



April 2026

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

The Voter

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Nominating Committee Invites Members to Lead	2
President's Message	3
Voter Registration Plans	3
Candidate Forums	4
SJ Co Election Advisory Committee Update	4
Voter ID Legislation	4
Immigration Program Highlights	5
Books on Immigration: Board	6

League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County
P.O. Box 4548
Stockton, CA 95204

Email:
LWVSJC@gmail.com

<http://www.my.lwv.org/california/san-joaquin-county>

LWV
League of Women Voters
of San Joaquin County

*Mark your calendars
for April 25th!*

LWV WOMEN POWER DEMOCRACY
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Please join us for an Information Forum on The Status of Women in the U.S.

Saturday April 25, 2026

9:30 a.m. - Noon

O'Connor Woods

3400 Wagner Heights Road, Stockton

This panel discussion will include a representative from Planned Parenthood, an update on the ERA/Still Alive?, and Importance of Women in Politics.

Women are finding increasing obstacles to good health care including maternity/reproductive health, equal rights under the law, and equal status in the power arenas of our government.

On April 25 find out more about these issues.

LWVSJC CALENDAR 2025-2026

**A year of Action, Advocacy,
and Voter Engagement**



Members Make League Strong
- Mary Ann Cox-Martin

Members are the essential ingredient of a successful League. We are fortunate to have several new members in our League. The Membership Committee has a plan to welcome new members, get them involved in our activities, and introduce them to other civic-minded women of action.

As Membership Chair, I want new members to know that our League provides many activities, local informational presentations, and defends democracy through voter registration, candidate forums, and other voter outreach. We welcome all of you to enjoy these benefits. We value your participation in our League. You make a difference.

The Membership Committee has actively been recruiting mentors for new members, to give each person a personal guide to our local League. Any League member interested in being a mentor, please contact me at lwvsjc@gmail.com. Phone calls from members about upcoming events and a geographically centered member contact are also available as a resource. And look forward to a call from a Board member welcoming you to our League.

April

11—Program Planning
Cesar Chavez Library.
Stockton, 10:00-noon

14—Lunch and Learn:
Speaker from the Community
Alliance with Family Farmers

20—Board meeting

**25—Program: The Status
of Women in the U.S.**

May

12—Lunch and Learn:
Women of Courage and Vision:
Share stories of your personal
heroines

18—Board meeting

June

6—Annual meeting
Time and place TBA

More information on individual meetings will be sent to members via email. Watch for them.

Board meetings will be from 6:30-8:00 via Zoom on the 3rd Monday of each month. Members will be emailed the link to these meetings along with the evening's agenda. All members are invited to attend.

Calling All League Members

The Nominating Committee is reaching out to develop this year's slate of candidates for the LWVSJC Board and we are calling on you, the membership, asking you to consider taking a more active role in our League. Thank you to the 2025-2026 LWVSJC Board for the leadership provided this dynamic year. The Board is composed of the President, a first and second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six Directors. Our bylaws, which are on our website, list the duties of each role and indicate the election rotation for positions in any given year.

This year, we will elect a president, 1st Vice President, Secretary, and three Directors with terms starting July 1. If you'd like to self-nominate for a role on the Board, please contact the Nominating Committee at lwvsjc@gmail.com. If you'd like to get a glimpse of the Board at work before making a commitment, think about attending the monthly Board meetings or talking with a current Board Member.

— Margo Praus, Nominating, Committee Chair

President's Message

- Suzy Daveluy

Lately I have been forcing myself to turn off the news. No matter what news I watch, I usually feel sickened by the divisiveness. I also find myself walking out when friendly discussions turn to politics. I am sure I'm not alone in that.

I came across a story from NPR Morning Edition entitled "Are Political Disagreements Stressing You Out? Here Are Tips to Bridge the Divide" (October 14, 2024). Our local league addressed this very issue when we read Monica Guzman's *I Never Thought of It That Way* and gathered to discuss it. The NPR story and Guzman's book promote dialogue and understanding among people with opposing views. The goal isn't to get people to start agreeing, but rather, through dialogue, to stop hating each other. Often people will find common ground as they consider others' beliefs and values. After that, compromise might be possible. Food for thought.

Then there is the other side of me that no matter how sickened I am by the news feed, I still need to do something. I can't bury my head in the sand – and I know this is true of our entire LWVSJC membership. So here are some ways we can **do** something:

- Attend local meetings of city councils, county board of supervisors, school boards, planning commissions, etc. Speak up if an issue is important to you.
- Get involved in local issues; tangible, community-focused goals can override national divides.
- Volunteer for non-partisan causes such as food banks or service groups. (There are always plenty of ways to volunteer with your LWVSJC – attend our board meetings the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 pm to find out how!)
- Write letters and/or make phone calls to your representatives. It's important that all our voices are heard, even if it's only to let our representatives know we appreciate what they're doing.

Lastly, on April 11, 2026, we will meet at the Chavez Library in Stockton to discuss issues for education and advocacy for next year. You will be receiving more information about this process soon. This is an opportunity to propose an issue that is near and dear to your heart that you think the League – and our community – can benefit from focusing on.

Thank you for being a part of the League of Women Voters. What we do is so very important.

LWV Voter Registration: Join the "Table Team"

- Alane Dashner

During the months leading to the November 2024 general election, the League received multiple last-minute community registration-drive requests that we scrambled to fill while simultaneously hosting multiple candidate forums. This year, we want to be proactive!

The 2026 election season is heating up, so let's organize now. One of the easiest, most direct ways to expand voter access is by staffing a voter-registration table.

Would you consider occasionally sitting for a few hours and answering simple questions while potential voters navigate the California Secretary of State's paper or online systems? Lately, it seems



that most potential voters simply want to point their phone cameras at the Secretary of State's QR code that we prominently display on our table. We also have the paper forms available at the table, in English and Spanish.

Besides setting up a dedicated League of Women Voters table – which helps us recruit new members – we sometimes assist San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters workers in their registration efforts.

If you'd like to join our low-stress voter-registration Table Team, please contact LWV member me at lwvsjc@gmail.com.

Candidate Forums Planned For the Primary Election

California's Primary Election will take place on June 4, 2026 and our League will once again bring information to the voters via candidate forums featuring candidates for office that will be on the ballot in June.

In conjunction with San Joaquin Delta College and other partners who are part of the San Joaquin Civic Alliance, the League will present three forums on the Delta campus. In an effort to expand the potential audience for the forums, the first forum will be held on April 18th, a Saturday, at 2:00 p.m. That forum will feature candidates for Assembly from the 9th and 13th districts and District 5 City of Stockton Council candidates.

Two seats on the San Joaquin Board of Supervisors will be up for election in June: Districts 2 and 4. These races will be featured on Tuesday, April 21st, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. If a candidate for either office receives 50%+1 votes in the Primary Election, that person will be elected. The same is true of the Stockton City Council races. Candidates for Districts 1 and 3 will be featured in the forum that will be held on Thursday, April 23rd, from 6:00-8:00.

League members who would like to volunteer as timekeepers or forum panelists should send an email to lwvsjc@gmail.com.

San Joaquin County Election Advisory Committee - Update

The February 5, 2026, meeting of the San Joaquin County (SJC) Election Advisory Committee, began with the installation of new members: Dr. Jay Hislop was installed as Chairman, and Supervisor Sonny Dhaliwal was installed as the 'Designee' to serve as liaison to the Board of Supervisors. New committee members were also installed.

The meeting was a full house, due to an agenda item of wide interest to citizens and the League of Women Voters, i.e. matters directly affecting and recommended by the office of the Registrar of Voters (ROV), which are also key to voter access. ROV Olivia Hale reported on the desirability of the installation of additional drop boxes (now in storage, so not requiring purchase), the addition of livestream cameras as security at the drop boxes, and the relocation of boxes which were in less optimal locations. She noted that one of the new drop boxes is to be placed at Delta College, which the League, of course, applauds. After much discussion of the security of the signature verification process as well, the motion to consent to the recommendations of the ROV passed in a 3-1 vote.

- Mary Kenefick

Voter ID Legislation Proposed in Congress and in California

The perversely-named SAVE America Act has passed the House of Representatives and has been forwarded to the Senate for action. LWVUS opposes the SAVE Act and its companion bill Make Elections Great Again Act. So far, the legislation that would impose strict and unnecessary voter ID requirements has stalled in the upper chamber. However, League members are urged to contact our congressional representatives to let them know we oppose the legislation that would unnecessarily burden many communities of eligible voters.

In California, a ballot measure to impose unneeded voter ID rules has been submitted with 1.3 million signatures to the Secretary of State. Should at least 874,641 signatures be found to be valid, the measure will appear on the November 2026 General Election ballot.

The League of Women Voters of California has joined civil rights and other community organizations, such as ACLU and California Common Cause, in condemning the initiative. "This voter ID measure is not about protecting voters; it is about importing the current federal administration's election lies and intimidation tactics into California," said Jenny Farrell, Executive Director of LWVC. "It would expose voters' sensitive personal information, create new ways to reject eligible ballots, and wrongly target voters through error-prone citizenship checks." LWVC will track this initiative and keep us informed.

Impacts of Immigration Policy Program Speakers Stress Atmosphere of Fear



well as those they work for tirelessly.

On February 28, 2026, LWVSJC's Immigration Committee presented a program at O'Connor Woods on the psychological effects of current immigration policy on the American people. Immigration attorney Fernanda Pereira; Delta College's Student Services Program Coordinator at the Dreamer Success Center Tina Leal; and Dr. Ines Ruiz-Huston, Vice President of Civic Engagement at El Concilio, spoke from their perspectives and experiences working with those directly affected by current immigration policy and practice. Their comments illustrated the profound effects of this policy on the fabric of our community, reverberating through diverse populations.

Attorney Pereira said this was the most challenging time she has faced as a long-time immigration rights attorney. She said immigrants have moved from carrying "red cards" listing their rights if detained to carrying orange cards with contact information of family members that they can give to someone, asking them to inform their loved ones that they have been detained, since often families are not informed about the whereabouts of their loved ones who have been taken into custody. The due process guaranteed by our constitution is frequently not followed. The requests for habeas corpus has grown enormously and lawyers can't keep up, affecting the mental health of legal practitioners, as

Tina Leal spoke of the chronic fear felt by Delta's students. Students are afraid for themselves and for their parents. They are afraid to go to a doctor or to fill out forms that may bring them to the attention of ICE. She spoke of the situation of two particular students: one has been waiting for 22 years to become a US citizen, the other left with her family who decided to self-deport back to Cambodia rather than risk incarceration. The Cambodian student was on the path to become a doctor.

Dr. Ruiz-Huston asked the community to take care of their neighbors who often live in isolation, experience depression, or who are afraid to go to work or school or to the doctor. Many have been found to be the victims of extortion ("if you don't give me your increased rent, I will call ICE"). Both citizens and non-citizens are afraid and prepare plans for who can pick up and care for their children if they are detained.

Immigration committee members, Lilia Becerra-Quintor and Abby Avila Hernandez, read from responses by undocumented immigrants. The first letter spoke of having opportunities to work for non-profits and the government as a DACA recipient and was proud to be the first in her family to attend college. She described herself as hard-working and dedicated to contributing to the community. The second anonymous student

talked about living in "survival mode," constantly balancing between hope and fear. She said fear of family separation is constant. There is a collective trauma in her community; fear is a part of everyday life.

Although she had limited access to education, financial aid, and services, she now has a Masters in Social Work and is working on her LCSW license so that she can help other immigrant families.



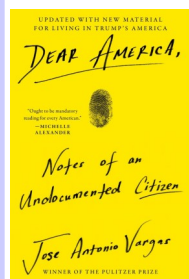
Members of the large audience in attendance asked what we can do to help. All three speakers

said "help your neighbors." Share the stories of your neighbors with others, letting people know real people are being affected by punitive procedures. Show compassion, which one student immigrant said can be "transformative" and supports community resilience and healing. Tell a neighbor that if they are ever afraid that they can call you and you will talk to people who knock on their door. If you own a business, post a sign saying "employees only" on the premises, which may keep agents without warrants off private property. Volunteer with a support group. Support agencies like El Concilio that offer free services to those who need them or give to Delta College's scholarship program to help immigrant youth get an education.

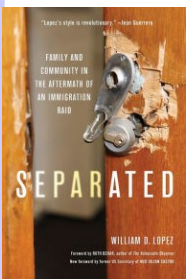
Protest. Be aware. Vote.

Perspectives on Immigration

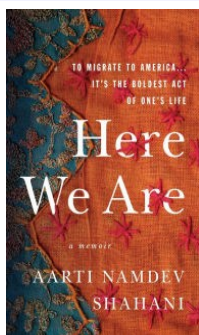
People who attended the program on immigration asked for suggestions for reading on the topic. A selection of books below reveals three clear themes: the intricate interplay between policy and personal experience, the cultural resilience of diverse immigrant communities, and the ongoing struggle for inclusion and justice as well as some historical perspectives.



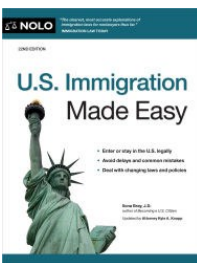
Dear America— Jose Antonio Vargas's memoir challenges readers to see beyond legal status and focus on the humanity of immigrants.



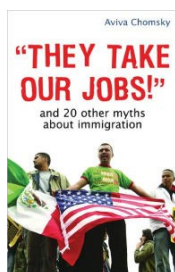
Separated— William D. Lopez zeroes in on the personal aftermath of an immigration raid, its trauma and upheaval.



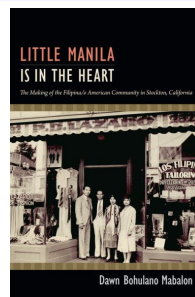
Here We Are— American Dreams, American Nightmares—Aarti Namdev Shahani. NPR correspondent Shahani captures the complexities of immigrant life in America.



U. S. Immigration Made Easy— Ilona Bray presents a thorough and accessible treatment of US immigration topics.



They Take Our Jobs! And 20 Other Myths About Immigration— Aviva Chomsky deconstructs anti-immigrant talking points of the past two decades.



Little Manila is in the Heart— Dawn Bohulano Mabalon explores the formation and loss of Stockton's Little Manila in this definitive history.

Other recommended titles can be found at these curated web sites:

<https://smithsoniansecondopinion.org-immigration>

Grand Rapids Institute for Information Democracy:
<https://griid.org/2025/02/06/13-excellent-books-for-understanding-us-immigration-history-and-policy>

<https://bookauthority.org/books/best-us-immigrants-history-books>

And <https://www.goodreads.com> has a lengthy list of books read by those who list their reading on this web site.

LWVSJC Board of Directors 2025-2026

Officers

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

Directors

Abby Avila Hernandez
Mary Ann Cox-Martin
Alane Dashner
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.