



Summer 2025

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

# The Voter

## Kicking Off a Year of Action, Advocacy, and Voter Engagement

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- *Suzy Daveluy*

As we begin a new year, the League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County is renewing its commitment to empowering voters and defending democracy in our community. This year, our focus is on **taking action**—translating our values into visible impact.

We will be focusing **on our issues for education and advocacy: Women's Rights, Immigration, and Making Democracy Work**. These efforts will not only inform but also mobilize community members to advocate for meaningful change.

At the heart of our mission is **voter service**. We will continue to provide nonpartisan information, host candidate forums, make Pros and Cons presentations, support voter registration drives, and work to ensure all eligible voters have the tools they need to participate in every election.

Any organization is only as strong as the commitment of its members. The success of our League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County depends on everyone contributing their time, talents, and voice to advance our mission of education, advocacy, and voter empowerment.



We invite you to join us—whether you're new to the League or a long-time member. We hope each member will participate in our League in some way this year. Attend a membership meeting, program, or Board meeting, share League messages with friends about ways to voice your concerns about issues, monitor meetings of elected bodies, encourage a student to take advantage of our dues scholarships, write a postcard, have lunch with League members. You decide what will work for you.

One way to keep informed of League activities is to attend monthly Board meetings. Announcements will be sent to everyone and we welcome all members to attend. Meetings are held via Zoom, so you can attend from the comfort of your own home.

Help grow our impact by inviting others to join our League. Together, we can make this a year of bold action, strong advocacy, and empowered voters.

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# LWVSJC CALENDAR 2025-2026

## LWVSJC Meetings

Watch for more information on individual meetings.

### August

18—Board meeting

(Board meetings will be from 6:30-8:00 via Zoom on the 3rd Monday of each month, unless otherwise noted. Members will be emailed the link to these meetings.)

### September

4—Town Hall at Delta College: newly elected Stockton City Council members\*

11—Town Hall at Delta College: with newly elected County Supervisors\*

15—Board meeting

20—*Kickoff meeting*

### October

4—**Joint Meeting with AAUW**

14—Lunch and Learn

20—Board meeting

25—Book discussion at Haggin Museum\*\*

### November

11—Lunch and Learn

17—Board meeting

**TBD**—update on Mental Health Initiative

### December

13—*Holiday Party*

15—Board meeting

### January

10—**Membership meeting**

13—Lunch and Learn

19—Board meeting

### February

10—Lunch and Learn

16—Board meeting

21—**Membership meeting**

### March

16—Board meeting

20—**Membership meeting**

### April

11—**Membership meeting**

14—Lunch and Learn

20—Board meeting

\*\*\*TBD: San Joaquin County Civic Alliance Candidate Forums

### May

12—Lunch and Learn

16—**Membership meeting on Making Democracy Work**

18—Board meeting

### June

6—*Annual meeting*

\*LWVSJC is a member of the San Joaquin County Civic Alliance, an outgrowth of the coalition that has sponsored candidate forums at Delta College. The Alliance is hosting the Town Halls in September.

\*\*League member Alane Dashner will lead the program featuring the book *Letters of a Woman Homesteader* by Elinore Pruitt Stewart.

More information on LWVSJC meetings will be sent to League members via email shortly before the scheduled events.

**Join us for  
this year of Action,  
Advocacy,  
and  
Voter Engagement**

## Helen Pearson Awardee



Yvette Remlinger was recognized with the Helen Pearson Award at the Annual Meeting in June.

LWVSJC Treasurer Yvette Remlinger received this year's Helen Pearson Award.

LWVSJC created the Helen Pearson Award in 1978 to recognize a member who has made an outstanding contribution to our League and has done so with "diligence and good cheer."

Yvette's contributions were many and varied. As treasurer, she restored key financial reporting practices, initiated periodic budget analyses, and brought a fresh structure to our budgeting process. She also tackled issues well beyond her role as treasurer. When the new LWVUS membership system launched, she attended many LWVUS trainings and guided members through complex changes with clarity and confidence. Her presentation to the membership on dues changes and impacts took much of the uncertainty and anxiety out of the new procedures. She convened the committee to study immigration issues, was a valuable member of the Nominating Committee, and resolved a costly storage issue by securing a more affordable unit and managing the account herself. She was always reliable, generous, and solutions-focused.

Congratulations, Yvette!

## Homeless Resources Fair Wraps up our 2024-2025 League Year



Our League's April membership meeting featured nonprofits that offer services focused on the homeless community.

**Family Promise**, a faith-based nonprofit, works with congregations throughout San Joaquin County to offer temporary housing and support services (career and job hunting support, financial counseling, child care) for families, keeping them together while they find a stable footing.

**Mercy Pedalers** offer in-person outreach by volunteers, from coffee, water, snacks, or socks to referrals to broader community assistance.

**The HUB** (Helping Urban Bicyclers), a project of St. John's Episcopal Church, provides new or re-conditioned bicycles to those needing transportation to jobs, medical appointments, or other services.

**Red Rabbit**, founded by Jessica Velez because she experienced the needs of homelessness, offers outreach and referral services, financial literacy training, court advocacy, and eviction support.

**Showered with Love** provides a mobile unit for showers.

**St. Mary's Community Services** offers three hot meals daily, medical and dental services, clothing, social services support, and housing.

**San Joaquin Pride Center** supports the LGBTQ+ community, especially homeless youth who represent a disproportionate percentage of the homeless population.

**Community Medical Centers** has an outreach van offering medical services.

**2-1-1** is a comprehensive referral service operated by the Family Resource Center.

**The Catalyst** program at the Children's Home of Stockton provides double-occupancy rooms for young adults, along with career coaching and housing support.

These nonprofits offer targeted support to people experiencing homelessness through a variety of service options. Most do not receive public funding but rely on grants and the generosity of those who recognize homeless people as neighbors.

While the presenters enlightened League members, the Resources Fair had the unanticipated benefit of connecting nonprofits with each other, which hasn't often happened. We are grateful to the organizations and their staffs who gave their Saturday time to inform us about their services and needs.



## Annual Meeting Highlights

Twenty League members helped to close out the year at the Annual Meeting held in Manteca's Lakeview Clubhouse at Woodbridge on June 21st.

### Speakers

Ines Ruiz-Huston from El Concilio and Fernanda Perrera, an immigration attorney, spoke on current immigration issues before the business meeting. One little-remarked on effect of the immigration sweeps has been a 30% drop in school attendance by children of immigrants who are afraid that they and their children could be taken in sweeps that have detained not only undocumented individuals but American citizens as well. The speakers distributed "red cards" listing civil rights of anyone detained, though they admitted the cards may not be too helpful since federal policy has allowed ICE almost no discretion in deciding if a person is dangerous to the community and should be detained.

Asked about local impacts on area immigrants, they said they, as immigrant advocates, had a good relationship with both the District Attorney's office and local ICE officials. They stressed the need for allies to help families whose main breadwinner leaves them without money for food, rent, or other necessities.

### Business Meeting

Membership approved three Programs for Education and Advocacy:

- Making Democracy Work
- Women's Rights
- Immigration

Committees focused on these issues have been formed; they welcome members interested in participating in action related to these issues.

A budget of \$11,277 was adopted. Treasurer Yvette Remlinger noted that projected income for the year is based on raising at least \$2800 in donations to the League as well as a grant of \$4327 from the Ed Fund, which would bring the Ed Fund balance well below the \$10,000 threshold that we have tried to maintain.

The membership adopted the Nominating Committee's slate of officers/directors: Suzy Daveluy will take the helm as president and Alane Dashner will join the Board, while most of the rest of this year's leadership will continue into the new year. (Full list of officers and directors is included at the end of this newsletter.) We are still seeking a vice president and two directors for the coming year. Contact Suzy Daveluy if you're interested.



Suzy thanked outgoing president Mary Kenefick for her leadership during the year, which saw candidate forums in three cities, the completion of bylaws update, and the smooth initiation of new and complex membership procedures.

## DEI Coalition

- Terri Mercer

League members Terri Mercer, Mary Ann Cox-Martin, and Ronda Sanders remain active in SJC4DEI, a countywide coalition led by AAUW's Barbara St. Urbain that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion in San Joaquin County. With over 185 members associated with 50 organizations—including LWVSJC and groups focused on education, healthcare, housing, immigrant services, the arts, and LGBTQIA+ advocacy—SJC4DEI encourages collaborative, visible efforts to advance equity across the region.

At a meeting in July, Ines Ruiz-Huston of El Concilio described how federal grant losses forced major service cutbacks; she is now serving immigrant families with only two staff. Virginia Gorman of S.T.A.N.D. shared her path from grassroots cleanups to leading a South Stockton non-profit. Phillip Britton of The Pride Center emphasized the urgent need for LGBTQIA+ allies. Bobby Bivens (NAACP), Manuel Lopez (SEIU), and Terri Mercer (League of Women Voters) spoke at earlier meetings.

On June 14, SJC4DEI co-sponsored the "No Kings" protest at Delta College, drawing over 2,500 attendees and showcasing the coalition's ability to inspire bold, inclusive action.

To get involved, attend the next general Zoom meeting on Friday, August 15, at 4:30 p.m. For Zoom links and other meeting information, email [sjc4dei@gmail.com](mailto:sjc4dei@gmail.com) or [bsuatmjc@aol.com](mailto:bsuatmjc@aol.com).

## Nonpartisan, Not Neutral

**N**onpartisanship can be misunderstood. It is a bedrock principle of the League: “The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.” But the League does take positions on issues, after careful study and discussion and consensus of members. As it says on the opening page of our web site: *The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy in San Joaquin County.*

Over the years, the League has taken positions on good governance, climate change, resource management, reproductive rights, land use, education, and other issues of importance to our communities. But our key focus has always been about voting: ensuring fair elections, protecting voting rights, and strengthening our democratic institutions.

Remaining nonpartisan does not mean staying silent. When democracy itself is under threat, when voter access is restricted, when misinformation spreads, we have a responsibility to speak out. And we do. We advocate for fundamental freedoms and civil rights—and we will continue to do so.

*- Adapted from Guidance from the League of Women Voters of the United States*

## Daily Democracy Practices

**D**emocracy is not defended just at the ballot box. It's built through consistent, intentional actions. LWVUS offers suggestions to help make the League more visible, engage new volunteers, and deepen our connections in the community. Here are a few ideas to choose from.

### Civic Visibility and Education

- Share what you learn at a school board or city council meeting.
- Forward the League newsletter or action alert to three people.
- Wear your League pin or other League logo item in public to spark conversations.
- Invite a friend to a League informational event.
- Post voter registration deadlines on your social media.

### Advocacy

- Sign up for a shift at a voter registration event.
- Post a League petition or advocacy campaign on your social media accounts.
- Suggest a community group that might partner with the League on a civic event.

### Strengthening League Presence

- Volunteer as a poll worker.
- Volunteer at a candidate forum.
- Take photos at a League event for the newsletter or social media post.
- Write an article for the Voter.
- Commit to becoming a sustaining donor to support League activities.
- Table at a farmer's market or community event.
- Invite a friend to join League.

## Take Action in August

Congress is on recess in August, so it is a good time to reach out to your member of Congress about issues that concern you. Even if you think that your elected official agrees with your position, it is important for them to hear from their constituents. You can drop off a note at their local office, call their office with a message, or attend a town hall meeting that they may be hosting.

Here are a couple issues you may want to raise:

- **Implement the Equal Rights Amendment:** *The Equal Rights Amendment has met all ratification requirements listed in the Constitution. It is time for the federal government to publish and implement the ERA which guarantees the equality of rights under the law regardless of sex.*
- **Oppose the SAVE Act:** *The SAVE Act requires documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote. Women may be challenged if their birth certificate and their other IDs with a married name do not match, which would require them to update their documentation to register to vote, an unnecessary impediment. If this could affect you, make your plea personal.*

For other ideas, see the LWVUS League Management page on their web site: [www.lwv.org/take-action](http://www.lwv.org/take-action).

## **We're still searching**

Our Nominating Committee worked diligently to fill all our open positions this year, but we still have a few open slots to fill. We are still seeking people willing to help us tackle the challenges and opportunities of the coming year.

### **League Board**

Two Director positions are still to be filled on the Board. Directors help lead the League and support the activities we offer our membership in a variety of ways. The Board meets monthly by Zoom, so you can participate from anywhere and "in the comfort of your own home."

We are also looking for a first vice president to help with voter service activities, particularly candidate forums for the June 2026 Primary election. There is a committee of experienced League members involved in voter service, so anyone interested in becoming more involved in this key service will have a team to work with.

Being on the Board is a good way to get better acquainted with both League activities and other League members.

## **Nominating Committee**

We are seeking one member at large to join the committee with two other at large members and two Board members. It is another good way to get to know League members and their interests and to promote League activities to our members who may not have become fully acquainted with the League and all the things we do.

## **Other Opportunities**

In addition to the League Board and Nominating committee, there is one vacancy on the Finance committee. The Finance Committee is a policy committee, not a "math" committee, so don't hesitate to consider joining this group. Also, three committees have been formed to work on our Issues for Education and Advocacy this year (Women's Rights, Making Democracy Work, and Immigration) and each would welcome additional members.

If you are interested in any of these positions, or you would like more information on what is involved, contact our president Suzy Daveluy at [lwvsjc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsjc@gmail.com).

## **LWVSJC Board of Directors 2025-2026**

### **Officers**

Suzy Daveluy, President  
Mary Kenefick, Vice President  
Colleen Foster, Secretary  
Yvette Remlinger, Treasurer

### **Directors**

Mary Ann Cox-Martin  
Alane Dashner  
Ruby Hennessey  
Daphne Shaw

***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.