



The Sacramento Voter

December 2018



President's Message

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I want to thank all of our members who contributed to all of the activities to promote and encourage voting and voter education that took place leading up to the November election. The final election results for California will not be completed until December 6, 2018. We are so fortunate our State leaders acknowledge the complexity of tabulating the election results and give our County Registrars of Voters 30 days to finalize the results. This reflects their commitment to wanting all votes to count. As we have seen recently, other states in our country are not willing to provide adequate time to fully count votes or offer time for ballots to arrive. California permits ballots postmarked by the day of the election an additional three days to arrive at the Registrar's Office.

On November 13, the Sacramento County Registrar's Office gave the following status report. Ballots counted so far were at 316,115, with 94,508 ballots still left to count, for a total of 410,623. Of the 764,998 registered voters in our county, it means 54% voted. I researched the November 2014 mid-term final results and 48% voted then. A 4% increase for 2018 over 2014 at first glance does not seem like much of an improvement. However the number of registered voters increased by 12% in 2018 compared to 2014. In 2014 there were 683,632 registered voters vs 764,998 in 2018. The number of actual voters in 2014 was 330,817 and in 2018 it is 410,623. The increase in actual voters for 2018 is 79,706 over 2014. This is a 24% increase in the number of voters. It is great to see this increase. With a presidential election in 2020, we need to begin to prepare in 2019.

We have seen an increase in League membership with many wanting to be active in some capacity. The Board will be updating you on ways this can be done in future *Voters*. Our League worked with the State League and Pro Youth and Families, along with support from the National Council of Jewish Women to pre-register and register 4000 high school students in Sacramento County. The Board and I also want to increase our members' opportunities to meet and engage with one another this year. Our first full membership meeting was on November 8.

By Claudia Bonsignore

Web sites to check for LWV news

LWVC.org
&
LWVUS.org

EVENTS

Tuesday, December 11, 2018. Unit meetings, pg. 3

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

Saturday, January 19, 2019. Third Annual Women's March. Time/location details in the January *Voter*

Thursday, January 24, 2019, 5:30 p.m.—Espanol Restaurant, 58th & Folsom Blvd. Dr. Duane Campbell, Professor Emeritus, CSUS. Topic: Central American refugees are not invading us—we invaded them. An Italian dinner will be served family style. Details in the January *Voter*.

Wednesday-Thursday, January 30-31, 2019. [Point in Time Count](#) of homeless individuals. Open link for Information.

Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Program Planning. Mahnaz Khozari's home, 4541 American River Dr., Sacramento

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

2018-2019

Board of Directors

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of Sacramento County**
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my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county
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www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento

Vote Center Observation

This November we had some of our members participating as observers at Vote Centers (Center) in Sacramento County. The Sacramento County Registrar of Voters offered our League this opportunity to have Center observers. Theresa Riviera, 2nd Vice President, was an observer at a downtown Center, a very busy place with voters in line waiting to cast ballots. Vicki Singleton was at the Antelope Library Center for five hours, 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. She said the line was continuous the entire time she was there. Marge and Phil Hall were observers at the Sacramento State University Center. The college provided shuttle rides to the building and the place was busy. Marge said a few of the professors became emotional when they saw the huge turnout this year of students voting. A number of students wanted their pictures taken outside the Center with their "I voted" stickers. Roika Loring, Susan Johnson and I were observers as well. I know we all saw a steady stream of voters. In my hour and a half, I observed at least six voters completing conditional ballots. The Voters Choice Act counties, that included Sacramento, could offer the Conditional Ballots at Centers. Many others dropped off their pink ballot envelopes. The staff told me I had missed the early morning crush of voters. In 2020 we will have the opportunity to be Vote Center observers again. Look for an email about 45 days prior to the primary and fall elections asking for observer volunteers. We need your names for the Registrar who in turn will provide a letter of introduction which is required for each volunteer to be allowed to observe. The Registrar's Office is looking for paid staff as well, if anyone wants to be paid for a long but rewarding day.

By Claudia Bonsignore

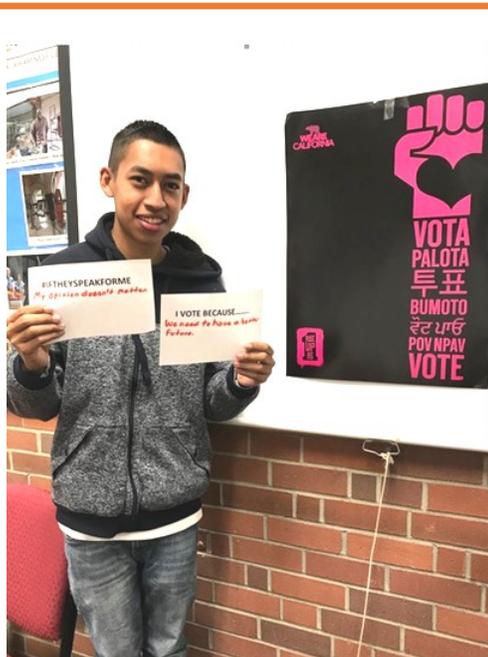
Locating Election information
www.Elections.SacCounty.net or
916-875-6451

Board Meeting Dates

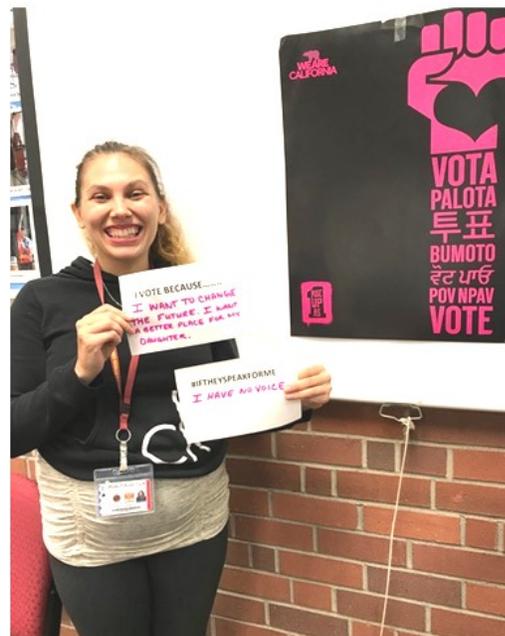
December 10, 2018

January 14, 2019
February 11
March 11
April 8
May 20

All members welcome



Pictures from the Sacramento City College voting presentation, sent by R. Rios Kravitz, 10/19/2018



Unit Meetings—December 2018

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Suburban	Tuesday December 11, 2018, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner 944-1042 Helen Shryock 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 916-422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831

December Unit Meeting

With a new governor what will become of the Twin Tunnels Project? Now, the federal government wants to weigh in? What do you think? Should LWV have a stance?

Here are some websites with relevant information. These references do not capture the debate fully so please do some additional research to arrive at a position on the tunnel project also referred to as - California Water Fix.

www.californiawaterfix.com

<https://www.nrdc.org/court-battles/waterfix>

<https://www.restorethedelta.org/>

<https://www.californiawaterfix.com/resources/draft-supplemental-environmental-impact-report-environmental-impact-statement-eir-eis/>

<https://stopthetunnels.org/endorsements/>

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-wesselman-wright-delta-tunnels-in-washington-hands-20180907-story.html>

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/articles/2018/03/09/california-fish-experts-delta-tunnels-could-help-save-native-species>

<https://mavensnotebook.com/2015/08/26/legislative-hearing-are-the-delta-tunnels-good-for-california-part-2-of-2/>

<http://pacinst.org/the-sacramento-bee-why-im-still-confused-about-the-proposed-tunnels-in-the-delta/>

By. B. Lynch

Interested in Serving on a Board/Commission?

With the recent passage of Measure U on the November ballot, the City will be forming a commission to advise the Council on the expenditure of Measure U funds. If you are interested in serving your community on this, or any other board or commission with the City of Sacramento, please visit the [Board and Commissions](#) website.

There you will find information about the Measure U Community Advisory Committee.

November 2018 *Newsletter*, Jeff Harris, District 3

[*National Climate Assessment*](#), 2018 report *The National Climate Assessment* summarizes the impacts of climate change on the United States, now and in the future. A team of more than 300 experts guided by a 60-member Federal Advisory committee produced the report, which was extensively reviewed by the public and experts, including federal agencies and a panel of the National Academy of Sciences.

Retrieved 11/16/18, E. Heaser

Water Priorities for California's Next Governor

The Public Policy Institute of California's Water Policy Center has goals to spur innovative water management solutions. It convened a forum on November 13 in Sacramento to consider the question: will incoming Governor Gavin Newsom continue the environmental policies of Governor Brown? The great challenges for water in California are warmer temperatures, reduced snow packs, rising seas, and "drier dries and wetter wets." Solutions must include innovating and collaborating, protecting rural drinking water, eco-systems and forests, planning for droughts, modernizing the water grid, and restoring ground water and improving storage.

Panel 1: Water and a Strong Economy

The economy in California has improved, still there is a crisis in affordable housing; 100,000 housing units are needed. The building industry suggests some changes in the regulations. In Kern County they have found that land use must be part of all discussions about water, e.g., in farming areas brackish water can be managed to take off the chemicals to make fertilizers and then to reuse the cleaned water. "[Emerald Cities](#)" national collaborative has projects where communities can conserve water and create jobs and improve racial equity,

Panel 2: Innovating to tackle tough challenges

Yes, the economy is better in California, but challenges are problematic: the cost of living is high, taxes are high, there is a lack of affordable housing and storms are unpredictable. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers has been massively collecting data to try to make predictions of when and where storms may come. They find it is very hard to predict where a storm may occur. Along with the Scripps Institute, they have been very successful in predicting "NON-EVENTS," thus enabling a community to concentrate on storing water.

Panel 3: Upgrading the Water Grid

Too many water agencies in California make it hard to collect data and to collaborate. A model collaboration plan in Yuba Water Agency was presented that was well integrated and had good leadership. But it is very small. Conveyance, getting water to where it is needed, must be flexible to respond to uncertainty.

Summary

The most important problem facing California is lack of water, especially as climate change increases. All the water agencies presenting at this forum emphasize that **COLLABORATION** is key. That hurdle is a difficult political one, as combining local water agencies is a major BARRIER to collaboration. Click on linked title for more information.

By A. Ginosar

Welcome New Members

Rebekah Fontaine-Sipp
Joseph Francke
Ramona Laderos
Mary Mussell
Lindsay Nevis
Gloria Powell
Jeanne Rimpo
Tim Rimpo
Roy Sipp
Evan Smestad
Margaret Smith

League Transformation for the Next Hundred Years

Helen Hutchison, president of the California League of Women Voters, joined us on November 8, 2018 for a general meeting to announce the League of Women Voters Transformation Journey for the next hundred years.

This transformation journey, a road map to the future, is the result of the national board and state leaders engaging in deep discussion about how the League can remain strong, viable, and relevant as we move into our second century. Together they developed recommended action steps moving forward. These steps are summarized under the following categories:

1. Advancing a Clear Strategic Focus:

The League struggles to successfully tell its story. The organization lacks the proper story collection channels to demonstrate relevance and impact. As part of its process, the national board adopted the following mission, vision, and value statements:

Mission Statement: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Vision Statement: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

Value Statement: We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

2. Building a More Inclusive Culture

The League has failed to adapt to current trends in volunteerism and embrace diverse populations. We need to create a culture that is welcoming, inclusive, trusting, and attuned to the needs of today's volunteers so that we grow our organization and have a greater impact.

3. Building a Healthier League Network

Building a healthy League network requires all levels to focus on the mission and vision, aligned with programmatic priorities, and operate with impact and efficacy. A key opportunity to support this vision is to make it simpler and easier to join the League as a dues-paying member.

4. Increasing Capacity at All Levels

This will require additional staff resources to support technology, communications, and fund development. All of this will require creative thinking, focus, and brainstorming at the local level. Our ability to educate and empower voters and defend democracy is dependent on a strong, healthy, and vibrant League network, and must be the rallying call for all of us.

By. N. Compton

Suffrage and Beyond

On 19 September 1893 the governor, Lord Glasgow, signed a new Electoral Act into law. As a result of this landmark legislation, New Zealand became the first self-governing country in the world in which women had the right to vote in parliamentary elections.

In most other democracies – including Britain and the United States – women did not win the right to the vote until after the First World War. New Zealand's world leadership in women's suffrage became a central part of our image as a trail-blazing 'social laboratory'. That achievement was the result of years of effort by suffrage campaigners, led by Kate Sheppard. In 1891, 1892 and 1893 they compiled a series of massive petitions calling on Parliament to grant the vote to women. In recent years Sheppard's contribution to New Zealand's history has been acknowledged on the \$10 note.

Today, the idea that women could not or should not vote is completely foreign to New Zealanders. Following the 2017 election, 38% of our Members of Parliament were female, compared with 9% in 1981. In the early 21st century women have held each of the country's key constitutional positions: prime minister, governor-general, speaker of the House of Representatives, attorney-general and chief justice.

From ['New Zealand women and the vote'](#), (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 24-Sep-2018.

Retrieved 11/7/18 E. Heaser



Schools and Communities First will benefit our schools, community services, and ultimately our future.



Schools and Communities First Initiative Qualifies for 2020 Ballot

Helen Hutchison, President of the League of Women Voters of California, announced at our November 8 meeting that the League-backed *Schools and Communities First* initiative has obtained enough signatures to qualify for the 2020 ballot.

The background on this issue goes back to 1978 when California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 13, thus creating an amendment to the state constitution limiting taxation of property. The result of this proposition was the decrease in property taxes by assessing property values at their 1976 value, thus restricting annual increases of assessed property value to an inflation factor, not to exceed 2%.

This new property value assessment remains in place, as long as homeowner remains in the same home. If a homeowner purchases another home, the new home is assessed at market value.

Owners of commercial real estate, however, have benefited over the past forty years by paying property taxes at the 1976 level, as businesses do not move nearly as often as homeowners. This, then, has led to an unequal system of taxation and the ultimate loss of billions of dollars annually to our schools and communities. The *Schools and Communities First* initiative seeks to remedy this.

If this initiative passes, here is what it will do:

Restore over \$11 billion a year for services that all Californians rely on, like schools and community colleges. \$4.5 billion will support K-12 education and community colleges. The remainder will be shared by counties, cities, and special districts to support community services, including health clinics, trauma care and emergency rooms, parks, libraries, and public safety.

Reform commercial property taxes, while guaranteeing existing protections for residential property and agricultural land.

Close the millionaire, billionaire, and big corporation tax loophole by requiring all commercial and industrial properties to be assessed at fair market value, putting California on par with how the vast majority of the country assesses these properties. California's commercial property taxes will still be among the lowest in the country.

Mandate full transparency and accountability for all revenue restored to California from closing the commercial property tax loophole.

Benefit small businesses in three ways: it exempts owner operated small businesses from reassessment until they are sold; levels the playing field so small businesses can compete more fairly with big corporations; and reduces their taxes by eliminating the property tax on fixtures and equipment for small businesses.

Places California on par with how the vast majority of states treat commercial property by assessing them at fair market value.

Cont. page 7.

Cont. Schools from page 6

In addition to endorsement from the League of Women Voters, *Schools and Communities First* has secured over 300 endorsements, including the California State Parent Teachers Association, California Association of Nonprofits, California Association of Retired Americans, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and countless others.

The League of Women Voters will be leading the charge on explaining this important ballot measure to voters throughout California. The League will emphasize that Californians deserve world class schools and universities; quality healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and affordable homes. This is what our taxes should pay for. It's past time to close this loophole and stop letting big business rob our schools and local communities. This is a responsible, fair, and long-overdue reform to our system of property taxation.

By N. Compton

Women & Power

Two books recently published deal with the power that women have in the political arena. *Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger*, Rebecca Traister, reporter, and author, and media critic Soraya Chemaly's, *Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women's Anger*. Author Traister's book describes the history of women's slow rise to political power and how anger by men is dealt with differently than from women, e.g., the suffragette's marches, outrage after Clarence Thomas was confirmed and the present reaction to President Trump and the Kavanaugh confirmation. She discusses delegitimizing and caricaturing of female anger and society's and the media's condemnation of female rage and its impacts. The double standard perpetuated against women by all sexes has a "stultifying" effect. Abstracted from *Goodreads* retrieved 11/8/2018. During an interview with [Trever Noah](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAQG-8XY6N4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAQG-8XY6N4>, 11/7/18, Traister emphasized the ongoing and effective impact that black women, e.g., Black Lives Matter, have had in effecting politics. She was insistent that white women need to embrace black women and support them more and be careful not to appropriate their large contribution to politics that recognizes women.

Author Chemaly stresses all the disparities that should make women angry: harassment, condescension, wage gaps, disproportionate poverty, discrimination, domestic and sexual violence against women. She cites many studies showing "... anti-female bias on all fronts." "... gender-based (as well as racial) discrimination ..." indicates over and over ... that unconscious bias regularly shapes decision-making even when all parties are acting in good faith." Chemaly notes: "... girls and women are commonly socialized to suppress their anger ..." "By effectively severing anger from 'good womanhood.' We choose to sever girls and women from the emotion that best protects us against danger and injustice."

Adapted from *The New York Times* 09/27/2018. Retrieved 11/8/2018, E. Heaser

Climate Change

William T. Vollmann, author, journalists, Sacramento resident, published a two volume work: *Carbon Ideologies, v. 1: No Immediate Danger, V. 2: No Good Alternative*. According to *The Atlantic* reviewer, Nathaniel Rich, although Vollmann addresses this book to a person (she) in the future, it is a nonfiction work about the "... violence inflicted by the production of coal, natural gas, oil, and nuclear energy." As a result of this violence fauna and flora are going extinct, fragile ecosystems will collapse and humans will subsist on insects. Included is data about global energy use statements by government and industry officials who provide a positive spin on their remarks, e.g., Fracking "... is safer and has less environmental impact than driving a car ..." contrasted with observations such as "Just as instincts may fail an animal under some shift of environmental conditions, so man's cultural beliefs may prove inadequate to meet a new situation." Loren Eiseley. The author conducts many interviews with people working around the world in energy producing industries many of whom are fully aware of the damage these industries are doing.

The author blames himself as much as others for the global crisis and how we do not "... truly comprehend our own culpability in our planet's fate," e.g., using a phone, the elevator, blender, etc. Vollmann writes that even the most ambitious energy conservation efforts will fail, he uses this analogy: "a dieter who keeps eating his daily fill of cheese, pastries and ice cream ... despite the laudable fact that he put broccoli on his lunch plate last Thursday." Vollmann offers no advise for future action only acceptance as he believes the planet's atmosphere will change but human nature will not. "Nothing can be done to save [the world as we know it] therefore, nothing need be done." pg. 40

Reviewer Rich states "His 'letter to the future' is a suicide note." Adapted from *The Atlantic*, 10/2018, pgs. 39-41.

E. Heaser



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Return Service Requested
DECEMBER 2018
First Class Mail



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Happy Holidays

