



September/October 2026

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

The Voter

Kicking Off Another Year of Action, Advocacy, and Voter Engagement

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President's Message - Suzy Daveluy

The League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County has a busy 2026-2027 planned, and we are already working on General Election activities. We will be hosting candidate forums, participating in voter registration drives, mailing postcards to encourage community members to vote, and presenting Pros and Cons on the propositions.

Voting on propositions is an important part of participating in California's democracy because these measures can directly affect state laws, taxes, housing, education, healthcare, elections, and government spending. Taking time to understand each proposition and vote allows Californians to have a direct voice in decisions that can have lasting effects on their communities and the state. While our League will be presenting Pros and Cons on the ballot propositions on October 10th (see later article), if you'd like to start thinking about what we will be voting on, please read on.

The 2026 propositions reveal major issues facing California. **Housing** appears repeatedly, through the \$11 billion housing bond and the proposed mortgage-assistance program for middle-

income buyers. **Taxes and government finances** are another dominant theme, with measures addressing high-income taxes, wealth taxation, personal-property taxes, local taxes and state reserves.

The election also puts **election administration** directly before voters through the voter-identification measure and the recall proposal. Healthcare and medical research appear in two very different forms: Proposition 38 would fund medical research, while Proposition 44 would regulate spending by community clinics.

Finally, Proposition 45 places California's long-running conflict over environmental protection versus faster development squarely on the ballot.

For the most authoritative information on the ballot propositions, take a look at the California Secretary of State's **Official Voter Information Guide**, which contains the official summaries, arguments and rebuttals for the propositions. Other reliable sources include Ballotpedia (Ballotpedia.org) and Cal Matters (calmatters.org). LWVC will also have information available on their web site in late September.

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

LWVSJC CALENDAR 2026-2027

A year of Action, Advocacy, and Voter Engagement

September

19—Kickoff meeting: September
19th: 11:00-1:00
21—Board meeting

October

10—Pros and Cons at
O'Connor Woods
19—Board meeting

November

14—Membership Meeting
16—Board meeting

December

5—*Holiday Party*

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*

Candidate Forums will be held prior to the General Election. Members will be updated as the schedule is finalized.

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.

You Can Help to Get Out the Vote for the November 3rd General Election

Our League will focus on getting out the vote for the November 3, 2026 General Election by sending postcards to voters registered as No Party Preference, urging them to vote. Postcards, stamps, and a script will be provided to anyone who would like to help with this effort. If you would like to participate, contact Bea Lingenfelter at beaal@comcast.net.

League Year Kickoff Meeting for LWVSJC Members

Our Kickoff meeting will be your first opportunity to become engaged in our League this year. It will also be a fun occasion to socialize and learn about issues of local concern.

WHEN

September 19, 2026
11:00—1:00

WHERE

Home of Mary Ann Cox-Martin
3421 Lakemist Circle
Stockton (A map will be sent before the event.)

Call 209-969-9017 when you arrive to get a gate access code.

WHAT

A potluck gathering to start off our year. **Please bring a dish you'd like to share for lunch.**

SPEAKER

Jane Wagner-Tyack
*LWVSJC Member and
LWVC Position Director and
Legislative Analyst, Water*

Topic

**Update on water issues in
San Joaquin County**

LWVSJC Bylaws require a Year-End Financial Report be sent to all members:

Year-End Financial Report for 2025-2026

**League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County
General Fund Income and Expenses—FY 2025-2026
07/01/2025 to 06/30/2026**

	Category Description	Proposed 2025-2026	Actual 2025-2026	Allowed Ed Fund Support
INCOME	Dues	1200	1116.72	
	Projected Contributions	900	1175	
	Fund Development	2800	0	
	Ed Fund Grant	4327	2000	
	Projected Shortfall Mitigation	1950	783	
	Processing Fees	100	29	
	Total Income	11277	5703.72	
EXPENSES	Administration/Communications			
	Storage Unit Rent	1700	1011	
	My League Online (web site)	375	375	
	Post Office Box Fee	355	398	
	Secretary of State Filing Fee	25	25	
	Insurance Fee (to LWVC)	30	38.58	
	Administrative Supplies	58	38	
	Internal Communications Postage	75	0	
	Internal Communications Printing	75	0	
	Fundraising	150	0	
	Community Partnerships/Sponsors	400	0	
	Helen Pearson Award Recognition	100	99.82	
	Susan B. Anthony SJCCSW	125	125	
	Total Administration	3460	2210.40	45% (1557.00)
	Community/Civic Education			
	Educational Programs/Forums	500	0	
	Lunch and Learn/Gifts	400	96.48	
	Total Community/Civic Education	900	96.48	100%
	Advocacy			
	Total Advocacy	250	0	
	Meetings and Events			
	2026 LWVUS Convention	750	0	
	Annual Meeting	300	412.50	
	Total Meetings and Events	1050	412.50	



Category Description	Proposed 2025-2026	Proposed 2025-2026	Allowed Ed Fund Support
Membership			
Membership Outreach	350	225	
Postage	75	0	
Supplies	175	0	
Student Sponsorships	100	120	
Membership Recruitment	175	0	
National PMP	2080	2080	50% (1040)
State PMP	1820	1820	25% (455)
Total Membership	1775	3107.50	
Voter Service			
Publications (Easy Voter; Pros/Cons)	500	556.64	
Candidate Forums	200	0	
High School Voter Registration	75	0	
Total Voter Service	775	556.64	100%
TOTAL EXPENSES	10810	6383.52	

EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF INCOME -679.80

Treasurer's Note: Despite the actual income received at only 50% of the proposed budgeted amount, the year-end deficit is only \$679.80. This was accomplished in large part because of generous member and non-member contributions in addition to important In Kind donations made by members and partners in the categories of Voter Service, Membership, Meetings, Community and Civic Engagement, valued at \$833.00. The valuable time members donated to facilitate events, outreach, programming and administration also contributed to keeping the deficit manageable.

**San Joaquin League Fund (Ed Fund)
Income and Expenses—FY 2025-2026
07/01/2025 to 06/30/2026**

INCOME

Donations	2350
Interest	75.11
Reimbursement 50% Grant 2025/2026	1650*
TOTAL INCOME	4075.11

EXPENSES

Grant to LWVSJC General Fund	2000
CA DOJ	25
TOTAL EXPENSES	2025
Total Net Income	2050.11

NET WORTH AS OF 06/30/2026

ASSETS

Bank of Stockton Money Market Account	10425.24
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LIABILITIES

0

OVERALL NET WORTH AS OF 06/30/2026

10425.24

* In FY 2024/2025, an allocation of \$2742 was budgeted as an Ed Fund Grant to the General Fund. That budgeted amount was not needed, so in FY 2025/2026, \$1650 was returned as a deposit to the Ed Fund.

Note: These financial reports were prepared without an audit from the books and records of the League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County and the San Joaquin County League Fund. *Yvette Remlinger, Treasurer*

Pros and Cons at O'Connor Woods -- October 10, 2026

LWVSJC and AAUW–Stockton will once again have a joint meeting which will feature a presentation of the Pros and Cons of the propositions that will be before voters on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot. This year, the program will be co-sponsored by Connections at O'Connor Woods, a committee that presents programming of interest to OCW residents.

WHEN

Saturday, October 10, 2026
10:00-noon

WHERE

O'Connor Woods, West Hall
3400 Wagner Heights Road,
Stockton

Fourteen ballot propositions will be decided by voters in November, including several controversial proposals, such as voter ID requirements and the “billionaire tax” and its competing initiatives, as well as bonds for housing and medical research and amendments to how recall elections are conducted for statewide office.

Join us to learn the Pros and Cons of each proposal.



Concerning California Water Issues

The California League of Women Voters has a statewide Water Interest Group team that meets on Zoom and is moderated by LWVSJC member Jane Wagner-Tyack. That team is producing articles that Leagues around the state can use to inform members via local *Voter* newsletters. The article below introduces a funding program called Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) that the state launched in 2019.

The State Water Resources Control Board has a SAFER dashboard showing data for its 2025 Drinking Water Needs Assessment. Jane Wagner-Tyack researched the Dashboard for local water information and found a table listing 91 water systems in San Joaquin County that may have some level of risk for water quality, accessibility, affordability, and/or technical managerial financial capacity.

The information in the article below has information relevant in our county.

Advancing Water Equity in California

—Martha Davis, Elizabeth Sala, Anne Omsted, LWVC Water Interest Group

Water equity in California is grounded in the principle that all people have the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water for human consumption, cooking and sanitary purposes

regardless of income, race, geography, or other factors. The human right to water extends to all Californians, including disadvantaged individuals and groups and communities in rural and urban areas.

In fact, California was the first state in the nation to legislatively recognize a “human right to water” when in 2012 it passed [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 685](#). This was followed in 2016 by a State Board Resolution pledging that it would work to “preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California’s water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses.”¹

To understand the significance of California’s water equity policy, imagine turning on your tap and NO water comes out – or worse, it is brown and stinks – but you still have to pay your monthly water bill even if your water is undrinkable, unusable, and unsafe.

This is the reality that faced an estimated 1.6 million California families in 2019 according to research conducted by the State Water Resources Control Board. Today, the State Water Board data shows that NO region of California remains untouched by this problem.



There are families near all of us who still lack access to safe, clean, and affordable water.

[Continued on Page 6]

Advancing Water Equity

[Continued from Page 5]



How California is Addressing the Water Equity Challenge

Faced with these statistics, California launched a funding program in 2019 called SAFER – *California’s Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience*. In the short term, SAFER was designed to ensure that residents who didn’t have safe, adequate and affordable drinking water could receive it as soon as possible – even if this meant delivering bottled water to them as an emergency stopgap measure. In the long term, the SAFER program has identified and is funding sustainable solutions to failing water systems to ensure these systems are modernized and can produce safe, usable water. For water systems that could not be fixed, the Board has worked to consolidate these service areas with ones that can provide clean, affordable water.

Currently the SAFER program guarantees up to \$130 million annually will be made available through 2030. This funding is paying for needed operations, maintenance, and other improvements for at-risk and failing water systems along with providing replacement water to impacted

homes. The SAFER program has made a huge difference in the lives of many Californians who finally have access to safe and affordable drinking water. SAFER’s achievements as of 2024 include:

- 321 systems are no longer on the State’s “failing list” - benefiting over 3.3 million customers
- \$540 million in construction and planning assistance was provided to small systems
- 170 system consolidations have been completed, providing safe water to over 324,000
- 861 water systems benefit from SAFER staff support
- \$124M provided in technical and administration operations³
- Kristyn Abhold, an official in the SWP Financial Assistance Division, said the program has spent about \$128 million on construction projects and drilled 103 new wells since July 2025⁴

Even with all the accomplishments listed above, about 600,000 people still get water from systems that state regulators say are failing to meet safe drinking water standards.

But California’s water equity problems can’t be solved by SAFER alone. The state has also advanced water equity by dedicating a majority of its State Water Board infrastructure funding – roughly \$5.2 billion over a recent three-year stretch – to drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater projects in disadvantaged and rural communities. In addition, almost two-thirds of the State Board’s financial assistance is distributed directly as grants for drinking water and wastewater projects in disadvantaged commu-

nities.

The state’s policy initiatives target specific obstacles to achieving water equity. For example, the [Racial Equity](#) program requires state water policies and programs to be actively realigned to address racial injustices and to remove barriers to community access in local decision-making. In addition, the state continues to push for legislative and policy reforms, such as the [bold water reforms](#) to establish permanent statewide low-income rate assistance to help ensure that water remains affordable for low-income families.

1. https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/hr2w/
2. https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/saferdashboard.html
3. chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnibpcapjpcglclefindmkaj/ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/documents/needs/2025needsassessment.pdfhttps://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer
4. <https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2026-06-10/california-drinking-water-funding>

Note: As this *Voter* is being published, ongoing SAFER funding is uncertain.



Supreme Court's *Louisiana v. Callais* Ruling Redefines the Future of Voting Rights

Louisiana v. Callais, decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2026, marks one of the most consequential shifts in modern voting-rights law. In a 6–3 ruling, the Court held that Louisiana's creation of a second majority-Black congressional district—drawn after earlier litigation found the state's map diluted Black voting strength—was an unconstitutional **racial gerrymander**. The decision not only struck down Louisiana's SB8 map but also significantly narrowed how **Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act** can be used in redistricting.

The central question at issue: when does race-conscious districting become unconstitutional, even if intended to comply with federal civil-rights protections? The majority, led by Justice Alito, concluded that Louisiana relied too heavily on race when drawing the district and that compliance with the VRA was not a sufficiently “compelling interest” to justify such race-pre-dominant line-drawing. As a result, the map failed strict scrutiny.

The ruling reshaped the longstanding *Gingles* framework, based on the Supreme Court's 1986 decision *Thornburg v. Gingles*, a three-part test courts use to decide whether a redistricting plan unlawfully dilutes minority voting power under **Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act**. It required plaintiffs to

show:

- The minority group is **large and compact enough** to form a majority in a reasonably drawn district.
- The group is **politically cohesive**, meaning its voters tend to support the same candidates.
- The majority votes **as a bloc** in a way that usually defeats the minority's preferred candidates.

Plaintiffs bringing Section 2 claims must now meet stricter requirements, including producing illustrative maps that satisfy not only traditional redistricting criteria but also a state's political goals, such as protecting incumbents. They must also demonstrate that racial bloc voting cannot be explained by partisanship—a significantly higher evidentiary bar. Courts are instructed to give less weight to historical discrimination unless plaintiffs can prove present-day intentional discrimination.

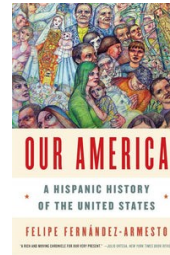
The implications are far-reaching: challenges will be harder to win and states will have more discretion in rejecting majority-minority districts.

As redistricting battles continue nationwide, *Louisiana v. Callais* will shape the legal landscape for years to come.

Summary by Microsoft Copilot from Internet-available information.

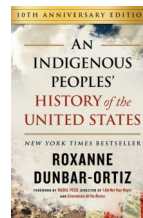
Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15)

National **Hispanic Heritage Month** recognizes the contributions and influence of **Hispanic Americans** to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.



Our America: A Hispanic History of the United States
- Felipe Fernandez-Armesto

The United States is still typically conceived of as an offshoot of England, with our history unfolding east to west beginning with the first English settlers in Jamestown. This view overlooks the significance of America's Hispanic past. With the profile of the United States increasingly Hispanic, the importance of recovering the Hispanic dimension to our national story has never been greater.



**October:
Indigenous
People's Day**
(October 12, 2026)

Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday in the United States that celebrates and honors Native American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures.

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz is a poignant history from the perspective of Indigenous nations.

The League is Nonpartisan: Notes from LWVUS

During election season, it is good to have a reminder about what the League's nonpartisan policy means for the League, for individual League members, and for the communities that we serve.

WHAT BEING NONPARTISAN MEANS

- * **The League of Women Voters doesn't endorse or oppose parties or candidates.** Our focus is on issues and policies, not partisan allegiance. At times, League positions may align with a party or candidate's views; at other times, they may not.
- * **We do not change our positions based on shifts in party politics.** Unlike partisan organizations, we are not beholden to party leadership and can remain grounded in our values regardless of political trends or pressure.

WHAT BEING NONPARTISAN DOES NOT MEAN

- * **Being nonpartisan does not mean neutrality.** The League was founded as, and has always been, a political organization committed to empowering voters and strengthening democracy. This work has not always made everyone comfortable, but we believe protecting democracy is worth some discomfort.
- * **Being nonpartisan does not mean members cede their own political beliefs or participation.** League members, like all voters, have the right to engage fully in our democracy, including in partisan spaces, as long as it is clear their participation is personal and not on behalf of, or speaking for, the League.

WHAT DOES NONPARTISANSHIP MEAN FOR ME AS A MEMBER

- * Every member doesn't have to agree with every League stance. Valuing differences of opinion is fundamental to democracy, and we are able to come together to work in the areas of our shared values regardless of those differences.
- * Your League's nonpartisan policy outlines any restricted activities—for the most part, these apply to board members, but if you have any concerns, refer to the policy (which is posted on our web site).

WHAT DOES NONPARTISANSHIP MEAN FOR THE VOTERS IN MY COMMUNITY

- * Issues are separate from voter registration. When we're registering voters, we never try to get people to register with a particular party or affiliation.
- * The League is here to support voting rights and empowerment for everyone, regardless of their beliefs or political affiliation.

**General Election
November 3, 2026**

LWVSJC Board of Directors 2026-2027

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Suzy Daveluy, President
Mary Kenefick, 1st Vice President
Abby Avila, 2nd Vice President
Mary Avanti, Secretary
Yvette Remlinger, Treasurer

Voter Editor: Colleen Foster

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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.