

League of Women Voters of
San Joaquin County

THE VOTER



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90 Years of the Right to Vote

August 26th, Women's
Equality Day, marks the 90th
anniversary of the passage of
the 19th Amendment, which
gave full voting rights to
women.

The HBO movie "Iron Jawed
Angels" tells the story of the
passion and sacrifice of a few
women that led to this great
triumph for all American
women. It's worth renting a
copy.

Renewal Reminder

Thank you to all who
have renewed their
membership and their
support for the League
of Women Voters. If
you haven't renewed
yet, it's never too late.
Just visit our website.

Ballot Measures to be Discussed at Kick-off Meeting

The issue of redistricting will come before voters again this November in two different propositions, both opposed by the League. Californians will also vote on

- clean energy and air pollution standards
- tax fairness
- a simple majority vote passage of a state budget

For details, join us at the Annual Kick-off Meeting Sunday, September 12 at Valley Brewing Company. Our speaker will be **Trudy Schafer, Senior Director of Program for LWVC.**

The Kick-off starts at 5 p.m. and includes a no-host dinner. Come and socialize with old friends and make new ones. And by all means, bring a friend!

The address is 157 W. Adams Street, Stockton, just off the Miracle Mile.

"Tapping Your Wallet: Why Water Isn't Free"

That's the title of the League water forum scheduled for October 2 at Delta College, cosponsored by LWVSJC, LWV of Diablo Valley, and Delta's Innovation and Sustainability Committee (the Green Team).

Everyone says that water in California is a complicated issue. People can feel overwhelmed by the controversies they read and hear about. So we thought we would get down to some basic facts about local, regional, and statewide water issues. Just the facts. Where water comes from. Where it goes. How decisions about water are made. And how all that affects the pocketbooks of California's citizens.

Of course, no discussion of water will ever be completely unbiased because everyone talking about the subject has a perspective. But we're going to do our best to stick to the facts. And because we know that some facts will inevitably be omitted, we're going to invite a variety of organizations to have

<http://sjc.ca.lwvnet.org>

table exhibits to show their points of view.

Mark your calendar, and stay tuned for more details.

Proposal to Privatize Local Libraries

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and the Stockton City Council are seriously considering turning over all aspects of management and operations of the Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library to a for-profit company.

Many libraries around the country have tried privatization with poor outcomes. Particularly given the lean operation in our local library system, it is hard to imagine how a private company could profit without reducing the quality of staff, materials and programming.

The League of Women Voters of California calls for public libraries to be funded by government but does not have a policy position opposing privatization of public library operations. However, the LWVC position on Public Libraries calls for

- Provision of adequate professional and nonprofessional paid staff
- Consolidation of library functions or systems to achieve cost effectiveness that would not affect the quality of service.

LWVSJC will be evaluating any city/county library privatization proposal with those criteria in mind.

Contact your county supervisor to voice your views on the subject.

On a related noted, at the national convention this past spring, LWVUS voted to do a study of privatization of public services. We will certainly want to participate in this study.

Arguments for Single Payer Health Care

The League believes that Single Payer is the best way to ensure that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost is available to all residents.

Senator Mark Leno is carrying the Single Payer Bill (SB 810) this session. His office has prepared a very helpful Question & Answer document. Regardless of what happens with Single Payer this session, it's helpful to have some of this information.

Some interesting points:

- More Americans than Brits or Canadians are dissatisfied with their health care system.
- Study after study shows that Americans receive substandard care compared to other industrial nations – even when controlled for

variables like insurance. We have a lower life expectancy and a higher infant mortality rate.

- Single payer is the only model of health care financing that has been proven to contain the growth of health care spending while guaranteeing high quality patient centered health care for all.
- The single payer system will be responsible for setting and measuring quality standards and outcome goals, but health care providers will replace mega-consolidated HMO bureaucracies as the managers of our health care delivery system.
- Billionaire Warren Buffett recently said that health care costs are a major drain on U.S. businesses and act like an "economic tape worm." This is exactly right – health care costs are growing 3-5 times faster than our economy is growing and neither taxes nor profits can keep up with the rising costs.

Check our website <http://sjc.ca.lwvnet.org> to see the whole Question & Answer document.