

Phone: 559-226—VOTE

Info.lwvfresno@gmail.com

Web site:  
www.lwvfresno.org



**Wednesday, May 4**  
**100 Notable Women Program**  
**3 p.m.**  
**Madden Library Ellipse**

**Monday, May 9**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**4 p.m., ZOOM**

**Monday, May 16 or 23**  
**CEO Tyrone Williams**  
**Fresno Housing Authority**  
**Details to be announced**

**Monday, June 13**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**4 p.m. ZOOM**

**Thursday, June 23**  
**Chief Paco Balderrama**  
**5:30 p.m. in person**  
**Details to be announced**



**The**

**FRESNO**

**VOTER**

**Our 81st Year!**



**Another Opportunity**  
**to see this exhibit:**  
**100 Notable Women**  
**Who Made a Difference**  
**in Fresno**

**Wednesday, May 4, 3 p.m.**  
**Madden Library at Fresno State**

**Four Distinguished Speakers**



**Luisa Medina, Community Activist**  
**Development Director,**  
**Central CA Legal Services**



**Elizabeth Laval, Arts**  
**President, Fresno**  
**Historical Society**



**Jane Cardoza, Law**  
**First Latina Judge,**  
**FC Superior Court**



**Juanita Stevenson, Media**  
**TV and Radio Producer/Education and Family**



## Co-President's Message



t's deja vu all over again, as they say.



I didn't plan to be back in the saddle after six years as president from 2007-2013. But circumstances change, and the healthy survival of the League was very important to me. After urging Kay Bertken to take over the presidency beginning this year, I was enlisted by her to collaborate as co-president. I'm sure we will work together successfully as we have been colleagues on the board and co-conspirators around the issue of early childhood education for many years. She is a great person, smart, organized and most of all committed to whatever she undertakes.

In addition to the co-presidency, we both have elected to maintain our current directorships: Kay in education and I as the Voter Editor.

What we need from our members in return is the following:

- ◆ When you contact one of us by email, please copy the other.
- ◆ We need your volunteerism to make the League work as it should.
- ◆ You've been great stepping up for Voter Services for ballot opening and phone monitoring, but we hope you will also say yes if we ask you to monitor a virtual government meeting and take a few notes, or even attend one in person if circumstances permit.
- ◆ Or make some phone calls to legislators, or other members.
- ◆ Do you like to take photos? We need your help at special events.
- ◆ Do you have experience writing and editing? We need to mentor someone as a Voter editor way down the road.

Please step up when we are forming committees to support our directors: it could be an area of natural resources, or an area of government, or social justice issues. Whatever the topic, you will find it interesting and your colleagues enthusiastic.

Talk to your friends about the League and what it represents for us all. Share your Voter with them – either hard copy or on line, or ask us to send a sample copy to a prospective member. Close to 20% of our members are men, so don't hesitate to recruit them. Invite friends and acquaintances to an event—we try to plan them monthly. We always welcome your concerns and ideas. Here's to a great year!

— Francine



**Membership:** The new roster will be ready to send to members soon.

**Program Planning:** The Board finalized plans for the Annual Meeting. The date for the Women's Equality Day event will be Thursday, August 25. We will give out the WED award and the Lipton Award, and honor the new RBG scholarship winner. See page 8 for more information.

**Education:** A new trustee to replace deceased Carol Mills is about to be elected.

**Voter Services:** There are no propositions on the June ballot but probably four at the regular election in November.

**Suffrage Centennial:** Another event planned around the 100 Notable Women project will be held at the Madden Library at Fresno State on Wednesday, May 4 at 3 p.m. See page 1.

**Measure C:** Mary Savala and Bill Jordan continue to serve on the committee that is deciding which programs to finance. They are advocating for a more open process and equitable spending for transportation needs throughout the county.

**Nominating Committee:** With the passing of Sandy Williams there is a vacancy for a Program Planning director. Members are urged to apply. Support and mentoring will be available for that person.

**AB 2030:** This bill would establish the Citizens Redistricting Commission in Fresno County, which would be charged with adjusting the boundary lines of the districts of the Board of Supervisors in accordance with specified criteria. The commission would consist of 14 members who meet specified qualifications.

**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. Donations for RBG should note RBG in the memo line. Your estate planning is encouraged to consider LWVF. Please make out checks to LWVF and send to Treasurer, LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno 93710.**

The Voter is a monthly publication of the League of Women Voters of Fresno

Mailing address: 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710

Volume 81 No. 5 Editor: Francine M. Farber

Thank You

## Behavioral Health

by Carolyn Evans



Susan Holt has been appointed as the new Director of the Department of Behavioral Health. Over the years she has held many positions within the Department, most recently as Deputy and Interim Director.

Members of the BHB toured the West Annex of the Fresno County Jail in March. The West Annex has been under construction since 2018; with many delays due to COVID, it is expected to be open to house up to 300 inmates in July this year. The new facility will replace the oldest section of the current jail. The first floor of the new annex will provide areas for visiting with inmates, both in person and virtually, though most of the first floor will be occupied by the Probation Department. Floors 2 and 3 each will house 150 inmates, mostly in pods with 24-28 beds. Indoor “yards” with windows are provided for recreational activities. Dayrooms provide space for groups and various enrichment and educational programs.

There is a section for Jail-Based Competency Treatment where inmates may be restored to competency to stand trial locally rather than awaiting transfer to the state hospital. There are two safety cells in the West Annex for those who may be a danger to themselves. Individuals may remain in safety cells for up to 36 hours, and then be moved to adjacent observation cells for up to 10 days before being moved back into general population. There are 12 single cells for high profile, violent, or seriously mentally ill individuals who must be isolated for their own safety or for the safety of others.



Though the West Annex has the capacity to provide better treatment and care for inmates with mental health disorders, prevention and diversion remain better options for those individuals involved in the justice system.

Another No-Place-Like-Home project has been completed. The Villages at Broadway has leased 26 units of supportive housing to individuals who were homeless or at risk of homelessness. Other housing projects are planned, and some of those already are under construction.

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

## Water News

by Diane Merrill



A number of LWVC Water Committee members attended the recent Pacific Institute’s webinar release of its new study on *The Untapped Potential of California’s Urban Water Supply: Water Efficiency, Water Reuse, and Stormwater Capture*. The Institute is a global, non-profit water think tank based in Oakland. The study goes into depth in each of these three priority areas of study and provides examples of projects throughout California.

During the webinar, the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District’s stormwater capture and water reuse project was highlighted as a best practice. There are more than 150 stormwater retention basins in the Fresno/Clovis area that reduce flooding, improve water quality, and replenish groundwater. These basins have the capacity to recharge 160 billion gallons per year into area groundwater.



The Institute estimates that “the urban stormwater capture potential in California ranges from 580,000 acre feet per year (AFY) in a dry year to 3.0 million AFY a wet year in urban areas overlying public supply aquifers.” An acre foot is one acre with a water depth of one foot.

Another example of water reuse in the Fresno/Clovis Metropolitan Area is recycled water from the regional wastewater treatment plant located in Southwest Fresno. A portion of the wastewater originates in Clovis and flows downhill through the City of Fresno to the plant. The use of recycled water from the regional wastewater plant benefits the region because it reduces the amount of groundwater pumping. Since it is inefficient to pump the recycled water long distances uphill, most of it is used on landscaping in the areas near the plant. The City of Clovis gets credit for regional groundwater recharge from the wastewater it contributes.

# Transportation

by Mary Savala



After many meetings presenting Fresno County transportation funding sources, transportation needs and demographic information, a robust discussion of a ballot proposal to renew Measure C began in April.



## TRANSPORTATION

The draft regarding the current transportation sales tax in Fresno County was presented by the agency

staff and is \$6.8 billion raised over 30 years, expiring in 2057. Staff is proposing approximately 60% for the rehabilitation and maintenance of existing streets and roads; 6% to the cities and county to be spent as seen needed in their own jurisdictions; 15% for modifications of regional connecting roads in Fresno County (50% of that to urban Fresno County and 50% for rural Fresno County); 9% for transit, (a cut from the present allocation of 19.7%); and 1% for active transportation (bikes, pedestrian, and trails).

Active transportation allocation is reduced from the current 3.11% of the tax revenues; 1% is allocated for administration of the projects and programs; the remainder of revenues is left up to discussion for spending on advanced transportation technologies, commuter van programs, transit oriented development incentives and/or taxi script.

Fresno State's Transportation Institute is proposing an allocation for gathering data on transportation behaviors, origins and destinations, both rural and urban.

No mention of addressing climate change has yet been discussed, but committee members who have raised the issue have been assured that the State of California focused on climate change for its funding priorities, and electric busses and charging stations are all projects possible in the draft proposition's spending categories.

Staff hopes to finish the proposition to be sent out for public review by May 30. It remains to be seen if a development mitigation fee will be a part of the ballot proposal, and whether some, if any, refinements on the spending plan will be incorporated into the language of the legislation.

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



## SANDRA WILLIAMS

We regret to announce the passing of Sandra (Sandy) Williams, the Program Planning Director of our LWVF board, on March 29 after a long illness which she handled with courage and dignity. She was 69 years old. Sandy and her husband moved to Fresno from Porterville about five years ago and she quickly became an active member of our board. Born and raised in Lancaster, in Porterville Sandy had been a teacher, vice principal and principal in an elementary school. She was an enthusiastic member of our Education Committee. Donations in her memory may be made to the American Kidney Foundation or the League of Women Voters of Fresno.

## WILLIAM STEGALL

William (Bill) Stegall, a League member since 2016, passed away on March 23 at age 84. A minister of the United Methodist Church, he enjoyed hiking in forests and mountains and working with stained glass. He also served on the FUSD school board for more than 8 years. A memorial service will be held on May 21 at 10 a.m. at the First Congregational Church of Fresno. Contributions in his name may be made to Doctors Without Borders.

## CLARA TOUYA

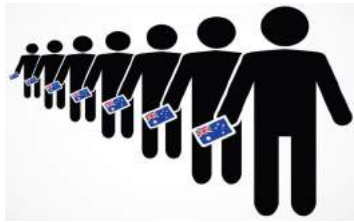
Clara Touya passed away on April 13. She had been a member of our League since 1986, moving to the Bay Area a few years ago. Long-time members will remember that Clara and her husband, Dr. Juan Touya, were most gracious hosts for many League events throughout the years.

## Voter Services

by Sue Goldman



Voter Services was focused on the April congressional and school district special elections. Volunteers spent over 263 hours answering phones and over 98 hours opening ballots. Turn-out was low and many ballot opening shifts were cancelled. Only one phone bank shift was cancelled. The expectation is that the June primary will have a much larger turnout. We will be answering phones and opening ballots again. The phone bank will start May 12 and run through election day. Ballot opening will commence on May 17 and run through June 17. We will be sending out emails asking for volunteers again. We want to thank all the volunteers. We were pleased that some new people volunteered for this last election and are always eager for new volunteers.



### The following positions are up for election in the June Primary:

State-wide: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, Superintendent of Public Education, Board of Equalization, and both Senatorial elections (one term to end in January, 2023 and the other to end in January 2029).

### All newly drawn congressional districts will be on the ballot.

#### Local elections for state legislative positions:

Senate districts 12 and 14 and all Assembly districts.

#### Local elections:

Sheriff, County Clerk, Superior Court, County Superintendent of Schools, County Auditor, County Supervisorial Districts 1 and 4, and City Council districts 1,3,5, and 7.

[121143pvct@att.net](mailto:121143pvct@att.net)

## Climate Change

by Andrea Farber De Zubiria



The Fresno County Board of Supervisors recently rejected a proposal to execute a \$175,000 state grant related to climate change. The grant was meant to assess how climate change impacts the health of the county's vulnerable populations, particularly those living in rural areas. The Fresno County Public Health Department had applied for the funding through the California Resilience Challenge 2021 Grant Program.

Fortunately, the Fresno Madera Medical Society has accepted the responsibility to administer the grant, allowing the study to move forward without the County's involvement. The project is called Fresno Understands Environmental Resilience Through Equity, or FUERTE.

On a related subject, the Fresno County General Plan currently lacks a climate action plan. In 2011, the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition lobbied the County to include one. In 2012, the county added a climate action program and policy to its draft General Plan update. However, in 2017, the County reversed itself and eliminated the draft program and policy without explanation. Our committee plans to send the Board of Supervisors a letter requesting that the climate action plan be reinstated.



In March, CA Attorney General Rob Bonta notified the County that climate resilience was insufficiently addressed in the most recent draft update of the General Plan. He found that the draft lacked a vulnerability assessment and that it failed to include adequate climate adaptation and resilience goals, policies, objectives and implementation measures. Also found wanting were environmental justice considerations related to historically neglected rural communities.

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

## Health Care

by Richard Bertken, M.D.



**T**wo years ago, just as SARS CoV-2 erupted, my January *Voter* article highlighted the serious deficit in our national healthcare workforce. It certainly is a problem in the Central San Joaquin Valley. Our physician workforce is 30% smaller than the U.S. in general. Covid and economic woes from international conflict, notably the Ukraine War, have worsened the situation by redirecting healthcare personnel to soul-draining critical, virtual, and resource-depleted care.

Physicians are aging and burning out. About 20% are expecting to retire within the next two years. The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) predicts that we will need to increase our production of practice-ready physicians by 8,000 per year over the next ten years just to maintain our current marginal workforce. To move to full geographic and ethnographic equity, the number might reach 12,000 per year.

Over the last two decades, traditional and osteopathic medical schools have increased their total graduates by 30%. In recognition of the major contribution that osteopathic schools have made to the healthcare workforce, the AAMC has shared its resources with American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine in providing guidance to students interested in healthcare careers. Academic medical institutions have come to appreciate foundational costs of osteopathic schools that grant Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) degrees. DO's currently make up 11% of our physician work

force but over 20% of recent graduates, a growth trend that will continue and contribute meaningfully to reducing our physician deficit.

The pathway to practicing physician is replete with obstacles, most important of which are the costs of education and foregone income. It is unlikely that, overall, osteopathic schools will be contributors to the diversity so desirable for an effective healthcare workforce. They are expensive, and scholarships and financial aid are modest compared with traditional, endowed campuses.

If one has satisfactorily completed the demanding course and clinical work leading to the granting of an MD or DO degree, your next obstacle is finding a 3-year residency via an on-line matching system. Hospital Medicare reimbursements fund most residencies rather than an agency directing funds based on regional healthcare or educational needs. So you might not be offered, for example, a residency at UCSF-Fresno or the new residency at St. Agnes—sites of wonderful opportunity and need.

However, in December of 2021 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will fund an additional 1000 medical residency positions in hospitals serving rural and underserved communities. This action was part of the Covid Relief Bill. It is the largest increase in Medicare-funded residency slots in over 25 years. It will play a vital role in securing Central Valley healthcare over the next two decades.

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

## Second Notorious RBG scholarship winner announced

Armida Mendoza is a first-generation college student and first in her family to graduate from law school. She is the second winner of the Notorious RBG Scholarship established by Francine and Murray Farber and LWVF.



Armida is from Oaxaca, Mexico. As a child, she **Armida Mendoza** worked alongside her parents in the agricultural fields. Although both of her parents never had the opportunity to go to school, she attended UC Santa Barbara and graduated in 2012 with a BA in Political Science.

Her interest in law arose out of an internship at the California Rural Legal Assistance Fresno office. There she saw the power that attorneys have in changing the lives of entire communities. For the last 10 years, she has worked in various nonprofits assisting low-income immigrant communities throughout the Central Valley. Armida has had the opportunity to assist hundreds of families to apply for immigration relief.

She will be graduating from San Joaquin College of Law in May this month. Her husband and son are her motivation to continue persevering and preparing for the bar examination this July.

Armida will attend our Women's Equality Day event to tell her story and meet our guests.

# Education

by Kay Bertken



Fresno Unified is experiencing a big shakeup of administrative positions: a new chief academic officer and a mutual chairs transfer of the heads of personnel, facilities/operations, prevention and intervention, and the superintendent's chief of staff. It will be important to see the effect of all these shifts, some of which are puzzling.

## Public comment is worrisome

Public comment at board meetings has continued to offer a window into some of the national debates and misinformation around vaccination, curriculum content, and the place of religion in our public schools. This month, anti-vaccination stances have been largely silenced by the Governor's decision to delay a vaccine mandate for school attendance. An appeal for biblical principles and worry about the alleged malicious lessons in children's classrooms energized multiple speakers, "pornographic sex education" and teaching children that they are racists being notable. Teacher morale is low nation-wide. Sitting in on school board meetings (granted that these community attendees may not be representative) makes it understandable.

The Board agendas have been consumed with budget proposals by the various departments, interesting in their proposed expenditures of new funding. In addition to new government dollars, the district has received grant funding for developing a leadership pipeline, a four year education effectiveness grant to provide more staffing and professional learning, and another for the expansion of dual language support for preschoolers.

## Early Learning focus on PK-grade 3

The Early Learning Department presented a strategic plan that involves major expansion of services. The plan includes more dual language programming plus the implementation of transitional kindergarten (TK) to serve all four-year-olds and the related shift of its preschool program to serve more three-year-olds. New early learning centers will provide at least one in each area of the district. These centers provide a full day program for infants and toddlers as well as three and four-year olds. The Department is currently working to align its programs in a preschool to third grade continuum.

## Next Board Meetings:

May 4 and 18

Other important department plans include the expansion of after school programs to serve all interested students at all elementary schools. The Career-Technical-Education division is expanding a credit-earning internship program at five schools, including a new aviation program that will train pilots and airplane mechanics at Chandler Field. The division is also working with the Jordan Agriculture School at Fresno State to develop an agriculture-related career pathway and facility.

The Facilities, Nutrition, Maintenance and Operations Departments have proposed large new one-time funding use for confidential office space for counselling services; new buses to accommodate later start times for high schools (8:30) that have complicated transportation scheduling; a couple of construction projects; HVAC upgrades, and nutrition center equipment. Additional funds for school grounds personnel and custodians added to their funding requests. There was some pushback from a trustee about the expenditure for non-bond funding of building projects.



## More social and emotional services

Large new expenditures for the Department of Prevention and Intervention (DPI) involve more social workers for Project Access, the support services for foster and homeless youth. These will add services down to the preschool level. The Department is also requesting funding for 45 new child welfare and attendance workers and ten new counselling assistants. The focus on the social and emotional health of students is clear.

## District establishes foundation

The district has a new Office of Engagement and External Partnerships. That office has established a nonprofit foundation to support district fund-raising efforts. For the past years, the district has used the Community Foundation to handle the funds raised for its very successful scholarship program. This new foundation will take over that work as well as pursue other funding opportunities. The foundation will formally launch at the State of Education district luncheon in October.

[kayb752@gmail.com](mailto:kayb752@gmail.com)



# We Need Your Nominations

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

The Women's Equality Day Award honors a woman who has broken the glass ceiling in a field usually reserved for men. Previous winners of this award include:

Judge Hilary Chittick  
Dr. Carole Goldsmith  
Susan Anderson  
Dr. Debra Ikeda  
Linda Penner  
Brandi Orth  
Irma Olguin Jr.  
Lynne Ashbeck  
Rae Hotoda  
Kerri Donis  
Misty Her

## LIPTON AWARD

The Lipton Award honors a man or woman who has done extraordinary volunteer work over a considerable length of time. Previous winners of this award include:


Dr. Lee Snyder (posthumous)  
Ellie Bluestein  
Curt Thornton  
Mike McGarvin  
Ruth Gadebusch  
Mary and Dr. Venise Curry  
Kathy Garabed  
Richard Haas  
Paul Loeffler  
Janet Claassen

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR NOMINATIONS BY JUNE 15 WITH a BRIEF BACKGROUND PARAGRAPH**



MOTORS  
SOLD • REPAIRED • REWOUND

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



**Electric Motor Shop and Supply Co.**

ELECTRICAL WIRING "Since 1913"  
No. 246015

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

North of Herndon & 530 E. Herndon Ave. Ste.104  
East of Fresno Fresno, CA 93720-2990

*Frederick J. Kanger, D.P.M.*

**Diplomate, American Board of Podiatric Surgery  
Diseases, Injuries and Surgery of the Foot**

(559) 447-9040  
(559) 447-9042 Fax **By Appointment**

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

**HEBERGER & COMPANY**  
AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

**John D. "J.D." Heberger, CPA**

5090 North Fruit Ave., Suite 102 (559)227-9772  
Fresno, CA 93711-3062 www.hebergercpa.com

**E-mail:jd@hebergercpa.com**

**HELPING TO PRESERVE  
FRESNO'S PICTORIAL HISTORY**

**Howard K. Watkins**  
**Fresno's Photo Laureate**  
**Www.watkinsphotoarchive.com**

Contact: 964 Palo Verde Avenue, Long Beach CA 90815  
559-355-7040 \* howardkwatkins@gmail.com

Investment Services Retirement Planning Income Strategies



**Capital Financial &  
Insurance Services, Inc.**

**Robert H. Gunning**  
*Financial Advisor*  
CA Insurance Lic #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

**Paul E. Pierce**  
strategic vision work

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your  
one wild and precious life?" - *Mary Oliver*

**Paul@paulepierce.com**  
559-246-7236

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Co-Presidents	Kay Bertken/Francine Farber
Secretary	Pat Campbell
Treasurer	Maureen Hayes
Vice President, Voter Services	Sue Goldman
Director, Voter Services	Janice Maroot
Director, Education	Kay Bertken
Director, Membership	Dolores O'Neal
Director, Program Planning	Vacancy
Director at Large	Terri Figgs
Director at Large	Maureen Kast
Director, Student Unit	On sabbatical
Voter Editor	Francine Farber

---

Webmaster                                      Jacquie Canfield

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



***Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy***

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

**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: \_\_\_\_\_