



# The Sacramento Voter

FEBRUARY 2018



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Women’s March 1/20/18, photo provided by P. Lee

### Women’s March 1/20/18

Over 30,000 up to 36,000 marched in Sacramento and 500,000 in Los Angeles. Last year approximately 20,000 marched in Sacramento. By Adam Ashton & Nashelly Chavez, *S. Bee*, 1/20/18 updated 1/21/18.

*Vox*, 1/23/18, reporter, Berman Lopez reported that nationwide 1.6- 2.5 million people marched, fewer than the 2017 march.

E. Heaser

## EVENTS

Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. [Insure the Uninsured Project \(ITUP\)](https://insuretheuninsuredproject.regfox.com/22nd-annual-conference). Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street. Pre-register: <https://insuretheuninsuredproject.regfox.com/22nd-annual-conference>

Tuesday, February 13, 2018, Unit meetings, page 3

Wednesday—Friday, March 7-9, 2018. [Housing California Annual Conference](#), Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, page 3

### Co-Presidents' Corner

This year 2018 offers a tremendous opportunity to promote voter registration and participation in the elections. Volunteer activities include presenting pros and cons on ballot initiatives. Training is provided for these presentations. Get the word out about voter services participation.

We know we need to find newer and better ways to engage with our members. One suggestion is to help League members get to know other members who live near them. You could think of these new neighborhood groups as “**activist units.**”

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2017-2018

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Cont. page 1, Co-Presidents

Currently we have two traditional Units that meet at a specified time and place each month to discuss a particular topic. These new activist units need not be tied to a specific format. Each group could decide what works best for them. For example, each of the six additional cities in our county (Folsom, Elk Grove, Citrus Heights, Isleton, Galt and Rancho Cordova) could have an activist unit. Also there could be units created in neighborhoods within the City and County of Sacramento. As a member of your local community you would be more likely to know of upcoming events where the League could set up tables to do voter registration and/or educate residents about the new voting system -**Voters Choice Act**.\* With local activities near your home, travel time to events would be shorter and easier for you to participate in. Members of the Board would come to meet with you in order to provide needed information and materials.

Let Nancy or me know where to meet your unit, suggest two to three optional times for you to meet, and a local place or two, and we will connect you with your local members via email. Email me at [claudiabon16@gmail.com](mailto:claudiabon16@gmail.com).

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. Help more fellow citizens participate. The recent election in Virginia where two state house candidates were tied in the vote tally demonstrates that every vote does matter. We cannot help but wonder how many of those eligible to vote, who did not vote, now realize their vote could have made a difference. Being proactive beats being regretful.

*Claudia & Nancy*

\* **Voters Choice Act (SB 450)** to ensure it is in place in Sacramento County for the 2018 elections. This law allows certain California counties to move from offering traditional precinct-site voting to an election system using a combination of vote-by-mail balloting, ballot drop-off location, and Voting Centers.

**New Members**

Maria Frederick  
 Pamela Romero

**Returning Member**

Heidi McLean

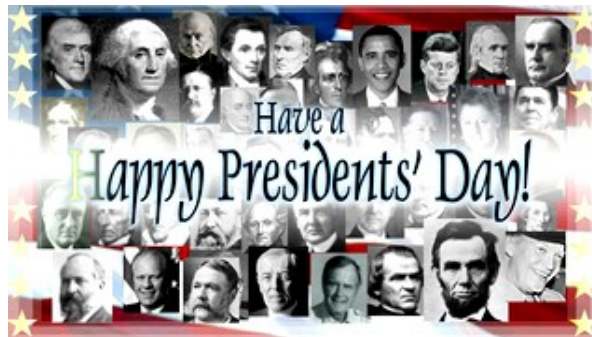


**Women's March 1/20/18. Trisha & Tom Uhrhammer**  
 Photo provided by T. Uhrhammer

**Unit Meetings—February 2018**

At Unit meetings we discuss current issues of concern to our League. Some attendees bring newspaper clippings or internet articles. At last month's meeting, both units explored the statewide support of "Make It Work" to reform Prop.13. Also there has been discussion about the new voting centers to be tried in the 2018 elections. Any League member is welcome at either Unit, if you wish to drive across town! Future topics may include water in California.

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Suburban	Tuesday February 13, 2018 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner 944-1042 Helen Shryock 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday February 13, 2018, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	455 Sunlit Circle Sacramento, 958313



Google Images 1/16/17

**Ballot Measure Filed To Fund Schools by Closing Corporate Tax Loophole**

Our grassroots coalition including PICO California, California Calls, Advancement Project California and Evolve California announced the filing of a ballot initiative to fund California schools by closing the Corporate Property Tax loophole in Proposition 13. It *would make California's biggest corporations pay taxes on the actual value of their property*, while continuing to guarantee protections for homeowners, residential renters, agricultural land, and small businesses. Through filing this initiative the coalition is beginning to take the necessary steps for exploration of a possible 2018 ballot initiative.

The measure, called [The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018](#) will restore over \$11 billion per year to California's schools, community colleges, health clinics, and other vital local services. California communities are chronically underfunded, which has hurt our public schools and students the most in addition to cutting essential funding from emergency responder services, parks, libraries, health clinics, trauma centers, affordable housing, homeless services, and roads.

**Housing Annual California Conference**

To build on the momentum of a landmark legislative year, the [2018 Housing California Annual Conference](#) is focused on MOVEMENT. Scheduled for March 7-9, 2018 at the Sacramento Convention Center, the Conference will bring together more than 1,400 leaders, advocates, organizers, residents, and more to learn from successes and move collectively toward new ways of thinking, doing business and achieving results.

**Early Bird and Member Discounts:** Save money by registering early beginning January 25, 2018. Save even more by ensuring your Housing California membership is current. (members save hundreds of dollars off registration). [Cost range \\$190 – 440.](#)

**Are you or your organization a member?** [Find out.](#) If not, learn how you can join. Your membership ensures Housing California can continue to fight for affordable homes and ending homelessness.

From: Sacramento Housing Alliance

### **Climate Change Solutions Lifestyle Change and Technology**

We are already experiencing climate change with a global average temperature rise of 1<sup>0</sup>C above pre-industrial levels. Impacts including sea level rise and more extreme weather. Mitigation of climate change is a top priority for the LWV at the national, state and local levels. There is an international agreement and California state legislation establishing the target goals of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 to 2<sup>0</sup>C above pre-industrial levels and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 80% below 1990 levels.

Many believe that we need to emphasize lifestyle changes, reducing materialism and economic growth. Others believe that technical and physical changes, such as the conversion to renewable “clean energy,” and zero or very low emission transportation should be emphasized.

Changing the economic system has been proposed in the past. In the 1860’s British philosopher and political economist, John Stuart Mill, wrote a very compelling essay, *Steady State Economy*. In the 1970’s the Club of Rome report: [\*Limits to Growth\*](#) was published and recently Naomi Klein wrote the popular: *This Changes Everything, Capitalism vs. the Climate*. Implementing such solutions have proved to be elusive.

Locally the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) a six county transportation, housing and land use planning agency produced the national award winning regional *Blueprint* plan for future growth. This Plan was developed to encourage more compact public transit oriented development. However, it has not been implemented. Public transit use has declined by 30%, the average vehicle miles traveled by individual autos has increased, and some sprawl development has been approved.

Of the climate change related meetings I have participated in, those of California Clean Cities are the most positive with regard to progress. At these meetings City district department heads, fleet managers, manufacturers, operators and engineers discuss the latest technical innovations and advances they have developed and acquired that will result in reductions in GHG emissions. These include electric vehicles and other low or zero emissions equipment such as solar powered charging stations and electric cranes. The cost of clean renewable energy has decreased by a factor of ten or more due to technological advances. Similar cost decreases are occurring for low or zero emission vehicles and equipment.

Realistically climate change must come from a combination of actions. The California Air Resources Board GHG reduction plan includes more than 60 actions that are needed for a comprehensive solution. We should do all we can to adjust our materialistic lifestyles. In the near term, technical innovations appear to be providing the most benefits.

By Rick Bettis

### **Update on Homelessness Report**

Mayor Steinberg's End of Year Report: The City Opens 200-bed Winter Triage Shelter in North Sacramento

The opening of this shelter embraces housing first principles and represents a critical element of the end goal to get thousands of people off streets and into homes in the next three years. We will connect people to services and provide emergency relief during the coldest months of the year and lessen the overall impact on the community. This shelter is an innovative temporary solution while larger housing initiatives are implemented. The new triage facility will serve as a low-barrier emergency shelter – meaning no one will be turned away because they have a pet, possessions, prior dismissals from other programs, or behavioral health issues – with capacity for up to 200 people at once. The facility will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week from December 8, 2017 – March 31, 2018. Issued by Mayor Darrell Steinberg

### Indivisible, Political Group

On January 24, 2018 I attended an Indivisible meeting. The coordinator of the Group noted that Indivisible is celebrating their one-year anniversary and the Group is making progress. Their goals for 2018 are to: focus on the key issues of good government, net neutrality, environmental issues, increase membership, diversity, engagement, outreach, and voter registration, more outreach and contact with officials – state and federal, win 2018 elections by using phone banking and other media means.

The guest speaker was State Senator Scott Wiener, (D), 11<sup>th</sup> District, San Francisco. Senator Wiener discussed many of the bills he wrote or cosponsored. He stressed working across the aisle ... cooperation with disparate groups. He appeared to be a low-keyed person with progressive ideals.

Some of the many bills that Senator Wiener is involved with include: SB 900, California Fruit & Vegetable EBT Pilot Project bill that will make California grown fruits and vegetables more affordable for CalFresh recipients; SB 822- will move forward legislation to establish net neutrality in California; SB 562, co-authored the Healthy California Act, viz., single-payer health care in California; SB 149, co-authored the Presidential Tax Transparency bill. Presidential primary candidates would have to provide five years of their most recent tax returns; [SB 827, Transit Density Bill](#) would allow more housing near public transportation, i.e., mid-rise housing, 45 to 75 feet high (not single or high rise dwellings). This bill would provide a new source of housing, it prohibits density restrictions within a half mile of major transit stations. SB 827 would help meet climate and air quality goals by providing more housing in urbanized areas. He also mentioned that a minimum of 10% of housing would be required for low income unless the jurisdiction had a higher requirement. SB 100, he spoke in support of this bill that would move California to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2045. Many other ideas, and how to work with other agencies (private and state) to present and pass legislation, were discussed.

By E. Heaser



Women's March 1/20/18. Photo provided by P. Lee

### Housing

*Large Midtown Housing Project Approved.\** An apartment building with 159 apartments was approved by the City Planning Department. The building will be built at 17<sup>th</sup> and S streets by Capitol Area Development Authority and CFY Development, building to begin in 2018. The complex will have housing for market rate housing, low-income housing and housing for the “missing middle,” i.e., for those who can not afford market rate rents that are charged in downtown Sacramento, pg. 1-B. By Ryan Lillis, *\*The Sacramento Bee*, 1/20/18 pgs.1B-2B. Of interest: [RENTCafe Report](#) issued November 8, 2017. By E. Heaser

### Announcement to Local Leagues: June 2018 Ballot Measures

The LWVC board took final positions on the measures scheduled for the June ballot. We'll have a **The League Recommends** (a.k.a. Vote With the League) by early April. Meanwhile, here's a quick summary of the League position on each measure:

#### Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund (ACA 1)

This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB of Cap-and-Trade allowances. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions. **The LWVC opposes this measure.**

#### Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes (ACA 5)

If passed, this measure would raise excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel, provides for regular increases to those taxes based on inflation, establishes a new fee on zero-emission vehicles, and raises vehicle registration fees. The new revenue from these taxes would be used for transportation-related purposes -- repairing streets and bridges, addressing deferred maintenance on highways and local roads, improving public transit, and investing in needed transportation infrastructure to benefit all Californians. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services, including safe roads and good public transportation. **The LWVC supports this measure.**

#### Effective Date of Initiatives (ACA 17)

Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after election day, that is not always the case. Prop cc would provide that an initiative would take effect 5 days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results. This is a common-sense measure, ensuring clarity about what is – and is not – California law. **The LWVC supports this measure.**

#### California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act (SB 5)

This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. The water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking, and are a key part of our state response to climate change. **The LWVC supports this measure.**

**How does the League make ballot measure endorsements?** We only take positions on ballot measures based on current policy [positions](#) and [League principles](#). Positions are developed based on grassroots member [study and consensus](#).

Sent by Helen L. Hutchison, President, LWVC, 1/16/18

### Book Notices

David Miliband, President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee and former Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom wrote: [Rescue: Refugees and the Political Crisis of Our Time](#), 2017, also presented as a TED talk. “Sixty-five million people are fleeing for their lives.” The author describes the lives of many refugees he met. This is the largest number of people fleeing for their lives since WWII. Miliband asks: “What are the duties of the rest of the world toward the innocent victims of war?” page 4. Refugees are victims of terror, they are not the terrorists. He states that renewal of the values of “... international engagement and mutual respect ... ultimately define who we are, how strong our societies are, and what leverage we exert around the world.” page 8

*Hacks: The Inside Story of the Break-ins and Breakdowns That Put Donald Trump in the White House*, 2017, by Donna Brazile, exposes a behind the scenes, candid review of the 2016 democrat presidential election. Donna Brazile is an American Political Strategist, campaign analyst, Al Gore campaign manager, and interim chair of the Democratic National Committee in 2016. *The Guardian* [U.S. Edition], 11/17/17, states “...the book is an easy and vivid read, everything one expects in a first-person campaign narrative – except for its detailed discussion of Russia’s hacks, WikiLeaks, and threats to Brazile herself. On that score, the book is down-right alarming.” [Retrieved](#) 1/2/18. For a more extensive and critical review see: [The Atlantic’s- Politics and Policy Daily](#), David Litt, 11/18/17, retrieved 1/11/18.

[The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World](#), Jeff Goodell, 2017. This book is considered one of the top 10 science books of 2017 by *Booklist* and a *New York Times* critics top book of 2017. Jeff Goodell is an author and contributing editor to *Rolling Stone* magazine, and 2016-2017 Fellow at the New America Foundation. His writings focus on energy and environmental issues. One reviewer, [John Green](#), writes: “This harrowing, compulsively readable, and carefully researched book lays out in clear-eyed detail what Earth’s changing climate means for us today, and what it will mean for future generation ... it’s a thriller in which the hero in peril is us.”

By E. Heaser

## Reports

By E. Heaser

### [Megafires: The Growing Risk to America's Forests, Communities, and Wildlife](#)

A Report by the National Wildlife Federation, October, 2017

“This report discusses the intersection between wildfire, wildlife, climate change, and forest management. In addition, we provide policy recommendations on how to counter the growing threat of megafires in the United States.

The current crisis in wildfire and forest management has its roots in three interacting dynamics: the legacy of past forest management and fire suppression; dramatic increases in housing development in the fire-prone wildland-urban interface; and rapidly changing climatic conditions. Reducing risks from megafires will require that we address each of these underlying problems, including: scaling up efforts to tackle the massive backlog in forest restoration; encouraging more responsible and fire-wise development in wildland areas; and confronting climate change both by reducing greenhouse gases and by incorporating climate considerations in forest management and restoration. What is most urgently needed, however, is to fix the broken federal budget process for fighting wildfires.” Retrieved 1/16/18

### [Oroville Dam Report](#)

*Independent Forensic Team Report Oroville Dam Spillway Incident*,\* a 584 page report concerning the near disaster of the tallest dam in America was released. The Team cites a “long-term systemic failure” by the Department of Water Resources and federal regulators. Flaws date to when the structure was designed in 1960, and an inexperienced designer was in charge of overseeing the development of the facility’s two spillways. Inadequate repairs were made over the years.



\**The Sacramento Bee*, 1/5/18, 1A-2A

### **College Costs**

[Where Debt Comes Due At CSU: Unequal Debt Burdens Among California State University Graduates](#), 12/2017. [CSSA Cal State Student Association](#)

“Among CSU bachelor’s degree recipients in 2015-16 who borrowed, nearly eight out of every ten had annual family incomes no greater than \$54,000, and almost two-thirds had annual family incomes less than \$27,000 [Figure 3]. This inequitable burden of college costs on the lowest income students also disproportionately affects underrepresented minority students. Among undergraduates nationally, more than half of Latino students (52%), about three in five Native American students (59%), and almost two-thirds of African-American students (64%) have family incomes under \$30,000. At the CSUs, underrepresented graduates of color are disproportionately more likely to have debt than their White peers [Figure 2].” Page 1 of the *Report*.

### [North Carolina is Ordered to Redraw its Congressional Map](#)

“A panel of federal judges struck down North Carolina’s congressional map on Tuesday, condemning it as unconstitutional because Republicans had drawn the map seeking a political advantage.

The ruling was the first time that a federal court had blocked a congressional map because of a partisan gerrymander ...” *New York Times*, 1/9/2018. By Alan Blinder & Michael Wines.



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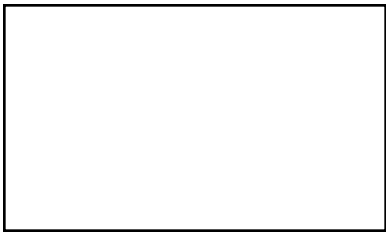
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**U. S. Election Assistance Commission Summit**

On January 10, 2018 the U.S. Election Assistance Commission hosted a day-long summit with state and local officials focusing on a range of election system issues. This portion included a panel discussion on election efficiency and integrity. Speakers included Nevada Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske (R), San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters Michael Scarpello and MIT Political Science Professor Charles Stewart. The Election Assistance Commission is an independent federal agency created in 2002 with the aim of being a national authority on best voting practices. You can watch this video by clicking on the title. Retrieved 1/17/18.

E. Heaser.

***Voter Writers***

Members, please consider writing items for the *Voter* newsletter published monthly, September through May. If you reside in the surrounding cities we want to hear from you. Items relating to meetings you have attended relevant to League positions and programs are of interest. Keep submissions to approximately 300 words and submit between the 15th and 20th of the previous month. Submit your items to Alice Ginosar [aliceginosar@yahoo.com](mailto:aliceginosar@yahoo.com)

Thank you. E. Heaser

