

THE VOTER

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



2024-2025 Board of Directors

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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

by Laurie Carley and Jane Manley
LWVSC Co-Presidents

Dear LWVSC Members and Friends,

Election season is now in full swing, and your local League is ready!

Our Voter Service committee has scheduled numerous events to educate our community about state ballot propositions and locations to register voters. Please watch for an email so that you can attend or volunteer or contact Jennie Sweeney, Voter Service Chair, at jenniesweeney@gmail.com

The LWVSC board held our first meeting in August to set our goals and plans for the year. We are excited to have new board members who you can get to know by reading information about them in this Voter.

Do you know about the California Votes: Exercising Your Right exhibit coming to Modesto? From September 29 to November 10, 2024, just in time for this year's important election, the exhibit will help you better understand the electoral process as well as the colorful and often contentious history of voter rights. These include the amendments granting African Americans and women the right to vote. The California Votes collection includes buttons, newspaper clippings, photos, posters, and more. Open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, Noon to 4 pm, McHenry Museum, 1401 I Street, Modesto. Watch for more information from your LWVSC.

We still need to appoint the Nominating Committee for 2025-26. This job is short term and does not require attending meetings. Between February and March 2025, the committee will contact League members to fill director positions on the board. This is a focused, short-term job, keeping the ball rolling on filling the positions so that there is a slate ready to be ratified at our May Annual Meeting. Please help!

Be sure to read the recap of our August board meeting to find out more and be ready to register, vote, and help spread the word throughout Stanislaus County!

Laurie Carley & Jane Manley
LWVSC Co-Presidents, 2024-25

LWVSC Board Meeting Highlights

August 2024

The LWVSC Board of Directors met on August 10, 2024, to conduct its regular business. Highlights are as follows:

- Education Fund (Ed Fund) donations will now be directed to a new website dedicated to Ed Fund donations. Payments to the Ed Fund must be made directly to the Ed Fund (not LWVSC) to be tax deductible. The new Ed Fund website is expected to be complete before the Finance Drive. This change is being implemented by all LWVUS.
- Vivian Lopez and Ellen Meyer attended the national LWV convention in Washington, D.C., and Laurie Carley attended virtually. Presentations included topics on engaging young voters, LWV collaboration with the Girl Scouts, abolishment of the electoral college, and DC statehood.
- The LWVSC advertisements are running at the Galaxy Theaters in Riverbank through October. The advertisements promote voter registration and voting.
- The Board discussed the need to recruit new members and increase member engagement. More meetings will return to in-person meetings, and Meet and Learns will alternate between in-person and Zoom meetings. Ideas to increase membership and engagement are welcome.

Welcome New LWVSC Board Members

Angelina Ceja, Finance Drive



Angelina Ceja is the Vice President and Chief Education Officer at AgSafe, a non-profit organization providing safety and human

resources and practical education to the agricultural community. She provides a variety of training, including equipment, worker safety, human resources and leadership development for supervisors. For over two decades she has been a member of the non-profit community. She is currently serving on a variety of non-profit boards and is excited to work with the League of Women Voters.

Carrie Rasmussen, Secretary

Carrie Rasmussen moved to Merced from the Midwest in 2002 for a public policy fellowship hosted by the Great Valley Center, having no awareness the Central Valley even existed. Twenty-plus years later, Carrie still resides in the Valley and lives with her husband and son in Modesto. An education attorney, Carrie recently joined the new California Online Community College (Calbright College) as its deputy general counsel. Calbright College is a statewide community college district tasked by the Legislature with closing equity gaps for working adults who lack easy access to traditional forms of higher education through fully online, asynchronous, competency-based certificate programs. Calbright College certificate programs are currently free for California residents.

www.calbright.edu

LWVUS Convention Reflections

It was a privilege to attend the LWVUS 2024 National Convention in Washington DC.

I attended the 2008 LWVUS National Convention in Portland and times have changed! The League members attending both the 2008 and 2024 conventions were passionate and very vocal about our concerns, of course, but this year's was very exciting. Our membership has changed! League's membership includes more young women and men under thirty from different walks of life. They are very knowledgeable and energetic individuals with concerns about saving our democracy. It was a joy to see that these individuals found the League to be the place to be involved and take action.

The speakers at the event were excellent! DC Mayor Muriel Bowser expressed her support and appreciation for the work LWVUS has done backing legislation for DC statehood. The keynote speaker was Delegate Kim Teehee who is the director of government relations for the Cherokee Nation. She is a Cherokee attorney, politician, and activist on Native American issues. She is a Delegate-designate to the House of Representatives from the Cherokee Nation. She served as senior policy advisor for Native American affairs in the administration of President Barack Obama from 2009 to 2012. She talked about the history of the Cherokee people and how women are the driving force in their nation. Check out her presentation on the LWV website and review all the highlights of the convention.



Ellen Meyer and Vivian Lopez at the LWVUS Convention

Ellen Meyer, Treasurer

The LWVUS convention was an exciting time for me since I was attending for the very first time! Learning how the order of business is conducted, motions, resolutions, and voting with an app for instant results. Imagine being in a ballroom with over 900 delegates who are passionate, dedicated, and hardworking. At times, they were cheering for passed motions and voiced disappointment for those rejected. Here is a summary of three great workshops that I attended. Hope you will check out their websites.

VERIFY IT - The Youth Outreach Service Committee of the League of Women Voters Alameda has created a free, fun and informative online game. It was developed to address media literacy and voting knowledge, and to encourage civic engagement. This game VerifyIt is for, ages 16 to 29 to encourage them to become informed and active participants in our democracy. Go to Playverifyit.org

Documentary Film - *Just the Beginning: A Century of Political Power and the League of Women Voters* was previewed at the convention. This documentary film explores the past, present, and future through the lens of history of the LWV and allied groups. It begins with the suffragettes fight to win the right to vote with the 19th amendment. To watch a preview go to jtb.IntersectionsTV.com

Partnership with Girl Scouts - The Voter Girl Project (VGP) was created by the League of Women Voters of Kent, Ohio in 2017. The LWV Kent promoted the VGP at the LWVUS National Convention this June. This civic engagement Project is a fun and rewarding activity in which Leagues collaborate with their local Girl Scout councils. The one-day class is available for all scout levels--from Daisies to Ambassadors--with a curriculum appropriate for each level. Find at my.lwv.org/ohio/kent/voter-girl for video and powerpoint slides.

Vivian Lopez, Public Relations

Voter Service Needs You!

Anticipating the high stakes of our upcoming elections, the voter service committee has been actively planning events and opportunities for members to be more informed and engaged in politics and voting.

ONE TIME VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Help with our booth at the MoPride in the Park: September 28th.
- Register voters at Golden Valley Health Centers: Various dates and times
- Input information about candidates into Vote411.org. Training and treats provided and you can do this at your convenience from home!

VOTER EDUCATION EVENTS

- We will be partnering with AAUW to present the Pros and Cons of the ballot measures. Date is October 10. 6PM. Senior Center in Oakdale. 450 E A St, Oakdale, CA 95361.
- October Meet and Learn will focus on the Pros and cons of the ballot measures

Please watch your email for invitations to participate. As we get closer to election day, more events are planned to help you make informed voting choices. If you would like to join the voter service committee, or have an idea for our committee, we are always looking for members to join us!

Jennie Sweeney
Voter Service Committee Chair
jenniesweeney@gmail.com or 209 404 4414

Follow Us On Social Media

Through out the year, our social media accounts will provide important reminders for the critical elections of 2024. Like, follow and share with your networks!



@lwwstanislauscounty



@lwwstanco

Local Action Update

River Walk Update

Attended 2 meetings

- June 2nd at the Walton home
 - Review of comments on EIR (animal & plant species, Native American land near the river, several instructors from UC Davis weighed in on EIR.
 - Comment period was extended due to Spanish draft not available. Several people at this meeting made sure that Spanish comments were sent in.
 - Plans for another an initiative.
- July 6 at the Riverbank Rifle Range
 - Signature drive has begun. Utilizing committee, and paid signature gathers.
 - Additional yard signs.
- The Ballot Initiative signatures were turned in to Riverbank on July 24th. They needed 1,316 valid signatures and we got 1,542 so we exceeded our goal (15% over, or 1,513).
 - Riverbank has requested a “full count” meaning each signature will be examined by the County Registrar of Voters office (vs. the random process allowed by the Election Code).
 - They have 30 working days to complete this so we should hear the results by Sept. 5th. Confident that they will qualify for the ballot this time.
- The fraud matter from last year’s attempt to make the ballot is currently being investigated by the District Attorney’s office.
- Two matters that are very closely related to our NO River Walk efforts are the City’s updates of their Housing Element and General Plan. The Housing Element, which becomes part of the City’s General Plan, is CURRENTLY being updated for the next 8-year cycle (2023-2031) and will move forward at a pretty rapid rate. Specifically, the City held a Public Workshop on July 31st.
- They also hope to take it to the Planning Commission in Sept and the Council in October. Why is this important? -The General Plan currently covers the period of 2005-2025 so it will also have to be updated and bears close watching when that process begins.

June 6, 2024 Modesto Bee Editorial by Jeani Ferrari

If Stanislaus County intends to remain one of America’s top 10 ag producing counties, it must protect its prime farmland. If our cities accommodate growth by incrementally expanding their borders, Stanislaus County is destined to follow the path of Los Angeles County — it will become a commuter county with traffic congestion, crime, unaffordable housing and all the costs associated with

Local Action Update Continued

June 6, 2024 Modesto Bee Editorial by Jeani Ferrari continued

unsustainable growth (with the caveat that Los Angeles County was the nation's most productive agricultural county for 45 years, until 1955). Each of the county's nine cities needs to accommodate growth by building up, repurposing underutilized and blighted areas, infilling and putting development on the poorest soils. Stanislaus County already has plans to develop 88,558 acres within its cities and their general plans. There are hundreds of acres available for housing within Riverbank's Sphere of Influence. Stanislaus County's formal response to the proposed River Walk project states, "It's premature and does not maintain a logical land-use pattern." Simply stated, Riverbank lacks a justifiable reason to further expand its borders.

Read more at: <https://www.modbee.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/community-columns/article289217344.html#storylink=cpy>

Scannell Project

Dale Road North of Kaiser Facility and West to 99 Freeway

July 2024

Stanislaus County is proposing an environmental impact report on the entire Salida Community Plan before a large distribution center project on Kiernan Avenue is allowed to proceed.

August 13th, the county Board of Supervisors was set to approve a \$900,000 agreement with Sacramento-based Ascent Environmental Inc. to conduct a comprehensive environmental study on the 3,400-acre Salida development plan, which received county approval amid controversy in 2007.

The Sacramento firm also would perform a feasibility study on city incorporation of Salida.

The studies would create a 15-month delay for Scannell Properties' 145-acre development, which calls for up to 2.5 million square feet of warehouse, distribution and manufacturing space at the northwest corner of Dale Road and Kiernan, just north of Modesto. In early May, Scannell submitted requests to the county for a general plan amendment and rezoning for the seven industrial buildings.

Colleen Preston
Local Action Chair

upcoming events



September

September 17 - Voter Registration at Archway Commons

September 18 - Meet & Learn at Stanislaus County Elections Office

September 24 - Pros & Cons presentation on California Propositions at Modesto Rotary

September 29 - Voter Registration Booth at MoPride

September 29 - California Votes opens at McHenry Museum

October

October 10 - Pros & Cons Presentation on California Propositions at AAUW

October 17 - Meet & Learn presentation, To Be Determined

October 17 - Pros and Cons Presentation to United Methodist Church Women

Month of October - California Votes continues at McHenry Museum

September Meet and Learn

As requested at our August board meeting, we are returning to more in person events for our membership. In keeping with our September/October voter service and education, the first Meet and Learn will be held at the Registrar of Voters Office. Donna Linder, Stanislaus Registrar, will provide information on our local ballot security measures. We will then tour the facility. Some of the LWVSC have participated in the tour and learned valuable information. The measures our county has taken to insure election security and transparency is comforting. Armed with the knowledge you will acquire at this M & L, you will be able to discuss dis and mis information regarding voting and ballots in our county. This topic arise among friends and family in the months ahead.

Wednesday, September 18th
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Stanislaus Voter Registrar Office
1021 I Street

Space is limited.
Please RSVP to 209-3243375 or stanislauslww@gmail.com