



# The Sacramento Voter

## October 2016



### Co-Presidents' Update

Even for a typically busy election year, this year seems to be an exception. We've experienced an unusually large number of calls from community groups requesting our assistance in understanding the many state and local ballot measures on which voters are expected to make an informed decision. To meet this growing need, our Voter Services Director, Louise Einsphar, arranged for Trisha Uhrhammer and Suzanne Phinney to conduct a Speakers' Bureau Training at the McClatchy Library September 17 to ensure a cadre of speakers who can respond to all of the requests for this popular LWV service. Thanks to our trainers and our member speakers.

On October 1 the League is partnering with the AAUW to host and present a Pros & Cons discussion at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library located at 7335 Gloria Drive from 3-5:00 p.m.

And – as host for the California State League Convention, to be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel on June 1-4, 2017, we are in the strategic planning phase which includes fundraising, a silent auction, and staffing the convention with volunteers. As the planning evolves, our membership will be asked to participate as volunteers, silent auction donors, or other duties as needed. As a component to this convention, our local league will host a dinner on Friday, June 2, 2017, at the beautiful Delta King on the Sacramento River, where we will enjoy a lovely evening meal and a delightful speaker. Stay tuned as details unfold.

Don't miss the very popular LWVC [Recommendations](#) ... the State LWV has taken a position on 11 of the 17 ballot measures. This is why we do studies. Please copy and distribute to voters wherever you find them...your friends, family and beyond! Voters want to know what the LWV thinks and will appreciate that input.

We especially want to thank you for being a League member and contributing to our democracy by encouraging civic participation.

*Nancy and Paula*

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### EVENTS

Saturday, October 1, 2016. 3:00 -5:00 p.m. Pros & Cons discussion, Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

Monday, October 3, 2016. TBA. Pros & Cons discussion, Folsom Democratic Club (volunteers needed)

Wednesday, October 5, 2016. 5:00 p.m. Annual Suffragists Reception, T. Uhrhammer, 875 52nd St. 916-455-8393 pg. 5

Unit Meetings, Monday-Tuesday, October 10-11, 2016, pg. 3

Saturday, October 15, 2016. TBA, Metro Cable Candidates Forum, Sacramento County Board Chambers, 700 H Street. (volunteers needed)

Sunday, October 23, 2016. 5:00 p.m. social, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. program. Physicians for Social Responsibility & United Nations Annual Dinner, DoubleTree 2001 Point West Way. Dr. Ira Helfand will speak about nuclear weapons.

Thursday, November 10, 2016, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Affordable Housing Summit, Red Lion Inn, 500 Leisure Lane, pg. 5

2016-2017

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**Voter Services**

The Voter Services Committee is very busy. The three main jobs are: focusing on voter registration, pros and cons, and candidate forums.

**Pros & Cons:**

A very successful pro/con training was held on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Trainers Carol Moon Goldberg and Trisha Uhrhammer, demonstrated with great skill how to present the seventeen state ballot measures. Participants gained a greater understanding of the work ahead, and a recognition that the training was only the beginning. We have more individual work to do. We are doing an important job for the League and our community. There are 15 invitations to date. Rick Bettis has completed some presentations. The first presentation for new trainees is on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> -the AAUW forum, co-sponsored by the LWVSC. Read about it elsewhere in this issue of *The Voter*. Committee members who attended the training are: Bernadette Lynch, Lynette Shumway, Claudia Bonsignore, Catherine Troka, Mignon Marks, Kristine Rekdahl, Marie Nitz, Eileen Heaser, and Louise. Other volunteer members unable to attend are: Rick Bettis, Nancy Compton, Roseanne Chamberlain, Suzanne Phinney, Barbera Bass, and Hazel Bergholdt. Say thanks to these people when you see them.

**Voter Registration:**

These are the locations we have recently staffed or will staff in the near future: St. Robert Church, three masses, Farmers Market between 8<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets (2days), River Bend Medical Association (2 days) and Central Library downtown, a special event called, Let's Talk About It (covering ballot measures) and a mock election/ registration with Carol Moon Goldberg. More are in the pipeline. I need your help on these registration days. I have packets for training and I will always be on hand with newcomers to train those who haven't registered voters. Please email or call if you would like to assist. [Louise.Einspahr@gmail.com](mailto:Louise.Einspahr@gmail.com) (916-395-2145). Committee members: Hazel Bergholdt, Bernadette Lynch, Kristine Rekdahl, Barbera Bass, Inger Lindholm, Nancy McCabe, Kae Lewis, Eileen Heaser, Nancy Compton, Mahnaz Khazari, and Claudia Bonsignore.

**Candidate Forums:**

The Committee is working with Metro Cable to present four or five candidate forums on Saturday, October 15 (date may change). I will need timers, moderators, and greeters, so please keep this date open if you can help with any of these duties. A bonus: there are always good things to eat for those who work and I have purchased LWV lapel pins for all our volunteers. Bribery works on me!

Louise Einspahr

**Welcome New & Returning Members**

Rita Cepeda, Chris Chafee, Anna Hayes, Nicolas Heidorn,  
Karen Humphrey, Marina Perez, Theresa Riviera, Brandon Rose

## September Unit Meetings

Discussion of the propositions will be continued at the October Unit meetings. The Pro-Con League teams will attend the Units to make presentations. Sheila Kamhi, Unit Coordinator, 916-880-2213 [grandmakamhi@gmail.com](mailto:grandmakamhi@gmail.com)

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Mid-City	Monday October 10, 6:15 p.m.	Eileen Heaser - 456-2154	449 San Miguel Way. Sacramento 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday October 11, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner- 944-1042 Helen Shryock- 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday October 11, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 916-422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento, CA 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday October 11, 1:00 p.m.	Bill & Elaine Lee 688-5360	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

### Reading Suggestions (Contact Sheila for copies)

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla “CORRECTION: Proposition Numbers for November Ballot Measures [BIIOTPEDIA](#) California 2016 ballot Measures  
[EasyVoter@lwvc.org](mailto:EasyVoter@lwvc.org). *Easy Voter Guide* for November 8, 2016 (should be available by 9/30) LWV Office 9th & K St.  
[Pros & Cons](#) LWVC of California Education fund. *PROS & CONS*. General Election—November 8, 2016  
[LWVC Ballot Measure Recommendations](#)  
[Voter’s Edge California](#) for 11/8/16, Who contributes to each proposition?

Definitions in *Guide to California Government*, 15th ed.: Initiative: A law proposed by a group of citizens by means of a petition containing the signatures of the required number of voters. Initiatives can propose a new law (statutory initiative) or amend the state Constitution. An initiative to change the Constitution requires the signatures of registered voters equal to 8% of the votes cast for all candidates for governor in the last election. A statutory initiative requires the signatures of the number of registered voters equal to at least 5% of those cast in the last election. The California State Legislature frequently uses its authority to put measures on the ballot in the form of legislative referendum, bond measures and constitutional amendments. Initiatives are limited to one subject. By. S. Kamhi

[LWVC Recommendations](#): **YES on:** 51 School bonds, 54 Legs. transparency, 55 Child educ. and health care, 57 Public safety & rehab., 58 Multilingual educ, 62 Death penalty abolition, 63 Safety for all, 67 Protect plastic bag ban,  
**NO on:** 59 Constitutional amend. advisory measure, 66 Shorten death penalty appeals, 65 Confusion about the plastic bag ban.

**Neutral on:** 56 Cigarette tax.

**No position on:** 52 Fees on hospitals, Medi-Cal matching funds, 53 Bonds, 60 Adult films, 61 Prescription drug purchases, 64 Marijuana legalization.

**Measure B:** 1/2 cent sales tax for transportation—City and County of Sacramento. See pg. 6

**Measure M:** Independent Redistricting Commission, City of Sacramento. (LWVSC supports) See pg. 6

Cont. on pg.4

Cont. from pg. 3

The definitions below indicate the origin or type of statute you are voting for. Of the 17 propositions on the ballot, only three were referred by the State Legislature, which requires a 2/3 vote of both houses. They are 58, a legislative Initiative Statute changing the law regarding teaching languages other than English in public schools; 59 a legislative advisory question to take do away with the Supreme Court decision on Citizens United and the Referendum 67 proposing to overturn a law banning plastic bags for store customers.. This indication in the title of the measure would help identify the purpose of the ballot I have often wondered what these words indicated about the measure.

**BONDS:** sold by the state to raise money by selling bonds to investors to be paid by the state with interest.

**GENERAL FUND SUPPORTED BONDS:** to be paid off by the State's General Fund supported by tax revenues.

**GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS:** approved by voters is a municipal bond secured by state or local government pledges backed by the full faith and credit of the municipality.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:** A majority "yes" vote will change the State Constitution. A majority "no" vote no change in the Constitution. Amendments that are designated as Statutes in the title of the measure's title mean that they would create new state law.

**REFERENDUM:** puts a law passed by the Legislature, to a vote of the populace. A no vote would overturn the law. In all cases, a majority vote takes effect the following day.

Proposition 62 & 66 are in conflict, if both pass the one with the higher number of voters prevails.

Proposition 59 is advisory only it has no legal effect.

By S. Kamhi

### **Campaigns, Forecasting, Debates, Ethics**

#### **Campaigning While Female: The Case of the Clinton Campaign: Tuesday, October 11, 2016**

Talk given by gender and politics expert, Dr. Meredith Conroy of CSUSB. Sacramento State University Union, Forest Suite, 1:30-2:30 PM And...Encore presentation: 6:00 PM at Arden-Dimick Public Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento

#### **Election Result Forecasting with the Sacramento State Experts: Thursday, October 20, 2016**

The Project for an Informed Electorate, the Institute for Social Research, and the Hornets Policy and Politics Alumni will host a non-partisan elections predictions panel focused on forecasting the 2016 General Election. Featuring ISR Director David Barker, Matt Lesenyie of UC Davis, and the latest CalSpeaks Poll data! Lunch provided! 914 Capitol Mall, Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building, California State Library meeting room 500. 12:00-1:00 PM.

#### **Third Presidential Debate Viewing: Wednesday, October 19, 2016**

The last debate before the election! Watch live with us as the race for the White House winds up! Come early for pizza and to fill out our survey. Stay for the discussion. Sacramento State, Del Norte Hall 1004, 5:30-8:00 PM

#### **Exclusive CalSpeaks Election Poll Results Presentation, Wednesday, October 26, 2016**

What do Californians think about the election? How will they vote? Who believes what? Sacramento State's own original statewide poll results presented by CalSpeaks Director David Barker and CalSpeaks Political Director Kim Nalder, Sacramento State University Union, Hinde Auditorium, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

#### **Crooked, Bought, or Proper? Ethics in Campaign 2016: Tuesday, November 15, 2016**

How did money, ethics, and politics come together this election cycle? Join us for a discussion with Philip Ung from the Fair Political Practices Commission and Political Scientist and money in politics expert Stacy Gordon Fisher to recap this extraordinary election cycle. Sacramento State University Union, Delta Suite, 1:30-2:30 PM By. Professor Kim Nalder, CSUS

### Sacramento Housing Alliance’s Regional Housing Summit

Join community development professionals from across the region at the Sacramento Regional Affordable Housing Summit to bolster advocacy and promote efforts working toward improving access to affordable housing in the region. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to learn from and network with housing experts and elected officials from around the Sacramento region.

Session Themes

- Financing Tools and Resources for Affordable Homes
- Ending Homelessness, Stabilizing Lives
- Housing Preservation and Sustainability



November 10, 2016, Thursday from 9 AM - 4 PM  
 Red Lion Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento  
 To register: <https://sachousingalliance.webconnex.com/SRAHS16>

### Annual Suffragists Reception

Wednesday, October 5, 2016. 5:00 p.m. Trish Uhrhammer, 875 52nd St. Sacramento, 916-455-8393

**Members:**

- Suzi Bakker
- Rick Bettis
- Claudia Bonsignore
- Cynthia Bridges
- Roseanna Chamberlain
- Judith Cherney
- Donna Chipps
- Kathy Chovan
- Patrick Cody & Annette Emery
- Nancy Compton
- Linda Dawson
- Louise Einspahr
- Nancy Findeisen
- Alice Ginosar
- Carol Moon Goldberg
- Cary Hart
- Barbara Hopkins
- Betty Hoyt

- Maria Nicholas Kelly
- Mignon Marks
- Virginia Moose
- Lori Moreland
- Gina Mulligan
- Jane Owen
- Suzanne Phinney
- Anne Rudin
- Trudy Schafer
- Tom Swift
- Roseanna Torretto
- Catherine Troka
- Trisha Uhrhammer
- Sally Weinland
- Lois Wright
- Fifi Zeff



Celebrating 20 years of offering additional support to the League of Women Voters of Sacramento and their work by educating voters and offering advocacy!

The Annual Suffragists Reception is set for Wednesday, October 5th. Relax and enjoy appetizers and wine in Trisha Uhrhammer’s garden. LWVSC past president and former Sacramento mayor Anne Rudin will be presenting the LWVSC Anne Rudin Scholarship to this year’s recipient. T. Uhrhammer

### In Memory Of

#### Carol Thomas 1940-2016

Carol began her life in Nashville, TN and Monroe, NH before moving to California. She earned a BS degree in nursing from Vanderbilt University and later a public health credential in Sacramento. Carol was active in many organizations including the St. Marks United Methodist Church food closet, Effie Yeaw Nature Center, the LWV, American Red Cross volunteer and she was an outdoor enthusiast engaging in biking, skiing, birding, and camping.

Adapted from *The Sacramento Bee*, 9/11/2016. E. Heaser

### **Voter Registration at W St. Farmer's Market**

If you can help register voters any Sunday morning until October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the W St. market, please contact [paula.lee@comcast.net](mailto:paula.lee@comcast.net) to get on the schedule we have with other participating non-profits.

### **Yes on Measure L Campaign**

If you live in the City of Sacramento you will see Measure L on your ballot, the Independent Redistricting Commission. Our League was instrumental in getting this on the November ballot and we are actively supporting it.

The Measure creates a 13-member independent commission, modeled off of the state commission. The Commission would be selected through an open application process. Eight members (one from each district) would be randomly selected from a sub-pool of the most qualified applicants. Those eight would select the final five. The measure has eligibility criteria to ensure commissioners are not biased, e.g., no elected officials' family members or campaign staff, and requires them to follow prioritized criteria, including keeping neighborhoods and communities of interest intact.

If you want to contribute time or money to the short campaign, request a speaker or put up a lawn sign, please contact [paula.lee@comcast.net](mailto:paula.lee@comcast.net)

### **Measure B on November 8 Ballot**

#### **Half Cent Sales Tax for Transportation**

The importance of transportation facilities to provide for the movement of people and goods is well known. It should also be recognized that in Sacramento County transportation is the source of approximately 40 percent of the climate change causing greenhouse gas emissions. Measure B is a 0.5 cent sales tax increase in Sacramento County for 30 years for partial funding transportation related maintenance, restoration, upgrades and some new projects in the County. The measure is based on public telephone polling conducted for the Sacramento Transportation Authority, a joint powers authority made up of representatives of Sacramento County, and cities: Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Folsom, Elk Grove, Iselton, and Rancho Cordova. The County Board of Supervisors and all the City Councils have voted to place this measure on the November 8, 2016 ballot.

It has been estimated that this tax will produce \$3.6 billion in 30 years or an average of \$120 million per year. The funds will be allocated: 70 % to roads, bike paths and pedestrian facilities, 27 % to Sacramento Regional Transit for bus and light rail, and 3% to Para-Transit for transportation services for the elderly and disabled. The funds for roads, bikes and pedestrian facilities will be allocated to the County and the Cities based on need.

The emphasis will be on a "fix it first" policy and the measure requires that 75% of the funding for the first five years will be spent on deferred maintenance and restoration projects. Major backlogs of deferred maintenance of transportation facilities exist, estimated by the state to be approximately \$77 billion statewide. Most transportation funding comes from the Federal and State governments. However all projects require a local contribution and ongoing maintenance to be funded primarily by local agencies. Measure B will supplement a similar 0.5 cent transportation sales tax, Measure A, which was first approved in 1988 and renewed in 2008. Due in part to the economic downturn, this tax has proven to be inadequate to meet needs. Some groups are opposed to Measure B because they think a larger percentage of the revenue should go to public transit, while others think that the additional tax is not justified, or that certain projects are unacceptable. By Rick Bettis



## The Innocence Project

On 9/16/16, Barry Scheck, Attorney and Co-founder of the Innocence Project in 1992, spoke at St. Marks United Methodist Church, Moon Lecture Series. The mission of the Project states: Injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere, free the innocent around the world. The “Innocence” era began in 1989 when DNA was used for identification of materials gathered at crimes. To date there are 71 Projects around the world: 53 in the U.S., three in California. 343 wrongful convictions have been overturned by DNA testing and 1,883 exonerations have occurred since 1989 (these include the use of other improved forensic science methods). Hair examination, bite marks, fingerprints, eyewitness identification, bullet matching and fire (arson) identification have come under scrutiny resulting in newer improved methods improving the accuracy. Unscientific methods have been discarded. Eyewitness ID improved once the victim was presented with photos of possible suspects but told that none of them may be, in fact, the suspect.

Thirty-two percent of wrongful convictions are due to false confessions. All interrogations need to be video recorded. Incentivized informants, prosecutorial misconduct, inadequate representation, and race, all can lead to wrongful convictions. All 50 states now use DNA testing, 31 have evidence preservation, 24 record interrogations, 18 have improved ID methods [eyewitness noted above].

Scheck did a brief evaluation of Proposition 62, (eliminate the death penalty), of which he strongly favors and Proposition 66 (fast track capital cases.) Prop. 66 is based on the Texas model which he stated has caused problems for Texas. It limits the ability to present new evidence, the time constraint to certify a record is too short, there are not enough certified attorneys to represent clients, innocent people will be killed and the death penalty does not deter criminals but is retribution. By E. Heaser

## Voter Registration Deadline

Registration deadline to vote in the general election, is on **Monday, October 24, 2016**. Volunteers who take voter forms to post offices PLEASE check the supplies in those offices. If you are unable to supply forms let me know.

Thanks, E. Heaser [eheser@csus.edu](mailto:eheser@csus.edu)

## Book Notices

*Heat advisory: Protecting health on a warming planet*, by Alan H. Lockwood, a physician, discusses the effects of global warming on human health. Infectious diseases (malaria, dengue fever, West Nile, Lyme disease, Zika, all increase. Famine and poor nutrition result from poor soil conditions thus decreasing agricultural output. Lockwood also authored *The silent epidemic: Coal and the hidden threat to health*. The MIT Press. Retrieved 9/14/2016. Adapted by E. Heaser

*White trash: The 400-year untold history of class in America*, by Nancy Isenberg, Professor of American history at Louisiana State University.

Reviewer, Garner refers to the book as “... an alternative interpretation of American history.” “It’s an analysis of the intractable caste system that lingers below the national myths of rugged individualism and cities on the hill.” Most early settlers did not come to escape religious persecution ...” the majority of early colonists were classified as surplus population and expendable rubbish.” Isenberg writes about the phenomenon of Sarah Palin, Honey Boo Boo, Duck Dynasty and Donald J. Trump. She analyses the economy and how the working poor have been systematically harmed by the slave owning planters up to today’s bank and tax policies. Garner states that *White Trash* is a bummer, but a patriotic one as it deals in the truths that matter...the uncomfortable ones.

Reviewed by Dwight Garner, *The New York Times*, “Books of the Times,” June 21, 2016. Retrieved 9/14/2016.

Adapted By E. Heaser



The League of Women Voters of  
Sacramento County

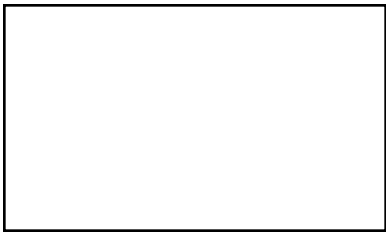
1107 9th Street, Suite 300

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916-447-VOTE

Fax: 916-447-8620

www.lwvsacramento.org



## FIRST CLASS MAIL

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**October 2016**

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### Reports of Interest

[Public Funds Account for Over 70 Percent of Health Care Spending in California](#) *Health Policy Brief*, August 2016, By. A. Sorensen, N.J. Nonzee & G. F. Kominski, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

[15-Surprising findings from a new report on paying for college](#) *Mapping Critical Student Decisions Through College*, Contributor, Elizabeth Harris, *Forbes*, August 31, 2016. Retrieved 9/18/2016, E. Heaser

Among the findings:

- Families overestimate college costs by up to 200%.
- 24% of millennials believe their student loans will be forgiven.
- 26% of two-year students report living paycheck to paycheck.
- 31% of students that dropped out indicated financial reasons as the cause for leaving.
- 74% of students work an average of 25.5 hours per week, yet academic success is compromised when students work more than 20 hours per week.



QuotesIdeas.com

Google image 9/18/16