



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

September 2010

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 59 NO. 19

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, September 8

6:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

League Office

720 13th St, Modesto

Tuesday, September 21

Oakdale Forums

Mayoral - 6:30 p.m.

City Council - 7:30 p.m.

277 N. Second Ave.

Wednesday, September 22

6:00 p.m.

Riverbank City Council Forum

Riverbank Community Center

3600 Santa Fe Ave.

Tuesday September 28

12:00 noon

Lunch and Learn

Appetiz Restaurant

Tuesday, October 5

7 p.m.

Turlock City Council Forum

156 S. Broadway

Thursday, October 14th

6:30 p.m.

Pros & Cons of

Ballot Propositions

MJC E Campus

Forum 110

Forum Dates to be Announced

Sept. 29 or October 8

Superior Court Judge

Yosemite Community College

District

**Check Website for further
information and updates on
forums**

www.lwvstanislaus.org

FINANCE DRIVE TO LAUNCH

Our annual Finance Drive will begin on September 8 with letters sent to members, community supporters and local government officials in Stanislaus County. Most of our dues money goes to the state and national League. We rely heavily on money raised during the annual Finance Drive to fund our local programs and activities. There are many important local elections and issues to be determined this year, and the services provided by the League are more important than ever. All of us are stretching our budgets this year. Donations in any amount comfortable for you are appreciated and vitally important for the continued success of our League. Together we can make a difference.

Mary Giventer, Finance Drive Director

California Budget Challenge

Do you think you can do a better job than the Governor and State Legislature in designing a budget for the state of California? Don't we all? Well, here is your chance to find out. AAUW and the League of Women Voters are co-sponsoring the California Budget Challenge on Wednesday, October 27 at 7 p.m. in Demargasso-Bava Hall at California State University Stanislaus.

The budget challenge is being presented by Next 10, an independent, non-partisan organization that educates, engages and empowers Californians to improve our state's future. The California Budget Challenge is an interactive program which provides an examination of the state's most pressing budget policy choices and challenges the audience to set priorities for the next five years. Each person creates a budget that reflects his or her values and vision for California's future.

Please join us for this informative, fun and eye-opening challenge.

**LWV of STANISLAUS COUNTY
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Lunch and Learn

Mildred Kinser

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Lunch and Learn

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Nominating

Ellen Meyer

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Diane Bartlett

League Office

720 13th Street, Modesto

209-524-1698

www.lwvstanislaus.org

President's Message

Dear Members

August 26th, Woman's Equality Day, marked the 90th anniversary of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote. The nonpartisan League of Women Voters was founded in that same year. "Women's Equality Day is a celebration of such a basic part of our democratic process—the right to vote—and the opportunities to channel that power into real, lasting change, starting at the grassroots level," writes LWVUS President Elizabeth McNamara. As a League member, you have the opportunity to make a difference by helping voters become informed on the issues and the candidates.

Most people know our League for its work in conducting fair and impartial candidate forums. Now that we serve all of Stanislaus County, this involves more time and effort from our Voter Service Directors. Beginning this month, we will again be holding candidate forums in cities outside of Modesto and once again we will need your help. We are fortunate to have an excellent pair of Voter Service Directors, Ellen Dunbar and Marsha Waggoner; a cadre of trained and experienced League moderators; and cooperative City Clerks who help with facility arrangements and public access cable coverage. What we need is **your help**. If you can help at a forum, please contact voterservice@lwcstanislaus.org. The calendar of forums is listed on p. 4.

The League is also known for providing *Pros and Cons* of the ballot measures. These used to be provided in newspaper format but now will be available online at <http://www.cavotes.org> around September 3rd. Some people prefer to attend an oral pros and cons presentation so that they can ask questions. We will be holding a Pros and Cons discussion of the ballot measures at MJC on October 14th as part of the MJC community engagement project. Ellen Dunbar is putting together a team of League members willing to discuss the propositions in front of a large audience of students and interested voters.

Not as many people know our League for our advocacy work. Since we need to keep this completely separate from our voter education work, it is more difficult to get our message out. As I write this we will have just concluded a members' review of two local ballot issues in Modesto (see p. 4). We will also have discussed ways we can help **defeat Prop 27** which would eliminate the Citizens Redistricting Commission (see p. 3). If you can think of ways to help us advocate for our positions, please contact state_action@lwvstanislaus.org.

Your work this election season carries on the spirit of the incredible group of women who founded the League of Women Voters ninety years ago when they finally got the right to vote. Thank you.

Susan Novak, President

State and National

California's first Redistricting implementation is a major focus of the state League this year. The Voters FIRST Act authorized the creation of California's first 14 member Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw the lines for district boundaries for the state Assembly, Senate and Board of Equalization.

The current list of best qualified candidates for the commission includes Bev Finley from Stanislaus County. The list of applicants has been narrowed from 30,000 to 120. The final selection of 14 commissioners will be made by December 31, 2010. The commission will create the new district boundaries based on the 2010 census by September 15, 2011.

LWVC strongly opposes Proposition 27, which would eliminate the Citizen's Redistricting Committee, returning their responsibilities to the Legislature.

While the League wholeheartedly supports the redistricting reform process, we also oppose Proposition 20. Proposition 20 would add redistricting California's Congressional districts to the duties of the Citizens Redistricting Commission. This proposition would significantly add to the workload of the commission at this time. While we believe the Citizen's Redistricting Committee should draw the Congressional lines in the future, we believe the new process should be fully implemented first.

Nationally, the Disclose Act failed to get the 60 votes needed to avoid a filibuster, and climate change legislation also has stalled, but the League will continue to pressure the Senate to address these important issues after the recess.

During recess and the upcoming campaign and election season, do your best to discuss these issues with candidates and with the public. Special interest money spent on campaigns should be disclosed, and elected representatives must address climate change.

Ann Krabach, State and National Director

Lunch and Learn

Our speaker for September 28 is Modesto City Council member, Joe Muratore who represents District 4 in the La Loma and Airport neighborhoods. He was recently appointed by the Mayor to chair the Council committee on selecting the new City Council person.

Please join us and stay current on City of Modesto issues.

Positions on November Ballot Measures

The LWVC has taken stands on seven of the ten measures on the November ballot, is neutral on two, and has no position on one.

- **Oppose** Proposition 20, Redistricting of Congressional Districts
- **Oppose** Proposition 23, Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards
- **Support** Proposition 24, Tax Fairness Act
- **Support** Proposition 25, Simple Majority Vote for Budget
- **Oppose** Proposition 26, Polluter Protection Act
- **Strongly oppose** Proposition 27, Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting
- **Neutral** on Proposition 21, \$18 Vehicle License Fee for State Parks and Wildlife Programs
- **Neutral** on Proposition 22, State Government Prohibited from Taking Local Funds
- **No applicable League position** on Proposition 19, Legalize and Regulate Marijuana

The [League Recommends PDF flyer](#), and the [LWVC Web site](#) have more information about our positions.

From LWVC Leaders UPDATE, August 2010

DIVERSITY POLICY:

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County in both its values and practices affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

Voter Service

Fall Elections Forums Planning

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County will be conducting election forums with candidates in three city races. Working with city staff, three forums are scheduled. Amy Wolfe will moderate a forum on Sept 21 in Oakdale for the Mayoral race and the City Council race. On September 22 Diane Bartlett will moderate the forum of City Council candidates in Riverbank. October 5 Julie Saugstad will conduct a forum in Turlock for the City Council race there.

Other forums are tentatively planned to be held at MJC for the Yosemite Community College District, State Senate District 12 and Assembly District 26.

Pros and Cons of Ballot Propositions Presented

The LWVSC with Modesto Junior College will present the Pros and Cons of the propositions on the ballot on October 14 in Forum 110, East Campus.

League to Assist Modesto City Council Committee

The League will moderate public forums on October 14th and October 21st for applicants seeking appointment to fill the District 5 seat held by outgoing councilwoman Kristen Olsen. Susan Novak will moderate and Marie Bairey will be the question sorter. Tentative plans are to hold the forums at Sylvan School. Final dates, place and time will be available on our website in October. The final filing date for applicants is September 23rd.

Help Needed

If you are able to assist with any of these events please contact me at voterservice@lwvstanislaus.org.

Ellen Dunbar, Voter Service Director

Advocacy Meeting Update

An advocacy meeting was held in the League office on August 19th for members to review local ballot propositions. Led by Local Action Director, Marie Bairey, there was a discussion of the three measures that will be on the ballot for Modesto City voters:

Measure J, a charter amendment to eliminate run-off elections for Council districts and to continue the run-off election for Mayor but hold it in February instead of December.

Measure K, a charter amendment that would clarify the language pertaining to run-off elections so that only valid votes for the office are the votes that count.

Measure L, an advisory vote to the City Council to provide sewer service to the unincorporated area known as the "Parklawn Neighborhood."

The consensus of the group was to recommend either a "support" or "neutral" position on Measures J and K pending further research on LWVC positions. It is hoped that a final recommendation can go to the Board at the September 8 meeting. The group decided to support Measure L with a stipulation that funding be secured before the City Council should take action.

Ann Krabach discussed LWVC opposition to PROP 27 and Prop 20. She suggested League members write letters to the editor of their local newspaper explaining why they are personally against PROP 27. These should not reference League membership because "only the President speaks for League."

Susan Novak, President



Citizenship in a democracy is not a spectator sport.

JFK, 1961

Board Highlights

August 11, 2010

- By-Laws Committee will meet to consider revising and simplifying our by-laws and will take into consideration models from local, State and National LWV to simplify our by-laws
- Approved renewing our membership in Stanislaus County Commission on Women
- Voter Service-Forums will be held between September 12th and October 10th. Exact dates and locations TBA-Volunteers needed!
- Plans are moving forward with AAUW for the co-sponsorship of 'Next Ten' the interactive program educating the public on the California Budget process



Laurie Carley, Secretary

Sign up for E-mail Voter!

In an effort to reduce expenses, which is especially important in these times of tight budgets and scarce dollars, LWVSC is offering our *Voter* to members via e-mail starting with the June/July issue. The *Voter* is already available on our website. This change will save postage and printing costs, and it will take advantage of available technology. One great example: you can go directly from the e-mail version to the website of any link you click on.

To date, 60 LWVSC households have agreed to receive the *Voter* by e-mail; many were eager to "save a tree or two". It is not too late for members and donors to make the change. If you want to receive your *Voter* via e-mail, contact Marie Bairey (localaction@lwvstanislaus.org), or call her at 523-0663 to get on the e-list

I WANT TO ADD MY VOICE TO YOURS BY JOINING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY!

Student Membership \$15 _____

Individual Membership \$60 _____

Household Membership \$90 _____

Please contact me with more information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone (for directory): _____

Email: _____

Please deliver my *Voter* by: E-mail ___ US
mail ___

MAIL TO

LWVSC

P.O. Box E

Modesto, CA 95352.

Membership

Thank you to everyone that has renewed promptly within the last month. For those of you that still haven't, please consider this a gentle reminder that dues will be in arrears by Sept. 30th and your membership status will be changed to inactive if your dues are not received by that date. In addition, you will miss out on having your name published in our directory if your dues are paid after this date.

Please don't delay.

Your Membership Committee

Welcome Our Newest Member

Cheryl Martin

We look forward to seeing you at our events

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.

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

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
(Check Website for Updates)**

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| Wednesday, September 8 | 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting
League Office, 720 13th Street, Modesto |
| Tuesday, September 21 | 6:30 p.m. Oakdale Forums : Mayoral and City Council
277 N. Second St., Oakdale |
| Wednesday, September 22 | 6:00 p.m. Riverbank City Council Forum
Riverbank Community Center, 3600 Santa Fe Ave. |
| Tuesday, September 28 | 12 Noon Lunch and Learn, Appetez Restaurant
Roseburg Square, Modesto \$11. For special needs Call a day ahead
Speaker: Joe Muratore, City Council member, District 4 |
| Tuesday, October 5 | 7:00 p.m. Turlock City Council Forum, 156 S. Broadway |
| Thursday, October 14 | 6:30 p.m. Pros & Cons of Ballot Propositions, MJC E. Campus, Forum 110 |
| Dates to Be Announced
(September 29 or October 8 | Time TBA Forums: Superior Court Judge and YCCD
MJC E. Campus, Forum 110 |