



League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County  
PO Box 4548  
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League of Women Voters® of San Joaquin County

# THE VOTER

AUGUST 2019

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Learn more about the League at [sjc.ca.lwvnet.org](http://sjc.ca.lwvnet.org)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## KATHY CASENAVE LWVSJC President

Our League will shortly be starting a busy and exciting new year. The League of Women Voters' mission is to encourage the informed, active participation of citizens in government, and our San Joaquin County League is committed to fulfilling this mission.

In September, League members will be on high school campuses assisting students in filling out voter registration forms. California is designating September 16-27 High School Voter Education Week, and we are partnering with the Registrar of Voters and the County Office of Education to reach as many high school seniors as possible.

We will continue organizing candidates' forums and presenting the pros and cons on ballot measures. The primary is quite a bit earlier this year, March 3rd, and candidates can start filing on November 11.

Also, throughout the year we will be offering programs on issues that are of interest to members and to the community.

The League is nonpartisan, but after studying issues we can use our positions to advocate for or against particular policies in the public interest. On the national level, the League opposed the citizen question for the 2020 census. Locally we submitted Letters to the Editor in opposition.

The California League is co-sponsoring two proposed constitutional ballot measures that may be on the November 2020 ballot:

- Schools and Communities First. This measure would amend Proposition 13 so that large corporations pay their fair share of property tax
- ACA 6, a legislative bill placing an initiative on the ballot to amend the constitution to restore the right to vote for Californians on parole.



There also will be a great deal of attention in 2020 regarding the 100 year anniversary of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote. The League of Women Voters, founded by Carrie Chapman Catt, will also be celebrating its 100th anniversary. It is hard to believe that securing the vote was a 72-year struggle, beginning with the Seneca Falls convention in 1848.

The San Joaquin County League is a member of the San Joaquin County Commission on the Status of Women and there will be several 2020 events locally in celebration. We will keep you informed.

But first, in honor of the California ratification of suffrage for women on November 1, 1919, there will be a brunch on November 2, 2019 at the Stockton Golf and Country Club. Please consider attending this event; it would be wonderful to have a contingent of League members present. Details are included elsewhere in this Voter.

I am looking forward to the new League year and hope you are too.

# UPCOMING SUFFRAGE EVENTS

Next year, we celebrate the centennial of women in the United States winning the right to vote, the culmination of a 72-year struggle when the 19th Amendment to the U.S Constitution was ratified in August 1920.

But this year, we celebrate the 100-year anniversary of California women winning the right to vote as of November 1, 1919.

Local celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage begins on Saturday, November 2, 2019, with a brunch at the Stockton Golf and Country Club. The keynote speaker will be Women's Studies Professor Lynn Hawley of San Joaquin Delta College. Reservations are limited to 100 guests. To make a reservation, send a check for \$25 payable to SJCCSW to Kathy Casenave, P.O. Box 4443, Stockton, CA 95204.

On August 15, 2020, an all-day conference will take place at Delta College. And on August 23, we'll celebrate ratification with a parade in Stockton. Watch for upcoming details on both events.

The history of the League of Women Voters is closely tied to the suffrage victory. Six months before ratification of the 19th Amendment, during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

That is still the League mission, not just for women but for all voters.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

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Copy Editing – Jane Wagner-Tyack  
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## MY LEAGUE STORY

Bea Lingenfelter

Bea Lingenfelter first joined the League of Women Voters in Huntington, West Virginia, where she and her husband Al lived when they were first married. It was the mid-1960s, and like other League members at that time, she was a mom at home with children under school age.

Bea joined the League because she had always been interested in the political process, especially with issues related to voter service. Also, she had become friends with League members. “I liked the women in the League,” she says. “They knew what was going on in the community and the state, they read a lot, and they liked to talk about what was going on in the political arena.” She eventually served on the League board in Huntington and was involved for about 15 years until she went to work full time in K-12 education.

Bea was still working full time when she and Al moved to California in 1983. After retiring from K-12 administration, she worked until 2006 as an adjunct faculty member in education administration at UOP. A number of years passed before she had time to get involved in the League again.

What engaged her attention was a national League immigration study undertaken by LWVUS in the early 2000s in which the San Joaquin County League participated. “We would have study meetings at Colleen Foster and Donna Brown’s house,” she remembers. Her interest had a



personal angle: her son had met and married a woman from Guatemala, and their children were born in the U.S.

Bea eventually served for eight years on the LWVSJC board, going off the board just this year. Last year, her interest in education came together with her dedication to voter service in LWVSJC’s high school voter registration program, MyVoteOurFuture, which she has organized and oversees. Now in its second year, this program has already reached hundreds of students and involved many League members and other volunteers.

Bea and Al live in Manteca but travel often to visit far-flung family in North Carolina, Guatemala, Texas, Oregon, and Marin County. LWVSJC appreciates the time she devotes here to engaging a new generation of voters.



## MYVOTEOURFUTURE

On August 26 from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. at the San Joaquin County Office of Education, our League in collaboration with the San Joaquin Registrar of Voters and the County Office of Ed will sponsor a high school voter registration workshop. We have invited key student leaders and a staff advisor from all county high schools to participate in this workshop on the 26th. The purpose of the workshop is to energize and engage these key leader students in understanding the importance of the voting process to our democracy. Students will have an opportunity to register to vote, learn how to register others, participate in planning campus registration activities and gain an understanding of why the vote is so key to a democratic society.

To date we have approximately 15 schools committed to participating in the MyVoteOurFuture event. As schools go back into session in early August, we will continue to reach out and invite additional principals and interested staff to become involved. We hope to reach the goal of 20 high schools participating

We will need a number of League helpers to make this project successful, and we already have about 12 committed to assisting.

After the MyVoteOurFuture event, trained League members will be resources/mentors to students as they implement their on-campus voter registration activities. We will also be contacting high schools in September and October to do additional voter registration on campuses as needed and requested. Our in-classroom voter registration activities were very successful over the past year and a half. The MyVoteOurFuture event is designed to reach a greater number of our community's young adults who are reaching voting age in hopes of engaging their energy and ideals to become first-time and then lifelong voters.

We welcome more assistance and if you can help please let us know. If you would like to assist with this League project, please contact Bea Lingenfelter at 239-3881 or Julie Schardt at 986-3029.



## UNSEEN WATER

Underlying San Joaquin County is a lot of water that we can't see but do rely on. We depend on groundwater to supplement surface water for agriculture. Cities, too, depend on it. For example, in the past, Lodi's municipal supply was entirely groundwater, although a new water treatment plan now allows the city to get half its water from the Mokelumne River.

Also, people on domestic wells and small community water systems depend entirely on groundwater for the water coming out of their taps.

Statewide, close to forty percent of the water needed for cities and agriculture comes from groundwater, with that percentage increasing when we have a series of drought years. In the southern Central Valley, which has inadequate local surface water to sustain the extensive agricultural operations there, groundwater supplies have been severely

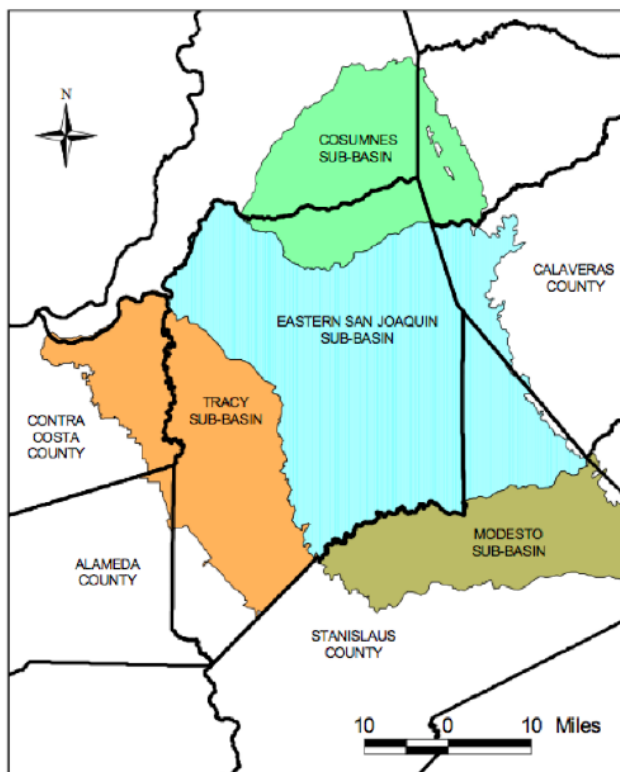
depleted, or overdrafted. In some cases, the land above groundwater aquifers has actually dropped (subsided) by as much as 20 feet and damaged canals on the surface. Groundwater overdraft is a major reason why agriculture south of the Delta is so reliant on water from north of the Delta.

Two groundwater subbasins underlie San Joaquin County: the Tracy Subbasin (which also includes parts of Contra Costa and Alameda counties) and the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin (which also includes parts of Stanislaus and Calaveras counties). While overdraft in this area is not as extreme as it is further south, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has classified the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin as critically overdrafted. Over the long term, if groundwater isn't managed differently here, more water will be drawn out than will be replenished.

Under a law passed in 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin has until January 31, 2020 to come up with a plan to sustainably manage its groundwater. The Tracy Subbasin, which is not critically overdrafted, has until January 2022 to develop a plan.

SGMA requires that the agencies developing the management plan consult with members of the public who will be affected by it. In the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin, this has not been done in a coordinated way. In July, LWVSJC, together with Sierra Club Delta Sierra Group, Restore the Delta, Puentes, and the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, submitted comments on public outreach and suggestions for improvement. You can see that comment letter at [sjc.ca.lwvnet.org](http://sjc.ca.lwvnet.org), where it is the top item under **Hot Topics**.

A public draft of the plan is available for review through August 25 and can be found on the website of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority, [esjgroundwater.org](http://esjgroundwater.org).



**SALLY M. MILLER** Historian, Author, and League Member

**APRIL 13, 1937 - FEBRUARY 22, 2019**

Sally Miller, University of the Pacific history professor and prolific author on immigration, women's history, feminism and labor issues, died earlier this year at O'Connor Woods.



where she made history herself as the first female tenured professor in the social sciences at UOP. She received many academic honors, including two Fulbright scholarships to teach abroad. Sally published thirteen books, including a memoir of her life with her partner of 49 years, Peg Keranen. While Sally received recognition for her scholarship, she was held in highest esteem by students she taught, encouraged and nurtured.

Sally was an active member of the League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County, serving as a key member of the League's Immigration Study to which she brought both her expertise on immigration issues and her passion for history and the role of immigrants in American life.

Born in Chicago into a family of Jewish emigres, Sally taught at the University of the Pacific for 34 years

Sally was serious about her work but had a quirky sense of humor that could catch people off guard. She loved to travel and treasured the dogs that were essential to her life. In addition to the League, she was active in the ACLU and issues of LGBTQ rights. She was recognized with the Helen Pearson award in 2008 for her contributions to our local League.

## SUFFRAGE BRUNCH

San Joaquin County Commission on the Status of Women  
Founded November 1974  
INVITES YOU TO A BRUNCH

In Remembrance of  
California Ratifying Suffrage for Women on November 1, 1919

Stockton Golf and Country Club  
Saturday, November 2, 2019  
10 AM - 12 PM

Keynote Speaker:  
Professor Lynn Hawley, Women's  
Studies  
San Joaquin Delta College

TO RSVP:  
Make check payable to SJCCSW  
for \$25  
Mail to Treasurer Kathy Casenave  
PO Box 4443  
Stockton, CA 95204  
Reservations limited to 100 guests



# KICKOFF MEETING

## TOPIC: HOMELESSNESS IN SJ COUNTY

SPEAKERS: PETER W. RAGSDALE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SJ COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY  
ADAM CHESHIRE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR FOR  
HOMELESS INITIATIVES

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21, 2019

TIME: 10:30 A.M. - 12 P.M.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
808 PORTER AVE., STOCKTON

RSVP TO [LWVSJC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LWVSJC@GMAIL.COM)

FOOD PROVIDED

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Our League plans to host regular meetings throughout the year on a variety of important and timely topics. You won't want to miss them!

### SAVE THE DATE FOR:

NOVEMBER 16, 2019 — GUN VIOLENCE

JANUARY 18, 2020 — LGBTQ PRIDE

MARCH 21, 2020 — THREATS TO OUR ELECTIONS

APRIL 11, 2020 — CIVIL RIGHTS

MAY 16, 2020 — CHILD CARE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING  
MAY 30, 2020