



The Voter

Voting rights still not secure

August 18 marked the 97th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which granted American women the right to vote. Just six months before that, the League of Women Voters was founded with the mission of helping 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

But as LWVUS President Chris Carson notes, “Ninety-seven years later . . . , we are *still* fighting for equal access at the ballot box—and an alarming trend threatens to roll back what we’ve achieved across the last century. That’s why the work of the League of Women Voters continues, and that’s why Americans everywhere must remain vigilant in protecting their role in our democracy.”

Carson enumerates recent changes in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that have made it possible for states to pass more restrictive voting laws. Says Carson, “The 2016 election was the first presidential race in 50 years without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act, and we felt that impact. In Ohio, 400,000 registered voters across the state were purged from the rolls without notice. In Florida, North Carolina and Wisconsin, the period of early voting was cut down to mere days. Across the country, there were more than 800 fewer polling locations to cast a vote in 2016 compared to 2012 and 2014.”

Meanwhile, the Trump Administration’s unsubstantiated claims that millions of illegal votes were cast in the last election have encouraged millions of Americans to believe that voter fraud is a serious problem.

In fact, says Carson, “The *real* problems with our election system are polling place closures, cuts to early voting, restrictive voter ID laws and the illegal purge of registered voters. . . . The vote of the poorest citizen is equal to the vote of the wealthiest citizen. Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy and should be a moment at which we are all equal.”

In San Joaquin County, the League honors that idea by continuing to register voters and helping them make informed decisions at the ballot box.



President's Message

Your local League has been busy! At our Annual Meeting, held at De Vega Brothers restaurant on May 31st, speaker Dr. Pamela Eibeck, President of the University of the Pacific, gave inspiring remarks about Living, Learning and Leading with Purpose. We welcomed new board members Tara Gallegos, Gretchen Newby, and Candelaria Vargas. We also recognized and thanked outgoing board members Bill Loyko, Julia Schardt, and Kathy Schick. Walt White was presented with the Helen Pearson Award for his longtime, valued work on our local League's website.

Almost immediately following the Annual Meeting, Jane Wagner-Tyack, Susan Mora Loyko and I were off to the LWVC state convention in Sacramento – a three-day event where we heard from a variety of speakers – including Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs as well as Snopes Editor Brooke Binkowski – and attended a variety of workshops and caucuses. Ask any of us about our experience.



Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs and his fiancée, Anna Malaika Nti-Asare, with Jane Wagner-Tyack, Susan Mora Loyko, and Christeen Ferree following Tubbs' speech at the 2017 LWVC Convention in Sacramento.

In July, we held our second in a series of Immigration Forums, which focused on Economic Impacts of Immigration as well as DACA and Sanctuary issues. Our speakers were Dr. Bill Herrin, Director of International Studies, Professor of Economics at University of the Pacific and Jose R. Rodriguez, President and CEO of El Concilio.



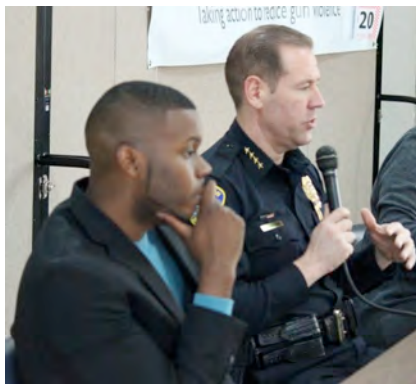
Watch for these upcoming educational activities, with dates and locations to be announced:

- October—Forum Part 3 in our series on Immigration
- November—Forum on Current Health Issues
- March—Water in San Joaquin County: Where are we getting it now? What can we expect going forward?

And mark your calendars now for our annual Program Planning meeting on January 27, 2018. Add your voice to the discussion of where we will put our resources for educating ourselves and our fellow citizens in 2018-2019.

Also, California has a primary election coming up June 5, 2018. You may be interested in helping with Voter Service – registering voters, organizing candidate forums, doing nonpartisan presentations of issues. And we always need committee members. If you would like to become more involved in the League’s mission of “...encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government...,” you can reach me at bcferree@gmail.com, (209) 931-3699. Thank you!

Christeen Ferree, President



Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs and Police Chief Eric Jones at LWVSJC Gun Violence Prevention Forum this past March



Gretchen Newby, executive director of Friends Outside and an LWVSJC board member, speaking at the Gun Violence Prevention Forum



Gun Violence Prevention Forum organizer and past board member Julie Schardt



Van Ha To-Cowell and Rosie Bachand welcome an attendee at the July Immigration Forum.



Kathy Schick, Daphne Shaw, and Kathy Casenave at the July Immigration Forum.



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2017 KICKOFF SOCIAL

**MEET MELINDA DUBROFF,
THE NEW SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS!**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

11:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
808 PORTER AVENUE, STOCKTON**

**LIGHT LUNCH—SO WE CAN PLAN, PLEASE RSVP TO
CHRISTEEN FERREE, (209) 931-3699, BCFERREE@GMAIL.COM**

BRING A FRIEND!

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.
