

The Sacramento Voter October 2019



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President's Message

We are off to a very busy start for our League. I recommend visiting our wonderful, updated web page being managed by Carol Enns. I want to thank Carol for her ongoing work to keep our web page interesting and current. Please take time to visit our web page.

Thank you to Karen Redman who has been maintaining our Facebook page for quite some time. At LWVSC you will find many interesting articles from other Leagues and local information.

Join us: September is our annual membership renewal month. This is a reminder to renew if you have not already done so. Our web page offers the option to renew online or you may mail your renewal to 921 11th Street #700, Sacramento CA 95814 Your membership in the Sacramento County League makes you a member of the State and National Leagues.

March 3, 2020 is the California primary. We will be receiving a request from the Sacramento County Registrar of Voters for League members to volunteer to be poll observers. Time frame is flexible, and you choose your location. Please send me your name before March so I can notify the Registrar's Office. The Office writes a letter of introduction, which I will then send on to you, along with notebooks and guidelines. After the election the Registrar will ask you for your observations. If you are interested, please contact me through the email link on our web page or by calling the office number 916-447-8683 and leave a message.

On the <u>web page</u> you will find the list of Board Members and Directors and their areas of emphasis. Please contact them if you want to learn more about their responsibilities and how you could become part of the work they are doing.

Claudia Bonsignore

EVENTS

Tuesday-Wednesday, October 8-9, 2019: Unit meetings, page 3

Saturday, October 12, 2019. 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Colonial Village, voter registration and tree planting event, Earl Warren Park. page 5

Saturday, October 12, 2019. Take Back the Night. Native American Health Center 2020 J Street. Contact: Diana Stantz,

Sunday, October 13, 2019, 11:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. California Freethought Day, and voter registration, State Capitol Building. Contact: margepatzer@gmail.com or 209-815-5787 OR paula.lee@comcast.net

Thursday, October 17, 2019, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Community & Civic Engagement Resource Fair, voter registration. CSUS, Library Quad. C. Bonsignore will coordinate. Respond to M. Patzer to volunteer. margepatzer@gmail.com OR 209-815-5787

February 14, 2020 LWV 100th Anniversary

LWV NorCal Climate Change Forum

The LWV NorCal Climate Change Forum held at CSUS on 9/14/19 was attended by Nancy Compton, Inga and Doris Olson, Marge Patzer and Jan Wilcox. We also met two people who are interested in joining our LWV Sacramento County.

The CA LWV Climate Change Task Force presented their work on electrification, healthy soils, sea level rising, urban gardens, protection of forests, prevention of wildfires, energy conservation and efficiency, preventing food waste, carbon pricing by market mechanisms (carbon taxes and cap and trade), water conservation, research and technology as well as community education about climate change. We were invited to share our ideas and thoughts. It was inspiring to hear the various LWV's chapters tell about their efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. For example, Alameda and Marin counties were very active in preventing failure of infrastructures with ocean rising and Placer County was very interested in wildfire prevention. We all decided more education on these topics is vital to our community.

Contributors listed above.

2019-2020

Contact Us

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

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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

Oct 9, 2019, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p. Nov 13, 2019, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p. Dec 11, 2019, 5:30 p.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 eheaserlwv@gmail.com

Can Computers Predict Child Abuse Risk?

The theme for the third quarterly meeting of the Children's Advocates Roundtable on August 29, 2019 was "Predictive Risk Modeling in Child Welfare," featuring Dr. Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Director of the Children's Data Network.

Predictive Risk Modeling (PRM), as it relates to child welfare and family services, is a data-driven approach using administrative records more effectively to provide child and family services in "real time," as opposed to just reviewing cases after the fact. It uses automated tools to process existing data to generate a "score" based on specific predictors that assess the likely occurrence of a specific future event (outcome). The goal is to come up with a consistent and objective way to evaluate the risks inherent in circumstances that may lead to severe trauma or ultimately death for a child. Some key variables that have been used to structure this model include law enforcement data, health records, family history of abuse, etc.

Predictive risk modeling has proven to be an effective tool, in addition to the professional judgement of social workers, in determining the appropriate course of action in cases involving children who may be at risk of severe abuse and neglect. It also stratifies the risk in a quantitative way and allows for greater efficiency in the allocation of scarce resources for investigation and case management. Still, the use of predictive algorithms in the social services environment is fairly new and it remains controversial in spite of impressive results. There are still many policy and procedural issues to consider, as well as ethical safeguards. It appears that PRM can be a very effective tool in helping a social worker to assess the risks and it allows scarce human resources to be allocated in the most efficient and effective manner possible. PRM serves as an excellent training and assessment tool for social workers.

For more information, including several very informative articles see:

http://www.caichildlaw.org/roundtable.htm

By P. Pavone

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 By S. Bakker

Welcome New Member
Larson, Debra



Theresa Riviera in the California Museum. She is offering voter information and helping people register to vote, September 2019.

Unit Meetings—October 2019

| Unit | Date & Time | Contact | Location |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Suburban | Tuesday, October 8, 2019 9:15 a.m. | Anne Berner 944-1042 | 2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608 |
| Outliers Folsom | Wednesday, October 9, 2019 11:45 a.m. | Nancy Compton 916-600-1992 | Lunch, Cliff House, Folsom 9900 Greenback Lane 916-989-9243 |
| Greenhaven Land Park | Tuesday, October 8, 2019 10:00 a.m. | Roseann Kerby 916-3921267 | 45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831 Mary Hopkins 916-422-6958 |

Unit Meeting Discussion

At our October unit meetings, we will discuss Affordable Housing in Sacramento County. <u>By one measure</u>, the overall cost of living in Sacramento County is 134 percent of the national average and housing costs are 190 percent. This is a statewide problem as well. For background on this subject, we'll review the national, state and our local League positions on housing. A question for discussion: Is there something more we should do as a League?

LWVUS Position and Guidelines: *Impact on Issues 2018-2020*, page 84; Criteria for Housing Supply pages 85-86

<u>LWVC Position</u>: from LWVC Action Policies and Positions, page 20

LWVSC Position: Human Resources, Social Policy-Housing

By. S. Bakker

Membership Dues

September first of each year is the time to renew your membership.

To renew please click on the link or copy the link and paste it in your browser. https://my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county/join-or-renew Once there, you can click on either "Join or Renew Online with PayPal" or "Join or Renew by Mail." Or call me at 916-825-1636 to have me send you the renewal form.

The dues are: Individual \$65.00—one member

- · Household \$100.00—two members, same household
- Suffragist Club \$165.00 or more (individual), \$200.00 or more (household)—members who are willing and able to contribute at least \$100 in addition to their annual dues. We recognize Suffragist Club members in *The Voter* and at our annual Suffragist Club Reception where we award the Anne Rudin Scholarship.
- Student \$15.00—students enrolled in a full-time course of study qualify for reduced membership dues and receive all the benefits of League membership including the right to vote in League elections.
- Supported Member \$15.00 minimum—individuals of limited income may choose this option; our Membership Support Fund will cover the difference. Supported members receive all the benefits of League membership including the right to vote in League elections.

If you have any questions, please call or text me at 916-825-1636 or email me at mkfinanceteam@gmail.com

Thanks from your new membership chair, Mahnaz Khazari.

National Voter Registration Day 9/24/2019

The LWV Sacramento county and AAUW University Student Leaders hosted a voter registration table at CSUS. The collaboration with students was very effective. We were able to register 17 students on paper registration forms and many more via computer. This was a fun and effective collaboration with AAUW and LWV. Participants at the event were: Brenda Main, Terri Colosimo and Marge Patzer and numerous CSUS student members of AAUW.

By M. Patzer



CalPERS Forum 9/2019

L to R T. Riveria

P. Lee

C. Bonsignore

Training for Staff at Black Child Legacy Campaign / Tower Liberty Church North Highlands

A training on voter registration was held for four student interns from CSUS and a local community college on 9/23/2010 at Liberty Tower church in North Highlands. The student interns were very interested in the training and plan to hold events in the North Highlands area. The training was conducted by Claudia Bonsignore and Marge Patzer. We are trying to reach out to all low voter areas and train citizens from the area who can register voters in their neighborhoods.

Please refer all contacts to C. Bonsignore or M. Patzer

Election Preview

Paula Lee and Marge Patzer attended the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) 2020 Election Preview forum on 9/17/19 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel. The presenters were: Marisa Lagos of KQED, Jessica Patterson, chair of the CA Republican Party, Mark Baldassare, President and CEO of PPIC, Rusty Hicks, chair of the CA Democratic Party, and Tamara Keith, a White House Correspondent for NPR. The discussion was lively and informative.

Introduction

California's electorate does not reflect the size, growth, or diversity of California's population. These disparities—while not unique to California—raise real concerns, especially since our state calls on voters not only to elect representatives but also to make policy decisions through ballot initiatives.

Today, 82 percent of California's adults are eligible to vote, but only 64 percent are registered to do so. Consistent with prior elections over the last two decades—and despite the highest midterm turnout since 1982—fewer than half of California adults (42 percent) voted in the 2018 election and 12.5 million eligible adults did not vote. Based on the state's track record since 2000, about half of all adults in California can be expected to vote in the November 2020 presidential election.

Voters in California tend to be older, white, affluent, college educated, and homeowners. Nonvoters are more likely to be younger, Latino, lower income, less educated, and renters. Voters and nonvoters reflect a growing economic divide—with voters more likely to identify themselves as the "haves" in society, and nonvoters more likely to identify as the "have nots."

The economic differences between voters and nonvoters have important implications for policy making. Compared to voters, nonvoters are more likely to prefer a bigger government with more services. Nonvoters also tend to favor government efforts to combat income inequality.

Although California's electorate is still disproportionately white, it has become more racially diverse. Whites are currently over-represented among likely voters, making up 42 percent of adults but 58 percent of likely voters, while Latinos are under-represented (35 percent of adults; 19 percent of likely voters). Asian Americans are slightly underrepresented and African Americans are proportionately represented among likely voters. Since 2006, the share of likely voters who are white has declined 14 percent. Meanwhile, the share of likely voters who are Latino grew five percent and the share of Asian Americans rose eight percent.

The divide between voters and nonvoters is deep and persistent. California has recently taken steps to encourage voter participation, but research suggests that registration and voting reforms may have a limited effect on increasing turnout among those least likely to go to the polls. Improving civic engagement is critical, and in the wake of the 2016 election, building confidence in elections and trust in government will be paramount. Public and private efforts, including targeted drives to increase civics education, voter registration, and turnout in underrepresented communities, could result in broader representation of Californians' views.

The next PPIC event will be "Preparing California's Water System for Climate Extremes," on Tuesday, Nov 5, 2019 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The event is free, and breakfast is included. Sign up at www.ppic.org
By P. Lee and M. Patzer

Tree Planting and Voter Registration

Join us at the tree planting event at Colonial Village, Earl Warren Park, 7420 Vandenberg Drive, Sacramento, 95820, on Saturday, 10/12/2019, 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The City is providing 100 trees to plant in the neighborhood and 30 trees in the park. Nancy Lapp will bring voter registration supplies. Please contact Marge Patzer to volunteer. margepatzer@gmail.com

Electoral Process

Over the summer, the California LWV adopted our Sacramento League position on the Electoral Process. The position is based on electoral system studies and developed positions from 15 State Leagues and can be used to evaluate or propose an electoral system change that would increase voter representation, especially for political and ethnic minority voices. Political minorities are those voters left in districts where they are not of the majority party.

The position does not support any *one* particular system, however it does support alternatives to plurality voting for single and multiple winner elections. It meets the criteria to support Ranked Choice Voting for single-winner and multiple-winner elections. The Position was adopted by the LWV of Tennessee and Montana.

Now the big surprise, and much to our delight!

The LWVUS Board voted to recommended our position be adopted by delegates at the 2020 Convention a year in advance! In almost 100 years, the National League (LWVUS) has never recommended a concurrence position be adopted one year in advance.

Barbara Klein from Oregon and Paula Lee developed the concurrence position for local and state Leagues to consider and will be the contacts for Leagues around the country as they consider LWVUS program planning recommendations during November-February in preparation for the LWVUS Convention in June 2020.

By P. Lee

Gun Violence Prevention: Politics, Policy, and Action

Becca Gonzales of Brady United Against Gun Violence, Sacramento Valley, addressed Indivisible Sacramento on 9/18/2019. She stated that Brady United has three main goals: to **Litigate** in order to change the gun lobby industry, e.g., their lawyers have shut down unethical gun dealers; **Educate** to change the gun industry culture, e.g. how to store firearms, parents need to ask neighbors if they have firearms in their homes before their children spend time in those homes and whether they are safely stored; and **Legislate** to change gun laws. Brady is the only group that has gotten legislation passed nationally, viz, the background checks law. California closed many of the loopholes in gun ownership, passing 80 bills as a result of lobbying. Sandy Hook was a turning point. Now all presidential candidates are talking about the firearms problem and other groups have formed. Businesses: CVS, Kroger, Walmart, Walgreens and NASCAR have recently come out against open-carry, and 150 business leaders signed on for action against guns. About 30 years ago, the corporate gun industry began pushing the NRA to be more aggressive about gun ownership.

The House Judiciary Committee passed three gun safety bills recently, all are **awaiting Senate action**: Extreme Risk Protection Order Act HR1236 (keeps guns away from people who are a threat to themselves or others), Keep America Safe Act HR1186 (bans high-capacity magazines), Disarm Hate Act HR2841 (bans people convicted of hate crimes getting guns).

California has the strictest gun laws and has seen the steepest reduction in firearm deaths compared to the rest of the U.S., decreasing 55 percent in comparison to 14 percent for the rest of the U.S., "The U.S. has the weakest firearm laws of any industrialized nation; weak federal laws undermine California's stronger laws."* Ninety percent of Americans support background checks, one of five guns sold have no background checks, three million gun sales have been denied since background law was passed, 343 gun sales are blocked per day as a result of background checks. In California there are currently two bills in the works: SB61, Portantino allows only one semi-automatic centerfire rifle can be sold in a 30-day period; and AB1669, Bonta, raises the purchase fee from \$19.00 to \$32.19 for the purpose of funding firearm-related regulatory and enforcement activities including purchase, manufacturing, transfer of firearms, etc.

*From Brady handout: Trends in California Firearm Mortality Compared to the Rest of the U.S., Final Revised 3/14/19.

By. E. Heaser

Human Trafficking

Attorney Lori Lei "Rico" Ozaki addressed the Renaissance Society at CSUS, 9/13/19 concerning, "The Truth About Human Trafficking in Our Region." The speaker is responsible for La Voce Project and works with Sacramento County's HotlinePOST, a project to help human trafficking survivors.

She defined the types of trafficking: <u>Labor</u> is forcing those trafficked to perform labor services through force, fraud, debt bondage, peonage, or coercion. <u>Sex</u> or commercial sex acts is accomplished by force, fraud or coercion. <u>Prostitution</u> is not defined as trafficking but is illegal and can be performed for payment without having a pimp. <u>Human Smuggling</u>, also not trafficking, is illegal and results when international borders have been crossed.

The speaker discussed The TVPA (Trafficking Victims Protection Act) AMP (Action, Means, Purpose) Model published by the <u>Polaris Project</u>. The Model was devised to test or assess criteria used to determine whether trafficking is or has taken place. **Action** is described as: recruiting, harboring, transporting OR obtaining a person for sex trafficking, patronage or soliciting a person; **Means** refers to whether the person is taken by force, fraud or coercion; **Purpose** refers to whether the person is taken for debt bondage, slavery, commercial acts, peonage, or servitude. Only ONE of these criteria need be met for trafficking to be suspected.

Establishments more likely to use trafficked people include massage parlors, brothels, landscapers, caretakers, housekeepers, personal assistants, restaurants, construction, custodians, and more. She spoke about the difficulty of getting people to "come out" due to fear. Symptoms to recognize in victims may include lack of identification or documentation, disorientation, confusion, bruises on body, submissiveness, inconsistent story, stopped attending school and more.

Sacramento has been described as having the second largest number of trafficking instances in the U.S. Ms. Osaki stated that those claims needed context. The "Sacramento" referred to is a very large region, an FBI designation, covering several counties. There is trafficking in Sacramento, but not to the extent implied.

Sacramento County's HotlinePOST Community Day of Action will take place on Saturday, February 29, 2020, 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Anyone interested in assisting, click link or contact Ms. Osaki 916-209-0626 rico.ozaki@gmail.com Among the duties for volunteers: delivering Hotline fliers to businesses for posting. To report suspected trafficking, call the hotline 888-373-7888. Ozaki cautions against intervening in suspected cases.

By E. Heaser



Happy Halloween

Unsplash.com. Photo by Ganapathy Kumar retrieved 9/10/2019

Sacramento City Plan Update, 2040

This project involves updates to the **City's General Plan, Climate Action Plan, and Master Environmental Impact Report**. While the City undertook a technical update to these key long-range planning documents 5 years ago, the last major update was almost 10 years ago and the city and community needs have evolved since that time. Today, Sacramento is the fastest growing big city in California in terms of population. Updates to these documents are needed to respond to community needs and to ensure the City takes full advantage of the opportunities that growth presents while also addressing the associated challenges. As part of the project, options for achieving the following key objectives will be explored with the community:

Ensuring that growth in Sacramento is equitable, inclusive, and sustainable

Creating healthier communities, building community resilience, and helping the City meet the needs of our most vulnerable communities (SB 1000)

Incorporating climate adaptation and resiliency strategies (SB 379) into the City's key policy documents

Creating a first class, efficient, multi-modal transportation system that can transform mobility for Sacramento residents, business employees, and visitors alike, including the use of

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as a metric to measure traffic impacts (SB 743)

Fostering Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in appropriate locations

Taking steps to make Sacramento more livable and accessible for people of all ages, including youth and seniors.

For more information or how to participate use link on title. Retrieved 9/16/2019 By E. Heaser

Books

Imaginary Lines: Border Enforcement and the Origins of Undocumented Immigration, 1882-1930, 2009, by Professor Patrick Ettinger, CSUS Dept. of History. Although published approximately ten years ago the book provides an extensive look at the history of illegal immigration of Chinese, Japanese, Lebanese, and more recently Mexican immigration along the southern border. The author describes the Bureau of Immigration (formed in1891) as ... "not that of a capable or competent federal body, but rather that of a disorganized and confused bureaucracy. The Bureau was plagued by constant internal restructuring, a lack of centralization, and an insufficient budget, rendering the implementation of federal oversight and administration of immigration uneven, if not haphazard." "There was little doubt that immigration policy favored immigrants over poor and dependent new-comers." Journal of American History, September 2010, pg.464-65. Less emphasis is given to the northern border. This book helps provide a background for the ongoing problems with illegal immigration today.

A Good Provider is One Who Leaves: One Family and Migration in the 21st Century, 2019, by Jason Deparle, NYT journalist and author, writes about the many socio-economic, psychological, geopolitical and historical dimensions involved with legal immigration. The author spent time following three generations of a poor Filipino family beginning in 1980, including time living with them. The man and wife spent 20 years apart in order to "lift themselves out of poverty." Publishers Weekly reviewer states that the author is able to show how this family's "... experiences illuminate broader phenomena, such as the feminization of migration, technology's impact on assimilation and the maintenance of far-flung networks, and the role that overseas remittance plays in quality of life in former colonies." Publishers Weekly, 6/10/2019 vol. 266 Issue 23 p. 109. Deparle examined migration issues in Orman, Saudi Arabia, on cruise ships, in Texas and other sites in order to more thoroughly understand the flow of people around the world. This book received excellent reviews by major book reviewing publications including BookList, Kirkus, The New York Times, The Boston Globe and others.

Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow, 2019, by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., an author, documentary film maker, literary critic, and professor at Harvard University. Stony is an investigation of how and why Reconstruction failed and describes how elements of that period continue today. Discussed are how the newly won rights for former slaves were taken away and how white supremacists' ideology took hold and justified apartheid polices that defined: the Jim Crow era, Ku Klux Klan, eugenics, "scientific racism," the New Negro and the 1920's Harlem Renaissance. A review by The Week, 4/26,/2019, page.21, stated: "It was, perhaps, 'not entirely realistic' to think a small cohort of former abolitionists could impose their ideals on a large population that held opposite views, especially in the wake of a wearying war."

Reports & News

Weather: Sacramento had the third hottest summer in 140 years, since 1878. Michael McGough, *The Sacramento Bee*, 9/4/19, A3.

Handgun and assault rifle ammunition: Beginning on September 3, 2019 Walmart stores phased-out the sale of ammunition for assault rifles and handguns. Handgun sales were phased-out in Alaska the last state that still sold handguns by Walmart. *The Sacramento Bee*, 9/4/2019, A4.

Incarcerations: According to a study: Confined and Costly: How Supervision Violations Are Filling Prisons and Burdening Budgets, by the Council of State Governments "... one quarter of the people incarcerated in California in 2018 were previously on probation or parole." Technical and substantive violations were the reason for many of these returns, e.g., technical would include: anything that violates the terms of their release including: failing to maintain a job, not passing a drug test, possessing a firearm; substantive violations are crimes committed while on probation or parole. Reform advocates want these recidivisms reduced, e.g. shorten sentence length, cap returns to prison and limit rules to those that matter most. The Sacramento Bee, 6/28/2019, 9A.

Black voters: The Black Futures Lab (a national advocacy group devoted to helping build black political power) partnering with other black organizations, conducted a survey of many black-led groups and over 30,000 respondents in order to determine issues most important to black respondents. The report, *More Black than Blue: Politics and Power in the 2019 Black Census*, surveyed blacks' responses to economic and criminal justice issues, and how respondents are engaged in the electoral process. The black electorate wants policies that improve their lives: 90 percent of voters want wages raised, 85 percent want wages raised to at least \$15/hour, make college and housing affordable, and a large number of respondents regard excessive use of force by police as a problem in black communities. By Kiki Monifa, *The Sacramento Bee*, 9/4/19 9A.

Mental Health Court a Case Study on Recidivism

Findings of the study showed many beneficial effects of the Sacramento County Mental Health Court:

- -Some 70 percent of participants successfully graduated from the program after participating for 15 months.
- -Mental Health Court graduates had a lower rate of re-arrest than non-graduates (should decrease by 25%).
- -The results suggested that graduates had lower odds (decreased by 75 percent) of being hospitalized than non-graduates.
- -Graduates of Mental Health Court had a decrease in re-offense across genders, ethno-racial backgrounds, and ages.

 Retrieved 9/19/2019 By E. Heaser



The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County

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Global/Climate Strike September 2019

The Sacramento Bee, 9/20/2019, 1A & 9A, reported that approximately 1,000 people attended the global climate strike at the State Capitol. Thirteen-year-old Supriya Patal, and founder of the local chapter of Fridays For Future, spoke, as did Mayor Darrell Steinberg. A second strike is planned for Friday, 9/27/2019. Hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated around the world in urban and rural areas.

Photos by E. Heaser





