



# *The Voter*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

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## ***President's Message***

At a League of Women Voters' convention a few years ago I had the opportunity to hear Eric Holder, then Attorney General of the United States, speak. He pointed out that at the time the Constitution was adopted virtually no one in the room would have been allowed to vote. Our founding fathers began with the position that only white men who owned property could vote, or for that matter, have many other rights. Eric Holder then went on to say that the wonderful thing about our country was that from that time forward we have been on a path of expanding not only voting rights, but all civil rights, to more and more diverse groups.

Sadly, recent events seem to demonstrate that there is still a relatively small, but significant, segment of the population that would like to roll back those rights. As members of the League of Women Voters, we can help ensure that does not happen. On the national and state level the League fights against voter suppression acts, unfair redistricting practices and dark money in politics. LWVC is lobbying for AB 249, the California DISCLOSE Act, which makes political ads show who actually paid for them. A similar bill came close, but did not pass, last year. This session it has just passed the Senate Elections Committee by a 4-1 vote. It will next go to the Senate Appropriations Committee and then a full Senate vote.

On the local level our work registering voters, informing voters, and providing forums where voters can question the candidates is significant. Marsha Blomquist has done a great job organizing forums, and she is always looking for voter registration opportunities. Please contact her if you can help.

A long-time motto of the League has been "Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport" – and this is truer now than ever!

*Mary Giventer, President*

### ***New Member***

We would like to welcome **BILL DRISCOLL** as a League new member.

**Officers**

Mary Giventer  
*President*

Marie Bairey  
*Vice President*

Laurie Carley  
*Secretary*

Julie Saugstad  
*Treasurer*

**Directors**

Marsha Blomquist  
Marsha Waggoner  
*Voter Service*

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*

**Measure S • Save Stanislaus Libraries**

LWVSC is supporting this measure for a renewal of the eighth-of-a-cent sales tax that has supported Stanislaus County libraries for more than 20 years.

Without it, libraries close! A two-thirds approval is required. It is so important to get out the **YES** Vote. The Yes on S Campaign needs volunteers to help spread the word. If you can display yard signs, walk a precinct or make phone calls, stop by campaign headquarters at 1216 I Street, Modesto (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM; Thursdays 4 PM to 8 PM) or call 353-2217.



Four of the LWVSC members who attended the grand opening of the Measure S campaign headquarters on “I” Street in Modesto on August 5.

***Calendar of Events***

**Lunch and Learn**

*Noon, last Thursday of each month, at Ridgway’s on Orangeburg (Century Center, Modesto) Chef’s Choice Menu @ \$13; vegetarian lunch also available at same price.*

Sept. 28 • Jim Stokes, Turlock Site Manager, International Rescue Committee (IRC)  
Topic: The Work of the IRC with Arriving Immigrants

## Climate Change and Emergency Management

Nicole Meyer-Morse and Millie Levin, policy advisors from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), continued the LWVSC discussion of climate change at the August Lunch and Learn. The topic could not have been more timely! Drought. Tree die-off. Flood. Fire. Land subsidence. We have experienced them all with increasing frequency and severity. So, what is being done to reduce the threats?

CalOES, recognizing advances in climate science and risk management options, is currently developing policies and strategies to mitigate future disasters in California — Cal-Adapt — based on four principles:

- **Research:** Climate change impacts all phases of emergency management. For example, the impact of greenhouse gases has a multiplier effect. One prediction model for Modesto showed that with reduction of greenhouse gases, the number of days in a year with temperatures above 100 degrees is 28 and peaks in 2040; without reduction of greenhouse gases that number increases to 48 and continues to 2050.
- **Advisory bodies:** To address climate change impacts and inform emergency management policy
- **Planning:** Incorporate climate change into all planning efforts.
- **Community resilience:** Build community resilience to climate changes to meet local needs. Hazard Mitigation Grants are available to address specific conditions such as flood prevention, defensible space to protect buildings and home elevation in flood-prone areas.

One area being studied involves ways to reduce sinking land, especially in the Central Valley due to excessive ground water removal, through groundwater recharge. A coalition of agencies will meet in September to identify projects to reduce land subsiding.

Q and A:

- **Lesson from Houston:** Emergency management agencies learned from Katrina, especially in evacuation planning. Most emergency planning is handled locally. OES develops policy, distributes information and guidelines and steps in as needed.
- **Climate change and disease:** As temperatures rise, diseases are more likely to spread: hotter temps, more mosquitoes, more diseases
- **Withdrawal from the Paris Treaty:** California has taken a stand to make community/ business resilience work. When there is disagreement, it is important to identify and agree on the basic needs of a community.
- **National Security:** Department of Defense believes in climate change. The navy especially sees the impacts. Also, public health agencies see the increases of emerging/novel diseases.

*Marie Bairey*

### **Three Candidate Forums**

Volunteers are needed. To lend a hand contact Marsha Blomquist at [blomq@att.net](mailto:blomq@att.net) or 844-5328.

- Modesto City School Board, Districts 5 and 7<sup>1</sup> • Monday, October 2 at 7 PM;
- Oakdale Irrigation District • Wednesday, October 11 at 7 PM;
- Modesto City Council • Thursday, October 12 at 6:00 PM.

### **Find us on Internet**

League of Women Voters US • <http://lwv.org>

League of Women Voters of California • <https://lwvc.org>

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County • <http://www.lwvstanislaus.org>

### **Updates from LWVC**

#### **Cap and Trade**

We are pleased to report that after careful consideration our Legislation Committee decided to support both AB 398 and AB 617. With strong support by Governor Brown and in a bipartisan vote, these bills have been adopted, and Cap and Trade is protected until 2030. For more information on this action along with information on our Climate Change Action Policy, the policy positions that back these decisions and some history of the LWVC activity in this area, [check our website](#). We are pleased this legislation has been successful and look forward to remaining involved in these important issues. [Read more.](#)

#### **Immigration**

The California Values Act, SB 54, also has strong support from LWVC based on adopted League Positions. [Background information is available here](#); additional activity is reflected in this article in the *San José Mercury News* ([Mercury News article](#)) and in our [Action Alert](#) (compare below).

#### **Action Alerts**

As we head in to the final weeks of the legislative year, Action Alerts will be coming more frequently. These alerts are personalized for you and will send a note to your legislator. How should you respond?

- Everyone should respond to the alert; it takes only a minute or two to send a note to your legislator.
- Once you have responded, you are encouraged to send the alert to your friends, family, neighbors – anyone you think might also add their name in support of our position.
- Finally, if you have the time, it is always good to have a note or call to your legislator in the name of your local League. Your board should decide who is responsible for this.

*Joanne Leavitt, Second Vice President for Advocacy and Program • [jleavitt@lwvc.org](mailto:jleavitt@lwvc.org)*

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<sup>1</sup> This is the first Modesto City Schools election by districts.

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

**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.**