



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BUTTE COUNTY

Voter

Dear League Members & Friends,

A well-respected academic from California shocked his audience this summer at the International Society of Political Psychologists by asserting that democratic governance will continue its decline and will, eventually, fail. The basis for his argument? **Democracy is hard work** and human brains aren't meant for self-rule. Yowza.

For we Americans, **the month of September** is filled with democratic significance. For instance, the *Mayflower* began its historic journey to America in September; there's **Constitution Day** commemorating the adoption of the US Constitution; and then we have **National Voter Registration Day** on September 24th. Coincidentally, September is also the month to **renew our League dues!**

When Emily Dickinson penned "*Forever - is Composed of Nows*" she didn't have voting, climate change, or even democracy in mind. But what we do *now* definitely makes a difference in our *forever*.

Let's stick together to make this democracy work – Please renew your commitment to the League of Women Voters.

Sincerely,
Linda MacMichael
President



SEPTEMBER 2019

Inside this Issue

Voter Services, Observer Corps & Candidate Forum Updates 2

Fall Membership Coffee & Program
The new Vote Centers and Vote-by-Mail Elections are here! 3

Climate Change Series, Sept-Dec & Housing Forum on Oct. 12
Pull-out Insert

Calendar of League Fall Events – including Voter Registration events 3

Also Enclosed is

*Your League
Membership Renewal
Envelope!*

LWV of Butte County
PO Box 965, Chico, CA 95927
www.lwvbuttecounty.org
(530) 895-VOTE

Voter Service & Observers: Essentials to the League's Mission

Our Voter Service arm is getting ready for a busy Primary season. Given that California has moved up the **Primary to March 3**, we will be holding **candidate forums and get-togethers in January and early February**. The candidate forums for **three Supervisor seats** will be held on the **Butte College campus on Wednesday, January 15**. We don't know as yet if Bill Connelly and Doug Teeter will run again, or if either will have an opponent; but Steve Lambert is stepping down, and three candidates -- Nathan Wilkinson, Tod Kimmelshue, and Susan Hilderbrand -- have declared their candidacies for his District 4 seat.

We've been told that Doug LaMalfa is not participating in a League forum before the Primary, which means we cannot hold a League candidate forum for that specific office. However, we've decided to try something new this year: a **"Speed-dating" event for any Butte County candidate** who wishes to participate! This allows candidates in uncontested races, and those whose opponents do not participate in a forum, to still meet with potential voters in round-table conversations. Candidates will have a few minutes to introduce themselves, and then they will rotate among tables of eight to 10 people to answer their questions. We are planning for an early February date for this event – location TBA. Stay tuned for more information soon.

In addition to our candidate events, Debra Barger is heading up our extensive **voter registration** efforts, and Carolyn Dusenbury is organizing the **"Pros & Cons"** presentations on ballot propositions. It will be all hands on deck, so please contact one of us to talk about how you would like to help!

Carol Burr, Vice President/Voter Service Chair

What is an Observer? An Observer is a League member that has taken on the responsibility to regularly attend meetings of a Board, Commission or Advisory Board in the County or in one of the Cities in Butte County. Their mission is threefold: to let the League President know of any deviations from the Brown Act, to keep the League Board advised of actions that pertain to League positions, and to proudly wear the League Observer button that keeps the public aware of the League presence.

Sadly in July we lost one of our committed observers. Laura Petersen passed away from cancer. Laura had observed the Oroville City Council for a number of years. She will be greatly missed by the League and the Oroville community.

Ramona Flynn observes the CUSD and she had a fall a few months ago. She is now recuperating and Jane Wanderer has been attending those meetings as a substitute. Thanks go out to Jane for standing in.

And now I am very happy to report that we have **4 NEW OBSERVERS**. William Todd-Mancillas – Behavioral Health Advisory Board; Carolyn Dusenbury – Library Advisory Board; Debra Barger – Chico Property Improvement District; and Satsie Veith who is looking at 3 possible boards to see which will fit her schedule. **Thanks to all of you** for stepping forward and taking on these responsibilities.

There is still a need for many more Observers. If you are interested please contact me. I will be happy to meet with you and talk about the many interesting and important boards and commissions that still need a League member present to observe proceedings. If you ask any current Observer they will tell you that it enriches their own life, as well as provides service to the League and the community.

Toni Reid, Observer Chair

The NEW Vote Centers – Topic of our Fall Membership Coffee, Sept. 28

Please join us for our **Fall Membership Coffee on Saturday, September 28th beginning at 9:30 am** at the Pleasant Valley (PV) Recreational Center, 2320 North Avenue in Chico, where we will hear an update from **Candace Grubbs, Butte County Clerk-Recorder**. Candace will share the latest in election changes for the March 3 Primary and beyond. In addition to transitioning to **Vote-by-Mail** Elections, we will also see the appearance of **new Vote Centers** in our Butte County communities.

Bring a friend, along with your handy **League Membership RENEWAL envelope** we've enclosed in this "Voter" newsletter for your convenience. One lucky renewing League Member will even **receive a fun door PRIZE basket** -- when we draw a name from among those renewals paid and dropped into our membership prize drawing box that morning! 😊

How to Participate More Fully in Democracy & the League

Below are just some of the ways to participate in democracy, and engage with fellow League Members!

- ATTEND the upcoming **Fall MEMBERSHIP Coffee on Sept. 28th** @ PV Rec. Center
- HELP register voters at our tabling events listed in the Calendar
- Attend our Candidate and issue forums which we host throughout the County
- Help ORGANIZE and run our candidate forums and other events
- JOIN the Social Policy or Natural Resource Committee and help set program priorities
- OBSERVE a County or City public agency as a part of the League Observer Corps
- Share your thoughts, ideas, and recommendations with Board members as to how we can make our League even more engaging and committed to our communities.

We look forward to seeing you at our many events and activities this new "League year" where we can talk more about your participation in the League and democracy!

Elaina McReynolds, Membership Chair

League CALENDAR for Fall 2019

Thursdays, 7 pm - Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 14 and Dec 5 – Climate Change Series @ Gateway Science Museum, Chico. *See insert for details*, and contact Director Mary Kay Benson or President Linda MacMichael for more info.

Tuesday, Sept 24 – National Voter Registration Day – CSUC Campus, and Chico Branch Library, 9 am – 1 pm.

Wednesday, September 25 at 6 pm – Voter REGISTRATION TRAINING @ the League office, 635 Flume Street. Come to learn more about registering voters! Contact Debra Barger for more information.

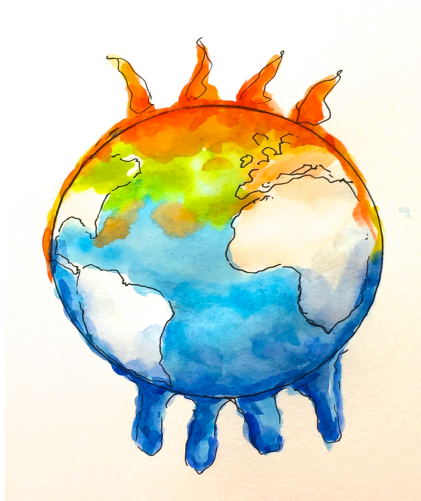
Saturday, September 28 at 9:30 am – Fall Membership Coffee Topic: VOTE CENTERS @ the PV Recreation Center, 2320 North Ave, Chico. Please bring a friend and your Member Renewal Envelopes... Win a Door Prize!

Sat & Sun, Oct. 5 & 6 – Johnny Appleseed Days, Paradise – Voter Registration, starting at 10 am

Saturday, October 12 at 11am-1 pm – Oh, Give Me a Home... special housing forum @ the PV Recreation Center, 2320 North Ave, Chico. *See insert* and Contact Director Stevi Mittman for more information.

Sunday, October 13, noon-5pm – Voter Registration at Dia del Campesino, Gridley City Park

2019 Fall Speaker Series: Climate Change – Butte County Issues



ALL EVENTS AT 7:00 P.M.

Free and open to the public

GATEWAY SCIENCE MUSEUM

625 Esplanade, Chico (free parking)

Co-Sponsored by:

OLLI-Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and

The League of Women Voters of Butte County

lwvbuttecounty.org

Thursday, September 19

CLIMATE CRISIS – WE ARE LIVING IT

“What is Climate Change and How Has It Affected the North State”

Don Hankins, Professor of Geography, CSU, Chico

“The History of Our Local Land from the Perspective of the Land”

Ali Meders-Knight, Environmental Educator for the Mechoopda Tribe

Thursday, October 17

POSSIBILITIES FOR CHANGE IN BUTTE COUNTY

“Green Financing - How Do We Pay for It?”

John Mitchell, Jai J. Mitchell Analytics and author of Draft Implementation Plan for Chico

“Zero Net Energy, Solar and GRID Alternatives for Butte County”

Steve Geiger, Technical Academy Mgr, & Solar Installation Officer, GRID Alternatives NV

“Recycling Food Waste to Food”

Lee Altier, Professor of Agriculture, CSU, Chico

Thursday, November 14

WHERE ARE WE NOW – A COUNTY-WIDE VIEW

“What’s Happening in Chico, Progress & Plans”

Ann Schwab, Chico City Councilmember

“Climate Change Education in Butte County Schools”

Julie Heath, Schools for Climate Action

“Progress in Paradise”

Susan Dobra, member of Camp Fire Long Term Recovery Group

Thursday, December 5

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE: TOOLS TO REMOVE & SEQUESTER CO₂

A panel presentation on multiple, scalable tools:

“Non-tillage” **Cynthia Daley**, Director Center for Regenerative Agriculture & Resilient Systems

“Hedgerows” **Roy Ekland**, Co-owner, C & R Ranch, Paskenta

“Plant Diversity and Grazing” **Charlotte Ekland**, Co-owner, C & R Ranch, Paskenta

“Fiber Crops” **Sandy Fisher**, Flax farmer



***“Oh, Give Me a Home.....
Equality of Opportunity for All”***

**Saturday, October 12th
11 am - 1 pm**

Pleasant Valley Recreation Center
2320 North Ave. in Chico

Andy Holcombe will moderate our panel of speakers comprised of **Cory Turner** from Legal Services of Northern California; **Paul Webb** from North Valley Property Owners Association; **Ed Mayer** from Butte County Housing Authority; and **Meleiza Figueroa** from the Tenant Union Organizing Committee. Their presentations will focus on renters' and landlord rights, Section 8 vouchers, and current legislation -- including the newly-approved rent control bill in California, and how it will affect rentals in Butte County. There will be time for audience questions following the presentations. For more information, contact the League's Social Policy Chair, Stevi Mittman at ssmittman@gmail.com.

Voter's Edge California is our Ultimate Tool for Voter Service & Education

Voter's Edge is a one-stop online tool where you can now:

- Access your full, personalized ballot by entering your address.
- Get in-depth information on candidates, measures, and who supports them.
- View candidate biographies, top priorities, photos, policy videos, endorsements, and get detailed information about who funds their campaigns.
- Browse unbiased explanations of ballot measures, and find out who supports, opposes, and funds them.
- Check where, when and how to vote, including information on local polling locations.
- Keep track of your choices to make voting easier.
- Share information about the election with friends and family.



Get the facts before you vote.

Simply go to: <https://votersedge.org/ca>

Voter's Edge California (VEC) is a joint project of MapLight and the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF).

League of Women Voters of Butte County
P.O. Box 965
Chico, CA 95927
www.lwvbuttecounty.org

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

- ✓ **RENEW** Membership with the League - Sept 28 Fall Coffee
- ✓ **Candidate Forum** and "Speed Dating" info inside
- ✓ **Social Policy & Natural Resource** committee programs!

2019-20 LWV of Butte County Leaders

Linda MacMichael	President
Carol Burr	1st VP – Voter Service
Elaina McReynolds	2 nd VP – Membership
Mahalley Allen	Secretary
Abe Baily	Treasurer
Toni Reid	Director – Observers
Sharon Wallace	Director – Communications
Stevi Mittman	Director – Social Policy
Mary Kay Benson	Director – Natural Resources
Sandra Flake	Director – Government
Kathy Kaiser	Director-at-large
William Todd-Mancillas	Director-at-large
Andy Holcombe	Director-at-large

Our Mission....

Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that **encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government.** At the local, state and national levels, the League works to **influence public policy through education and advocacy.** Any person 16 years or older, male or female, may become a League member.

LWV Board meetings are the 2nd Tuesdays monthly @ 6:30 pm in the League office, 635 Flume Street in Chico. All League members are welcome to attend and participate. To reach a Board member, ask for our current Board roster available at Member Meetings, or call 530-895-8683 to leave a message.