



The Sacramento Voter

February 2019



Women’s March, January 19, 2019



League of Women Voters Sacramento County

Photo credit, J. Raju

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Web sites to check for LWV news

LWVC.org
&
LWVUS.org

EVENTS

Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. **Program Planning.** Mahnaz Khazari’s home, 4541 American River Dr., Sacramento, pages 2, 4-5.

Tuesday, February 12, 2019, UNITS, page 3

Wednesday, March 6, 2019. [CA Fresh Forum.](#) Crest Theater, 1013 K St. Sacramento, tickets \$50. California Food Policy Advocates to increase access to healthy food.

Wednesday, March 27, 2019, [Policy Insights 2019.](#) Sheraton Grand, Sacramento. \$150 early bird. Topics: Taxes, budget, poverty, inequity, housing., etc.

Monday—Wednesday, April, 15-17, 2019. [Housing in California.](#) Sacramento Convention Center.

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

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

2020 LWV 100th Anniversary

2018-2019

Board of Directors

**League of Women Voters
of Sacramento County**
921 11th Street Suite 700
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my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county
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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

February 11
March 11
April 8
May 20

All members welcome

**Program Planning 2019
Tuesday, February 5, 2019
5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

Attend our local league's upcoming Program Planning Meeting and share the priorities you believe should be our focus in the coming year. This year's Program Planning is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 5, 2019**. We will be setting our priorities and agenda for the coming year. It is also a social occasion to enjoy with other members, over a potluck style dinner. The evening will cover:

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?

We will develop our local **Issues for Emphasis** 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. Our gathering will take place at **Mahnaz Khazari's** home across from Rio Americano High School. Here are the specifics for the evening.

**LWVS Program Planning 2019
Tuesday, February 5, 2019**

4541 American River Drive, Sacramento 95864

5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Please bring

A dish to share, hot or cold

Your ideas for Program Planning!

Your Enthusiasm!

Please RSVP: claudiabon16@gmail.com.

We will have materials to email to you prior to the meeting.

The evening will be facilitated by two former Presidents of the LWVSC T. Uhrhammer and S. Phinney

Program Planning

LWVC Board Update, December 2018

The Program Planning Kit for 2019-2021 is posted on the Members Only webpage (A definition: In League, program is the issues that we choose for concerted study, education and action. Program can include both education and advocacy work.)

Program Planning is the real grass roots work of the League and a first step in preparation for LWVC Convention. This is your opportunity to let the state board know where you would like to see efforts focused over the next two years. Should there be more advocacy? Is there an area where we need a new study or an old one should be updated? Is community education needed around one issue?

There is a lot of content in the kit; be sure to read carefully before you start planning your meeting. More time is allowed for you to look forward to where you would like to see time and energy focused over the next two years. **Your online report is due by Monday, March 3.** The compiled report including state board recommendations will be in the Convention workbook. Plan on participating now and follow your issues at Convention.

Welcome New Members and Reinstated Members*

Patricia Olson
Jenavie Rivera

*Kathleen Chovan
*Donna Paul

Name correction: R. Landeros

Unit Meetings—February 2019

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Suburban	Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner 944-1042 Helen Shryock 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday, February 12, 2019 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 916-422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831

Governor Newsom & Free College Tuition

One of the LWV's principles is that "democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government." Education is the foundation for an informed and engaged electorate. With that in mind, the unit meeting topic for February will be Governor Newsom's initiative to provide free tuition for the first two years of college.

<https://www.politico.com/states/california/story/2019/01/04/newsom-proposes-free-community-college-in-california-771230>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/richardvedder/2018/04/12/the-free-tuition-craze-now-new-jersey/#49edea781b2a>

<https://smartasset.com/student-loans/the-pros-and-cons-of-free-college>

<https://edsources.org/2018/californians-want-free-community-college-tuition-to-be-priority-for-gavin-newsom/605990>

https://laist.com/2018/12/04/california_tuition_free_ways_to_help_pay_for_community_college.php

<http://www.mtv.com/news/3109206/california-free-community-college/>

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/readersreact/la-ol-le-free-college-tuition-20190113-story.html>

<https://www.abc10.com/article/news/local/what-happened-to-californias-free-tuition-a-history-of-fees-and-budget-issues/103-465128027>

<https://www.thenation.com/article/a-serious-push-for-free-college-in-california/>

<https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/should-college-be-free.asp>

Have a great discussion, B. Lynch

Advocating for California's Children

Apologies to Patricia as she sent this article in October 2018 and it was not published. Patricia is the representative to the Children's Advocates Roundtable.

The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County participates in the quarterly meetings of the Children's Advocates Roundtable. The Roundtable is sponsored by the Children's Advocacy Institute of the University of San Diego. Sacramento league member, Patricia Pavone, is the official note-taker for the group.

The Roundtable, established in 1990, is an affiliation of over 300 statewide and regional children's policy organizations, representing over twenty different disciplines that are instrumental in developing and protecting California children. Areas of interest include child care, health care, education, poverty, housing, child abuse prevention, juvenile justice, and family resilience. The Roundtable provides opportunities for advocates to discuss and prioritize various issues and legislation affecting children and youth in order to minimizing infighting over limited state resources for children's programs, as well as to collaborate on joint projects that promote the interests of children and families. One of the overarching goals is to foster a coordinated political movement committed to ensuring that every child in California is economically secure, gets a good education, has access to health care, and lives in a safe environment.

The next meeting of the Children's Advocates Roundtable is on February, 7, 2019, 12 noon-3:00 p.m. at the California Endowment, 1414 K Street, Suite 500, Sacramento, CA. For information contact Patricia Pavone

pavone@surewest.net or 916.397.7831.

LWVSC Proposes Concurrence on Voter Representation

The LWV Sacramento County, at our February 5, 2019 program planning meeting, is proposing a concurrence position for program planning at the local and state level. Our concurrence proposal on Voter Representation will be considered by Local Leagues in Ca. during program planning Jan-Feb and at the State Convention in May.

We take pride in our name, League of Women Voters, and our work as a multi-issue organization over the last century. The LWV has positions on a multitude of public policy issues decided by our elected leaders, however, we do not have a position on how we elect those representatives. And yet, those representatives decide the public policy we care about- healthcare, environment etc.

Our plurality system came with the British and it has limits when it comes to “Making Democracy Work.” Just one example: a voter’s choice can help elect their least favorite candidate due to vote splitting. Good potential candidates often choose not to run because they don’t want to be a “spoiler candidate.”

Unsatisfied with the limits of the plurality system and its impact on representation, 14 state Leagues as well as many local Leagues have undertaken studies and developed positions supporting alternatives to the plurality system, which is also known as “first past the post.” originating in the late 1800’s.

Here in California and in cities around the country, advanced systems have saved taxpayers’ and candidates’ money, reduced negative campaigning, achieved majority winners while preventing vote splitting among similar candidates, minimized “wasted” votes and provided more voters a meaningful voice. Additionally, they have helped elect women and candidates more representative of their communities.

Leagues that did studies and consensus discovered no electoral method is perfect. However, some are better than others at representing voters and creating more opportunities for women and under-represented voters. These Leagues recommended election methods as a result of their studies as well as criterion for evaluating a method and best practices.

This concurrence position does NOT support any particular election method but rather supports the LWV’s goals for “an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.”

It allows for Leagues to use the position to evaluate or propose electoral options.

In many jurisdictions options are needed as remedies to voting rights lawsuits that seek minority representation. Currently the local city of Citrus Heights has been sued and is forced to divide into five districts even though the Latino population lives all over the city and a Latino majority district can’t be drawn. Almost all major newspapers have editorialized in support of electoral options to improve representation and reduce voter apathy, recognizing democracy depends on it.

This concurrence position is a compilation of 14 positions adopted from studies by AZ, CA, CO, FL, MA, ME, MN, NC, OK, OR, PA, SC, VT, WA and established LWVUS principles on Representation. The concurrence position in Brief and in Full:

Concurrence on Voter Representation / Election Process

Category: Government. Possible title: Voter Representation /Election Process (LWVC Board decision)

Note: We are proposing our current LWVC Elections Systems position under Government which supports a particular election method, be replaced with this concurrence position.

Position in Brief

Support election methods at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and audit-able and enhance representation for all voters.

Position in Full

The LWV-CA promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. (LWVUS)* We encourage election methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible, have a positive effect on voter participation, and are expressive of voter choices. (AZ & CO)*

Whether for single or multiple winner contests, the League supports election methods that:

- Encourage voter participation and voter engagement.
- Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities.
- Are verifiable and auditable.
- Promote access to voting.
- Promote competitive elections.
- Maximize effective votes/minimize “wasted” votes.
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting.
- Discourage negative campaigning.
- Encourage meaningful discussion of issues.
- Require the winner to receive a majority of the votes for executive and other single seat offices.
- Are compatible with acceptable ballot-casting methods, including vote-by-mail.

(LWVUS, ME, OR, CA, MN, MA, FL, NC, OK, SC, VT, WA, Santa Monica)*

Continued on page 5

Cont. from page 4

The LWV-CA believes in representative government. The League supports systems that elect policy-making bodies—legislatures, councils, commissions, and boards that proportionally reflect the people they represent. We support systems that inhibit political manipulation (e.g. gerrymandering).

The LWV-CA supports enabling legislation to allow local jurisdictions to explore alternative election methods, as well as supporting state election laws allowing for more options at both the state and local levels. With the adoption of any election system, the League believes that education of the voting public is important and funding for startup and voter education should be available. We encourage a concerted voter education process.

(LWVUS, AZ, CA, OR, SC, WA)*
End of Statement

* All language from LWVUS Principles and State positions

By Paula Lee

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)

The PPIC's mission is to "inform and improve public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research." Their vision is "providing essential information and framing policy debates to shape a better future for California." We are so fortunate to live in the state capitol, because the PPIC offers forums for free and often with a free breakfast or lunch at a hotel downtown. Recently I attended a forum on water at the Sheraton Grand. The topics cover a wide variety of important issue, many are issues the League Women Voters cares about: Education, money in politics, climate change, health and human services, and government reform. Sign up to be on their email list of events, as they often fill up quickly.

By Alice Ginosar

[Topics - Public Policy Institute of California](#)



Photo by N. Compton

Volunteers Needed

Voter affidavits. We need volunteers and a coordinator to distribute voter affidavits on an ongoing basis to the post offices listed below. This is a volunteer effort that can usually be accomplished in two or three trips per year to the post offices 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 responsibility. A brief training is all that is required. With online registration the duty is lessening.

E .Heaser cheaserlwv@gmail.com

- | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------------------|
| Consilio-Galt | Galt | Perkins Branch |
| Cosumnes River College | Hood | Rancho Cordova |
| Courtland | Isleton | Ryde |
| Elk Grove, Elk Grove-Florin | Laguna | Sloughouse/Rancho Murietta |
| Folsom J. Normington, Thanks | Orangevale | Walnut Grove |
| | Parkway Branch | Wilton |



The Sacramento Bee, 1/19/19 1B, reported that approximately 10,000 people marched in Sacramento, about one-third of the marchers in 2018. March numbers were less in other California cities, and Washington D.C.

Several women spoke including a Native American from a Clearlake area tribe, Councilwoman A. Ashby, who named local women who won elections in November: P. Middleton, Citrus Heights City Council's first African American woman, and S. Nguyen, Elk Grove City Council's first Asian American.



Native American speaker from a Clearlake area tribe.

Articles for *The Voter*

Members are encouraged to write articles relevant to LWV issues, word length up to approximately 350 words. Please provide attribution when appropriate.

Email items to aliceginosar@yahoo.com or cheaserlwv@gmail.com

Photos by E. Heaser





Photos by N. Compton

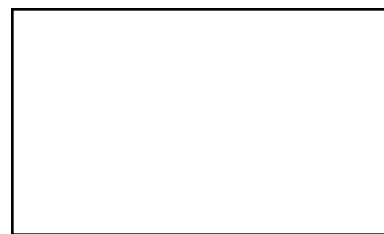
Book Notices

Punishment without crime: How our massive misdemeanor system traps the innocent and makes America more unequal, 2018, by Alexandra Natapoff, Harvard law professor and author. Uses data from throughout the United States to show that police and judicial misconduct permeate the misdemeanor system. Never mind that many charged in misdemeanor cases have not committed a crime, they have no legal counsel or jury trial. Poverty and race are criminalized resulting in higher arrests, e.g., in Urbana, IL "... 91% of those ticketed for jaywalking were black, despite only 16% of the population being black." Daily jail fees, overburdened public defenders and "... financial incentives for judges to convict lead to overly high rates of conviction." *Publishers Weekly*, 10/29/2018, page 67. Retrieved 1/3/19

Sarah B. Churchwell, professor of American Literature and Public Understanding of the Humanities at the University of London, UK and author, published *Behold, America: A History of America First and the American Dream*, 2018. Researching historic sources including T. Jefferson who used the writings of J. Locke as well as the past century concepts of *The Great Gatsby*, Ku Klux Klan, and a Republican motto during World War One and now used by President Trump, the author examines the expressions "America First" and "American Dream." *Kirkus Reviews*, 12/17/18, states "... 'America First' has, at times, suggested isolationism from the remainder of the world, especially leading up to the world wars. At other times, it has suggested unthinking patriotism or even implied racism due to the desire for a whiter population. As for the American dream, Churchwell shows "... that, initially, it signified opposing the accumulation of wealth by capitalists, since business moguls rarely cared about the well-being of society as a whole. In 2018, however, it seems many Americans aspire to unabashed self-enrichment." Bloomsbury.com states: "Insightful and revelatory, *Behold, America* overturns everything we thought we knew about the American dream, America First and the battle for the identity of modern America." Retrieved 12/17/18. A *Guardian* and a Smithsonian book of the year. A one hour interview by Brian Lamb with the author was broadcast on C-Span 12/16/18.

Beyond These Walls: Rethinking Crime & Punishment in the United States, Albert Woodfox with Leslie George, 2018. *Beyond these Walls*, is a memoir by author Woodfox who spent decades inside the Louisiana prison system. As a result of organizing protests against dehumanizing treatment of prisoners in the Angola state penitentiary he was framed for murder in 1972 and spent four decades in solitary confinement. During that confinement he managed to stay sane by educating himself, assisting others and making lasting friendships with H. Wallace and R. King two wrongfully convicted Panthers. This book illustrates the lack of concern of innocence or justice and the inhumanity of solitary confinement in the prison system. Excerpted from *Publishers Weekly* 10/29/2018, page 67.

By E. Heaser



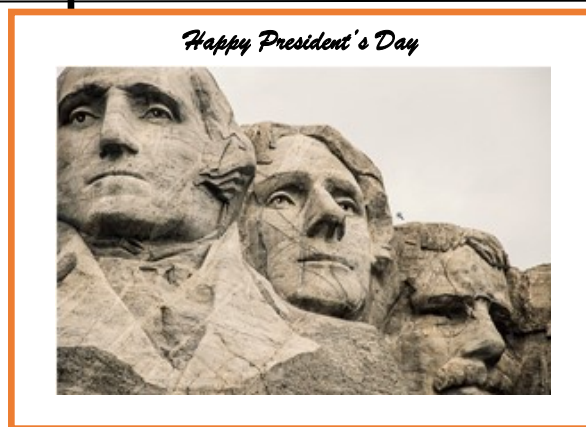
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Return Service Requested
February 2019
First Class Mail

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Retrieved 1/16/19, [John Bakator](#)



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