

THE VOTER

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County
www.lwvstanislaus.org



2024-2025 Board of Directors

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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

by Laurie Carley and Jane Manley
LWVSC Co-Presidents

Dear LWVSC Members and Friends,

As you read this issue of the VOTER we are a mere 30 days until Election 2024. The rhetoric is amped up, the energy is high on both sides of the campaigns, and some citizens have already begun early voting. While our focus is pulled towards the national candidates, we must remind our family, friends and neighbors that local elections matter too. Our local voices are the loudest.

These are exciting and busy days for our League. Jennie Sweeney and Julie Saugstad artfully presented the ten complex ballot propositions at Modesto Rotary (MoRo) with approximately 120 individuals in the audience. They were given twenty-five minutes and came in at 24 minutes with clarity and precision. Our very own VOTER editor, Amy Wolfe, presided as president and our treasurer, Ellen Meyer, provided introductions. Past local and state LWV president, Kenni Freidman, and Lou Freidman received a Proclamation for their years of community service. Past LWVSC president Seena Rhine was also in attendance. It was a proud day to be a League member.

So many of our board members have been working diligently to provide service to our community. Vicki Stewart organized the September Meet and Learn at the Stanislaus County Registrar's office that, was well attend. LWVSC has been present at Senior Stride, Archway Commons, MoPride in the park, and King Kennedy Center. LWVSC has collaborated with DEBRIEF and Golden Valley Health Centers to register voters throughout our County. Jenny, Marsha and Colleen have worked hard as our Voter Service Committee to contact candidates and schedule events that meet our LWV mission.

Our October Meet and Learn, will be a pro/con presentation in conjunction with the United Methodist Church Women's Group on Thursday, October 17th at 10:00 am, 805 16th Street in Modesto. Please plan to attend.

As you know, our Voter's Edge candidate website has transitioned to the LWVUS website VOTE411. We are promoting this platform at all of our events. The transition was a herculean effort; successfully lead by Colleen Norby and her committee. Many thanks.

Please try to get out to Galaxy Riverbank for a movie before Election Day. There you will see our ad promoting VOTE411. Lastly, please be sure to "like" and "share" our social media ads on Facebook and Instagram. We have made great effort to reach voters in the 18-40 age groups through these platforms.

We thank all board members and members for working tirelessly to get out the vote. We are very proud of our League in action!

Democracy is not a spectator sport,
Jane and Laurie

LWVSC Board Meeting Highlights

September 2024

The LWVSC Board of Directors met on September 11, 2024, to conduct its regular business. Highlights are below.

- This is a busy time for Voter Services activities with the general election approaching. LWVSC will be registering voters and providing its Pros and Cons presentation at various events in Stanislaus County.
- On September 4, 2024, the Board approved via email a contract with Gerbo Designs to provide social media content supporting voter outreach and services. The first posts began September 11, 2024. Ads are anticipated to reach an additional 2,300 - 2,600 people. We encourage members to follow LWVSC on Instagram (@lwavstanco) and Facebook (League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County), and share our content. Our goals are to encourage voting and increase member and community engagement.
- Treasurer Meyer discussed the national League changes to the Education Fund, now called the Local Impact Fund. Donations will be made to the state LWV Local Impact Fund, but designated for the local LWV and then distributed by the state fund to the local LWV. Treasurer Meyer will send LWVSC members directions for making these donations to ensure the donations are designated to LWVSC.
- River Walk. In August the County confirmed the proposed initiative received enough signatures to qualify for the ballot. The initiative will go on the ballot in the next regular election in four years. The initiative will require any development/expansion west of Riverbank city limits to be approved by Riverbank voters. If the initiative is approved, River Walk must be brought to the voters for approval.
- The California Votes exhibit at the McHenry Museum opens September 29, 2024, with a reception from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. LWVSC will have a display at the exhibit, which runs through November 10, 2024.

Welcome New Members!

Ellen Burchett

Michael Christensen

David Motto

Jennifer Osner

Nafisa Rahman

Sabrina Toor

Gary Wagner

A large, stylized 3D graphic of the word "Welcome" in a cursive font. The letters are multi-colored with a gradient effect, transitioning from yellow and orange on the left to blue and green on the right. The text has a slight shadow and a glossy finish.

LWVC Climate Health Committee Report

Climate Change and Sustainability:

The California League's Climate Change effort began in 2006 with the Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville League and grew to encompass the entire state with more than 400 League members working on climate action. In 2020 the California Climate Interest Group joined other U.S. Leagues to form the LWV Climate Interest Group (CIG). Our California CIG has four state-wide teams which have expanded to the national level.

We are now in a climate health emergency that affects us all. The Health and Climate team is working closely with the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environment group (ANHE). It is the only national nursing organization focused on health and the environment.

Areas of Focus:

- Extreme weather – causes loss of homes, scarce water, water borne illnesses
- Flooding and sea level rise – loss of fresh water, sewage leaks, mold, insect borne illnesses
- Extreme heat – heat related death, increased crime, effects of increased ozone
- Drought – dust storms/respiratory illnesses, scarce water, failed crops

LWVUS Endorses these actions:

- Move away from fossil fuels, especially coal fired power plants
- Increase electricity in buildings
- Increase electric vehicles
- Decrease air pollution by decreasing overall vehicle use and increasing public transportation
- Develop agricultural practices to improve soil health and nutrition security

LWVSC In Action

As noted in the Co-Presidents' Message, on September 24th, Jennie Sweeney and Julie Saugstad shared details of the ballot propositions with members of the Modesto Rotary Club.



Julie Saugstad, Amy Wolfe (MoRo President and LWVSC VOTER Editor) and Jennie Sweeney.



Julie Saugstad imparting important facts to the members and guests of MoRo.



Jennie Sweeney explaining the nuances of bonds and ballot propositions.

Voter Service Update

Hello Fellow Voters!

Voter Service is busy at work bringing voter registration and Pros and Cons presentations to Stanislaus County. A special shout out to Denise Nordell and Jane Manley for registering voters at Archway Commons! The League was also represented at the MoPride event with help from Carrie Rasmussen, Kaye Osborne, Destiny Condit and Marsha Waggoner where we registered voters and shared valuable information about the upcoming ballot measures. Pros and Cons were presented to Modesto Rotararians and as a part of the Democracy in the Public Space program at MJC. Thanks to Julie Saugstad and Stella Baratlis for their excellent speaker skills!

Please join us for Pros and Cons presentations October 10 at 6 pm at the Oakdale Senior Center or October 17 at 10 am at the United Methodist Church at 16 and I in Modesto. League members are welcome at both events! Hope to see you there!

Jennie Sweeney
Voter Service Committee Chair
jenniesweeney@gmail.com or 209 404 4414

"Voting is the foundation stone of political action."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

LWVSC Active on Social Media

In an effort to reach younger and new voters, LWVSC is working in partnership with Gerbo Designs to execute a strategic, targeted social media campaign in the lead up to the 2024 Presidential election. Reaching families, friends, and neighbors is an essential effort to actively engage our community. To do it well, we also need your help. Be sure to like, follow and share with your networks!



@lwwstanislauscounty

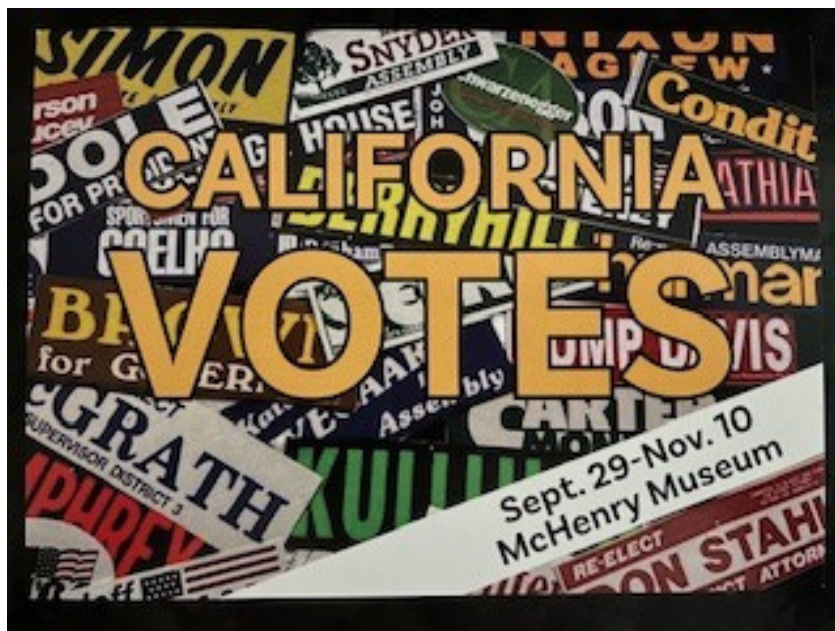


@lwwstanco

California Votes Exhibit: Exercise Your Right

The California Votes Exhibit will run until November 10th at the McHenry Museum. It will be open Fridays through Sundays from noon to 4:00 p.m. Please plan to support this exhibit by your attendance. While you're at it look over your LWV Stanislaus County display.

We ask and encourage all LWVSC members to join us for the opening reception on Monday, September 29th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. It is a great way to kick-off the election season. See you there!



Finance Drive 2024

Our annual Finance Drive will begin in mid-October. Please keep your eyes out for our envelope; we wouldn't want it to get lost in all the election mail! Please pay special attention to our list of accomplishments for 2023-2024 AND the change to Ed Fund/Local Impact donation.

Also, if you have anyone you think would be interested in donating to our local League, please forward their name and address to Susan Autry or Angelina Ceja our Finance Drive Co-chairs. Remember, the results of our Finance Drive fund all of our local education and action activities.

September Meet and Learn Recap

On September 18th, LWVSC members met downtown at the Stanislaus Voter Registrar Office and were given an overview of the voting process by Donna Linder, County Clerk-Recorder. Donna Linder oversees the voting process. She explained all the details that her office deals with during elections, including the number of different ballots that go out to different areas in our county due to different school board elections and city officials running for office.

Her overview was very informative. She took us throughout the building to see how the ballots are opened, flattened, organized and then read and counted. It is a detailed process with staff working together to check on each other so that no mistakes are made. The process is complicated, but it left the impression of how very important an accurate count is to the staff of the Registrar's Office and how hard they work to ensure it.

See you for this month's Meet and Learn, Thursday, October 17th at 10:00 am, 805 16th Street in Modesto as part of the United Methodist Church-Women's Group.

**League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County
Education Fund Donations
October 2024**

----IMPORTANT CHANGE---

Changes in name and procedures are in effect this year for making contributions to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund. The changes are necessary to comply with LWV at the national level and 501c3 tax code requirements.

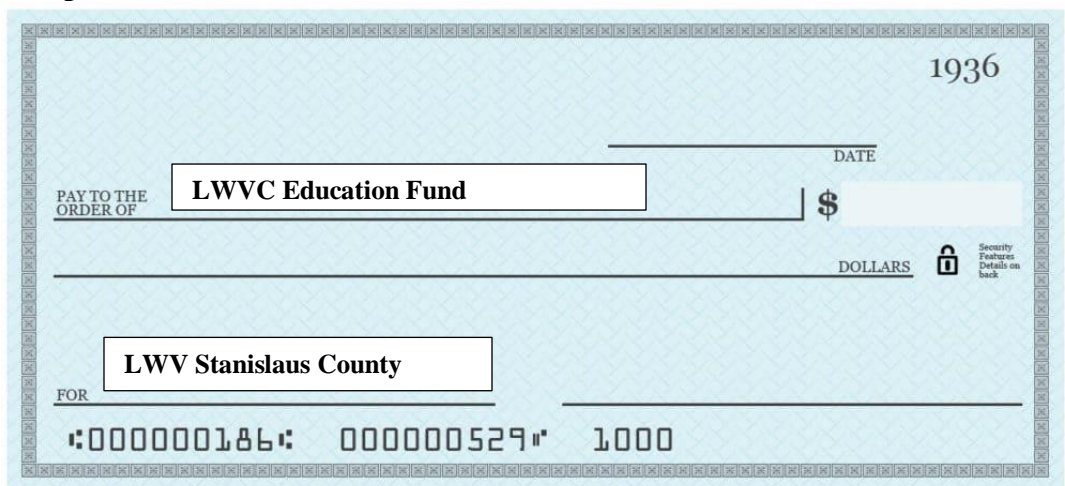
The “Education Fund” will be now called the “Local Impact Fund” and will be listed as such on all levels of reporting.

However, donation checks will still be written to the Education Fund, as that is how the 501c3 was set up at the state level.

Beginning this year, please write your donation checks as follows and shown in the example:

- Pay to: League of Women Voters of CA (LWVC) Education Fund
- Memo: LWV Stanislaus County
- Mailed to LWVSC address
- Your check will be forwarded to California League and credited to us for local use.

Example:



Please mail your donation to:

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County
P.O. Box E
Modesto, CA 95354

***Due to this change, Local Impact Fund donations will not be accepted on our websites at this time. We will notify all members when it is possible.**

NOVEMBER 5TH GENERAL ELECTION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 13

DEBATE AT THE STATE



**ADAM
GRAY**

DEMOCRAT

FREE ADMISSION!
(RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW)

THESTATE.ORG

**FRIDAY
OCTOBER 25**
THE STATE THEATRE
1307 J STREET
MODESTO, CA 95354
DOORS OPEN 7:00PM
DEBATE
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

HOSTED BY
CVJC

**THE MADDY
INSTITUTE
CAPE
UC MERCED**



CONGRESSMAN
**JOHN
DUARTE**

REPUBLICAN

LOCAL MEDIA PARTNER
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