



The Sacramento Voter

November 2019



Fall 2019 Scholarship Winner – Clarissa Laguardia

| Contents | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1- Scholarship | |
| Events | |
| 2- Grand jury | |
| Peace fair | |
| 3- Units | |
| Homeless initiative | |
| Homeless report | |
| 4- Public safety | |
| Ranked choice | |
| Civic engagement | |
| Justice reform | |
| 5- APAPA | |
| Facebook | |
| 6- Civic engagement | |
| Policing | |
| 7- Books/Reports | |
| 8- Books/Reports | |
| Images | |



Most of us cannot even imagine being raised in a war-torn country surrounded by violence, food scarcity, and lack of opportunity; but this was the reality for Clarissa Laguardia, LWVSC's 2019 scholarship winner. With no prospects for the future in her native El Salvador, Clarissa made her way to the U.S. despite having no family support, no grasp of the English language, and no understanding of the cultural norms.

From these humble beginnings she expresses amazement that she was able to attend college at all, but through many hours of dedication and study, she attained, at CSUS, her Bachelor's Degree in Communication Studies with an emphasis on intercultural and international communication at CSUS and is now enrolled in a Master's program for Public Policy and Administration.

Clarissa stated that as a part of her commitment to increase equity and inclusion, she is currently active on several boards and involved in both local and national organizations that promote cultural diversity, inclusion, civic engagement, social justice, language access, and equity across sectors for all members of society. Additionally, she was a Governor Jerry Brown appointee to the California Complete Count as Statewide Language Access Manager for the 2020 census efforts.

One of Clarissa's professors wrote, "In our current cohort of over 60 Master's of Public Policy and Administration students, I cannot think of anyone more deserving of the Anne Rudin Scholarship. In addition to her studies, Ms. Laguardia is a member of a state and country language accessibility advisory board, and an officer in the Sacramento Latino Alumni Chapter.

Another of Clarissa's professors stated, "Clarissa has demonstrated significant intellectual ability, leadership and – most importantly – she is incredibly thoughtful, passionate, and committed to learning."

Somehow, Clarissa Laguardia has found time to become a translator and interpreter which allows her to help other newcomer immigrants. As a linguist, she completed translation coursework, earning certificates from U.C. San Diego. She is now a certified interpreter under the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters and she has also served on their Board of Directors. She holds a prestigious U.S. State Department interpreter certification and has completed highly specialized training at the Intercultural Development Research Institute in Milan, Italy.

Continued page 3

EVENTS

Saturday, November 2, 2019, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Voter Registration Training. La Bou Bakery & Café, 8887 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95826. **RSVP by 10/26/19** to Kristine Rekdahl krekhdahl@comcast.net or 916-444-7022 or Marge Patzer at margepatzer@gmail.com or 209-815-5787 with your name, email address, and phone number.

Tuesday, November 5, 2019, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Voter Registration & Voter information, Cosumnes Oaks High School, 8350 Lotz Parkway, Elk Grove. Contact: Marge Patzer for specific information and shift times. margepatzer@gmail.com 209-815-5787

Tuesday-Wednesday, November 12-13, 2019: Unit meetings, page 3

Wednesday, December 18, 2019, 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Affordable Housing Summit, 5th Annual, U C Davis School of Nursing, 2570 48th St., Sacramento. Register at www.sachousingalliance.org

2019-2020

Contact Us

League of Women Voters of Sacramento County

921 11th Street Suite 700
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-447-8683

lwvsacramento.org
lwv@lwvsacramento.org

Board of Directors

Claudia Bonsignore, President
Paula Lee, 1st Vice-President
Vacant, 2nd Vice-President
Terri Colosimo, Secretary
Suzi Bakker, Treasurer

Directors

Nancy Compton
Mahnaz Khazari
Nancy Lapp
Brenda Main
Joan Normington
Inga Olson
Marge Patzer

Off Board:

Patricia Pavone LWVC Children's Roundtable
Vacant, Budget Committee
Bernadette Lynch, Nominating Comm.
Mahnaz Khasari, Membership
Marge Patzer, Voter Services, Voter Registration

Voter editor- Alice Ginosar
Voter publisher- Eileen Heaser

[facebook@lwvsacramento.org](https://www.facebook.com/lwvsacramento.org)



The Sacramento County Grand Jury

The Sacramento County Grand Jury's website www.sacgrandjury.org/ offers a wealth of general information about grand juries, and Sacramento's in particular. The structure, powers and duties of California grand juries are prescribed in Penal Code §888-939

Grand juries have a civil and a criminal responsibility. The former is inquiry and investigation, as necessary, into the operations of local government agencies and officials to ensure that activities are valid, and services are efficiently and legally provided. Some reports are mandated, and other topics are selected by the grand jurors. Grand juries' legal rights of inspection of records are substantial, but stop short of the courts. The secrecy of the grand jury's deliberations is thought to ensure independent and objective consideration of facts brought before it.

The criminal role for a grand jury is evaluating the 'probable cause' validity of charges that may be brought by a District Attorney's office, although this role is now generally reserved for cases with various unusual aspects. In grand jury proceedings, criminal defendants lack the right to counsel, to present evidence, or to cross-examine witnesses. Even judges generally are excluded; thus, the prosecutor controls all information.

The Sacramento Grand Jury selection process starts with a pool selected by Superior Court judges from applications and voter registrations, and a random drawing is then made for 19 jurors and 11 alternates, who serve from July to June. They receive \$30/day for about 20 hours work per week. Women appear to be a minority of those serving. Their annual reports can offer very interesting reading.

Their most recent annual report addresses the effectiveness of the Board of Supervisor's oversight over elected county officials such as Sheriff Scott Jones, concluding that the county charter should ensure and protect the rights and duties of the appointed Inspector General for the Sheriff's Department.

Government agencies that are the subject of reports are required by law to respond to specific grand jury findings and recommendations. However, the grand jury has no enforcement power, and these agencies are under no legal obligation to carry out the recommendations.

By M. Strand

Locating Election information
www.Elections.SacCounty.net or
916-875-6451

Web sites to check for LWV news

LWVC.org
&
LWVUS.org

Board Meeting Dates

Nov. 13, 2019, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.
Dec. 11, 2019, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.
Jan. 8, 2020, 5:30p.m.-8:30 p.
Feb. 12, 2020, 5:30p.m.-8:30 p.

Articles for *The Voter*
Members are encouraged to write articles relevant to LWV issues, word length up to approximately 350 words. Please provide attribution when appropriate.

Email: aliceginosar@yahoo.com
or cheaserlwv@gmail.com



Doris Olson on left, fall 2019

International Peace Fair

On 10/13/2019, Inga and Doris Olson attended the first annual International Peace Fair held at La Sierra Community center in Carmichael in honor of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th anniversary. There they collected Emergency Climate Declaration signatures for the Sacramento Climate Alliance and registered voters and provided voter education for the League of Women Voters.

Continued on page 3

Unit Meetings—November 2019

| Unit | Date & Time | Contact | Location |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Suburban | Tuesday, November 12, 2019 9:15 a.m. | Anne Berner 944-1042 | 2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608 |
| Outliers Folsom | Wednesday, November 13, 2019 11:45 a.m. | Nancy Compton 916-600-1992 | Lunch, Cliff House, Folsom 9900 Greenback Lane 916-989-9243 |
| Greenhaven Land Park | Tuesday, November 12, 2019 10:00 a.m. | Roseann Kerby 916-3921267 | Greenhaven will meet at Jane Owens home at 16 Sail Court, Sacramento. 916-391-8302 |

Unit Meeting Discussion—November

At our November unit meetings, we'll discuss Firearm and Ammunition policy in the United States. We'll review: *LWWUS Position and Guidelines: Impact on Issues 2018-2020, Gun Policy; League Position and History*—pages 87-88

- LWVC uses this position to address firearm-related legislation at the state level
- LWVSC can do the same if there are policies, ordinances, etc. under consideration at the local level.
- California ranks 1st among states in strength of laws addressing firearms and ammunition.

What should we do to help curb gun violence?

- Look for Action Alerts on our website and voice your support.
- HR 8 is in the U.S. Senate after a bipartisan vote of 240-190 in late February.

By S. Bakker

Continued from page 1, Scholarship ...

Clarissa's own statement sums up her dedication to our society and democracy: "I am proud to be earning a Master's in Public Policy and Administration. I chose this field because I care about what happens in our country. The injustice we see today is the result of public policy used to control power. I strongly believe government needs public servants interested in lifting all people. Structural change requires individuals in their communities to organize and activate others to be part of the civic process."

We couldn't agree with her more.

By N. Compton

Continued from page 2, International ...

The event was hosted by the non-profit VI-SH Koranne Foundation and is co-sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sacramento, and Americans Against Gun Violence. The festival included workshops & presentations on topics related to promoting peace, including panel discussions concerning ways of promoting peace and preventing violence, including gun violence. Americans Against Gun Violence vice president Kate Van Buren was one of the speakers on the topic of gun violence prevention.

There were workshops on Peace Poetry, meditation for peace of mind, Peace on your Plate, and art activities for kids as well as ethnic food, music and dance performances.

By M. Patzer

Homeless Court—Initiative

Does California need a homeless court? Voters could decide. Former California Assemblyman Mike Gatto has submitted a ballot initiative aimed at helping the homeless by diverting them through a special court when they commit crimes such as public drug use or defecation.

By E. Heaser

Homelessness in Sacramento County 2018 - 2019 Grand Jury Reports

Key Finding:

"There is no formal organizational model being used by the community of organizations that will ensure the most effective use of the critical resources available to be used to address homelessness in Sacramento County" Reported by Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness

By A. Ginosar

Office of Public Safety Accountability

In 1999, the Sacramento City Council established the Office of Police Accountability for the purpose of monitoring the investigation of community complaints. In July 2004, the City Manager, with City Council approval, increased the Office's responsibilities to include the Sacramento Fire Department. The Office was renamed the Office of Public Safety Accountability (OPSA).

Since 2008, Francine Tournour was the director of OPSA and was tasked with oversight of the Sacramento police and fire departments with broad authority to evaluate the overall quality of employee performance, as well as the authority to encourage systemic change. To the disappointment of many, she retired as of 9/24/19. Tournour admits that her advice was not always taken but she stated that with the current management, there are lots of changes taking place. Ms Tournour stated that under Chief Daniel Hahn a lot has changed, e.g., Chief Hahn asked the state to review the Stephon Clark shooting. Mayor D. Steinberg stated that the City was "very fortunate" to have Tournour leading the department.

Chairperson of the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission, Kiran Savage-Sangwan, stated that OPSA and the Commission lack authority, adding "I think that there is a question for the City about what is the interest in significant reforms to our police department and our policing strategy." "To the extent that question remains unanswered before the Mayor and the City Council, that could have made her job difficult. I know it makes our job difficult."

Retrieved 9/28/2019 By. E. Heaser

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

A demonstration on RCV was conducted on 9/24/2019 by Paula Lee. The attendees were: B. Main, S. Bender, L. Wright, E. Heaser, T. Colosimo and M. Patzer. Paula demonstrated the process of RCV with four candidates so we could see how ranked choice voting would work. RCV gives the electorate more ability to have their voices heard. Voters rank candidates by preference and don't have to worry about splitting the vote of like-minded candidates or "wasting" their vote. RCV saves money (no runoffs) and promotes civil campaigns.

Since San Francisco voters adopted RCV in 2004, that city has saved millions every election by eliminating runoffs. RCV was adopted by charter amendment in Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro with the help of the Oakland and Berkeley Leagues who also helped with voter education.

Education on Ranked Choice Voting is part of the Sacramento League's Making Democracy Work Campaign. Our new voting equipment supports RCV and could be used in the future elections in Sacramento County.

If you know any group of voters ("house party" size or larger) that may want to see a demonstration of Ranked Choice Voting, please contact Marge Patzer (margepatzer@gmail.com)

You can watch short videos of the RCV process on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/BqclEkCwmXw>

http://youtu.be/_5SLQXNpzsk By M. Patzer & P. Lee

Community and Civic Engagement Resource Fair 10/17/2019 at CSUS

For story and more photos see page 6



Criminal Justice Reform Committee

The LWV of Sacramento County is seeking additional members for its newly formed Criminal Justice Reform Committee. We will be collaborating with other organizations in the community that share our concerns about needed reforms in our local Criminal Justice System and otherwise supporting LWV California-endorsed legislation. (Please visit the LWV of California (lwvc.org) website for the League's adopted Criminal Justice Position under Social Policy.) So far, we are participating as official Observer Corp Members to the City of Sacramento Police Review Commission and developing our platform for education and advocacy around other related topics. For questions and more information please contact: criminaljusticechair@lwvsacramento.org.

By N. Nelson



Asian Pacific Islanders American Public Affairs (APAPA)

“Our Voice Matters,” sponsored by APAPA and multiple other community organizations and businesses was held 9/28/2019 at CSUS. There were approximately 250 attendees from Sacramento and surrounding areas. The team of LWV voter registration volunteers were: T. Riviera, K. Lewis, C. Hart, D. Campbell, J. French, P. Pavon, M. Nitz, K. Rekdahl and B. Main.

They provided voter registration forms and voter education. The event included: awards to Asian Leaders in Public Office, voter education by the Registrar’s Office, census information, and a panel of Asian women in public office. The panel included State Senator Ling Ling Chang, Fremont Mayor Lily Mel, Citrus Heights council member Porsche Middleton, Elk Grove Unified School District board trustee Bobbie Singh-Allen and San Juan Unified School District Board member Zima Creason.

The women spoke to the importance of not being fearful to seek office, learning how to turn “no” into a positive action, and the importance of having a strong mother and being a strong mother.

By T. Riviera & M. Patzer

Photos by M. Patzer, 9/28/2019



T. Riviera & D. Campbell (L to R)



LWVSC on Facebook

190 million people in the US visit Facebook daily. Are you one of them? Do you follow [LWV of Sacramento County](#)? Our Facebook page features daily articles from a variety of sources on topics related to our many positions and interests – voting, environment/climate, money in politics, reproductive rights, criminal justice reform, and more. This effort is part of our outreach to inform the public about our concerns. Here’s how you can participate:

- Like and Follow our page
- Invite people in your Facebook network to Like and Follow our page
- Like, comment on and, especially, **share** our posts – this will help reach more people

Your feedback and suggestions for improvement are welcome. You can send a message on Facebook to [LWV of Sacramento County](#), or email facebook@lwvsacramento.org.

By K. Redman

Continued from page 4

Community and Civic Engagement Resource Fair 10/17/2019 at CSUS

LWV members including C. Hart, C. Peth, T. Colosimo, C. Bonsignore and M. Patzer provided voter registration and voter education at CSUS. We registered 12 students as first-time voters and shared voter education with many students and faculty. We encouraged students to sign up for the LWV Sacramento County monthly newsletter. Twelve students signed up to receive the newsletter and several are considering joining at the student membership level. We learned that we need to have a preprinted form for them to print their email address legibly.

The event included participants from “Impact,” a group dedicated to decreasing teen deaths due to distracting behavior, etc., McGeorge School of Law, CA Secretary of State Office, Registrar of Sacramento County, Capitol Fellows Programs, Anthony M. Kennedy Judicial Learning Center, CSUS student body organization with a “pie in your face” fund raiser for UC Davis Children’s Hospital, and Sigma Theta Psi who were raising funds for a woman battling breast cancer. We visited all the tables and gave them our information so we will be invited to future events. This was the second time for this event and student organizers are planning for a bigger fair next year.

Eleven student volunteers assisted at the Fair.

By M. Patzer



The Future of Policing

Rick Braziel, former Sacramento Police Chief, addressed the Renaissance Society at CSUS on 9/27/2019. Now he works with the National Police Foundation based in Washington, D.C. The Foundation does incident analysis, research, assessment and conflict resolution with police departments so they can more positively respond to incidents. They look at videos that were taken during an incident, talk with observers, and learn the culture of each community that experienced an incident to help police departments resolve conflicts in a satisfactory manner for all involved. Police need to “play chess not checkers.” Questions to be asked by police are: Why do we exist? Who do we serve? Are we measuring the right thing? What questions are we not asking? Who can help?

Chief Braziel discussed examples of incidents that were or were not handled well. Well-handled were: shootings in San Bernardino, and the Stockton Bank heist and killing. In regard to Ferguson he stated that the community was poorly understood; many poor people (mainly Black) had no trust in the local government. When Michael Brown was left dead in the middle of the street for hours the residents felt that Mr. Brown had been treated worse than a dog. Although Mr. Brown was less than desirable. Being treated in that demeaning manner resulted in the community seeing M. Brown as a victim. The perception was that the citizens continued to be treated very poorly. The speaker reiterated a few of the many problems in Ferguson, e.g., there is no tax base, thus money for services is garnered through parking tickets, citizens are frequently ticketed, and the fines are very high and the economy very poor, so citizens never get out from under the fines. When the Police Foundation can step in and change the misunderstandings and look at the bigger picture, tragedies, although they may occur, are more likely to be better understood and less divisive.

The speaker emphasized that it is imperative that police departments get “ahead of the media,” so a more accurate explanation of the event/story is controlled and honest; heal or improve lines of communication between different agencies to decrease chaos and people responding to an incident that may result in working against each other; cooperation and collaboration is lacking—need regionalization of agencies, and control social media, e.g., hire young people who know how to communicate with the young more effectively when events happen.

The Foundation publishes in the areas of Research and Evaluation, e.g., *Engaging Communities One Step at a Time: Foot Patrol as an Innovative Engagement Strategy*; and Assessment and Reviews, e.g. *Bringing Calm to Chaos: A Review of the San Bernardino Terrorist Attacks*, Assessment and Review also includes publications on the Pulse Nightclub, Orlando, FL, and the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School attack, and others. Rick Braziel can be reached at Brazielconsulting@gmail.com

By E. Heaser

Books & Reports

E. Heaser

Gunfight: The Battle over the Right to Bear Arms in America, 2012, by Adam Winkler, UCLA law professor and author, provides an “... examination of a four-centuries-long political battle over gun control and the right to bear arms.” *Goodreads*, 9/2019. Reviewer Robert Verbruggen, *National Review*, 1/23/2012, states that *Gunfight* is a “... concise and balanced account of where the American gun debate stands and how it got there.” *District of Columbia v Heller* and *McDonald v Chicago* are two recent gun ban court cases discussed.

Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out? 2019, is by Bill McKibben, environmentalist, author, journalist and leader of the anti-carbon group 350.org. *Falter* continues the author’s long-held warnings on the danger and dire consequences of global warming. He explains that the danger extends the shrinkage of livable space that living things will have on earth, and the new technologies such as robotics and artificial intelligence will “... bleach away the variety of human experience.” Amazon.com retrieved 10/3/2019. The author does point to a couple of positive innovations by humans that may help: nonviolent protests and solar panels. However he is not encouraged that humans will “fully employ” these innovations and thus global warming will continue. He discusses the effects of bioengineering, e.g., designer children and immortality, stating “... such ‘progress’ would radically change what it means to be human.” *Publishers Weekly*, 2/11/2019, v. 266 #6, page 61.

Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate IPCC, United Nations, 51st Session, 9/25/2019.

A few dire findings in this report:

- Seas rising 2.5 times faster than the rate from 1900-1990
- Oceans lost one percent to three percent of the oxygen in their upper levels since 1970
- Arctic June snow cover shrank more than half since 1967, down nearly one million square miles
- Marine animals are likely to decrease 15 percent, catches expected to decline 21 to 24 percent

The Sacramento Bee, 9/26/2019 8A.

“An Epidemic of Disbelief: What New Research Reveals About Sexual Predators, and Why Police Fail to Catch Them.” By Barbara Bradley Hagerty, *The Atlantic*, August, 2019, pages 72-84. This scandal revealing that thousands of rape kits were stored in many police departments throughout the United States was a feature on *60 Minutes* some months ago. The *Atlantic* article is the story in detail.

The Latino Contribution to U.S. Economic Dynamism

Demographic and economic data show that growth in the Latino population, combined with high labor force participation rates, are helping to offset low birth rates and the aging of the Baby Boom generation, allowing the U.S. labor force to grow at rates needed to maintain healthy increases in GDP. Since 2010, the Latino population has grown by 16 percent, compared with three percent for non-Hispanics. A substantial body of evidence indicates Latinos are more entrepreneurial - that is, more likely to be self-employed and more likely to start new businesses - than the overall population. Latinos accounted for nearly a quarter of new entrepreneurs in 2016, despite making up just 18 percent of the population. From the Introduction page 1.

Violence Prevention Program

On 10/4/2019 page 2 A, *The Sacramento Bee* reported on a UC Davis study by the UC Davis Violence Prevention Program concerning DUIs as predictors for gun crimes. The study states: “What we’re finding is that having a DUI at the time of [gun] purchase is actually an indicator of increased risk for future violence. We think that in itself is very important.” Quote by [Rose Kagawa](#), assistant professor who led the study and is a researcher with the Violence Prevention Program. To view her previous reports click on the link.

Taxes Report

For the first time on record, the 400 wealthiest Americans last year paid a lower total tax rate -federal, state and local taxes - than any other income group, according to newly released data.

Their rate was 23 percent in 2018, down from 47 percent in 1980 and 70 percent in 1950, according to *The Triumph of Injustice*, a book just released by U.C. Berkeley professors Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman.

Since the 1950s, taxes that hit the wealthiest the hardest — like the estate tax and corporate tax — have plummeted, while tax avoidance has become more common, writes Op-Ed columnist David Leonhardt. Most recently, the 2017 tax cut played a role in helping the wealthy.

Retrieved 10/9/2019, *New York Times*, Monday Evening Briefing

California Greenhouse Gases

Next 10 and *Beacon Economics* in their recent report *2019 California Green Innovation Index*, state that California is not on track to meet greenhouse gas goals, mainly due to trucks and SUVs. Also reported in *The Sacramento Bee*, 10/8/2019, pgs. A1, A10.



The League of Women Voters of
Sacramento County

921 11th Street Suite 700
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916-447-VOTE

Fax: 916-447-8620

E-mail: lwvs@lwvsacramento.org

Web address [https://my.lwv.org/
california/sacramento-county](https://my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county)

Return Service Requested
NOVEMBER 2019
First Class Mail

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Continued from page 7

Financial Risks and Climate Change

Reporter Christopher Flavelle, *New York Times*, writes that the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco warns about the risks “looming” from climate change: significant fall in home prices, flood-prone communities would not be able to obtain bank loans, towns would not have the money to build sea walls and other protections. Already properties that may experience a one foot rise in sea level sell for 15% less. Reported in *The Sacramento Bee*, 10/18/2019, 17 A.

Suppressing Student Voters

Reporter Michael Wines, *New York Times*, reports on student voter suppression as student voting “surges.” Austin Community College, TX, for years supported early voting on their 11 campuses. This year the Texas Legislature has put limits on student early voting. As tracked by Tufts University Institute of Democracy students’ turnout in the 2018 midterms was 40.3% of 10 million students, more than double the 2014 turnout. Early voting by university students is being limited or outlawed by Republicans in Florida, North Carolina, Wisconsin and being investigated in New Hampshire. Reported in *The Sacramento Bee*, 10/25/2019. 10A

Use of Images in *The Voter*

Before sending images to be inserted in *The Voter*, read the fair use information at this link from National, 9/12/19.
[https://outlook.office.com/mail/deeplink?
version=2019090902.09&popoutv2=1](https://outlook.office.com/mail/deeplink?version=2019090902.09&popoutv2=1)
By S. Bakker

Retrieved free
image
10/19/2019

