



# The Voter

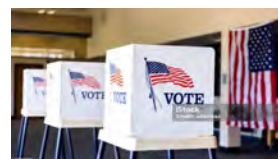
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Winter 2024

## Don't Overlook the Primary Election

**T**here's an election on March 5th! This may be a surprise to some people who expect the Primary to be held in June—and it is, when the Governor is up for election. But in Presidential election years, the California Primary is moved up to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. Because people can be caught unawares, this Primary can have a low turnout. Our League is offering several voter service events to raise awareness of the Primary and to encourage people to vote.

the decision-making responsibilities of these offices that impact people's daily lives. State Senator Susan Eggman will focus on why it's important to vote for good candidates in the Primary, even if the final vote won't take place until the General Election.



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### Pros and Cons

League member Bea Lingenfelter will present information on the ballot measures that will be on the Primary ballot. She will also introduce the League's VOTE 411 resource for election information.

### Proposition 1

Proposition 1, the Behavioral Health Services Act and Bond Measure that would add service for some and change the categories of funding for mental health services – a change that is a concern to some mental health advocates – will be on the March 5th ballot. State Senator Susan Eggman, the San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Director, and a mental health services advocate will share their perspectives on this issue.

Come learn how the Primary Election could impact you.

Candidate forums will focus on offices that could be elected in the Primary Election. A schedule of events follows on Page 2. There will be several forums: check if candidates from your district will be on the ballot and attend a forum to get first-hand information from candidates.

On **February 3rd**, we will host a three-part event at the Chavez Library in Stockton from 10:00-12:30 that will focus on the importance of this Primary Election.

### Panel

Former Stockton City Councilmember Elbert Holman along with former Supervisor Chuck Winn will remind folks that candidates for those city and county offices could be elected during the Primary and will talk about



**California  
Primary  
Election  
March 5, 2024**

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## Candidate Forums February 2024

Our League has a full schedule of voter service activities slated for February. Following the February 3rd event focusing on the importance of voting in the Primary Election, the League will be the lead co-sponsor for a series of forums featuring candidates who will be on the Primary Election ballot on March 5th. The forums will focus on those offices that, with 50%+1 votes, could be decided in March.

The bulk of the forums will be held on the Delta campus in the Dawn Mabalon Forum (formerly the West Forum) at 6:00 p.m. each evening. Forums will be held for eight elected offices:

- ◇ **February 7th:** Stockton Mayor and City Council District 2
- ◇ **February 8th:** Stockton City Council Districts 4 and 6
- ◇ **February 12th:** County Board of Education, Area 5 and County Board of Supervisors, District 3
- ◇ **February 13th:** County Board of Supervisors, Districts 1 and 5

These forums will be co-sponsored by Delta College's Department of Political Science, the Business Council of San Joaquin County, Central Valley Asian-American Chamber of

Commerce, San Joaquin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce, *The Record*, and the NAACP. Terri Mercer is coordinating the League's involvement with these forums, which will be recorded by Delta's students and will be made available via the League's YouTube Channel.

A forum for candidates for Superior Court Judge, Office 3, will be held in Lodi on **February 4th** at 2:00 p.m. The venue has not been finalized, so look for information in future League publications. Jane Wagner-Tyack and Suzy Daveluy are the League's representatives for this forum which is being co-sponsored by A New Lodi.

The First Unitarian Universalist Church in Stockton reached out to the League asking us to assist in presenting a forum for Stockton City Council District 4. The forum will be held on **February 24th** at 2:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church on Pacific Avenue in Stockton. League member Jeri Bigbee is coordinating the forum with other League Voter Service volunteers.

These forums will present useful information on candidates. We hope you will attend the ones relating to candidates in your district.

## Warehousing: Two Victories and One Defeat

- Margo Praus & Eric Parfrey

Throughout the last two years, the Sierra Club and other community organizations including LWVSJC, has monitored local warehousing projects, writing letters about important mitigations, attending cities' Planning Commission and City Council meetings, and meeting individually with City Council members and San Joaquin County Supervisors. Because of this work, the coalition celebrated two important victories: the adoption of the Mariposa Agreement in Stockton and the defeat of a large warehouse project by the Tracy City Council.

Building on the success of the Mariposa Agreement, advocates and community members urged developers of the Tracy Alliance development project to incorporate mitigation measures (electric fleets, solar, setbacks) into their project that was proposed to be built directly across the street from residents in the unincorporated community of Banta. The developers refused, leading to a barrage of critical comments from coalition members and community residents. In response to these concerns, Tracy City Council voted to deny the project (for now) and directed the developers to return with a better package of mitigation measures.

But the twin victories of the Mariposa Agreement and the defeat of the Tracy Alliance project have been tempered by a stinging defeat by the Stockton City Council in December 2023

— Continued on Page 3: Warehousing

## LWVSJC CALENDAR: 2023-2024

February	Legislative Interviews
February 3	Focus on the Primary Election
February	<b><u>Candidate Forums</u></b>
February 4	<u>Lodi</u> : Superior Court Judge, #3
February 7	<u>Stockton</u> : Mayor; Council 2
February 8	<u>Stockton</u> : Council 4 and 6
February 12	<u>County Board of Education</u> 3 and Board of Supervisors 5
February 13	<u>County Board of Supervisors</u> :1, 3
February 24	<u>Stockton Council</u> 4 (co-sponsor)
February 15	Susan B. Anthony Dinner
February 24	Stockton Women's Collaborative: Black History Lunch
<b><u>March 5</u></b>	<b><u>Primary Election</u></b>
March 16	Warehousing's Local Impacts
April 13	Secretary of State (tentative)
May 18	Sharing Information from Legislative Interviews
June 1	Annual Meeting
June 27-30	LWVUS Convention/ Washington, D.C.

## *Lunch and Learn*

**January—May 2024**

Location: Papapavlos Restaurant  
Lincoln Center  
Time: 11:30—1:00

### **January 9th**

**Jennifer Juanitas**, Program Director OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) at Pacific: OLLI's spring offerings

### **February 13th**

**Scott Linesburgh**, Executive Editor *Stocktonia* (online news source)

### **March 12th**

To be announced

### **April 9th**

To be announced

### **May 14th**

**Jane Wagner-Tyack**, LWVSJC member and Program Director and Legislative Consultant for Water for LWVC. League perspective on water issues

- Continued from Page 2: Warehousing

The City Council held a public hearing attended by well over 50 people, including our coalition members, environmental justice advocates, and affected community residents, who spoke fervently against adopting the recommendation of the Planning Commission, which was essentially the option favored by project developers. In the end, the Council unanimously voted for the Planning Commission's recommendation. The outpouring of public comment and wishes was essentially ignored in favor of a weak and meaningless ordinance which will do little to mitigate the real impacts of rampant warehousing.

Logistics warehouse growth in our county must be continually monitored with letters and increased public attendance and testimony at meetings.

LWVSJC will present information on the health and environmental impacts of unmitigated warehouse growth at a membership meeting in March 2024. See the Spring Voter details and for more background information.

- Margo Praus, a lifelong resident of San Joaquin County, has served as chair of the Delta-Sierra Group.

- Eric Parfrey lives in Stockton and is a retired city planner. He has been active with the Sierra Club since the mid-1990s.

## *Lunch and Learn*

**January 9th**

**OLLI at Pacific**

*"Curiosity never retires"*

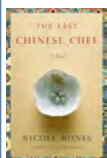
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at University of the Pacific is a non-profit education program designed for people ages 50+. OLLI provides an array of non-credit classes, interest groups, local and international trips, and special events for those who register in the OLLI program. Jennifer Juanitas, Program Director for OLLI, will preview the Spring offerings. Computer classes (for PC and Apple users), art instruction, lectures on history, politics, and music are part of the program, some of which are offered online.

*Lunch and Learn* about the many opportunities the OLLI program offers.

## LWVSJC Holiday Party— Shared Good Times—and Books

**T**hank you to President Mary Kenefick for hosting the League Holiday party at the Club House of the Woodbridge residences in Manteca. And to the other party planners, Suzy Daveluy and Patricia Voss. The potluck gathering on December 9th was a lot of fun—and quite yummy.

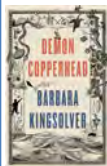
After enjoying the delicious variety of food brought by League members, talk turned to — books! Mary suggested that we bring books to share and many members did. Here are the books that were special to those who shared them at the party:



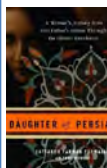
***The Last Chinese Chef*** by Nicole Mones, a novel of friendship, culture, and cuisine



***All the Beauty in the World*** by Patrick Bringley, a portrait of the Metropolitan Museum of Art



***Demon Copperhead*** Barbara Kingsolver updates Dicken's look at institutional poverty and its damages to children



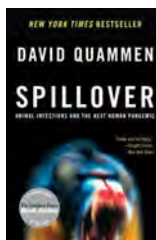
***Daughter of Persia*** by Sattareh Farman Farmaian: a moving memoir of an Iranian women's life



Stocktonian Robin C. Johnson's ***Enchantress, Sorceress, Madwoman*** captures the unlikely true story of San Franciscan Sarah Althea Hill



***Lady Tan's Circle of Women*** by Lisa See refutes the saying that 'an educated woman is a useless woman' in this novel set in the Ming dynasty



***Spillover*** by David Quammen is a prescient look at how animal infections can mushroom into full fledged human pandemics. What's next?



***Funny in Farsi*** by Faroozeh Dumas chronicles the American journey of the Iran-born author's life in southern California as a child in a very new world



***A Lady's Place*** by former Stockton resident Mary Jo Golke traces the history of the Philomathean Club in Stockton

Several other books were also recommended at the party:

- \* ***Personal Librarian*** by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray
- \* ***On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*** by Timothy Snyder
- \* ***Living with Purpose*** by Dorothy Height
- \* ***Necessary Trouble*** by Drew Gilpin Faust
- \* ***In the Distance*** by Hernan Diaz
- \* ***Prequel: An American Fight against Fascism*** by Rachel Maddow

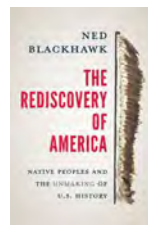
## Glimpses of Native Lives

Three books, two fiction and one the National Book Award winner in nonfiction, give readers a glimpse of the lives of indigenous Americans.



***A Council of Dolls*** by PEN Award-winning Native author Mona Susan Power is an intimate portrait of how U.S. policies towards Indian

peoples impacted the lives of three generations of Yanktonai Dakota women, told in part through the stories of dolls they cherished. The brutal history of enforced Indian boarding schools reverberated through their lives long after the schools closed.



Ned Blackhawk's National Book Award-winning history of America elucidates five centuries of native lives impacted by the serial

colonialism that brought death, disease, and dispossession to tens of millions of Indigenous peoples. The dispassionate narration of *The Rediscovery of America* lends an immediacy to this ultimately hopeful history of American's native peoples.



Solidly in the mystery genre, *Blood Sisters* by Vanessa Lillie brings the often- ignored plight of missing native women vividly to the page.

## State League Boardmember Testifies Before the State Assembly Committee on Elections

A Boardmember of the League of Women Voters of California has taken action to close the participation gap for youth and voters of color as part of LWVC's commitment to build a truly representative California electorate by testifying before the Assembly Committee on Elections about her experience.

"I grew up undocumented in this country for over 25 years working to close the voter participation gap, but I was never able to fully take advantage of being part of that democracy in a full way," she testified. "I was finally able ...to vote for the first time last year. The 2024 election will be the first time I get to vote for president."



Alejandra said that keeping underrepresented communities out of democracy has intentional historical roots. "It's not apathy. ... Many folks don't vote not because they don't care. They may not vote because they think their government doesn't care. We need to bridge and address that. ... We need to resource both election officials and culturally competent community based organizations to engage people and shrink the participation gap."

- Excerpted from a League of Women Voters of California email

*The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.*

### Calendar of Board Meetings

January 16	Board Meeting (instead of 1/15 - MLK Day)
February 20	Board Meeting (instead of 2/19 - Presidents' Day)
March 18	Board Meeting
April 15	Board Meeting
May 20	Board/ Ed Fund Board Meeting
June 17	Board Meeting

Board meetings are the 3rd Monday of the month, except as noted above.

### **Members are welcome to attend Board meetings.**

If you wish to attend Board meetings, please contact Jane Wagner-Tyack at [janetyack@mac.com](mailto:janetyack@mac.com) and she will email you the Zoom link to the meetings.

## 2023-2024 LWVSJC Board of Directors

### Officers

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

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Kathy Casenave  
Mary Ann Cox-Martin  
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Jane Wagner-Tyack  
Cate White

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Finance: Bill Loyko  
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Nominating: Margo Praus  
Helen Pearson Award:  
Christeen Ferree  
Voter Service: Suzy Daveluy  
  
**Webmaster:** Walt White  
**Voter Editor:** Colleen Foster

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.