

THE VOTER

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



2025-2026
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Vivian Lopez

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Amy Wolfe
LWVSC President

Dear LWVSC Members and Friends,

The whirlwind of activity continues in lead up to the June 2nd primary election! April included an exceptional Meet and Learn speaker, Randy Fiorini, who offered an in-depth overview of the most pressing water issues currently impacting the state. Read more about his perspective below, including learning more about a non-profit he has formed to holistically address some of these challenges.

We also worked in partnership with three other Leagues and the Personal Insurance Federation of California to host a virtual candidate forum for the office of California Insurance Commissioner. What a night!! With eight candidates of varied personalities, perspectives, and approaches, the night kept us on our toes. In the end, though, it was a major success and we look forward to hosting another forum this fall with the top two vote getters. If you missed the forum, [hop onto our website](#) and watch the video.

May is also filled with more incredible education and civic engagement opportunities. On May 5th, in partnership with the Stanislaus County Commission for Women, we are welcoming the Driving the Vote for Equality Tour at Queen Bean. Come to learn about this incredible movement, replicating the suffragists movement tour from 1916 that also came through Modesto back then. All the details are listed below.

Our Book Club is back again with another stellar line-up! On May 6th back at the Salida Library we will bring together author Kirsten Miller, Journalism Professor Dr. Shannon Stevens, and County Librarian Sarah Dentan. Find out more, including how to register, in the information on page 9.

Join us for our Annual Meeting on May 13th at the AgSafe building where we will welcome Stanislaus County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters Donna Linder. She will review current election safety measures and the potential impact of the SAFE Act, should it pass. We will also honor longtime Board members and recognize our Sustaining Member. Please RSVP to Vice President Angelina Ceja by **May 8th** at angelina@agsafe.org or 209-216-6288

Finally, we are hosting our final Meet and Learn of the League year on May 21st. We're excited to welcome Griselda Rojas, Community Organizer with Faith in the Valley. She will offer details on the Valley Watch Network and how it is educating and supporting our immigrant communities. Register with the info on page 11.

Thank you for your support and enthusiasm for our mission over the past year!

In Service,

Amy

LWVSC Board Meeting Highlights

April 2026

The LWVSC Board of Directors met on April 14, 2026, to conduct its regular business. Highlights are below.

- The board approved a 2026-27 budget to present for a vote at the Annual Meeting.
- LWVSC will meet with Modesto Focus to create 7 videos on issues relating to voting. This will need to be confirmed by the editorial board of Focus.
- A committee was formed to review the bylaws to discuss whether or not we need to revisit, review and or clarify sections to reflect current needs.
- The Stanislaus County Commission for Women is holding “Driving Vote for Equality” events May 5-6 for a nationwide roadtrip highlighting the Equal Rights Amendment, which has never been ratified. LWVSC will participate with SCCW.
- President Amy reviewed a letter sent to the Modesto City Council that the League does not have enough information to take a position on Modesto 2050 General Plan.



Gail Bengé

Tima Seward

Deborah Thrasher

LWVSC on Social Media

Be sure to like, follow and share with your networks!



@lwwstanislauscounty



@lwwstanco

CA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE FORUM



On April 29, 2026, the LWVSC in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles, Nevada County, and Pasadena Area, along with the Personal Insurance Federation of California, hosted a virtual candidate forum for the office of California Insurance Commissioner. Eight of the eleven candidates seeking the office participated, including Ben Allen, Steven Bradford, Keith Davis, Merritt Farren, Jane Kim, Stacy Korsgaden, Eduardo “Lalo” Vargas, and Patrick Wolff.

Our partners did an incredible job promoting the event and we had 405 registrants from across the state. We ended up with 241 viewers but we know more individuals watched since some of our guests were hosting Watch Parties. This collaboration also provided a breadth and depth of questions that addressed the multitude of issues plaguing this office.

The candidates offered a wide range of perspectives on topics including whether utilities should be held 100% accountable for wildfires determined to be caused by their failures, the effectiveness of FAIR Plan insurance policies, the loss of policy options in the state’s insurance marketplace and if Prop 103, passed in 1988 and included this office becoming a state-elected position, is still serving Californians.

The candidates’ participation was incredibly enlightening and fulfilled our education directive of equipping voters with the knowledge needed to make an informed decision. Thank you to LWVSC members Melissa Barry, Angelina Ceja, Theresa Kiehn, and Danielle Lohmann for your hard work, support, and positive energy in bringing this event to fruition!



Amy Wolfe, President

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County

2026-2027 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 Members

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

Support the Equal Rights Amendment!



Sign on in support of the Equal Rights Amendment

<https://www.sign4era.org/>

This movement is solely focused on enshrining the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

LWVSC 2026-27 Budget Proposal

presented for a vote at the May 13, 2026 Annual Meeting

	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 April Meet and Learn Recap

Randy Fiorini, Turlock Farmer & Water Expert **April 23, 2026**

LWVSC welcomed Randy Fiorini, third generation farmer in Delhi and Turlock and former board member of Turlock Irrigation District. For several years, he has worked with farmers from the Delta, Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley to find common ground and support sustainable water policies and practices. He started a coalition nonprofit, the [Great Valley Farm Water Partnership](#), focused on bringing together growers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Joaquin Valley to bring about mutually beneficial water policy solutions. He shared his perspective on the pressing issues facing the environment and water systems in California:

- Variable precipitation – Over the last 50 years, rainfall and the Sierra snowpack levels were less steady and predictable than the previous 50 years, fluctuating from very high to very low amounts.
- Saving water – More storage space is needed in reservoirs and systems for recharging ground water.
- Modernizing regulations – Some are outdated and don't fit modern day realities.
- Repairing the Delta – Levees that were built to create farmland in the Delta are old and not equipped to channel enough water downstream for use in other parts of the state.
- Protecting agriculture – If farmers cannot get enough water, they cannot grow the food we need. Also, if land is not farmed and instead slated for development, it will still require water for businesses or housing. Agriculture is a vital California industry we cannot afford to lose.
- Predation – Salmon are prey to non-native species such as striped bass, which has a large population in California rivers.

The Great Valley Farm Water Partnership is working to find engineering solutions to issues that will protect the environment, support agriculture, and provide water to our population.

Jane Manley, Voter Editor

GET INVOLVED!! • BECOME A VOTER SERVICE VOLUNTEER



Poll Worker

Volunteer to be a poll worker.

Learn more and submit your application [online](#)



Community Partner

Attend partner organizations' community events and share League resources, information, and overall support



Community Presentations

Volunteer to present info about voting, the election, and the issues.

Spanish-speakers needed

Training provided

Join the team – your community needs you!

Questions? Ready to volunteer?

Contact Jennie Sweeney at jenniesweeney@gmail.com or 209-404-4414

DRIVING THE VOTE: THE JOURNEY CONTINUES TO THE E.R.A.

1916: ALICE BURKE & NELL RICHARDSON'S
10,700-MILE CROSS-COUNTRY SUFFRAGE TOUR

1916 Saxon
'Golden Flyer'
suffrage yellow



1920:
THE 19th
AMENDMENT IS RATIFIED.



BASED ON
THE BOOK:
Driving the
Vote for Women,
An American
Journey for
Suffrage
by JERYL R.
SCHRIEVER



AND NOW, THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.
EQUALITY OF RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW SHALL NOT BE DENIED OR
ABRIDGED BY THE UNITED STATES OR BY ANY STATE ON ACCOUNT OF SEX.

A JOINT PARTNERSHIP OF THE
STANISLAUS COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN & THE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

DATE: MAY 5

TIME: 6:00 - 7:30 PM

LOCATION: QUEEN BEAN COFFEE HOUSE

1126 14TH ST, MODESTO, CA

FEATURING: DISCUSSION, ADVOCACY,
COFFEE & COMMUNITY.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

BOOK CLUB

May 6, 2026

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Nick Blom Salida Regional Library

Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books

By Kirsten Miller

Join us for a discussion with the author, moderated by Dr. Shannon Stevens, CSU Stanislaus Journalism Professor. Sarah Dentan, Stanislaus County Librarian, will also share the Library's Collection Development Policy.

Lula Dean is on a mission to rid her public library of all inappropriate books - none of which she has actually read. But when a local troublemaker removes the wholesome books in Lula's own Little Free Library and replaces them with banned books, chaos ensues and lives are changed in unexpected ways.



Kirsten Miller
Author



Sarah Dentan
Stanislaus County
Librarian



Dr. Shannon Stevens
CSUS Journalism
Professor



Register for this free event using the QR code or
tinyurl.com/SLWVbookclub. For more information, contact Book
Club Coordinator Denise Nordell at (209) 840-8825 or
denisenordell@gmail.com



Annual Meeting

MAY

13

5:30 PM

AgSafe

1935 G Street, Modesto

5:30 pm: Reception

6:00 pm: Guest speaker

Donna Linder, Stanislaus County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters

Current voting protocol, common misinformation, and how LWVSC can support fair elections

6:45 pm: LWVSC Annual Meeting

Secure parking entrance on La Loma Avenue (green star)

Please bring your favorite appetizer to share



RSVP by 5/8/26 to Angelina Ceja at angelina@agsafe.org or 209-216-6288



MEET & LEARN

May 21, 2026

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Gather, 2424 McHenry Avenue, Modesto

Griselda Rojas, Community Organizer
Faith in the Valley

Understanding the Valley Watch Network and how it is educating and supporting our immigrant communities.

Cost: \$30 per person

Register online at www.lwvstanislaus.org or scan:

Advanced registrations online required.

Deadline is May 18, 2026 at 11 am.



Thank you to our Meet & Learn Sponsors



Kay and Mike Christensen

Anonymous

Marie Bairey

Laurie Carley

Kenni and Lou Friedman

Theresa Kiehn

Angelina Ceja