

Phone: 559-226—VOTE


Info.lwvfresno@gmail.com

Web site:  
www.lwvfresno.org

**THE**

**FRESNO**

**VOTER**



*Our 84th Year*



**Monday, January 13**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
4 p.m. Stone Soup  
Zoom link available for  
members and guests

**Thursday, January 23**  
**Members and Guests**  
**“Fresno’s Expanded  
Suburban Plans”**  
4 p.m. ZOOM  
Link will be sent  
See page 3



**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR LEAGUE BOARD**

*Top Row:* Kay Bertken and Robin Chiero, Co-Presidents; Sue Goldman, VP for Voter Services; Maureen Hayes, Treasurer; Pat Campbell, Secretary

*Middle Row:* Marianne Kast and Marie Slater, Program Planning; Diana Durham, Membership; Francine Farber, Voter Editor

*Bottom Row:* Cathy Caples, Faye Nennig, Dolores O’Neal, Radley Reep, All At Large ; Naomi Bick, Student Unit Director

*Please join us at a board meeting and find out more about what the League does and how you can help.*

## Co-president's Message

by Robin Chiero



**W**elcome to the first edition of the 2025 Voter. The past year was a very busy one for our League. Members spent many hours educating already registered and potential voters on the importance of voting and providing resources to help them make informed decisions. We continued to advocate for issues of importance, including climate, education, transportation, and city and county land-use planning. Although not an election year, 2025 will also be a busy year for us.



On February 1 a revised dues management system will be launched. The system is part of the national League's "Membership Transformation", which has the goal of taking the League forward into the future. This month's Voter provides a preliminary description of the system. (See page 3)

Each year we interview our state legislators about their priorities and the issues they think will be important in the coming legislative year. The interviews strengthen the connection between LWV Fresno and the legislators and provide valuable insights to help guide advocacy.

In February we will have our Program Planning meeting. But what is program planning? The answer will be described in detail by the California League of Women Voters in next month's Voter. We will also invite you to our meeting and explain the procedure we will use to get consensus around members' goals for the coming year.

Last June the LWVUS began a Federal Judiciary Study with the goal of developing an official national position in June 2025. You will be receiving additional information in preparation for our consensus meetings in early spring.

*(continued on page 7)*

**The Voter is a monthly publication of the LWV Fresno**

**Mailing address: 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710**

**Volume 66 No. 1 Editor: Francine M. Farber**



## December Board Minutes

**Membership:** With the addition of six members this month, we now have 168 members.

**Program Planning;** This year's Program planning centers around state and local goals. Our meeting will be in February but a date has not been selected.

**National Study:** We will participate in the national Judiciary Study led by Cathy Caples,. Details will be forthcoming. See page 9.

**Webmaster:** A Fresno State student has volunteered to become our webmaster, In the transition Robin Chiero will take over. These changes are necessary since Jacquie Canfield has moved out of the area.

**Mural:** A meeting is imminent between LWVF, the artist and the owners of the building where it is hoped the website will be displayed.

**New Procedures:** ChapterSpot is the new national league's supervisor/distributor /purveyor of membership matters. Information will be sent to our members regarding the new procedures that will be rolled out throughout the nation.

**Board membership:** Radley Reep was appointed to the Board between elections as permitted by our by-laws to recognize his extensive work for the League and to protect his status in case of legal ramifications.

**Donations:** This month we received a generous donation from Angela and Mike Presto

**LWVF IS A 501 C3 non-profit organization and all donations, including dues, are tax deductible. Donations are always accepted for the RBG Scholarship Fund at San Joaquin College of Law, the League's general fund, and any other purpose. Your estate planning is encouraged to consider LWVF. Please make out checks to LWVF and send to Treasurer, LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno 93710.**



## THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 4 P.M.

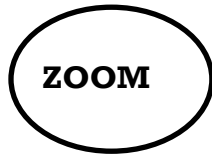
Keith Bergthold, League member, former City of Fresno Planner and local futurist, is working with us to put together a panel discussion. Zoom link will be sent.

**“Questions about Fresno’s Expanded Suburban Plans.”**

The panel will feature local leaders from different areas of the city, talking about how the recent City-County tax

sharing agreement, which encourages development toward the Southeast, will affect incomplete and aging infrastructure in the rest of Fresno.

**\*What is the future of infill development, transportation planning, air quality, etc with this new direction?**



**\*We know that Fresno needs housing but what kind and for whom?**

**\*Whose estimation of population growth is correct?**

---

## New member management system changes dues structure

by RobinChiero

As part of the LWVUS Structure Transformation Plan, all local leagues will be participating in a new national Membership Management system beginning February 1.

Each member will have an online portal that you can use to update your profile information and pay dues. Online dues can be paid by credit card or from a bank account (ACH). Although the system is primarily a dues management system, over time you will also be able to access additional resources through your portal.

In the new system there is no fixed amount for annual dues. The suggested amount will be \$75 but you can “pay as you wish” as long as the payment is at least \$20. Life Members (those who have been members for 50+ years) will continue to have their member dues waived. There will no longer be “Household” dues memberships, though members can still be grouped into households. Members will also be able to join on behalf of other members.

In the current dues system, each local league has been required to make an annual Per Member Payment, meaning that a portion of the dues income goes to the National and State Leagues. In the new system, the local league dues will be

shared as a percentage. We will receive 20%, a slightly larger percentage than we are receiving from the current Per-Member-Payment system.

Some important things for you to be aware of as we move into the new system: First, the system will email a first reminder 60 days before your dues are actually due. Because many LWV Fresno members renew in April, they will likely receive a reminder email shortly after the system launches in February. Your due date, however, will still be in April.

Second, to pay your dues online you will use a Join/Renew option. If you wish to make an additional donation, do **NOT** add your donation to your dues. There will be a separate Donate option which will come entirely to Fresno or wherever you designate. If you add it to your dues Fresno will only receive 20%, as it will be considered dues and not a donation.

Third, you will still be able to pay by check if you wish. Information on that process will be provided at a later date.

As is the case with any new system, there are likely to be wrinkles to work out despite the care taken in planning. We will keep you informed as we receive additional information.

*rchiero@comcast.net*

## Education

by Kay Bertken



Board policy now provides that a new president and clerk are selected on a rotating basis following a regular election. The three trustees who reclaimed their seats on the FUSD Board of Trustees—Claudia Cazares, Andy Levine, and Elizabeth Jonassen-Rosas—have been sworn in. The board has elevated Valerie Davis from trustee area 3 (the Sunnyside High School area) to be the new board president. Veva Islas (area 4, McLane) is the new clerk because her trustee area is next in numeric order.

The business of the board has included reports of the successful audits of last year's financial reports and five-year renewals of two of its ten charter schools. The renewals for University High and Aspen Meadow resulted from a positive district review of their programs and plans.

Reviewing the district's progress toward its goals of improving student outcomes, trustees also heard a report on school district attendance. Chronic absence is defined as missing 10% (18) of school days --no matter the reason. The proportion of students who were chronically absent declined last year from 2022-2023 overall by 4% though it increased for foster youth and homeless students.

The district has instituted some major efforts to address chronic absenteeism, which remains high at 31.4%. Professional learning for school site leaders, including better data tracking and best practices training, has been instituted. A comparison for this year with last year shows improvement. Overall chronic absenteeism is down by 3% so far and even more for homeless students. There are thirty-five schools that have reduced their chronic absence numbers by more than 5%. Among foster youth, however, chronic absence is still elevated.

The other measure of attendance tracked by the district is average daily attendance, which declined dramatically during the pandemic but has generally been recovering. It is up slightly so far this year to 92.4% from 92.1% last year. The district is re-launching school attendance review teams to meet with parents to discuss the issues that are impacting their children's attendance and to try to mitigate any problems.

[kaybertken752@gmail.com](mailto:kaybertken752@gmail.com)

## Behavioral Health

by Carolyn Evans



At its December meeting the Behavioral Health Board received an overview of the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act.

### Provisions for most complex behaviors

The CARE Act provides a pathway to deliver mental health and substance use disorder services, housing and support to individuals with the most complex behavioral health conditions. The individual enters the CARE Act pathway when someone files a petition for an eligible person. Those eligible are adults with schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders, who are not treated or are not stabilized with voluntary treatment, and who are not likely to survive safely in the community with a deteriorating condition.

Eligible Petitioners include family members, health care providers, county mental health providers, first responders, and social service providers. Petitioners are required to provide specific information such as last known address or contact information, prior interactions and dates of previous encounters, severity and risk of diagnosis, and evidence that respondent was detained for intensive treatment within the last 60 days. Also, there must be included a declaration from a licensed behavioral health professional who examined the respondent in the past 60 days or documentation of at least two intensive treatments, one within the last 60 days.

### Program is voluntary

The Petition may be submitted in person or via email at [carecourt@fresnocourts.ca.gov](mailto:carecourt@fresnocourts.ca.gov). For assistance Petitioners may call or walk-in to the Self-help Center at 1130 O Street, First Floor; the phone number is 559-457-2143. If the petition is approved by the Court, behavioral health professionals contact the respondent, "serve" court orders, and begin to engage the individual in the **voluntary** process.

From the experience of other counties that began CARE Act earlier, it takes an average of 56 days to engage individuals in the process. Ideally, the respondent, the

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Water News

by Diane Merrill



The President's Council on Science and Technology recently presented President Biden with a report titled Improving Groundwater Security in the United States.

This is an important report for the San Joaquin Valley as our region is highly dependent on groundwater for domestic use and the economy. For example, about half of the water used in the City of Fresno is groundwater.

Groundwater use is important for the U.S. economy for agriculture, domestic manufacturing, construction, mining, energy production, and other applications. It also provides drinking water for half of the U.S. population and much of the rural population.

The U.S. is facing a serious groundwater challenge. In many areas groundwater withdrawal has outpaced natural recharge, which is made worse by climate change and precipitation variability.

Much of the water in the major aquifers in the U.S. is fossil water, recharged over 10,000 years ago, and will not be replaced naturally on human timescales. In the western U.S. groundwater resources are being depleted at alarming rates. In some areas, including some parts of the San Joaquin Valley, depletion has caused land subsidence and reduction of groundwater storage capacity.

The federal government has limited authority to regulate groundwater, but can assist local agencies with technical assistance, financial incentives, information sharing and collaboration to further sustainable groundwater management.

### Here are the recommendations from the Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

- ◆ Accelerate the development of a comprehensive repository for data and toolkits for groundwater storage, withdrawal, and recharge at spatial and temporal scales useful for water managers and users.
- ◆ Establish a research program to advance technologies and strategies to safeguard the future of groundwater quality and quantity.

*(continued on page 10)*

## Voter Services

by Sue Goldman



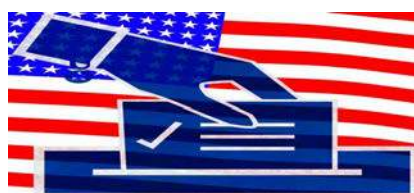
Our committee members reviewed the various activities with which we attempted to engage voters

### High school voter registration

We will investigate partnering with the national organization that is developing high school student voter registration clubs. Another possible partner organization is the Youth Leadership Institute. It was suggested that we try to implement a pilot program at CART to develop a student voter registration club.

### “Why Vote” Presentations

These presentations need to be conducted with community organizations that have ready-made audiences. The county libraries are interested in continuing this work but we need to determine which libraries get the largest community attendance. We intend to get feedback from the Student Unit and teachers on the effectiveness of our



PowerPoint presentation. Another organization to consider coordination with is Black Women Organized for Political

Action (BWOPA). Interacting with people on line at the Food Bank was an effective way to interact with voters. However, we need more Spanish speakers.

### Tabling

The tabling that we did at organizations and high school functions was effective in distributing handouts and utilizing the QR code to connect voters with the state voter registration site.

### Community colleges

We attempted to coordinate with the community colleges on Constitution Day activities. However, we started too late and need to start the process sooner. A presentation was done on Zoom to community college students on how to do effective tabling. We will follow up with the student organization. It was suggested that a presen-

*(continued on page 7)*

# Health Care

by Richard Bertken, M.D.



In February 2024 I reported on the modes and consequences of incurring medical debt in the U.S. healthcare system.

## Medical debt affects credit

The major risk is loss of “credit worthiness” that follows from reports to multiple credit agencies. This leads to lowered borrowing ability and reduced employability, too often at a time when, due to illness and incapacity, these resources are most needed.

Another consequence is the paradoxical loss of access to further healthcare due to the stigma of prior medical indebtedness.

## Newsom signs relief bill

In response, our federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has created guidelines for banning reporting or recording of medical debt that would have lowered credit scores. According to the Commonwealth Fund, the CFPB and many states that have developed such guidelines have yet to fully implement them. In September 2024, the California Senate passed SB 1061 prohibiting negative credit reporting due to medical debt. Governor Newsome happily signed it.

None of these protections against medical debt reporting address *pre*

*vention* of medical debt. Targeted financial aid programs, modification and standardization of hospital billing practices, and improvements in debt collection metrics could work for hospitals and patients alike.

Until recently the possibility of direct discharge of medical debt was



not explored. That debt is still out

there, in “the cloud” or perhaps purgatory, after it has been processed by the hospital financial staff and its collection agencies and deemed uncollectable. Perhaps it will have been written off in some way minimally damaging to the healthcare facility.

## L.A. to forgive millions

In a startling twist, several large counties have taken up the sword and set models for the involvement of small government in big national and state issues. In June 2024 the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to buy and forgive many millions of dollars of medical debt incurred by their constituents. This will be a pilot program that will be continued if, as predicted by financial analysis, the program actually saves the county money.

To implement this challenging task, L.A. County partnered with the charity Undue Medical Debt, formerly known as RIP Medical Debt, to identify medical debtors and assume the role of charitable debt servicers. Undue Medical Debt knows that the value of medical debt decays rapidly and can be purchased for a tiny fraction of the original bill.

It is estimated that the county's \$5million public health investment will help 150,000 residents and eliminate \$500 million in debt. The public health department said it hopes to launch the pilot in the coming months and provide Angelenos relief this year. According to the Board's staff, more money could be allocated in the future if the pilot goes well.

## Could bills be optional?

Hospital Associations are understandably disturbed that payment of their bills could gradually come to be seen as optional among the general public. However, local governments have vital interests in the fiscal health of the hospitals that serve their constituents. This is the kind of symbiotic relationship that should breed creative consensus efforts.

[rbertken@comcast.net](mailto:rbertken@comcast.net)

## *Voter services* (continued from page 4)

tation of. “A Hundred Years of a Thousand Tries”, the League’s musical version of women’s voting history, be used for the basis of discussion with community college groups.

### **Vote 411**

As it was difficult getting contact information for candidates, as well as getting them to upload their information for this free non-partisan website, we will try getting the contact information from the county registration office in the future.

### **Phone bank, and ballot opening**

This election, we had a tour of the warehouse for phone bank volunteers. In the future, we will offer that tour to both phone bank and ballot-opening volunteers.

### **Public Service Announcements**

We will be looking at the possibility of developing public service announcements, both conventional and animated, for getting out the vote and ballot security in conjunction with CMAC.

## *Co-President’s Message*

*(Continued from page 2)*

The influence of the League at the local, state and national levels is notable. On the LWVUS web site click Top Achievements for 2024. At the state level, LWVC took positions on 106 bills during the 2023-24 California legislative cycle. On the state website look up Its 2024 Advocacy Wrap-Up. It describes their impressive efforts. Our monthly Voter keeps you up to date on our LWV Fresno education and advocacy work.

I look forward to having you participate with us this year. The greater involvement we have from our members, the more we will be able to accomplish.



*Robin*

## *Behavioral Health*

*(continued from page 4)*

behavioral health professionals, and the Court develop a care plan to be completed to improve the condition of the respondent. Since the process is completely voluntary on the part of the respondent, it will be interesting to see how many individuals are helped by the CARE Act.

### **New temporary shelters available**

In December the Adult Services Committee heard from RH Community Builders about their Bridge housing programs. Sierra Sunrise and Phoenix Landing are low barrier shelters located in remodeled hotels where individuals



may live while participating in the program to find permanent housing. Individuals receive mental health assessments and housing assessments. A plan for each person is developed to identify a permanent housing solution.

Staff include clinicians, case managers, housing navigators, peer support, and medical support.

### **No cost to clients for housing, food, laundry**

Phoenix Landing can house 120 clients and Sierra Sunrise can house 60. There is no cost to the clients. While in the shelter individuals are considered homeless, so remain eligible for housing reserved for “homeless persons” as defined by HUD. Three meals per day are provided, along with room service and onsite laundry facilities. Initially time limitations are 90 days, but may be extended to 180 days if progress is being made and the client is participating. Individuals are referred by the Department of Behavioral Health, its contracted providers, and hospitals; beds are being reserved for clients of CARE Court. Thus far the successful safe housing placement is 20%. Though we would hope for a higher success rate, we understand that staff are dealing with a difficult population.

The Behavioral Health Board will meet again on January 15, 2025, at 3:30 pm, at 1925 E. Dakota Avenue. You are invited to attend.

*evansalca@comcast.net*

**Note: Graphic shown above is not Fresno housing**

# Climate Action

by Andrea Farber De Zubiria



**What goes where?** SB 1383 is a California law that seeks to divert large amounts of food waste and yard cuttings away from landfills. It also requires that 20% of edible food currently discarded be recovered for human consumption by 2025.

Fresno City and Fresno County have both implemented programs requiring most residents and businesses to put their food waste in the green trash bins so it will be diverted to large scale composting. This is important because composting our food waste reduces the production of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to air pollution and climate change. Both the County and City have mounted information campaigns to encourage the public to put food waste (as well as food-soiled paper and cardboard) in the green bin without plastic bags.



Our committee is wondering how successful this campaign has been so far, and how we can encourage its success. According to WasteDive News, CalRecycle intends to ramp up compliance evaluations for local jurisdictions and roll out millions of dollars in new grant funding as the state looks to make up ground on its SB 1383 target to reduce organic waste

disposal 75% by 2025.

California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) brings together the state's recycling and waste management programs to move the state towards a circular economy that reduces waste and reuses all materials. We suspect there is significant confusion as well as apathy among many area residents. We are planning a pilot survey of local league members to assess their understanding and participation in the organic waste program. Based on that, we are considering a wider area survey and community education campaign of our own.

[afarberdezub@gmail.com](mailto:afarberdezub@gmail.com)

# Housing

by Marianne Kast



California voters soundly defeated Proposition 33 last November. It would have removed statewide restrictions on local rent control.

This was the third time voters have said no to repealing the 1995 Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act that allows landlords to set market rents whenever units are vacant. It also prohibits local rent control for single family homes and condominiums as well as for all units built after 1995. The California Apartment Association and other business interests spent nearly \$125M to defeat this measure.

Only the state of New York surpasses California in the number of renter households. New York employs two systems for maintaining housing affordability and reducing homelessness: Rent Control and Rent Stabilization. Rent Control (in New York City) sets a maximum base rent which applies to buildings built before 1947, where rent can only be increased under certain conditions usually related to maintenance and improvements, or changes in the cost of living. Just one percent of buildings in New York are affected by Rent Control.

The majority of buildings, both in New York City and also extending to other parts of the state, are subject to Rent Stabilization. Rather than setting a maximum rent, Rent Guidelines Boards consider the economic condition of the local real estate industry including property taxes, sewer and water rates, gross operating expenses (fees, fuel costs, insurance, labor, etc), mortgage rates and availability, and vacancy rates, and then set maximum rent increases for the year. For tenants, Rent Stabilization also offers eviction protection except for non-payment of rent or other serious violations of lease terms.

The New York Rent Stabilization Act, enacted in 1969, then amended in 2019, has withstood several legal challenges from real estate organizations and landlords in New York. The U.S. District Court there dismissed those challenges and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the dismissals. And, last November, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review the lower court decisions, leaving New York's Rent Stabilization program intact.

[fourkasts@gmail.com](mailto:fourkasts@gmail.com)



**LWVF will participate:**

## National judiciary study underway

by Cathy Caples



At the LWVUS 2024 Convention, delegates voted to proceed with a study on the federal judiciary.

Conducting a study is the process used by the LWV to create policies for advocacy work.. A study starts at the local LWV level with consensus opinions sent to national.

### Policy needed for advocacy work

LWVUS has policies on the Legislative and Executive branch of the federal government but not the Judicial branch. Developing a LWV position on the Federal Judiciary is an essential component of U.S. democracy since without a position the League cannot advocate for public policy.

The study will be completed on a fast-track timeline in time for a position to be announced at the LWVUS Council in June 2025. The study's purpose includes, but is not limited to, addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics. The scope addresses the Supreme Court as well as the other courts staffed by federal judges, who are appointed for life.

### LWVF votes to participate

Following the convention, LWVUS selected a Federal Judiciary Study Committee and then held a national launch for all Leagues with a webinar in November. At our December Board of Directors meeting, LWVF voted to participate in the study. If

you are interested in providing support for this project, please contact Cathy Caples at:

**[cathycaples@gmail.com](mailto:cathycaples@gmail.com)**

### TIMELINE

The study guide with questions will be released on February 7. Our local consensus is due to the Federal Study Committee by April 14. We want to build momentum for a robust and



diverse base of thought before we reach consensus. While voting on the questions is only open to members of our league, input can be gathered from the broader community.

The Federal Judiciary Study Committee will offer multiple opportunities for Leagues to ask questions about the study, hear about the committee's work, and also learn about this issue. Sometime this month there will be a National Town Hall on the Federal Judiciary, with an opportunity to hear from leading experts on this work and get information about the federal judiciary.

Once all the local leagues have provided their consensus the Federal Judiciary Study Committee will cre-

ate a proposed position to be presented to the national board for vote and final approval. The position will be announced at Council which takes place from June 26-28.

To prepare for the study, the Federal Judiciary Committee has provided the following study resources.

**Understanding Federal Courts:** This publication provides an introduction to the federal justice system, including how it is organized and how it relates to the legislative and administrative branches of government.

### Code of Conduct for U.S. Judges

This document includes the ethical principles that apply to federal judges and provides guidance on the official duties and engagements related to outside activities for federal judges.

### Congressional Research Service Paper: The Supreme Court Adopts a Code of Conduct

This document was published following the announcement of the US Supreme Court's adoption of the Code of Conduct and provides background information on federal judicial ethics rules before the adoption of the code and briefly outlines the substance of the code adopted.

### Take action now:

- Read the materials above
- Watch the weekly e-newsletter for calendar updates and information
- Create a list of community members to invite to our local meeting in late February **[cathycaples@gmail.com](mailto:cathycaples@gmail.com)**

# Air quality changes increase life expectancy

by Alex Sherriffs, M.D.

To look up is to recognize our Valley has major air quality challenges.

We live in a giant bowl, which is subject to stagnant air (our infamous winter inversions and Tule fog, but also frequent with our summer heat waves), and when added to summer heat create a potent and unhealthy atmospheric mix, notably ozone and chemically created, especially unhealthy small particles, "PM 2.5".

To paraphrase the Las Vegas adage, what happens here (from a pollution standpoint) stays here. Small wonder that our basin is consistently in the tops for "Most polluted".

That said, huge progress has been made since the Clean Air Act was enacted in 1963. No longer is everyone's IQ measurably diminished by lead in gasoline. Valley businesses emit 7% of the ozone-forming NOx today that they emitted in 1980.

Considering the increase in auto and truck traffic since 1980, one might marvel at the overall 80% decrease

in mobile source NOx in that time span. In 2002 only 61% of days met the 2012 PM 2.5ug standard. Last year 95% of days met the goal. Not



breathing a lifetime of air that foul has increased your life expectancy by an astonishing 2 years.

On-road vehicles and trucks account for a third of NOx and PM 2.5 emissions. Farm equipment and off-road mobile contribute a third. Trains contribute almost 10%. Mileage and emission standards matter. Essential to lowering vehicle

emissions has been California's waiver under the Clean Air Act.

The waiver, in recognition of California's great air quality challenges, has allowed California to negotiate tighter emission standards with the auto industry, standards generally adopted by many other states thereby guaranteeing a larger profitable market for industry. The tighter standards of the waiver have prevented hundreds of thousands of premature deaths.

2025 will bring more challenges. The last Trump administration actively sought to end California's Waiver authority. A

new more healthful scientifically based 9ug PM 2.5 standard was adopted by EPA last year. The incoming Trump administration has been skeptical of the 9ug standard.

The District Board meets in person and by Zoom every third Thursday morning. Public testimony is welcome. Your participation can help lead to a more healthful future.

[raisindetour@gmail.com](mailto:raisindetour@gmail.com)

## Water News (continued from page 4)

- ◆ Establish a federal incentive program and a network of groundwater engagement hubs, including Tribal Nations groundwater engagement hubs to support and assist in the planning of sustainable groundwater management.
- ◆ Create a competitive grants program work to incentivize the planning, sustainable management, and restoration of aquifers along with surface waters critical to their recharge and cleanliness.
- ◆ Incorporate the valuation of groundwater resources into national capital accounting and ensure estimates are integrated into all federal cost-benefit analyses and planning.
- ◆ Launch a comprehensive campaign to recruit, develop, and retain a skilled workforce in groundwater science, management and stakeholder engagement.

PROGRAM

PLANNING

IS COMING

IN FEBRUARY



# FAGIN ORTHODONTICS

EPIC SMILES



Mark Fagin, D.D.S., M.S. 4747 North First Street, Ste. 138  
Specialist in Orthodontics Fresno, CA 93729  
USC Graduate Ph. (559) 375-8727 Fx. (559) 375-8754  
info@faginortho.com

MOTORS  
SOLD • REPAIRED • REWOUND

PH (559) 650-1153  
FAX (559) 650-1186



ELECTRICAL WIRING "Since 1913"  
No. 248015

253 FULTON ST.  
P.O. BOX 446  
FRESNO, CA 93709

Be a Voter sponsor—\$100 per year—226-8683



This space sponsored by  
Joan Lipton

*Merci*



## Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

WILPF  
supports  
local peace and  
social justice  
groups



Skyhorse3593  
@sbcglobal.net

## Raging Grannies

Wild Hats, Cheeky Songs and Witty  
Actions for a Better World  
Invite Us to Your Next Event!



Contact 209-531-3554

kaypitts@gmail.com

*Raging Grannies International*

## PATIENCE MILROD

LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

985 NORTH VAN NESS AVENUE FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93728

559.246.7239 PM@PATIENCEMILROD.COM

Investment Services Retirement Planning Income Strategies



## Robert H. Gunning

*Financial advisor*

*CA Insurance ic #0E61490*

1318 East Shaw Avenue, Suite 200 \* Fresno, CA 93710

Cell (559) 999-0773 \* (559) 222-7441 \* (800)726-2732

Fax (559) 221-6519 \* rgunning@ifgrr.com

HELPING TO PRESERVE  
FRESNO'S PICTORIAL HISTORY



**Howard K. Watkins**

**Fresno's Photo Laureate**

[www.watkinsphotoarchive.com](http://www.watkinsphotoarchive.com)

Contact: 964 Palo Verde Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90815

559-355-7040 \* howardkwatkins@gmail.com



1345 Bulldog Lane \* Fresno, CA 93710

Non-profit Organization
U.S.Postage Paid
Fresno 93706
Permit #896

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents Kay Bertken/Robin Chiero
Secretary Pat Campbell
Treasurer Maureen Hayes
Vice President, Voter Services Sue Goldman
Director, Voter Services Robin Chiero
Director, Education Kay Bertken
Director, Membership Diana Durham
Director, Program Planning Marianne Kast
Director, Program Planning Marie Slater
Director at Large Cathy Caples
Director at Large Faye Nennig
Director at Large Dolores O'Neal
Director, Student Unit Naomi Bick
Voter Editor Francine Farber

Webmaster Robin Chiero

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!
Men and Women age 16 and above Making Democracy

MISSION: The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of interested individuals and influences public policy through voter education and advocacy on issues. The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

DIVERSITY POLICY: There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVF on the basis of race, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or socio-economic level.

What do you get when you join the League? All for one fee, you become a member of the Fresno, California and National Leagues and receive their newsletters. You may participate in League studies of issues; receive leadership training; hone your public speaking skills; become knowledgeable about local and state issues; learn more about government, natural resources and social policies as your time and interests dictate. You will also meet some interesting and friendly women and men who represent diverse backgrounds but find common ground in keeping abreast of current issues.

Yearly Dues Individual - \$70 ~ Family - \$100 (2 members, same address) ~ Student - Subsidized

Please send your check payable to the League of Women Voters, Fresno, with registration form (below), to: LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_