

# LWV<sup>®</sup> THE VOTER

Fall 2020

## Mark your calendar...

### November

10 Board Meeting

### December

3 Virtual Holiday Party (tentative)

8 Board Meeting

### January 2021

12

All League members are welcome to attend board meetings, which are being conducted via Zoom during the pandemic.

Contact Lorna Carriveau at [carriveaul@att.net](mailto:carriveaul@att.net) or (530) 867-1395 for information about attending a Board meeting via Zoom.



Pat Butler during LWV Gala in February 2020

## President's Message

Greetings Members, families & friends,

Fall is my favorite time of year and, it seems, there is always more energy in the air and nature reflects her most vibrant colors!! That energy level has motivated your new Board members and they are or have been "on the move"!!!! Carla Cox, your Director for Voter Education, is wrapping up our

"Get Out The Vote" drive done in collaboration with our sister League in Davis, the County Board of Elections and the Solano Regional League. The Daily Democrat was instrumental in producing the Candidate's Q & A Forum and we thank Editor, Jim Smith, and his staff for their assistance.

Your new VOTER Editor, Lorna Carriveau, is publishing her first edition of our newsletter and has gathered a plethora of information for you. She is utilizing the updated Constant Contact platform approved by the Board and will have access to new templates, colors and accessories to keep your VOTER an exciting "read"!!

Judy Wohlfrom, Director for Events Coordination/Volunteers, a new position approved by the Board and added to the Slate of Officers, is busy organizing the many different functional pieces that are necessary for an organization to operate successfully. She is currently recruiting volunteer participants to work on our Housing Study so deadlines for completion can be met. She is chairing our By Laws Review Committee and working with the Social Committee to gather ideas and plan our Holiday Event(s). So, stay tuned as these folks will be encouraging members to participate in many activities, committees and events as they are planned.

Returning Board members have managed our Membership Drive and Chairman, Karen Urbano and team, will be calling to remind folks of dues due. Co-Treasurers Judy Simas and Evelia Genera are managing collection and banking. Janet Ruggiero and Beth Kemper have resumed meetings for the Housing Study and encourage member participation if they are to complete the study by our June 2021 Annual Meeting. Mari Perla is representing your League @ YES meetings /events and recently made a presentation to the Woodland Library sponsored "101" youth program. Maria Lago, your effervescent Secretary, records all of this activity, keeping us on track and organized.

That's your 2020-2021 Board at work so "Say Yes" when they call.

Happy days to you and stay healthy & safe,  
*Pat Butler*

## 2020 Annual Meeting in Brief

The following is a brief summary of the topics/discussion points covered at the Woodland LWV annual meeting, held virtually on September 10, 2020. Nineteen members were present, including board members, as well as three guests from the Davis LWV chapter. Actions included the following:

- Treasurer Judy Simas reported that, as of the meeting date, the LWV-W accounts had the following totals: Checking - \$1,910.47; Savings (money



market) - \$2,228.27; CD (which renewed on 7/26/20) - \$7,600+.

- As directed by the By-laws, the current League positions were reaffirmed and the 2020/2021 chapter program was presented.
- Carla Cox gave an update on the voter education programs being conducted in coordination with the Davis LWV chapter and the Yolo Board of Elections which have replaced the usual forums in the pandemic era.
- Updates were presented on membership, the housing study and a description of a new director position on the board which will oversee event and coordination of volunteers.
- Several members were recognized: Janet Ruggiero for her selection as Woman of the Year, Carol Souza Cole and Janet Ruggiero for their outstanding work on the LWV Centennial Celebration held this past February, and Karen Urbano received an award on behalf of our chapter presented to the Woodland LWV by the Woodland Joint Unified School District recognizing our efforts in student voter registration.
- The Grace Heffner award was presented by last year's honoree, Lucinda Talkington, to Laura Caruso Kofoid and Eric Kofoid for their many years of tireless work on The Voter. They received mugs and chocolate (virtually, delivered later).
- The slate of candidates for this year's board, compiled by the Election Committee (Carol Souza Cole and Christine Shewmaker, appointed by president Pat Butler), was presented. The slate, which follows, was unanimously approved after no nominations were received from the floor.
  - President - Pat Butler; 1st Vice President (Membership) - Karen Urbano; 2nd Vice President (Website management and Voter) - Lorna Carriveau; Secretary - Maria Lago; Co-Treasurers - Judy Simas and Evelia Genera;
  - Directors: Events/Volunteers - Judy Wohlfrom; Voter Services - Carla Cox; Studies/Positions - Janet Ruggiero and Elizabeth Kemper;
  - Directors-at-large: Youth Voter Registration - Evelia Genera; YES Liaison - Mari Perla.
  - Also announced were two committees: Nominations - Audrey Doehne (Chair), Barbara Morrison and Lucinda Talkington; and Finance - Maria Lago (Chair), Daniel Kirsch and Judy Simas.

Respectfully submitted by Board Secretary Maria Largo

## Voter Services Update

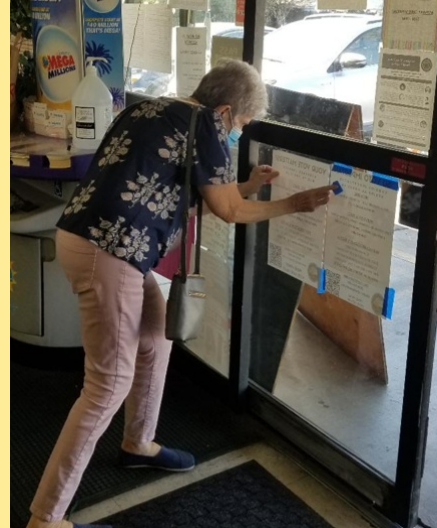
by Carla Cox

This has been a busy season for us with a presidential election and several open seats on the city council and school board, and due to the pandemic, we've had to take a different approach to voter education as to everything in our lives these days.

- In lieu of our traditional forums, we solicited public input to pose questions to the candidates for city council and WJUSD

school board. Their responses were published by the Daily Democrat. Our thanks go to all the committee members who worked hard to develop meaningful and concise questions on a wide range of topics. A big thanks also goes to Jim Smith at the Daily Democrat for his helpfulness and frontpage coverage of the candidates' responses. Our website has links to the five Candidate Q & A articles.

- We distributed Easy Voter Guides in Woodland, West Sacramento, Winters, and smaller towns in northern Yolo county.
- LWV/Voter's Edge yard signs are on display in members' yards around town.
- We partnered with a Davis community group and LWV-Davis to assist the Yolo County Elections Office in putting up posters around the county informing voters about the changes in the voting process this election. Changes include Vote-By-Mail ballots sent to all active registered voters, Ballot Drop Boxes available at 12 locations in the county, and the replacement of traditional polling places around the county with 12 Voter Assistance Centers for voters who want to vote in person, need accommodations or translation assistance, or want to register and cast a provisional ballot.
- We will be putting up notices at the old polling places several days before the election to remind voters that those are closed and providing the hours and locations for the Voter Assistance Centers.



Placing a Poster

*Thank you to everyone who has worked hard to make all of this happen!*



## *Calling All League Members - An End of Year Alert!*

The Covid virus is not going to get us down as we are moving forward to celebrate the Holidays. Please be ready to have fun and spirits, virtually, tentatively scheduled for December 3, 2020.

We wish to continue our tradition of donating socks and food stuffs, not virtually, but real live socks and food. Expect an email Blast with the details as we wish to start the celebrating mid-November.

In my new position of Event Management & Volunteer Coordination, I have one other request I wish to ask of you all: there is a great need for volunteers to carry out our League's agenda in the upcoming 2021 year. Please reconsider volunteering for



The Housing Study  
The Mixer event  
Nominations  
Annual Meeting

Democracy Works event  
Registering High School Students  
Fundraising  
Local Government Monitoring

Please email me at [wohlfrom@pacbell.net](mailto:wohlfrom@pacbell.net) to let me know where you might be able to contribute your knowledge, experience, time, and energy. Thank you for considering our need for volunteers.

*Judy Wohlfrom*



## WE SUPPORT WOODLAND'S MEASURES Y & R

LWV-Woodland's Board of Directors voted "YES" to support City of Woodland's Measure R and Woodland Joint Unified School District's Measure Y at their board meeting last week. Measure R must be approved by a majority of the voters and would continue the one-quarter cent sales tax previously adopted by Woodland voters in 2014 (Measure J) for an additional ten (10) years. Funds would be used for city services, programs and facilities. However, the Council can choose to allocate funds from this tax to voter's preferences gleaned from advisory Measures S, T, U, & V. The City is required to prepare a detailed report of revenue and expenditures for the voters annually.

WJUSD's Measure Y requires a 55% vote and is subject to specific accountability measures for the purpose of construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or replacement of school facilities, including furnishings, equipment and acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities. Bond proceeds may be used to expand vocational education programs, improve technology/internet access, repair classrooms/school; roofs, HVAC, wiring, plumbing or acquire a variety of instructional, maintenance and operational equipment. The District, though, may only use proceeds for the purposes identified in the Measure and an independent citizens oversight committee is required to insure proceeds are properly expended.

League support for local and county measures must be based on studied positions taken by the local league and/or the California League. For Measure R, the League's position clearly supports the need for local finance measures to meet basic needs of the general population. Additionally, our County Parks & Recreation position calls for financing to maintain and extend adequate services to a growing population. This Measure clearly meets those identified priorities,

Measure Y is supported by the League's position of advocacy for adequate and safe school facilities. The California League's Education K-12 Position clearly

advocates for equitable access to quality education, adequacy of revenue and flexibility of those revenues.

Your Woodland League Board voted unanimously to support these two important Measures as necessary for the stability of our community services and the stability of our schools. The League takes no position on Measures S, T, U & V.

## Housing Position Study Group Update



The Housing Position Study group will meet again on Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. We encourage members interested in the Housing issue to join the group as we work on preparing consensus questions to update our current Local Housing Position for our League.

If you are interested in joining us, send Janet Ruggiero an email at [jmruggiero@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmruggiero@sbcglobal.net) or click on this link: [Janet Ruggiero](#). A Zoom invitation will be sent to you to join the meeting. We will also send you additional information that has been developed during the past meetings of the study group.

Our current LWV-Woodland position written in 1982 states:

**Support provision of quality and safe housing for all persons in the community regardless of income or ethnic background.**

Objectives:

1. Encourage the rehabilitation and revitalization of deteriorating housing.
2. Support Yolo County's Housing Code enforcement program to eliminate substandard rental housing units within the city.
3. Support the City's efforts to apply for and use as many state and federal housing programs as possible to improve and restore existing rental units as well as build new rental units.

Questions that have been raised on our existing housing position include the following:

- Shouldn't policy include support for new construction and the rehabilitation and preservation of quality and older housing for all persons in the community regardless of income, ethnic or racial background.
- Does Woodland have an adequate funding for first time homeownership program?
- Who operates the Housing Code Enforcement program - the City or the County? Should there be a rental inspection program?
- Shouldn't we be looking at new rental housing construction as well rehabbing existing units. How do we keep rental housing affordable

Other issues that have come up about our position at other study group meetings, including the League's annual meeting, include:

- Support of infill development, including looking at reduced parking, sustainable and green design especially downtown;
- Need for construction of more rental units including senior units - where;
- Housing should be linked to transportation corridors;
- Need for more workforce housing and first-time home buyers;
- Duplexes on corners and smaller homes in the 1300 - 1500 square foot range;
- Encourage construction on empty lots;
- Encourage different types of housing, accessory dwelling units, co-ops, court yards units, rooming houses; and
- Support for housing the unhoused and providing services for them.

The work the Study Group still needs to do follows:

1. Do we need more information on housing issues directly related to Woodland?
2. We have identified housing questions, ideas and issues. Are there items on housing we are missing?
3. Do we break down housing into different categories for the group to work on? Such as Homeownership and affordability, Rental housing, Housing for the Unhoused, Discrimination?
4. Develop consensus questions for our members that we can bring to them over the next couple of months.

We need League members to participate in upcoming meetings scheduled for October 27 and December 1. We look forward to seeing you virtually at these meetings. Our intent is to use the next two meetings to determine if any additional research is needed to assist in developing consensus questions that can be brought to our membership in January in order to seek their input on resolving these consensus questions. Based on that input, we will draft a new Housing Position to bring to the Annual Meeting in June 2021 for adoption.

Please email or call us if you have any questions:

Janet Ruggiero: (530) 666-3294 or [jmruggiero@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmruggiero@sbcglobal.net)

Elizabeth Kemper: (530) 383-1648 or [busybeth@wavecable.com](mailto:busybeth@wavecable.com)

Study Co-Chairs

## Your Website - Enhanced!

By Lorna Carriveau

We're in the process of updating our chapter's website (<https://my.lwv.org/california/woodland>) to provide more - and more timely - information for members and visitors. Please check us out, and click on any items of interest, especially on the left sidebar. Of particular interest may be those links on the left sidebar entitled Woodland, Voter Information and Voting & Elections. Sources include Woodland chapter activities as well as information from the state and national offices of the League of Women Voters. More updates will be coming as well, including past issues of The Voter.

Please contact me directly at [carriveaul@att.net](mailto:carriveaul@att.net) if you'd like to suggest topics for the website or upcoming issues of The Voter. Thanks for your attention and feedback!



## Dear Loyal Members of the Woodland League of Women Voters:

JOIN

If you haven't yet taken the time to renew your membership for 2020-2021, I (we) certainly hope that is because you just forgot. Even though we are unable to meet in person these days, your League is meeting virtually. And with an important election coming up very soon, your Board has been doing amazing work assisting in getting out the word about changes to the voting process and working with the Yolo County Elections Office. Your support is still needed. Please fill out and mail the membership form included in this issue of The Voter so we can count you among our members! Of course, if you already renewed, then THANK YOU! And don't forget to VOTE!

Note: Dues were waived for student memberships through 2021 by the national LWV.

Click here for a [Membership Form](#) or contact Karen Urbano at [karen.jean.urbano@gmail.com](mailto:karen.jean.urbano@gmail.com).

League of Women Voters of Woodland  
[woodland.ca.lwvnet.org](http://woodland.ca.lwvnet.org)

Making Democracy Work

STAY CONNECTED

