



Photo by Britt Fowler on Unsplash

Kicking off the League Year



Colleen Foster, Board Secretary

The San Joaquin County League kicked off its 2022-2023 year with a mid-day meeting on September 24 at the Chavez Library in Stockton.

Twenty-two League members attended, filling out a Test Your League Knowledge form before the rest of the meeting began.

President Kathy Casenave presented information on the Voter Service activities underway or planned for this election cycle. Colleen Foster presented information on our Ed Fund, its history and how it can (and can't) be used to support League activities.

Advocacy Committee chair Mary Kenefick outlined issues that will be followed by the Advocacy Committee: Navigation Centers for those experiencing homelessness, and the impact of South County warehousing on air quality and the environment.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Chair Terri Mercer explained definitions of DEI, spoke of the League's commitment to DEI, and outlined the establishment of our local League DEI Task Force that will work in conjunction with the DEI Committee to initiate DEI initiatives, possibly discussion groups and creative membership outreach.

Membership Chair Susan Mora Loyko spoke of membership as the foundation of all League services and invited members to join her in reaching out to the community to talk about the League at community events such as the Pride Festival.

Colleen Foster outlined the elements of the Communication Committee and encouraged feedback by members to the committee on what information would be most useful to them.

Treasurer Bill Loyko said that while the Ed Fund is currently financially solid, our League has many activities planned for this League year that will call on Ed Fund support, so we will need to replenish it. Donations are welcome.

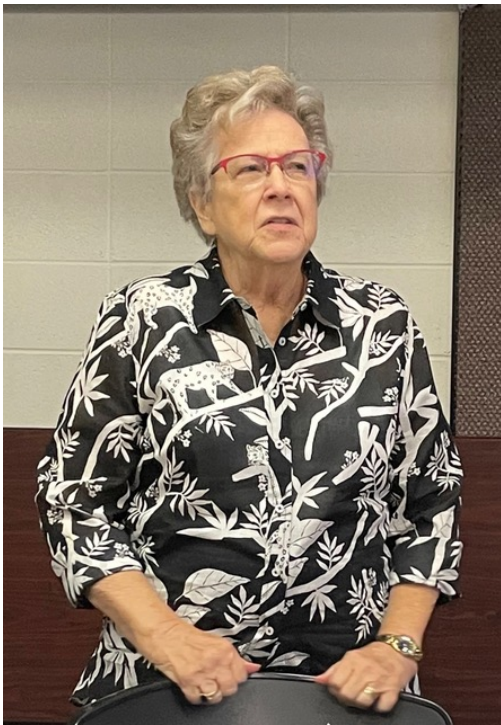
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MEMBER NEWS

Kickoff Meeting *(Continued)*

After a short break, Colleen Foster went over the answers to the Test Your League Knowledge quiz, which engendered much discussion.

- Voting members of the League must be at least 16 years old (and there is no requirement for members to be registered voters or citizens).
- Men were first welcomed into the League as members in 1974; most responders thought this happened later.
- Local Leagues can consider or take action on an issue if there is a League position on which to base action; local board or membership support or the recommendation of a committee are not enough to warrant action.
- “Consensus,” on which League policy at all levels is based, is the overall sense of the group’s views rather than the result of any vote.



Donna Brown addresses the subject area of Making Democracy Work

Issues for Education and Advocacy

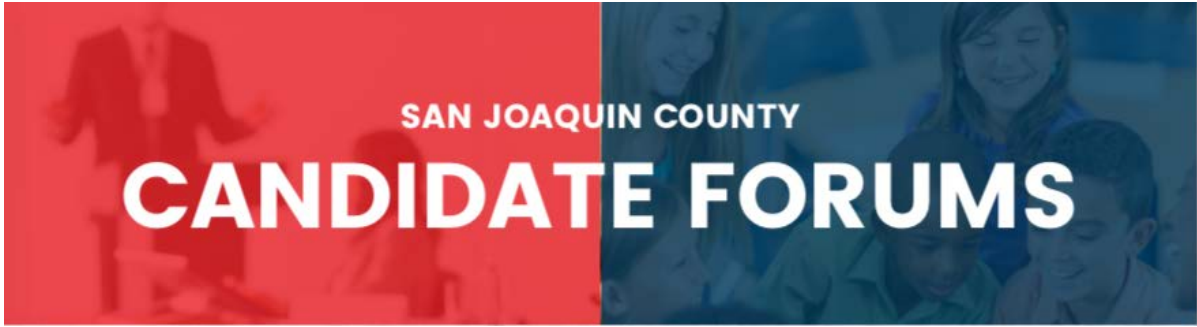
Gretchen Newby spoke about the forum on Homelessness, which will focus on erasing the mythology of who is homeless and which will call on people from the community to give various perspectives on this complex issue.

Colleen Foster outlined possible topics for the educational forum on child care in the spring: availability and cost of child care, equitable wages for child care providers, and the economic repercussions of the lack of child care.

Donna Brown gave a glimpse of some of the topics that may be covered in the wide-ranging subject area of Making Democracy Work: access to voting, voter rights, organized threats to democracy, and how we can advocate to make democracy work.

Handouts to attendees included League Easy Voter Guide, membership directories, and a calendar of events for the first half of the League year.

A special thank you to graphic artist Melissa Williams for designing the Kickoff flyer and also for providing photos for the Pros & Cons PowerPoint presentation used by Voter Service.



For the 2022 campaign season, LWVSJC co-sponsored candidate forums at San Joaquin Delta College with a diverse group of organizations: The Business Council of San Joaquin County, the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce, the African American Chamber of Commerce, the San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Central Valley Asian Chamber of Commerce, Delta College, Stanislaus State, University of the Pacific Eberhart School of Business, and the Stockton Record.

The League has presented forums with the Delta College Political Science Department in the past, but this year’s co-sponsorship undertaking greatly increased outreach in local communities.

Forums were held on three evenings in September and covered races for Assembly District 13 candidates, Supervisorial District 2 and District 4 candidates, Stockton City Council Candidates, and Candidates for Stockton Unified School Board trustees.

Forums were live-streamed and recorded on Zoom.

League members Kathy Hart, Jane Wagner-Tyack, and Terri Mercer worked closely with the co-sponsorship group throughout the planning and production processes. A special thank you to Suzy Daveluy and Dr. Pamela Eibeck for moderating some of the forums. Lauren and Denny Ah Tye and Cate White served as timekeepers; and Bill Loyko, Susan Mora Loyko, and Mary Kenefick were available at the forums with voting information.

After the stresses and turmoil that accompany an election season, it is always tempting to put campaign matters out of our minds. But voter service is an ongoing commitment for the League of Women Voters. If you have ideas about how we can prepare ourselves and our fellow citizens for the challenges of the next election season, and you would like to help, please contact Suzy Daveluy at sdaveluy@sbcglobal.net.



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Voter's Edge is a collaborative effort of the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund and MapLight to provide unbiased online information to voters on elections covering federal, state, and local races in California, as well as information on ballot propositions.

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VOTER SERVICE

Voter's Edge *(Continued)*

League members recognize Voter's Edge as an important resource for election information.

Unfortunately, many candidates aren't using it.

Bea Lingenfelter leads the LWVSJC team that contacts state and local candidates asking each to provide priorities, education, political philosophy, and other information to Voter's Edge. She reports that even with help from the county Registrar of Voters (ROV), fewer than 40% of local candidates responded to requests for information, even repeated requests. Statewide, the response from candidates was under 45%.

In some cases, candidates didn't provide the ROV with such basic contact information as phone numbers, addresses, or email addresses. This made it impossible to contact some of them to participate in candidate forums.

LWVC is looking for ways to work with ROVs around California to encourage candidates to make use of this important voter education tool.

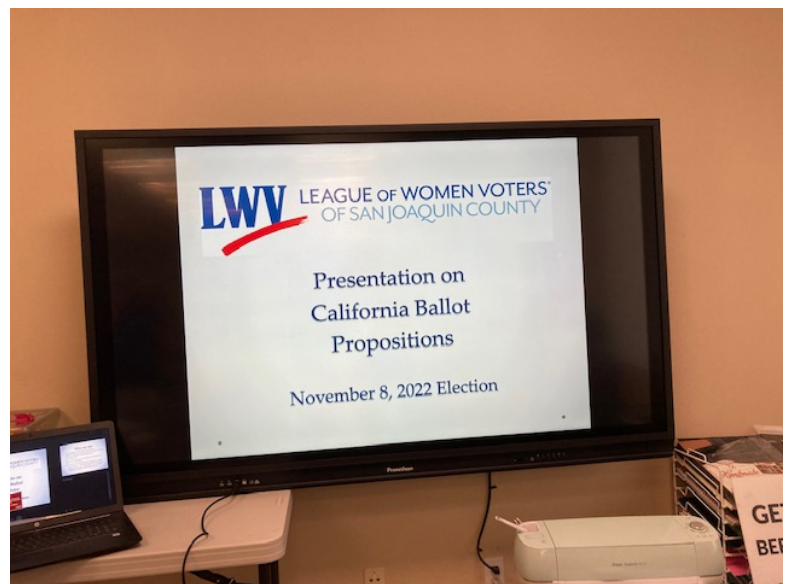
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Ballot Proposition Pros and Cons

Each election season in California presents voters not just with candidates to choose among but with initiatives put forward by the Legislature or by voters to make or change laws or to amend the state constitution. Inundated by multi-million dollar electronic and print media attempts to sway votes, some groups of voters turn to the League of Women Voters.

This campaign season was no exception. Voters were asked to decide on a legislatively proposed constitutional amendment, five citizen initiatives, and a citizen-initiated referendum on a 2020 law.

To help voters understand the intent, the likely impact, the arguments, and the funding for these propositions, Bea Lingenfelter and Jane Wagner-Tyack did pros and cons presentations for groups around San Joaquin County: O'Connor Woods retirement community, AAUW, and Faith in the Valley (by Zoom) in Stockton; AAUW in Lodi; and Prestige Senior Living, PEO, and the Manteca community at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in the south county.





League Holiday Party

December 10th

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The League's Holiday Party has been on hiatus, but this year we plan to gather again in person on December 10th for holiday cheer and League companionship at the home of League members Donna Brown and Colleen Foster: 4573 Boulder Creek Circle, Stockton.

This year we have moved the evening gatherings we have traditionally held to a Saturday from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Once again, it will be a potluck event, so plan to bring a holiday dish you'd like to share. Donna and Colleen will provide plates and utensils as well as "libations."

We will continue our holiday tradition of a white elephant exchange, so start looking for that perfect re-gift item that you can wrap intriguingly to entice your companions to choose it. The white elephant gifts have always been a highlight of the holiday gathering.

We will send a reminder and a request for RSVPs shortly after Thanksgiving, but put this fun League event on your calendars now. We hope you will join fellow League members for an enjoyable afternoon.

UPDATES ON LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

As we conclude this election season, we thank you for your support of our local League.

YOU MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK.

SAVE THE DATES:

Mark your calendar for the following education programs and other events. (Please note that the Housing and Homelessness Forum that was scheduled for November 12 will be rescheduled for Spring of 2023.)

January 21 Program Planning Meeting

February

- Childcare Forum
- Legislative Interviews

March and April Making Democracy Work Forums

May 19-21 California League of Women Voters Convention

June 10 Annual Meeting

2022-2023 LWVSJC Board of Directors

Officers

Kathy Casenave, President
Terri Mercer, 1st Vice President
Mary Kenefick, 2nd Vice President
Colleen Foster, Secretary
Bill Loyko, Treasurer

Directors

Bev Blum
Suzy Daveluy
Susan Mora Loyko
Daphne Shaw
Jane Wagner-Tyack
Cate White

Standing Committees

Advocacy – Mary Kenefick
Communication – Jane Wagner-Tyack
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion –
Terri Mercer
Membership – Susan Mora Loyko
Nominating – Diane Park
Helen Pearson Award –
Bea Lingenfelter

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.