



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

August 2014

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

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President's Message

It is the start of a new fiscal year, and the LWVSC is in good shape financially. The Board is looking at different opportunities to make this an exciting and productive year. The League is working on ideas to engage current, new and future members. Examples of the ideas brought forth at the last Board meetings include: (1) bringing CSU Stanislaus students into our study of higher education proposed by the State League; (2) increase general membership meetings that encourage both social time and dialog on items of regional, state and national interests; (3) possibility of a meeting in which we invite the LWVC President to speak; (4) a continuation of dynamic speakers at the Lunch and Learn; and (5) several forums for candidates and propositions for the fall election. The LWVSC is fortunate to have a Board that is comprised of seasoned members, as well as several new and enthusiastic members. On the local level, members should check the progress of the Modesto initiative concerning the requirement of voter approval for new residential and nonresidential development. If this measure on urban sprawl qualifies for the ballot, the League might want to study this issue and come up with a position on it. Stay tuned for further developments. Have a great summer.

Seena Rhine, President LWVSC

Board Highlights July 9, 2014

- Voter Service Directors are planning for November election activities – voter registration, candidate forums and Pros and Cons of state ballot measures. They will be looking for volunteers.
- Finance Drive donor request letters are being prepared for mailing in early September.
- Website updates. **Members: Check out our website – www.lwvstanislaus.org. Does it include useful information? What else would you like to see on the website?** Please send all comments and suggestions to Seena Rhine to forward to our new Webmaster, Richard Jacobs.
- Membership Committee will look for additional ways to attract and engage members in League.

**I WANT TO ADD MY VOICE TO YOURS
BY JOINING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS**

OF STANISLAUS COUNTY!

- Student Membership \$25
- Individual Membership \$60
- Household Membership \$90

Please contact me with more information:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (for
directory) _____

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STATE AND NATIONAL ACTION

Are you worried about your food? What's going into it? Are there pesticides, GMO's, salmonella, feces, and other diseases hidden in what you consume?

LWV is also concerned about food safety and agriculture. In a May, 2014, Federal Agriculture Policies position statement League recommended the government should:

- Clarify and enforce pre-market testing requirements for foods and food additives developed using any new chemical technology, such as genetic engineering or nanotechnology;
- Require developers to monitor all such new food products developed after releasing to the market';
- Require developers of such new food products to provide data and other materials to independent third parties for pre- and post-marketing safety assessment;
- Fund independent third party risk assessment examining how long term and multiple exposures to such new foods affect human health and the environment;
- Withdraw marketing approval and require recall if such products are shown to be unsafe;
- Require post-market marketing of human health and environmental impacts for pharmaceutical applications used in animal and aquatic production;
- Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to the treatment of disease;
- Promote crop management practices that decrease dependency on added chemicals; and
- Fund, employ and train sufficient personnel for assessment and compliance functions of regulatory agencies.

Additionally the League supports government developing and requiring more informative and standardized definitions on product labeling. Food labeling and advertising should display only approved health and safety claims and an accurate representation of the required ingredient and nutrition lists. The League supports consumer education about labeling of foods developed using any new technology. Go to www.lwv.org for the entire statement.

Vanessa Czopek, State & National Action

Call to members: Adopt-A-Poll

The Board is seeking bilingual League members in order to staff voting polls during elections. A bilingual Spanish speaker is required at all voting places. Poll worker training is required and is provided by the county Registrar of Voters Department. Please contact President Seena Rhine for this volunteer opportunity, or with suggestions.

May Lunch and Learn, Denny Jackman: Stamp Out Sprawl-Modesto

Former Modesto City Councilman Denny Jackman, a long-time advocate for farmland preservation, spoke at June's Lunch and Learn. A basic need for food is the impetus for Jackman's interest in land-use planning. Jackman said the quality of soil, availability of water from the Sierras and effective water recharge areas makes the land north and west of Modesto among the best food production areas of the world.

Unfortunately, protecting that food source has become a political issue. In spite of opposition from west Modesto (Wood Colony) residents, the Modesto City Council, at its Jan. 28 meeting, proposed including farm land west of Highway 99 in its General Plan, a document that guides future land-use decisions. As a result, Jackman once again is turning to the ballot box. He currently is gathering signatures for a November 2015 Modesto ballot initiative to establish urban limits for Modesto that would exclude prime farm land west of Highway 99 and make Kiernan Road the northern boundary. Whereas Measures A and M were citizen advisory votes for future sewer extensions, urban limits established by a vote of the people may only be changed by a vote of the people. Future councils would not be able to modify the Modesto "footprint", thus assuring long-term land-use planning.

Jackman considers this approach to be the right of self-determination, i.e., what do Modestans want their city to look like? Stanislaus County and its nine cities also have authority over land use to address the needs and interests of many stakeholders. Modesto is one part, but an important one, in this complex issue.

The Stamp Out Sprawl initiative needs 8,900 signatures from Modesto voters by Oct. 1 to qualify. This is an expensive and time-consuming process. Jackman said he is about half-way there. He has employed signature gatherers to assist the process. For information about Stamp Out Sprawl, check the website at www.stampoutsprawl.com or contact Denny Jackman at stampoutsprawl@gmail.com. Petitions are available for signatures and circulation.

Marie Bairey, Secretary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[\(Check Website for Updates\)](#)

Wednesday, August 16th 6:30pm	Board meeting. Amy Wolfe's Agsafe office at 406 Motor City Court, Modesto. Email for directions.
Thursday, July 31st	Lunch & Learn: Marian Kaanon, "Why Philanthropy Matters in Community Transformation." Jacobs Restaurant, \$13 Chef's Choice.
Thursday, August 28th	Lunch & Learn: James Strong, CSU Stanislaus Provost "Issues Facing Higher Education." Jacobs Restaurant, \$13 Chef's Choice

**League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County
P.O. Box E
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The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.