



# The Voter

LWVSJC  
Board of Directors  
for 2011-2012

**Officers**

- Cate White, President, July-September
- Bea Lingenfelter, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- Kathy Casenave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Mary Lois Thompson, Secretary
- Jane Wagner-Tyack, Treasurer

**Directors**

- Bill Loyko
- Ronda Sanders
- Daphne Shaw
- Jeanne Marie Velickovic
- Patricia Voss

**Voter Editor:**

Jane Wagner-Tyack

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Annual Meeting photos

Photos of the annual meeting were inadvertently shot as video. We hope to compile the clips into a short video and make it available on our website.

## Report on 2011 Annual Meeting

LWVSJC held its 2011 Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 9 at Le Bistro in Stockton. The agenda included adoption of a number of amendments to the bylaws and adoption of the following issues for Education and Advocacy in 2011-2012:

- Healthcare, including single-payer healthcare and federal healthcare reform
- Local impact on state government restructuring and finance
- Environmental education and advocacy

Outgoing president Jane Wagner-Tyack received the 2011 Helen Pearson Award.

Jane called on members to look for ways to build membership and visibility in the community through voter service activities. In Directions to the New Board, members offered the following suggestions regarding voter service:

- Vickie Markarian suggested that the Board look for ways to assist high schools in handing out voter registration paperwork to graduating seniors.
- Colleen Foster suggested that the Board look into reaching younger voters with education about issues they find important.
- It was suggested that giving people brief information on pros and cons on issues of local interest might encourage them to vote. Information could be put on a bookmark, which would be easy to carry and keep.
- It was suggested that the Board consider a voter registration effort in conjunction with the 100-year anniversary of California suffrage this year.

# President's Message

LWVSJC will have rotating presidents this year, and two of our Board members have agreed to serve for a quarter each. We didn't have a candidate for the first quarter, however, so at our June Board meeting, I was elected to serve until October. I am excited about being able to help our League get off to a strong start.



The Board also appointed two additional members, Sabrina Birmingham and Angela Arroyo, to one year terms. We welcome them to the Board along with the other new Board members. We also agreed at the June Board Meeting that our priorities for this year should be membership building, fund raising, and Voter Services, especially since 2012 is an election year.

With several newly elected members, our Board is looking forward to a busy and productive new year. We are working at finalizing our calendar, and will be using many of the ideas proposed at the January Program Meeting to organize various programs throughout the year. We expect to have the calendar ready by our kickoff meeting in September. Also remember to check the calendar on our web site for upcoming events.

Our first event will be the kickoff meeting, planned for Saturday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. We will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Women's Suffrage in the state of California. Lyn Hawley, professor of History, Specializing in Women in History, from San Joaquin Delta College has agreed to be our speaker. We hope to see you at what promises to be a fun and informative event! More information will be forthcoming as our plans develop, so stay tuned.

Cate White, President

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# Convention Report

The LWVC 2011 Convention, "Grow the Future," was held May 13-15 in Ventura. Delegates adopted the following recommended Issues for Education and Advocacy for 2011-2013:

- Redistricting Implementation
- State and Local Finances including education about California's financing of education
- Initiative and Referendum: Community Education

Delegates also adopted a recommendation to study an update of the Initiative and Referendum Process Position.

In a much-debated action, delegates voted to amend the current LWVC position on Juvenile Justice/Dependency to add to part 4c the following: **"Emphasis should be placed on diversion and rehabilitation consistent with public safety. Recognition should be given to the need to**

*Continued*

*Convention Report continued*



**treat juveniles differently from adults because juvenile cognitive, developmental and behavioral maturity is in the formative stage.”**

Delegates also voted to update the current LWVC position on Elections Systems to read: “Support election systems for executive and **other single-seat offices**, both at the state and local levels, that require the winner to receive a majority of the votes as long as the majority is achieved using a voting method such as Instant Runoff Voting, rather than a second, separate runoff election.”

Of particular interest to San Joaquin County was a convention caucus on Water Myths and Misconceptions. This allowed League members from around California to address mistaken ideas about where water comes from and how it is used in their regions. Guidance to the Board during the closing plenary session included a request to give full LWVC Committee status to the ad hoc Water Committee that has been meeting by conference call since 2009. The Board later conferred that status on the committee.

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## LWVUS “People Not Polluters” Campaign Generates Controversy

The LWVUS “People Not Polluters” campaign has generated a huge amount of controversy in Leagues throughout the country. This past spring, LWVUS ran television ads highlighting votes on the Clean Air Act by two U.S. senators: Scott Brown (R-Massachusetts) and Claire McCaskill (D-Missouri). The controversy has centered on the following issues:

- These appear to be attack ads that compromise the League’s nonpartisan values.
- The logic behind focusing on these two senators is unclear.
- Funding for the ads has not been disclosed, except that they were paid for by a grant to the LWVEF (the LWVUS Ed Fund).

The rationale for the campaign is that LWVUS supports clean air as a matter of public health, and clean air has been a national action priority since 2006. An April vote in the Senate on two amendments to the Clean Air Act – one to gut the EPA’s ability to enforce regulations, another to delay enforcement ability – came close to passing. The coalition of which LWVUS is a part felt that a hard-hitting and emotional message had the best chance of informing the general public about the connection between Congressional votes and the air they breathe.

*Continued*

*“People Not Polluters” continued*

To learn more and to see LWVC recommendations for discussing the campaign with the public or LWVUS, visit the "People Not Polluters" information page on the Members Only webpage. That page includes a report by Helen Hutchison and Jennifer Waggoner, LWVC delegates to the LWVUS council in Leesburg, VA June 17-20, 2011.

You can watch the ads at <http://www.lwv.org/peoplenotpolluters/index.html>. At that website, you can also learn how California’s own senators voted, as well as learn how much each senator has received in campaign contributions from polluters and how many children in California have asthma.

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## Meet New Board Appointee Angela Arroyo

Angela Arroyo was born and raised in Stockton. She attended Saint Mary’s High School and graduated in 2007. This past May she graduated from San Joaquin Delta College with two degrees, one being her AA. She was accepted to the University of the Pacific, where she will be majoring in Political Science. Angela has been an intern for Congressman McNerney for a year, where she learned of her love for the political field. Angela enjoys cooking, painting, traveling, reading, gardening, taking walks, and gaining new knowledge.



LWVSJC is delighted that Angela has agreed to get some hands-on leadership training by serving for a year on our board of directors. We are looking forward to getting a youthful perspective on our activities from Angela and from Sabrina Birmingham, whom we will profile in our next issue.

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## Local Opposition to House Resolution on San Joaquin Valley Water

Seventeen Delta region community groups and political leaders have signed a letter to Congressman Tom McClintock, Chair of the House Sub Committee on Water and Power, to express opposition to HR 1837 (Nunes).

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*Local Opposition continued*

Among the signers are Stockton Mayor Ann Johnston, San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Chair Larry Ruhstaller, Assembly Members Joan Buchanan and Bill Berryhill, Rosemary Atkinson of Campaign for Common Ground, and Sylvia Kothe of Concerned Citizens Coalition of Stockton.

Opponents say HR 1837, the San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act, would put water deliveries to holders of junior water rights who receive federal Central Valley Project water ahead of Delta agriculture, Delta municipal water users, and fisheries.



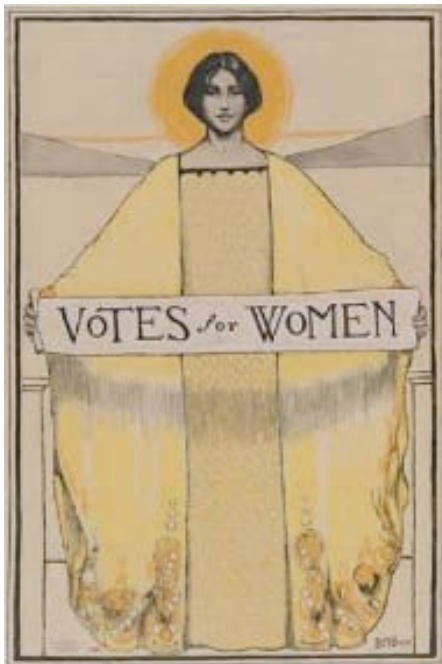
According to the letter, “It is this preference for San Joaquin Valley agriculture over Delta agriculture, fisheries and in-Delta urban uses that is the most disturbing aspect of HR 1837. Research conducted by Dr. Jeff Michael from the University of the Pacific has shown that decreases in water exports have had little effect on San Joaquin Valley job losses over the last few years, but that Delta agriculture does support over 36,000 jobs in California.”

The see a copy of the letter, contact newsletter editor Jane Wagner-Tyack.

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## California Celebrates 100 Years of Women’s Suffrage This Year

October 10, 2011 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women’s suffrage in California.



Proposition 4 (Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 8 ) granting California women the right to vote was proposed by the California State Legislature and placed on the October 10, 1911 ballot. Determined suffragists drove from small town to small town in every county across the state, sometimes in a fancy blue convertible attracting crowds who listened to their speeches.

On the day of the election, determined women across the state woke up at 4:00 a.m. to insure passage. Some collected brochures to hand out near voting places to hopefully influence the undecided voter; others stood watch at the polls to insure all of the votes were counted; and others grabbed the keys to the family car and throughout the day drove men identified as supportive to the polls to be sure every vote for suffrage was cast that day.

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*Women’s Suffrage continued*

When returns came in from the cities, the proposition was failing. It was voted down in San Francisco with a vote of 62% NO and 38% YES. City newspapers declared the proposition dead, but when Californians woke up the next morning, returns from the rural counties showed that the proposition was going to pass. In rural San Luis Obispo County it won with 56% voting YES and 44% voting NO, an outcome repeated across rural California. In 1911, California became the sixth state to give women the franchise, joining Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Washington.



*San Luis Obispo County League members march in a parade this July in Morro Bay.*

Go to <http://cavotes.org/announcement/2011/feb/california-100-years-women-voting> on the LWVC Ed Fund website to read an interview with Helen Valeska Bary (1888-1973) on "The Suffrage Vote in California, 1911."

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## Measure K Renewal Strategic Plan Update

By Raul Sanchez

The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOCG) is the transportation planning agency for San Joaquin County, managing various federal, state, and local transportation funding programs. This includes the one-half of one percent sales tax for transportation programs in San Joaquin County known as Measure K. The incorporated cities and the County are represented on the COG board.

Planning activities and public meetings to develop the Measure K Renewal Strategic Plan are in the final stages. The draft of the plan will soon be available for public comment. See [sjcog.org](http://sjcog.org).

The first Measure K was approved by the voters of San Joaquin County for a period of twenty years beginning April 1, 1991. At the November 7, 2006 general election, the Measure K Renewal Ordinance and Expenditure Plan was approved by County voters as the continuation of the sales tax for transportation purposes commencing April 1, 2011 for a period of thirty years.

The SJCOCG Board adopted the Measure K Renewal Early Action Program (EAP) in 2007. The EAP uses funding from the early years of the Measure K Renewal (MKR) sales tax revenues to leverage third party funding (i. e. California Proposition 1B). The sales of bonds to generate larger amounts of immediate funding necessary to leverage the third party funding is backed by the sales tax revenues of MKR.

The projects in the EAP are Congestion Relief (one of the MKR programs) projects with an estimated cost of \$900 million.

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*Measure K Update continued*

The last of the EAP projects is the extension of the Crosstown Freeway in Stockton for one mile from Fresno Avenue to Navy Drive in the vicinity of the Port of Stockton. It is in the design and right-of way phases. The estimated high cost of \$194 million is due to the structure over the railroad tracks. No funding has been identified for the completion of the Crosstown Freeway from Navy Drive to State Highway 4/Charter Way. The project is scheduled for construction in 2013. Project funding is to be provided as follows: \$94 million from MKR; \$3 million from local funding; and \$97 million from State Proposition 1B.

SJCOG, acting as the Local Transportation Authority, issued bonds in May 2008 to begin funding the EAP. In May 2008, the financial market upheaval was beginning on Wall Street. The Authority was able to get funding at a good interest rate but only for a short period of time. The bond anticipation notes issued in 2008 required the notes to be defeased (annulled) by April 1, 2011 through a new financing. The new bonds were issued to meet the April 1 deadline.

The combination of the timing of the two bond sales, the Wall Street upheaval, and the impact of the recession on the sales tax revenues has resulted in changing MKR revenue estimates for the 30-year period:

Year of Estimate	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2010</u>
	(billions)	(billions)	(billions)
Programs	\$3.1	\$3.1	\$1.9
Debt Service		\$1.8	\$1.0
Total	\$3.1	\$4.9	\$2.9

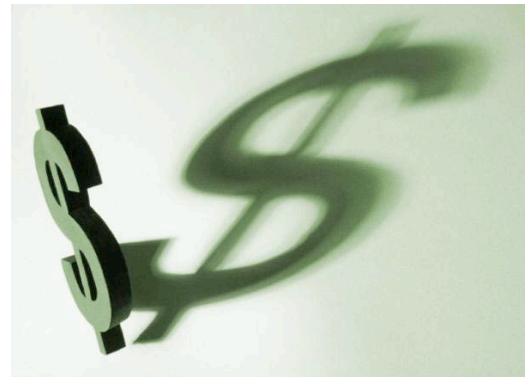
The results of the recent Measure K Renewal bond sales dictate that only the capital programs, including Congestion Relief (state highways and regional arterials) and Railroad Crossing Safety, would be able to be advanced through bonding and that all other MKR program categories would be delivered on a pay-go basis as revenues are realized.

The current MKR program funding status is represented as follows and the percentages are of the total MKR revenues:

<u>MKR Pay-Go Revenues</u>	
Local Street Repair	35%
Transit (Passenger Rail, Bus, Pedestrian/Bicycle)	30%
<u>Bond Revenues (backed by MKR)</u>	
Congestion Relief (State Highways and Regional Arterials)	32.5%
Railroad Crossing Safety	2.5%

*Measure K Update continued*

In conclusion, after the funding of the Early Action Projects, the remaining projects in the Congestion Relief and Railroad Crossing Safety programs must be delayed. Under pay-go revenues, \$65 million is allocated for Smart Growth, and Local Street Repair, Transit, and Smart Growth programs will be funded to the extent funds are generated on an on-going basis.



At the February 18, 2011 MKR Strategic Plan Workshop, the SJCOG Board members present supported a 10-year Strategic Plan that would be reviewed on an ongoing basis with funding prioritization focused on leveraging outside funds, but with recognition of balancing equity when such a case was presented by local agencies for consideration by the SJCOG Board. "Equity" refers to equitable distribution of MKR revenues among the jurisdictions represented by the SJCOG Board members.

For the MKR 10-year Strategic Plan, almost all of the available funding is currently committed to the EAP, which includes projects leveraging State Proposition 1B funds, and projects from the original Measure K program. All Measure K Renewal projects as identified in the original Expenditure Plan will continue to be identified in the MKR 10-year Strategic Plan update; however, they will be identified separately from those programmed with committed funding in the first 10 years.

In addition to the activities for the MKR Strategic Plan, public committees have been providing input to COG staff on the drafting of guidelines for the allocation of revenues for the following MKR programs:

- Bikes/Pedestrian/Safe Routes to Schools
- Park and Ride
- Transit

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, July 28 – Board Meeting

Thursday, August 4 – LWVSJC will have a table at the Lodi Farmer’s Market. Stop by and visit between 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

August board meeting date TBA

Saturday, September 17 – Kick-off Meeting. Place and time TBA. Speaker: Professor Lynn Hawley, Women in History specialist, San Joaquin Delta College

**Note : The Board meets at 5:30 p.m. at Marie Callender’s, 2628 March Lane, Stockton. Members are welcome to attend Board meetings.**



# Thank you

to the following people for renewing their  
LWVSJC membership as of July 13

Lauren & Denny Ah Tye  
Sabrina Birmingham  
Donna Brown  
Delores Carter  
Kathy and John Casenave  
Jim Darrah  
Colleen Foster  
Craig & Denise Holmes  
Helen Holt  
Katrina Jaggars  
Sylvia Kothe  
Ava Langston-Kenney  
Bea and Al Lingenfelter  
Bill and Susan Loyko  
Betty Rae McCormack  
E. B. (Bobbie) McLaughlin  
Vickie Markarian

Dee and Al Matteucci  
Sally Miller  
Diane Morgali  
Diane Park  
Joan Ray  
Raul Sanchez  
Ronda Sanders  
Daphne Shaw  
JoAnne Talbot  
Mary Lois and Syd Thompson  
Van Ha To-Cowell and Dana  
Cowell  
Genie Van Schoten  
Jeanne Marie Velickovic  
Patricia Voss  
Jane Wagner-Tyack  
Cate and Walt White

*Dues are delinquent after June 30, but all who renew by August 15 will still have their names in the 2011-2012 Membership Directory.*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$60 (individual)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 (sustaining – individuals who want to continue supporting the activities of LWVSJC but cannot participate regularly)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$85 (household – two or more members residing at the same address)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 (individuals 18 or older who are enrolled either full-time or part-time in an accredited institution)

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please **make checks payable to LWVSJC** and mail to **LWVSJC, P.O. Box 4548, Stockton, CA 95204**



League of Women Voters  
of San Joaquin County  
P. O. Box 4548  
Stockton, CA 95204  
209-465-0293  
Email: lwvsjc@gmail.com  
On the web at sjc.ca.lwvnet.org

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To make a tax deductible donation to the San Joaquin County League Fund (Education Fund), please make your check payable to LWVSJC Ed Fund and mail it to P. O. Box 4548, Stockton, CA 95204.

You can also donate to the Ed Fund using your credit card or PayPal account by visiting our website, [sjc.ca.lwvnet.org](http://sjc.ca.lwvnet.org).

**Nonpartisan**  
**Grassroots**  
**Unbiased**  
**Trustworthy**

You know why you can rely upon the League of Women Voters. The League relies upon you, too.

**PLEASE DONATE NOW**

The graphic features a lit candle on the right side, with a bright flame. The background is dark, and the text is white and bold. The bottom of the graphic has an orange banner with the text "PLEASE DONATE NOW" in white.

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan 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.*