



# The Sacramento Voter

January 2019



## President's Message

I want to wish a Happy New Year to all. This month my message will focus on our upcoming Program Planning Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m., 4541 American River Drive, Sacramento 95864. Our board member Mahnaz Khazari is offering her home across from Rio Americano High School. Our facilitators are two long time members and former Presidents of the League of Women Voters Sacramento County, Trisha Urhammer and Suzanne Phinney. RSVP to me at [claudiabon16@gmail.com](mailto:claudiabon16@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. We will have materials to email to you prior to the meeting.

What is Program Planning? The League is a grassroots organization that sets its agenda through the Program Planning process. As members this is our chance to help choose what we want the League's future to be.

-Where should our League focus its energy over the next year?

-What are issues of concern to us here in Sacramento?

-Where is there a need for legislative activity and other advocacy in our cities and state?

In this process we develop our Issues for Emphasis, our priorities to focus on for the remainder of this 2018/19 term and into 2019/20. They may be based on our current League work or new topics you think we should focus on. This could include a new study, update of an existing position or a concurrence with an existing or a proposed new concurrence.

It takes the enthusiasm and interest of our members to keep our program vital.

By C. Bonsignore

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### Web sites to check for LWV news

[LWVC.org](http://LWVC.org)  
&  
[LWVUS.org](http://LWVUS.org)

## EVENTS

Tuesday, January 8, 2019, UNITS page 3

Saturday, January 19, 2019, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Third Annual Women's March. State Capitol, 10th & L Street

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.

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.

Thursday, May 30—June 2, 2019. [LWVC Convention, Pasadena, California](#)

2020 LWV 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Criminal Justice Reform Concurrence Position

2018-2019

**Board of Directors**

**League of Women Voters  
of Sacramento County**  
921 11th Street Suite 700  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-447-8683  
[my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county](http://my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county)  
[my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county/contact-us](http://my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county/contact-us)

**Board Directors**

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

**Directors**

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Louise Einspahr  
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Marina Perez

**Off Board:**

Patrica 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](http://www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento)

Locating Election information  
[www.Elections.SacCounty.net](http://www.Elections.SacCounty.net) or  
916-875-6451

**Board Meeting Dates**

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

All members welcome

A statewide task force has been working with LWVC President Helen Hutchison, LWVC Vice President for Advocacy and Program Joanne Leavitt, and LWVC Government Director Lee Lawrence, in developing a LWVC Criminal Justice Position for concurrence. We are proposing that the LWVC adopt a new position on Criminal Justice via concurrence, and ask that your local League review this position during your upcoming Program Planning meeting. We hope that your local League will recommend that the LWVC adopt the position.

### BACKGROUND

For almost 100 years the League has remained vital and relevant by striving for an equitable society, studying its profound injustices and advocating for effective remedies.

While perhaps the majority of those who serve in the criminal justice system do so with reverence to liberty and justice for all, it has become clear that the LWVC needs a comprehensive position on criminal justice. One of the most compelling issues of our time is criminal justice reform. Policing, sentencing, and incarceration are too often failing to serve justice or improve public safety. There is a growing bipartisan consensus that our criminal justice system needs reform.

California's proposed budget contains almost \$15 billion for corrections during fiscal year 2018-2019. Billions more are spent on public safety in California cities and counties. The victims of destructive policies are overwhelmingly poor and people of color. Thirty percent of incarcerated individuals are African American males, while they make up only 6% of California's population. Furthermore, the disparity in use of deadly force at the hands of law enforcement on African American males is alarming and has these American citizens living in a state of fear reminiscent of the Jim Crow\* era. Reagan policy changes in the Mental Healthcare system created another mass disadvantaged group who are also disproportionately criminalized and subjected to excessive use of force when encountering law enforcement; while some become undetected mass murderers.

### OUR PROCESS

At the 2017 LWVC convention, there was significant interest in pursuing a criminal justice position. This led to a discussion about what we -- local Leagues, League members, the LWVC -- could do. The statewide task force researched criminal positions of other state and local Leagues across the country. Members of the task force talked extensively with other organizations active in criminal justice policy work. Based on this research, a position has been developed that is proposed to be adopted by the 2019 LWVC convention by concurrence.

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<b>Unit Meetings—January 2019</b>			
<b>Unit</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Suburban</b>	Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner 944-1042 Helen Shryock 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
<b>Greenhaven Land Park</b>	Tuesday, January 8 2019 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 916-422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831

### **Transparency & Government**

The League believes that “responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people” and “requires governmental bodies protect the citizen’s right to know ...” With those beliefs, should there be more transparency with regard to the Sheriff’s office? Is the Sheriff a rogue?

Here are some articles to start the discussion. Many more are available on the web.

<http://www.counties.org/job-opportunity/inspector-general>

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-sheriff-oversight-20181117-story.html>

<https://www.nacole.org/faqs>

<https://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2018/12/04/scott-jones-defends-blocking-inspector-general/>

<http://philserna.net/citizens-should-expect-government-transparency/>

<https://www.newsreview.com/sacramento/trumps-inside-man/content?oid=26019478>

<https://fox40.com/2018/12/04/protesters-demand-more-transparency-as-sheriff-jones-addresses-board-of-supervisors/>

<http://ocoir.ocgov.com/>

<https://coc.lacounty.gov/>

<http://www.cpradio.org/articles/2018/10/17/county-supervisors-reject-sacramento-sheriff-scott-jones-plan-to-change-oversight-of-his-department/>

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/09/26/opinion-oversight-reform-of-sheriffs-office-are-past-due/>

<https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/crime/article220139515.html>

By B. Lynch

Cont. from page 2. Criminal Justice

The definition of concurrence in League is: Concurrence is the act of agreeing with—or concurring with—a statement of position. A decision-making technique used by the League for some time, concurrence can work several ways. Groups of League members or League boards can concur with 1) recommendations of a resource committee or a unit group; 2) decision statements formulated by League boards; or, 3) positions reached by another League or Leagues.

The proposed Criminal Justice Reform Position Statement with the supporting documentation has been made available to all of the Local League Leaders throughout California for local review, feedback and support at the 2019 LWVC Convention. Members of the Sacramento County LWV are urged to provide discuss and provide feedback on the proposed LWVC Criminal Justice Reform Concurrence position by contacting local Leadership.

Cont. page 4

Cont. from page 3 Criminal Justice

Given the national, state, regional and local attention Sacramento County has been getting in recent years concerning law enforcement, we should become a part of the solution to maintain the safety of law enforcement and our community.

**WHAT’S NEXT**

Once the LWVC adopts this Criminal Justice Position, our local League will be able to engage in the process of education and advocacy in our community with respect to policing, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry. We will also be able to influence our state elected officials as they craft effective legislation for criminal justice reform.

By N. Nelson

**Federal and State Criminal Justice Laws Passed Recently**

*First Step Act:* Approximately 53,000 federal prisoners could be released over the next ten years. 4,000-6,000 prisoners may immediately qualify for supervised release programs, e.g., minimum to low-risk assessed prisoners and/or those in minimal security conditions. Excludes some types of violent offenders, e.g., used firearms in a crime. Andrea Drusch, *The Sacramento Bee*, 12/22/18, 13A.

**California Gun Control Laws Passed in 2018**

AB 2013, Assemblyman, Todd Gloria, D-San Diego— applicants for concealed carry licenses must take a minimum of eight hours of training in order to demonstrate proficiency; SB 1346, Sen. Hannah Beth-Jackson, D-Santa Barbara-bans the manufacture and sale of bump stocks and burst trigger devices; SB 1200, Sen. Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley-ammunition cartridges and magazines can be confiscated by police as part of a domestic violence restraining order; AB 3129, Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio, D-Baldwin Park-prohibits anyone convicted of a misdemeanor domestic violence offense effective 1/1/2019, from possessing a firearm for the rest of their lives; SB 1100, Sen. Anthony Portantino, D-La Canada Flintridge-prohibits anyone younger than 21 from purchasing a long gun (shotgun or rifle) from a licensed firearms dealer, excludes law enforcement officers and members of the military; AB 1968, Assemblyman Evan Low, D-Campbell-prohibits anyone who has been hospitalized more than once in a year for a mental health diagnosis from owning a firearm for the rest of his/her life, effective 1/1/2020. Andrew Sheeler, *The Sacramento Bee*, 12/20/18, 5A

By E. Heaser

**Indivisible Sacramento Meeting**

On 12/19/18 the Indivisible group met and discussed their preparations and strategies for 2019. Considering that the House will be led by the Democrats in 2019 Indivisible will go on the offensive, meaning the democrats have “agenda-setting power.” The party in power can choose the bills that can be voted on, they can shape the discussion on the important issues such as global warming, voting rights, election reform, etc. Democrats can put forward “messaging bills” that is, legislation in contrast to President Trump’s agenda; even if the bills do not make it through the Senate, they will set the stage for 2021. Democrats can influence “must-pass bills” for example, the budget bill.

Indivisible has updated their federal and state guides, available online. There is no local guide even though the organization is concerned about local issues. On the state level Indivisible saw five of the nine bills they recommended be enacted. Sending members to committee hearings and calling legislators was very effective. On the local level members indicated that they are interested in pursuing the following: Measure U, immigration, Sheriff Jones, gerrymandering, alternative voting systems, and more.

In answer to how to improve the organization, members want more inclusion as it is mostly a Caucasian group, produce a promotional flyer, and collaborate with more similar groups. The California Away Team has been a very effective collaborative and effective organization.

Indivisible meets the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Sierra2 Center, 2791 24th St., Room 10.

By E. Heaser

[Caring About the Quality of Prisoners' Lives Helps All of Us](#), *The Sacramento Bee* 12/19/18, 8A.. Retrieved 12/19/18

*The Washington Post* Reporter Michael Gerson, refers to a report by the [U.S. Marshals Service](#) detailing failures and abuses of overcrowding, food denial, under staffing, mice-infested food, sleeping on floors and more in the Cleveland jails. M. Gerson points out in his article why we all should care about what happens in prisons and jails. Are we committed to ensuring human dignity? Does every life have value? What about equality? If only in our own self interest we should be concerned ... most all prisoners eventually leave prison, do we want them rehabilitated before they leave? There are more than 700,000 prisoners in prison not to mention the impact their imprisonment has on the 2.7 million children whose mothers or fathers are incarcerated. Adapted from the *Sacramento Bee*. E Heaser

[A new federal report puts California's homeless population this year at 129,972, a 1 percent drop from 2017](#). Observers say that's a sharp contrast with the prior year, which saw a 14 percent increase in the state's homeless population, suggesting aggressive efforts to get people into housing have been helping. Provided by *California Online*, from [[The San Francisco Chronicle](#)] Kevin Fagan reporting. Retrieved 12/18/18 E. Heaser

**Welcome New Member**

Carolyn Peth

**Volunteers Needed**

Voter affidavits. We need volunteers to distribute voter affidavits to post offices for the post offices listed below. This is a volunteer effort that can usually be accomplished in two or three trips to the post offices per year depending upon how busy the post office is and if it is a general election year.

I would like to cease being the coordinator for this effort. A volunteer is needed for that duty. A brief training is all that is required. With online registration the duty continues to lessen. E. Heaser [eheserlwv@gmail.com](mailto:eheserlwv@gmail.com)

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Consilio-Galt               | Orangevale                   |
| Consumes River College      | Parkway Branch               |
| Courtland                   | Perkins Branch               |
| Elk Grove, Elk Grove-Florin | Rancho Cordova               |
| Folsom                      | Royal Oaks                   |
| Galt                        | Ryde                         |
| Hood                        | Slough House/Rancho Murietta |
| Isleton                     | Walnut Grove                 |
| Laguna                      | Wilton                       |

**MORE HOMELESS CAMPS CLOSED**

**"Whacking the Mole"**

In the wake of the Martin v Boise decision by the 9th Circuit Court in September, 2018 [ruling that unless there are enough shelter beds in a community, anti-homeless ordinances like the anti-camping ordinance, violate the 8th Amendment of the US Constitution as "cruel and unusual punishment,"] the Sacramento Board of Supervisors instructed the Sacramento Park Rangers to stop issuing camping citations. [See tables below]

Instead of issuing camping citations, the Park Rangers have stepped up closing homeless camps as well as dramatically increased issuing several infraction citations - particularly for littering; building a structure attached to a tree [including rope], and having a shopping cart in the park. Adapted from [Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness](#) By A. Ginosar.

**INCREASE IN HOMELESS CAMPS CLOSED BY PARK RANGERS: 1/1/18 - 11/30/18**

MONTH	CAMPS CLOSED
January	208
February	80
March	158
April	295
May	502
June	354
July	452
August	640
September	643
October	748
November	797

**INCREASE IN INFRACTION CITATIONS POST MARTIN V BOISE: 1/1/18 - 11/30/18**

MONTH	LITTERING	ATTACHING A STRUCTURE TO A TREE	SHOPPING CART IN PARK
January	7	14	2
February	12	3	7
March	4	1	5
April	3	1	7
May	6	4	13
June	22	34	18
July	27	30	24
August	47	14	26
September	34	55	44
October	105	121	75
November	138	90	89

## Book Notices and Reports

By E. Heaser

### Education/Economic Mobility

[New Study Links Higher Education To Economic Mobility](#) A new study by the Public Policy Institute of California found: “California has great wealth but also one of the highest poverty rates in the nation. The ability of Californians to move up the income ladder often depends on acquiring the education and skills needed for higher-paying jobs. But despite the state’s increasingly knowledge-based economy, too few Californians are earning a college degree. This report examines the importance of higher education in promoting economic mobility.” Retrieved 12/12/18

### Expungement Clinic, Thursday, December 13, 2018

Tuesday, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors authorized the [Public Defender](#) to accept Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding in the amount of \$220,000 through a contract with Sacramento Steps Forward for provision of an expungement clinic.

Evidence-based studies have found a person’s criminal record creates significant barriers to a person’s ability to have housing, employment, education and social services. The clinic aims to eliminate barriers to exiting homelessness.

With the creation of the [Expungement Clinic](#), the Public Defender’s Office hopes to eliminate barriers to exiting homelessness and develop opportunities for housing, employment, education and social services. The development of an Expungement Clinic was created from a collaboration of HEAP and CESH (California Emergency Solutions and Housing) partners and input from the community. The read entire notice click on the link above. Retrieved 12/13/18

### Health/Climate

The [2018 report of the Lancet Countdown](#) on health and climate change: shaping the health of nations for centuries to come. Retrieved 12/3/18

### New Books

*The Republican Reversal*, by authors James M. Turner, Assoc. Professor, Environmental Studies, Wellesley College and Andrew C. Isenberg, Hall Distinguished Prof. of American History, University of Kansas, write that many major environmental laws enacted in the past were “championed” by Republicans, e.g., Clean Air Act (1970), Clean Water Act (1972) and Endangered Species Act (1973). What has caused the shift toward opposing these laws? The authors explain that environmental issues are now viewed as alarmist and exaggerated rather than as urgent; instead of relying on scientific research and expertise, scientific information is viewed with suspicion, Republicans have shifted “... from embracing a central role of government in addressing environmental problems to viewing regulations as a threat to economic growth, individual freedom, and free enterprise.” Republican reversals reflect the growing importance/influence of corporations, trade associations, law firms, think tanks and other organizations that work to “... constrain the regulatory state.” *Science*, 11/9/18 page. 647. A reviewer for Amazon.com states “... the conservative abdication of environmental concern stands out as one of the most profound turnabouts in modern American political history, critical to our understanding of the GOP’s modern success. The Republican reversal on the environment is emblematic of an unwavering faith in the market, skepticism of scientific and technocratic elites and belief in American exceptionalism that have become the party’s distinguishing characteristics.” Retrieved 12/11/18

Malcolm Nance, author, media commentator and career U.S. Intelligence officer, describes how Russia used cyberwarfare, political propaganda and manipulation of reality through American news and social media affected the 2016 election and can destroy democracy. *The Plot to Destroy Democracy*, is Nance’s recent book. *Goodreads* refers to the book as “A provocative, comprehensive analysis of Vladimir Putin and Russia’s master plan to destroy democracy in the age of Donald Trump.” Nance used original research and interviews with espionage experts. The author uses documents to show that there has been “... a master plan to undermine American institutions ... from the Cold War to the present day.” *Goodreads* Retrieved 12/11/18. *Kirkus Review* states in part: “It is a remarkable bit of spinning that has allowed right-leaning media to portray Russia, the longtime rival and even enemy of the United States, as our friend.” And: “The author argues that much of that planning originated inside the Kremlin, but much also came from the desk of Steve Bannon, a key actor in forging a vanguard for the new kind of pro-Moscow conservative movement in America.” Retrieved 12/10/18



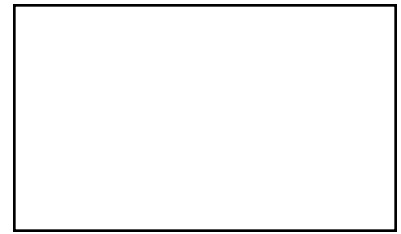
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**Return Service Requested**  
**January 2019**  
**First Class Mail**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



**Happy New Year**

**Year of the Pig**

