



The Sacramento Voter

March 2019



Program Planning

Over thirty enthusiastic League members met on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at the home of Board member Mahnaz Khazari to plan for 2019 – 2020. Aply led by Trisha Uhrhammer and Suzanne Phinney the meeting began with brain storming, examples included: Making Democracy Work, voter registration in high schools/colleges, voter education, government transparency/accountability, civics education/life skills, education K-12, social media & democracy, affordable housing, legal support for tenant protection/rent stabilization, senior housing, advocacy for homeless, child care availability/affordability, mental health care, gun control, criminal justice, sustainable agriculture, and conservation of water resources.

Paula Lee comprehensively presented a proposal, *Concurrence on Voter Representation/electoral process*. This position supports election methods at each level of government that encourage participation, and that are verifiable and audit-able as well as enhancing representation for all voters. The proposal passed unanimously and will be recommended to League Women Voters of California.

Norma Nelson presented the process for many leagues in California to use to develop a position on **Criminal Justice**. The position would include "... a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, and transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages, insuring policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry." Also included: Elimination of systemic bias, disproportional policing, and incarceration of marginalized communities. *Concurrence on Criminal Justice*, passed unanimously.

Recommendations for **local** *Issues for Emphasis for 2019 - 2020*
Making Democracy Work
Housing

Recommendations for **state** *Issues for Emphasis for 2019 – 2020*
Making Democracy Work
Housing
Criminal Justice

The meeting ended at 7:58 p.m. Well done all! By Alice Ginosar

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

EVENTS

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.

Friday, March 8, 2019. Mixer hosted by California NOW -International Women’s Day, Kupros 1217 21st St.
Contact for time of event: 916-446-0401

Tuesday-Wednesday, March 12-13. Unit meetings, page 3

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.

Wednesday-Thursday, April 24-25, 2019. California Coalition for Youth. Sacramento Convention Center. [Register](#)

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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Voter publisher– Eileen Heaser



www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento

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

Board Meeting Dates
March 11
April 8
May 20
All members welcome

Voter Affidavits

Thanks to Joan Normington and Gloria Powell for volunteering to take affidavits to post offices. Greatly appreciated. E. Heaser

Photo from Planning Meeting, 2/5/2019. By C. Bonsignore



Juvenile Justice Reform

The theme for the first quarterly meeting of the Children's Advocates Roundtable on February 7, 2019 was Juvenile Justice Reform with several panel discussions about recent changes in California law related to children and youth impacted by the juvenile justice system. There was a review of national advocacy efforts to decriminalize poverty and build better community resources for poor families and create effective alternatives to incarceration of juvenile offenders.

One of the most interesting presentations was made by Anna Johnson, Senior Policy Associate at the National Center for Youth Law. Ms. Johnson stated that even though about 80% of the juvenile offender cases can be diverted to some form of treatment other than a locked facility, the pattern of segregating youthful offenders continues. One reason for this is that in some communities there are no appropriate treatment services for minors impacted by juvenile justice other than those offered in the local juvenile detention facility. This is very prevalent in some rural areas of the state and among Native American youth.

The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) has outlined ten steps that are necessary to successfully transform the current juvenile justice system into one that both protects public safety and improves outcomes for the young people it serves.

- Strive to keep youth out of the system.
- Collaborate with youth and family.
- Build on strengths and address needs.
- Community based organizations should take the lead.
- Don't lock youth up.
- Keep any probation time short.
- Keep youth in their homes and communities.
- Incarceration is harmful.
- Provide exceptional care.
- Reinvest the savings.

Several bills have been passed by the California Legislature or by a citizen initiative that address one or more of these goals. One of the most significant changes is that children under the age of 12 will no longer be subject to the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court, except in cases of violent crime – such as rape and murder. Further, children who are alleged to have committed a crime at the age of only 14 or 15 cannot be tried as an adult, unless the individual is not apprehended prior to the end of the juvenile court's jurisdiction.

By P. Pavone, LWVC Children's Roundtable

| Unit Meetings—March 2019 | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Unit | Date & Time | Contact | Location |
| Suburban | Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 9:15 a.m. | Anne Berner 944-1042 Helen Shryock 944-2274 | 2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608 |
| *Outliers Folsom | Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 11:45 a.m. | Cliff House in Folsom, Lunch. N Compton, chair 916-600-1992 | 9900 Greenback Lane 916-989-9243 |
| Greenhaven Land Park | Tuesday, March 12, 2019 10:00 a.m. | Mary Hopkins 916-422-6958 | 45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831 |

The topic for discussion this March is **Make It Fair**. Make It Fair is an effort to reform Proposition 13! The League originally opposed Proposition 13 and now has a statewide campaign supporting reform of this tax inequity. Here are the sites that have information about this effort and its possible impacts.

<http://makeitfairca.com/>

<http://www.foxandhoundsdaily.com/2017/08/make-fair-commercial-property-tax-reform-campaign-really-fair/>

<http://www.cacalls.org/makeitfair/>

<https://my.lwv.org/california/pasadena/study/make-it-fair-campaign>

<https://humanimpact.org/hiprojects/prop13reform/>

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Change-in-California-s-Prop-13-makes-2020-13314983.php>

<https://medium.com/techequity-collaborative/prop-13-reform-moves-to-the-2020-ballot-6386ad6a9c8e>

<https://calmatters.org/articles/blog/prop-13-could-be-party-undone-in-2020-heres-what-you-should-know/>

<https://calmatters.org/articles/commentary/leave-prop-13-alone/>

<https://gvwire.com/2019/01/31/joel-fox-changing-prop-13-could-worsen-housing-crisis/>

<http://beta.latimes.com/politics/essential/la-pol-ca-essential-politics-updates-a-major-change-to-proposition-13-takes-1513368938-htlmstory.html>

<http://act.couragecampaign.org/sign/MakeItFair/>

<https://oag.ca.gov/initiatives/active-measures>

Have a great discussion, B. Lynch

*New Unit Formed in Outlying Areas

For those members who live in outlying areas of the county, (Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Rancho Murieta, Rancho Cordova, etc.) a new unit has formed so that these members don't have to drive into town to attend a unit meeting. Called the Outliers, this unit meets on the second or third Wednesday of each month (depending upon member availability) at 11:45 a.m. at the Cliff House in Folsom, on the corner of Folsom Boulevard and Auburn-Folsom Road.

In February the group addressed Governor Newsom's proposal that the first two years of college in California be offered to students free of charge. Several members mentioned that this should be available specifically to those who are full-time students at a public community college. This concept was written into the *Master Plan for Higher Education in California* that was submitted in 1960 and has never been updated. At the time, community colleges were called junior colleges, and were used primarily as preparation for transferring to a four-year college or university.

In the meantime, community colleges have added courses available to the general public, whether or not the plan is to continue on to a four-year college. Classes like English as a Second Language are offered to adults whose first language is other than English. Many programs have been added that offer certification in career areas that do not demand a four-year post-secondary education – programs like Welding, Certified Nurse Assistant, and various health care specialties.

There was general agreement that offering the first two years of college at no cost would be more equitable and inclusive, as students from low-income families would be able to access an educational opportunity to enhance their lives and help them obtain jobs that would ensure that they become productive, contributing members of the community.

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Cont. from page 3

Joan Normington found an interesting article that appeared in the *Lake County Record* by Mikhal Zinshteyn explaining that a law passed in 2017 known as the California College Promise covers more than tuition. Some community colleges have allowed full time students to use the funds for non-tuition costs, such as transportation, food, and textbook vouchers. Additionally, a handful of community colleges said they are hiring staff to improve student academic counseling services. Supporting students as they work toward their goal of higher education and meaningful employment is certainly a worthy goal, as an educated citizenry is critical to ensuring a robust democracy.

By N. Compton

Refugees

On January 24, 2019 Dr. Duane Campbell, Professor Emeritus of Education who taught at CSUS 1969-2005, spoke to a large group of League members gathered at Espanol Restaurant on Folsom Blvd. Currently he serves as director of the Institute for Democracy and Education, and director for the Chicano/Mexican American Digital History Project, as well as Co-chair of the Immigrants Rights Committee of Democratic Socialists of America. Dr. Campbell authored *Choosing Democracy: A Practical Guide to Multicultural Education*.

Dr. Campbell informed us that refugees who are now coming to the United States (U.S.) from Central America come from countries that are facing very different issues than they faced in past years. For example in Guatemala and Honduras coffee beans are being wiped out by a fungus and that affects jobs. Violence in Honduras has intensified since 2009, when the country ousted its democratically-elected president, Manuel Zelaya, in a coup with the tacit support of the U.S. The right-wing presidents who have followed pushed economic agendas that have worsened conditions for the working poor, reducing opportunities to make a living at home.

El Salvador has not recovered from its bloody civil war of the 1980's when the U.S. supported the military which committed well documented atrocities. Instability in El Salvador has created dangerous conditions for many. Drug trafficking throughout Honduras and El Salvador have increased gang violence and extortion.

Refugees: Under the 1951 United Nations Convention, as modified by the 1967 Protocol, a **refugee** is defined as a person who, "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion," is outside the country of his nationality.

Immigrant: **Immigration Law and Legal Definition.** "Federal immigration law determines whether a person is an alien, and [has] associated **legal** rights, duties, and obligations of aliens in the United States. It also provides means by which certain aliens can become naturalized citizens with full rights of citizenship." Immigration policies are implemented by granting or denying visas. There are two types of visas: immigrant and nonimmigrant. Nonimmigrant visas are primarily issued to tourists and temporary business visitors.

Dr. Campbell circulated a graph showing that the number of asylum seekers crossing into the U.S. across the Mexican border were at the lowest point in 2017, the first year of Trump's administration. That is the lowest since 1971. Forty percent of undocumented individuals entering the U.S. fly in. Most over stay their temporary visa.

Since 2016, the largest number of immigrants to the U.S. have been from China and India, not from Mexico or Central America. These immigrants do not come in through our southern border.

Refugees are not the major source of drugs. The U.S. drug market is the source of drugs. For example, there are four bridges in the El Paso Region. The newest one, "Bridge of the Americas" outside El Paso, was built to handle NAFTA traffic. It carries 758,000 trucks per year. There are four of these new bridges across the Southwest and 11,573,000 personal vehicles cross the border. These are the sources of the drugs. Why then is the President calling a "crisis" or national emergency on our border? The wall likely will not stop drug trafficking. It will not even slow it down. These well-funded drug cartels are not going to be stopped by a wall. The overwhelming majority of illicit traffic flows through ports of entry—not over the vast stretches of land between where any wall would be built.

Monetary aid includes money spent for the military: Current aid to Honduras: Military & Police Aid \$750,000 (2018) Humanitarian & Development Aid \$67,100,000 (2018) Arms Sales \$1,637,032 (2014) Trainees203 (2018)

By Alice Ginosar

International Students Visit League Office

Each year a group of exchange students from all over the world meet with the League of Women Voters to learn more about the process of voting, the state of our democracy, and other questions related to our governmental issues and policies. This year they hailed from Egypt, Germany, Tanzania, Malaysia, Turkey, and Mali. These students, who go through a rigorous process to be selected as foreign exchange students, are sponsored by the American Field Service, a program run through the State Department.

The mission of the American Field Service (AFS-USA) is to work toward a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences. AFS-USA honors the legacy of its founders who were volunteer World War I and World War II ambulance drivers who emerged from the wars with a bold mission to help prevent future conflict through educational and cross-cultural exchanges.

More than 70 years later, the AFS-USA continues to respond to the needs of an increasingly complex world, offering programs abroad in more than 50 countries and hosting international students from more than 90 countries. The students are placed with host families and attend high school during their time in the U.S. This year’s students were fascinated with the current political landscape and asked many questions about the future of our country.

When asked what surprised them the most about being in the U.S., the most common response was that they didn’t know American people would be so nice. The student from Germany added that his perception of Americans had been that we would be more like cowboys – wearing boots and sporting ten-gallon hats. Two of the girls said that they thought it would be more like the movie, *Mean Girls*. All exchange students declared that they are enjoying their experience immensely and will highly recommend this opportunity to others.

It is said that the best antidote to bigotry, prejudice, and misconception is travel and education. These students are experiencing both, and as such, will return to their countries as ambassadors of hope and understanding.

By N . Compton & Photo below



The Bipartisan Climate Solution HR763

The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act/policy cosponsored by both major parties will: Reduce America’s emissions by at least 40% in the first 12 years, provide for 2.1 million new jobs, is revenue neutral - that is - fees collected on carbon emissions will be allocated to all Americans as the government will not keep any fees, it will improve health by reducing pollution.

Sponsors list: energyinnovationact.org Contacts cclusa.org/energy-innovation-act Sources for statistics energyinnovationact.org/data-sources By [Citizens’ Climate Lobby](http://Citizens' Climate Lobby)

Media Literacy

Media literacy, the discipline of applying critical thinking to media messages, is a key 21st century skill. The concept first became a concern in the U.S. as early as 1937, when the Institute of Propaganda Analysis, IPA, was founded by ex-journalist Clyde Miller. Composed of journalists, teachers, and social scientists, the organization sought to expose and counter propaganda through educating the public. The Institute designed a curriculum for educators to teach students to recognize common propaganda devices. *Columbia Journalism Review*, “Making Media Literacy Great Again,” Fall 2017.

One early IPA pamphlet asked a question that is no less relevant today: “Why are we fooled by these devices? **Because they appeal to our emotions rather than to our reason.** They make us believe and do something we would not believe or do if we thought about it calmly, dispassionately ... they tie into emotions which sway us to be ‘for’ or ‘against’ nations, races, religions, ideals, economic and political policies and practices ...” blog.nyhistory.org “Exposing Propaganda: The Institute for Propaganda Analysis, Inc.” February 28, 2018.

In today’s media environment, with the development of the Internet, proliferation of social media, and the increasing presence of “fake news,” the need for media literacy among our citizenry is more urgent than ever and essential to protecting democracy. This need has led to a resurgence of media literacy programs offered at both the K-12 and college levels. According to *Columbia Journalism Review*, at least a dozen universities around the country have launched or are planning to launch such courses. In addition, legislators in at least 15 states have introduced or passed laws mandating media literacy instruction in public schools, with a special focus on digital media.

California is among those states. On September 17, 2018, Governor Brown approved [SB 830](#) (Dodd) to require, on or before July 1, 2019, the State Department of Education to make available to school districts, on its web site, a list of resources and instructional materials on media literacy, including professional development programs for teachers.

By Brenda Main

Affordable Housing

Cathy Creswell, Sacramento Housing Alliance, President, as well as current member and past chair of the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, spoke to the CSUS Renaissance Society on 2/8/2019. Ms. Creswell emphasized how success can be measured concerning available housing: It should be safe, stable, and affordable. During the last decade the need for housing grew by 180,000 yet the number of homes available was 80,000. People with the lowest incomes are paying 77%-80% of their income for housing per month when the percentage should be approximately 30%. In California from 2000– to 2015, rent increased by 25% while median renter income increased by 4%. There is a 1.54 million shortfall in median rent homes for low income renter households in California, no county in California has a sufficient number of affordable homes. Twenty-four percent of children live in poverty in California. In Sacramento at least 3,665 people live on the streets. Education outcomes are directly related to lack of good housing as is poor health. Where houses are built effects economic impacts, surrounding economy is increased as a result of the increase in local spending and local job increases, i.e., good housing is needed in ALL areas to increase economic well being of low income people.

What needs to be accomplished: **Investment-** California’s affordable housing funding has declined 66.5% since 2008, California needs to adopt a local housing trust funds, local areas need to apply for state and federal funding. Sacramento City voters approved Measure U in 2018 some moneys could be spent on housing. **Incentivize-** provide state level funding to support good local housing planning, on the local level- reduce or waive fees, provide density bonuses for affordable homes and promote variety of housing types, e.g., second units, efficiency units, duplexes, SRO’s, etc., adopt inclusionary zoning, tenant protections, and require fair share. **Require/Enforce-** link transportation funds to housing and enforce state housing laws.

The speaker urged the audience to stay informed, contact elected officials, talk with neighbors, and be compassionate.

[Link to her PowerPoint](#)

By E. Heaser

Notice to contact representatives on this legislation—HR1- (This information was sent via email earlier)

HR1, the For the People Act, is a bill comprised of a bold, transformative set of reforms to strengthen our democracy and return political power to the people. The League has worked to influence the language in this bill and to ensure it moves forward.

As an organization with a mission of empowering voters and defending democracy, the League of Women Voters is proud to support the For the People Act, which will improve American elections by making our election system more free, fair, and accessible to all eligible Americans. It’s time to put power back in the hands of the American people.

[Contact your Representative today and tell them how important this package of reforms is to the future of our democracy.](#) From LWVC

Executive Leadership Opportunities

LWVSC needs six individuals who seek opportunities for creative problem solving and executive leadership to fill positions on the Board of Directors. No prior executive experience required. Training and mentoring by experienced board members will support your success.

This position requires attendance at monthly board meetings and a commitment to making democracy work. Contact Roseanne Chamberlain at roseanne.ch@gmail.com if you have questions, know someone who would be interested, or if you would like to help lead LWVSC toward its future as a vital community organization.

By R. Chamberlain

Book Notices & Articles

By E. Heaser

-In their latest book, *The Meaning of Life*, Marc Mauer Executive Director of The Sentencing Project, and Ashley Nellis, Senior Research Analyst for the Project present data on the prison system. Kerry Myers, former “lifer,” wrote profiles of prisoners. pg. 7 Some facts: Prison expansion era began in the 1970s, 200,000 people were incarcerated at that time in state and federal prisons, in 2018 more than 200,000 are serving life sentences, the 1980s war on drugs resulted in a ten-fold increase of those incarcerated. Unfortunately the Bureau of Justice Statistics has not documented the scale of life imprisonment. Two-thirds of people serving life sentences are people of color, forty-eight percent of whom are African American, pgs.-14-15. Juvenile statistics: 12,000 who are under the age of 18 and are serving life sentences. Between the years of 2008-2016 women lifers increased by twenty percent. P.17

-*TRAILBLAZER a Pioneering Journalist’s Fight to Make the Media Look More Like America*, 2018, a memoir by retired *Washington Post* reporter and columnist Dorothy Butler Gilliam. The author was the first black woman journalist hired by the *Post* in the early sixties. In the memoir she discusses the “... hurtful quality of social segregation” during that time. Gilliam grew up in Memphis and Louisville where she experienced Jim Crow, she states, “As a Southerner, I knew Mississippi was a land of black death.” That did not stop her from covering white supremacist mob violence and civil rights “flashpoints.” *Kirkus Reviews*, 12/15/2018, pg. 19. An [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) blurb states “... this book covers a wide swath of media history – from the era of game-changing Negro newspapers like the *Chicago Defender* to the civil rights movement, feminism, and our current imperfect diversity.” “This timely memoir ... is a smart, contemporary consideration of the media.” Retrieved 2/18/19.

Articles of Interest:

“The new authoritarians are waging war on women: Donald Trump’s ideological cousins around the world want to reverse feminist gains of recent decades.” Peter Beinart, [The Atlantic](https://www.theatlantic.com), January-February, 2019, 1pgs. 1-15.

-“A history of the southern border: Fences are a relatively new addition to the U.S.’s 1,954-mile boundary with Mexico.” [The Week](https://www.theweek.com), Staff. 2/8/19, pg.11

-[Sacramento Police Department Report and Recommendations](https://www.sacramento.gov). California Department of Justice, Xavier Becerra, California Attorney General, 2019. Recent report requested by Sacramento Police Chief Daniel Hahn.

“DOJ’s assessment and recommendations address the following six areas: 1. Use of Force Policies 2. Use of Force Reporting and Investigation 3. Use of Force Training 4. Officer-Involved Shooting Incident Review 5. Personnel Complaint Procedures 6. Community Engagement and Transparency. This report also includes a review of SPD’s officer-involved shootings that occurred from April 2013 through March 2018 and recommendations flowing from that assessment. Not including the shooting of Stephon Clark, a total of 18 officer-involved shootings occurred during this period.”

-“Making the homeless count.” Scott Thomas Anderson, [SN&R](https://www.snar.com), 2/7/2019, pg. 14-15. Caption: “Has Sacramento’s crisis on the streets gotten so bad it can’t be quantified?”

-“A reason to doubt the count: Government agencies rousted dozens of homeless people days before volunteers were supposed to count homeless people.” Raheem F. Hosseini, [SN&R](https://www.snar.com), 2/7/2019, pg.15.

-“Gun-seizure laws grow in popularity since Parkland,” Ryan J. Foley, *AP. The Sacramento Bee*, 2/10/2019, 12A. “Red flag” laws (allows police or household members to seek court orders requiring people deemed threatening to temporarily surrender their guns) have now been passed in 14 states. Declines in gun suicides by 10% in Connecticut and 7.5 % in Indiana were noted in one study.

-*Global wealth inequality*, 2019, Gabriel Zucman, Dept. of Economics, UCB. National Bureau of Economics Research, Working Paper 25462 <https://www.nber.org/papers/w25462.pdf> “Both surveys and tax data show that wealth inequality has increased dramatically since the 1980s, with a top 1% wealth share around 40% in 2016 vs. 25–30% in the 1980s.” Abstract. Retrieved 2/12/2019



The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County

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Return Service Requested
March 2019
First Class Mail

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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

Happy Spring. Dreamstime.com free image. 2/4/19



Pick of the week's cartoons



The Week, 2/1/2019 pg.18
Matson. caglecartoons.com
CQ Roll Call