



The Sacramento Voter

February 2017



Co-President's Message

By the time you receive this February *Voter* we will have a new U.S. President and we are proud to say the League of Women Voters Sacramento County marched in the January 21st "Women's March on Washington" in Sacramento. We marched from Southside Park to the west steps of the Capitol for a rally to be visible in our community supporting women's rights, healthcare for all, immigrant rights, voting rights, human rights and more.

Good discussions were held at the unit program planning meetings in January and you will have an opportunity at February units to continue the discussion now focusing on local Sacramento County issues. Sheila Kamahi, our Unit Coordinator, has provided a list of our local issues for emphasis that were adopted at the last annual meeting. Tentative date for our annual meeting is May 25th where we will adopt our 2017-18 issues for emphasis, elect a new Board of directors and adopt a budget.

Did you read that part? Elect a new Board? Would you like to serve on the LWVSC Board? Please consider it. Of course, you need to know more, so don't hesitate to contact Nominating Committee Coordinator Louise Einspahr.

Louise.einspahr@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE: March 30th. Our next general meeting will be held in March and we will celebrate Women's History Month by remembering some difficult periods of women's history. We are screening the 27 minute version of the documentary, *Motherhood by Choice*, followed by a panel discussion. Stay tuned for more details on this meeting where we will be joined by other Sacramento women's organizations and hopefully attended by women born after 1973, Roe v Wade. By Paula and Nancy

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EVENTS

Tuesday, January 31, 2017. 6:00 p.m. Homelessness & Housing, City Council & Board of Supervisors.

Check the website www.srceh.org OR 916-993-7708 for more information.

Unit Meetings, Monday-Tuesday, February 13-14, 2017, pg. 3

Thursday, March 30, 2017. General Meeting. Women's History Month. details later.

2016-2017

Board of Directors

**League of Women Voters
of Sacramento County**
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Voter editor– Alice Ginosar

Voter publisher– Eileen Heaser



www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento

New Voting Laws in California, January 2017

Mail ballots: Senate Bill 450, mail ballots can be returned at any county elections office in the state not just in the county that issued the ballot.

Voter registration: Assembly [AB] Bill 1436, (2012) allows people to register to vote on Election Day at county elections headquarters beginning two weeks before Election Day.

Felons voting: AB 2466, low level felons have a right to vote, counties will decide how to implement.

Ballot sharing: AB1491, you can snap a picture of your filled-out ballot and post it wherever you like. By Jeremy B. White, *The Sacramento Bee*, 12/30/2016, 2B. Submitted by E. Heaser



Google images 1/11/17

Welcome New Members

Jennifer Long, Vickie Singleton, Alexal Mathisen

February 2017 Unit Meetings

Unit meetings continue the Program Planning discussion for 2017-2018 with an emphasis on local programs. Which issues shall we focus on and where can League do the greatest good for our community? Unit members will discuss the issues of concern in our cities and county. "The Issues for Emphasis" adopted at the 2016 Annual Meeting were: Sacramento Independent Redistricting Commission, Transparency Ordinance and Ethics Commission, Increase Civic Engagement/Voter Service Outreach in Communities with Low Voter Turnout, Homelessness, and Climate Change. S. Kamhi

[From this link you can read about the key issues and local California Leagues' issues](#)

Local issues link [LWVSC Local Issues of Emphasis 2016-2017](#)

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Mid-City	Monday February 13, 2017, 6:15 p.m.	Eileen Heaser 916- 456-2154	449 San Miguel Way. Sacramento 95819
Suburban	Tuesday February 14, 2017, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner-944-1042 Helen Shryock 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday February 14, 2017, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 916-422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento, CA 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday February 14, 2017, 1:00 p.m.	Bill & Elaine Lee 688-5360	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

Contact Sheila Kamhi, Unit Coordinator, (916)-880-2213 grandmakamhi@gmail.com if you are unable to attend the Unit meetings, but would like to receive the Unit discussion materials.





Time and tide Scientists pit nature against nature to protect New Yorkers from storms. by Jane Beitler.
<https://earthdata.nasa.gov/user-resources/sensing-our-planet/time-and-tide> Retrieved 1/4/2017

NASA'S Sea Levels and Warming Climate

In the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) 2016 booklet *[Sensing Our Planet](#)* scientists Stefen Talke and Philip Orton have written about rising tides and warming climates. Talke has researched records of tides, sea levels, and storms along the east coast of the United States dating back to the 1800's.

Talke and Orton had a chance meeting in 2012 at a conference. Two month's later, a chance storm, Hurricane Sandy, gave Orton real current data, and he was able to move from talking about it to seeing how scientists could help.

Talke sifted through old boxes of records dating back to a massive storm in 1821. The storm surged 13 feet into Battery Park, a record not broken until Sandy 191 years later. However the 1821 storm was small and fast-moving and water levels surged in an hour and then left quickly. In contrast, Sandy was the largest storm ever measured, nearly 1,000 miles wide and hovering three days over the coast before lashing cities and towns inland with wind and rain. A storm surge can be more devastating than a hurricane, as it can bring floods and waves that can plow structures with a strength of 1,700 pounds per cubic yard. "Sandy fit the mold of future storms that worry scientists." As earth warms, climate models forecast more intense storms due to warmer ocean waters. This research by Talke and Orton can help communities along earth's coasts better prepare for rising tides and damage from future storms. By Jane Beitler (link above) Summary by Alice Ginosar

Sacramento Homelessness and Affordable Housing

In recent statements, including his swearing in speech and at the recent opening of the new Friendship Park at Loaves and Fishes, Mayor D. Steinberg has set reducing homelessness in Sacramento as a top priority. An initiative called “No Place Like Home” includes a proposed bond measure that would provide funding needed for the construction of permanent homeless shelters and affordable housing. Similar bond measures have passed in other communities, including Seattle, WA and Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. These bonds would be paid off using revenue from Proposition 63 the 2004 Mental Health Services Act. A clear nexus between mental health and homelessness has been established.

At the Sacramento Housing Alliance, Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Committee we have discussed a campaign to convince the City and County of Sacramento to use the several million dollars in redevelopment “boomerang” funds for their Housing Trust Funds that is used to subsidize affordable housing. This money was sequestered when State legislation to phase out redevelopment agencies was upheld by the California Supreme Court in 2012. This money will be returned to the City and County. However there are some local elected officials who prefer using these funds to support economic development and potential job creation.

A joint public meeting of the City Council and County Board of Supervisors is scheduled for January 31 to address these critical issues. By Rick Bettis

ALEC’s Little Brother

There is a new entity coming to cities and towns all around the country. It is called the American City County Exchange (ACCE), and it is directly related to the nefarious American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). Its mission is to duplicate ALEC’s practices at the state and federal levels and bring them to our cities, counties, and school boards.

ACCE will furnish “cookie cutter” model bills and ordinances by and for the benefit of corporate sponsors that want to spread their ideas of limited government, free markets, and federalism. They want to nip local grass roots efforts to enact ordinances, laws, and regulations that are stricter/more lenient than state or federal statutes in areas such as the environment, community development, finance, criminal justice, and public works. ACCE will be pushing legislation to privatize traditionally municipal services, repeal personal property taxes, preempt local minimum wage laws and more. They may also go after school curricula that go against their corporate philosophy and they will favor charter schools.

ALEC and ACCE “work to weaken ... government capacity to deliver services, regulate corporations, and ... attract and retain talented experienced public employees to work for the people.” This is according to Steve Arnold, mayor of Fitchburg, WI. (See his *ALEC’s Little Brother, ACCE, has big plan for 2017*). Reprinted in *Truthout*, 12/25/16.

It’s time for us to dig out our LWV badges and make our watchful presence known at all city, county, and school meetings. Submitted by Elaine Lee

Sacramento County Climate Action Plan (CAP)

The Stakeholder Group charged with preparation of the Sacramento County Climate Action Plan. CAP will develop strategies that will enable the county to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and help the community prepare for and adapt to the effects of climate change. It is scheduled for completion in the winter of 2017/2018.

Consultants have completed a Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the year 2015 and “Business As Usual” forecasts for the County. This inventory, taken from California Air Resources Board data, indicates that progress is being made under current state law as a result of the programs, regulations and technology improvements.

Countywide GHG emissions have increased by only 1.4% between 2005 and 2015 as compared to an estimated increase of 15% between 1990 and 2005. The most progress has been made in on-road vehicle emission with a drop of 19%. Emissions increased by 16% from residential energy and 15% from commercial and industrial. It should be recognized that the California Cap and Trade program was not started until 2012.

“Business as Usual” estimates indicate a potential emissions increase of over 50% by 2050. However the programs and regulations already in place will mitigate much of this increase. More aggressive actions will be needed to meet the ultimate goal of reducing emission to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Activities within county authority include land use planning, building energy standards, and the facilitation of clean renewable energy projects.

Public workshops on the CAP are scheduled for February 6, 2017 at the Arden-Dimick Library and February 9, 2017 Walnut Grove Community Center. By Rick Bettis

Volunteer Opportunity

Sacramento County Academic Decathlon

On **Saturday, February 4, 2017**, twenty-five schools and over 380 high school students will come together at Inderkum High School for the 37th annual Sacramento County Academic Decathlon competition. This year’s theme is: WORLD WAR II.

This premier academic competition for high school students will not be possible without the involvement of many community members to serve as: Homeroom Proctors, Interview Judges and Speech Judges.

To complete an online Volunteer RSVP go to the Decathlon Volunteers Web page, select the “Register to Volunteer” link <http://www.scoe.net/ad/volunteers/>

Contact: Craig Irish, Academic Decathlon Coordinator, Sacramento County Office of Education
(916) 228-2660 Work (916) 803-5682 Mobile (916) 228-2665 Fax <http://www.scoe.net/ad/>

I have volunteered as an interview judge. Time commitment was from 7:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. for the interview judges other judges times differ. E. Heaser

Book Reviews & Reports

Frackopoly: The battle for the future of energy and the environment, Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director of Food & Water Watch, an environmental watchdog organization. In this book she describes how fracking destroys the land and poisons the water all in the name of profits and the need to achieve energy independence vital to American national security. [Kirkus Reviews](#), 5/15/2016, 84, 10. Retrieved 1/4/17. Hauter discusses the powerful interest groups that support fracking (including environmental groups). She debunks fracking's purported economic benefits these groups defend. [Goodreads](#) Retrieved 1/11/17 E. Heaser

Stamped from the beginning: The definitive history of racist ideas in America, 1965-1972, by Ibram X. Kendi, Assistant Professor at SUNY-Albany and a recent National Book Award winner. The main premise is: "Racists ideas were created and popularized in an effort to defend deeply entrenched discriminatory policies and to rationalize the nation's racial inequities in everything from wealth to health." [Books on Google Play](#), Retrieved 1/4/2017. Rather than the policies being formulated after those in authority needed a way to keep minorities down, discriminatory policies were devised first. Kendi defines three kinds of people: segregationists, i.e., racists; antiracists who reject the idea that Black people are inferior, and assimilationists—people who hold racists and antiracists ideas, Kendi gave Obama and Lincoln as examples of the latter category. NEA Higher Education, "Q & A". *Advocate* 1/2017, 35, 1, pg. 12. Submitted by E. Heaser

Reports

[California Municipal Democracy Index 2016 -Key Findings-](#)

Nicolas Heidorn, California Common Cause, Legislative/Policy Counsel and LWVSC member, compiled this report. It is based on his study of the 482 cities in California. Sections include **Government Structure:** e.g., 25% of cities are charter cities and 97% use the city-manager form of government. **Voting System:** Most cities use the plurality method, that is the candidate who has the most votes wins even if less than a majority wins. **Campaign Finance:** 78% of cities have no campaign contributions limit. Nine cities have ethics commissions (Sacramento's ethics commission is pending). [Link to the full report.](#) By E. Heaser



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