Photo taken at 2019 LWVC Legislation Committee Meeting, Sacramento

When I began my year as the Trudy Schafer Fellow for Public Policy, I thought I knew a lot about how the state legislature works. However, the past several months have been as humbling as they were enlightening. Our work on several priority bills has given me a behind the scenes look at what it takes to effect meaningful change.

My role as the LWVC liaison to the Racial Justice Act coalition has perhaps been the most challenging and rewarding project. Seeking retroactive relief for people who have experienced racial discrimination in their court cases has required intense organizing, negotiations, and grassroots engagement. From this process, **I have learned that when a broad community comes together, you gain so much power to do good.**

I have also had the pleasure of working with many volunteer members of the LWVC advocacy team throughout the state. I am inspired by the fact that Trudy created this community years ago and it continues to bring together passionate and knowledgeable advocates who are tackling the many challenges that California faces.

Now, as I move into a position with the LWVC as an Advocacy Manager, I am about to pass the baton to the next rising advocate. The fellowship continues to evolve. Our next Fellow will be tasked with leading the LWVC into issue areas such as housing and homelessness, climate change, and with a continued eye on building strong, diverse partnerships.

Help us continue to support Trudy Schafer's legacy and young people like me through this League fellowship and donate today.

The Schafer Public Policy Fellowship celebrates our long-time League lobbyist and leader, Trudy Schafer. The League of Women Voters of California supports a new era of advocates to follow in Trudy's footsteps, winning change and reform in Sacramento. More about the fellowship can be found on our website.

Sincerely,

Andrew Muse-Fisher
Advocacy Manager
League of Women Voters of California