



November/December 2024

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

The Voter



www.lwv.org www.vote411.org

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If you haven't already done so,

VOTE

on November 5, 2024

Go to Vote411

<https://www.vote411.org>

*A League of Women Voters of the United States
nonpartisan resource
to see your sample ballot,
polling place, and
ballot drop box locations
as well as to get
information on candidates
and ballot measures*

League of Women Voters of
San Joaquin County
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Email: LWVSJC@gmail.com
<http://www.sjc.ca.lwvnet.org>

LWVSJC CALENDAR 2024-2025

Membership Meetings

Holiday Gathering December 7: 11:00-2:00
Woodbridge Clubhouse/Westport Room, Manteca

Program Planning/
Transformation Update January 25

Membership Meeting February 8

Susan B. Anthony Dinner February 15

Membership Meeting March 15

Warehousing Panel April 12

Bylaws revisions presentation May 17

Annual Meeting June 21

Board Meetings

November 18 Board/ Ed Fund Board Meeting

December 16

January 21 (instead of 1/20 — MLK Day)

February 18 (instead of 2/17 — Presidents' Day)

March 17

April 21

May 19 Board/ Ed Fund Board Meeting

June 16

Board meetings are the 3rd Monday of the month, except as noted above. They are held at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Members are invited to attend Board meetings. If you wish to attend Board meetings, please contact Jane Wagner-Tyack at lwvsjc@gmail.com for the Zoom link to the meetings.

**Informed citizens are democracy's
best defense.**

- Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law



November 13, 2024

MERCY PEDALERS

Powered by bicyclers and tricyclers who pedal through the streets of downtown Stockton, volunteers interact with men and women who are experiencing homelessness.

Speaker: Catherine Lytle
Pedaler

Papapavlo's
Lincoln Center
11:30-1:00

Watch for a flyer with more information and to make a reservation.

Mark your calendars for future Lunch and Learns:

- ⇒ **January 14:** Bobbie Wallinger, Antisemitism in the U.S.
- ⇒ **February 11:** Joelle Gomez, CEO Children's Home of Stockton
- ⇒ **March 19:** Krista Fiser, CEO PREVAIL, formerly Women's Center—Youth & Family Services
- ⇒ **April 1:** TBA
- ⇒ **May 13:** TBA

Busy Fall for Voter Services

Our League took a very active role in informing our communities on voter registration, ballot issues, and candidates before the November General Election.

Voter Registration



League member Alane Dashner worked with two interested community members to register voters, once on the Delta College campus and also at Gleason Park apartments. LWVSJC President Mary Kenefick also worked to get Delta students registered to vote. She worked with Dr. Joel Blank and Delta students to provide voter registration materials, and students set up tables on Tuesdays to register students to vote. Thank you, Alane and Mary.

Candidate Forums

Our League held well attended candidate forums in Stockton and Manteca. In Manteca, forums featured candidates for Board of Supervisors/District 3 and the Manteca City Council/ District 2.



Manteca City Council Area 2 hopefuls Judy Blumhorst, Gabe Galletta, and Regina Lackey *Photo courtesy of the Manteca Bulletin*

Thanks to League members Mary Bava, Mary Ann Cox-Martin, Suzy Daveluy, Ruby Hennessey, Mary Kenefick, Bea Lingenfelter, Jeanne Pollard, Cate and Walt

White and League supporters Susan Goodman, Linda Little, Jay Holmes, and John Emery for help with these forums.

The League continued its collaboration with Delta College, Delta's Political Science Department, and Delta's Politics and Law Club to present a series of forums on four evenings in October. Candidates appeared for a wide array of local offices: Board of Supervisors District 1, Delta College Board of Trustees, State Assembly District 13, State Senate District 5, SUSD Board of Trustees/Area 4, Mayor of Stockton and Stockton City Council Districts 4 and 6.

The forums at Delta College were presented with coalition members Business Council of San Joaquin County, *The Record*, Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce, African American Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Central Valley Asian-American Chamber of Commerce, and the NAACP.

Delta forums were recorded. For those who missed them, you can see the forums on our web site: <https://my.lwv.org/california/san-joaquin-county>.

League Voter Service Chair Suzy Daveluy led the efforts of the coalition; many other League members contributed to the forums' success: Mary Ann Cox-Martin, Colleen Foster, Kathy Hart, Samantha Johnson, Margo Praus, Bea Lingenfelter, Mary Kenefick, Daphne Shaw, Yvette Remlinger, and Bobbie Wallinger. Many thanks to all these League members who helped bring these

forums to Stockton voters.

VOTE411

Vote411 is a web platform provided by LWV Education Fund to inform voters about their ballots: where to vote, ballot measures, and candidates for local office, their qualifications and positions.

Kudos to Bea Lingenfelter who has worked tirelessly to gather information to inform San Joaquin County voters.

Pros and Cons

Every election, local League members use information from LWVC, the California Legislative Analyst's Office, Ballotpedia, and other nonpartisan resources to summarize information on each state ballot proposition to present to local groups— what the measure will enact, what proponents and opponents say about the measure, and who contributes to them - to help voters evaluate measures they will vote on.



One such presentation was offered to a well-attended joint meeting

of the League and AAUW/ Stockton. Other presentations were offered in person in both Stockton and Manteca and one will be given via Zoom before election day. Thanks to the League volunteers who provided this service: Mary Ann Cox-Martin, Suzy Daveluy, Samantha Johnson, Bea Lingenfelter, Colleen Foster, Jane Wagner-Tyack and Yvette Remlinger.

LWVUS on Election Security, Reliability and Combatting Dis/Mis/Mal-Information

The General Election is on November 5, 2024, but the work to support safe, reliable elections doesn't stop with the casting of ballots. The League can help to bring positive messages and truthful information to the public arena even after the election.

Below are excerpts from League webinars, LWVUS web site, and publications: *Preparing for Post-Election* (October 3, 2024), *Election Security and Reliability* (October 6, 2022), and *Proactive Practices & Tactics to Combat Mis/Dis/Mal-Information* (Presentation at the 2024 LWVUS National Convention, June 2024)

Election workforce and procedures

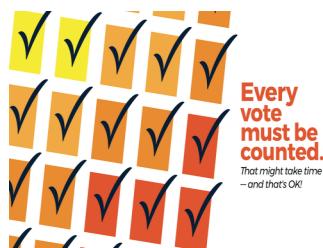
Election workers and processes are under threat. We can remind people that election workers are supporting democracy and ballots are secure and accurately counted.

- People power our elections, whether it's elections officials who work to serve our community year-round or the poll workers who step forward to support our community during voting, our elections are free, fair, and accessible because of people based in our community.
- Elections officials work year-round to support our community, ensure all voters have an equal voice in our elections, and protect the integrity of the democratic system.

- Our election workforce, made up of ordinary people from our community, makes sure every election runs smoothly and everyone's vote is counted.
- Election officials implement ballot processing and tabulation safeguards designed to ensure each ballot cast in the election can be correctly counted. These safeguards include chain of custody procedures, auditable logging requirements, and canvass processes.

Ballot handling procedures are safe.

- All states have some form of pre-and post-testing of voting equipment, as well as ballot counting processes open for public observation. Post-election audits, including 'risk-limiting-audits,' ensure that the vote count was done correctly and we can trust the results.



Count Every Vote

Counting ballots takes time.

Election officials work around the clock to count ALL ballots. It's essential that they take the time to make sure every vote is counted.

A complete ballot count is more important than a fast ballot count. We may not get a complete count

on election night but that's OK—it means we can trust our election administrators to count every ballot.

Combatting Mis/Dis/Mal-Information

False narratives about our elections continue to spread and require countering with factual information.

The first rule of combatting mis/dis information is DO NOT REPEAT OR QUOTE BAD INFORMATION.

Other tactics to remember:

- Refer to bad information without repeating it, e.g., "some bad actors are making false claims that thousands of ballots were stuffed at the election office. This is not true."
- Focus on providing correct information and, if possible, include trustworthy sources for where to learn more.

On social media:

- **SIFT: Stop, Investigate** the source, **Find** better coverage, **Trace** claims to the original source.
- Don't click or share bad information, even to dispute it. It just gives attention to the false information.
- Verify before you share.
- Report inaccurate information to social media platforms, group administrators, and election officials.
- Block users you don't know who share mis/dis/mal-information.

A Few Notes

Community Events: sharing information with League members

League members are often aware of activities and events in the community that other League members may be interested in. Members are invited to share such information via our gmail account.

If you receive information you wish to share, forward the email you received to lwvsjc@gmail.com and ask that it be forwarded to our membership.

Information not available electronically can also be shared : prepare an email with the relevant information and send that email to lwvsjc@gmail.com.

Legislative Interviews

Each year local Leagues arrange interviews with our local state representatives to discuss both the legislator's and the League's legislative priorities and concerns. The interviews are usually held in late January, as the legislator's schedule permits. In 2025, there will be two new legislators representing the San Joaquin County area, so this will be an excellent opportunity for our League to get to know our state assemblyperson and senator. If you would like to participate in these interviews, please email our Legislative Interview Coordinator Terri Mercer at lwvsjc@gmail.com.

Camera Ready?

If you would be interested in taking photos of League activities for the *Voter* or other League publicity, please email Colleen Foster at lwvsjc@gmail.com. We would really like to have a photo record of our activities. Thank you.



The following article is heavily excerpted from an article written by Kate Morley as part of the OLLI at Pacific's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee. Excerpted by permission.

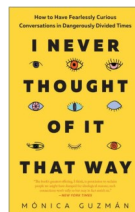
The first recorded presence of Filipinos in the continental United States was on October 18, 1587, when *Luzones Indios* (Natives of Luzon) came ashore from the Spanish Galleon *Nuestra Senora de Esperanza* (Our Lady of Hope) at Morro Bay. Filipino Americans are the second-largest Asian-American group in the nation and the third-largest ethnic group in California (after Latinas/os and African Americans).

Filipino history in Stockton is long and strong. After the United States colonized the Philippines, many came here in the early 1900s searching for opportunity, whether it was obtaining a job or pursuing higher education. Many arrived in the Central Valley and found work in agriculture. By the 1920s, Stockton became a hub for Filipino Americans because the establishment of Little Manila was a place where Filipinos were accepted and felt safe. It was an unspoken law that if you were a person of color in the 1930s, you were not welcome north of Main Street in the city.

According to 1930 census data, there were 45,000 Filipinos in the U. S. and 25,000 of them were working crops in San Joaquin County. Today Filipino Americans make up the largest Asian American group in the city of Stockton at an estimated 28,000 people according to the most recent census data with the American Community Survey of 2019.

A Book for Polarized Times

Partisanship is up, trust is down, and our social media feeds compound the polarization. But avoiding one another is hurting our relationships and our society.



Mónica Guzman, the chief storyteller for the national cross-partisan depolarization organization Braver Angels, addresses the crisis that threatens to grind America to a halt—broken conversations among confounded people. She discusses how to overcome the fear that surround us to finally do what seems impossible: understand and even *learn* from people in your life whose whole worldview is different from or even opposed to yours. *- Barnes & Noble web site*

A local take

On October 18th, at the invitation of League member Suzy Daveluy and friend Alan Cook, eight community members met for dinner to discuss *I Never Thought of It That Way*. The group shared tips for having conversations with friends/ family-members who have different political views than our own. One topic that resonated with the group was the understanding that we very likely share the same values as friends/family members of different political leanings; we just prioritize those values differently.

Guzman's lessons are summed up at the end of the book:

"When you want to explore why they're wrong, explore what you're missing. When you want to determine whose view wins, determine what makes each view understandable. When you want to discover why someone believes something that confounds you, discover how they came to believe it. When you want to know what their problem is, try to know what their concerns are. ... When you want to trap them into saying what you want to hear, free them so they say what they honestly mean." *- Suzy Daveluy*



When asked if my cup is half-full or half-empty, my only response is that I am thankful I have a cup.

- Sam Lefkowitz

*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

LWVSJC Board of Directors 2024-2025

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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.

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.