

THE VOTER

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



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Laurie Carley, LWVSC President

Did you know that Stanislaus County is one of 28 counties in California that are Voter's Choice Act counties? VCA counties provide more opportunities to choose how, when, and where voters cast their ballots. Under VCA, registered voters receive their ballots in the mail weeks before Election Day. They have three ways to return their completed ballots: mail it back in the postage paid envelope, use a county drop box starting 28 days before Election Day, or voters have up to 10 days of in person voting at any Vote Center. At any Vote Center, voters can also drop off a completed ballot, get a replacement ballot, vote using an accessible voting machine, and get help and material in other languages. Voters can now register and vote the same day at any Vote Center, including all the way through Election Day. VCA is a great way to boost voter participation by making voting more convenient and accessible.

Election Day is roughly 100 days away and there is much work being done and much work to do. While our Voter Service Committee - Judy, Marsha, and Colleen - plan and prepare you can stay informed and share accurate non-biased information with family and friends. Keep these resources close at hand: lwvc.org | cavotes.org | easyvoterguide.org | votersedge.org.

•Voters Edge provides in depth information online about candidates, positions and priorities. This guide is produced by LWVCEF in partnership with MapLight. Last year, 1 in 10 voters used Voter's Edge. This resource is made possible by a dedicated group of volunteers; we have Judy, Marsha, and Colleen to thank for our local information.

•Because there are no state ballot measures on the June 2022 Primary ballot, the Easy Voter Guide (EVG) will be digital and available on April 4th to download in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean.

•LWV yard signs have been ordered and will arrive the first of April. I have received several requests and I will follow-up with you when they arrive. Extras have been ordered so you can still request one. Correction to last month's announcement: they are free to members. ☑

•Please plan to join us for our Meet and Learn this month on Rank Choice Voting (RCV). It is an interesting concept that is taking on momentum in California as another way to give a greater voice to voters.

It seems that now more than ever, "Democracy is NOT a spectator sport". If you are interested in helping with Voter Service activities, please contact Judy Kropp.

Laurie

February 2022 LWVSC Board Meeting Recap

The LWVSC Board of Directors met on February 9, 2022 to conduct its regular business. The following are highlights from the group's discussion:

- LWVSC agreed with LWV National's ongoing theme of "Making Democracy Work."
- Recommendation was approved to establish a Community Service scholarship in Mary Giventer's name at Stanislaus Community Foundation.
- The Nominating Committee will be seeking nominees for Board positions for 2022-23.



Member Profile *Judy Kropp*

Seeing the world was always a goal of mine. I grew up in Redwood City the oldest of four children and four nearby younger cousins, and while food, shelter and lots of family was always provided, travel was not in the budget. When my room mate at UC Berkeley suggested we take a gap year, work in San Francisco for a year, save up and travel to Europe, that sounded like a great plan. In May, 1961, we set

sail for an 8 month trip hitch hiking and hosteling through Europe.

I returned with that year temporarily satisfied, and I settled down to finish Cal and get a teaching credential at San Jose State, and eventually an MA at Stan State. I had always wanted to teach and to have four children. Don brought two children, Jon and Anila, to our marriage, and we had two more, Beth and Erik. I've now retired after teaching for 30 years mostly as a resource specialist. There was never a dull moment at school or at home. We spent a month every summer camping at Silver Lake and a month taking the kids on road trips.

Our kids are now grown. Beth passed away and Anila lives with us. Jon and Erik have children of their own. During the last 30 years, I've resumed that yen to travel- the last trip in 2018 was to the Baltic countries. Retirement gives me time to read for book club, teach folk dancing at the Carnegie Arts Center in Turlock, play bridge and paint.

I have been a part of the Peace/Life center for 50 years, am past president of AAUW, past president for NAMI, Stanislaus, and now on the board for LWV. I became alarmed at the direction of our politics in 2016. I joined the Woman's March in Washington, DC but felt I needed to do more. Working with the League on Voter's Choice, encouraging participation in democracy through education feels like a positive step.

Meet and Learn In Review: Redistricting

The LWVSC continued the Meet and Learn programs via Zoom in the month of February and invited Marsha Waggoner, the past President to speak on a very timely topic : redistricting .

How does an ordinary , interested citizen get involved in the Modesto City Council Commission's redrawing of the council districts? Marsha described the process that has taken place in the redrawing of the district maps which started in October , 2021 when the commission was fully convened and has since continued meeting until March 1st when the recommended district maps were to be presented to the City Council.

Public input was given at several meetings held at various locations in Modesto . Since the voting population has not grown much (there is less than 10 % variation in the districts), the current maps could have been used. However, the Commission wanted to review certain areas more deeply and thus in District 1 & 5 there are no changes , but there are minor tweaks in 2,3,4,&6 , moving the Airport District into downtown.

Marsha stated she anticipated the next census would bring more discussion due to growth and voting populations. And, she urged citizens to become involved and serve on the various commissions. This program is available on the LWVSC website at lwwstanislaus.org.

March 2022 Meet and Learn

The March Meet and Learn program on Wednesday, March 23 at 6:30 pm will feature Paula Lee, an active member of the League for over 20 years who has focused on electoral reform. Paula will speak about how voters, candidates and taxpayers benefit from Ranked Choice Voting .

RCV could provide more choices for voters, more positive campaigns, and could also achieve a majority winner in one election and save candidates and taxpayers the cost of runoff elections. Please join us to hear more details .

Please contact Amy Wolfe at amyvcwolfe@cloud.com if you interested in attending the Zoom program.

2021-2022 Finance Drive - Education Fund Donors

Many thanks to the 2021-2022 Finance Drive Education Fund donors, whose contributions allow us to fund outreach efforts that further the mission of the League of Women Voters.

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Our sincerest appreciation to the 2021-2022 Finance Drive General Fund donors, whose contributions allow us to fund our advocacy work that furthers the mission of the League of Women Voters.

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