

THE VOTER

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



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Amy Wolfe, L WVSC President

Dear L WVSC Members and Friends,

Election season kicks off in earnest this month and our calendar of events is evidence of that! Our Voter Service Committee, led by Jennie Sweeney and Marsha Waggoner, has been working diligently to organize educational activities, outreach to other community groups, and civic engagement events. Be sure to check out their update below and if you're so inclined, jump in and help where needed.

Members are also encouraged to attend in person or via Zoom our monthly Board meetings. This is an opportunity to stay current on what's happening within the League and consider ways to get further connected. We're meeting next on September 9th - details below.

Our first candidate forum of the season, in partnership with the four Rotary Clubs of Modesto and The Modesto Focus, is the morning of September 10th and will be for the State Senate District 4 seat. Hear from candidates Jaron Brandon and Alexandra Duarte on why they believe they should represent our county in Sacramento. Registration details below and the forum video will be posted online for those unable to attend in person.

Later that same day is our first of the year New and Not-So-New Member Mixer. The September 10th event, graciously hosted by Past President Laurie Carley, is a great way for members to connect, learn more about the League and the many ways you can get more involved this year. Please RSVP to Laurie soon to join us.

The next installment of the L WVSC Book Club is 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.

Finally, thank you to our generous 2026-2027 L WVSC Supporters! Your donations allow our important work and member engagement opportunities possible.

With appreciation,

Amy

August 2026 Board Meeting Highlights

The LWVSC Board met for its regular meeting on August 12, 2026. Highlights of the first meeting for 2026-27 follow.

1. President Amy Wolfe reviewed the 2026-27 priorities and calendar of events. Board priorities include:
 - Membership Development
 - Membership Engagement
 - Voter Engagement prior to the November Election
 - Community Partnerships
2. Vice President Angelina Ceja reported that she and Amy Wolfe attended the 2026 League of Women Voters of the United States Convention, held via Zoom. The 2026-27 LWVUS advocacy focus will be: Defending Democracy Under Siege
3. Public Relations committee members Melissa and Isabel Barry reported on the development of LWVSC's public relations plans and social media calendar. It will include posts on Tiktok, Instagram and Facebook.

By Laurie Carley, Secretary

Follow Us On Social Media

Throughout the year, our social media accounts will provide important reminders for elections. Like, follow and share with your networks!



@lwwstanislauscounty



@lwwstanco

August Meet & Learn Recap

Our August Meet & Learn event at Gather welcomed Dr. Ana Andrade, Political Action Chair of the NAACP Modesto/Stanslaus Branch (#1048), for an inspiring conversation on civic engagement and community advocacy.

Dr. Andrade brought a wealth of experience to the discussion, drawing on her background as a probation officer, housing advocate, economic justice steward, and youth ally. She shared how these roles have shaped her deep commitment to connecting underserved communities with the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

Speaking to the room, Dr. Andrade reflected on the significance of her role with the NAACP — an organization founded in 1909 as one of the nation's first sustained responses to racial violence and injustice, and one that remains a cornerstone of the civil rights movement today. She emphasized that the NAACP's Political Action Committee continues that legacy locally, working to mobilize voters, advocate for legislation that improves outcomes for minority communities, and promote equal enforcement of the law.

A recurring theme of her talk was the vital link between voter education and a healthy democracy. Dr. Andrade encouraged attendees to see civic participation not as a single act, but as an ongoing practice — staying informed, showing up, and ensuring that voices historically left out of the conversation are heard and valued.

The League thanks Dr. Andrade for a thoughtful and energizing presentation, and looks forward to continuing this partnership with the NAACP Modesto/Stanslaus Branch in advancing shared goals of civic engagement and social justice in our community.

By Jennie Sweeney, Voter Service Director

Voter Service Update

We're Busy Out There!

Fall is shaping up to be a busy season for LWVSC's Voter Service team, and we wanted to share what's happening — and how you can get involved.

On the Calendar

We've got a full slate of forums, planning meetings, and community events between now and Election Day — including a Sept 3, 1:00 pm tour of the Registrar's Office for a behind-the-scenes look at how elections are run in our county; candidate forums for Brandon and Duarte; a Pros and Cons presentation with AAUW Oakdale; a candidate listening forum with city council and school board candidates; and outreach at Turlock Night Out and Senior Stride. Behind the scenes, we're also planning with LCR and El Concilio for the Latino Voter Engagement Project and we continue to partner with NAACP, the Westside Community Cooperative and Modesto Focus.

Dates to Save & Share

- September 3 – Tour of Registrar's Office: Limited Space. Call or text Jennie Sweeney at 209 404-4414 to reserve your spot.
- September 4 – State Voter Guide available online.
- September 24 – State and County Voter Guides mailed.
- October 5 – Vote by mail ballots mailed; early voting opens.
- October 19 – Last day to register to vote.
- October 24 – Voting Centers open.
- November 3 – Election Day!

What's New?

This year's ballot is a big one — 14 initiatives have qualified statewide. The state League is preparing Pros and Cons materials, expected in early September.

(continued on next page)

Voter Service Update

We're also exploring some exciting new partnerships

- Pros and Cons at local libraries, open to the public, in Salida, Riverbank, Turlock, and Patterson (see *flyers on pages 14-15*)
- A possible collaboration with Modesto Focus and Rotary to videotape candidate forums.
- Continued outreach to the NAACP and our friends at Latino Community Roundtable.

Want to Help?

Whether it's staffing a forum, spreading the word about voter guides, presenting at the Pros and Cons, or just showing up to learn more, there's a place for you. Reach out to the Voter Service team to get involved! Call or text Jennie Sweeney 209-404-4414.

See you out there, Stanislaus County!

Jennie Sweeney & Marsha Waggoner
Voter Service Co-Directors

VOTER SERVICE IN ACTION

LWVSC members Ellen Meyer and Laurie Carley provided information at National Night Out festivities in Turlock.



Modesto 2050 General Plan

The City of Modesto is currently navigating the process to update their general plan. Most recently, they requested feedback from the public regarding their proposed plans' environmental impact. Using a variety of LWV approved policies as reference, our League submitted the following letter for review and consideration. We will continue engaging in the general plan process and keep members updated on our efforts.



July 11, 2026

Michael Hren
Principal Planner
City of Modesto Planning Division
1010 Tenth Street
Modesto, CA 95354

Re: Notice of Preparation for the Modesto 2050 General Plan Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Hren,

As requested by the City, the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County submits the following comments on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Modesto 2050 General Plan. We respectfully request that these comments be incorporated into the scope of the EIR and that the City provide written responses explaining how each issue will be addressed during the environmental review process.

Agricultural Land Conversion

Although this is a program-level planning effort and does not approve specific development projects, inclusion of agricultural land within future growth areas has significant long-term consequences. Lands designated for urban development often cease to function as viable agricultural resources long before construction occurs. The EIR should analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of converting productive farmland to urban uses, including loss of agricultural land, reduced agricultural viability, impacts on groundwater recharge, and effects on Stanislaus County's agricultural economy.

Water Resources and Hydrology

The NOP identifies "hydrology" as a study area but does not clearly define its scope. The EIR should address water supply reliability, groundwater impacts, groundwater recharge

areas, consistency with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and the ability of water providers to serve future growth without adversely affecting existing agricultural users.

Traffic and Circulation

Regional traffic impacts warrant particular attention. State Route 99 already experiences significant congestion and capacity constraints. The EIR should evaluate whether the regional transportation network can accommodate anticipated population growth and identify feasible mitigation measures where significant impacts are anticipated.

Economic Development Lands

The EIR should examine whether lands designated for economic development are likely to remain in employment-generating uses over time. Past conversions of lands designated for business park and industrial uses to residential and commercial development suggest that long-term land use assumptions should be carefully evaluated, as such changes may alter the environmental impacts analyzed in the EIR.

Cumulative Impacts

The EIR should evaluate the cumulative impacts of the entire General Plan, not only newly added growth areas. Analysis should include the combined effects of planned growth in Modesto, Ceres, Riverbank, Salida, and Del Rio on traffic, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, groundwater resources, agricultural lands, and regional infrastructure. The environmental effects of the General Plan cannot be fully understood without considering the cumulative impacts of growth occurring throughout the surrounding region.

Alternatives

In addition to the required No Project Alternative, the EIR should analyze a Reduced Expansion Alternative and an Infill/Redevelopment Alternative that emphasizes higher densities, redevelopment, and more efficient use of existing urban land. These alternatives could reduce farmland conversion and infrastructure demands while meeting the City's objectives.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation. We look forward to the City's responses to the issues raised in this letter and reviewing the EIR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "amy wolfe". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Amy Wolfe, President
League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County



2026 - 2027 LWVSC Supporters

Impact Accelerators



Civic Visionaries

**Kay and Mike
Christensen**

**Anonymous Amazing
LWVSC Members**

Community Catalyst

Julie Saugstad

Thank you for your generosity and dedication to the LWVSC!



September 2026

Board of Directors Meeting

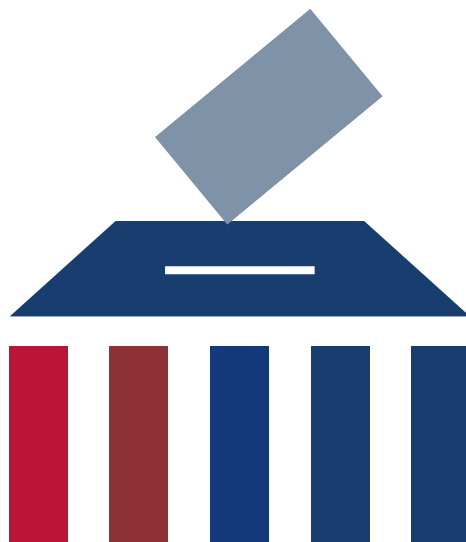
September 9, 2026
5:30 pm

AgSafe Office Building or Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID: 844 7891 1845
Passcode: LWVSC

**All LWVSC members are welcome and
encouraged to attend!**

Empowering Voters. ★ Defending Democracy.





State Senate District 4 Candidate Forum



Jaron Brandon (D)



Alexandra Duarte (R)

Thursday, September 10, 2026

7:00 am - 8:00 am

Greens on Tenth, Modesto

Hosted by the Modesto Sunrise Rotary Club

\$20 per person

*Buffet breakfast included, online fees apply,
scan the QR code & pre-register by September 7, 2026*

*Unable to attend? Not a problem! A video of the forum will be posted on the
LWVSC website and YouTube channel afterwards.*



**REGISTER
HERE**





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



MEET & LEARN

September 17, 2026

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Gather, 2424 McHenry Avenue, Modesto

Alex Evans, Fulcrum Strategy Group

The Ins and Outs of Political Polling

Join us as our speaker shares the details of political polling, how that information is used by candidates and initiative sponsors, and how the industry has evolved with modern politics.

Cost: \$35 per person

Register online at www.lwvstanislaus.org or scan:

Advanced registrations online required.

Deadline is September 14, 2026.



Upcoming Meet & Learn Luncheons

October 15, 2026: Jennifer Halm, Capital Public Radio

November 19, 2026: Jeff Laugaro, Stanislaus County District Attorney

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Civic Visionaries

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LWVSC Members**

Community Catalyst

Julie Saugstad

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

The League of Women Voters
of Stanislaus County Presents

Pros

& Cons:

Understanding November

Ballot Initiatives

Join the League of Women Voters for
a nonpartisan, unbiased presentation
on upcoming ballot initiatives.

Library Locations and Dates:

Salida: Tuesday, Sept. 29 • 6 - 7 pm

Turlock: Wednesday, Sept. 30 • 6 - 7 pm

Riverbank: Wednesday, Oct. 7 • 6 - 7 pm

Patterson: Wednesday, Oct. 14 • 6 - 7 pm

The Patterson presentation will be offered in English and Spanish.

All other presentations will be held in English.

www.stanlibrary.org



A favor

The League of Women Voters
of Stanislaus County presenta

y en contra

Entendiendo las iniciativas de la boleta

electoral de noviembre

Únase a The League of Women Voters para una presentación no partidista e imparcial sobre las próximas iniciativas de la boleta electoral.

Ubicaciones y fechas de las bibliotecas:

Salida: martes, 29 de sept. • 6 - 7 pm

Turlock: miércoles, 30 de sept. • 6 - 7 pm

Riverbank: miércoles, 7 de oct. • 6 - 7 pm

Patterson: miércoles, 14 de oct. • 6 - 7 pm

La presentación de Patterson se ofrecerá en inglés y español.

Todas las demás presentaciones se llevarán a cabo en inglés.

www.stanlibrary.org

