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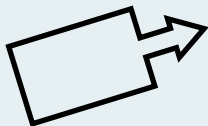


*Our 84th Year*

**CELEBRATE OUR ANNUAL AWARDS EVENT**  
**Monday, August 26 5:30 p.m.**

**Monday, August 12**  
**Regular Board**  
**4 p.m. in person\***  
**Stone Soup**  
**\*depending on weather**

**Monday, August 26**  
**Women's Equality Day/Lipton Award**  
**See page 7**



**Monday, Sept. 9**  
**Board Meeting**  
**4 pm. In person**  
**Stone Soup**

August 4 is National  
Chocolate Chip  
Cookie Day



**Women's Equality Day Award**  
***Retired Judge Jane Cardoza***  
**First Hispanic female Superior Court Judge in Fresno County**



**Werner Lipton Award for Advocacy and Volunteerism**  
***Gloria Hernandez***  
**Outspoken Champion**



**RBG Scholarship Winner**  
***Blanca Delgado Mendoza***  
**San Joaquin College of Law**



**PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY AUGUST 15. MEMBERS AND GUESTS INVITED.**

**Unitarian Universalist Church \* 2672 East Alluvial \* Fresno**

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Questions? Call Marie at 224-5241

# Co-President's Message

by Robin Chiero



July 2024 Board Minutes

As I read the monthly issues of the *Voter*, I continue to be impressed with the work of our League members. The columns report on actions taken related to national, state and local League positions and provide information on topics of importance. This message allows only enough space to mention two examples.

The Climate Action committee's recent activities related to the new raise in the utilities bill in order to implement SB 1383 requiring every jurisdiction to provide organic waste collection services to all residents and businesses. Committee members communicated with the Fresno City Council and attended meetings. They not only provided valuable information to the city, but also were admirable representatives of the League.



The Voter Services committee's Get Out the Vote efforts continue to be strong. The committee is particularly busy now and through the November election to ensure that all eligible residents of Fresno

County register and vote. You recently received an email request describing some of the activities the committee is planning. Your help is needed to accomplish them, and I hope you will seriously consider where and how you might be able to assist

. Help is needed in a variety of areas. For example, are you a current or former teacher, professor or other experienced presenter? Perhaps you could help present to groups on "Why vote?" and on state and local ballot measures. Reluctant to present in front of an audience? In that case your help could be significant to distribute information and/or to staff tables at various community events. The committee will appreciate however much time you can spare and however you would like to help.

If you don't already, I hope you will set aside time to read all the columns submitted to the *Voter*. They are definitely worth it!

Robin

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

Mailing address: 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710

Volume 65 No. 8 Editor: Francine M. Farber

**Voter Services:** This busy committee is working on partnering with a myriad of other organizations to not just encourage registration, but to stress the importance of actually voting

**LWVUS Convention:** There were a couple of issues presented for concurrence but leagues outside of the state that were presenting the issue had not received information about them because the national league was concerned about violating privacy. One of the proposals involved looking at gun issues through a health lens.

It was announced that the federal judicial system is going to be an area for national study in order to develop a position. We are looking forward to seeing what our responsibilities would be if we were to participate.

**Climate Action:** The committee is working on crossover interests with Voter Services. This would present interesting opportunities for advocates for both areas.

**Mural:** Two more walls have been located whose owners have expressed interest in our project. One is located at a motel on Inyo and L street while the other is on Amador between Fresno and Broadway. We are exchanging information about content and requirements with these two potential sites.

**Phone service:** Our office cell phone is a problem because it is not accepting remote access for phone messages. Dolores volunteered to investigate other options.

**VOTE 411:** Members of the Student Unit will be asked to participate in placing these signs around campus.

**LWVF IS A 501 C3 non-profit organization and all donations, including dues, are tax deductible. Donations are always accepted for the RBG Scholarship Fund at San Joaquin College of Law, the League's general fund, and any other purpose. Your estate planning is encouraged to consider LWVF. Please make out checks to LWVF and send to Treasurer, LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno 93710.**

## Education

by Kay Bertken



The 2025 Project, a federal policy agenda assembled by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, has made the news lately.

The Project includes a great many education proposals, including eliminating the Department of Education; transitioning Title IX and Title I (a grant program to schools that serve large numbers of low-income students) to open-ended block grants to states; advancing a parent bill of rights; eliminating a recent Title IX revision that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity; opposing the “woke agenda,” including programs related to LGBTQ+ youth and diversity; and a universal federal school choice program.

Choice programs have become more available over the last decades. Many states have enacted one or more of the programs that put education funding dollars directly into the hands of parents. These programs come in the form of private school tuition vouchers, tax credits for tuition expenditures, or government funded savings accounts that parents can use to pay for tuition, tutoring, therapies, or materials. In 2020, the Supreme Court ruled in *Espinoza v Montana Department of Revenue* that in states that enact choice programs, religious schools may not be excluded from that program.

The LWVUS addressed the issue of tax credits for families of children attending private K-12 schools in its position adopted in 1978. The convention directed the LWVUS to oppose those credits “based on their support for equal access to education and support for desegregation as a means of promoting equal access. The League is concerned about the negative impact that tuition tax credits would have on the public schools by encouraging flight, particularly from desegregated schools.”

The LWVC specifically addresses vouchers in its position giving the State the responsibility for state level financing to include “opposition to expenditures by the state for vouchers to nonpublic schools.” California does not offer school vouchers nor tax credits for private school tuition. The publicly funded choice programs that are available are all

*(continued on page 8)*

## Behavioral Health

by Carolyn Evans



The reorganization of the Behavioral Health Department was explained by Director Susan Holt. Reorganization goals include alignment of functions within management authority and responsibility, alignment of similar functions, integration of mental health and substance use disorder services, and allocation of resources that align with the function in each management area.

An important change is that instead of having their own division, the Staff Analysts in contract management will be embedded in the division into which their contracted providers fall. Staff analysts do fiscal reviews and performance and program reviews of all contract providers. Due to turnover in staff and isolation from programs, analysts have not always kept up with the performance of the programs that they oversee. The Board hopes that this change will improve the oversight of all contracted programs.

The Substance Use Disorders Committee (SUD) meeting heard about its System of Care. Pathways is the only Adult SUD program operated by the Department. There are 14 contracted service providers with 21 programs. In 2022-2023 32,006 individuals were served. The most interesting statistic was that from 2021 to 2023 services to youth ages 0-18 almost doubled. This huge increase was credited to the new provider Prodigy, that works in all county schools.

Prodigy Healthcare Inc. provides substance abuse counseling services for school districts at 92 sites for youth ages 12-21. Individualized one-on-one counseling sessions at the school site include screening, intake, assessments, treatment plan development, case management, crisis counseling, family counseling, group counseling, and discharge planning. Students are pulled from elective classes for 47 minutes of individualized counseling. Almost anyone may refer students, but most referrals come from the schools. Prodigy accepts payment from public and private insurance, self-pay, and county contracts, but no students are turned away.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 21 at 3:30 p.m. at 1925 E. Dakota Avenue, and you are invited to attend.

[evansalca@comcast.net](mailto:evansalca@comcast.net)

## Housing

by Marianne Kast



The downtown CVS development, known as the North Fulton Project, includes mixed-income housing to be built in the parking lot of the current Fresno Housing building as well as in the CVS parking lot, including the to-be-demolished CVS building.

Revised downtown development code now requires that street-level buildings on Fulton Street must be retail or restaurant-type with storefront windows and entrances to promote foot traffic. On Tuolumne, Merced, and Broadway Streets, ground floor office or residential uses are permitted, but entrances and windows must address the street.



Two schemes have been developed for the project, one including six separate buildings with over 300 units, the other showing four buildings with more than 400 units. The plans

generally include retail space on the ground floor, parking on the next two levels, and residential units above, including above-street terraces or open courtyards to view green spaces below. One feature of both schemes is visual and physical access to the Fresno Stamp mural which is located on the north side of the office building, just south of the development site.

Also part of the development is a city-owned lot located west of the Fresno Housing property where an additional parking structure topped with housing is planned.

The project is dependent on California's tax credit allocation system for financing. However, building infrastructure for this project will be paid for with part of the city's \$43M infrastructure grant from the state; additional earmarks from housing-specific infrastructure grants are expected.

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

## Voter Services

by Sue Goldman



The Voter Services Committee is finalizing the development of the PowerPoint we will use for high schools, colleges and community groups. The Central Valley Community Food Bank is interested in partnering with us to distribute flyers related to voting. We are contacting other community organizations to see if they would like to help get out voter information and encourage voting.

We have met with representatives from KVPR and FresnoLand to discuss candidate forums. Our focus will be on the most competitive races.

Ten propositions have qualified for the November ballot. We will be developing a detailed presentation for each of them to present to the League and community groups.

**Proposition 2:** Issues \$10 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernization of public education facilities

**Proposition 32:** Increases minimum wage to \$18 an hour

**Proposition 33:** Repeals Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act

**Proposition 34:** Requires health care providers to spend 98% of revenues from federal discount prescription drug program on direct patient care

**Proposition 35:** Permanently authorizes a tax on managed care organizations to fund Medi-Cal programs

**Proposition 36:** Increases drug crime and theft penalties and allows a new class of crime to be called treatment-mandated felony, which gives the offender the option to participate in drug and mental health treatment

**Proposition 3:** Repeals Proposition 8 and establishes a right to marry

**Proposition 4:** Issues \$10 billion in bonds to fund state and local parks, environmental protection projects, water infrastructure projects, energy projects, and flood protection projects

**Proposition 5:** Lowers the vote threshold from 66.67% to 55% for local bond measures to fund housing projects and public infrastructure

**Proposition 6:** Removes involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime from the state constitution

[wldtr1951@gmail.com](mailto:wldtr1951@gmail.com)



## Voices from the LWVUS Convention in Washington, D.C.



The biennial LWVUS Convention was held from June 26-29 in Washington D.C. Marianne Kast and Jacquie Canfield represented us in person, while Kay Bertken and Robin Chiero attended virtually. Each of our representatives was asked to write about something important they experienced during their attendance.

KAY BERTKEN (attended virtually)



The 2024 National Convention, like the previous conventions I have been to, was inspiring even online. Particularly notable, at a time of national discord around nearly everything, was the level of reasoned discussion and consensus that resulted in thoughtful and timely new League priorities, positions, and resolutions on issues of major importance—real decisions!

Beyond adopting Making Democracy Work, the League will pursue major campaigns for electing the President by popular vote and another one advancing Statehood for the District of Columbia. It also adopted a position on local news and its impact on democracy and voted to pursue a national study of the federal judiciary.

Members passed numerous resolutions on the last day of the meetings: affirming support for reproductive rights, ethics in government, the CEDAW framework (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women), and public libraries, plus another promoting the League's well-reasoned position on immigration.

The most important issues of our time were the subjects of workshops and major conversation: gun safety, book banning, election safety, privatization of public services, climate change, voter engagement. It inspired hope to be in the company (even for a few days in my dining room) of a group so actively engaged in advancing solutions rather than being depressed by our national gridlock and political campaign battles. The League really is an impressive organization, and the members are an impressive bunch.

JACQUIE CANFIELD (attended in person)



While at the National Convention, Marianne and I were wondering what was happening with the LWVUS CEO search. Little did we know that the LWVUS board would surprise all of us to announce the next CEO and that she was already one of us — Celina Stewart, the current Chief Counsel for the LWVUS who oversees all the legal work (which includes 150 cases over 36 states).

We had already heard from her earlier at the convention as the moderator for the One Person, One Vote session. As soon as her name was announced, she walked on the stage. All in the room felt her power and energy that she brings to the League.

She talked about how the League has always fought for voting rights and how we need to be intentional and protect the League brand. At the same time, how we do not shy away from democracy and “Together we will”:

1. Work to reach as many voters as possible for the 2024 election by educating and motivating them to vote—even if the candidates are not perfect.
2. Work to ensure others feel like they belong. We will know when we achieved this when everyone feels valued, respected, and is treated with empathy.
3. Complete the League transformation work and achieve the moonshot (abolishing the Electoral College).

We will do this by stepping into power by strengthening, innovating, and propelling the League through the next century of work. We have no time for fear or hesitation. We need to leave enough breadcrumbs to go beyond 2120.

She asked who was with her--the delegation stood up and gave her a thunderous applause. We are in good hands with her as our leader!

# More Convention Voices



MARIANNE KAST (attended in person)



When we say that the business of democracy is messy, we usually are referring to the push-pull that forces compromise in local, statewide and national legislative agendas. Attending a League of Women Voters Convention, whether statewide or national, is truly a first-hand experience in the messiness of democracy.

This convention utilized the digital event platform *Cvent* for registration, scheduling, messaging, and voting. This meant that each delegate needed a working cell phone, tablet, or laptop computer throughout the three-day event. (Have you ever tried to find a place to recharge your device in a 25,000 sq. ft. ballroom?). Motions at League conventions are made, seconded, debated, amended, questioned, debated further, and finally called to a vote. Staff needed to quickly post every motion to the *Cvent* system before voting could proceed; delegates had to find the motion on their devices and vote. At previous in-person conventions, voting was often done by quick voice vote and only occasionally referred to the more time-consuming ballot/paper vote. Of course, with *Cvent*, results were nearly instant on the digital system, but the overall process was slower, and some delegates were slow to understand the process.

The rules of the convention were quickly agreed to by the delegates, but the convention's first debate came over the order of business. The item, "Directions to the Board," was added to the last day's agenda after significant discussion. Next, the Nominating Committee named the 2024-26 LWVUS slate of officers and directors, and announced a new Nominating Committee (chairperson plus two members) with one vacant position. The slate of officers and directors as well as the NomComm chairperson were elected. Nominations were received from both the convention floor and the virtual convention space for the Nom Comm, with five candidates declaring for the two seats. A candidate forum was hastily scheduled and that vote postponed to the last day of the convention.

Two amendments proposed by the LWVUS Bylaws Committee were quickly approved, one clarifying the purpose of LWVUS Convention and the second distinguishing it from LWVUS Council. The next proposed amendment would have added significant new requirements for concurrences to program proposals from local Leagues. This amendment was tabled indefinitely after lengthy discussion by the delegates. A by-laws amendment excusing students from dues payment was vigorously debated and passed despite

not



ROBIN CHIERO (attended virtually)



As a virtual delegate. I did miss the opportunities for personal contacts and discussions with other attendees (as well as the trip to Washington D.C., a city I very much like to visit), but virtual attendance enabled me to participate in workshops and plenary sessions. Though the hybrid nature of the convention brought some technical challenges, both virtual and in-person delegates were able to participate in discussions and to vote on motions during the plenary sessions.

Workshops were offered on a variety of useful topics, making decisions about which to attend a challenge. To help my understanding of some of the League terminology, I attended *Educating Members on the Study Process: From Inception to Position*. I was impressed to learn about the amount of work that goes into conducting a study at the local level and then shepherding it through to a proposal for concurrence at the national convention. Another informative workshop was *Corporate and Organizational Partnerships: Expanding Your Reach*. Fortunately, all workshops were recorded so it's possible to watch any that were missed.

Attending a state or national convention allows for stepping beyond the local League to see how committed and informed league members across the state and country are. You can view some highlights of the convention at <https://www.lwv.org/blog/highlights-lwvs-2024-convention>.

being recommended by the LWVUS Bylaws Committee. One more non-recommended by-laws amendment was proposed regarding LWVUS Inter-eague Organizations, but after debate, it failed at the vote.

The first day's business finally finished, we trudged off to that evening's caucus and workshop sessions.

## ALL ABOUT OUR HONOREES FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY



### WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY AWARD

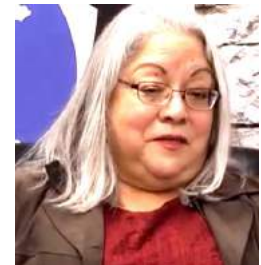
**This award recognizes an outstanding woman who has succeeded in a position usually held by men. In effect, she has broken the glass ceiling.**

**Retired Judge Jane Cardoza** was the first Latina judge on the Fresno County Superior Court. She has presided over general trials, criminal, probate, family law and juvenile dependency courts. Judge Cardoza began her law career as a Fresno County deputy district attorney. Later in her career, she served as a Fresno deputy city attorney and as a California deputy attorney general. In 1996, Fresno voters elected her to serve the community as a judge. In 2020, she was selected by the League of Women Voters of Fresno as one of the 100 Notable Women who made a difference in the Fresno Community. She currently serves as a trustee of San Joaquin College of Law and is a member of the Arts and Humanities Advisory Board of CSU, Fresno, and the Fresno County League of Mexican American Women. She is an active member of the California Judges Association and of the California Latino Judges Association.

### The LIPTON AWARD

**Dr. Werner Lipton was a scientist who advocated for environmental concerns. The award is given to a woman or man, not a League member, who volunteers and advocates for causes in government, the environment, or social issues.**

Active in advocating for human rights since she was 14, **Gloria Hernandez** has vast experience in the struggles with fighting racism, inequities in employment and unequal taxation and combatting police abuses.



Gloria began volunteering for the UFW as a young student. As an organizer she was arrested several times with thousands of campesinos fighting for the right to picket. She worked as a paralegal for the California Rural Legal Assistance focusing on the violation of workers rights and housing and access to benefits. Later she spent 20 years working as a mental health Patients Rights Advocate investigating complaints of abuse against her clients.

Gloria was a co-founder of the Central California Criminal Justice Committee that established an independent police auditor position in Fresno. she is one of the co-founders of Radio Bilingue and Lideres Campesinas, a network of farmworking women throughout California. Gloria's strong interest is providing technical assistance to others by translating and demystifying how the civil rights justice system works.



### THE RBG SCHOLARSHIP

**This award provides support for a minority female law student at San Joaquin College of Law with donations from League members and the Farber family.**

**Blanca Delgado Mendoza** was born in Michoacan, Mexico and immigrated to the United States as a young girl. After graduating from Kerman High, she

*(continued on page 10)*

# **Friant Ranch and General Plan: Update on League lawsuits**



by Radley Reep

*Here is an update of two lawsuits brought by the League of Women Voters of Fresno: the Friant Ranch lawsuit (2011—2021) and the Fresno County General Plan lawsuit (2024—).*

## **Friant Ranch**

This 2,500-unit residential project adjacent to the community of Friant was first approved by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors in 2011. LWVF and the Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter subsequently filed an environmental lawsuit against the County of Fresno. In 2021, following a California Supreme Court ruling in favor of LWVF and Sierra Club, the County rescinded all approvals and decertified the accompanying Environmental Impact Report.

The project is now up for reapproval. In April 2023, the County circulated a partially revised Draft Impact Report for public review, indicating that *“The recirculated Final EIR is anticipated to be completed and presented to the Board of Supervisors in 2024.”*

## **Fresno County General Plan**

In February 2024, the County updated its General Plan. LWVF, the Central Valley Partnership and Sierra Club

then jointly filed suit, alleging violation of state laws that address air pollution, climate change and the environmental justice/essential services owed to disadvantaged communities. The suit also alleged violation of the California Environmental Quality Act, citing failure to adequately assess and mitigate adverse effects resulting from changes made to the General Plan that weaken ag land protections and encourage urban sprawl.

The collection of documents that will be reviewed by the court is called the Administrative Record. After several deadline extensions, the Record is due by September 17 and the first case management conference is scheduled for October 25. Not yet scheduled is the court date for a hearing on the merits of the case.

Fresno also sued the County over the update of the General Plan. The City is currently engaged in settlement talks with the County. A July 10 court filing by the City reads in part: *“The City and the County have had productive settlement discussions and have come close to reaching agreement on most issues....However, if the parties are unable to settle this case, the City recognizes that the County may want to request that the Court consolidate or coordinate future proceedings in this action with the parallel action, Central Valley Partnership v. County of Fresno [League lawsuit]....”* [radleyreep@netzero.com](mailto:radleyreep@netzero.com)

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## **EDUCATION** (continued from page 3)

public school options -- open-enrollment, magnet schools, and public charter schools. None of them escapes the mandates of the State Department of Education’s requirements or public oversight.

Opposition to a universal federal choice program recognizes, not just the potential of racial segregation, but the choice policies of many private schools themselves that do not serve special education populations or have a history of not admitting or expelling “undesirable” students. Public schools were founded to further democracy’s need for educated citizens that share some common understandings and skills. Private schools, including religious ones, are not necessarily committed to that vision. [kaybertken752@gmail.com](mailto:kaybertken752@gmail.com)



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## **SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY TOWN HALL 2024-25 SEASON**

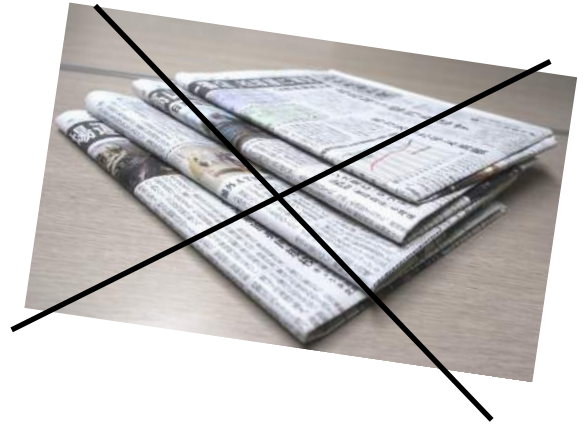
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by Francine M. Farber

**O**ur hearts were broken today as we cancelled our print subscriptions to The Fresno Bee and The New York Times and changed to digital service only.

Newspapers have been a big part of our lives. First, we met in college on The Campus, the newspaper of the City College of New York. Founded in 1907, it had a fierce rivalry with the paper up the hall, or was it down the hall? Even the relative location was part of the unending battle of words between the two entities that had neighboring offices in the college's Main Building, a huge Gothic edifice in which we occupied grungy basement space.

The Campus had an outer room which housed smelly lockers including a dead cat from someone's bio class, and the inner room had four desks with deep gouges and strange stains. Several manual typewriters and a few file cabinets completed the décor.

It was there that my husband-to-be was sitting, reading the New York Herald Tribune (now defunct). When he put it down and I saw his handsome face I asked my friend Elaine, "Who is that guy?" She said, "Do you want me to introduce you?" "Yes," I said eagerly. And almost 70 years later we are still together.

Murray was a junior and I was a freshman when we met. He became a copy editor for the college paper and after graduation went on to the Columbia, Missouri School of Journalism. He was drafted into the army, and upon discharge started his career during which he became a successful journalist who ended his newspaper years as co-managing editor for administration at a large East Coast daily

I became the first woman editor of the college's newspaper but did not go on to a career in journalism after I was turned down by a mid-western daily even though they told me that I was the best person for the job, because, they said, "We wanted a man." So much for women's equality in 1955.

After Murray left his editorship he worked in public relations for a Jesuit university. I kept writing in whatever educational job I had, adding on responsibilities of developing public relations materials for the school districts for which I worked, even though I was a school psychologist and later district administrator. I was making more work for myself but I just loved to write.

After we retired we came to Fresno and immediately subscribed to The Bee as well as to The New York Times. Murray spent hours every day scouring both publications for articles that related to his many interests, from sports to politics and beyond. I became an avid letter writer and op-ed columnist and have had more than 160 such pieces published in The Bee, as well as two letters to the editor in The New York Times, the latter achieving one goal on my bucket list.

So it was with heavy heart that we saw the air go out of print journalism over the last decade. As newspapers shrank, so did our hearts, as we saw more and more cultural attention paid to disinformation and less to the impartial and accurate information that we had worshipped for so many years and that is one of the cornerstones of our democracy. Especially as The Bee deteriorated to a handful of sheets that could barely occupy our attention for an hour or so each day, we talked about the fateful days that were soon to be upon us.

*(continued on page 10)*

## Climate Action

by Terri Figgs



A Roundtable has been formed to support and advise the Fresno Council of Governments staff, committees and Policy Board during the development of its 2026 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

The Regional Transportation Plan is a long-range, county-wide, multimodal transportation plan mandated by federal statute to occur every four years and to be conducted by a county's Metropolitan Planning Organization. Fresno's Council of Governments also serves as that planning organization.

California's Senate Bill 375 encourages planning practices that create sustainable communities. It calls for each planning organization to prepare a Sustainable Communities Strategy as an integrated element of its transportation plan. The strategy is intended to show how integrated land use and transportation planning can lead to lower greenhouse gas emissions from autos and light trucks.

The Roundtable consists of 40 positions: 16 seats that allow for one staff person from each member agency (to be appointed by each city and county), 21 seats open to a variety of agencies and interest groups, and three "public-at-large" seats.

At the first meeting for this 2026 planning cycle in June, a chair and vice chair were elected. The chair is Michelle Roman and the vice chair is Amy Hance.

The League is a voting member of the Roundtable. During September and October the Roundtable will be seeking input on transportation priorities from member organizations. If the League has any input, now is the time to start putting those ideas forward.

You can follow what is happening at <https://www.planfresno.com> or contact me as the League Representative on the Roundtable.

355-7051 [tfiggs@comcast.net](mailto:tfiggs@comcast.net)

## RBG Scholarship *(continued from page 7)*

attended Fresno State where she earned two undergraduate degrees, one in Criminology, and another in Chicano Studies and Spanish. Blanca spent the majority of her undergraduate career working with underserved communities. At San



Joaquin College of Law, Blanca is an active participant with the Student Bar Association, LawSUIT student organization, Delta Theta Phi, and is the current treasurer for the Law Student for Community Advancement (LSCA). After graduation, Blanca hopes to continue to serve the community that shaped her by working in public service at a non-profit organization.

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## Elegy for an Institution

*{ continued from page 6 }*

This week we were in a pre-mourning mode as we found that since The Bee was not going to be delivered any more, The New York Times had no carrier to deliver The Bee to our doorstep. We asked but received no answer to this problem. Instead we were told that we could continue the print edition but it would be mailed to us and we would get it three to four days after publication. The Bee had a similar plan although as a local paper it would probably only take a day or two to reach us, rather than an extended period of time.

We learned that, without realizing it, we had been spending a number of thousands of dollars a year to receive both papers, and felt that with the delays now explained to us, it didn't make sense to continue. So regretfully we cancelled our print subscriptions of many years and enrolled in digital-only plans.

Yes, we will save a lot of money, but our lives won't be the same. A significant part of an institution that in fact brought us together for seven decades is over. It just won't be the same any more. And neither will our country.

*farberfrannola@gmail.com*

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## ***Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy***

**JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!**  
*Men and Women age 16 and above Making Democracy*

**MISSION:** The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of interested individuals and influences public policy through voter education and advocacy on issues. The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

**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

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