



The Sacramento Voter

NOVEMBER 2018

Vote November 6, 2018



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President's Message

Many members of our League have been very busy in October with Voter registration and education activities. We have been tabling at community events, Junior colleges, presenting the *Pros & Cons* of the ballot measures to many groups, managing/sponsoring candidate forums and working with the LWVC and local groups on high school registration projects. The goal of encouraging and educating voters for the upcoming election is our focus. The right to vote is a precious one that we have in our country. We hope with our efforts more will take part in the process and vote.

Participation measured by a percentage of registered voters was higher in the June 2018 primary compared with the 2014 June primary. This is a positive sign but there is still much room for improvement. Of the 25 million plus citizens eligible to register in California for the June 2018 primary more than 19 million were registered. Of those California registered approximately 37% voted in June. However in the 18-24 year old age group there was only an 8% turnout of all that were eligible to register. Looking ahead to the 2020 elections I believe we will need to plan for a stronger and more active program to reach the 18 to 30 year old age group with the importance of voting and their potential to effect change at the ballot box.

The continued success of our democracy requires citizens to be participants. Democracy is not a spectator sport.

By Claudia Bonsignore

Web sites to check for LWV news

LWVC.org
&
LWVUS.org

EVENTS

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

Tuesday, November 13, 2018. Unit meetings, pg. 3

Tuesday, November 13, 2018, 6:00 p.m. **Sacramento State Downtown site, 304 S Street**, Sacramento. Join an expert panel featuring political scientists from CSUS as we reflect on the results of the 2018 elections. What do the results mean for California and the nation? Be prepared for a lively discussion!

Friday, December 21, 2018, 7:00--8:00 p.m. Memorial for homeless individuals who died in 2018, held at Trinity Cathedral, 2620 Capitol (downtown)

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

Welcome New Members

Jim Bakker, Rachael Chandler

Frances M. Jones, Ramona Laderos

Marilyn Mann, Cadie Marotta

J. Samuels, Margie Smith

Lauren Wolkov

2018-2019

Board of Directors

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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

November 13
December 10
All members welcome

Our New Website

Our league has a new website. You may have learned this the hard way.

When we sent the renewal notices, we were unaware that the transition to our new website was incomplete. Our notice had a web link to the online registration renewal that did not work. In addition, if you managed to find your way to the online renewal site, it didn't work either!

Renewals were not our only problem. The email addresses associated with our board members, our programs and general information requests were offline. What unfortunate timing!

All these problems have been addressed.

- Homepage address is: my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county;
- Join/Renew page is: my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county/join-or-renew;
- Contact Us page is: my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county/contact-us.

Our site needs more content. We will be working on our event calendar and posting information on our ongoing activities. Stay tuned!

By S. Bakker

It's Time to Renew Your Membership in the League

If you haven't done so already, please renew your membership today. Memberships run from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019.

Between August 4 and September 22, we mailed out 110 renewal notices to our current members. Eleven of those were addressed to two-member households. These totals do not include our fifteen 50-year members or members who joined the League on or after February 1, 2018.

We have welcomed 28 new members since the beginning of the 2018. These include two students, two second members of a household, one household, and one relocated 50-year life member.

So far, 51 members have renewed their memberships, including seven households (two members), and one student. We're only halfway there!

We now have 79 members current through September 1, 2019, including our sixteen 50-year members.

By S. Bakker

Homelessness

Sacramento is criminalizing people experiencing homelessness. We have 11 municipal codes criminalizing daily activities associated with not having a home, See Moratorium top of page 6. Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness. www.srceh.org

A message from Noel Kammermann, Executive Director, Loaves and Fishes: It is often difficult to keep track of the wonderful things that happen, even on a normal day. Loaves & Fishes and our co-founder Chris Delany regularly describes this place as a miracle ... Still, there are some days that are tough, and other days that are tragic. A guest named Michelle passed away just steps from our campus not long ago ... I also reflect on the roughly one thousand men, women, and children who we help each and every day, some of whom are able to move on and find housing in the community. By A. Ginosar

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Unit Meetings—September 2018

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Suburban	Tuesday November 13, 2018, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner 944-1042 Helen Shryock 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday, November 13, 2018, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 916-422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831

Is Democracy in Trouble?

“The strongman’s ascent in our time reflects the weakness of his biggest nemesis: democracy. His politics of “resentment and retrenchment” and his redefinition of the nation as bound by faith, race, and ethnicity rather than rights appeal to those who are skeptical of liberal democratic visions of collective governance and security, humanitarianism, and international cooperation.” **Ruth Ben-Ghiat**: Professor of History and Italian Studies at New York University
Author of the forthcoming book “*Strongmen: How They Rise, Why They Succeed, How They Fall.*”

Food for thought!

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/13/books/review/steven-levitsky-daniel-ziblatt-how-democracies-die.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/27/opinion/sunday/democracy-polarization.html?action=click&module=RelatedCoverage&pgtype=Article®ion=Footer>

<https://www.npr.org/2018/01/22/579670528/how-democracies-die-authors-say-trump-is-a-symptom-of-deeper-problems>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/10/trump-democracy-election-2016/504617/>
<https://www.sas.upenn.edu/andrea-mitchell-center/democracy-trouble-opening-conference-papers>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/democracy-post/wp/2017/11/30/no-trump-is-not-a-madman-because-he-knows-exactly-what-hes-doing/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.3f093e50702d

By B. Lynch

Suffragists Club Annual Reception

October 17, 2018

L-R: T. Uhrhammer, A. Rudin, S. Phinney



Photo by N. Compton



Kathleen Soriano, 10/17/2018, Anne Rudin Scholarship recipient
 "... thank you for this wonderful opportunity to receive the scholarship. I am thrilled to be the recipient." K. Soriano
 Photo by N. Compton

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)

Kathleen Soriano This Year's Anne Rudin Scholarship Winner

In 1996, the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County established the Anne Rudin Scholarship Fund to commemorate the accomplishments of former Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin and to enable other women to pursue higher education in the fields of public administration or public policy. This year's recipient is Kathleen Soriano, who is currently studying for her Master's Degree in Public Policy at the University of Southern California (USC) Sacramento. Kathleen earned her B.A. in International Relations from U.C. Davis in 2014, after which she was hired by the California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce as a Policy Coordinator.

Currently she works at the USC's Office of State Government Relations where she conducts legislative work on higher education and health policy. In addition, she serves as the Board Secretary for the Asian Pacific American Public Affairs Association, Greater Sacramento Chapter, where she provides administrative support to the Board through the planning and implementation of the organization's activities.

In her application essay, Kathleen commented that in the early stages of her professional career, she was easily intimidated, as she found herself surrounded by those who she believed were major power players. This caused her to refrain from speaking up at meetings, believing she was too inexperienced to provide feedback and suggestions during policy discussions. She was not only the youngest person in the room, but often the only female.

However, as she grew into her job roles, she began to understand that she had earned a seat at the table. She now understands that she was included in these discussions because her contributions were not only sought, but welcome. Today she believes that she is uniquely positioned to provide different perspectives that will enhance policy discussions in order to positively impact the community she serves.

Both letters of recommendation submitted by Kathleen were highly supportive and enthusiastic about her academic record, as well as her commitment to public service and civic engagement. One letter from a professor stated, "Kathleen is easily in the top 2% of all graduate students I have ever taught or mentored at USC and in 24 years as a faculty member at UCLA." Kathleen's ultimate goal is to serve as Chief of Staff to an elected official so that she may become engaged in policy issues related to Higher Education in California.

A thousand dollars and our best wishes go with her as she continues to pursue her education and career goals, and as she takes her place as a well-educated, competent public servant. By Nancy Compton



In Memory

Elizabeth Carlyle Byerly

7/1/1933—9/20/2018

Elizabeth was born in Winston-Salem, NC. She graduated from Goucher College and later earned a Masters Degree in English literature from Columbia University. She worked as a teacher, writer and editor. *Sacramento Bee* 9/26/18 B8. Elizabeth lived in Sacramento with her family for a number of years. She was active in the LWVSC and for years was responsible for distributing voter affidavits to post offices and keeping a team of members engaged in that process as she was passionate about making sure citizens could vote. I assumed the responsibility when Elizabeth decided to move to her home state of NC. She was a good trainer and role-model for League members. E. Heaser

League member Carol Moon Goldberg states: “Elizabeth is fondly remembered. She was the epitome of a dedicated, educated and gracious woman. She inspired me and many others in the League of Women Voters in Sacramento.”

From Trisha Uhrhammer: “What a marvelous spirit, role-model, leader and mentor Elizabeth was to me and so many others in the League of Women Voters of Sacramento. She inspired me to hold high standards, to learn to lead and to enjoy life's small pleasures. She will be greatly missed.”

By E. Heaser

Global Warming Special Report

[Global Warming of 1.5 °C](#): an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.

Governments around the world must make "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society" to avoid disastrous levels of global warming, says this stark new report from the global scientific authority on climate change.

The report issued on October 8, 2018 by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), says the planet will reach the crucial threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels by as early as 2030, precipitating the risk of extreme drought, wildfires, floods and food shortages for hundreds of millions of people.

The date, which falls well within the lifetime of many people alive today, is based on current levels of greenhouse gas emissions. The planet is already two-thirds of the way there, with global temperatures having warmed about one degree C. Avoiding going even higher will require significant action in the next few years. Retrieved 10/12/18

E. Heaser

East Sacramento Improvement Association (ESIA)

ESIA convened on 10/24/18 where Jeff Harris, City Council, District 3, updated attendees about the state of the District. Although homelessness continues Harris reported that 600 people have cycled through the shelter on North Sacramento Rail Road Drive. The triage model is working even though many of the homeless are resistant at first making the process time consuming. The anti-camping ordinance is unconditional, so shelters must be located. Harris is looking at the vacant Lumber Jack warehouse and Cal Expo as possible shelters. Eighteen percent of the homeless are not indigenous to the area.

Construction of several low-income housing (subsidized) developments will begin soon: 1717 S. St., 700 K St., the Twin Rivers Development has 308 low income homes.

The [EIR for the McKinley Park](#) water vault was adopted by the City Council, construction to begin in 2019. Harris described the plans for Folsom Blvd near Elvas Avenue and 65th Street that will include more apartment buildings and a re-working of the transit bus hub on 65th.

Cont. on page 6

Continued from page 2. Homelessness

MORATORIUM:

SRCEH calls for an immediate moratorium on the enforcement of the Sacramento City anti-camping ordinances until there is full implementation of the Sacramento Mayor's Downtown Housing Initiative – creating 1,500 units of affordable housing for people experiencing homelessness.

10 Reasons to Support the Moratorium:

Ordinance runs counter to federal policy: Cruel & Unusual Punishment & Loss of Federal funding:

1. US Department of Justice [DOJ] filed a statement of interest on 8/5/2015 opposing the Boise ID anti-camping ordinance stating that if homeless people "had nowhere else to go" it violated the 8th Amendment as "cruel and unusual punishment;"
2. Housing & Urban Development [HUD] [August 2015] stated that within a year communities that criminalize homeless people may find it harder to obtain funding [Ann Olivia- Director of SNAPS]
3. United States Interagency Council on Homelessness [USICH]: opposes the forced dispersal of encampments as "...not an appropriate solution..."

Sacramento City has 11 anti-homeless ordinances & codes:

4. 5 restricting "standing, sitting or resting"
5. 3 restricting "sleeping and camping"
6. 3 restricting panhandling

Unequal enforcement of Anti-Camping Ordinance; Expensive & Negative Consequences:

7. Between 2004 – 2014 – 69% of the Sacramento Police Departments crime reports on homeless "offenses [831 out of 1,201 reports] were on the anti-camping ordinance [MC 12.52.030] - Homeless people are cited for activities that go on in suburban parks every weekend where people there have no fear of citation.
8. Between 2012 – 2014 the Sacramento Park Rangers issues 2,700 illegal camping citations; 2014: 617 citations issued, 249 camps cleaned, 455 Ranger hours and 2 Department of Human Assistance [DHA] referrals made; from January – June 2015 they have issued 539 citations, 433 camps cleaned, 314 Ranger hours and 0 DHA referrals. Thus, from 1/1/2014-6/30/2015- the Rangers have issued 1,156 citations, 682 camps cleaned, 769 Ranger hours and 2 DHA referrals. The fine for not paying the citation is \$230. If the person can't pay the fine then the citation goes to warrant – creates a barrier for homeless people to obtain identification; employment & housing.

Lack of shelter capacity & lack of affordable housing:

10. The 2015 homeless count documented 2,650 homeless people at any given time in Sacramento County – 36% of whom are outside due to the lack of capacity of the emergency shelter system and lack of affordable housing.

Cont. from page 5 ESIA

Mayor Darrell Steinberg and Craig Powell, President, Eye on Sacramento, debated the pros and cons of Measure U. The original Measure U passed in 2012 increased the City sales tax by ½ cent, it will expire on 3/31/2019. Steinberg and the City Council, except for J. Harris, placed a one cent tax on the Sacramento City Measure U, resulting in a city sales tax of 8.75 cents.

Mayor Steinberg stated that the one cent increase will continue to expand and improve: public safety, emergency services, fire protection, address homeless problems with more housing and supportive services, increase the supply of affordable housing for the young, seniors and middle class families, promote job growth by revitalizing neighborhoods, business corridors and attract new business, expand youth programs with job training and internships, and more.

Craig Powell stated that there is a lack of trust in how the City government will spend the money. The City income increased 16% and there is enough money to do what the Council is planning without added sales tax. Powell has produced a [Blueprint](#) that outlines how the City can budget so added money is not needed. He asserted that small businesses will be hurt, low income people cannot afford the regressive tax ... by doubling the sales tax individuals will pay \$200 more annually (\$800 for a family of four). He thinks the Measure is a way of garnering money for the \$62,000,000 looming pension hike. Powell stated that Councilman J. Schenirer, District 5, will propose a Plan B that would continue the ½ cent tax if Measure U fails. Powell favors Plan B. www.eyonsacramento.org

By E. Heaser

Arts and the Public Good

The 29th Annual Envisioning California Conference held 10/4/18 in Sacramento, organized four panels in order to discuss various aspects of the arts in both K-12 and the Justice System. Arts range from dance performances, busking, theatre, art works, culinary arts, photography, graffiti, folk art and more. It is surmised that one in ten California jobs are linked to the “creative economy,” viz., entertainment industries, graphic design, architecture, etc. Psychological benefits such as emotional well-being and mental health are a byproduct of the arts. Eighty percent of students attending college had no arts in their schools, 14% had at least three years and those students were from higher income families. The arts were cut from school budgets in the late 1980s and 90s. Professor M. Goldberg, CSU San Marcos, distributed 15 cards each stating a compelling reason for **Why Art?** Reasons included: stimulates development of the young brain, results in consistently higher reading and math test scores, improves deep critical thinking skills, increases motivation and attendance. Panel moderator J. Ferreira-Pro, The Shop@VSP, emphasized the importance of diversity in problem solving. He stated that creative thinking improves if people in the arts are paired with engineers, business people and other disciplines to solve problems. He does this at The Shop@VSP. Professor M. W. Ramey, Assoc. Dean, College of Arts & Letters, CSUS, stressed the importance of **skill sets** rather than sheer knowledge. Employers and college advisors need to be aware of the role that creativity plays in problem solving when considering hiring employees or advising students in a career path. Prof Ramey stated: “Academe may be able to shift the culture and emphasize options that the arts can allow [foster].” Federal and State laws mandate that students have access to arts classes, mechanisms are needed to make sure districts comply. According to the [Cultural Economy Index](#) (which contains six benchmarks), Sacramento scores lower than other cities in the study. Needed are arts consortiums to work together with schools and a clearer understanding of the need to integrate the arts into schools and employment.

By E. Heaser

The Fifth Risk, 2018, by author and financial journalist Michael Lewis, “...wonders who is really running the government.” The author’s latest book is an investigation of three federal government agencies: The Departments of Energy, Agriculture, and Commerce. He chose these departments because “... they are enormous data collection and analysis factories.” These departments now under threat perform essential functions: protecting nuclear waste (Energy), food safety and feeding the poor (Agriculture) and predicting the weather (Commerce). Lewis thinks that the President either doesn’t care about these agencies or doesn’t understand them or does not like what he imagines he does understand and therefore is “... intent on crippling their work.” Lewis is “... horrified by the practical effects of the president’s ignorance.” The book according to reviewer Joe Klein, “raises the most important question of the moment: Have we grown too lazy and silly and poorly educated to sustain a working democracy?” “The federal government exists at a level of complexity most people just can’t be bothered to understand.” Lewis has great praise for the federal bureaucrats many of whom give up larger pay checks to work for these agencies, e.g. Ernest Moniz, Energy Secretary, under President B. Obama.

Abstracted from *The New York Times, Books*. Joe Klein. 10/08/2018. By E Heaser. Retrieved 10/09/18

Author and Professor of African-American Studies, Emory University, Carol Anderson has a new book, *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy*. Her book provides evidence of the Republican Party’s on going efforts to “... strip eligible voters of their rights to cast ballots.” The author provides a review of voter suppression throughout U.S. history and then focuses on the period after 2013 to the present when Congress and Republicans in a majority of the states began using methods to reduce the number of black voters including: requiring the need for a government-issued ID with up-to-date photograph at the polling place; purging eligible voters from voting lists, and gerrymandering including race and political biases. *Kirkus Reviews* 9/11/18. Retrieved 10/09/18.

Reviewer C. Haggas states “ This is a whiplash inducing chronicle of how a nation that just a few short years ago elected its first black president now finds itself in the throes of a deceitful and craven effort to rip this most essential of American rights from millions of its citizens.” *Booklist*, 8/1/18, Retrieved 10/12/18. By E. Heaser



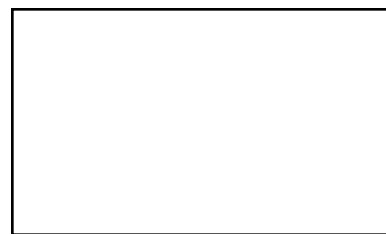
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Our Work: Issues for Emphasis

Adopted at the June 7, 2018 Annual Meeting for 2018-2019
High Priority Issue – Making Democracy Work®
Homeless and Affordable House Housing
Local Immigration Issues



Happy Thanksgiving



Google Images 10/13/18