequality*, 2020, Adam Cohen, author and former member of the *NYT* editorial board, writes that for 50 years the Supreme Court (SC) has sided with the rich and powerful against the poor. This movement to the right has created a systemic rewriting of society's rules. Recent Court decisions have made the whole court system a tool for the wealthiest 1%, NOT the 99%. (Chapter 7)

**Money in Politics**

In response to public outrage after Watergate, in 1974 Congress began to make laws to reform campaign finance rules. In a challenge to Congress the SC ruled, in the 1976 Buckley Case, that these laws were unconstitutional because they violated free speech. This Case has been perhaps the most damaging in constitutional law cases and has added greatly to money in politics, pg. 135. In 2010, Citizens United further reduced campaign finance reform by stating that corporations, like individuals, have free speech. In his minority dissent, Justice Stevens wrote that corporations do not have the attributes of people; corporations do not have a conscience or feelings, and have no beliefs.

**Conclusion**

The Supreme Court wiped out the claims of millions of workers who were subjected to discrimination based on race, sex and age, by twisting employment laws in favor of employers. It became hostile to labor unions, interpreting the New Deal laws (that were intended to promote unionization of the workforce) in ways that weakened the right of workers to organize and act collectively. The SC did not guarantee all the nation's children an equally funded public education. For the wealthy, the SC decided that spending money in an election was speech and used that novel principle as a bulldozer to sweep away one campaign finance regulation after another. In 2010, it went on to issue a radical ruling (Citizens United) that corporations have a First Amendment right to spend unlimited amounts of money to win elections, a decision that 80% of Americans opposed. Thus, the SC, pg. 311, has ensured that the wealthiest and most powerful people and institutions in society would have an almost insurmountable level of control over government. The same Court that would not allow Congress to limit political spending gave its endorsement to voter ID laws that were designed to suppress the votes of poor people and racial minorities. For 50 years, the Supreme Courts conservative majority has waged war on the poor and middle class.

By A. Ginosar

### Membership Renewal

It is time to renew your membership in the League of Women Voters Sacramento County. Contact Mahnaz Khazari, LWVSC Membership Director. [membership@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:membership@lwvsacramento.org)

### Books, Reports, Articles

—“More Asian Americans in US can vote, but outreach is lacking,” by reporter Theodora Yu, *The Sacramento Bee*, 5/14/2020, 7A. “The Asian electorate has more than doubled in the last two decades. There are more than 11 million eligible Asian American voters.” According to AAPI Executive Director Christine Chen: “Many of these folks want to vote, but don’t have the information they need to do so ...” California, New York and Texas comprise more than one half of these eligible voters. Many eligible voters aren’t abstaining from the polls because they don’t care .... They’re not voting because of barriers like language access, low outreach from campaigns and a history of being ignored.” [M. Patzer-Hall contacted reporter Yu concerning the article]

—*Global Carbon Project report* *The Sacramento Bee*, 5/20/2020 12A, by reporter Seth Borenstein, Associated Press. The Report states that world carbon pollution fell 17% at the peak of the pandemic shutdown. This was the biggest drop since WWII, thus the carbon levels will be lower by 4% to 7% in comparison to 2019. Corinne LeQuere, University of East Anglia climate scientist states: “If next year returns to 2019 pollution levels, it means the world has only bought about a year’s delay in hitting the extra 1.8 degrees of warming that leaders are trying to avoid.”

—“Split-roll” plan to alter landmark Prop. 13 qualifies for ballot.” by Matt Kristoffersen, *The Sacramento Bee*, 5/31/2020. 10A.

—*The rise of the warrior cop: The militarization of America’s police forces*, Radley Balko, 2014, journalist, author, blogger and speaker. “This book explains what policies led to the militarization of America’s police ... it provokes genuine outrage at the misuse of state power in its most brutal and unaccountable form: heavily armed police raiding the homes of unarmed, non-violent suspects on the flimsiest of pretexts, and behaving more like an occupying army in hostile territory than guardians of public safety.” [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

—*The Policing Project’s Barry Friedman Video*, discussed his role in changing policing in Camden, *New Jersey*, and the effectiveness of community policing. Mr. Friedman wrote *Unwarranted policing without permission*, 2017. “*Unwarranted* tells the stories of ordinary people whose lives were torn apart by policing - by the methods of cops on the beat and those of the FBI and NSA. Driven by technology, policing has changed dramatically. Once, cops sought out bad guys; today, increasingly militarized forces conduct wide surveillance of all of us. Friedman captures the eerie new environment in which CCTV, location tracking, and predictive policing have made suspects of us all, while proliferating SWAT teams and increased use of force have put everyone’s property and lives at risk. Policing falls particularly heavily on minority communities and the poor, but as *Unwarranted* makes clear, the effects of policing are much broader still. Policing is everyone’s problem.” Police play an indispensable role in our society. But our failure to supervise them has left us all in peril. *Unwarranted* is a critical, timely intervention into debates about policing, a call to take responsibility for governing those who govern us. [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) retrieved 7/2/2020

—*The triumph of injustice: how the rich dodge taxes and how to make them pay*, by Emmanuel Saez & Gabriel Zucman, 2019. “If we design tax policy to maximize tax revenue that, [the authors] suggest would require a top marginal tax rate of about 75%, and we are serious about enforcement, they estimate the amount collected from the wealthy could increase, by about four percentage points of national income, or \$750 billion a year in 2019.” By Zoe Sherman, Associate Professor, Merrimack College, *Democratic Left*, Summer 2020, 14-15

—*Thank you for voting: The maddening, enlightening, inspiring truth about voting in America*, 2020, by **Erin Geiger Smith**, freelance reporter. “In this concise, lively look at the past, present, and future of voting, a journalist examines the long and continuing fight for voting equality, why so few Americans today vote, and innovative ways to educate and motivate them; included are checklists of what to do before election day to prepare to vote and encourage others.”

“Voting is a prized American right and a topic of debate from the earliest days of the country. Yet in the 2016 presidential election, about 40 percent of Americans - and half of the country’s young adults - didn’t vote. Why do so many Americans choose not to vote, and what can we do about it?”

The problem, Erin Geiger Smith contends, is a lack of understanding about our electoral system and a need to make voting more accessible. *Thank You for Voting* is her eye-opening look at the voting process, starting with the Framers’ perspective, through the Equal Protection amendment and the Voting Rights Act, to the present and simple actions individuals can take to increase civic participation in local, state, and national elections.

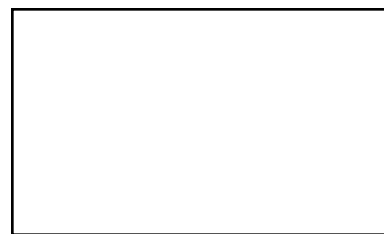
Geiger Smith expands our knowledge about our democracy - including women’s long fight to win the vote, attempts to suppress newly enfranchised voters’ impact, state prohibitions against felons voting, charges of voter fraud and voter suppression, and other vital issues. In a conversational tone, she explains topics that can confuse even the most informed voters: polling, news literacy, gerrymandering and the Electoral College. She also explores how age, race, and socioeconomic factors influence turnout.”  
HarperCollins Publishers, retrieved 7/21/2020  
By E. Heaser



The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County

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Web address [lwvsacramento.org](http://lwvsacramento.org)



### FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

#### Florence Nightingale, 200<sup>th</sup> year birthday, May 12, 1820

“The Defiance of Florence Nightingale,” by Joshua Hammer; photographs by Tina Hillier, *Smithsonian Magazine*, March 2020, pages 24, 26-33, 78-79.  
“Scholars are finding there is much more to the ‘lady with the lamp’ than her famous exploits as a nurse in the Crimean War.” Page 26 (back side) “...researchers are calling attention to her pioneering work as a statistician and as an early advocate for the modern idea that health care is a human right.” Page 26 (front).  
Retrieved 5/24/2020. By E. Heaser



Photo retrieved 5/24/2020

#### Indivisible

Kim Alexander addressed, via Zoom, our 7/15/2020 members meeting. Kim has worked with the nonpartisan [California Voter Foundation](http://calvoter.org) calvoter.org , voter organization for 25 years.

Goals of Cal Voter include election security and assisting counties to operate more uniformly with elections. Problems with mail-in ballots include postmarked too late, forgetting to sign the envelope or the signature does not match what is on file with DMV or the State (voters can check with the state or county to verify their signature). In the past 10 years 1.7% of ballots have been rejected. Young voters are least likely to vote and to fill out the form properly. Young voters do not use USPS mail and do not sign checks. California challenged ballots must be returned to the voter (voters can check with the Registrar to see if their ballot was counted). In 2018, 55% of the challenged ballots were responded to by the voters a process is referred to as “curing.” If a voters’ identification does not match, they can reregister with the county registrar’s office. By E. Heaser



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