

LWV[®] Voter

March 2021

Dear League Members and Friends,

I hope 2021 finds you doing well, staying safe and healthy as Butte County vaccinations ramp up. The League of Women Voters celebrated our **101st anniversary on February 14** and I am re-inspired by the message from LWVUS Chief Executive Officer Virginia Kase, "*Remaining Nonpartisan in Hyper-partisan Times.*"

Issues are not partisan, nonpartisan does not mean apolitical, and democracy is a civil rights issue. As supporters of the League, [we can each help](https://www.lwv.org/blog/remaining-nonpartisan-hyper-partisan-times) to bridge the partisan divide. Read more here: <https://www.lwv.org/blog/remaining-nonpartisan-hyper-partisan-times>.

We have two education programs via Zoom coming up this spring.

- **March 10: Role of Journalism in Preserving Democracy**
 - **April 10: Potential for Biomass Fuel Production in Butte County**
- Check out our LWVBC calendar for more details
<https://my.lwv.org/california/butte-county/calendar>

The LWVUS is calling for a **Day of Action on April 29** and encourages all local Leagues to plan for a major advocacy campaign to encourage public participation in "drawing the lines" of congressional and other districts. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, population data from the 2020 Census will not be released to the states until late September 2021, months behind schedule. That puts us in a hurry-up-and-wait situation that we can use to our advantage. In California, the state's Citizens Redistricting Commission will be soliciting input from residents to establish "communities of interest" for the purpose of securing equitable representation. Several of us from LWVBC joined LWV Western Nevada County's Education Series in February on "Redistricting – Why does it matter and what can we do?" You can watch the recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VK1f3aZbk1w>.

More information about redistricting will be coming soon. In the meantime, **save the date of April 29** so we can all take part in a national campaign of awareness and participation. If you would like to take an active role in our educational program to encourage Butte County residents to "draw the lines," please let me know.

Let us work together to improve our community.

Yours in Making Democracy Work,
Debra Barger
President

Inside this issue

- Celebrations of History
- Stopping the Drawdown—Sustainable Groundwater Mgmt Act
- Membership and the LWVC State Convention
- 2021-22 Program Planning Recommendations
- Nominations Needed for 2021-2023 LWVBC Board
- Great Educational Programming Options
- Donate
- LWVBC Board Members
- LWVBC Mission

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF BUTTE COUNTY (CA)

PO Box 965, Chico, CA 95927
www.lwvbuttecounty.org
(530) 895-VOTE (8683)

Celebrations of History



*"We have done
it and done it
well!"*



In February, we celebrated [Black History Month](#), and in March we celebrate [Women's History Month](#). In this Voter we combine these two celebrations by highlighting two trailblazing women of the 19th and 20th centuries.



Sojourner Truth was born into slavery in 1797 and set free when she was thirty years old. Like so many Black leaders, she began her mission by preaching. She traveled from village to village speaking about the brotherhood of man. In due course, she took up the abolitionist cause, and in 1850 she began her campaign for the right to vote.

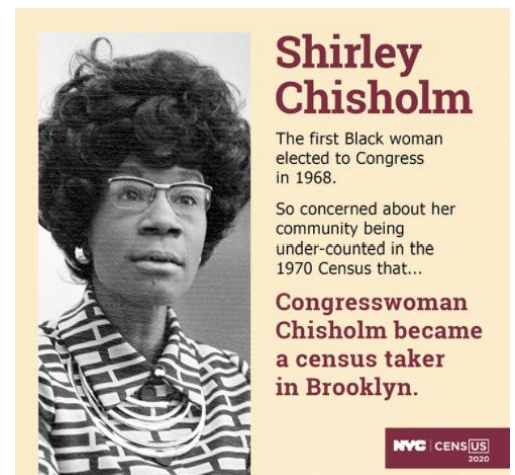
Sojourner lived to see the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery; the Fourteenth Amendment, which was supposed to give former slaves more rights under the law; and finally the Fifteenth Amendment, which was meant to give Black men the right to vote. She continued the fight for women's suffrage until a few years before her death in 1883. She achieved much in her life by influencing the lives of so many around her. She did not ask to be made equal; rather, she demanded to be treated equally.

She understood that equality meant power—the power of self-determination.

Shirley Chisholm famously said, "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." Chisholm was born after white women had achieved the right to vote. Technically, Black women (and Black men) had that right, but with limited access to the ballot box imposed by a host of voter suppression mechanisms. That did not stop her from exercising her personal and political power. She did not ask for permission to participate—she just participated.

Chisholm was a trailblazer and organizer: She helped establish the National Organization for Women (NOW) and African American Women for Reproductive Freedom. After being elected to Congress, she was the only woman among the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus, where she advocated for educational rights and women's rights. She then sought the highest office in the land as a presidential candidate on a major political party ticket in 1972.

Perhaps most important, she acted not on behalf of her own interests but for the interests of the Black community and women as a whole. She wished to be remembered as one who dared to be herself, unconstrained by the societal rules of the day. In doing so, she forged a path for those who followed.



Stopping the Drawdown—Sustainable Groundwater Mgmt Act

We have reprinted the following article from the LWVC website as an introduction to the CA Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This law requires many water basins in California, including three in Butte County, to draft plans to make groundwater levels sustainable. This process is underway right now.

Public involvement is not only required by law but is essential to make this work. In Butte County, several Brown Act agencies are meeting regularly to decide on sustainable goals and how best to meet them: conservation, water transfers, etc. We will have more information in future newsletters, but to find out about the process and how to take part, you can visit these websites:

- Vina Sub-Basin (north county, Chico, Durham): <https://www.vinagsa.org>
- Wyandotte Creek Sub-Basin (Oroville and Palermo): <https://www.wyandottecreekgsa.com>
- Butte Sub-Basin: (most of south Butte County) <https://www.buttebasingsgroundwater.org>

Managing the Water Under Our Feet: Groundwater

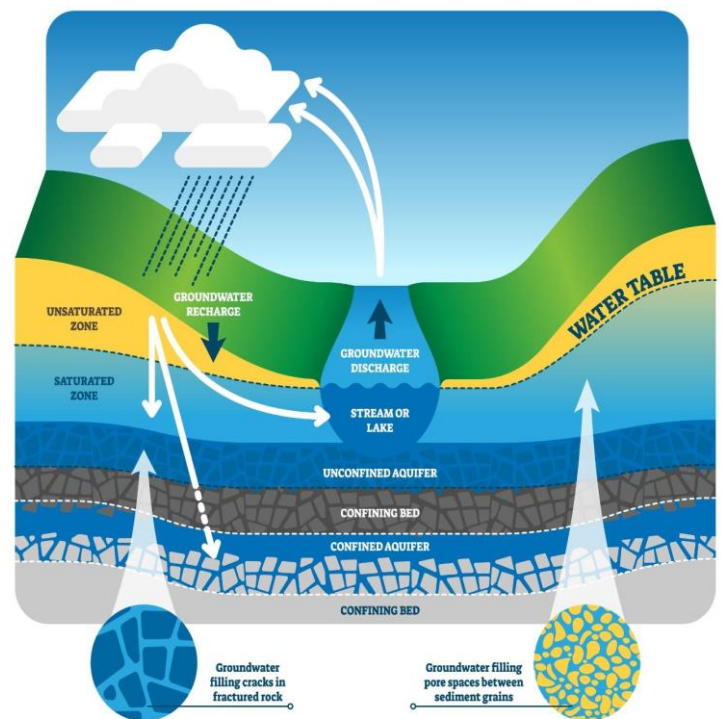
Along with surface water from lakes, rivers, and streams, groundwater that accumulates in underground aquifers is a major source of water for California's communities and farms, and for the environment. In California, some local groundwater levels are critically declining. **Groundwater provides 40 percent of California's water supply in normal years, and up to 60 percent during dry years.** In some California communities, groundwater is the only source of tap water for household use.

In the midst of the severe 2012-2016 drought, the California legislature passed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to address the rapid decline of groundwater levels that was occurring mainly in agricultural areas. SGMA requires local water agencies, cities and counties in areas with significant groundwater depletion to form groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) and to develop groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) to achieve groundwater sustainability over a 20-year planning horizon.

A GSP must contain a water budget ensuring that ultimately, the amount of water leaving an aquifer is balanced by the amount of water recharged. GSPs must monitor and manage groundwater levels, groundwater quality, land subsidence, surface and groundwater interconnections, and saltwater intrusion in coastal areas. GSAs are required to consider the interests of all local groundwater users as they develop and implement their plans.

Critically overdrafted groundwater basins, most in the San Joaquin Valley and Central California coastal areas, completed their GSPs in 2020. Other high and medium priority basins have until 2022 to complete their plans. Some groundwater basins, mostly in Southern California, are adjudicated and are not required to develop GSPs. Basin prioritization and adjudicated areas are shown on [this map](#).

GROUNDWATER



Together with water conservation, recharging groundwater aquifers is essential for achieving groundwater sustainability. In wet years [Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge \(Flood-MAR\)](#) can deliver multiple benefits for communities, agriculture, and the environment, especially in the Central Valley. This includes flood risk reduction, ecosystem enhancement, climate change adaption, and working landscape preservation.

[Managed Aquifer Recharge \(MAR\)](#) projects in some areas have used multiple means to recharge aquifers, including deep injection methods and the use of urban stormwater and treated wastewater to recharge aquifers.

Groundwater can migrate underground, even between sub basins, in ways we do not understand well. It can be pumped out of the ground and moved to other locations through California's extensive system of canals. Also, people with rights to both surface and groundwater in one basin can forgo surface water so that it can be moved to another basin while drawing down their own groundwater, impacting other users in their basin. For all these reasons, groundwater management in California will ultimately involve regional as well as local management strategies in order to ensure statewide sustainability.

*Submitted by Diane B. Merrill
Member, LWVC Water Committee*

LWVBC Membership and the LWVC State Convention

LWV census is January 31 each year. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do it now! As a reminder, fees are \$75 for an individual or \$125 for a household. Please submit your renewal by:

- ✓ Make checks payable to LWV of Butte County. Mail your check and the form to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BUTTE COUNTY
P.O. BOX 965
CHICO, CA 95927-0941

- ✓ Online: <https://my.lwv.org/california/butte-county/join>

Membership dues paid by January 31 determines our census which drives the count for the number of voting delegates we can have for Convention. We will have 4 voting delegates for the state Convention. The LWVC State Convention, from June 8 – 13, will be virtual via Zoom this year. June 8 – 10 will be workshops and events, with June 11 – 13 the plenaries and caucuses. Delegates have the responsibility for considering and voting on the proposed items: program (issues), slate of nominees, 2-year budget, and any bylaw amendments. All delegates (\$75 registration) must participate on Zoom via an electronic device in order to cast votes. Nonvoting Attendees (\$25 registration) are still able to observe plenary sessions and join in on a number of workshops and caucuses. Anyone is welcome to observe the plenary sessions, as they will be streaming live. A link will be provided to anyone who has not registered.

Caucuses are also free for anyone to attend. The schedule of caucuses will be available on April 26, and registration links will be provided for each caucus.

Scholarships from LWVC will be available if the registration fee poses a hardship. Convention scholarship applications will be available online in March: <https://lwvc.wordpress.com/registration-21/>.



2021-22 Program Planning Recommendations

LWVBC conducted two Program Planning meetings, with a preliminary meeting to set the stage in January and another meeting in February, both conducted virtually. We discussed the issues we want to focus our resources on in 2021–22; local and Statewide issues. It was an opportunity to think both short- and long-term about issues for LWVBC, posing questions such as:

- ✓ Where should we engage?
- ✓ Where can we make a difference?
- ✓ How will we go about that?
- ✓ How will *you* contribute?



We reviewed the choices available to us”

- a. study of an issue (a traditional study or possibly a concurrence with a position reached by another League or the recommendations of a resource committee)
- b. an update study of an issue on which the LWVBC already has a position
- c. community education about an issue
- d. advocacy on an issue
- e. any combination of these—for example, advocacy on one aspect of an issue while another aspect is being studied or updated; or a combination of action and community education on the same issue.

During the January preliminary planning meeting just for members, we conducted two rounds of break out discussion sessions (our first ever using the Zoom Break room functions) on multiple issues:

- Break Room 1 - **Water**: Facilitators Satsie Veith and Toni Reid
- Break Room 2 - **Climate Change**: Facilitators Roxanne Ferry & Patty Haley
- Break Room 3 - **Juvenile Justice**: Facilitator Mahalley Allen
- Break Room 4 - **Redistricting**: Facilitators Lori Fuentes & Claire Greene
- Break Room 5 - **Housing/Homelessness**: Facilitators Maureen Kirk & Sandra Flake
- Break Room 6 - **Any topic not already included above**: Facilitator Debra Barger



Thank you to all our Board members for researching current local and state positions in preparation for their role as facilitators for program planning!

For the February planning that was open to the public, we followed a similar process with just one round of facilitated breakout sessions with a longer timeframe for more in-depth discussions. We used the polling tool in Zoom for identifying recommendations for our top three areas of emphasis. While no local studies were

recommended, there was agreement on combinations of education and advocacy, in particular building on comprehensive and newly updated LWVC state positions, e.g., Housing and Homelessness.

Local program planning recommendations that focused on Housing, Water, Climate Change and Redistricting will be presented to LWVBC members at the annual business meeting on May 24. We have member who also volunteered to continue work on Education and Mental Health areas. Recommendations on statewide advocacy regarding Housing, Water, and Climate Change were submitted to LWVC before the March 1 deadline for consideration at the LWVC Convention in June (more details above on this virtual meeting).

*Submitted by Debra Barger
President*



Nominations Needed for 2021-2023 LWVBC Officers and Directors

We need your leadership skills! The LWVBC Nominations Committee is seeking to build a slate of officers and directors to join the LWVBC Board for 2021-2023 and wants to hear for you. There are numerous ways to make an impact by serving on the LWVBC Board so will you please consider one of the many roles available?

We are seeking to fill the following positions:

- President
- 1st Vice President
- Secretary
- Program Directors: Observer Corps, Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy



All Board terms are two-years and staggered so about half the positions are voted on at the annual business meeting. Even with no presidential election and the census done, there are still many opportunities to channel your passion for the grassroots work of the League on local issues. As we say, Making Democracy Work is exciting, but it is not a spectator sport.

Elaina McReynolds, Chair, and her Nomination Committee members, Erika Montenez, Sandy Shand, Roxanne Ferry, and Satsie Vieth, are eager to talk with you if you have an interest in joining the Board or have someone to suggest as a nominee. The Committee also needs to identify a chair and members for the 2022 Nominations Committee. [Please call Elaina at 530-514-4191](tel:530-514-4191) or [email her at elainamcreynolds@gmail.com](mailto:elainamcreynolds@gmail.com). You are also welcome to leave your suggestions at the League Office by calling 530-895-8683 so they can be passed on to the Nominations Committee.

If a board position isn't for you, consider serving on a committee. Email presidentlwvbutte@gmail.com, or call Debra Barger at 530-345-1908 if you would like to talk about getting involved. The League needs you!

Please Nominate Now!



Your voice makes a difference



Great Educational Programming Options

There are a number of educational programs from different organizations available to learn more about topics of importance to the League. Here are a few recent options for your viewing pleasure. Some are recordings, some are upcoming webinars.

Ranked-Choice Voting: Voter Empowerment? Voter Confusion?

January 12, 2021. Length: 45 minutes.

Berkeley, Oakland, and the state of Maine have adopted Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), and interest is growing.

Click on the link below to hear an episode of the NPR news program "1A" in which four well-informed guests discuss how RCV works, why it may decrease negative campaigning, whether it disenfranchises some voters, and other issues. <https://the1a.org/segments/the-future-and-feasibility-of-ranked-choice-voting/>



America Goes to the Polls: a 50-state breakdown of voter turnout in 2020

More eligible American voters participated in the 2020 election than any other election in history, and it was the highest turnout in over 100 years. While election offices across the country were already planning for a high-profile election, Covid-19 and related public health measures caused major disruption. The new America Goes to the Polls report, a collaboration between Nonprofit VOTE and the U.S. Elections Project, digs deep into the data to not only rank all 50 states by their official voter turnout numbers, but also to examine how policies like Same Day Registration and Vote at Home (which many states expanded in light of the pandemic) made a real impact on the U.S. electorate.

Join Dr. Michael McDonald of U.S. Elections Project and Nonprofit VOTE's own Caroline Mak on March 11 at 11am (PST) as they explore the data and policies that drive turnout. Register for the webinar here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MyoY8XhtQfOsTlnyrHVvwA.

All webinar registrants will receive a copy of the recording and slides.





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



<https://nvcf.org/nvweekofgiving/league-of-women-voters-of-butte-county-education-fund>

- [Renew Your Membership](#)
- [Donate](#)
- [Recruit New Members](#)
- [Volunteer for Board Positions](#)

2020-21 LWVB Board Members

Debra Barger	President
Claire Greene	1st VP Voter Service
Roxanne Ferry	2nd VP Membership
Sandra Flake	Treasurer
Mahalley Allen	Secretary
Vacant	Director Assistant Voter Service
Lori Fuentes	Director Communications
Satsie Veith	Director Countywide Liaison
Maureen Kirk	Director Government
Toni Reid	Director Observer Corps
Patty Haley	Director Voter Registration
Vacant	Director Natural Resources
Vacant	Director Social Policy

Underline indicates email link

LWVBC's 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.

LWVBC Board meetings are the 2nd Tuesdays each month at 5:30 pm. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these meetings will be held via Zoom. All League members are welcome to attend and participate. Please reach out to President Barger for meeting Zoom credentials if you wish to join our meetings.

To contact a Board member, you may email them at their email (linked to their name on the left) or call 530-895-VOTE (8683) to leave a message. Please be sure to provide your name, contact information, and a brief description of what you need.