



The Voter

Summer 2024

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Fall Programs Start League Year

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Kickoff Meeting

Saturday

September 14th

10:00—noon

Maya Angelou Library

2324 Pock Lane

Stockton

SPEAKER

Phillip Merlo

Executive Director

**San Joaquin County
Historical Museum**

Light refreshments will be served.

After our speaker, there will be a short business meeting which will highlight the many voter service activities we are presenting this election season.

**Plan to join us for our
Kickoff to a very busy and
productive League year.**

Pros and Cons

Saturday

October 5th

10:00—noon

Chavez Library

605 N. El Dorado

Stockton

This will be a joint meeting with AAUW Stockton. Light refreshments will be served.

League members will present the Pros and Cons of the ten propositions that will be on the statewide ballot for the General Election, November 5, 2024.

State ballot measures present voters with many significant legislative decisions this November, including bond measures for education facilities and state and local parks; major changes to Proposition 47; possible increase in the minimum wage, and lowering the vote threshold for local measures for housing from two-thirds to 55%.

**Learn before you vote.
Join us for this
informative session.**

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<http://www.sjc.ca.lwvnet.org>



LWVSJC CALENDAR 2024-2025

Membership Meetings

Kickoff Meeting	September 14
Pros and Cons Presentation	October 5
A joint meeting with AAUW	
Warehousing Panel	November 16
Holiday Gathering	December 7
LWVUS Transformation Update	January 25
Membership Meeting	February 8
Susan B. Anthony Dinner	February 15
LWVSJC Program Planning	March 15
Local Impacts of Prop 1	April 12
Bylaws revisions presentation	May 17
Annual Meeting	June 21

Board Meetings

August 19	
September 9	(so as not to conflict with Candidate forums)
October 21	Board/ Ed Fund Board Meeting
November 18	
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.

Lunch and Learn

LWVSJC will continue our series of Lunch and Learns this year. We will feature speakers from non-profits and other organizations in our communities who will discuss the services they provide. Speakers may also address issues the League is interested in, as we did last year with talks on local water issues and awareness of systemic racism in our society.

We will strive to have speakers from throughout the county. Most meetings will be at PapaPavlo's in Lincoln Center. They have been very accommodating, have ample parking, have separate lunch spaces that work well for speakers, and offer a varied menu. Watch for email announcements for information before each lunch.

Some speakers have been confirmed but we are still seeking others, so if you have suggestions for speakers, contact Colleen Foster at lwvsjc@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars:

- ⇒ **October 8:** Manteca City Manager Toni Lundgrun
- ⇒ **November 13:** Catherine Lytle, Mercy Peddlers
- ⇒ **January 14:** Bobbie Wallinger, Antisemitism in the U.S.
- ⇒ **February 11:** Joelle Gomez, Children's Home of Stockton
- ⇒ **March 19**
- ⇒ **April 1**
- ⇒ **May 13**

Busy Fall for Voter Services

A full schedule of candidate forums will be held in September to inform voters about who is on their General Election ballot. Forums will be held in both Stockton and Manteca.

MANTECA

September 23rd, 6:00 p.m.
Board of Supervisors/District 3
Venue: Manteca Library

October: date TBA

Two Manteca city council seats are up for election in November. Only District 2 will be contested. Local League members are working with Manteca organizations to present a forum for this race. Information will be sent to League members as arrangements are finalized.

STOCKTON

All Stockton forums will be held on the San Joaquin Delta College campus.

September 19th

6:00 p.m.

San Joaquin Delta College Trustee Area 2

6:45

San Joaquin Delta College Trustee Area 6

7:30

San Joaquin Delta College Trustee Area 1

September 24th

6:00 p.m.

State Assembly District 13

6:45

Board of Supervisors/District 1

7:30 p.m.

State Senate District 5

September 25th

6:45

Stockton City Council/ District 4

7:30

Stockton City Council/District 6

September 26

6:00 p.m.

Stockton Unified School District/ Area 1

6:45 p.m.

Stockton Unified School District/ Area 3

7:30 p.m.

Stockton Unified School District/ Area 4

To volunteer to help with any of these forums, contact Suzy Daveluy at lwvsjc@gmail.com.

This schedule may be adjusted if there is only one candidate who is available for a forum. Updates will be sent via our League gmail.

Lodi Unified School District Forums Pursued

- Jane Wagner-Tyack

Three positions for trustees on the Lodi Unified School District board will be on ballots in north Stockton since they represent the north Stockton areas of LUSD. (This is a consequence of Lodi Unified annexing North Stockton land before it was developed in order to collect property taxes there, and later having to build schools in the area.) It has been difficult for LWVSJC and our partners to find contact information for some of the challengers.

This is a familiar problem for League Voter Service people.

Two of the trustee positions in LUSD have challengers, but the third does not. Under the League's "no empty chair" guidelines for forums, there will not be an opportunity for voters to hear from the third trustee. Organizers are trying to contact the other trustee candidates and hope to offer virtual debates.

Informed citizens are democracy's best defense.

- Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law

The League of Women Voters Supports National Popular Vote

Since 1970, the League of Women Voters has supported direct popular vote for electing the U.S. President and Vice President as essential to representative government.

The League's position has been reinforced several times. The League supports the abolition of the Electoral College as well as national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections to ensure equity for voters from all states. At its 2008 Convention, LWVUS voted to conduct a study of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, an agreement among a group of states and the District of Columbia to award all their electoral votes to whichever presidential ticket wins the overall popular vote in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The compact is designed to ensure that the candidate who receives the most votes nationwide is elected president. As of April 2024, it has been adopted by seventeen states, including California, and the District of Columbia.



What is the Electoral College?

The Constitution authorizes each state to appoint several electors equal to the number of its representatives that the state has in Congress, plus its two senators. To this total (435 + 100) the Twenty-Third Amendment added three for the District of Columbia, the same number of electors as the least

populous state, bringing the college to 538 members.

On election day, when voters in each state go to the polls, each one casts a ballot for *the slate of presidential electors who are pledged to support the candidate the voter prefers*. In some states, like California, only the names of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates appear on the ballot, masking the fact that voters are choosing electors rather than voting directly for the candidates.



To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the 538 votes from the electors: 270 votes.

The electors meet in each state on the Monday following the second Wednesday in December, a date set by federal statute. Two ballots are taken, with each elector casting one vote for the President and one for the Vice-President. Electors almost always vote for the candidates to whom they have been pledged. The Constitution does not bind them to do so. If no candidate receives a majority of electors, the process goes to the House and Senate.

Election in the House and Senate

If no candidate receives the required number of votes, for instance if a third party candidate

receives electoral votes, the decision goes to the houses of Congress, with the House of Representatives choosing the President and the Senate choosing the Vice President. Each state, regardless of the number of representatives each has in Congress, gets to cast one vote.

Critics and Supporters

Opponents of the Electoral College call it undemocratic, contradicting the one-person, one-vote principle, by giving each state at least three votes even though on a straight population basis, some states might be entitled to only one or two. Critics point out that if the vote goes to the House of Representatives, where each state has only one vote, the election becomes even further removed from the equality-of-population principle, since a single representative from the least populous state has a vote equal to a state that has a much larger population. There are seven states with only one representative.

Supporters argue that the one-person, one-vote principle should not pertain to the Electoral College, just as it does not pertain to the Senate. The apparent bias toward small states may not be real because in a winner-take-all rule, a small margin of victory in a populous state gets a much larger block of electoral votes than those from a smaller state where a candidate wins by a large majority.

- Precis of an article from LWVUS blog of August 8, 2000: *Who Will Elect the President? The Electoral College System.*

Child Care is still an issue in San Joaquin County

In May 2023, LWVSJC presented a panel on child care. A recent online article by Associated Press Education Writer Moriah Balingit stated “*the high cost of caring for children and the elderly has forced women out of the workforce, devastated family finances, and left professional caretakers in low wage jobs—all while slowing economic growth.*” Child care costs are rising faster than inflation.

A call to Kay Ruhstaller, CEO of Family Resource Center, confirmed the concern noted in the AP article. “Child care issues have not been resolved in San Joaquin County,” she said. To address ongoing needs, Family Resource Center is hosting a free event on the San Joaquin Delta College campus on Saturday, September 7th, from 9a.m.-1p.m..

The event called “Becoming You” will provide opportunities for young parents to learn about available resources in child care, education, job opportunities, and health care options. Community partners will be there to provide information on “wrap-around” services. Those interested in the event can get more information at [Becoming You – Family Resource Center. \(fresj.org\)](https://www.fresj.org).

An interview with Kay Ruhstaller about local child care issues will be in the November *Voter*.

Women’s (In)Equality Day



August 26, otherwise known as Women's Equality Day, marks the anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment. Yet today, women have fewer rights than they'd had in decades, so Women's Inequality Day may be more accurate.

Inequality impacts our health: women pay \$15 million more each year for health care than men.

It impacts our work: we're paid less than our male counterparts and are underrepresented in leadership roles. We also deal with workplace harassment, insufficient maternal leave, and disproportionate caretaking responsibilities.

It impacts our representation: women are severely underrepresented in politics, in the Senate, House of Representatives, and governorships. Are women also underrepresented locally? Check out city councils, the Board of Supervisors, and school boards to see how well women are represented in your area.

Before you vote, find out where candidates stand on issues important to you.



Bless Me, Ultima

by Rudolfo

Anaya is set in a small village on the edge of the plains of New Mexico. Young narrator Antonio

Marez tries to make sense of his parents' differing backgrounds and how they see the world while grappling with how the truths of the Catholic church align or disconnect with the native spirituality that reveres nature, land, and myth. He observes violence and hatred and ignorance alongside bonds of family and the joys of learning. As he tries to make sense of conflicting cultural, social, and religious outlooks, Ultima, a *curandera*—a healer who some perceive as a witch—imparts a sense of peace which helps him come into his own.

This coming-of-age classic, with mystical and philosophical overtones, paints a vivid picture of life in rural New Mexico at the end of World War II and the mix of opposites—good/evil, belief/knowledge-seeking, colonial/indigenous—that a six-year-old grows to deal with over the two years that Ultima lives with his family.

Both praised and banned, this book will linger long after you turn the last page.



StoryMaps Provide a Compelling View of County Air Quality Issues

- Jane Wagner-Tyack

In 2017, Governor Brown signed into law AB 617 to address air pollution in California communities. In response, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) established the Community Air Protection Program (CAPP). Its focus is to reduce exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution.

For several years, the Legislature appropriated funding “to support early actions to address localized air pollution through targeted incentive funding to deploy cleaner technologies in these communities, as well as grants to support community participation in the AB 617 process.”

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/capp/about>

Grant applicants in San Joaquin County have included Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton (for the Port of Stockton

area), the Little Manila Foundation, and the Central California Asthma Collaborative.

This past spring, seven teams of UC Berkeley undergraduate engineering students took part in a community engagement course, focusing on the Stockton AB 617 community. Their challenge was to research, imagine, and design strategies to reduce air pollution and to tackle climate change. <https://chow.ce.berkeley.edu/teaching/ce-105-spring-2024/>

The result is seven StoryMaps--web-based interactive maps combined with text and other content to tell a story.

The StoryMaps cover:

- Port of Stockton (electrifying it to reach zero emissions by 2030)
- Removing the Crosstown Freeway (with the goal of reducing

truck emissions in Stockton)

- Warehouses and their associated air pollution
- Agricultural Burning
- Harmful Algal Blooms
- Indoor air quality
- Air quality trends and patterns

Students also produced one-page handouts to provide information about each of these topics.

If you have never seen a StoryMap, it is worth looking at these.

Especially interesting to me was an artist’s rendering of what the Crosstown Freeway area might look like with the freeway underground.

The StoryMap on warehousing is useful given our 2024-2025 local League program interest in air quality and the impact of growth in warehousing.

Reducing Air Pollution through Warehouse Reforms in Stockton



Illustration Credit: Haley Tweedall

In San Joaquin Valley, exposure to fine particulate matter causes an estimated 1,200 premature deaths annually due to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.¹

What impact do warehouses have? Warehouses contribute to air pollution through emissions from transportation vehicles, equipment, and energy consumption. Additionally, the construction and operation of warehouses can generate waste and runoff, directly impacting local communities.

Residents living within half a mile of a warehouse experience:

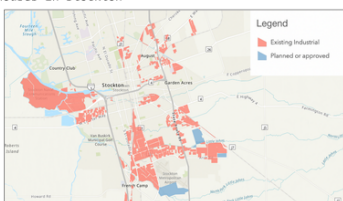
- Increased traffic
- Increased asthma
- Increased air and noise pollution!

Latest Developments

In the last 24 years, Stockton has seen the construction of about 100 warehouses larger than 100,000 square feet, a higher growth rate than average. One warehouse project is the Mariposa Industrial Park Project, which will add a 3.6 million sq ft warehouse complex in Stockton.² Even though this is one of the largest warehouse projects in Stockton, industrial developers have failed to prioritize the health and well being of community members.

Industrial Warehouses in Stockton

The map shows existing and planned industrial warehouse zones in Stockton, larger in the southern half of the city. Currently, there are 11 schools and 4 hospitals within 1000 ft of a warehouse. The CARB Air Quality and Land Use Handbook recommends a 1000-ft setback.



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Sample:
one-page
Handout
for
StoryMap
-
Warehouses
and
Associated
Air Pollution

How Can We Improve the Stockton Warehouse Ordinance?

Measure 11: Building Setback
The current City of Stockton warehouse ordinance states that loading docks must be at least 300 ft from sensitive land uses (schools, homes, and medical facilities) unless the dock doors are utilized by zero emission trucks and equipment only. There is a loophole to get around the 300 ft setback if it is deemed physically infeasible.

The CARB Air Quality and Land Use Handbook recommends a 1000-ft setback. Despite this recommendation, which better protects the community, the city continues to use a setback of 300 ft.

CARB Air Quality and Land Use Handbook.⁴

Distribution Centers

- Avoiding new sensitive land uses within 1000 feet of a distribution center that encompasses more than 500 trucks per day, more than 40 trucks with operating transport refrigeration units (TRUs) per day, or where TRU and operators exceed 300 hours per week.
- Take into account the configuration of existing distribution centers and existing businesses and other non-sensitive land uses near entry and exit points.

Measure 13: Solar Power

Developers have the following options to procure clean energy for new buildings:

1. Install solar panels on the building or site
2. Procure 100% clean energy from AVA Community Energy
3. Participate in California’s Community Solar Program.

These options can be used individually or in combination.

Developers need to step up and upgrade warehouse lighting to reduce energy consumption, as well as electricity conveyor belts and dock doors to improve efficiency and sustainability.

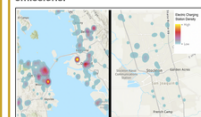
Created by Anish Chigrapath, Courtney Turkath, and Paul Tira Chou. Data analysis and figures by Mela Chou, Anish Chigrapath, and Sara Heath for UC Berkeley CE 100 Spring 2024.

References:

1. Mertz, Judith Lewis. “Free Shipping Isn’t Free for Everyone.” Sierra Club, 12 September 2022.
2. “Clean Air Plan for San Joaquin Valley First to Meet All Federal Standards for Fine Particle Pollution.” California Air Resources Board, 2018.
3. McShee, Geoff. “Is There a Mega Warehouse Near You?” Sierra Club, September 19, 2022.
4. “Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health.” California Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board, April 2020.
5. Floe Bonta. Attorney General Bonta Announces Agreement with City of Stockton to Address Environmental Impacts from Continued Warehouse Development. December 6, 2022.

Measures 14/15: Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
Vehicle emission regulations in the warehouse industry are crucial because heavy-duty diesel trucks contribute to over 25% of emissions, while only making up 4% of on-road vehicles. The Mariposa Industrial Park Project is expected to attract over 12,000 vehicle trips daily.⁵ Electric vehicles (EVs) improve air quality more effectively than gas-powered vehicles because they significantly reduce localized emissions.

Truck idling during loading and unloading and increased traffic congestion are primary sources of warehouse emissions. Given that warehouses will increase traffic and air pollution, they should be required to invest in city infrastructure like EV charging stations to reduce emissions.



Public EV Charging Stations

- Stockton: 211
- San Francisco: 1,250

We must advocate for the city to implement stronger measures to protect Stockton’s air quality.

For more on warehouses in Stockton, access the ArcGIS StoryMap here: <https://bit.ly/WarehouseIndustryReform>

Berkeley Civil & Environmental Engineering

The League has voter information for everyone

WHERE ARE THE FACTS?

Stay informed. Visit VOTE411.org, our award-winning, nonpartisan one-stop-shop for election information.

Have you renewed your League membership?

Our League year begins on July 1st and that is when annual dues come due. If you have renewed your membership, *thank you!* If you have not had a chance to renew yet, it would be great if you could renew your membership by our Kickoff meeting scheduled for September 14th. If you received a note asking you to renew your membership and you have already renewed, please send a note to lwvsjc@gmail.com with information on how you paid (check, Pay Pal) and the date you renewed and we will update our records.

One note: if you pay your dues via Pay Pal and the payment comes directly from your bank account, there is no charge for the transaction. If you use Pay Pal and charge your dues, Pay Pal applies a fee to the transaction and subtracts the fee from the dues you pay.

However you renew your dues, thank you. We're about to have a very exciting year.

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.