



The Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

May 2018 Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California VOL. 65, NO. 11

President's Message

With our Annual Meeting on May 16, the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County will celebrate our 71st birthday. Since 1947 we have provided voter service and education to the residents of Stanislaus County. We are well respected for our candidate forums, voter registration activities, Pros and Cons presentations on ballot propositions, and monthly Lunch and Learn sessions with speakers on current topics of interest. None of this would be possible without our involved, dedicated members. I am very grateful for how easy you have made it to be President of this group this past year. Every member of the board has not only done his/her own job well but has kept me on track. So many members have stepped up and done whatever needed to be done. This month Karrie Bullock planned an Earth Day table for the League at Graceada Park, but then found herself unable to be there that day. Rather than cancel, several members including Julie Saugstad, Marie Bairey, Marsha Waggoner and Ed and Karen Tabacco took over, giving the League great community visibility.

We've just completed five well-attended, successful Candidate Forums over a three-week period. We had more than enough League volunteers at all the forums. Some members even volunteered at every forum. When we arrived in Oakdale for the last forum, we found the building closed, and when the custodian arrived to open up, we discovered the room had not been set up. Within about 10 minutes our trusty League members set up chairs, found microphones and were ready to greet the audience the audience. At the end of the evening everything was cleaned up and put away just as quickly. We can do it all! So let's take a moment at the Annual Meeting to celebrate ourselves — then it is back to work. We are only half way through 2018, and there promises to be lots of political action to come. ■

Mary

ANNUAL MEETING: Wednesday, May 16. At the home of Marsha Waggoner. (Call Marsha for directions.) Time: **6:00 PM**, gathering for social, appetizers and wine. **6:30 PM**, speaker. This year's speaker will be Gitanjali Kaul, Vice President for Strategic Planning, Enrollment Management and Innovation at CSU Stanislaus. She will speak on the university's new strategic that emphasizes education for the ethnically diverse plan, with special emphasis on providing education for its ethnically diverse and first-generation college students. The speaker will be followed by the annual business meeting when the proposed budget (page 3), slate of officers (page 4) and local program will be presented for member approval. Please bring an appetizer to share. ■

Lunch and Learn: April 2018

County Superintendents of Schools: Roles and Responsibilities

Dr. Fredrick Wentworth served as San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools for 20 years, retiring in 2010. He said that longevity in office is not uncommon as superintendents often run unopposed. However, this year Stanislaus County has three candidates running for an open seat. The position dates back to 1852 when the State of California authorized counties to establish education programs. In 1950, the State authorized elected boards to “assist,” making the superintendent (all but five of whom are elected by their county residents) answerable to the board. County school boards’ responsibilities are political, fiscal and educational.

County school boards oversee elections of local school boards within their county – making sure that elections occur and follow legal requirements. They are also in charge when districts seek to change borders, merge or reorganize.

The County Office’s fiscal responsibilities are internal and external. The superintendent’s office oversees the budget for operating its office and programs. External responsibilities include oversight and review of budgets for local school districts within its jurisdiction. The budgets must be three-year plans that consider state funding, enrollment projections and proposed construction projects. Maintaining up-to-date, secure data systems are critical for carrying out these tasks.

County offices take responsibility for developing and/or coordinating educational programs to meet needs of the underserved; these include disadvantaged students, special needs students, expelled students and preschoolers. San Joaquin County has been authorized by the State of California to award credentials to teaching interns as well as advanced degrees through the Teacher College of San Joaquin – an alternative to the CSU system.

In response to questions, Dr. Wentworth suggested voters should look for a superintendent candidate who has a positive attitude, is visionary and brings varied experiences. Responsibilities of the office have changed over time as student and community needs have changed; for example, it is important to recognize that students come to school with technological sophistication and that a four-year college may not be for everyone. He explained that public charter schools are funded by the State of California to offer an alternative way to deliver education; he said that public schools should be doing that anyway to preclude a need for charter schools. He feels we are doing a lousy job of overseeing home schools because there are essentially no rules other than registering with the County Office of Education; California needs to provide standards for teacher qualifications and follow-up. ■

— Marie Bairey

1 ***On the Calendar • Lunch and Learn • Lunch and Learn will be on hiatus during the month of May. It will resume in June.***
There will be no board meeting in May, either.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY
2018 2019 PROPOSED BUDGET JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019

	Budget 2017-18	YTD EO March	Proposed 2018-19
Dues	\$4,000.00	\$3,190.00	\$4,000.00
Finance Drive	\$3,000.00	\$2,924.89	\$3,000.00
Fin Drive Desig. Education	\$2,000.00	\$2,185.00	\$2,200.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$9,000.00	\$8,314.89	\$9,200.00

Expenses:

Office Expenses:

Equipment	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
General Postage	\$270.00	\$237.64	\$300.00
Insurance	\$50.00	\$41.00	\$50.00
Storage	\$420.00	\$423.45	\$650.00
Supplies	\$200.00	\$466.02	\$100.00
Telephone	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$120.00
Voter Newsletter	\$50.00	\$37.06	\$50.00
Website	\$160.00	\$0.00	\$160.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00
Total Office Expenses	\$1,570.00	\$1,017.11	\$1,730.00

Dues Expenses:

State PMP	\$1,850.00	\$1,848.00	\$1,900.00
National PMP	\$2,150.00	\$2,112.00	\$2,200.00
Total Dues Expenses	\$4,000.00	\$3,960.00	\$4,100.00

Membership Expenses:

Action	\$50.00	\$24.81	\$50.00
Publications	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Board Tools	\$50.00	\$14.64	\$50.00
Convention	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,040.00
Finance Drive	\$200.00	\$78.40	\$200.00
Supplies	\$150.00	\$79.04	\$150.00
Publicity	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Meetings	\$250.00	\$251.42	\$300.00
Lunch and Learn	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Other org membership	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$30.00
Workshops	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Total Membership Expenses	\$3,320.00	\$448.31	\$2,420.00

NOMINATIONS
FOR
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY
2018–2019 BOARD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Officers

President	Mary Giventer
Vice President	Marie Bairey
Secretary	Laurie Carley
Treasurer	Julie Saugstad

Directors

Action	Seena Rhine
Finance Drive	Wendy Scott
Lunch & Learn	Hanna Renning
	Ruby Hennessey
Membership	Karrie Bullock
	Colleen Norby
Publicity	Arlene Ison
<i>Voter</i> Editor	Michael Fuller
Voter Service	Marsha Blomquist
	Nancy Hinton
Webmaster	Stella Beratlis
Nominating	George Britton
	Stella Beratlis
	Arlene Ison

Names in **bold** indicate changes from the 2017–2018 Board.

These recommendations have been submitted by this year’s Nominating Committee, consisting of Stella Reratlis, George Britton and Arlene Ison.

Letter of Support for AB 2689

In March you were invited to be part of a delegation to interview state legislator Adam Gray. Below is one of the upshots from that meeting, a letter of support of AB 2689. The full text of Assemblyman Gray's bill is at the following website:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2689.

April 4, 2018

The Honorable Adam Gray
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0021

RE: AB 2689 Contribution and Gift Ban: Senate Confirmation – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Gray:

The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County is pleased to support AB 2689, a bill which would prohibit a person nominated or renominated by the Governor to an office subject to Senate confirmation, from making a gift or contribution to a Senator or a controlled committee of the Senator, during the period between the nomination or renomination by the Governor and confirmation by the Senate. A senator would be prohibited from accepting a gift or contribution from the nominee during that time.

One of the core principles of the League is that campaign finance regulations should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government.

Gifts or contributions from nominees to senators or their committees just prior to a confirmation vote could clearly give a public appearance of bribes and corruption. This bill would also prevent potential extortion of nominees by senators. This extension of the Political Reform Act of 1974 is consistent with League positions on campaign finance and money in politics.

The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County believes that AB 2689 will enhance transparency in government and stands **in support of AB 2689**. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Mary Giventer
President, League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County

Officers

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President

Marie Bairey
Vice President

Laurie Carley
Secretary

Julie Saugstad
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Karrie Bullock
Membership

Michael Fuller
Editor, The Voter

Ruby Hennessey
Hanna Renning
Lunch & Learn

Arlene Ison
Public Relations

Seena Rhine
Action

Wendy Scott
Finance Drive

Others

Richard Jacobs
Webmaster

George Britton, chair
Stella Beratlis
Nominating Committee

Voter's Edge California

<http://votersedge.org/ca>

This site lets you type in your ZIP code and address to access your complete ballot for the June election. If you don't want to personalize the search, you can access county information, see what's happening in other counties throughout the state or visit the archive of past elections. You'll find information about candidates, propositions, measures ... and who supports them. ■

Proposition 13 Reform

After almost 40 years, voters will finally have the opportunity this November to reform Prop 13, closing the corporate loophole that has allowed big business to pocket billions of dollars annually and restoring that funding to our local communities. To realize this goal the League of Women Voters of California is urging its local branches to join in supporting passage of the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018. ■



Remember to register by May 21 in order to vote in the June 5 primary election.

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County
P.O. Box E
Modesto, CA 95352-3669