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Web site:  
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The *Fresno*

**VOTER**



Friday, July 12, 9 a.m.

**Board Retreat**

707 W. Fairmont, Fresno

9 a.m.—

All welcome

Monday, August 12, 5 p.m.

**Regular Board Meeting**

League Office

Tuesday, August 13

**Municipal Election**

Monday, August 26

**Women's Equality Day**

**Celebration—Reception**

Details TBA

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

**WELCOME**

**TO ALL**



**LEAGUE MEETINGS**

## League wins \$5,000 grant for Suffrage documentary

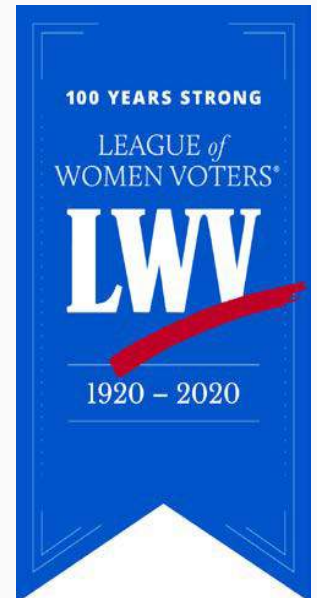
by Francine M. Farber

Our proposal for a grant to produce a five-minute documentary film is a winner in The Big Tell competition sponsored by the Central Valley Regional Foundation with support from the Central Valley Foundation and the Bank of America. The Big Tell features undiscovered stories from the Central Valley.

The grant consists of \$5,000 to connect with a professional documentary filmmaker in Fresno who will help us tell our winning story. The funds will also be used for production needs.

Thanks to the historical investigations of new member Micheline Golden, who also wrote the grant proposal, our film will highlight early history of suffrage in Fresno through the lens of several Fresno suffrage leaders. A number of women in Fresno were active in early suffrage efforts. The women included Miss Breeze Huffman, who founded the Fresno Franchise League in 1922 and organized a debate at Zapp's Park that drew hundreds of people. Another involved Fresno woman was Mrs. John Marshall Wiley, granddaughter of Supreme Court Justice John Marshall and one of the first women electors for the California Section of the Electoral College in 1917.

To gather information for the film we will draw upon research and information from the Henry Madden Library at Fresno State, newspaper archives, and the Fresno Historical Society, as well as other sources. We intend to use the documentary throughout the year to promote the 2020 Suffrage Centennial and will be able to show the film to our members and the public in the future.



*(continued on page 7)*

# President's Message



A few weeks ago four of us attended the LWVC convention in Pasadena. Kay Bertken, Jacquie Canfield, Diane Merrill, and I spent a few days in the information whirlwind that is an LWV convention. If you ever attend a League convention, it is an investment in your education. There are caucuses and plenary sessions on the issues LWV members are working on throughout the state. While the statewide League organization selects priority issues, and we ratify them locally, the League's "in-the-trenches" method of advocacy means that each League member chooses what they will devote their time to. The work of the League rests in the lap of every member, individually.

Over the past couple of years, as a member of our LWVF Housing committee, I have heard from many local stakeholders decrying our lack of affordable housing as well as supportive housing for Fresno's homeless. One of the most inspiring caucuses I attended at this LWVC convention highlighted a project by the LWV of Los Angeles called, "Yes in my LA!"

Advocates in Los Angeles (and nationwide) support the "housing first" approach to providing services to the homeless. LWVLA produced a guide to how, when, and where supportive housing for the homeless is built in Los Angeles. It is a 50-page booklet which includes facts, personal stories, and photos intended to allay the concerns of residents when supportive housing is proposed in their neighborhood.

The background for this project is that while the City of LA borrowed 1.2 billion dollars to be used for homeless housing and many organizations planned to build supportive housing using that funding as well as other sources of funding, neighbors loudly opposed projects in nearly every neighborhood in Los Angeles. LWVLA now attends public hearings on proposed supportive housing projects, speaking in their support, and distributing their guide at those public forums. As a result, dozens of supportive housing projects, large and small, are in development or under construction.

Compared with Fresno, LA's work toward housing the homeless seems stellar. Yet, to some Angelenos, the "housing first" approach is not getting homeless residents off the streets of LA fast enough. I read this week that a recall effort is underway to remove LA Mayor Eric Garcetti over this issue.

*Marianne*

**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.6 Editor: Francine M. Farber**

## MEMBER NEWS

*Please edit your roster*



### New Members

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**Address Correction**  
Angelica Carpenter  
Angelica.mail.fresnostate.edu

Marianne Kast  
5110 North Fruit, Apt. 109  
Fresno, CA 93711

It's always a good time for a gift to the League. LWVVF 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**

*Thank you*

## FRIANT RANCH UPDATE

Based on the California Supreme Court decision in the Friant Ranch case last December, the Fresno County Superior Court issued a peremptory writ of mandate in the League's favor commanding Fresno County to "vacate or set aside its approval of the Friant Ranch project and not approve the project before preparing a revised Environmental Impact Report that provides an adequate discussion of health and safety problems that will be caused by the rise in various pollutants resulting from the Project's development."

Not wanting project approvals to be set aside while the EIR is being revised, Fresno County and Friant Ranch have signaled to the Superior Court that they intend to challenge the wording of the writ. A hearing on this matter in Superior Court has been scheduled for July 30, 2019.

-Radley Reep

## Voter Services

by Sue Goldman



There are five candidates for Fresno City Council District 2. The winner of the August 13 election will take Steve Brandau's seat; Brandau vacated the City Council seat when he won the election for Supervisor to replace Andreas Borgeas, now a state legislator.

The Fresno County Complete Census Count Committee meets bi-monthly. There are many sub-committees and we are represented on the Education Sub-Committee. Each sub-committee was required to share its plan with the Census Count Committee for input. Both the committee and the county are required to submit strategic plans to the state. The committee finalized its strategic plan which was sent to the state for approval in June.



At the past two meetings people were encouraged to apply for positions on the state redistricting commis-

## Behavioral Health

by Carolyn Evans



The Behavioral Health Board watched a videotaped Success Story from a participant of the Multi-Agency Access Program (MAP). After several years of work, MAP is beginning to document its successes. MAP links individuals to whatever services they may need to improve their quality of life. MAP provides staff to assist clients, most of whom have multiple challenges.

The Department of Behavioral Health reported on new Mental Health Service Act innovations proposals. Innovations project funds often go untapped and are at risk for reversion. Fresno County will join with other counties for the evaluation and program design of Full Service Partnerships and for the creation of advanced directives for psychiatric care. The Department also hopes to receive funding to improve its community planning process.

The Department and the Board are very excited to report that all three of the applications for No Place Like Home funding were approved. In cooperation with the Housing Authority, three permanent supportive housing projects will be built within the next few years, with the first project to begin by the end of this year. These projects will provide a total of 96 housing units, and will be at the former Econo Inn downtown, at a newly constructed site at Barstow and Blackstone, and at a renovated site at Cedar and Belmont. The next phase of applications for funding will begin in November, and the Department is looking for partners for housing development. [evansalca@comcast.net](mailto:evansalca@comcast.net)

sion. Every ten years after the federal census, California must re-establish the boundaries of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly and State Board of Equalization Districts to reflect new population data and shifting populations. You may submit an online application to the California State Auditor's Office during the 60 day application period from June 10, 2019 to August 8, 2019. To find out whether you are eligible and to read about who else is applying, go to 2020 California Redistricting Commission. [121143pcvt@att.net](mailto:121143pcvt@att.net)

# OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2019-2020

*Reports from committees you can join*

## CLIMATE CHANGE



**Fresno Climate Change Lobby reps go to Washington D.C. Read all about it on page 6.**

**Next Meeting: July 10, 4:30—6 p.m.**

**4860 North Teilman, Fresno**

**Co-Chairs: Andrea Farber De Zubiria/Connie Young  
afarberdezub@gmail.com/cyoungrn@sbcglobal.net**

## EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

*School's Out . . .*

*We're Taking a*

*Little Summer*

*Break*



1

**Next Meeting: To be announced**

**752 E. Buckingham, Fresno**

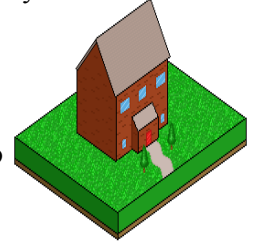
**Kay Bertken: kayb@csufresno.edu**

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Affordable Housing Committee has been attending workshops sponsored by the Fresno Community & Economic Development Partnership.

A current undertaking is the development of a Southwest Fresno Community Health Hub that will complement and support Fresno City College construction and other developments planned for the area. The partnership and the Fresno County Health Improvement Partnership coordinated by collaboration with Fresno Metro Ministry and Every Neighborhood Partnership, will design and con-

duct workshops to engage community residents and other institutional and business stakeholders. The Housing Authority and several non-profit groups that are already active in southwest Fresno will also participate in the project.



The group will start with a vision of a Southwest Fresno Community Health Hub that can provide services the community identifies as needed, such as physical and mental health care, education, healthy food and nutrition, affordable housing, workforce development, entrepreneurship and civic education.

The goal is to have authentic resident involvement to build a sense of community ownership and responsibility for the Health Hub. Input from the community will be used to determine location, design, a business plan, fund development and an implementation strategy.

**Next Meeting: To be announced**

**Chair: Nyla Zender: nylajz@comcast.net**

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**Anything Else!**

***Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport***

# Health Care

by Richard Bertken, M.D.



**A**lcohol, caffeine, nicotine, and more recently cannabinoids may be viewed as “social intoxicants.” They effect mood and cognition and share addictive attributes—potential physical and psychological dependence and stereotyped withdrawal symptoms. “Social” in this context means that they are widely produced and used, and their use is tolerated, if not promoted, throughout society. I use “intoxicant” for the lack of a less pejorative term, accepting that there is evidence that these agents may be used safely and possibly even productively. But it is no secret that they all modulate receptors in the brain and are dangerous, in varying degrees, to susceptible people.

## Social intoxicants influence history

The use of beer as a convenient form for storage of grain calories goes back to the dawn of the agricultural age 7000 years ago; the less common and more expensive fermentation of grapes appeared about 1000 years later. Coffee, tobacco, rum, and tea entered the world stage only by the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In his wonderful book, *The History of the World in Six Glasses*, Tom Standage makes an impressive case for profound influences on the history of the world by the production and consumption of these social intoxicants. He plausibly attributes the Enlightenment to the transition of urban European meeting places from pubs to coffee houses; the prolongation of slavery in the New World to the rum trade; and the emergence of the vast British Empire to tea trade.



## What about vaping and CBD?

It seems unlikely that any new social intoxicant will have the future historical significance of the Internet. But it is critical for our Congress and its watchdog, the FDA, to detect and *respond to* early trends in the use of known or potential social intoxicants before their advocates become entrenched by industrial scale production and unproven memes about their utility. Currently the FDA, because of a laggardly Congress, is fighting a rear-guard action against nicotine vaping, now a habit for over 3.6 million teenagers. Likewise, the cannabidiol (CBD) industry has burgeoned to a 300 million dollar



per year activity in just the last 18 months, energized by innumerable unproven health claims. CBD production was unleashed by federal and many state laws excluding *Cannabis sativa* extracts with very low levels of THC (the perception-distorting component of marijuana) from marijuana restrictions. Still, on paper the FDA has the responsibility—the duty—to prevent the commercial sale of CBD as a treatment for health conditions. It just does not have the manpower to stop it or the funding to do foundational research. More on CBD in another article.



As I am writing this, I am viewing a full-page ad in today’s front section of the *New York Times* with the enormous banner “Combating Underage Vaping.” In it, the biggest marketer of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), Juul Labs, defends itself against threats by recently resigned FDA chief Scott Gottlieb to terminate the sale of all ENDS because of the epidemic of teenage vaping. The ad reports five actions to reduce access of ENDS to juveniles, the most substantial of which is shutting down their Facebook and Instagram accounts. The others were more problematic. For example, stopping the sale of ENDS to underage people would be difficult because only twelve states have passed such laws. Juul’s suggestion that they themselves might effectively police the ages of their clients is puffery.

## Scientific evidence needed



Nicotine, while biologically active, provides no known benefits to humans. There is emerging evidence of harm to developing brains and of cardiovascular damage in adults attributable to the nicotine from ENDS. The only positive impact of ENDS would be better rates of withdrawal from cigarette smoking. Epidemiologic studies have failed to demonstrate this after 15 years exponential growth in ENDS sales. Of course, only large controlled trials can establish whether there is a unique role for ENDS in smoking cessation. They are just getting underway. The acting chief of the FDA, Ned Sharpless, should stop all sales of ENDS until there is scientific evidence that it provides unique support to people trying to give up cigarettes.

*rbertken@comcast.net*

# Climate Change

by Andrea Farber De Zubiria



Thankfully, the national

conversation about climate change seems to be moving forward. Politicians and business leaders on both sides of the aisle are acknowledging that climate change is real and caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

The House Ways and Means Committee had its first climate related hearing in 12 years in May. A coalition of corporations and environmental groups, along with support from some oil companies, presented information about a possible “carbon pricing” plan. The purpose of this is to incentivize a shift to technologies and practices that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are responsible for global warming. While there is a bipartisan bill in the House that outlines such a plan, the majority of its co-sponsors are Democrats. The conservative Climate Leadership Council has developed a slightly different carbon fee and dividend plan, but has not yet introduced a specific bill.

## Young Republicans Support Tax

So far almost all Republican members of Congress oppose carbon pricing and want to find ways to encourage a widespread transition to clean energy that don't involve anything that can be perceived as a tax. . But economists have been saying that putting a steadily rising fee on carbon where it is produced at the well, mine or port will be a necessary part of the plan to address global warming; in January over 3500 economists signed on to a letter in the Wall Street Journal calling for a carbon fee and dividend plan to address the climate crisis. Young Republicans seem to agree. The recent Luntz poll showed that 75% of Republicans under 40 support a carbon tax and dividend plan. The U.S. League of Women Voters has endorsed the idea of carbon pricing but still hasn't taken a position on specific legislation.

## CCL reps lobby in D.C.

On June 11, close to 1,400 volunteers, representing more than 87% of the districts in the United States, met with their members of Congress in Washington to advocate for The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act and other bipartisan legislation that addresses climate-related disasters.

Five people from Fresno and Terra Bella participated, including myself and Connie Young . We traveled with three students , Emily Salazar, Roosevelt High's 2019 Valedictorian, headed to Stanford, Paulina Torres, headed for UCLA in the fall, and Gurleen Pannu, President of the Sustainability Club at Fresno City College. Emily spoke on a panel about diversity, sharing her experience as a Latinx student. ( **Latinx is a gender neutral word for Latino/Latina**)

## Youtube information sources

In addition to meeting with TJ Cox and staff for Jim Costa, Devin Nunes and Kamala Harris, we participated in a lively conference that included inspiring keynote speakers like Atmospheric Scientist Dr Katherine Hayhoe and University of Utah student organizer, Piper Christian. Dr. Hayhoe was listed as one of TIME magazine's 100 most influential people. You can watch her clever and educational PBS series “Global Weirding” on Youtube to see why she has received numerous awards for “climate communication.”

For a primer about some technologies and practices that can reverse climate change, watch the TED Talk by Chad Frischmann, “100 Solutions to Reverse Global Warming”. To learn about carbon pricing and how it works to incentivize these technologies and practices, watch the TED Talk by Ted Halstead, “A Climate Solution Where All Sides Can Win.” You can find both of these on Youtube.

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

## SUFFRAGE QUIZ Part I

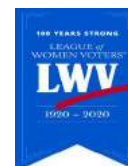
**1. Which constitutional amendment guaranteed voting rights regardless of “race, color, or previous condition of servitude” and in what year was it ratified?**

- A. 19th Amendment in 1920
- B. 13th Amendment in 1865
- C. 15th Amendment in 1870
- D. 24th Amendment in 1964

**2. What famous suffragist said: “It is a downright mockery to talk to women of their enjoyment of the blessings of liberty while they are denied the use of the only means of securing them provided by this democratic-republican government — the ballot?”**

- A. Susan B. Anthony
- B. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- C. Ida B. Wells
- D. Louisa May Alcott

Answers: (no cheating please )



L C 2 A I

# Water News

by Diane Merrill



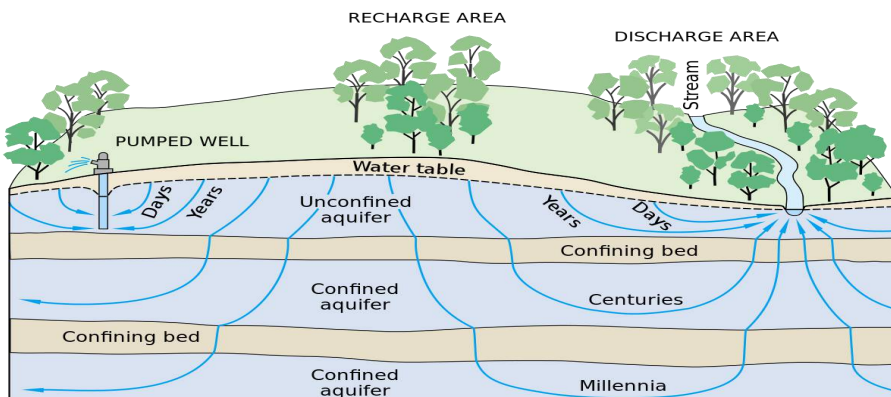
Members of LWVF have attended meetings to learn about groundwater sustainability planning in our local Kings Groundwater Sub-basin.

As required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014, the seven Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Kings Sub-basin are developing detailed Groundwater Sustainability Plans. The seven plans will be rolled into one coordinated plan and submitted to the State of California by January 31, 2020. This will be a challenging task as the agencies are a recently established, and evolving, form of local government.

The Kings Sub-basin has a population of about 1.2 million rural and city residents and an area of approximately one million acres, most of which is in Fresno County. Roughly eighty percent of the land use is agricultural. The Kings River is the primary source of water, and there are about forty suppliers of surface and/or groundwater.

The Sustainable Groundwater Act was envisioned by state lawmakers as a way for water users and stakeholders in overdrafted groundwater sub-basins to come together in a public process to develop detailed plans for how to reach long-term groundwater sustainability. Some elements of the plan are: an assessment of current water conditions and an estimate of future conditions; a water budget to balance surface and groundwater supplies with demand; sustainability goals to maintain a reliable water supply for current and future water users; minimum thresholds to be avoided; a monitoring plan to measure progress over time; and projects and management actions to conserve water, recharge groundwater, and make the best use of available surface water supplies.

The California Department of Water Resources will review the plans and recommend corrective actions as needed. Annual reporting is required by the agencies.



## Documentary

(continued from page 1)

There were more than 75 applications from local filmmakers vying for a chance to win one of ten grants

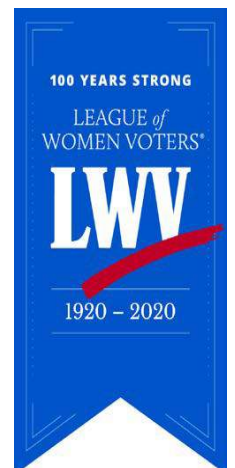
By the time you read this, work will have begun on the League's film, starting with a preliminary meeting with our documentarian. All of the winning films will be shown in a gala screening at the Tower Theater in October.

This is the third year for The Big Tell, a regional film contest for professional, amateur, and student filmmakers from Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kings counties.

The Big Tell is committed to promoting diversity in both the filmmakers it supports and the stories that they share. Combined, The Big Tell filmmakers from 2017-2019 range in age from 23 to 67 years; 40% are female; 66% are minorities; and 40% are amateurs or students.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

In 1873 Susan B. Anthony was fined \$100 for defying a state law that allowed only men to vote. She said she would never pay the fine, and she never did!



# Education

by Kay Bertken



First, an update on the continuing life of our charter school study. If you remember, in 2017 we took on the task of studying the charter schools in Fresno. We circulated our study broadly, including to the state league and local leagues in California. We were encouraged to develop a proposal for a charter school position, and our league recommended that position for consideration at the State convention at our local program planning meeting this past February. It was submitted as a non-recommended item since it was submitted after the time other leagues could review and recommend it at their own program planning meetings.

## Convention caucus yields support

At the convention we held a caucus explaining our study and the position. The next day the State League president--during debate on the item--explained that the item was not about adopting our position, nor a recommendation for a new study, but something the state board would determine based on input.

There was lots of support for our study--many delegates praised our work and supported the need for governance and regulatory reform. Delegates who spoke against any action were generally opposed to the whole idea of charters and concerned that it might look like the League supported them. Others were concerned about this very novel

process—not a study, not a position that they had read, lots of power to the State board to decide something. Nonetheless, the resolution to add a charter school position to the state education position did pass by more than the three-fifths vote required.

## Charter interest stimulated

We have been assured by state board members that our proposal will be the basis of their board discussion and decisions. We will certainly be following what happens next. Our proposal prompted lots of debate at the convention --probably more than any other item. It was clear that there was huge interest in charters across the local leagues that would not have been elicited without our efforts.



## Racial concerns elicited

Back to the Fresno Unified news: The Board has had its last meeting of the year. Many people were there to celebrate new administrative hires; some were there to voice concerns about racial issues that had surfaced at Bullard when a young woman posted a picture of herself on social media in blackface and using racial slurs. The audience members who spoke recounted other disturbing events and complained that the district had no apparent policies in place for dealing with racist incidents.

All, including an ACLU attorney, called for training to begin in the district. The superintendent and board members had previously discussed the need for cultural sensitivity training and were receptive.

## LCFF plan passed

The Board passed a budget and Local Control Funding Formula for 2019-2020 that contained a large increase in funding for special education, a department budget that was greatly influenced by public complaint about the budget process and content. The eventual special education allocations were praised by numbers of speakers at the final budget adoption.

## Student support positions increased

The budget also allowed for full time Pre-K and T-K aide positions, increased numbers of academic counselors, social workers, and psychologists—a real commitment to social-emotional supports for Fresno students. The budget forecasts a previously anticipated decline in reserves in its three-year projections, down from 9.29% this year to 3.33% in 2021/22. The state minimum requirement is for a 2% reserve for economic uncertainty.

There was reason for celebration as the Superintendent announced a three-year agreement between Fresno Teachers Association and the district had just been reached—an achievement that was applauded on all sides.

*kayb@csufresno.edu*

**BOARD MEETINGS  
WILL RESUME IN AUGUST**



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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.**

.....  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_