

THE VOTER

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



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Amy Wolfe
LWVSC President

Dear LWVSC Members and Friends,

Welcome to another exciting year for the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County. The Board and our Committee Chairs have spent the summer months preparing for a busy year ahead. We continue to focus our efforts on membership engagement, growing our membership, and engaging our community in civic issues. In particular, we want to strengthen and expand our partnerships with other organizations focused on voter participation from our marginalized communities.

We are kicking the year off with our monthly Meet and Learn Luncheon series on August 20th with Dr. Ana Andrade from the NAACP Modesto/Stanislaus chapter. She will offer insight into their efforts across the community and share ways in which our organizations can work together.

This year we will host a quarterly membership activity, starting on September 10th with a New and Not-So-New Member Mixer, graciously hosted by Past President Laurie Carley. This is a great way for members to connect, learn more about the League and the many ways you can get more involved this year.

We are thrilled to continue the LWVSC Book Club with our first offering of the League year on September 30th at the Salida Regional Library. We are reading *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss. We are once again joined by the author via Zoom for an engaging Q&A, along with a thoughtful discussion.

This year will include a variety of opportunities for your involvement, particularly in the lead up to the November election. See details below about how you can participate and reach out to Voter Service Director Jennie Sweeney to sign up.

Finally, we've pulled together the 2026-2027 Calendar of Events for what we currently have on the books. Know that more activities are coming and we will provide more details specific to the election as events come together. We do want to encourage all members to attend our monthly Board meetings if you're interested in learning more about our inner workings. Attend in person or via Zoom using the link provided.

We look forward to a great year ahead!!

With appreciation,

Amy

Membership Renewal

LWVSC dues are paid on ChapterSpot, the LWV membership platform, a centralized portal where anyone can join or renew their LWV membership.

Have you renewed your LWVSC membership for the 2026-2027 League year?

Renew ASAP so your membership is up to date.

Register online today at <https://portal.lwv.org/>.

ChapterSpot renewal is preferred, but if you must pay by check, make it payable to LWVUS and give to Treasurer Kelly Gregerson.

If you have questions, please contact Membership Director Colleen Norby at colleen.norby@gmail.com or 209-581-2094



Local Action Report

Local Action Update: Riverbank Residents Turn Out for River Walk Planning Commission Hearing

By Theresa Kiehn and Vivian Amador Lopez, Local Action Co-Directors

Nearly 200 people attended the Riverbank Planning Commission's August 4 hearing on the proposed River Walk development in person, with additional community members participating online. The meeting focused on whether the Planning Commission would recommend approval of the River Walk Specific Plan and related environmental documents to the Riverbank City Council.

The proposed River Walk development would bring significant growth west of Riverbank and could eventually include approximately 2,400 homes, parks, trails, and community amenities. Much of the project is envisioned as a 55-and-older active adult community, a housing type that has not previously been developed at this scale in the area. Supporters highlighted the opportunity to provide additional housing options for older adults seeking to remain in the region while downsizing and maintaining an active lifestyle.

Planning Commissioners were advised that Measure M, the growth management initiative appearing on the November ballot, was not within the scope of their review and should not factor into their recommendation. Instead, commissioners were tasked with evaluating the proposed development and environmental documentation based on applicable planning standards.

Although Measure M was not part of the Commission's deliberations, it was a recurring theme throughout the evening's public comments. The initiative would require voter approval before certain future development projects on agricultural land west of Riverbank's current boundaries can move forward. Many residents questioned whether approvals related to the River Walk project should proceed before voters have an opportunity to decide the measure in November. Speakers repeatedly emphasized the importance of public participation in decisions that could shape the community's growth, character, and future development patterns.

More than 45 community members addressed the Commission during public comment. While viewpoints varied, many speakers expressed a desire for Riverbank voters to have the opportunity to weigh in on issues related to the project's future before additional approvals move forward.

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Key concerns raised during public comment included:

- Long-term water availability and the sustainability of water resources needed to support future growth.
- The capacity of Riverbank's sewer and wastewater infrastructure.
- Whether adequate police, fire, and emergency services would be available as the community expands.
- The ability of local schools and public services to meet future needs, particularly in areas of the project that are not age restricted.
- Concerns that portions of the development are located within a floodplain and questions about flood protection and long-term resiliency.
- Preserving Riverbank's unique identity and small-town character, with several speakers noting that bigger is not always better.
- Protecting productive farmland and maintaining open space.
- Preserving wildlife habitat and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Honoring and protecting the tribal history and cultural resources associated with the land.
- Ensuring that growth occurs in a manner that balances housing needs with environmental stewardship and quality of life.

The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County (LWVSC) participated in the hearing and provided comments emphasizing the importance of public participation in governmental decision-making. The LWVSC urged Riverbank leaders to preserve the opportunity for voters to make their voices heard through the November election and noted that community members should have the ability to weigh in on decisions that could affect the future growth, character, and identity of Riverbank for generations to come.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Planning Commission voted 4-1 to recommend denial of the River Walk proposal. The project will next be considered by the Riverbank City Council, which will make the final local decision regarding the development before any future review by the Stanislaus Local Agency Formation Commission, (Stan LAFCO).

The hearing demonstrated the high level of public interest surrounding both the River Walk proposal and the broader conversation about Riverbank's future growth. Regardless of where participants stood on the project itself, the evening reflected a community deeply engaged in shaping the future of Riverbank and committed to participating in the democratic process. The strong turnout, extensive public comment, and thoughtful discussion highlighted the importance residents place on balancing housing needs, environmental protection, community character, and the public's right to participate in decisions that will shape Riverbank for generations to come.

The LWVSC will continue to actively participate in the River Walk vetting process and we will provide further updates.



MEET & LEARN

August 20, 2026

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Gather, 2424 McHenry Avenue, Modesto

Dr. Ana Andrade

NAACP Modesto/Stanslaus

Join us as our speaker provides an update on the local affiliate of the NAACP, their programs, and civic engagement priorities.

Cost: \$35 per person

Register online at www.lwvstanislaus.org or scan:

Advanced registrations online required.

Deadline is August 17, 2026.



Upcoming Meet & Learn Luncheons

September 17, 2026: Alex Evans, Fulcrum Strategy Group

The Ins and Outs of Political Polling

October 15, 2026: Jennifer Halm, Capital Public Radio

2026 - 2027 LWVSC Supporters

Impact Accelerator



Civic Visionary

Kay and Mike Christensen



New & Not So New Member Mixer

September 10, 2026

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Home of Laurie Carley

1313 Broughton Place, Modesto, CA 95355

New to the League of Women Voters?
Not so new and looking to connect with
other League members?

Join us to learn more about the League,
meet members and how to get involved.

RSVP to Laurie by 9/4/26 at
modestocarley@gmail.com or 209-578-3145
for food-planning

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

BOOK CLUB

September 30, 2026

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Nick Blom Salida Regional Library

The Woman's Hour:
The Great Fight to Win the Vote
by 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 many opponents. In one hot summer, they all converge for a confrontation, replete with booze and blackmail, betrayal and courage.



Q & A via Zoom with author Elaine Weiss and join in a singalong of “Let Mother Vote” from the hit Broadway show “SUFFS”!

Details online at lwwstanislaus.org
or (209) 840-8825



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

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

2026-2027 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2026

August 12 - 5:30 pm - 7 pm
Board meeting at AgSafe
(potluck) & Zoom

August 20 - 12 pm - 1:30 pm
Meet and Learn Luncheon at
Gather on McHenry, Modesto

SEPTEMBER 2026

September 9 - 5:30 pm - 7 pm
Board meeting at AgSafe (potluck) &
Zoom

September 10 - 5:30 pm - 7 pm
New & Not So New Member Mixer,
Home of Laurie Carley

September 17 - 12 pm - 1:30 pm
Meet and Learn Luncheon at Gather
on McHenry, Modesto

September 30 - 12 pm - 1:30 pm
Book Club Gathering at Salida Library

Various Voter Service activities

OCTOBER 2026

October 14 - 5:30 pm - 7 pm
Board meeting at AgSafe
(potluck) & Zoom

October 15 - 12 pm - 1:30 pm
Meet and Learn Luncheon at
Gather on McHenry, Modesto

**Various Voter Service
activities**

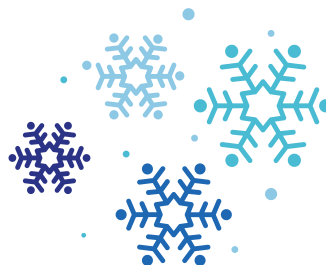
NOVEMBER 2026

November 4 - 5:30 pm - 7 pm
Board meeting via Zoom (1st
Wed)

November 19 - 12 pm - 1:30
pm Meet and Learn Luncheon at
Gather on McHenry, Modesto

DECEMBER 2026

December 9 - 5:30 pm - 7 pm
Holiday Fling at AgSafe



JANUARY 2027

January 13 - 5:30 pm - 7 pm
Board meeting via Zoom

January 21 - 12 pm - 1:30 pm
Meet and Learn Luncheon at
Gather on McHenry, Modesto

January 27 - 12 pm - 1:30 pm
Book Club Gathering (location
TBD, date TBC)

FEBRUARY 2027

February 10 - 5:30 pm - 7 pm
Board meeting via Zoom

February 18 - 12 pm - 1:30 pm
Meet and Learn Luncheon at
Gather on McHenry, Modesto

Member Mixer Date TBD

MARCH 2027

March 10 - 5:30 pm - 7 pm
Board meeting at AgSafe or
Zoom (weather dependent)

March 18 - 12 pm - 1:30 pm
Meet and Learn Luncheon at
Gather on McHenry, Modesto

APRIL 2027

April 14 - 5:30 pm - 7 pm
Board meeting at AgSafe
(potluck) & Zoom

April 15 - 12 pm - 1:30 pm
Meet and Learn Luncheon at
Gather on McHenry, Modesto

April 28 - Book Club
Gathering (time and location
TBD, date TBC)

MAY 2027

May 12 - 5:30 pm - 7 pm
Annual Meeting at AgSafe

March 20 - 12 pm - 1:30 pm
Meet and Learn Luncheon at
Gather on McHenry, Modesto

NEXT LEAGUE YEAR

September 29 - Book Club
Gathering (time and location
TBD, date TBC)



2026-2027 Board Meetings open to all members

Join via Zoom - same details all year

Meeting ID: 844-7891-1845

Passcode: LWWSC