



The Sacramento Voter

OCTOBER 2018

Power to the Polls



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Web sites to check for LWV news
LWVC.org
 &
LWVUS.org

President's Message

Welcome to a new League of Women Voters of Sacramento County board year. The November mid term election is a major focus for the Fall. We want to continue voter registration and education activities to inspire our fellow citizens to vote. Exercising our right to vote as citizens gives us a voice in our democracy. However our efforts to increase voter registration and education will not end with the election. The Board will be working on activities to take throughout the year. Partnering with local school districts to register and pre-register high school students will be one of those efforts.

The Board and I want to increase our members opportunities to meet and engage with one another this year. Our first full membership meeting will be November 8. More information will follow on this meeting. Between now and that meeting will be opportunities to participate in voter registration activities by attending the Speakers Bureau "Pros & Cons" training on 9/22/18 at McClatchy Library.

In the first quarter of 2019 we will hold our Program Planning meeting to set our goals for the 2019-20 year. Any ideas and suggestions you have for the Board before then please share with us. We are eager to have your input.

Participating in League is a way to grow our individual skills and talents as well. When I first joined the League I had no idea how much I would learn and do as a member. It has been a very interesting and fun journey.

By Claudia Bonsignore

EVENTS

Wednesday, October 3, 2018, 6:00 p.m. **Candidate Forum**, 4000 Truxel Road. **Volunteers contact Marina Perez**
mep1166@gmail.com

Tuesday, October 9,, 2018. Unit meetings, pg. 3

Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Suffragists Club's Annual Reception. Trisha Uhrhammer's home,
 875 52nd St., Sacramento, CA 95819. pg. 4

Thursday, November 8, 2018, 5:30 p.m. League's Transformation Journey (membership), Dept. of Human Resources
 Bldg. 2700 Fulton Ave, Sacramento, CA 95821 pg. 2

Monday, **May 20, 2019**, Annual Meeting, venue and time to be determined.

Welcome New Members

Serena Bell

Margaret Brown

Ethan Stone

2018-2019

Board of Directors

**League of Women Voters
of Sacramento County**
921 11th Street Suite 700
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-447-8683
lwvs@lwvsacramento.org
<https://my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county> (New WEB)

Board Directors

Claudia Bonsignore, President
Paula Lee, 1st Vice-President
Theresa Riviera, 2nd Vice-President
Suzi Bakker, Treasurer
Bernadette Lynch, Secretary

Directors

Barbera Bass
Nancy Compton
Louise Einspahr,
Mahnaz Khazari
Marina Perez,
Heather (Skinkle) Rose

Off Board:

Patricia Pavone LWVC Children's
Roundtable
Nancy Findeisen, Budget Comm.
Eileen Heaser, Voter Registration
Roseanne Chamberlain Chair,
Nominating Comm.
Suzi Bakker, Membership Records

Voter editor– Alice Ginosar
Voter publisher– Eileen Heaser



www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento

Locating Election information
www.Elections.SacCounty.net
or 916-875-6451

Board Meeting Dates

October 8
November 13
December 10
All members welcome

Observer Corps - Volunteers Needed

This is a unique volunteer opportunity for all members. The League needs observers at meetings, events, etc. regarding the issues that are fundamental to our positions. At the annual meeting the following positions were adopted:

Government positions: Budget, City Governance, Government Organization, City of Sacramento Mayor's Office (full time), and Merit.

Human Resources/Social Policy positions: Child Care, Housing, Juvenile Justice, Los Rios Community College District, and Pay Equity.

Natural Resources positions: Flood Control, Land Use/Planning, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Transportation, and Water.

Making Democracy Work as a goal for Education and Advocacy

An observer would choose a topic of personal interest, e.g. water, education, city councils, Board of Supervisors, voter suppression, immigration, homeless, climate change etc., in concert with League positions.

The observer would then be the LWV presence at meetings/events, etc., write up a brief report as inspired and possibly an article for *The Voter*.

If interested, contact the President Claudia Bonsignore (morsignore@comcast.net) or the Secretary Bernadette Lynch mimilavelle@comcast.net

Learn about the League's Transformation Journey

Helen Hutchison, President of the League of Women Voters of California, will be the featured speaker at our meeting on Thursday, November 8, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Helen will be with us to roll out what is being termed the **League's Transformation Journey**.

In anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the League's founding, national and state leaders have engaged in a process of self-reflection, environmental scanning, hard discussions, and tough decisions related to the continued relevance and health of the League network. Common challenges include membership that is not reflective of our communities; a need for tools to more effectively carry out our mission; and the challenge of demonstrating our collective impact as an organization.

Helen is an enthusiastic presenter who has been a member of the League of Women Voters since 1969. She and her family have moved around the country, providing many opportunities to join Leagues in different cities that include Claremont, California; Newton, Massachusetts; Los Angeles; Clackamas County, Oregon; DeKalb County, Georgia, and Oakland, California. Each League provided new areas in which to learn and become active.

While serving on the California State League, she has been active in strategic planning, initiative and referendum reform, human resources, training, legislation, ballot measures, and redistricting.

Day/Date:	Thursday, November 8
Time:	5:30 p.m.
Location:	Department of Human Resources Building 2700 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento
Food? Yes!	Hearty appetizers will be served
Parking?	No problem!

Let's get together and relax after a hectic midterm election season and learn about the League's new direction, which will include, among other things, a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion; developing a healthier League network; and building an increase in capacity to support technology, communications, and fund development.

By LWVC

Unit Meetings—September 2018

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Suburban	Tuesday October 9 , 2018, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner 944-1042 Helen Shryock 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday, October 9 2018, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 916-422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831

Unit Meetings– Propositions

The League of Women Voters encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. With these goals in mind, this month's unit meeting topic will be the November ballot initiatives. Information about the initiatives:

[Ballotpedia](#) provides extensive information on ballot measures, pros, cons, monetary support for/against, etc.

[Easy Voter Guide](#) LWVC provides brief information on ballots measures and other election information

[Fair Vote](#) information about voting throughout the U.S.

[LWVC proposition recommendations](#) see below

[Pros & Cons](#) LWVC

[Voter's Edge California votersedge.org](#) locate ballot information and polling places

Information on [qualified ballot measures](#) from the Secretary of State

Local measures. Measure K– Would establish the council-appointed city auditor as an officer under the city charter, thus consolidate the independent budget analyst's duties in the auditor's office; the position could only be eliminated by voters. The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County supports Measure K.

Measure U– would renew the existing half-cent sales tax that expires 3/31/19, and **increase** the tax by a half-cent equaling an 8.75 percent sales tax for Sacramento. By keeping Measure U as a "general" tax ... only requires a majority of voters to approve.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA RECOMMENDS November 6, 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

PROP 1 Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond YES

California is experiencing a housing crisis. The state's extreme shortage of affordable housing has life and death consequences, especially for people with low incomes. Housing instability has been linked to public health crises, food insecurity, and developmental problems in children. Prop 1 will build and preserve affordable homes, including supportive housing, for veterans, working families, people with disabilities, Californians experiencing homelessness and others struggling to find a safe place to call home. It will authorize \$4 billion in general obligation bonds, to be used to support these affordable housing programs. It would also leverage federal dollars for construction of new housing.

PROP 2 Homeless Housing Bond YES

A quarter of the nation's homeless reside in California--over 130,000 people. A significant percentage of our homeless population suffers from mental illness. Prop 2 allows the use of unspent money, originally allocated through a 2004 measure to fund mental health services, to be used to address the problem. If passed, the unspent money would be used to provide permanent supportive housing for people who need mental health services, and are either currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

PROP 3 Water Bond NO

It is essential that California manage and develop water resources in ways that benefit the environment, and that the environmental focus emphasizes both conservation and use-appropriate high water quality standards. However, this bond is not the way to accomplish those goals. While the League of Women Voters of California supports the use of long-term debt (bond measures) to finance capital projects, this measure has a number of fatal flaws, including:

- Shifting the cost for water from the end users to California taxpayers;
- Reducing state money available for other critical state programs like education, affordable housing, and healthcare;
- Failing to provide for adequate project oversight and financial accountability.

PROP 4 Children's Hospital Bond NO

While the League of Women Voters of California supports quality healthcare for all Californians, Prop 4 would use \$1.5 billion in public, general obligation bond money to support privately-owned children's hospitals, along with five children's hospitals in the University of California system. State funds should not be used to support private facilities. This principle stands even when, as is the case in this measure, the facilities serve severely ill children. The bond money would be used for construction, expansion, renovation, and equipment projects. These are capital improvements that could be funded either through revenues the private hospitals generate or through capital campaigns (where, for example, a building is named after a donor).

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PROP 5 Property Tax NO

Property taxes are the major source of funding for schools and local services. Prop 5 is a costly constitutional amendment that would reduce funds for schools and local services by \$1 billion per year. In exchange for that \$1 billion a year, Prop 5 would provide special tax benefits to some property owners. It does nothing to help low-income seniors, or families struggling to find housing. Seniors already have the ability to keep their tax break when they downsize. Prop 5 drains California's coffers of money that is essential to schools and communities.

PROP 6 Gas Tax Repeal NO

California is in critical need of highway and local street repairs and maintenance, and improvements to mass transit and transportation. Prop 6 would repeal the recently-enacted 2017 package of taxes and fees approved by the State Legislature to fund transportation projects, amounting to a loss of \$4.7 billion in annual funding. The measure would also add a constitutional amendment requiring any fuel or diesel taxes to be approved by voters, limiting the legislature's ability to address California's serious infrastructure needs. Passage of this repeal measure would have significant negative impacts and leave our state structures vulnerable, especially during natural disasters.

PROP 10 Repeal Costa Hawkins YES

Multiple strategies are needed to address the significant housing shortages and inequities that exist across California. While this rent control measure offers little systemic progress, and may not result in adding new affordable housing units, it does allow local communities to respond to the housing crisis in ways that are appropriate for each of them. We support providing local communities with this control. Vote YES on Prop 10.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in the following measures, the LWVC is taking no stand on Prop 7 (Daylight Savings Time), Prop 8 (Dialysis), Prop 11 (Ambulance Drivers), and Prop 12 (Farm Animals). Prop 9 was removed from the ballot.

LWVC • 921 11th Street, Suite 700 • Sacramento, CA 95814 916-442-7215/916-442-7362 Fax/888-870-VOTE Toll-free • lwvc@lwvc.org • www.lwvc.org

Criminal Justice Reform Position

In a July 10, 2018 *Sacramento Bee* news article, California police killed 172 civilians and two law enforcement officers died from gunshot wounds. All lives do matter.

Recently, the LWVC supported AB 931 and SB 10 legislation which would have changed the "use of force" standard from "reasonable" to "necessary" and respectively provided equity in access to bail freedom. Neither bill was successful in accomplishing its mission as a matter of law. The systemic nature of criminalization and social ills contributing to inequities in the criminal justice system should not go unnoticed, until it affects us personally.

At this time, the LWVSC does not have a position on Criminal Justice Reform and neither does the LWVC. However, there is a grassroots group that is in the process of developing a position on Criminal Justice Reform for LWVC. LWVSC members having an interest in developing a position for our group and/or being involved in the formation of the Statewide League group should contact our local Criminal Justice Reform League liaison Norma Nelson at (916) 955-2896. By N. Nelson

2018 HOMELESS DEATHS REPORT
124 Homeless People Died in 2017
A 75% Increase over 2016

Submitted by A. Ginosar

**League of Women Voters of Sacramento County
 23rd Anniversary Suffragists' Club Reception: 1995-2018**

This year's Suffragists' Club Reception is dedicated to Elizabeth Byerly

Please support our local League by joining the Suffragists Club along with your membership renewal next month. Your donation of \$100 or more will support current expenses to keep League active and visible in Sacramento County all year long. Members will be honored at the annual Suffragists' Club reception, hosted by Trisha Uhrhammer and Suzanne Phinney. Members will enjoy gourmet appetizers along with wine and non-alcoholic beverages in a garden setting. Members will also be listed in various publications throughout the year.

In addition, the **2018 Anne Rudin Scholarship** recipient will be recognized at the reception, in our LWVSC's efforts to encourage future leadership in local government. Please join the Suffragists Club and attend **The Suffragists' Club Annual Reception.**

Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 5:00-7:00 pm. Trisha Uhrhammer's home, 875 52nd St., Sacramento, CA 95819. RSVP to slphinney04@gmail.com or 916-359-0899

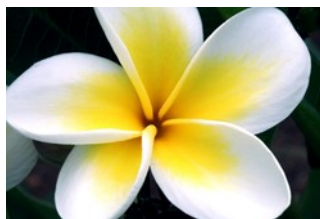


Back row: Theresa Riviera, Laura Ostenberg, Felipe Riviera-Jurado. Front row: Fredah Joses, International Fellow, State League Office ,and Claudia Bonsignore, assisted with the Elk Grove Mayoral candidate forum 8/18/18. Photo sent by C. Bonsignore

Voter Registration Activities

The League of Women Voters, California is working on a High School Student Registration project between now and the November election. They are working with the LWVSC and other groups in the County to register students. Contact Fredah Joses at fjoses@lwvc.org if you want to help. Some activities will be at school lunch periods for an hour or so.

Our League has also been asked to help with registering students at ARC Campuses. Gloria Powell is tabling Monday and Wednesday mornings at ARC main campus. The Natomas Campus would like tabling Wednesday and Thursday afternoons until about 5:30. Contact Claudia Bonsignore claudiabon16@gmail.com if you have a few hours to help between now and the November election. By C. Bonsignore



In Memory

Virginia Grether Moose 8/9/1926-9/16/2018

Born in Berkeley, Virginia attended Berkeley high school and UCB graduating with a degree in economics. She moved to Sacramento with her husband in 1957. Virginia was active in many community activities including a tutoring program, the Environmental Council of Sacramento and an active member of the LWVSC. She spent 12 years on the Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Commission and 26 years as a member of the County Democratic Central Committee and was elected to serve four terms with the American River Flood Control District and was a board member on the Sacramento Area Flood Control Authority, and a member of the City of Sacramento Compensation Commission. Adapted from *The Sacramento Bee* 9/23/18 page 6B. Virginia was often called upon by the LWVSC to clarify and educate the membership about water issues. Submitted by E. Heaser

Karolyn Webster Simon 1941-8/21/2018

Karolyn was born in Olean, NY, she graduated from the Univ. of Rochester with a nursing degree and later with a Bachelor of Science and Master's in biology from Southern Connecticut State College. In 1973 she and her husband moved to Sacramento. Karolyn was described as a “dynamo in local government ... and a pioneering leader in the environmental movement ...” She was very involved in more than 13 organizations that dealt with water, trees, parkways, planning, employment and training issues, and housing and redevelopment. She introduced the concept of urban limit lines, pushed for the conversion of the City landfill into the 172 acre Sutter Landing Regional Park and its trailhead the Two Rivers Bike Trail. She assisted numerous people to get elected to local offices and was an enthusiastic supporter of women including the elections of mayors Anne Rudin and Heather Fargo, and County Supervisors Illa Collin, Lynn Robie and Lyla Ferris. “... the women she befriended and mentored represent the very definition of public service without expectation of private gain.” Abstracted from *The Sacramento Bee* 9/23/2018,7B. Karolyn was a member of the LWVSC.

Submitted by E. Heaser

Adopt a Vote Center

In preparation for the upcoming General Election on **November 6**, the Office of Secretary of State Alex Padilla is launching a new effort to promote Vote Centers in Sacramento County. Your help is needed to spread the word about the new and easy ways to vote. Here is how the LWVSC can participate.

Reach out to members living in or near a common Vote Center or local community organizations to see if they would like to adopt a Vote Center. As an example, the Greater Sacramento Urban League created unique signage, promoted their Center on social media and organized a high school marching band to play on Election Day to further increase awareness of their location on the last day to vote.

Other ideas:

- Create and decorate directional signs and place them throughout the neighborhood directing voters to the Center.
- Promote your Vote Center on social media platforms that can include making social media graphics, videos, tweets providing Center location information.
- Make festive decorations to decorate your Center This could include balloons, table cloths, etc.
- Engage high school youth in adopting a Center and creating signage.

Contact Jonathan Tran, jtran@calendow.org California Endowment, for free feather flags stating ‘VOTE.’ Let Olivia Wardlaw, owardlaw@sos.ca or Roberto Rizo, Secretary of State’s Office 916/695/1640, know if you are adopting a Center. They will provide voting material for your event. Robert has material available in nine languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Hmong and Punjabi.

Things to remember:

- All registered voters in Sacramento County will receive their ballots in the mail beginning October 9th.
- After completing the ballot, remember to sign the pink return envelope: Put stamps on the return envelope and put it in the mail OR drop the envelope off at any official Ballot Drop off location, e.g. your local library or Voter Center or at the Sacramento County Voter Registrar’s office at: 7000 65th Street, Sacramento, CA.
- Drop off your ballot or vote early in person at a Vote Center during the four days or, at some locations 11 days before the election.

Coordinate with the Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Office by contacting Courtney Bailey (916) 875-5750.
Submitted by T. Rivera

Books By E. Heaser

Flint, MI Water Crisis

What the eyes don't see: A story of crisis, resistance, and hope in an American city, 2018 by Mona Hanna-Attisha, and *The poisoned city: Flint's water and the American urban tragedy*, 2018 by Anna Clark, reveal the situations around this crisis. Author Hanna-Attisha, pediatrician and activist, was the first to document the elevated lead blood levels in Flint's children. Dr. Hanna-Attisha points to Charles Kettering, head of research at General Motors (GM) from 1920-1947, as the "... driving force behind the world's embrace of leaded gasoline ...". "Despite known alternatives, Kettering promoted tetraethyl lead, knowing GM could patent the additive." *Science* 8/17/18, 361:6403, p.654. The author discusses the politics that helped bring about the contaminated water including budgetary shortcuts, hiring an outside "technocrat" instead of using elected officials to deal with water issues, changing Flint's source of drinking water from Lake Huron to the Flint River that had long been used for dumping industrial wastes, etc. Also exposed was "... a multilayered conspiracy of crony capitalism involving the lead industry, which she likens to big tobacco in greed and damage, and allies in government and business." *Kirkus Reviews*, 9/15/18, 86:10 pg.1.

Author A. Clark, freelance journalist and *Detroit Free Press* contributor, chronicles one town's, (Flint, MI, population 99,000, majority black) experience being subjected to poisoned water by reports of those who suffered contaminated water, those who caused it and those who exposed the problem. Flint is a city experiencing decades of neglect mirroring the city in "...debt, dysfunctional urban policy, disappearing investment, disintegrating infrastructure and a compromised democratic process ...". and lying about the problem. For eighteen months beginning in 2014 citizens complained of rashes, discolored, water, hair loss, and the death of 12 people. Lead pipes will not be replaced until 2020 leaving Flint to face on going lawsuits and the use of bottled water. *Kirkus Reviews*, 6/1/2018, 86:11 pg.1. Retrieved 9/4/18. Clark states: "Lead is one toxic legacy in America's cities. Another is segregation, secession, redlining and rebranding: this is the art and craft of exclusion. We built it into the bones of our cities as surely as we laid lead pipes." *Women's Review of Books*, Jul/Aug 2018, 35:4, pg. 29-30. Retrieved 9/4/18

Alex Padilla, California Secretary of State (SOS)

Alex Padilla, Secretary of State, former State Senator, addressed the Indivisible meeting on 9/18/18. He said the most often asked questions are: how to get people registered to vote and then to vote ... not questions about voter fraud. People who are not registered miss out on voter information and receiving sample ballots. Providing automatic registration and same day registration has improved the number registering. Getting people to the polls is the next hurdle. Padilla suggests organizing with friends, neighbors and associates to encourage and assist others to vote. Latino millennials are the largest unregistered group of potential voters. He stated that it is up to all of us not just the SOS to educate people about the importance of voting. He does think that people are more alert this year to the need to vote. In the counties where Vote Centers were piloted in June, allowing four weeks to vote and being able to drop ballots in any Center increased the turn-out by 37%. Other methods used to encourage voting: social media, events, "next door," adopt vote centers, information in multiple languages, high school level initiatives, e.g., the last two weeks of April and September students 18 and older are registered and 16-17 year olds are pre-registered ... community colleges, CSU, UC are included.

Padilla discussed how California resisted when secretaries of state were asked to provide voters' personal information, well beyond that requested for registration, after the Trump administration formed a commission to investigate supposed voter fraud. California was the first state to say no to the demands of the Commission. Other states followed suit and the Commission was disbanded. He described how voter security is tested: use paper ballots, must have a verified paper trail, cannot be connected to the Internet, must have a post-election audit and do a manual count on one percent of the votes. In the very close elections a larger percentage of the post-election ballots are subject to the manual count. California [AB2125](#) will provide for a Risk Limiting Audits Pilot program beginning March 2020 ending January 1, 2021. AB2125 will authorize the use of risk-limiting audits in lieu of the 1% manual tally.

Secretary Padilla is chair of the Secretaries of State group, in that capacity he and other progressive secretaries are attempting to bring voter reforms to many other states. By E. Heaser



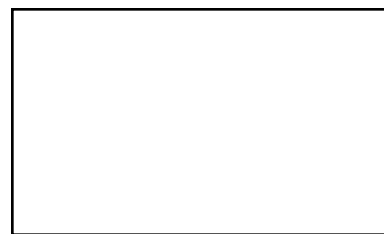
Mayor Anne Rudin Peace Pond celebration 9/22/18
William Land Park, Sacramento

Below, (l to R), former mayors

Heather Fargo & Anne Rudin

Photos by N. Compton





The League of Women Voters of
Sacramento County

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Return Service Requested
OCTOBER 2018
First Class Mail

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Literacy

Link to the Sacramento Community [Literacy Map](http://communityliteracymap.org/)— <http://communityliteracymap.org/>

[Literacy Report Card](#), Sacramento County, July 2018

“The goal of the Sacramento County Community Literacy Map and the resulting annual 'Report Card' is to identify where literacy resources are needed most in Sacramento County. This is a community-wide effort to help ALL children achieve grade-level reading and writing. The Report Card illustrates Sacramento County’s progress on key literacy indicators over time, and details the results of for the most recent school year.”

Literacy indicators include: Early childhood education (preschool), English language arts proficiency, and School attendance (truancy or otherwise absent). By California Library Foundation (E. Heaser)

Happy Halloween



Retrieved 9/12/18 Google Images