



February 2026

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

LWV League of Women Voters
of San Joaquin County

Please Join us

Saturday, February 28, 2026

Doors open 9:30 am ~ Program 10:00 am

O'Connor Woods West Hall

3400 Wagner Heights Rd, Stockton, CA 95209

Parking is available on street or in uncovered, unnumbered places inside facility.

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Black History Month Reading	2
President's Message	3
Health Program Summary	3
Right to Protest	4
National Park Service DEI Controversy	4
LWVC Update	5
LWVUS Says NO	5
LWVUS News; Board	6



**The Psychological Effects of the Current Immigration Policy on
WE THE PEOPLE**

Speakers include representatives from

Department of Political Science, University of the Pacific

Speaker Perspective from Dreamers Success Center

Testimony Of Two Undocumented Individuals Facing The Uncertainties and Fears of The Current Federal Immigration Policy

Immigration & Victim Legal Services, El Concilio, and

Special Programs and Civil Engagement, El Concilio.

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Voters of San
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[http://
www.my.lwv.org/
california/san-
joaquin-county](http://www.my.lwv.org/california/san-joaquin-county)

LWVSJC CALENDAR 2025-2026

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



A sampling of books recommended by Goodreads.com for Black History month.

Keeper of Lost Children

— Sadeqa Johnson
Three stories connected by one woman illustrate Black lives in post WWII America.

Dream Count —Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

A Nigerian travel writer living in America in the midst of the pandemic grapples with her choices and regrets. By the author of *Americanah*.

All the Sinners Bleed—S. A. Cosby

In a tour de force southern noir, the first African American sheriff in a small Virginia town grapples with the racial and geopolitical fault lines in America's south.

A Thousand Ways to Die: the true cost of violence on Black life in America — Trymaine Lee

John Lewis: a life — David Greenberg

In Open Contempt: confronting white supremacy in art and public space — Irvin Weathersby, Jr.

For an extensive list of fiction and nonfiction books relating to Black history and life, go to [goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com).

February

10—Lunch and Learn—
Expanding our Sympathy—
One Book at a Time

16—Board meeting

21—**Program: Psychological Effects of Current Immigration Policy on the Community**

March

16—Board meeting

21—Program rescheduled to April 25

28 — No Kings Rallies

April

11—**Program Planning**

14—Lunch and Learn

20—Board meeting

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

TBD: San Joaquin County
Civic Alliance Candidate
Forums

May

12—Lunch and Learn —
Women Heros

18—Board meeting

June

6—**Annual meeting**

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, unless otherwise noted. Members will be emailed the link to these meetings.

GOTV Plan for June 2026 Primary!

Our League reached out to voters in San Joaquin County registered with No Party Preference to encourage them to vote in the November 4th Special Election and the effort was a resounding success. In an effort to engage as many voters as possible, we plan to do a similar Get Out the Vote outreach before the June 2026 Primary Election. If you would like to volunteer to write and send 25 postcards (or more) in April and May urging voters to vote on June 2nd, contact Bea Lingenfelter at lwvsjc@gmail.com.

President's Message

- Suzy Daveluy

The LWV defines nonpartisan as a commitment to never support or oppose any political party or candidate for elected office. While active in shaping public policy, the LWV maintains this stance to ensure fairness. I appreciate this definition, especially considering the current environment when it is so painfully difficult not to take a stance on the atrocities we see happening.

LWV's recent statement in response to the continued escalation of federal military activity in Minnesota from federal immigration offers is worth reading. I share some excerpts from the statement below.

"The League of Women Voters condemns the escalating actions by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that put people at risk, deny individuals their constitutional rights, and undermine the democratic values meant to protect us all."

It goes on to say:

"The use of intimidation, surveillance, and deadly force against lawful protestors is not public safety."

The use of lethal force against people exercising their constitutional rights is unacceptable and must be fully investigated. These fatalities, followed by false narrative designed to obscure the truth and impede oversight, represent a historic abuse of power we've never seen as a country. Democracy cannot endure when its government uses violence to silence dissent and evade accountability."

The LWV statement concludes with this: *The League of Women Voters reaffirms that the rights outlined in the Constitution belong to all people, without exception. We will not accept policies or practices that suppress civic participation, weaponize enforcement, or undermine fundamental rights and human dignity."*

To stay informed on the positions taken by the LWV, go to www.lwv.org and click on "Other Issues."

It is more important than ever to stay informed on assaults on democracy.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION IMPACTS SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY



At the LWVSC January membership program on behavioral health in San Joaquin County, San Joaquin County Health Services Director

Genevieve Valentine presented an information-packed update on the state of behavioral health in California, especially how 37 initiatives in the last five years have impacted the delivery of behavioral health services. She highlighted several issues of note:

- SB 855 is pushing services onto health plans;
- Mobile care now has to be available 24/7
- CARE Act established a new court for homeless and mentally ill persons
- SB 27 requires sharing of data between court and behavioral health services (raising questions of HIPAA)

- SB 43 expanded the legal definition of "gravely disabled" to include individuals with severe substance use disorders, meaning there is greater access to involuntary treatment and conservatorship for a broader population.

One of the more alarming things Ms. Valentine shared is that as of July 1, 2026, County Behavioral Health is out of the prevention business. Prop 1 shifted the focus from broad prevention to intensive services for the most seriously ill and unhoused.

Even with these changes, our County Behavioral Services continues their good work. The County is partnering with University of the Pacific to provide bridge housing program; the County has received \$182.45 million to support BHS work; and when the mobile crisis unit rolled out, there was a decrease in 9-1-1 calls.

Thanks to Director Valentine for speaking this day.

League of Women Voters Supports Right to Protest

Press Release / June 12, 2025

Editor's Note: In light of recent events, this article, which appeared in the November-December 2025 *Voter*, is being reprinted here.

The League of Women Voters issued the following statement in support of the right to protest across the country.

“There is nothing more fundamentally American than protesting injustice. Protest is how our nation began, protest is how our rights were secured, and protest is the very foundation of a healthy democracy.

“The right to peacefully protest and express dissent against the government is enshrined in the US Constitution. When the government attacks that right, they attack the core of our democracy.

“Two months ago, the League of Women Voters took the unprecedented step of declaring a constitutional crisis. In response to the ignoring of federal court orders, the unprecedented deployment of federal troops to protests, and inhumane immigration raids, the people are peacefully making their voices heard all across the country — in a fundamentally American display of protest.

“The League of Women Voters calls on the government to adhere to the US Constitution and respect our First Amendment right to protest.”

National Park Service Eliminates Information on Native Impacts of Park Creation

Pressure to deemphasize or eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives has continued to mount, often in unfathomable arenas, such as the National Park Service.

As recently reported in *The Record* (2/2/26), the National Park Service has targeted signage, exhibit text and images that refer to the removal of Native peoples or discuss restrictions placed on tribal cultural practices at Grand Canyon National Park.

Targeted text has included historical accounts of removals of Native peoples from ancestral lands, such as when the Havasupai community in Arizona were informed they would have to move out of their homes in the Grand Canyon, where they had lived for centuries, to make way for Grand Canyon National Park.

The move to eliminate information about the impact of securing public lands at the expense of historical Native connections to that land has alarmed tribal members in the Grand Canyon region. In *The Record* article, Jim Enote, a member of the Zuni tribe who chairs the Grand Canyon Trust, a nonprofit environmental and tribal rights advocacy organization, shared his concerns with the *Arizona Republic* that if park visitors learn about its history and life only through narrow and discriminatory definitions of “beauty, abundance, and grandeur” and omit the human costs and conflicts that

shaped the canyon’s cultural landscapes, “it strips both land and humanity of their whole meaning.”

Enote published an opinion piece in the *Albuquerque Journal* in June 2025 stating his opposition to the Interior Department directive. “The order’s framing—that depiction of historical harms constitute inappropriate disparagement—confuses uncomfortable truth with unfair attack. ... Reckoning with any uncomfortable history... is not disparaging. ... The truth is what it is.”

The National Parks Conservation Association also issued a statement opposing the moves. Kristen Brengel with the NPCA is quoted: “Our history is complex, and we deserve to learn about serious topics like slavery, civil rights and our country’s treatment of Native Americans. This is a violation of the core tenets of the National Park Service’s mission.”

The Park Service issued a statement saying that “claims that parks are erasing history or removing signs wholesale are inaccurate” and that the department regularly removes or replaces damaged, weathered, or outdated signage.”

See www.recordnet.com/?token=ab653f551eaebd48b216e4971fc9f115&cnun=29bf8ef6-c581-eb11-9acf-90b11c3bc1f2&fod=111111STD-0&selDate=20260208&licenseType=paid_subscriber& for the full article.

League of Women Voters of California Update

LWVC Advocacy Update

Although the legislative session is just getting underway, the **League of Women Voters of California** is already deeply engaged in shaping what's ahead.

Dangerous Voter ID Ballot Initiative

LWVC is gearing up to oppose a dangerous Voter ID ballot initiative that is likely to qualify for the November 2026 ballot.

Voter ID laws perpetuate a Jim Crow-era pattern of disenfranchising voters of color, low-income voters, young voters, seniors, voters with disabilities, voters experiencing housing instability, and women and transgender voters navigating name changes.

In California, where most voters cast ballots by mail, this proposal would require voters to write sensitive identification numbers on ballot envelopes, raising serious privacy concerns and increasing the risk of identity theft, while also potentially driving up ballot rejection rates. The LWVC will help lead this opposition to protect voters and ensure fair access to the ballot.

Local Note: Mary Kenefick, LWVSJC Advocacy Chair, and several friends attended the SJ County Election Advisory Committee on February 5, 2026.

Mary has frequently spoken on our League's behalf to promote vote by mail, ballot drop boxes, and other measures that expand

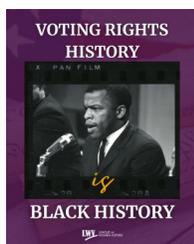
voter access. She reports that the meeting's outcome was positive and encouraging. Thanks, Mary, for continuing to speak for our League on important issues.

In the Legislature

The LWVC is co-sponsoring an effort to **reform primary elections** to require that countywide offices – such as District Attorney and County Supervisor – be instead decided in November general elections when turnout is highest and most representative, rather than in low-turnout primaries.

The LWVC is also co-sponsoring a **Racial Justice Act clarification bill** to ensure courts honor the Legislature's original intent by allowing statistical evidence to establish racial disparities in charging, conviction, or sentencing—without resurrecting the impossible standards the RJA was designed to reject.

In Congress



Congress is considering the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore and modernize the VRA.

Let's honor the past by safeguarding the vote today.

Take a moment to tell your representatives to support the VRA restoration and protect every American's right to vote.

LWV says NO to Nationalized Elections

The League of Women Voters of the United States weighed in on the call to “nationalize” elections.

LWVUS said the call is an “effort to dismantle the integrity of the electoral system as we know it. ... It is a threat to the very fiber of democracy itself.”

Claims of “widespread fraud have been disproven by non-partisan officials, the courts, and the Department of Justice.” The proposal to nationalize elections will “erode trust, normalize lies, and intimidate voters and election officials.

“Calls to ‘nationalize’ elections, effectively shifting control from local to federal authorities, are deeply concerning, especially when paired with proposals to ‘take over’ voting in at least 15 jurisdictions. Absent any clear standards, such actions make clear this is not about election integrity. ... This is a dangerous precedent: manipulating who runs elections based on outcomes should alarm every American.

“We call on our leaders to reject this rhetoric and ensure that our elections remain free, fair, and secure from political interference.”

To see the full article, go to <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/league-women-voters-condemns-president-trumps-call-nationalize-elections>

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS



RESPONDING TO MISINFORMATION ONLINE — A LWVUS WEBINAR

While many solutions have been proposed to combat misinformation on social media, most are either ineffective, expensive, or do not work at scale. What if social media users could help mitigate the misinformation they're also responsible for proliferating? Join LWVUS and the National Conference on Citizenship for a conversation with Dr. Leticia Bode, a professor of Communication, Culture, and Technology at Georgetown University and author of *Observed Correction: How We Can All Respond to Misinformation on Social Media*.

March 18, 2026 12:30 PM PACIFIC TIME

To learn how to register for this webinar, contact Colleen Foster at lwvsjc@gmail.com

NO KINGS PROTEST ON MARCH 28

LWVUS is joining [No Kings](#) as a national partner on Saturday, March 28. Leagues are welcome to lean in locally and participate in activations with partners on the ground in a nonpartisan manner.

Guidance for Leagues about Nonpartisanship

It is important to recognize that while the League's activities to influence public policy are not partisan by default, the public's understanding and perception of partisanship changes throughout history and is directly impacted by current events as well as geographic and regional dynamics.

When attending public events such as rallies or tabling events where campaigns or partisan groups are also attending, we advise League members not to proactively participate in these groups' photos or videos. Also, be mindful of the photos you share on your League's platforms that they do not appear to highlight or promote those groups' message or branding.

LWVSJC Board of Directors 2025-2026

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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.