About the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County - LWVSC

LWVSC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, carries a mission to empower voters and defend democracy. We promote informed, active participation in government, work to increase the understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

After study and member agreement, the LWVSC takes action at all governmental levels on key community issues to achieve solutions in the public interest. We build citizen participation in the democratic process and engage communities in striving for positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy.

We are strictly nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing any political party or candidate for public office. We believe in respect for individuals, the value of diversity, and the empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League of Women Voters and in communities. We will:

- act with trust, integrity, and professionalism
- operate in an open and effective manner to meet needs of those we serve, both members and the public
- take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership, and
- acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future
President’s Message - Brenda Main, President (2021-2022)

Resilient. Determined. Resourceful. Persistent. These words describe the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County, especially throughout this unpredictable year. After COVID-19 ambushed us in March 2020, we knew we had to adapt to the new pandemic reality to thrive. And adapt we did! We mastered “Zoom” and held countless events virtually. What we couldn’t do virtually we moved outdoors. We found creative ways to get our work done while keeping each other—and community members—safe.

Even more important, we practiced the values that underpin our work: caring for the well-being of our colleagues, our community, and our democracy. In that spirit, we made the most of opportunities to connect with local community members while maintaining oversight of the governments and officials serving us.

When faced with an unexpected gubernatorial recall election, we helped raise awareness about the unusual election and how it would work. A few months later, we registered and pre-registered hundreds of students at local high schools in preparation for the upcoming primary election. We continued to observe our local governments in action and subsequently wrote letters, met with officials, and joined coalitions to support our positions on critical issues in the community. Along the way, we welcomed many new members who share our deep commitment to making democracy work.

This annual report is a snapshot of our most significant achievements in an amazing year.
Voter Services

Voter Registration and Education

• Registered and educated voters at more than 34 events throughout Sacramento County.

• 20 volunteers kept all county post offices well-stocked with voter registration forms in multiple languages - 4,461 total forms delivered to post offices and the Sacramento State library.

• Assisted Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Office with outreach regarding the 2021 gubernatorial recall election. Volunteers designed flyers, fact sheets, and educational materials to raise awareness which the County approved and printed.

• Presented Certificate of Appreciation to County staff for their support.

• 30 volunteers delivered educational materials for the recall election to 60 assisted living facilities, 26 senior housing units, hundreds of retail stores, gas stations, grocery stores, libraries, churches, and other locations throughout the County. The materials notified residents of the recall election and explained ballot and voting process.

• 10 volunteers served as official poll observers for the gubernatorial recall election.

• 3 groups of volunteers toured the County Department of Voter Registration and Elections to learn about voter registration, ballot processing, and election security for the June 7 primary.

• 20 LWVSC volunteers assisted the County Voter Registration and Elections office with mock elections and voter registration at 11 high schools. Mock elections help high school students learn about the voting process and how to register to vote. Volunteers helped to register or pre-register nearly 800 high school students.

• Joined the National Council of Jewish Women to educate and empower women experiencing homelessness to register and learn about the voting process.

Voter’s Edge

With dedicated board members and volunteers, the Voter’s Edge coordinator posted campaign information for more than 74% of candidates appearing on June 7 primary ballots. (Voter’s Edge CA is a comprehensive, nonpartisan online guide to elections covering federal, state, and local races in California.) [What is Voter's Edge? - YouTube](#)

Candidate Forums

Volunteers partnered with community sponsors to hold 5 candidate forums for local elections. Two for Sacramento City Council District 1 (Natomas and Robla); 1 for Sacramento City Council District 3; 1 for Sacramento County District Attorney; and 1 for CalPERS Board election.
**Ranked Choice Voting/Voter Representation**

- Ranked Choice Voting Committee members provided public comments to the Folsom City Council and gave presentations to Indivisible Sacramento, LWVSC members, and others to educate about ranked choice voting and proportional representation.

- LWVSC’s ranked choice voting specialist joined with other League members and nationally recognized experts to present webinars. These included “Conservative Leaders on Ranked Choice Voting”; “Pathways to Fair and Inclusive Elections: Ranked Choice Voting, Proportional Representation, and the Fair Representation Act”; Messaging on Ranked Choice Voting: [New LWVUS position/The Fair Representation Act /guests from Represent Women.org - YouTube](#).

- Sponsored caucus at LWVUS Convention. “Ranked Choice Voting Education & Messaging for Voters and Elected Officials” featured panel of members from various parts of the country with direct ranked choice voting experience who discussed education and messaging to voters and elected officials.

**Redistricting**

- Between June and Dec. 2020, volunteers attended numerous hearings, workshops, and public meetings to monitor district mapping efforts in Folsom, Sacramento and Sacramento County. Their goal was to ensure the redistricting process was transparent and provided for adequate public input, despite a compressed schedule caused by delayed census data.

- City of Sacramento carried out first redistricting process with its Independent Redistricting Commission, while the City of Folsom transitioned from at-large to by-district representation, and Sacramento County used a traditional board-led process.

**Advocacy**

**Good Governance**

- Committee members wrote letters, sent emails, and made public comments requesting the Sacramento Ethics Commission review and update the city of Sacramento’s Lobbying Ordinance. They met with the Commission Chair regarding the lobbying ordinance. Members also interviewed by the City Auditor regarding the Commission.

- Committee drafted and LWVSC submitted a letter asking Sacramento’s Independent Redistricting Commission to allow more time for public review and comment on proposed final redistricting maps.

- As follow-up to Sacramento redistricting process, Committee members developed recommendations and city charter amendment language to be submitted to the Sacramento Ethics Commission. Recommendations aimed to correct misunderstandings and/or misinformation that resulted from city’s first independent redistricting process.
• LWVSC joined Sacramento Policy Analysis Network to request Sacramento City Council include 3 amendments to proposed ordinance regulating procedures of city boards and commissions. Amendments would clarify procedures, protect work quality of city boards and commissions. Two follow-up letters correcting misinformation about LWVSC’s position on ad hoc committees for boards and commissions were sent to Council and city boards and commissions, noting ongoing support for volunteer ad hoc committees that study, report, and make recommendations on complicated issues.

• Volunteers, along with a few spouses, joined the caravan around downtown Sacramento in support of reproductive rights and Roe v Wade to protest law passed by Texas state legislature that challenged Roe v Wade.

Legislative Visits
3 volunteers met with CA State Assembly Member Kevin McCarty to hear views on several issues of interest to the LWV California.

Action Team
Board of Directors approved formation of an Action Team to support LWVSC Committees, affirm LWVSC positions, and magnify LWVSC voice in the community. Action Team members send emails or make public comments to governing bodies in response to action alerts on issues of concern.

Climate Change
Climate Change Interest Group submitted a letter to Sacramento City Council regarding a city workshop on climate and transportation. It asked the Council to direct its City Manager to identify funding sources and allocate staff to develop proposed projects; to engage staff with affected neighborhoods; and align city’s programs to address the effects of climate change, especially in marginalized communities.
**Criminal Justice**

- Criminal Justice Committee observed meetings of Sacramento Community Police Review Commission (SCPRC) and drafted letter submitted by LWVSC supporting SCPRC recommendations to the City Council. If implemented, recommendations would help foster a vision of public safety in which Sacramentans could rely on authorities to protect and serve all members of the public.

- Committee drafted a letter submitted to City Council regarding a community review mandated by Assembly Bill 481, requiring local government oversight of acquisition and use of military-grade equipment by law enforcement agencies. It urged the Council to craft a comprehensive policy that addresses community’s concerns about the Sacramento Police Department’s proposed ordinance.

- Gave presentation on LWVSC advocacy at *Free Thought Day*, covering LWVSC Criminal Justice Committee activities to reform Sacramento Police Department and Sacramento County Sheriff criminal justice policies.

- Met with American Civil Liberties Union-Northern CA representative Jennifer Rojas to learn about influence of Lexipol (a law enforcement consulting firm) on local criminal justice policies; Bridgette Dean, Director of Sacramento’s Office of Community Response, regarding city’s planned alternatives to jailing people suffering from substance use and mental health crises; Sacramento Chief of Police Kathryn Lester to learn about her priorities and gaining the community’s trust, implementing AB392 (lethal force); and Sacramento Community Police Review Commission Chair Graciela Castillo-Krings on SCPRC goals.

**Housing and Homelessness**

- ComHom, committee on housing and homelessness, drafted letters submitted by LWVSC to Sacramento City Council opposing sweeps of the unhoused when no alternate shelter/housing is available and to Sacramento County Board of Supervisors opposing closure of three Project Roomkey facilities, potentially adding another 320 individuals to the streets. ComHom drafted a follow-up letter from LWVSC to the Board of Supervisors expressing support for proposed Safe Stay Community.

- With the Regional Coalition to End Homelessness, Sacramento Housing Alliance, and Sacramento Area Congregations Together, ComHom sent a questionnaire to all primary election candidates for Sacramento City Council and Sacramento County Board of Supervisors asking for their positions on housing and the unhoused. Thirteen of 19 candidates responded with unedited results placed on websites along with a press release.

- Committee members met with President of HART Folsom shelter program; attended County Supervisor Susan Frost’s community meeting on unhoused in her district; and queried County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy on lessons learned at the Miller Park Safe Ground sanctioned camp. Also held meetings with Bob Erlenbusch, Director of Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness, and Ron S. Hochbaum, Assistant Clinical Professor of Law, University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, who conducts research related to the unhoused.
**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) continued as emphasis for LWVSC, which added DEI policy to bylaws. DEI Committee held planning meetings and educational meetings with guest speakers from the community. Dr. Rita Cameron Wedding, former CSUS professor, spoke to Board of Directors about implicit bias; Dr. Duane Campbell, former CSUS professor, joined Dolores Delgado Campbell to provide members overview of immigration in U. S.

**Community Engagement**

**Supporting Future Leaders**

- Awarded its $2,000 annual Anne Rudin Scholarship to Kayla Lewis, stellar student at Lincoln Law School. Ms. Lewis, who interned at Federal Public Defender’s Office helping indigent people access counsel, exemplifies women who have earned this honor.

- Joined with Sacramento City Unified School District as community partner to implement State Seal of Civic Engagement, for graduating seniors who complete state program requirements. LWVSC will help district students accomplish service projects to earn seal on graduation certificates.

- Members offered civic education experiences at St. Francis High School to students needing community service credits. They assisted registering and pre-registering voters at community events.

- Awarded $100 prize for best high school project on Women’s History to 2 students. Titled “Debate and Diplomacy: Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit's Career” and “Fight for a Women's Independence: Susan B. Anthony,” their essays were submitted for Sacramento History Day, an annual event nationally and sponsored locally by Sacramento County Office of Education.

- Members supported Rio Americano High School’s Women’s Empowerment Club, donating requested items for local women’s shelter.
Communications Team

- LWVSC website expanded and improved components useful for public and members. The site has running calendar and event details, several pages of historical information, more photos, committee and board meeting reports, prioritized issues and enhanced fundraising and donor information.

- Social Media Team maintained strong presence with Twitter (313 followers), Facebook (420 followers), Instagram (282 followers), website, YouTube (28 followers), Flikr (116 photos).

- The Voter newsletter (distribution 150 - 275 addresses) published 9 well-received issues, including a tribute to former Sacramento Mayor and long-time League member Anne Rudin.

- Communications Director sent Email Blasts (6 - 15 per month), fielded many phone calls, and initiated TikTok account.

- Communications Director volunteered to help the Woodland League of Women Voters redesign and maintain their website from September - December 2021.

- Collaborating with Committee leads, Communications Director initiated “Zoom” Unit meetings during COVID-19 restrictions. Meetings open to all members, announcements sent to entire membership. Meetings highlighted the History Team’s website project, redistricting, volunteer opportunities, ranked choice voting, the unhoused in Sacramento County, and post-COVID planning.

- Working with Communications Director, a dedicated History Team began compiling LWVSC history focusing on accomplishments in governance, natural resources, and social policy. Includes profiles of notable members since LWVSC’s inception in 1939. The team reviewed scrapbooks (1948-1971) and newsletters (1968 to present) to chronicle achievements.

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- With relaxation of COVID restrictions, Communications Team began arranging “pop-up” get-togethers for members. Pop-ups offered a safe way for members to meet outdoors at members’ homes and have conversations on themes related to LWVSC’s programs.
**Fundraising**

- Initiated fundraising program to support membership activities, strengthen Anne Rudin Scholarship Fund, and ensure long-term sustainability.

- Members collaborated with local author Christine Hunter and community members to promote release of Hunter’s book *We Can Do This: Sacramento's Trailblazing Political Women*. Features profiles of several League members, including Anne Rudin, former LWVC and LWVSC president, and Sacramento mayor, and former Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo. Profits from sales will be donated to the Anne Rudin Scholarship Fund.

- Board of Directors approved participation in Giving Tuesday on November 30, 2021. Thanks to email blasts from Communications Director, donations totaled $1,500.

- Members created donation cards with QR code linked to website for use at LWVSC community events.

- Fundraising committee formed in spring 2022 to create plan for fiscal year 2022-2023, initiate annual fundraising activities, and prepare to participate in local Big Day of Giving.

**Membership**

- Membership grew during the year. With 189 members (June 30), LWVSC gained 51 members during the 2021-2022 year. Most new members want to register voters and participate in voting-related activities for midterm election.

- All 400 in-person delegates at the 2022 National Convention were cheered as they joined others in protest of the Supreme Court decision overturning abortion rights. LWVSC sent 4 delegates to this year’s hybrid convention: 2 in-person and 2 virtual.
Members registered and educated voters at these events throughout the Sacramento Community and beyond, 2021-22

- Cultural Heritage Festival in Elk Grove (August 14)
- Community celebration in Valley Hi Park (August 27)
- March On for Voting Rights (August 28)
- Gubernatorial election outreach (August-September)
- Climate Justice Festival in McClatchy Park: (September 25)
- Rally for Reproductive Rights: Car caravan to commemorate Roe v Wade (October 2)
- Natomas Chamber of Commerce and others: South Sacramento Festival in Meadowview Park (October 16)
- Dia de Los Muertos community celebration in Northgate (October 30)
- Take Back the Night Rally at Caesar Chavez Park (November 13)
- 34th Annual Sacramento Black Expo at California State University, Sacramento (February 26)
- Naturalization Ceremony: Registered a new citizen (March 26)
- Primary candidate forums at 5 venues (Spring)
- Mock Elections at eleven County high schools (April)
- Folsom Youth Climate Festival at the Folsom Library: Voter registration (April 2)
- Rancho Cordova City Hall: Voter Education with Pro Youth and Family (April 18)
- Earth Day: Voter registration & education (April 24)
- Women’s Empowerment (with the National Council of Jewish Women) (May 2)
- The Art of Resistance: Reproductive Rights Rally at state capitol (May 14)
- Participation in LWVUS Convention (June 23-25)
In Memoriam
Long-time LWVSC member Anne Rudin passed away on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2021. A past president of LWVSC and LWV California, Rudin became a member of the Sacramento City Council for twelve years, and was the first woman elected as Sacramento’s mayor from 1983 to 1992.

In 1994, the LWVSC endowed a scholarship fund in Anne Rudin’s name to honor her service to the Sacramento Community. The LWVSC continues to award an annual scholarship to a young woman pursuing higher education in the fields of public education and public policy. We are grateful to the many donors who contributed to this fund in memory of Mayor Rudin.

On April 3, 2022, Sacramento community members gathered for a memorial at St. Ignatius Church featuring Camerata California performing Rowland Lee’s Requiem—a fitting tribute to a devoted supporter of the arts. Many local League members attended to pay their respects to a woman who cleared a path for other women to follow in community service.

On May 6, 2022, the Rudin family held a memorial at the Anne Rudin Peace Pond in William Land Park. League members volunteered to help set up the event and serve light refreshments to the Rudin family and guests.

Although we have now said goodbye to her, the LWVSC honors her memory through the scholarship we award in her name and in our support for democracy and good governance locally.

The LWVSC lost another good friend this year with the passing of Rick Bettis on February 12, 2022. Rick was a consummate volunteer and community advocate. As a dedicated member of the LWVSC, he sat on the Board of Directors for many years, serving as our Natural Resources Director. He was also a co-president with three other members from 2012 to 2013.

Known for his capacity to absorb information and report back on environmental issues, he lived his values and was deeply respected by those who knew him. In his passing, Rick left behind an admirable legacy of activism. To ensure that this legacy would endure, he also left a generous donation to the LWVSC. A committee of members who knew him well will determine how to use that bequest in the way that honors him best.