

# THE VOTER

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County  
<https://my.lwv.org/california/stanislaus-county>



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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**by Marsha Waggoner, LWVSC President**

As we bring you our monthly newsletter for September, we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis in our county. Hopefully each of you is still healthy and has not been adversely affected by it. August has had the local exhibit of Women in America: A 100 Year Celebration of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment at the Mistlin Gallery postponed due to the pandemic. But it is important that we remember the fight those women went through to give us the right to vote and the continued fight to give all women that right.

LWVSC is still meeting as a Board via ZOOM and recently on Thursday, August 27th brought you an opportunity to learn about a more earth friendly farming method that is happening in our county. Our monthly "Lunch and Learn" is redefining itself into another way to educate yourself on issues that are important to our community. Look for planned upcoming events on the eblasts that are sent out to keep you informed.

The political arena is heading into a 24-hour cycle for the next two months. There are many who tire of the constant barrage of electioneering by all. That being said, it is imperative that each of us does the best to understand the candidates and their positions, as well as local topics that need voted on. And then be sure to VOTE. Because this election in November is an all mail-in election, be sure to plan accordingly to either mail your ballot in plenty of time or check your ballot information for drop off locations.

In the meantime, keep positive and be sure to do what you need to do to stay safe and keep those around you safe as well.



@lwvstanislauscounty



@lwvstanco

# LWVSC NON-PARTISAN POLICY

The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County is nonpartisan. As an organization, it does not support or oppose candidates for public office, but acts only on those issues chosen by the membership for study and action.

The League believes that the political parties are essential to the American system of government and that the participation of informed citizens is beneficial to the political parties and to the system. Consequently, the League encourages its members as INDIVIDUALS to be active in the political parties, in finding and supporting the candidates for public office, and in seeking election to public office.

All LWV members are expected to keep their League activity and their partisan political activity completely separate and distinct. For example, members may not distribute League materials at the same time as they distribute material for a candidate or a party.

Members of the League are not eligible to serve on the Board of Directors while seeking or holding elective office. The President, Voter Service Director(s) and Board Administrator may not campaign for candidates as individuals, due to the visibility of their positions.

A Board member may serve on any public board, commission, committee, or coalition; however, that Board member may not represent the League unless officially designated as a League representative by the League Board.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors, collectively and individually, to insure that the community has no reason to question the nonpartisan position of the organization.

# LWVSC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The LWVSC has been working diligently to increase its social media presence as we know this is an essential platform through which education and outreach transpires. We have added an Instagram account to compliment our efforts on Facebook. In addition, we are dedicating more time to posting, with the current emphasis on voter registration and census participation.

Our efforts have been working! The analytics from both Instagram and Facebook indicate that our message is being heard more than ever before, which is our priority during this election season.



*July 28, 2020 - August 24, 2020*

- Posts reached 9,208 individuals
- Up 60% from 28 days prior
- 1,945 post shares and likes
- Up 169% from 28 days prior
- Like @lwwstanislauscounty



*July 28, 2020 - August 24, 2020*

- 133 posts
- 221 followers
- Follow @lwwstanco

## MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

2020-2021 dues are due - payable anytime between now and September. Make checks to LWVSC and send to P.O. Box E, Modesto, CA 95352. Individuals @ \$60, Families @ \$90 and students @ \$10.

## NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

The League, in partnership with the Modesto Junior College Library & Learning Center, MJC Civic Engagement Project, and Stanislaus County Library are working in partnership to host virtual outreach and education activities on National Voter Registration Day, September 22, 2020.

Join us on 9/22 at 12:00 pm as we demonstrate how to confirm your voter registration status, how to register to vote online and answer questions on the LWVSC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVStanislausCounty/>

# LWVSC VOTER SERVICE UPDATE

As LWV has long said, "Democracy is not a spectator sport". To that end, your Voter Service team, Judy Kropp and Laurie Carley, in conjunction with many LWVSC board members and community organizations, are working hard in preparation for the November 3rd General Election. Full and informed participation by the citizens of Stanislaus County is our lofty goal.

As you know, the LWV, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Our Voter Services activities fall on the education side of our organization. Our three areas of priority this election season with be:

- Providing forums for our local levels of government,
- Educating and Engaging on the many state ballot measures through presentation and access to the LWVC Pros and Cons, Easy Voter Guide and Voter's Edge,
- Collaboration with local programs, service groups, and agencies to make League documents and information available to the citizens of Stanislaus County,

How will we achieve all of this during the Covid-19 pandemic? These times have pushed your local League to utilize the digital networks available to us. As we navigate these new ways of disseminating information we will need your help. We ask that you share websites with our information and programs with family and friends. As we get closer to the forums we will need your questions for local politicians when we hold our forums via Zoom. We ask that you download Pros & Cons (available @ [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org)) and the Easy Voter Guide (available @ [www.easyvoterguide.org](http://www.easyvoterguide.org)). Print Copies of these documents will also be available by contacting Laurie Carley at 209-578-3145. We will be maintaining the Voter's Edge site for our county (available September 7th @ [votersedge.com](http://votersedge.com)). For those who are not aware of the Voter's Edge, it is a LWVC sponsored site giving citizens information on voting in their counties: dates, deadlines, and candidate information are included.

Our mission for September activities is flooding our social networks (a huge shout out to Amy Wolfe for initiating this! Find us on Instagram @ [lwvstanco](https://www.instagram.com/lwvstanco) and on Facebook) and print options with information regarding REGISTERING to vote by October 19th. Again, please help by informing friends, neighbors and family members regarding this deadline.

In early October we will hold our forums and move our campaign focus to VOTING. Again, we will flood our social media sites with information on this vital activity for democracy. We are also working to have a League presence on yard signs, reader boards, and billboards throughout our county.

There are so many resources for voters, please check out these sites as well for up to the minute information:

- [lwvstanislaus.org](http://lwvstanislaus.org)
- [sos.ca.gov/elections](http://sos.ca.gov/elections)
- [stanvote.com](http://stanvote.com)

As we finalize activities you will be notified through our "email blasts" thanks to Marie Bairey.

# **PREMIER ZOOM AND LEARN PROGRAM**

## ***Regenerative Agriculture***

Cal Poly SLO senior business-ag major Lindsay Silva is a summer intern at Burroughs Family Farm near Denair. The farm is a partnership of three related families who share the same values about health, family and farming. They produce beef, chickens, eggs, dairy, almonds and olives. The animals are grass-fed. Lindsay's presentation to our ZOOM audience introduced the philosophy and practices of regenerative farming. In addition to not using synthetic or inorganic chemicals and fertilizers, regenerative farming focuses on building and retaining healthy soil. Put soil first!

Lindsay explained five practices that help the soil and other positive consequences:

- No tilling: Not tilling the soil prevents erosion and helps retain water and carbons.
- Cover the soil: Using cover crops prevents wind and water erosion and rain runoff, and enables the soil to retain water. Cover crops are rotated to add different nutrients to the soil.
- Maintain living roots: A variety of microbes protect and enrich the soil,
- Increase biodiversity: Mimic nature! More variety of plants and animal life make the soil more stable, and preclude the need for inorganic herbicides or pesticides
- Integrate animals: Again, mimic nature. Animals return nutrients to the soil.

Civilizations collapse after about 1000 years. Soil degradation (erosion of topsoil, crusty top) is a contributing factor as seen in Mesopotamia, the Roman Empire, parts of Africa, South America and even the US. Twenty-four tons of topsoil is being lost each year in the world today. Conventional farming values short term yields and relies on synthetic chemicals. Regenerative farming takes the long view. Regenerative farming also helps to mitigate human causes of climate change.

The Burroughs Family Farm almond orchard exemplifies these practices. Irrigation lines are elevated to allow the cover crop to grow beneath and between the trees. The cover crop is mowed and becomes mulch. Harvest proceeds using conventional equipment. Their cattle are rotated from field to field daily to prevent overgrazing and to allow pasture recovery. Creating liquid compost "tea", whole orchard recycling and intensive grazing management are all practices that rely on natural additives being put back into the soil and protecting the soil from degradation. The long view!

The farm includes other amenities to enhance the diversity of plant and animal life. Hedgerows using a variety of plants provide homes for wildlife and pollinators. They also serve as windbreaks. Small ponds on the property also attract a variety of wildlife including natural predators that help control insect populations so no synthetic pesticides are needed.

Recognizing that most regenerative farms are 5 - 10 acres and labor intensive, how can we support and encourage these practices in agriculture? Support local farms and farm products. Shop at farmers' markets. Plant native trees and plants to maintain your own mini "regenerative farm". Burroughs olive oil is available at Cornucopia at Coffee and Floyd, Modesto, and other products are available on their website [burroughsfamilyfams.com](http://burroughsfamilyfams.com).

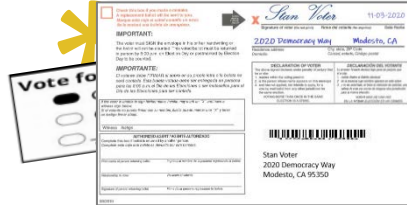
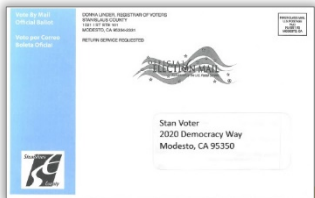
Join us for our next Zoom and Learn on Thursday, September 24, 2020 from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm where we will present the Pros and Cons of our state ballot measures.



# ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN CALIFORNIA WILL RECEIVE A **BALLOT BY MAIL** FOR THE **PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION** ON **NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

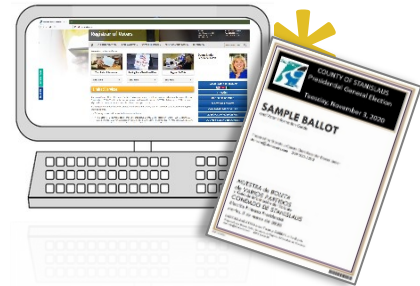
## What does this mean

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, our office will mail registered voters an envelope like this. It will include your ballot and return envelope.



Mark your ballot and sign your envelope.  
Return it as soon as possible!

Check your voter information guide or [www.stanvote.com](http://www.stanvote.com) for ways to return your ballot.



## Why vote by mail

- **SAFETY: Protect your family while still doing your civil duty!**

This is part of the statewide plan to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

- **SECURITY: Your ballot is kept secure.**

Ballot envelopes are unique to the voter. Each returned envelope is examined to prevent voter fraud before counted.

- **CONVENIENT: Avoid the lines on Election Day!**

Mark your ballot early and return it where it's most accessible for you. Visit [www.stanvote.com](http://www.stanvote.com).

- **CONFIDENTIAL: Your vote is secret.**

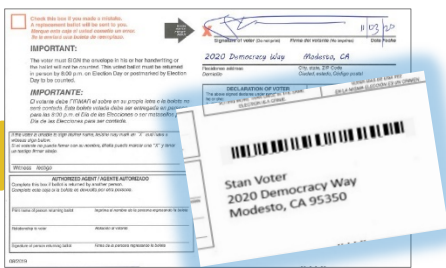
High-speed opening machines separate voted ballots from envelopes. Staff doesn't know how you voted.

- **TRACKING: See when it's been mailed, received, and counted!**

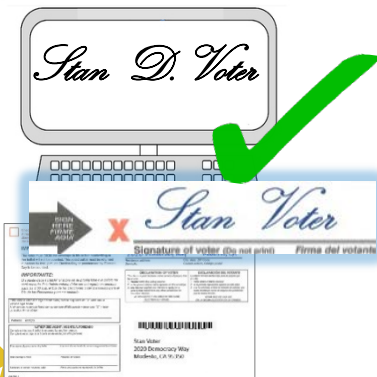
Sign-up to receive notifications on the status of your vote-by-mail ballot at [www.wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov](http://www.wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov).

## MORE ON VOTE BY MAIL SAFEGUARDS

Here's what happens after your ballot is returned...



Our office scans in each ballot envelope. The barcode on the return envelope is unique to each registered voter. This allows voters to track their ballot.



or



Each signature is compared to the voter's record. If the signature matches, the ballot will be counted.

If the signature is challenged in the first review, it is examined twice by a manager. If there's no signature or it does not resemble the one on file, we mail the voter a form to correct it. As the forms are received, we count the ballots previously challenged.



**Donna Linder**  
County Clerk-Recorder and  
Registrar of Voters