

THE VOTER

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



2025-2026 Board of Directors

President
Amy Wolfe

Vice President
Angelina Ceja

Secretary
Anita Bruce

Treasurer
Ellen Meyer

State Action - Water
Seena Rhine

State Action - Health
Terry Shanahan

Local Action
Colleen Preston

Membership
Colleen Norby
Laurie Carley

Finance Drive
Theresa Kiehn

Voter Service
Jennie Sweeney
Marsha Waggoner

*Public Relations:
Membership*
Marie Bairey

Public Relations:Public
Vivian Lopez

Voter Editor
Jane Manley

Website Manager
Stella Beratlis

Nominating Chair
Vivian Lopez

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Amy Wolfe
LWVSC President

Dear LWVSC Members and Friends,

Spring is here and with it, new energy for the year ahead. 2026 promises to be very active with the June primary and November general elections. As a non-partisan, political organization, our focus continues to be on educating and engaging voters.

Our Meet and Learn luncheon series offered another exceptional educational opportunity in February with Amanda Hughes, Executive Director of Stanislaus 2030 sharing about the organization's formation and current areas of focus. I encourage you to share their programmatic information, noted below, with your networks as they work tirelessly to address our community's childcare shortage.

After a wildly successful first Book Club, our planner extraordinaire Denise Nordell - with input from participants - has determined our path forward for the remainder of the year. Join us in May and September as we discuss two dynamic offerings that allow for timely and important discourse. The books we're reading and days we'll meet are included later in this issue.

Most importantly, I am deeply grateful to Vivian Lopez, Nominating Committee Chair, for her efforts to assemble the 2026-2027 Board of Directors slate. We are delighted to have some fresh faces, including a high school junior eager to take charge of our social media presence as part of our public relations activities. I am also so thankful for those individuals who have served this year and are transitioning into a different capacity moving forward.

Lastly, save the date for our Annual Meeting on May 13th, where this slate will be elected and we'll have an opportunity for fellowship.

In Service,

Amy

LWVSC Board Meeting Highlights

February 2026

The LWVSC Board of Directors met on February 11, 2026, to conduct its regular business. Highlights are below.

- Treasurer Ellen Meyer reported that LWVSC continues to receive finance drive contributions.
- Voter Service chair Jennie Sweeney reported that Donna Linder, Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters, has information about new voter laws to present to our members; will follow up in the fall.
- Unite and Rise 8.5 is a LWV California initiative to engage and mobilize 8.5 million voters to protect and preserve our democracy. Voter Service will keep us updated.

2025-26 Finance Drive Gratitude

We are proud to share that, thanks to your generosity, we raised \$5,590 during our recent Finance Drive in support of the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County. Your contributions sustain our commitment to civic education, voter engagement, and informed participation throughout our community. Because of you, programs like Meet and Learn Luncheons, our Book Club, and upcoming 2026 outreach efforts continue to thrive. Thank you for investing in a stronger, more informed democracy.

Lynn Hansen and Richard Anderson	Kenni and Lou Friedman	Priscilla Peters and John Miles Jr.
Ana Andrade	Sharon and David Froba	Freda and David Motto
Marie Bairey	Lawrence Giventer	Colleen Norby
Paul Baxter	Bethany Gorman	Monica Ojcius
Stella Beraltis	Kelly Gregerson	Nancy Smith and David Rockwell
Anita and Daniel Bruce	Alene and Scott Griffin	Julie Saugstad
Laurie Carley	John Heinsius	Therese Shanahan
Angelina Ceja	Vickie Higginbotham	Randy and Sue Siefkin
Kay and Mike Christensen	Lynn Kelso	Jennie Sweeney
Jane Manley and Ricardo Cordova	Marianne Klink	Jean Tenney
Jeani Ferrari	Vivian Lopez	Marsha Waggoner
Steven Fotheringham	Maya Mercey	Amy and Rich Wolfe
	Ellen Meyer	Sue Zwahlen
	Marilyn and William Michael	

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County

2026-27 Officers and Board of Directors Nominations

Per LWVSC bylaws the 2026-2027 Board of Directors slate must be presented to the membership at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting, at which time they will be voted on by the membership. The LWVSC Nominating Committee submits the following slate for membership consideration. The slate will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on May 13, 2026.

Officers

President
Amy Wolfe

Vice President
Angelina Ceja

Secretary
Laurie Carley

Treasurer
Kelly Gregerson

Board of Directors

Local Action
Theresa Kiehn and Vivian Lopez

Membership
Colleen Norby and Laurie Carley

Voter Service
Jennie Sweeney and Marsha Waggoner

Voter Editor
Jane Manley

Nominating Committee Chair
Vivian Lopez

Off Board of Directors

State Action - Water
Seena Rhine

State Action - Health
Terry Shanahan

Finance Drive
Danielle Lohmann

Public Relations
Isabella Barry
Melissa Barry

Website Manager
Stella Beratlis

Save the Date

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County Annual Meeting

May 13, 2026

AgSafe
1935 G Street, Modesto

Program

5:30 pm: Social and Potluck Snacks
Please contribute finger food

6:00 pm: Speaker to be announced

6:30 pm: LWVSC Business Meeting

LWV California Water Committee Update

LWVSC State Action Water Chair Seena Rhine recently reported on LWV California's Water Committee's discussions. Issues with water and agriculture involve looking at water management, rights, environmental concerns, storage, and much more.

California's water storage and delivery systems were developed and are largely maintained to benefit agriculture.

Issues:

- Water as a property right rather than as a public trust resource - The more property a person or organization owns, the more power they have to dictate water use. This puts smaller growers and tribes at a disadvantage.
- What determines the price that all Californians pay for the water they use? Why do growers pay less than urban users?
- Groundwater overdraft is causing land subsidence. Should agricultural land be fallowed, or converted to other uses? How will that affect food production and costs?
- How is groundwater and soil pollution caused by chemical use, animal waste and other pollutants being monitored?

These questions will continue being discussed as California works through the complicated system of water delivery to our thirsty state.

Be sure to like, follow and share our Facebook and Instagram pages with your networks!



@lwwstanislauscounty



@lwwstanco

LWVSC Meet and Learn Event

Amanda Hughes, Executive Director, Stanislaus 2030

February 19, 2026

submitted by Laurie Carley

LWVSC welcomed Stanislaus 2030 Executive Director Amanda Hughes at Gather in Modesto to explain Stanislaus 2030's background and projects. The development of Stanislaus 2030 began in 2021 with a ten-month planning process, which included business and government partners committed to building an inclusive economy. Stanislaus 2030 is the story about the development of quality jobs in our county.

The 2030 focus is on talent development, small business support, child care expansion, trade sector development (BEAM) and governance and capacity building. It relies on an advisory committee made up of county, city and private sector partners with constant feedback between education and business.

Over half the population struggles to make ends meet and only 30% of the jobs provide a pathway to prosperity, which is defined as a \$30/hr., full time with health insurance and a career pathway.

One of the greatest impediments to workforce stability is the availability of child care. Our county has only one space available for every five children in need of care.

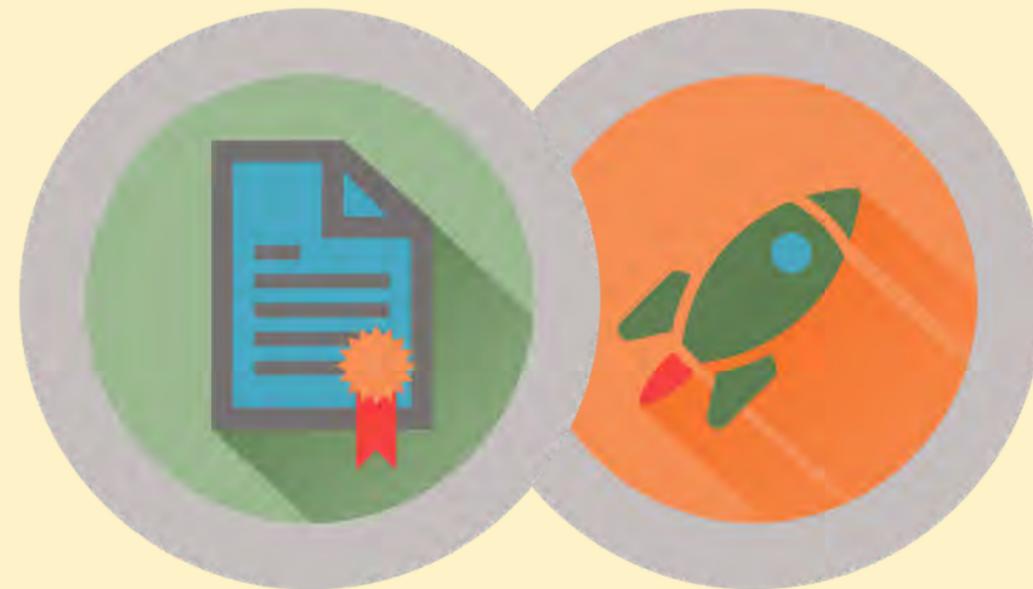
Child care entrepreneurship done right offers family providers a sustaining income. As a business they can net \$50k. Stanislaus 2030, in partnership with First Five California, MJC, Nurture and the county welfare to work program, has established training, support and subsidies to support entrepreneurs and families. Each new child care business generates \$272 in local annual economic activity.

Stanislaus 2030's 10-year implementation plan includes creating 1,000 home child care businesses, the expansion of 500 home child care businesses, and the creation of 12,000 permanent licensed spaces with an annual economic impact of \$408 Million.

HELP GET THE WORD OUT!



Business Start-Up Program



March 2 – May 25

May 13 – August 5

July 7 – September 29

September 14 – December 7

Download the application



765-DAYCARE

text or call

(765) 329-2273



47th Annual Outstanding Women of Stanislaus County Awards Brunch

Please help the Stanislaus County Commission for Women celebrate and honor this year's class of Outstanding Women and Young Women of Stanislaus County. This year Angelina Ceja, LWVSC Vice President and Amy Collier Carroll, one of our League members, will be honored.

Saturday, March 14, 2026

10:00 a.m. No-Host Champagne Bar

10:30 a.m. Brunch

11:00 a.m. Program

Greens on Tenth

953 10th Street Modesto, CA 95354

Tickets are \$50.00 and can be purchased online at

<https://www.stanislauswomen.net/about-1>



Angelina Ceja



Amy Collier Carroll

LWVSC Workgroup - Modesto 2050 General Plan

The first meeting of the LWVSC Modesto 2050 General Plan Workgroup will be Thursday, March 26th at 5 pm at the AgSafe office, 1935 G Street, Modesto.

The City of Modesto has developed three land use alternatives to update its General Plan and direct future growth. They are in the "community input" stage with potential review and adoption by the City Council in 2027. To access the proposals, go to

<https://gp2050.modestogov.com/documents/>

As LWVSC has done with many previous land use issues, the working group will review the proposals to determine if a public statement, in accordance with our land use position, should be developed. To access our positions, go to www.lwvstanislaus.org, scroll to Issues, click on Positions.

If you are interested in being part of the working group, contact Amy Wolfe at amy@mujeres-poderosas.com.



MEET & LEARN

March 19, 2026

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Gather, 2424 McHenry Avenue, Modesto

Jessica Filbrun, Esq., President and CEO
Stanislaus Equity Partners (STEP)

Join us as our speaker shares stories from a Community Development Corporation and their impact in Stanislaus County.

Cost: \$30 per person

Register online at www.lwvstanislaus.org or scan:

*Advanced registrations online required.
Deadline is March 16, 2026 at 11 am.*



Upcoming Meet & Learn Luncheon

April 23, 2026: Randy Fiorini, Farmer and Water Expert
5 Most Pressing Water Issues in California

Thank you to our Meet & Learn Sponsors



Kay and Mike Christensen

Anonymous

Marie Bairey

Laurie Carley

Kenni and Lou Friedman

Theresa Kiehn

Angelina Ceja



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

BOOK CLUB



May 6, 2026

Lula Dean's Little Library of
Banned Books
Author: Kirsten Miller

Beverly Underwood and her arch enemy, Lula Dean, live in their tiny hometown of Troy, Georgia. Now Beverly is on the school board, and Lula has become a local celebrity by embarking on a mission to rid the public libraries of all inappropriate books—none of which she has actually read. What Lula doesn't know is that a local troublemaker has stolen her wholesome books, removed their dust jackets, and restocked Lula's library with banned books. One by one, neighbors who borrow books from Lula Dean's library find their lives changed in unexpected ways.

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

Join us for a FREE special event series.

LIVING WITH FIRE



Learn to live with fire and reduce potential losses from wildfires.

Films, speakers, panel discussions, and audience participation activities!

Session 1: Fire Risk – How did we get here? What now?

Saturday, March 7, 9am-1pm,

Location: Columbia College, Dogwood Forum Building

Session 2: Reducing Risk and Building Resilience

Saturday, March 14, 9am-1pm

Location: Black Oak Casino Resort Conference Center

Session 3: Community Prevention & Individual Responsibility

Saturday, March 21, 9am-1pm

Location: Black Oak Casino Resort Conference Center

For more information

<https://tuolumnefiresafe.org/living-with-fire-series/>

Come to one, two, or all three sessions.

No registration required.

