



Program Planning for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

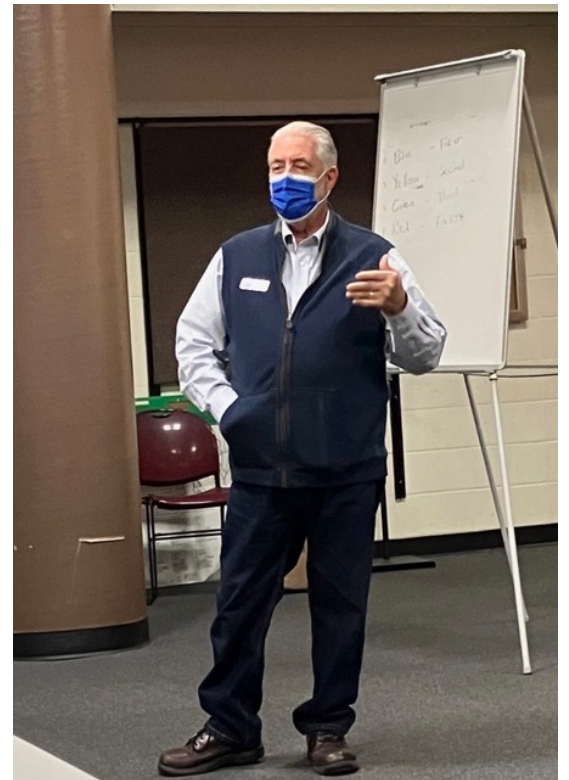
The LWVC program planning process occurs in odd-numbered years in advance of the state Convention. It is part of what makes the League a grassroots organization; each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues on which the state League will focus time, talent, and money. A similar process occurs in even-numbered years before the national League convention.

For our local League, program planning is our opportunity to meet together, discuss our local concerns, and decide where we want to focus our education and advocacy efforts in the coming fiscal year. We identify up to three issues of emphasis for ourselves and to recommend to the state League.

LWVSJC members met on January 21 in Stockton at the Cesar Chavez Central Library to choose program topics. Board member Suzy Daveluy asked attendees to consider the following points in choosing priorities:

- Is this an issue that would attract participation from the community and League members, including new and diverse members?
- Is this an issue on which legislative or regulatory action is needed? Will political realities permit effective government action during the next two years?
- Does this issue involve a need not being met by other groups?
- Is there member interest in and commitment to this topic?
- Could the League play a significant role in impacting community concern and/or public policy decisions on this issue?
- Do we have the capacity to take on this issue?

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Board member Bill Loyko facilitating the Program Planning Meeting

MEMBER NEWS

Program Planning (*continued*)

Small group discussions included voter vouchers, poverty, money in politics, and Voter's Choice outreach to underserved communities.

The topics that received the most votes from the full group:

- Land Use, with an emphasis on warehouses and air quality in San Joaquin County
- Post-COVID high school student support
- Equity in school facilities (Equitable Funding for California's School Facilities is one of the LWVC topics for legislative interviews this year)

LWVSJC members will have a chance to vote at the annual meeting to support these program choices for the coming year.

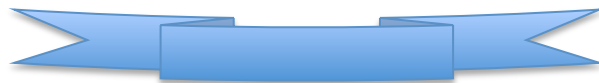
Bill Loyko and Suzy Daveluy did an outstanding job of organizing this meeting. Thank you to them and to all who participated!



Top photo, left to right: Terri Mercer, Susan Mora Loyko, and Mary Kenefick

Middle photo, left to right: Patricia Voss, Anicia Hibdon, and Margo Praus

Left photo, left to right: New student member Jillian Morton, Mary Anne Cox-Martin, Suzy Daveluy, and Kathy Casenave



Advocacy at Work

by Mary Kenefick

This is the first in my series of Advocacy “revival” columns for *The Voter*, designed to keep you up to date as to the initiatives and member action opportunities related to current Advocacy concerns and objectives. It is a revival of an Advocacy column written by Cate White and others.

The content will vary because objectives and opportunities in our communities vary. The goal here is to engage you in opportunities for positive change. The single non-variable is a fidelity to League concerns, whether broadly (like air quality and water), or narrowly, for example, specific SJ Board of Supervisors issues or perhaps some city planning matters. San Joaquin County (SJC), if you haven’t noticed, is changing rapidly, and there are many moving parts. We can help shape the future or simply sit by. In general, FYI, you will find below information that is ordered by my assessment as to its time-critical nature.

Voter’s Choice Act (VCA)

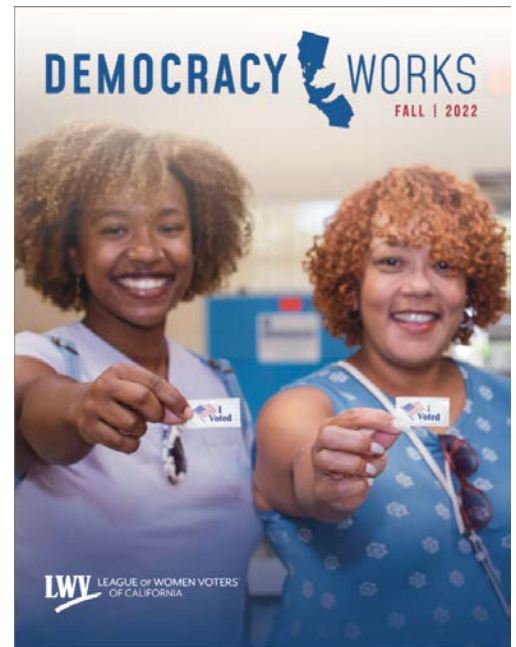
Two of the three main provisions of the VCA (universal mailed ballots and secure drop boxes) are already implemented in SJC. Full adoption of the VCA will replace neighborhood polling places with Voter Centers, which offer additional days for early voting, provide registration help, and permit any county resident to vote at any Voter Center in the county. These provisions improve voter access to voting and should improve voter turnout. Many surrounding counties have already adopted the VCA, and our State League was a strong supporter of the legislation that created the VCA.

On the 28th of February, Olivia Hale, our new Registrar of Voters, will speak to the San Joaquin Board of Supervisors (BOS), requesting that the Board adopt the full implementation of the Voters Choice Act (VCA).

LWVSJC is sending a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of the full implementation of the VCA. Registrar Hale is grateful for the League’s support for this change and would be happy to see members of the League at this BOS meeting on February 28. Watch for an email with more information.

Manteca General Plan

The Manteca Planning Commission released a new General Plan, based on a Draft Environmental Impact Report, shortly before the Christmas/New Year’s holidays, with a deadline for comment on January 6, 2023. There are significant problems and deficiencies in this report, many of them impacting



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environmental health and safety, that should be addressed before the General Plan is adopted. League members in the south county are keeping an eye on the situation. This column will monitor the progress of Manteca's General Plan.

Warehouse Issues

Oh, dear, this is a very large topic, figuratively and literally. If you haven't been on our freeways lately, you may not be aware of the full magnitude of this evidence of SJC's position as the synapse of northern California goods transit. Nearly everything that comes into northern California or leaves from it moves through San Joaquin County on one sort of conveyance or another. Drive 99 south of Stockton, or 120 through Manteca, or 205 through Tracy; warehouses get bigger and taller, now sometimes into the millions of square feet of space and the equivalent of several stories in height. Our objective is to mitigate the negative human impacts on natural resources like air and water; to curb the destruction of agricultural land; and to try to defend against the destruction of the agricultural culture of San Joaquin County.

The good news is that there are now several groups interested in dealing with the problem of unbridled warehouse development, and new groups are forming. The League is certainly not fighting this battle alone. California Attorney General Bonta is supportive of the several groups that are encouraging new development to look to the future as regards electrification of trucking fleets, to rely on renewable energy, and to try to be "good neighbors." Stay tuned for emails about opportunities to become active in addressing this issue.



This photo, taken in Southern California's Inland Empire (Fontana, San Bernardino area) shows you what San Joaquin County's future could look like.

(Photo from *The Press-Enterprise*, "Inland Empire warehouse moratorium pitched to Gov. Gavin Newsom," by Jeff Horseman, January 30, 2023.)

Flood management, land use, and inequity in San Joaquin County

by Jane Wagner-Tyack

On January 26, Restore the Delta and River Partners co-sponsored a [webinar](#) titled “Hell or High Water: How Stockton Can Prepare for the Risk of Flood Disaster.” LWVSJC members who were not able to join the webinar may click on the link above to view it. (The program begins at about 5:30 minutes into the recording.)

All the presentations are very good, but I found these to be especially useful:

- Dr. Daniel Swain of UCLA on the climate and meteorological side of flood risk
- A panel of speakers giving a local perspective, including Stockton District 6 Councilmember Kimberly Warmley and urban farming and literacy activist Ahmad Majid, whose presentations include the importance of culturally relevant messaging on flood risk
- Congressman Josh Harder on what the federal government can do for an area “that has been left behind for decades”
- On local solutions: Chris Elias, Executive director of the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFC); Sarah Puckett of American Rivers on the Paradise Cut project; and Julie Rentner of River Partners on the Mid-San Joaquin River Regional Flood Management Plan

For more background on longstanding lack of state attention to and investment in flood management in San Joaquin County, see the January [article in *Grist*](#) titled “California’s next flood could destroy one of its most diverse cities. Will lawmakers try to save it?”

Environmental inequities in San Joaquin County extend beyond flood management to land use decisions. The *Grist* article notes that “Stockton has become one of the most diverse cities in the country, with substantial Mexican, Filipino, Chinese, Cambodian, and African American communities. Many of these have poverty rates that are much higher than the state average, and they also face severe environmental justice risks: The neighborhoods of southwest Stockton are surrounded by freeways, factories, and port infrastructure, making them among the most exposed in the state to soot and diesel pollution.”

See the preceding article in this newsletter to read about some steps the LWVSJC advocacy team is taking to address local land use issues.

“You have to develop culturally competent ways to reach residents, [and] you have to educate people all the time about our river system.”

– Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, Restore the Delta

IN REMEMBRANCE

BEV BLUM

San Joaquin County League members were saddened to lose long-time member Bev Blum. Bev passed away November 16, 2022, at her residence in Stockton. She was 85.

The League recognized Bev's many exceptional contributions to the League by presenting her with the Helen Pearson Award in 2021. At that time, Susan Mora Loyko provided this biography and tribute:

“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 in 1992 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

“Bev was the Founder and Executive Director for Planned Parenthood in San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties 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. . . . She was breaking barriers long before many others, drawing little or no attention to her accomplishments.”

Bev had twin children, Alfred and Barbara, as well as two grandsons, Gabriel and Avery. Her recent work for LWVSJC included serving on the Membership Committee, serving as Treasurer, and, most recently, working on the daunting task of revising and updating the LWVSJC bylaws. We will miss her.

UPDATES ON LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Welcome new members of the San Joaquin County
League of Women Voters!

Linda Rush

Rebecca McKnight

Jillian Morton

Watch for email
announcements for these
upcoming events

March Forum on Homeless Issues

March/April Forum(s) on Democracy

May 6 Forum on Child Care

May 18-21 LWVC Convention in
San Francisco

June 10th Annual Meeting (dinner program)

The LWVSJC Board of Directors meets on the 3rd Monday of each month from September through June, unless the 3rd Monday is a holiday, in which case, we reschedule. Board meetings are held on Zoom, and any LWVSJC member is welcome to attend. If you would like to receive a Zoom link to a Board of Directors meeting, please contact JaneTyack@mac.com.

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

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 – Suzy Daveluy
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.