LWV

The Voter

November/December 2026

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

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Funding Our Future: Keeping the League Strong and Relevant

Membership Meeting

Saturday, November 14, 2026

1:30-3:00

O'Connor Woods North Clubhouse
3400 Wagner Heights Road

How could we expand our impact locally if we had more resources?

What should we prioritize?

Are there additional ways we can pursue League outreach - and how much will they cost?

Join us on November 14th to share your ideas

Refreshments will be provided for an afternoon of robust discussion.

In order to have adequate accommodations, please rsvp to Colleen Foster (malialani@comcast.net) by November 8th

LWVSJC CALENDAR 2026-2027

A year of Action, Advocacy, and Voter Engagement

November
14—Membership Meeting
1:30-3:00 p.m.
O'Connor Woods North Clubhouse
3400 Wagner Heights Road
Topic: Funding Our Future: Keeping the League Strong and Relevant
Come share your ideas.
16—Board meeting

December
5—***Holiday Party***
11:00-2:00
O'Connor Woods North Clubhouse

January
18—**Membership meeting**
23—Board meeting

February
9—Lunch and Learn
15—Board meeting
20—**Healthcare Accessibility Program**

March
9—Lunch and Learn
13—**Making Democracy Work Program**
15—Board meeting

April
13—Lunch and Learn
20—Board meeting
24—**Program Planning Meeting**

May
11—Lunch and Learn
17—Board meeting
22—**Women's Rights Program**

June
5—***Annual meeting***

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

Board meetings are scheduled 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.

Lunch and Learns

Our lunch and learn meetings are set to resume in February. The lunches are meant to give League members and potential members the opportunity to learn about people and organizations working in and offering services to our communities.

Do you have a contact for a person or group that you think our members would benefit from hearing about? If so, pass on your suggestion to Colleen Foster at malialani@comcast.net. Lunch and Learns will be scheduled in February, March, April, and May.

The Debate over Columbus

The White House web site has a featured segment mapping the voyages, trials, and perseverance of Christopher Columbus's journeys to the new world. No mention is made of his actions or the impact of his 'discovery.' The segment ends with a quote attributed to President Trump:

The original American hero, a giant of Western civilization, and one of the most gallant and visionary men to ever walk the face of the earth.

(https://www.whitehouse.gov/columbus/)

Michael Delaney, a First Nations Canadian who frequently posts on Instagram as *quietcanines*, has a different take. He posits that the White House web site posts a "sanitized myth [that] treats Native history as an invisible footnote to 'real' American history. … Full uncensored truth about empire and choosing to make it better is mature patriotism and active citizenship." (https://www.instagram.com/reel/Def-0vDxeLn/)

The Dartmouth Review examined Columbus's "vision, leadership, successes, and failures" and notes that "Columbus opened the New World to European colonization, religious missions, and commercial ventures" and suggests "It is a mistake to conflate Columbus with the atrocities of colonialism that succeeded his voyages. Columbus Day should neither be a moment of absolute praise or condemnation..." (https://dartreview.com/examining-the-historical-columbus/)

Where does Columbus and his mixed legacy fit looking through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion?

President's Message
- Suzy Daveluy

Thank You to Our League Members

This election season would not have been the same without you. League members gave their time, energy, and expertise in so many ways — sending "Get Out the Vote" postcards to voters, staffing voter registration drives, and helping neighbors get the information they need to vote with confidence.

You also brought clarity to a busy ballot. Members presented Pros and Cons presentations on the propositions, created a video of the Pros and Cons for voters who could not attend in person, and gave a presentation on the League's recommendations for the propositions. Additionally, we created Instagram posts for each of the propositions – explaining what each proposition meant and providing the League's recommendations.

And earlier in October, League members took part in a No Kings Get Out the Vote event, adding our voices to the effort to encourage participation in voting.

Each of these efforts matters on its own. Together, they reflect what the League does best: trusted, nonpartisan voter education, offered by neighbors who care about an informed and engaged electorate.

Thank you to everyone who wrote a postcard, registered a voter, gave a presentation, worked behind the scenes, or showed up to help. Your work helped more voters feel ready — and that is something worth celebrating.

It was a Busy, Productive Election Season

Our League had one of its most active election seasons this fall. Our activities were multi-pronged and engaged many of our members.

GOTV Postcarding

We sent 1000 postcards to San Joaquin County residents who are registered with 'no party preference' urging them to vote in the November election. League members and friends prepared the pre-printed postcards with address labels, stamps, and a brief encouraging personal message. This is the third election we used this GOTV outreach and we plan to continue to do so in the future.

Pros and Cons

Pros and Cons presentations have been a staple of our League's voter outreach for many years. This year, ten members presented information on 14 complex propositions to an audience of over 120 people at O'Connor Woods. Once again, the event was co-sponsored by AAUW, and this year OCW's Connections also became a co-sponsor.

In addition to this major in-person presentation, we were able to create a video presentation of the Pros and Cons, thanks to the generous donation of time and expertise of computer consultant David Diskin. Our video was available on our YouTube channel and was accessed by many voters.

Vote with the League

LWVC took positions on all but one of the 14 propositions on the November ballot. (They stayed neutral on Prop 40.) Proposition 39, requiring voter ID every time you voted to prove citizenship, was strongly opposed by the League, which signed the ballot statement in opposition to the measure. Given the far-reaching impact of several of the propositions, our League added Vote with the League to our voter outreach. For the first time, we were able to post League positions on Instagram for the community to access the League's recommendations on the issues before them. We also made an in-person presentation at the Tracy Library to a group of local voters looking for information on League recommendations.

Voter Registration

A cadre of League volunteers made voter registration a priority this election season. They staffed voter registration and voter education tables at five events held at Delta College. They partnered with the Registrar of Voters to deliver voter education kits to 33 county high schools. They also offered one-off voter education events such as one held for the residents of Gleason Park Apartments. They expanded our League's outreach for this foundational element of our democracy.

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Candidate Forums

For many years, LWVSJC partnered with Delta College to present local candidate forums. For the last three election seasons, that partnership grew to include other local organizations interested in civic engagement, such as chambers of commerce, NAACP, and The Record, though our League and Delta remained lead partners in the forums. The group melded into the San Joaquin Civic Alliance.

Most local groups control their policies on civic engagement. Since our League is part of the broader national and state organization, we follow strict policies designed to preserve our nonpartisanship.

One issue where procedural differences were raised by partners concerned "empty chair" forums, that is, when only one candidate for the same office responds to an invitation to a forum. LWVUS disallows empty chair events.

In the 2026 Primary Election, several incumbents and challengers declined to participate in the forums, depriving voters of the opportunity to hear from any candidates for some offices. Under the League's empty-chair rule, a forum cannot proceed with only one participant. The League follows this rule to keep forums fair and balanced for voters, rather than giving one candidate an uncontested platform. This growing trend of non-participation of candidates led our League not to participate in the General Election forums held at Delta this fall. In the end, only four candidates agreed to participate in the forums and none of them were in the same race.

Our League needs to brainstorm ways to bring candidate information to voters if forums no longer remain a viable option.

Member input on this issue is welcome.



Vote 411

Vote 411.org, a product of LWVUS Education Fund, is a trusted national source of objective, nonpartisan election information—a "one stop shop" for all information voters need. It includes information on candidates for statewide and congressional offices, as well as local city, county, district, and school board races that will appear on an individual voter's ballot. State ballot measure information is also included.

While state Leagues gather information on statewide offices and measures, local Leagues are tasked with securing information on local candidates. Our volunteers reach out to the local Registrar of Voters for an accurate final list of all candidates for all races in the county, including any local or regional ballot measures. The League committee then reaches out to candidates—who are not required to list with the ROV any contact information to be shared with the public– via email, phone, text, social media, or postal service to encourage and persuade candidates to post their responses to a set of questions on the free Vote 411 web site. Voters can then access the free site and compare candidate responses prior to voting. This year, LWVSJC Vote 411 volunteers elicited responses from 58% of all local candidates, substantially above the average response rate across the state.

LWVUS is working on a brand new updated Vote 411 version for the 2028 presidential Primary Election that will increase accessibility for both candidates and voters.

Summary

We were able to have such a successful election cycle because of the participation of our members. Ten members made Pros and Cons presentations. Three delivered Vote with the League (VWTL) recommendations and one did the incredible Instagram posts . Nine worked on voter registration outreach. Two managed the most successful Vote411 outreach in recent years. Myriad members and friends sent GOTV postcards.

The presidential Primary Election in California is set for March 2028. There will be many opportunities to participate in these and other voter outreach efforts in 2028. Plan to be part of the action.

LWVC Election Message

Happy Election Season!

In recent weeks, we have witnessed deeply troubling efforts by the federal government to intimidate and disenfranchise voters, particularly immigrants and recently naturalized citizens. At best, these are political shenanigans designed to sow confusion and distract from the important work of conducting our elections. At worst, they represent a coordinated attack on free and fair elections and on our democracy itself.

At the League of Women Voters of California, we stand firmly with our election officials, who are working tirelessly to administer safe, secure, and fair elections while upholding the law and carrying out their responsibilities with integrity. **We unequivocally condemn threats and intimidation directed at these dedicated public servants, just as we condemn efforts to narrow our electorate and silence the voices of eligible voters.**

Finally, I want to say a heartfelt thank you. I know so many of you are in overdrive right now, distributing voter guides, answering voters' questions, reaching out to your communities, and doing the countless other things that make the League such a powerful force for democracy. **Your dedication is extraordinary, and it matters**

Thank you for everything you do to strengthen your communities and protect our democracy.

Jenny Farrell
Executive Director
League of Women Voters of California

How Do We Know Our Elections Are Secure?

VOTE.ORG

the VOICE

Last week, President Trump delivered a primetime address focused on election integrity, warning of vulnerabilities in America's election systems and raising concerns about foreign interference. The details of those claims will continue to be debated, investigated, and tested against the evidence. But the larger question is one every voter has a right to ask: how do we know elections are secure?

The answer is not trust alone. It is process.

American elections are not run through one national system controlled from Washington. They are administered by thousands of state and local election officials under a framework of federal and state law. That decentralization can make elections complicated, but it also creates resilience. A problem in one jurisdiction does not become a problem everywhere.

Security also comes from layers. Voting systems are tested before elections. Ballots and equipment are secured through chain-of-custody procedures. Poll workers follow written rules. Signature checks, voter-verification processes, provisional ballots, recounts, canvasses, and post-election audits all exist to confirm that voters are eligible, ballots are properly handled, and results are accurately reported.

None of those safeguards requires pretending the system is perfect. Election integrity does not mean mistakes never happen. It means there are procedures designed to catch mistakes, correct them, and allow the public to evaluate whether the outcome is reliable.

That distinction matters.

Claims about election integrity should be taken seriously. Foreign interference should be taken seriously. Cybersecurity should be taken seriously. But serious claims require serious evidence. A system is not strengthened by asking voters to believe accusations without proof. It is strengthened by transparency, documentation, review, and accountability.

For voters, the practical question is not whether every election headline is true. The practical question is where reliable information comes from. State election offices publish registration deadlines, polling places, ballot rules, certification timelines, and audit procedures. Local election officials can explain how ballots are processed and counted. Federal agencies and election-assistance bodies publish guidance on voting-system security, paper records, audits, and recounts.

That is how confidence is built: not by slogans, but by verifiable steps.

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The right to vote depends on more than access to the ballot. It also depends on public confidence that lawful votes will be counted accurately and that

results will be reviewed through defined procedures. If voters believe the system is broken before they participate, participation suffers. If voters understand the safeguards, the process becomes easier to trust.

Election integrity and voter access are not opposites. They are parts of the same structure. A healthy election system should protect against fraud, error, coercion, and interference while also ensuring that eligible voters can register, cast a ballot, and have that ballot counted.

The question is not whether voters should care about security. They should. The question is whether the discussion of security is grounded in facts, process, and evidence.

Democracy requires confidence, but confidence cannot be demanded. It has to be earned. That work happens before Election Day, on Election Day, and after Election Day, through the ordinary systems that make voting possible and results trustworthy.

Participation is stronger when voters understand the process, and that is where trust begins.

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The Voice is the newsletter of Vote.org,, the largest nonpartisan nonprofit in the United State dedicated to increasing voter participation. This article of *the Voice* is Vol.1, Issue 13, July 24, 2026. (https://www.vote.org/)

See the following article reporting on voting safeguards in San Joaquin County.

Inside the Registrar of Voters
- Suzy Daveluy

League member Maureen Abaray recently participated in a tour of the County Registrar of Voters organized by Protect Democracy, which offered a reassuring look at how ballots are handled, secured, and counted. Protect Democracy works to foster public confidence in the fact that elections are free, fair, and secure.

Our local Registrar of Voters' office normally has 34 employees, growing to about 150 during voting season. It serves 457,000 registered voters out of about 550,000 eligible voters across 358 precincts. Only 5 to 15 percent of voters use polling places; most vote by mail or drop box.

Security was evident at every step. Drop boxes are emptied every two days, always by a team of two, and transported in vans equipped with cameras. Cameras are also in the freight elevators and all workrooms, and every room requires a badge or QR code for entry, with at least two people present.

Ballots mailed to a P.O. box are funneled to the Channel Street post office, then brought to the Registrar's building by camera-equipped van. Ballots received up to seven days after Election Day are accepted if postmarked by Election Day. Ballot curing is completed by the 13th day after Election Day.

Signature verification combines technology and human review. Clear signatures are read by machine, while more difficult ones receive two-person verification, with a third expert as backup. Employees receive yearly refresher training.

Ballots are opened by machine. After removing ballots that could damage equipment, such as those with white-out, ballots are batched, imaged, and tracked by their point of origin.

The office also supports voters directly. Curbside voting for voters with disabilities began October 5 at the Registrar's building, and on Election Day voters may vote from their cars at any polling location. The office also produces "Build a Ballot" information and candidate statements.

There are currently 27 drop boxes countywide, including one in Acampo; there is none in Thornton. The Board of Supervisors has proposed reducing the number to 16 for fiscal reasons.

The tour also highlighted the people behind the process: a bank of 5,000 poll workers, including 400 young participants, who completed video and in-person training this fall.

Voter turnout was 22 percent four years ago and 34 percent two years ago — a reminder of how much room there is for more voices to be heard.

Thank you, Maureen, for sharing this information on the care taken to secure the voting process in San Joaquin County.

Thank you to League member Patti Williams for this article on her aunt, an early member of our League of Women Voters.

WIKIPEDIA
25 years of the free encyclopedia

Minerva Goodman

Minerva Goodman (January 2, 1876 – July 1, 1967) was an American physician, suffragist, and clubwoman, based in Stockton, California.

Early life and education

Goodman was born in Orion Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota, the daughter of Harvey Adelbert Goodman and Jane Ayer Robinson Goodman. She earned her medical degree at the University of Minnesota in 1902.[1]

Career

Goodman was a physician in Stockton, California from 1904 until 1962. As city health officer,[2] she organized "better baby contests"[3] and instituted mask mandates during the 1918 flu pandemic.[4][5] She was also the school medical inspector[6] and secretary of the local American Red Cross chapter. She spoke to community groups on a wide range of public health matters, including meat inspection and safety in childbirth.[7] She helped to create Stockton's sanatorium for tuberculosis patients.[4][8] "Dr. Goodman is not a woman of beautiful theories and cobwebbed plans, but of practical ideas cast in the mould of common sense," explained a 1909 newspaper profile.[1]

From 1924 to 1962, Goodman was the physician for women students at the College of the Pacific. She was president of the Stockton Political Equality Club. She supported the work of the Wage Earners' Equal Suffrage League of San Francisco, and the Political Equality League of Los Angeles.[9] After the vote was won, she was active in the local League of Women Voters.[9]

Beyond her medicine and suffrage activities, Stockton was president of Stockton's Business and Professional Women's Club, and president of the San Jose chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).[10] She hiked with the Sierra Club,[11] and was a leader of the Stockton

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Minerva Goodman



Minerva Goodman, from a 1909 newspaper

Born	January 2, 1876 Olmsted County, Minnesota, U.S.
Died	July 1, 1967 (age 91) Stockton, California, U.S.
Alma mater	College of the Pacific
Occupations	Physician, suffragist, clubwoman

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Camp Fire Girls.[12][13] She traveled in Europe during the summer of 1927, and wrote travel descriptions for the Stockton newspaper.[14] She served on the board of directors of Goodwill Industries of Stockton in the late 1930s.[15] In 1954, she attended a Stockton city council meeting to protest a change in policy pertaining to sidewalk repairs.[16]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minerva_Goodman

Patti added that her aunt held meetings in her office and in her home on Crafton Way. She met with legislators to convince them to vote yes.

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Thoughts on Thanksgiving

The following thoughts are excerpted from Delta Steamer, the newsletter of AAUW Stockton Branch, Volume 62, No. 3—November 2026

As Thanksgiving approaches in the United States, many of us look forward to familiar traditions: sharing a meal, reconnecting with family and friends, volunteering, and reflecting on what we appreciate.

In the United States, Thanksgiving carries both warmth and complexity. The holiday is often presented through a simplified story of cooperation between Indigenous peoples and European settlers. A more complete understanding recognizes the enduring presence, contributions, and sovereignty of Native nations, as well as the painful history of colonization. Making space for Indigenous perspectives can help us approach the holiday with greater honesty and respect. For some, Thanksgiving is a joyful family celebration; for others, it is a day of remembrance, reflection, or protest. All these experiences are part of the national conversation.

LWVC Joins the Conversation at the 2026 Unity Summit



On October 7, LWVC Executive Director Jenny Farrell joined community leaders and advocates in Sacramento for the Asian American Unity Coalition's 2026 Unity Summit, an inspiring gathering focused on advancing political representation and protecting voting rights.

Jenny took the stage alongside Elk Grove Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen and West Sacramento City Councilmember Quirina Orozco for a dynamic panel discussion moderated by Maya Miller, political reporter for CalMatters.

Together, the panelists dived into crucial issues affecting our democracy.

LWVC was also thrilled to distribute copies of our nonpartisan Easy Voter Guide in Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese. By sharing these resources with trusted local organizations serving AAPI communities, we are helping our partners empower the voters they serve with accessible election information.

The Unity Summit was a powerful reminder of the strength in our collective movement. When we partner across communities to expand access and break down barriers, we move closer to an inclusive democracy that truly represents us all.

Democrary in Action

Hundreds of people participated in the No Kings/Get out the Vote protest in front of San Joaquin Delta College on Pacific and Yokuts avenues in Stockton, California on Oct. 17, 2026. LWVSJC participated in the Get Out the Vote segment of the rally, urging people to exercise this fundamental right. Here are some of the signs from the local and national day of action. (League member Mary Ann Cox-Martin, below, left) demonstrates her passion for voting.)



Photo: Clifford Oto for The Record









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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 though education and advocacy.