

Phone: 559-226-VOTE

info@lwvfresno.org

Web site:
my.lwv.org/California/fresno



Monday, August 12, 5 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
League Office

Tuesday, August 13
Municipal Election

Tuesday, August 27
Women's Equality Day
Celebration—Reception

Monday, September 9, 5 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
League Office

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS
WELCOME
TO ALL
LEAGUE MEETINGS
AND EVENTS**



Fresno

VOTER

**WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY
2019**

**Honoring Dr. Carole Goldsmith
President, Fresno City College**

**Please join us to meet Dr. Goldsmith
Tuesday, August 27, 5:30—7 p.m**

Stone Soup * 1345 Bulldog Lane * Fresno

**Wine and hors d'oeuvres
Music by guitarist Kevin Cooper**

Special Guests

***Author Angelica Carpenter**

"Born Criminal" - Suffragist Matilda Gage

***Brandi Orth, Fresno County Clerk**

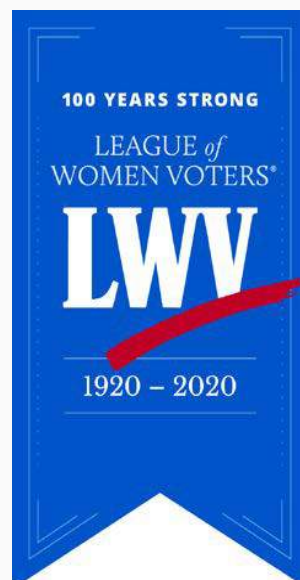


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Reservations must be received by August 22
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For more information call 472-3018**



President's Message



Last month I travelled to France to enjoy the games of the FIFA Women's World Cup soccer tournament. If I had to sum up the visit in one thought, it would be, "France has *infrastructure*."

France is a large, geographically and socially diverse country. There are high mountain peaks, spectacular beaches, dense cities, and thousands of villages, both urban and rural.

Summer vacation for French students began while I was there; education is mandatory for ages 6-16, with nearly all French children entering school at age 3 or younger. Around 77% of French students finish high school with either a vocational diploma or "le Bac," for those planning to go on to university.

France has, perhaps, Europe's most extensive train system. Riding the high-speed, TGV rails, I passed several of France's nuclear-powered, electricity generating plants. Its highway system is vast and 100% paved. Last summer, French Prime Minister Eduoard Philippe announced the investment of €350 million in the country's bicycling infrastructure with the goal of tripling the number of bicycle commuters.

From an extensive system of maintained public toilets to one of Europe's better funded single-payer healthcare systems, France has viewed infrastructure as a matter of national pride. Of course, these investments come with a price tag. Not everyone pays income tax, around 45% in France, but everyone does pay "social-insurance."

There's also much that doesn't work well in France. We've seen the "yellow vest" protests by teachers, truck drivers, railroad employees, and others on TV. Construction has so disrupted Paris this summer that the local news reported daily on the overcrowded campgrounds, roadways, beaches and other vacation spots the locals were trying to escape to.

In the U.S. we worry about our ability to provide to our families many of the services the French have accepted as national social responsibilities. Personally, I would welcome the opportunity to pay in advance for secure lifetime healthcare, for adequate retirement income, for extensive public transportation systems, for housing for all, even for maintained public toilets. I don't consider this to be *socialism*; I think it just makes life more enjoyable. . *Marianne*

MEMBER NEWS

Please edit your roster



New Member

Gina DeYoung
1157 East Sawgrass
Fresno, CA 93730
916—9052
Ginadeyoung6@gmail.com

New Address

Eva Maiden
7045 North West Avenue, #120
Fresno, CA, 93711

Address Correction

Ruth Gadebusch
1624 West Stuart
Fresno, CA 93711

It's always a good time for a gift to the League. LWVF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization so your gift is tax deductible and gratefully accepted.

Checks should be sent to

LWVF

1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno 93710
Fresno, CA 93710

The Behavioral Health Board is in need of additional members who are interested in improving services for those with mental health and substance use disorders. You are invited to attend the next meeting on August 21 and to consider joining the Board. You will find applications on the web site of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. Need more information? evansalca@comcast.net

The Voter is a monthly publication of the League of Women Voters of Fresno

Mailing address: 1345 Bulldog Lane Fresno, CA 93710

Volume 78, No.8 Editor: Francine M. Farber

Voter Services

by Liz Shields



The *Get Out The Vote* committee has made voter registration a high priority as the Elections Department would like new voters registered by early December in order to prepare for mailing ballots to ALL registered voters for the Presidential Primary on March 3, 2020. We will be coordinating with Mi Familia Vota to cover colleges, high schools, local community events and Constitution Day celebrations. We will also be discussing ways to encourage voters, especially young voters, to get out and vote once they are registered.

Fresno County's Election Office is preparing to implement the new Voter Choice Act Model (VCA) for voting in the Presidential Primary. Currently the Office is holding community meetings to discuss and consult on the Election Administrative Plan (EAP) to be presented to the Secretary of State in September. For dates and times go to the Election Web site at <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/county-clerk-registrar-of-voters/voters-choice-act-3528>.

The EAP is required to describe how the county will administer elections under the VCA and include plans to educate and outreach to the public. Counties are also required to translate their EAP into all languages that have been assigned to them by the California Secretary of State. For Fresno County this will require translation into seven languages. State law requires the Secretary of State to accept, reject or accept with modifications the education and outreach provisions of the EAP, as well as to post each county's EAP on its website.

Flyers are being prepared for distribution to community groups, local media and other interested parties to get the word out on the new voting procedures to all Fresno County voters. Flyers will be available for all our members. Please contact me if you would like more information on the plans for implementation of the Voter Choice Act.

The Elections Office is not planning to ask for our help in the municipal election on August 13 for District 2 Council member.

eliza44@yahoo.com

Behavioral Health

by Carolyn Evans



Our local community often is unaware of available behavioral health services and how to access those services. The Behavioral Health Board long has advocated for a better process for disseminating information. The Department of Behavioral Health has contracted with a market research firm to ensure messaging in a form accessible and informative to all residents of Fresno County. Focus groups, including a diverse group of individuals, have provided input. The Board is curious about the recruitment for the focus groups and concerned about the small number of participants. An Executive Report is in progress, which the Board hopes will address its concerns.

The Quarterly Housing Report included information on the Independent Living Association (ILA) that has begun its work to improve the quality of Room and Board Homes by working with providers to operate higher quality homes. Eventually, the providers who are members of ILA and have improved the quality of their homes will receive priority in the placement of Department clients. Permanent Supportive Housing received a boost by the funding for three No-Place-Like-Home applications; construction on the first of the "Village" projects will begin this fall. In addition to the Housing Authority, the Department has located two other housing sponsors interested in developing permanent supportive housing units in our community.

This month members of the BHB visited Behavioral Health Court, one of several collaborative treatment courts. The court serves individuals with severe mental illness who have been convicted of felonies. District Attorneys, Public Defenders, Probation Officers, jail staff, and behavioral health treatment providers work together with the judge to find the most appropriate treatment for these individuals. The goals are to improve public safety, to prevent recidivism, and to provide treatment and motivation to improve the lives of offenders. Board members were pleased to see the positive incentives provided to individuals in the courtroom and beyond. The outcomes have proven to be effective.

evansalca@comcast.net

**Next meeting: August 21, 2:30 p.m.
1925 East Dakota, Fresno**

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2019-2020

Reports from committees you can join

CLIMATE CHANGE

The LWVF Climate Committee is about to be on the map--the map of LWV chapters engaged in climate change, that is. If you would like to see this online map, search "California LWV Climate Change Task Force".



Our members are busy familiarizing themselves with the LWVC Climate Change Task Force website, which shows what other chapters have been working on. There is also a list of excellent resources which include videos, articles and other useful websites. Whether you want to take a deep dive into environmental legislation, understand the connection between dietary choices and global warming or learn more about how to talk effectively about climate change, there is something to enlighten and inform everyone. Topics range from: "The Psychology of Climate Change" to "Energy Policy Design" to "100 Resilient Cities," which describes what some cities are doing to prepare for the physical, social and economic challenges of the 21st century.

We are focusing on educating voters and learning more about preventing local problems due to climate change. We are also reviewing the Fresno County Climate Action Plan, which focuses on mitigation and adaptation, and the City of Fresno Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. Both were developed around 10 years ago. We plan to follow up with county and local officials to assess progress on these plans.

Our committee has grown to 7 members and more are welcome. We are changing our regular meeting dates to the second Wednesday of the month. Please contact me in case of last minute changes.

Next Meeting: August 14, 4:30—6 p.m.
4860 North Teilman, Fresno, 824-1083
Co-Chairs: Andrea Farber De Zubiria/Connie Young
afarberdezub@gmail.com/cyoungrn@sbcglobal.net

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

We continue to meet with our new focus on early childhood. While we wait for the local Cradle to Career Partnership's early childhood blueprint to be presented at The Children's Movement's annual State of Our Children Breakfast (August 29 at 7:30 a.m. at the Clovis Memorial Veteran's Auditorium, reservations required), we are busy gathering our own data about the availability of day care and early childhood programs in our area, including from area school districts, the Fresno County Office of Education, Head Start, First Five and various non-profit service providers

What we have found so far suggests a highly fragmented system held together by several streams of state and federal funding. A state level Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education has identified the need for better coordination and improved access to information for parents. We are looking to the local Blueprint to better pinpoint local concerns and help us locate our own role in improving access and utilization of services in our area.



Next Meeting: September 3
752 East Buckingham
Chair: Kay Bertken; kayb@csufresno.edu

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W

H Transparent Government and Voting

A Behavioral Health

T Climate Change

, Energy

S Education

Y Water

O Land Use

U Criminal Justice

R Housing

S Homelessness

P Anything Else!

A

S

Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport

Health Care

by Richard Bertken, M.D.



T

he earliest cultivation of cannabis plants marks the very beginning of human transition to an agricultural lifestyle, perhaps ten thousand years ago. The plants provided food—seeds and oils—and fiber with multiple uses, including cloth and paper. The original hemp plant has survived in form and function to the current day, providing a growing range of useful products with negligible amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychotropic component of its close cousin, marijuana.

It is a mystery when the marijuana variant of *cannabis sativa* began expressing THC and established itself as an aid to spiritual ceremonies, but from that point on humans favored the survival and evolution of the smaller, bushier breed. We now have marijuana plants with as much 30% THC content, along with a diverse collection of over 80 other cannabinoids with much lower levels.

Hemp, on the other hand, has become defined as *cannabis sativa* with negligible amounts of THC—0.3% in some jurisdictions and 0.2% in others. This definition emerged despite differences from marijuana in appearance and modes of transport—who would carry around four ounces, or even ten pounds, of hemp leaves? But Texas made headlines by dropping marijuana possession charges on perhaps a hundred people, including at least 32 with felony charges. The problem: Texas passed a law this June permitting the growth and sale of hemp defined by up to 0.3% THC level. But the police and prosecutors could not afford to buy the sophisticated technology needed to measure the THC level, which district attorneys came to believe was essential, beyond circumstantial evidence, to convict someone on marijuana possession charges.

Texas is not alone. The federal Farm Bill of 2018 and many other states also legalized hemp, as defined by the 0.3% THC standard, for growth and sale. You might think that states that have legalized marijuana possession would not be stuck with this problem, but even these states re-

quire a minimum age for the possessor and a maximum amount that may be possessed. The need to distinguish between hemp and marijuana does not go away.

The growth and sale of hemp was effectively banned during the “reefer madness” era of the late 1930’s, and its resurrection is a source of both confusion (as above) and opportunity. Hemp contains about 20% cannabidiol (CBD) which is easily extracted as “hemp oil” (not to be confused with hemp seed oil, which contains no cannabinoids and is used primarily in cosmetics) or further purified to CBD oil. Hosted at county fairs, farmers markets, and on the Internet, it has become the tonic of our era, advocated for anxiety, joint pain, inflammation, insomnia, headache, PTSD, and on and on. There are over 3000 websites selling CBD, including CBD bath salts and creams (useless due to non-absorbability) and CBD for pets.

CBD has proved itself to have potent and promising effects on nerve conduction in specific areas of the brain by virtue of its ability to quell seizures in children with rare genetic disorders, for which it has received FDA approval as a prescription drug. Ironically, it is this evident biologic activity, as well as some unsettling adverse effects reported in the seizure research, that has led the FDA to announce that it will never approve CBD as a nutritional supplement and to oppose its sale as a treatment for any disease or condition for which it has not shown benefit in FDA-supervised trials, some of which are underway.



Meanwhile, CBD advocacy is, according to one involved researcher, “the wild, wild west.” The FDA can neither police the CBD business nor fund the studies needed to inform the public on whether or how to use the drug. The claims of vendors about dosing, efficacy, and risks are not subject to analysis by any independent entity. Currently, America confronts daily warnings about the fragility of an orderly democracy. An agile, forward-thinking, and well-funded federal drug administration should be a fundamental piece in that democracy.

drbertken@comcast.net

Education

by Kay Bertken



While the FUSD Board of Trustees was supposed to be off until August, they were brought together to meet with an aroused public on July 18 over Trustee Slatc entering a cheerleading practice at Bullard and lecturing and threatening the girls with punishments. A standing room only crowd of parents, students and community members produced nearly universal condemnation of Slatc's behavior. The condemnation was echoed by the five female trustees in attendance (Valerie Davis was absent).

Trustees to censure Slatc

The Board voted to deny Slatc access to Bullard for 14 days (evidently a limit on that authority), to demand administrative escort for his entrance into any school, and to draw up a resolution of censure to be voted on at their first meeting in August. The Trustees were unanimous in their vote and each spoke of their strong opposition to his behaviors as being outside the bounds of acceptable civil behavior and his Trustee role.

Budget favors early childhood

Outside the local drama, the actions of the Governor and his budget are benefiting the students of the state. The governor added an additional \$1.9 billion in state funding to K-12 education. This amount adds to a total increase of \$5,000 to per pupil funding over the last 8 years. In pursuit of the Governor's

goal to make preschool available to every 3 and 4 year old in California, he has also set aside funding for the development of a master plan for early childhood education and child care to be presented in the autumn of 2020.

Governor Newsom also made a down payment on his promise to launch college saving accounts for every incoming kindergartener by allocating \$50 million. Half of that amount will seed accounts for eligible low income children born on or after July 2020. Parents can then add to these accounts.

The other half will go to support grants to local governments and nonprofits to sponsor accounts for children in low income neighborhood schools and contribute seed money to those accounts.



Amendment to Prop 13

The California Schools and Local Community Funding Act of 2018 has qualified for the November 2020 ballot. LWVC has supported the measure, and we helped gather signatures here in Fresno. The Act would amend Proposition 13's limits on property taxes to allow assessments of some commercial properties to exceed homeowner restrictions, creating what is called a split roll. A recent survey by the Public Policy Institute of California found that 56% of adults and 52% of likely voters approved of the measure. Interestingly,

Next Board Meetings

August 7, 21

5:30 p.m. in person

or streaming

on your computer

the idea had less than majority support without the specific direction of the income to education.

kayb@csufresno.edu

Women's Equality Day



August 27

Honoring

Dr. Carole Goldsmith

by Diane Merrill



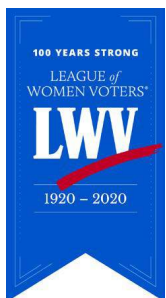
The seven Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Kings Groundwater Subbasin are located in the eastern and central valley areas of Fresno County. They are preparing individual sustainability plans with a common format to be rolled into a coordinated plan to submit to the State by January 31, 2020.

The McMullin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MAGSA) became the first of the seven agencies to release a full draft of its plan for public comment. MAGSA is located in the center of the San Joaquin Valley, relies heavily on groundwater pumping, and accounts for an estimated 75 percent of the overdraft in the subbasin. The only source of surface water in the agency is floodwater from the Kings River during unusually wet years. Re-charging aquifers with Kings River floodwater has occurred on some McMullen farmland since 1983.

Initial water management activities to address overdraft over the 20 year horizon of the plan include actions to develop surface water supplies and filling data gaps to get a more complete and accurate picture of groundwater conditions.

Most League members live in the North Kings GSA, the most populous of those agencies, covering the cities of Fresno and Clovis and surrounding areas. League members have been attending North Kings board and advisory committee meetings. We have also attended meetings on water quality and groundwater trading. North Kings is scheduled to release its draft plan for public comment on August 15. The 45 day public comment period will end on October 3. If you would like to help review the plan, please contact me at waterlwvf@outlook.com

DID YOU KNOW?



Most supporters of women's rights were introduced to reform efforts through the abolition movement of the 1830s, many of them as members of the American Anti-Slavery Society led by William Lloyd Garrison. Abolitionist societies provided women with opportunities to speak, write and organize on behalf of slaves, and in some cases gave them leadership roles. Among such prominent female abolitionists were Lucretia Mott, Harriet Beecher Stowe and the former slave Sojourner Truth, whose "Ain't I a Woman?" speech in 1851 earned her lasting fame.

LWVF RETREAT FOCUSES ON MEMBERSHIP

Officers, directors and members of LWVF met in a morning Retreat last month. The major discussion topic was how to involve all members, both new and old, in our activities.

Among the recommendations were the following:

- ◆ New members should receive a "welcome" call to help determine their interests
- ◆ A buddy or mentor should be assigned to new members
- ◆ Questions on the dues envelope should be revised to elicit better responses
- ◆ An on-line and Voter survey should be developed for all members
- ◆ An orientation meeting should be held for new members
- ◆ We should plan monthly meetings, in addition to Board meetings, to involve more members and prospects

These recommendations will be discussed and top priorities will be put into action.

Any members with additional suggestions are welcome to send them to Dolores O'Neal, Membership Director, doloresoneal@comcast.net



ALL ABOUT THE CENSUS

The U.S. Constitution requires only that the decennial census be a population count. Since the first census in 1790, however, the need for useful information about the United States' population and economy became increasingly evident.

The decennial census steadily expanded throughout the nineteenth century. By the turn of the century, the demographic, agricultural, and economic segments of the decennial census collected information on hundreds of topics. The work of processing these data kept the temporary Census Office open for almost all the decades following the 1880 and 1890 censuses.

In 1903, the Census Office was moved to the newly created Department of Commerce and Labor. It remained within Commerce when Commerce and Labor split into separate departments in 1913.

The data is gathered mainly by sending each household a form to fill out, asking a set of questions about everyone who is living there on a particular date, including their sex, race, age and many other details. Census workers also visit homes and use other techniques to try to make the count as complete as possible.

The primary purpose is to determine, based on population, how many seats each state will have in the House of Representatives — and by extension, how many votes in the Electoral College. But census data is used for a great many other purposes as well, including the allocation of about \$900 billion in federal spending each year. That money helps pay for everything from public schools and Medicaid benefits to law enforcement and highway repairs. State and local governments use the data in similar ways, including setting the boundaries of legislative districts.

Why would asking about citizenship have been such a big deal?

Justice Department said it wanted the question included in the census because it needed to have a better idea of how many Americans are eligible to vote. The government said it needed that information to

enforce the Voting Rights Act, which bars discrimination against racial or language minority groups in the conduct of elections.

Wilbur Rose secretary, has said that he ordered that the citizenship question be added to the standard 2020 census form solely in response to a December 201 request from the Justice Department. But



three federal trial judges ruled that Mr. Ross had decided long before to add the question, and then pressed the Justice Department to supply a rationale.

Opponents say the citizenship question was intended to frighten noncitizens away from participating in the census, whether they were in the country legally or not. The American Civil Liberties Union said that it would make the count less accurate, and would have the effect of diverting federal money and political power away from states and cities where larger numbers of noncitizens tend to live and into the hands of rural areas.

Would the question have affected participation in the census?

The Census Bureau has acknowledged that inquiring about citizenship status could lower the response rate among immigrants and people of color. By one government estimate, about 6.5 million people might not have been counted if the citizenship question had appeared on census forms. Courts have found that Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, New York and Texas might have each lost seats in the House as a result.

But regardless of whether the question appears on census forms, the damage, many experts say, has already been done. The fear engendered by the administration's immigration policies will make the job of census workers difficult in primarily

immigrant neighborhoods even without a citizenship question.

What did the Supreme Court decide?

Last week, the justices sent the case back to a lower court. The majority opinion, written by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., said the explanation offered by the Trump administration for adding the question was inadequate and that Mr. Ross was not telling the truth about the rationale for adding the question. Information unearthed after those lower courts ruled has cast even more doubt on the government's explanation.

(most information re-printed from the NY Times)

SUFFRAGE QUIZ

1. Which state did not grant women the right to vote before the 19th Amendment was ratified?

- A. Oregon
- B. Arizona
- C. Illinois
- D. Ohio

2. Which country was the first to give women the same voting rights as men?

- A. New Zealand
- B. France
- C. Norway
- D. Sweden

Answers:



2. A
1. D

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Men and Women age 16 and above Making Democracy Work

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DIVERSITY POLICY: There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVF on the basis of race, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or socio-economic level.

What do you get when you join the League? All for one fee, you become a member of the Fresno, California and National Leagues and receive their newsletters. You may participate in League studies of issues; receive leadership training; hone your public speaking skills; become knowledgeable about local and state issues; learn more about government, natural resources and social policies as your time and interests dictate. You will also meet some interesting and friendly women and men who represent diverse backgrounds but find common ground in keeping abreast of current issues.

Yearly Dues Individual - \$70 ~ Family - \$100 (2 members, same address) ~ Student - Subsidized

Please send your check payable to the League of Women Voters, Fresno, with registration form (below), to: LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710.

.....
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Address: _____