



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

2025-2026

ANNUAL MEETING & REPORT

*Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.*

Annual Meeting Procedures

To change the order of the business agenda, a majority vote is required if done at the beginning of the meeting. If a change is made later, a two-thirds vote is required.

A reading committee selected at last year's meeting verified the accuracy of the minutes. Today we select three members to read this year's minutes.

There is no Treasurer's Report in this document because our fiscal year does not end until June 30. A year-end report will be printed in the VOTER.

The Board recommends approval of the 2026-2027 budget printed in this report. A majority vote of the members in attendance is required to approve the budget.

Each year our local program must be approved by the membership. The Board recommends approval of the program as printed in this report. A majority vote of the members in attendance is required for approval. According to our bylaws, proposals for non-recommended items must be received by the Board at least two months prior to this meeting.

Our bylaws provide for election of officers and directors. Nominations may be made from the floor provided the consent of the nominee has been secured. Election of the slate requires, as presented by the Nominating Committee, a majority vote of the members in attendance for approval. The Nominating Committee consists of three members, at least one of who shall be a director selected by the Board. The chair and one member who are not on the Board are elected at this meeting.

A segment at the end of this report is provided for "Direction to the Board". This may be used to provide your suggestions for 2026-2027 including ideas you may wish the Board to consider for changes or additions to local program, for areas of emphasis for program, or for any other League activity. Contact information is at the end of this report.

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County
77th Annual Meeting Agenda
May 13, 2026
Modesto, California

Welcome	Amy Wolfe, President
Introduction of Keynote Speaker	
Stanislaus County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters, Donna Linder	
Sustaining Member Award	Amy Wolfe, President

Business Meeting

Call to Order	Amy Wolfe, President
Parliamentarian	Theresa Kiehn, Finance Drive
Credentials Report	Colleen Norby, Membership
Adoption of Order of Business and Procedures	Ellen Meyer, Treasurer
Minutes of 2024-25 Annual Meeting	Anita Bruce, Secretary
Selection of 2025-26 Minutes Reading Committee	Amy Wolfe, President
Budget Presentation, Discussion & Vote	Ellen Meyer, Treasurer
Local Program, Discussion & Vote	Angelina Ceja, Vice President
Nominating Committee Report	Vivian Amador Lopez, Nominating Committee Chair
Election of Officers and Directors 2025-2026	Amy Wolfe, President
Recognition & Appreciation of 2025-26 Board	Amy Wolfe, President
Adjournment	Amy Wolfe, President

LWVSC 2026-2027 Proposed Budget

	Budget 2025-2026	Actual 2025-2026 As of 3/31/26	Proposed 2026-2027
Income			
Dues	1,200.00	1,254.00	1,725.00
Finance Drive	4,500.00	4,455.91	4,500.00
Finance Drive Local Impact	2,500.00	1,056.29	1,500.00
Support LWVSC		2,250.00	5,500.00
LWVUS Membership Checks		940.00	0.00
Meet and Learn Lunch Registration		4,590.00	6,750.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest Income	10.00	3.97	5.00
Dividend Income	350.00	266.16	350.00
Total Income	8,560.00	14,816.33	20,330.00
Expenses			
Office Expenses:			
General Postage	700.00	413.71	600.00
Insurance	60.00	49.29	60.00
QuickBooks	0.00	0.00	456.00
Storage	800.00	598.50	400.00
Supplies	200.00	0.00	500.00
Telephone	250.00	139.97	125.00
Website	50.00	70.26	50.00
PayPal Fee/LI fee CA/Stripe US fee	100.00	132.93	200.00
State/Federal Fees	50.00	25.00	50.00
Total Office Expenses	2,210.00	1,429.66	2,441.00
Membership Expenses:			
Board Tools	150.00	0.00	0.00
Convention	2,100.00	0.00	2,000.00
Finance Drive	500.00	158.90	300.00
Supplies-Membership	100.00	90.38	100.00
Meetings	650.00	0.00	800.00
Meet and Learn (EB fee and Gather Invoice)	600.00	6,106.07	9,450.00
Other Org membership/donations	100.00	100.00	100.00
LWVUS new members check		990.00	0
Total Membership Expenses	4,200.00	7,445.35	12,750.00
Voter Service Expenses:			
Candidate Forums/Pros and Cons Events	100.00	0.00	500.00
Promotional (Billboards, signing)	5,000.00	0.00	2,500.00
Supplies and publications	200.00	0.00	500.00
VOTE 411 website fee	400.00	375.00	400.00
Total Voter Service Expenses	5,700.00	375.00	3,900.00
Total Expenses	12,110.00	9,250.01	19,091.00
Net Income less Expenses	(3,550.00)	5,566.32	1,239.00

LWVSC 2026-2027 Local Proposed Program

Housing (Adopted 1975, updated 1982 and 2003)

We recognize that the need for shelter is fundamental, and that a diverse population will desire a wide selection of housing options. Therefore, we:

- A. Support equal opportunity in housing options in Stanislaus County.
- B. Support local measures to increase the supply of a diverse range of housing types to serve a diverse population.
- C. Support local measures to increase the supply of safe and affordable housing for everyone.

Land Use (Adopted 1976, updated 1988 and 2003)

We recognize that land use decisions have an impact on many areas, notably on the quality of life and on the economy; and we recognize that land itself is an irreplaceable resource that needs to be preserved and protected. We support land use planning that:

- A. Protects farmland outside clearly defined urban boundaries to avoid unnecessary conversion of farmlands.
- B. Protects the overall quality of environment (soil, air, and water).
- C. Provides urban development contiguous with existing development where urban services can be provided.
- D. Provides adequate funding for infrastructure needs (transportation, schools, parks, government services and public utilities.)

Land use planning should involve cooperation between and among the various local regional government bodies.

Water Use (Adopted 2016)

We support water policies and practice that:

- A. Protect and ensure coordinated, sustainable use of groundwater and surface water supplies for urban, agricultural and environmental purposes.
- B. Encourage conservation.
- C. Promote creation of new water resources such as desalinization, wastewater reclamation, recycling and storage.
- D. Assure that water supplies meet state and federal quality standards
- E. Make information regarding water supplies and quality clearly, concisely and readily available to the public.

Adult Criminal Justice (Adopted 1980, 1982 and 1984)

We support:

- A. The funding in Stanislaus County of a wide range of alternatives to incarceration for all but the physically dangerous offender.
- B. Efforts to further the expansion of rehabilitative programs and facilities for persons convicted of drug and alcohol abuse.
- C. A greater allocation of funds within the criminal justice budget for crime prevention, crime detection and rehabilitation

Child Abuse and Neglect (Adopted 1985, updated 1987)

We recognize child abuse as a societal problem; therefore, we support:

- A. Legislation, which addresses the jurisdictional, organizational and procedural problems in the prosecution of child abuse cases.
- B. Modification of the courtroom process to accommodate child victims.
- C. Consistent reporting and recording of child abuse and neglect cases and development of comprehensive statistics.
- D. Broad-based prevention programs that are accessible to all family members and take into consideration the ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity of those being served.
- E. Efforts of public and private agencies to continually focus public attention on the problems of child abuse and neglect.

Local Library Finance (Adopted 1994, updated 1997 and 2003)

We support long-term, consistent funding of the Stanislaus County Free Library

- A. We strongly support a dedicated source of funds, which could be used only for the Library
- B. Basic library services should remain free and become more accessible to all Stanislaus County residents in a nondiscriminatory manner.
- C. We support a long-range goal of maintaining a library system of excellence.

Gang Violence (Adopted 2007)

To address the problem of criminal gang activity within our community, we support the development of culturally diverse intervention and enrichment programs at the elementary school level and beyond.

- A. Such programs may include family support, recreational, athletic, academic, creative and/or social activities.
- B. We encourage allocation of resources to fund these programs through public, private and/or non-profit organizations.

Municipal Government (Adopted 2008)

To assure that municipal government is open, accountable, and responsive to residents and to promote full participation by citizens, we support:

- A system that balances neighborhood needs with citywide perspective and
- Encourages and offers opportunity for increased voter and candidate participation.

Federal Judiciary (Proposed Adoption 2026)

In 2025, the LWVUS undertook a federal judiciary position study. Locally, our members reviewed the materials provided and considered the position around ethics, integrity, and transparency. Our statement of position consensus was submitted and helped inform the national organization's final position. The Board of Directors is proposing, effective 2026-2027, adoption of the Federal Judiciary position as a vertical position, allowing LWVSC to advocate based on the position reached at the national level.



FEDERAL JUDICIARY

The League's Position

Statement of Position on the Federal Judiciary, as announced by the national board, June 2025

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) believes that all powers of the US government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of the balance of powers among the three branches of government. The League believes that, within the bounds of the US Constitution, the overarching principles of transparency, accountability, independence, and ethics are essential to an effective federal judiciary. These principles are not only essential for a strong democracy but foster public trust in the federal judiciary and adherence to the rule of law, the essence of our constitutional democracy.

For the federal judiciary, the League supports the essential principles of:

- **Transparency:** Federal court documents, proceedings, and rulings, including those in "shadow docket" cases, should be open and available to the public within the bounds of the law, recognizing the need for limited exceptions, such as legally protected sensitive information.
- **Accountability:** Federal judges and Justices should be held legally and ethically responsible for the integrity of their actions, with enforceable consequences for violations.
- **Independence:** Federal judges and Justices should act in accordance with the Constitution and statutory and case law, free from the influence of the other branches of government and free from shifting popular and political opinion.
- **Ethics:** Federal judges and Justices should adhere to ethical standards of conduct that apply universally at all levels of the federal courts. There should be a meaningful enforcement process with judges and Justices subject to penalties for failure to comply with the standards.

The League believes that standards of conduct for federal judges and Justices should include requirements to disclose non-judicial income; other financial benefits including, but not limited to, gifts and hospitality; and investment holdings. Federal judges, Justices, and their partners or spouses should be subject to penalties for failure to disclose accurately and in a timely manner.

The League believes that standards of conduct should include a process that requires a judge or Justice to recuse themselves upon evidence that a bias or reasonable perception of a bias exists for or against any party or issue raised in a case. A judge's or Justice's



decision and rationale not to recuse, despite evidence raised in the court proceedings, should be disclosed in the court's record.

The League believes that respect for precedent (*stare decisis*) under most circumstances contributes to a strong democracy and promotes predictability and stability of law. *Stare decisis* does not mean precedents cannot or should not be overruled, but that such instances should occur in exceptional circumstances.

The League believes that the elements of this position contribute to judicial integrity and are essential to a strong democracy. These elements exemplify what the League expects from the federal courts, building trust and buttressing the Courts' legitimacy. Adherence to the principles of accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics ensures both a strong federal judiciary and a stronger democracy.

LWVSC 2026 - 2027 Board of Directors

Nominations

Officers

President
Amy Wolfe

Vice President
Angelina Ceja

Secretary
Laurie Carley

Treasurer
Kelly Gregerson

Board Members

Local Action
Theresa Kiehn
Vivian Amador Lopez

Membership
Laurie Carley
Colleen Norby

Voter Service
Jennie Sweeney
Marsha Waggoner

Voter Editor
Jane Manley

Nominating Committee Chair
Vivian Amador Lopez

**Nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting with
consent of the nominee.**

President

Serving as President of the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County has been some time in the making. I can first remember Laurie Carley and Julie Saugstad mentioning the opportunity years ago, sharing their thoughts on how I might be of service to the organization and community. Their encouragement was kind, thoughtful and ultimately, tenacious. Adding in a bit of gentle prodding from Ellen Meyer and Jane Manley and there was no way I could say no.

As my year as President comes to a close, I must thank these women - and so many more - for their continued support, dedication, and strength. Leading an all-volunteer organization is not for the faint of heart. It requires a steadfast commitment, patience, understanding, grace, sense of humor, and deep empathy. Some days, I felt like I understood the task before me. Others, not so much. But the exceptional women on either side of me, leading with me and offering their wisdom, generous spirit, creative ideas, and depth of understanding has seen this year to a successful close.

Our priority this year has been three fold - grow our membership, engage our membership, and activate our community. While we end the year with the same number of members as when we started, I consider this a win! Attrition is a meaningful issue civic organizations are battling and bringing in as many members as we lost is a very positive sign that our outreach efforts are working. Expect more of the same enthusiasm in the years ahead!

I am elated with our level of member participation this year. We saw record attendance at our monthly Meet and Learn lunches, had a vibrant and engaging Holiday Fling, and with the exceptional stewardship of Denise Nordell, this year's Sustaining Member, successfully launched the LWVSC Book Club. We are looking forward to more member engagement in the year ahead, including additional membership activities.

Last, but most certainly not least, we leaned heavily into civic engagement and voter education. Our Voter Service activities included intentional outreach and presentations to grassroots, community groups across the county, spearheading a primary election candidate forum for California Insurance Commissioner with other Leagues and the PIFC, and co-hosting the Drive the Vote for Equality tour stop in Modesto bringing much needed attention to the yet-to-be finalized Equal Rights Amendment. Our social media presence has increased, ensuring our efforts reach a broader and more diverse audience. All as we prepare for a daunting and pivotal election this fall.

As I said in my first Voter column as President last September, the collective commitment of our members to our organizational values, in particular our dedication to impartial, balanced civic education, inspire and motivate me. I am so proud that we have been the preeminent provider of balanced, thorough candidate forums and ballot initiative education for decades. And now, perhaps more than ever, these shared values, commitment, and dedication are needed to serve as balm and balance to the world around us. Our community needs the League and our unwavering belief in an educated, mobilized citizenry seeking the best possible outcomes for all.

Finally, I want to extend a special, heartfelt thank you to Marie Bairey, Ellen Meyer, and Seena Rhine. These extraordinary women, all Past Presidents, have tirelessly given decades of service to the League of Women Voters. Each brought her unique talents, passion, and perspective to the dozen-plus roles held during their tenure on the Board of Directors. They are each stepping back at the end of this year to enjoy much-deserved respite, while still committing themselves to the ideals of the League. We are truly a better organization because of these women.

Amy Wolfe, President

Treasurer

Our fiscal year is July through June. Our financial institution is Valley First Credit Union where our league has a checking account, market interest savings account and a certificate of deposit that matures October 8, 2026. A new procedure for membership due payments was implemented last year by LWVUS where membership dues would be paid directly to the LWV of the United States. This procedure has worked well with a Stripe account set up through LWVUS. Our portion of dues is directly deposited in to our checking account in a timely manner. The LWVSC Board of Directors approved the use of QuickBooks for our financials and is in the process of being set up for next year. The LWVSC Board of Directors approved the proposed budget that is in this Annual Report. It includes lower expenses eliminated expenses due to our increased use of technology and added a new stream of income. Support LWVSC to support our work in the community and membership involvement.

Ellen Meyer, Treasurer

Voter Service

The goal of the Voter Service Committee is to increase voter participation and provide non-partisan information to support voters as they cast their ballots. The high stakes of the upcoming June primary and November midterm elections mean the voter service committee is actively planning events and opportunities for members to be more informed and engaged in politics and voting. We are also forming collaborative relationships with community organizations, such as the NAACP, the Latino Community Roundtable and the West Modesto Community Collaborative to join forces in encouraging more participation in politics. Please be ready to receive a phone call asking for your help in the future.

Jennie Sweeney and Marsha Waggoner, Co-Directors Voter Service

Membership

On July 31st we had 127 members including four (4) life members (membership of 50 years or more.) Thank you Mildred Kinser (1966) Julie Saugstad (1971) Kenni Friedman (1974) and Marianne Klink (1974) for your devotion to the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County. Richard Anderson, a league member since 2000, passed away this membership year. Richard provided videography at our forum events. As a retired professor at Modesto Junior College, he was very involved in many activities at the college and locally in our city. <https://www.legacy.com/person/Richard-Anderson-61038378>

LWV National created a new online Membership Portal called Chapter Spot. Members are now responsible for renewing online. Your renewal date is based on your join date now. All new members that joined this year will have a different renewal date than those that were members in June 2025. A current email address is critical: your email address is your membership ID now. Renewal reminders are sent 60 days in advance of your expiration date. Our current membership is 127. No dedicated membership events were held this year but membership flyers were provided at all Voter Service events this year.

Colleen Norby and Laurie Carley, Co-Directors Membership

Public Relations

For the past several years, it has been my pleasure to serve as Co-Director for Public Relations/Membership. More and more League communication is now electronic. Working with the membership Director, I maintain an up-to-date address list to deliver the Membership Directory, The Voter, announcements about LWVSC events and information on issues that might be of interest to our members. The LWVSC 2025 - 2026 Membership Directory and updates that include new members are now digital and emailed to members. Welcome messages to new members, notices and reminders to 'mark your calendar' for League and community events and issue-related messages from LWVC and LWVUS are delivered electronically to keep LWVSC members informed and involved.

Marie Bairey, Co-Director Public Relations - Membership

As the Public Relations Board Member, I am responsible for connecting with local newspapers and community organizations to promote the League's programs and events. One of our key initiatives is the "Meet and Learn" series, which is open to the public and designed to encourage community participation. We distribute press releases to various local media outlets; however, securing coverage has become increasingly challenging, reflecting the broader decline in newspaper subscriptions. Our events feature knowledgeable speakers with expertise in areas such as homelessness, water policy, immigration, local journalism, and civic leadership. Through these efforts, we aim to provide the public with accurate, reliable information and meaningful opportunities to learn about important issues. The League is committed to fostering greater understanding and encouraging active civic engagement within the community.

Vivian Amador Lopez, Co-Director Public Relations - Publications

Webmaster

This year, the focus was keeping www.lwvstanislaus.org, our local League website, updated and running smoothly. A new addition is a dedicated page for the LWVSC Book Club. The Webmaster also uploaded recorded events to the LWVSC's YouTube channel and then embedded those recordings on the website. Recordings — such as the California Insurance Commissioner's Candidate Forum from April 29 — along with monthly VOTER newsletters, can be found in the News, Articles, and Events section. Upcoming events are listed in the Calendar. Board members, including the Webmaster, continued to ensure that the site remains a current and reliable resource for members and visitors alike.

Stella Beratlis, Webmaster

The VOTER Newsletter

The Voter contains articles of interest to our LWVSC members and is shared with them along with our larger network, as well as posted on our website. It is published most months of the year. Each edition includes the President's message, a summary of our monthly Board meeting, financial report information, an overview of key issues impacting our community, a recap of our monthly Meet and Learn series, information about coming events, and welcoming of new members. Information about LWVC Program Planning and LWVUS recommendations was shared making our members aware of League's priorities. Regular reminders were provided regarding the changes in the LWV membership renewal process and help in completing it. Voter Service activities were highlighted, including a live webinar for California's November special election on Proposition 50. Local Action updates from Colleen Preston kept our members apprised of land use issues in the county and local jurisdictions. State Action updates on the California LWV water committee were provided by Seena Rhine. Our new Book Club series was promoted. As always, we thanked our generous donors for their contributions to our annual finance drive.

Jane Manley, Editor

Sustaining Member Award

The Sustaining Member Award is a tradition begun in 1986 by former League President Jean Hamp. This honor, which is meant to be a surprise to the individual and the membership, is given by the Board of Directors each year in recognition of someone other than a Board member who has put forth substantial effort to sustain our organization. The recipients of this award exemplify the meaning of the term “sustain: to keep in existence, maintain or prolong; carry the weight or burden of and to strengthen the spirit.”

Sustaining Member Award Recipients

1986 – Susan Woodworth
1987 – Lulu Jenkins
1988 – Kay Black
1989 – Bev Sturtevant
1990 – Mildred Kinser
1991 – Margie Lipsky
1992 – Eleanor Goldor
1993 – Myrtle Osner
1994 – Alita Roberts
1995 – Hazel Gotshall
1996 – Marge Fovinci
1997 – Ralph Sturtevant
1998 – Lynn Kelso

1999 – Poly Klopfer
2000 – Susan Novak
2001 – Joan Goldsmith
2002 – Patrick McKee
2003 – Julie Saugstad
2004 – Gloria Skol
2005 – Kenni Friedman
2006 – Linda Walden
2007 – Stella Beratlis
2008 – Helen Gordon
2009 – Debbie Kleinfelder
2010 – Lee DeLaMare
2011 – Marsha Waggoner

2012 – Ellen Meyer
2013 – Colleen Norby
2014 – Amy Wolfe
2015 – Laurie Carley
2016 – Ann Kraback
2017 – Lynn Fenderson
2018 – Ed & Karen Tabacco
2021 – Hanna Renning
2022 – Trudy Silveira
2024 – Pat Portwood
2025 – Destiny Condit
2026 – Denise Nordell

Volunteer Recognition

The Board recognizes all the volunteers, both members and non-members, who have given their time, treasure and talents to make League successful in its goals. Without the richness and reliability of your incredible contribution, we would not be able to function as we do. Committed volunteers have always been the centerpieces of League work and it is that passion which keeps our organization going. Thank you.

2024-2025 Annual Report League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County
Respectfully submitted,
2025-2026 Board of Directors

Direction to the 2026-2027 LWVSC Board of Directors

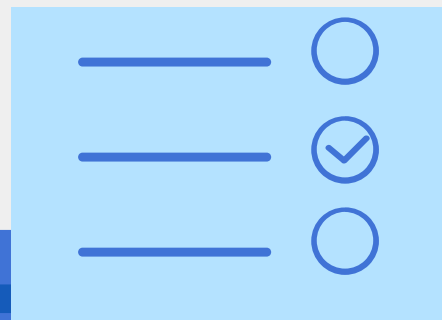
The Board of Directors welcomes your ideas and suggestions. Please submit your input by mail or email. Your ideas or suggestions will be forwarded to the appropriate board member.

Mail to: LWV of Stanislaus County, P.O. Box E, Modesto CA 95352
E-Mail: lwwstanislaus@gmail.com

COMMUNITY BUILDERS PRESENTS:

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County

Your voice matters! Join us to learn about voting rights, civic engagement, and ways to make a difference in our community. Whether you vote, advocate, attend meetings, or share information, your participation matters.

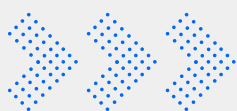


VOTE

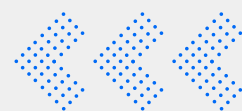
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026

FROM 10 AM - 11 AM

AT 529 CALIFORNIA AVE, MODESTO 95351



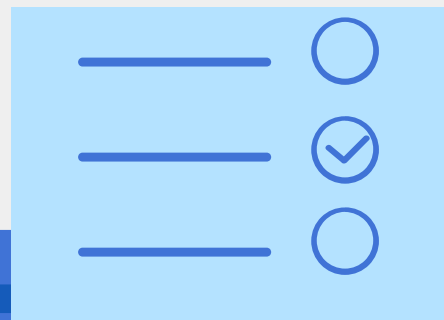
MORE INFORMATION
www.westmodestocollaborative.com



COMMUNITY BUILDERS PRESENTA:

Liga de Mujeres Votantes del Condado de Stanislaus

¡Tu voz importa! Únase para aprender sobre los derechos al voto, la participación cívica y maneras de hacer una diferencia en nuestra comunidad. Ya sea votando, participando en reuniones, alzando la voz o compartiendo información, su participación importa.

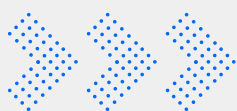


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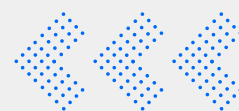
MIÉRCOLES, 10 DE JUNIO, 2026

DE 10AM A 11AM

EN 529 CALIFORNIA AVE, MODESTO 95351



MORE INFORMATION
www.westmodestocollaborative.com



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

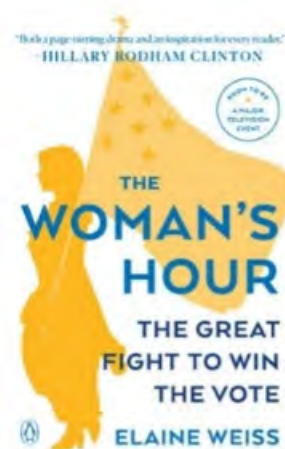
BOOK CLUB

September 30, 2026

**The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to
Win the Vote**

Author: Elaine Weiss

Nashville, August 1920. Thirty-five states have approved the Nineteenth Amendment, granting women the right to vote; one last state—Tennessee—is needed for women's voting rights to be the law of the land. The suffragists face vicious opposition from politicians, clergy, corporations, and racists who don't want black women voting. And then there are the "Antis"—women who oppose their own enfranchisement, fearing suffrage will bring about the nation's moral collapse. And in one hot summer, they all converge for a confrontation, replete with booze and blackmail, betrayal and courage.



**Details online at lwvstanislaus.org or contact Book
Club Coordinator Denise Nordell at (209) 840-8825
or denisenordell@gmail.com**



2026 - 2027 Sponsorship Program

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT

Impact Accelerator \$1,000

- Prominent recognition at each activity
- Prominent recognition in monthly *Voter* e-newsletter
- Prominent recognition on LWVSC website
- Regular social media recognition

Civic Visionary \$500

- Recognition at each activity
- Recognition in monthly *Voter* e-newsletter
- Recognition on LWVSC website
- Social media recognition

Community Catalyst \$250

- Recognition at each activity
- Recognition in monthly *Voter* e-newsletter
- Recognition on LWVSC website
- Social media recognition

LWVSC Activities Included:

Monthly Meet and Learn Luncheons

Annual Membership Meeting

Annual Holiday Fling

Membership Mixers

Book Club Gatherings

Details, interest in a single activity or questions?

Contact President Amy Wolfe at 209.499.4091 or amy@mujeres-poderosas.com