



Photo by Trust "Tru" Katsande on [Unsplash](#)

# Update on High School Voter Registration

by Bea Lingenfelter

The High School Voter Registration Project has gone completely virtual for school year 2021/22. Due to continuing COVID-19 concerns and protocols at high schools across the county, classroom or campus visits are very problematic.


The PowerPoint presentation that was prepared for 2020 has now been updated—with current voting information, dates of next elections, and other information—and sent to all high school principals in the county with a cover letter for Government/Civics teachers on the use of this presentation. The PowerPoint contains the QR code from the California Secretary of State's website that contains information and online forms for registration. The PowerPoint clearly states that this

is a program of LWVSJC and gives contact information for questions.

Troy Brown, San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools, has been wonderfully helpful in contacting the high school principals. Superintendent Brown was a key person at the County Office of Education in 2019 when we held the August Student Leadership event. At that time he was Deputy Superintendent. When we contacted him this year about the COVID concerns regarding school in-person visits, he offered to send out through his email to high school principals our PowerPoint and information on registering students to vote. His help was key in our outreach to all county high schools. Many thanks to Dr. Brown.

Young people care about the future of democracy

• \*2018, CIRCLE (civicyouth.org)

 Percentage of Youth, Ages 18-24, Who Have Participated in Various forms of Political Engagement

Political Actions	2016	2018
Signing a petition	34%	48%
Following a candidate or campaign on social media	16%	23%
Displaying a sticker or a sign supporting a candidate	12%	14%
Attending a demonstration or a march	5%	15%

Source: Tech Colleges CIRCLE 2018 Pre-Election Poll

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### GRETCHEN NEWBY LWVSJC President



I have joined League twice.

The first time was in the 1980s after living in the Third World for three years. That was the Los Gatos-Saratoga LWV. I felt a strong need to celebrate what it meant to be an American...the freedom, the safety, and the responsibilities.

I also needed to celebrate those freedoms with other like-minded women and join with them in the joys and challenges of what it means to be an American.

The second time I joined the League was here in San Joaquin County four years ago. Both times it was a friend who urged me to join. Both times I have been an active member and Board member. And both times the reasons were the same.

I like to go to the LWV website on occasion and be reminded of those reasons as stated there:

#### **Our Mission, Vision and Value**

##### **Mission**

Empowering women. Defending democracy.

##### **Vision**

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

##### **Value**

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

Note the recurring use of the word “democracy.”

There are over 700,000 LWV members today. We share with them the Mission, Vision and Value of the League of Women Voters. When we get lost in the details, or sidetracked with our own lives and our own interests, remember we are here to Protect Democracy.

May you all celebrate the Holiday Season in your own special way, perhaps remembering to feel what it is like to be an American, with all the joys and the responsibilities.

Warm regards,  
Gretchen

### BEV BLUM 2021 Helen Pearson Award Recipient

Her soft-spoken voice and sweet demeanor belie the energy, savvy, smarts and determination of the 2021 Helen Pearson Award winner. But make no mistake, Bev Blum, is a quiet force of nature, getting the job done, whatever that job may be.

The Helen Pearson Award was established in 1978 following Helen's death to honor her many contributions to our League. It has since been presented each year to a member or members whose efforts have gone above and beyond in keeping with the LWV tenets, along with having a sense of humor.

Bev is a transplant from a small town in Minnesota, a graduate of the University of Minnesota where she earned both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in biology intent to become a teacher. She arrived in Stockton in 1961 with her beloved husband, George P. Blum, professor emeritus of history and long-time chair of the history department at University of the Pacific. Bev took on Stockton like a storm...a quiet storm.

She became an instructor in human anatomy for one year and then moved to Stagg High School as a teacher. She mentored emancipated youth, a legal way for children to become adults before 18, and worked with Stockton Children's Home youth.

As if that wasn't enough, Bev became one of the founders and Executive Directors of Solar Cookers International (SCI) and was with the organization until 2011. In 1994, she helped develop a foldable box cooker, formerly known as CookKits, a low-cost family cooker.

In 1995, she helped SCI launch projects promoting CookKits and training families in Kenya and Ethiopian refugee camps and community market-based projects in Zimbabwe.



A solar cooker was truly a life-saving device. It alleviated the need for women in these countries to leave the safety of their homes and wander distances to gather firewood to cook, putting them in danger of potential attack. The solar cooker made it possible for women in the tribes to cook just outside their homes with the help of the sun.

After founding Planned Parenthood in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties, Bev became Executive Director from 1972 to 1989. Bev also worked with the Western Farm Workers and Hmong International Cultural Institute. She even found time to read to children at Stockton Children's Home. And there is so much more to this amazing woman.

Bev has twin children, Alfred and Barbara, as well as two grandsons, Gabriel and Avery.

She has spent the last year as an integral part of the Membership Committee. As she was known to do, she was breaking barriers long before many others, drawing little or no attention to her accomplishments.

—Susan Mora Loyko

# UPDATES ON LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

## Climate Change, Water, and Equity

by Jane Wagner-Tyack

Climate change and natural resource concerns are coming together with LWV concerns about diversity, equity, and inclusion in a new project being undertaken by the LWVC Water Committee. The Climate Change, Water, and Equity effort starts with the observation that the great majority of the impacts of climate change will be connected to water – drought, floods, unreliable water supplies, poor water quality, and ecosystem devastation. Historically, within the US, low-income communities and communities of color have experienced the greatest harm.

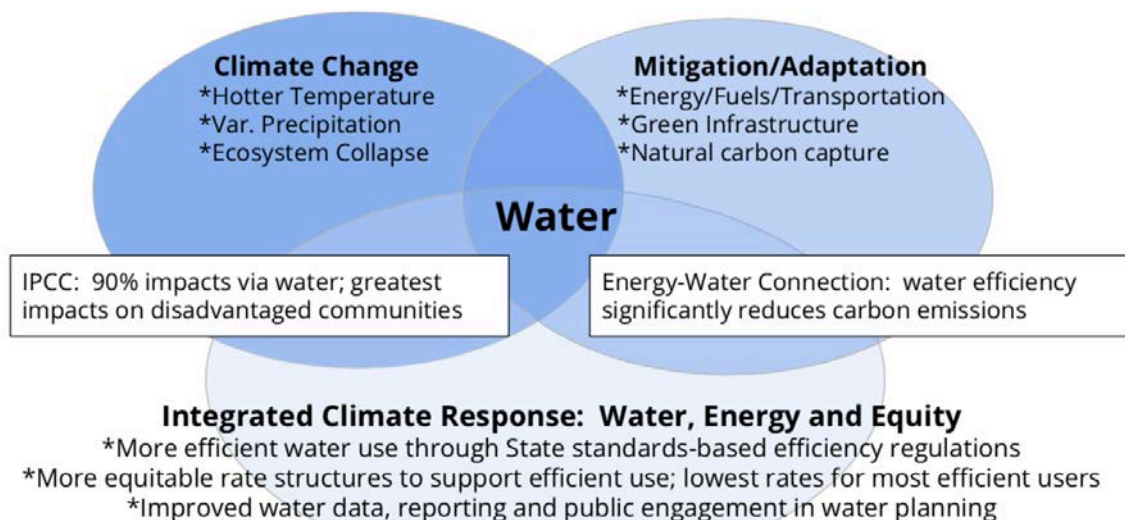
According to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) website, nearly one million Californians lack access to clean water, and climate change is exacerbating problems with water quality, availability and affordability. California’s climate change policies

have focused on curtailing the emissions of greenhouse gases (mitigation), but they have not done enough to address the changes (adaptation) needed to cope with the increasing impacts from the changing climate and to ensure that these adaptations recognize the human right to clean and affordable water.

Climate change policies also have not recognized the significant role of water efficiency in helping to achieve reduced emissions. Pumping, treating, and transporting water place a high demand on energy, with associated carbon emissions.

In addition to supporting state efforts to reduce water waste, the Climate Change, Water, and Equity team will support making lower cost water available to those customers that are the least wasteful while ensuring that all water infrastructure costs are paid.

### Enhancing LWV’s Response to Climate Change Through Water & Equity



Graphic courtesy of LWVC Climate Change, Water, and Equity Team  
IPCC is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

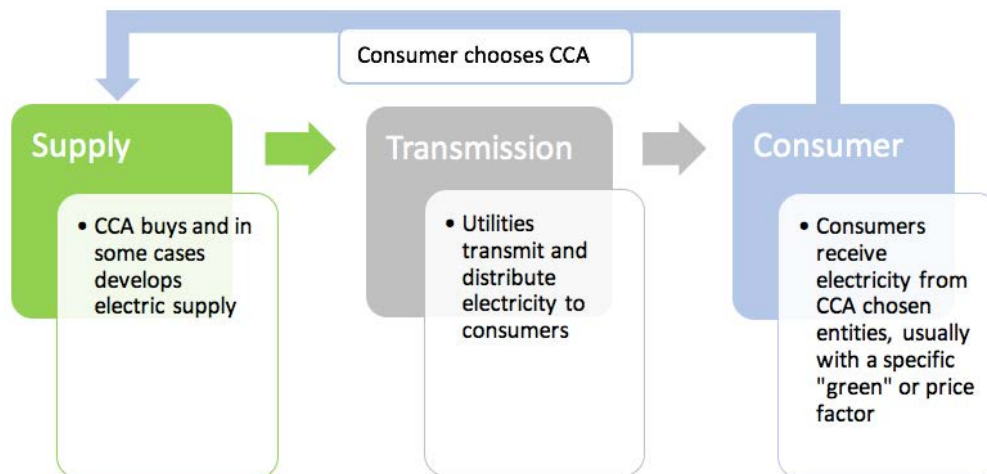
## Educating Ourselves about Community Choice Aggregation

by Margo Praus

Community Choice Aggregation, also known as Community Choice Energy (abbreviated CCA and CCE by various parties), is a local, not-for-profit governmental program that buys and may generate electrical power on behalf of its residents, businesses, and governmental entities allowing a community to move towards securing more renewable energy than is currently pursued locally by PG&E. CCAs are governed by

counties, cities, or a joint power authority (JPA) between the two.

A CCA is only involved in the electrical generation decision-making and has no involvement with transmission and distribution. The electrical utility (PG&E for our area) continues to distribute and meter the energy and to handle the billing. The CCA simply replaces the line item on the electric bill for “generation.”



Lldavis, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

There are many reasons why a community might want to pursue Community Choice energy. It offers enhanced consumer choice, more local control, actions more responsive to community needs, and development of renewable energy projects. Community Choice programs are opt-out programs, meaning that once a local government votes to form an agency, the constituents are automatically enrolled but they may opt out if they wish and stay as customers of their traditional utility.

Many people see CCAs as an important step in decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. In our area, the city of Tracy joined the East Bay Community Energy CCA in 2019 and service was initiated on April 1, 2021. The Stockton City Council held a special study session on November 9, 2021, at which they voted to direct staff to prepare a report on joining an existing CCA joint powers authority that is expected to be ready for review in early 2022.

**Editor’s note:** For additional information on CCAs, visit the LWVC webpage on [Community Choice Aggregation/Energy](#), including the linked article under “Resources.”

# MEET THE LWVSJC BOARD

In our September issue, we introduced some of the members of the board of the League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County. Here are the members you haven't met yet.



**President  
Gretchen Newby**

I first joined League in Los Gatos/Saratoga in 1983. I had great League mentors who encouraged me to run for school board and also to become a Juvenile Justice Commissioner, and I remained active for several years there.

From a politically active family, I got lots of encouragement to participate and advocate. My League mentor said, "We are women of privilege, and women of privilege have an obligation to stand up and serve." I have served on many boards, from PTA, to Red Cross, to first President of The Women's Fund in the Bay Area. I love the camaraderie of League, being with kindred spirits, and I truly believe that working together, we can do great things. "The whole is greater than the sum of the parts." And "If it is to be, it is up to me."

I am in the right place, at the right time.

I am passionate about Civic Engagement and Voter Education. Social Justice, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging play a critical role in any endeavor I pursue.

I received my BA in Political Science from California State University, Stanislaus, and I am a former congressional intern. In addition to my work with the League, I serve as the Deputy Director for the Voter Access Project, sit on the National Small Business Association Leadership Council, work for Caltrans, and am the founder and principal agent of an HR Consulting firm.

I joined the League in 2019.

In my spare time, I enjoy yoga, hiking, improving my swimming skills, and football.



**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Kimberly Bozeman**



**Secretary  
Judith  
Buethe**

An Iowa farmer's daughter, I attended one-room schoolhouses through eighth grade. Further graduations included Blakesburg High School; American Institute of Business, Des Moines, Iowa; AA Fullerton Junior College, California; BA UC Davis; Master's in Public Administration, University of San Francisco.

My professional background includes serving as field representative for a state senator and in marketing director positions for private and public organizations. In 1989, I established Judith Buethe Communications, *(Continued)*

## MEET THE LWVSJC BOARD

*(Judith Buethe, continued)*

with emphasis on marketing, public administration, and special events. I retired in 2020.

My activity in community organizations has included serving as President of Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce in 1995 and being honored with its Athena Award in 1998.

My family includes two sons and fabulous daughters-in-law; two stepchildren; and ten grandchildren. My husband, Rex Buethe, is a retired social worker and a very creative artist!



I first joined the League of Women Voters when my family was living in Livermore in the 1970s. I was a young mother, and the meetings were during the weekday at members' houses and also offered babysitting at another house. I also was going to college (Cal State Hayward) and after I graduated I went to work. Unfortunately, the Livermore League did not have any night or weekend meetings, so I did not rejoin.

### Treasurer Kathy Casenave

We eventually moved to Stockton, and I got involved with the San Joaquin County League and was President from 1994-1996, co- President 1996-1997 and President again 2018-2020. I am now the Treasurer.

We did move back to the Bay Area in 2000 when I became the Director of Finance for the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority. I am now retired and have three grandchildren in Stockton and two in Flagstaff, Arizona. I enjoy spending time with them and also enjoy traveling; I went on the Olli Fall New England trip in October.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Introducing some of our new members

by Susan Mora Loyko

It's exciting to note the LWVSJC has grown with 14 new members in the last year. Unfortunately, there have been little to no opportunities to meet these new members who have some very amazing accomplishments. So, in preparation for future face-to-face meetings and inter-action, here are a few tidbits of just a few of the many unique qualities of 3 of our 14 new members.

**Anicia Hibdon** plays the 37-string kantele, a folk harp from Finland. She is also a seamstress (@stitchingwlove) and a math tutor. She is also a volunteer with Showered with Love Mobile Showers.

*(Continued)*

# UPDATES ON LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

## Introducing some of our new members *(Continued)*

**Mary Menga** is a retired Emergency Room RN. If that wasn't enough, she decided to take her skills on the road and became a traveling nurse. For 10 years, Mary and her companion cat, Raven, journeyed throughout the country as she provided her nursing skills where and when needed, even spending time on an Indian reservation.

**Essie Gilchrist** - For Essie Gilchrist, her birthday has never been one like most children celebrate. Her birthday, November 22, is the same date President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Many of her friends had the same birthday, too. Essie's connection with President Kennedy went even farther when she had a unique encounter with one of the pallbearers.

## Early 2022 election activity

by Jane Wagner-Tyack

A coalition called More Water Now is collecting signatures with the objective of qualifying a water infrastructure initiative for the November 2022 ballot.

The Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022 would “Require the transfer of two percent (2%) of the State’s General Fund Revenue each and every year into a trust account until the State certifies that water projects funded, in whole or in part, have created a minimum increase of five million acre-feet (5,000,000 AF) of additional annual water supply that can be reliably delivered to Californians every year thereafter.”

LWVC will not take a position on this initiative unless and until it qualifies for the ballot. However, League members who are approached to sign the petition should be aware of these issues:

- LWVC opposes constitutional provisions that earmark tax funds for specific services.
- LWVC calls for an automatic sunset date and mandatory government review and reauthorization for each fund or tax earmarked for a specific purpose. This Act does not provide for that.
- LWVC supports the “beneficiaries pay” principle. This initiative’s establishment of a Trust Account and directives regarding operation of the California Water Commission suggest an intent on the part of sponsors to shift beneficiary costs to taxpayers.

LWVC will also need to consider the intent and impact of provisions in the Act regarding CEQA and the California Coastal Commission.

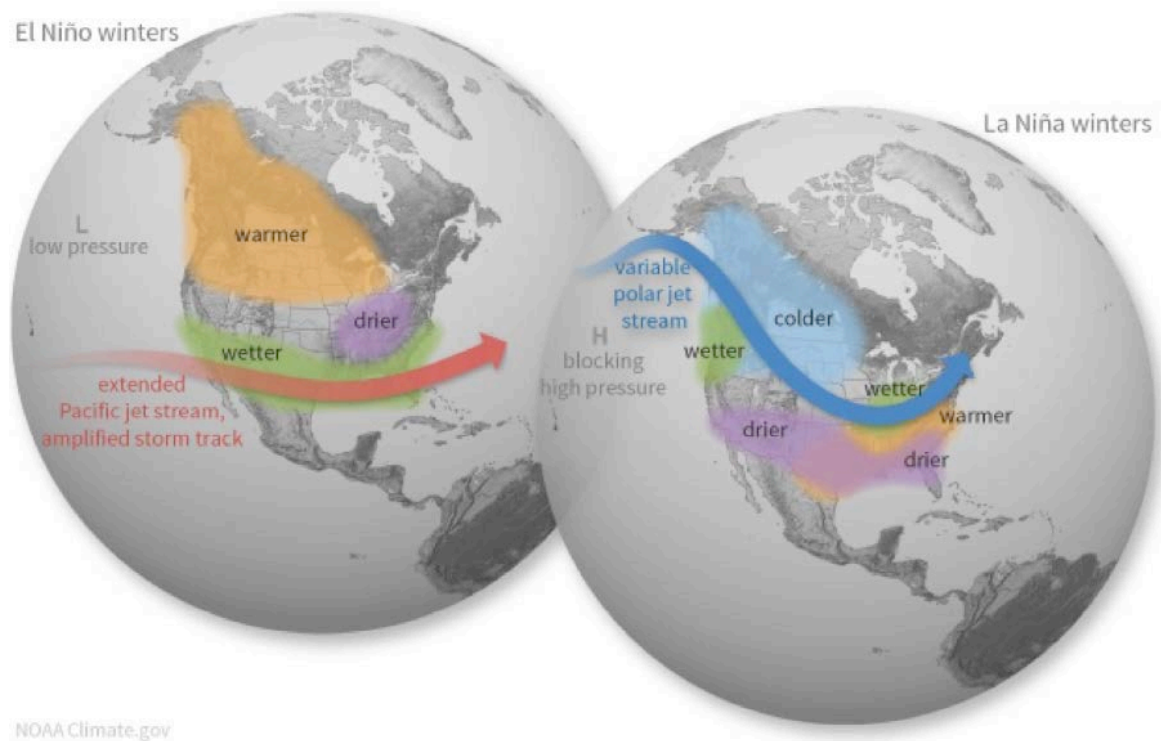
For more information about the LWVC Water Committee’s preliminary analysis of this initiative, contact [JaneTyack@mac.com](mailto:JaneTyack@mac.com)



## EXTREME CLIMATE What's Next?

Saturday, January 8, 2022  
10:30 am -12pm

Watch for Zoom invitation with RSVP



An LWVSJC committee is organizing a series of educational forums on how climate change affects us in San Joaquin County and what steps we can take to mitigate these impacts. Our first event, scheduled for Saturday, January 8, 2022, will present an overview and global perspective of climate change as well as an introduction to what is occurring in San Joaquin County.

The remaining forums will address different aspects of the effect of climate change in our area, such as extreme heat and cold, failing air quality, many serious water issues, the effect on soils and agriculture, and other topics. We will bring you the upcoming dates and forums when the calendar is available.

In the meantime, separate from our planning efforts, the committee has sought to bring you outside organizations' climate change forums and webinar information which can be accessed virtually. And with the approval of the Board and our President, these links are being shared with the members. Please watch for those emails, and we hope you are able to join in to some of the informative events.

# UPDATES ON LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

## ANNUAL CALENDAR FOR 2021-2022

Approved by the Board on August 21, 2021

At this time, all meetings will be planned as Zoom meetings unless otherwise indicated. Change in health and safety concerns will be taken into consideration in deciding when we can safely return to in-person meetings. Watch your email for meeting times and other details.

Dates and topics may change based on circumstances.

**January 8** – Topic: Climate Change

**February 12** – Membership Meeting on Diversity: One Village Forum: the Talking Circle

**March 12** – Topic: Education

**April 12** – Topic: Education

**May** – TBA

**June** – Annual Meeting, time and location TBA

**June** – California LWV Convention

Board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, and all members are welcome to attend.

Members are encouraged to invite prospective members to presentations and membership meetings.

### 2021-2022 LWVSJC Board of Directors

#### Officers

Gretchen Newby, President  
Kimberly Bozeman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Mary Kenefick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Judith Buethe, Secretary  
Kathy Casenave, Treasurer

#### Directors

Angelica Lizarraga  
Terri Mercer

#### Advocacy Committee

Mary Kenefick, Chair

#### Communication Committee

Jane Wagner-Tyack, Chair

#### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Angelica Lizarraga, Chair

#### Membership Committee

Susan Mora Loyko, Chair

#### Nominating Committee

Donna Brown, Chair

#### Voter Service

Kimberly Bozeman, Chair

**Webmaster** – Walt White

**Voter Editor** – Jane Wagner-Tyack

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