



League of Women Voters® of San Joaquin County

# THE VOTER

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Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta

## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
Board News	3
Immigration: Understanding DACA	4
Climate Change in San Joaquin County	6
Update on Water Issues	8
Voters in Action with Melinda Dubroff	10
Legislative Wrap Up	12
Sylvia Kothe Scholarship Awarded	14
Women's Rights Forum	15
In Remembrance - Patricia Sitkin and Pearl West	16
Senior Program Director Retires	17



Learn more about the League and join at [sjc.ca.lwvnet.org](http://sjc.ca.lwvnet.org)

# Christeen Ferree LWVSJC President



I am extremely pleased to tell you about the recent efforts of your local League to help fulfill our mission. Many times the efforts of our members are obvious – such as organizing educational forums and candidate forums, and presenting pros and cons on ballot measures. Other times, our members work behind the scenes, developing relationships and partnerships with others.

Board member Bea Lingenfelter and League member Julie Schardt have been working closely with the Superintendent of Schools, James Mousalimas, to help get high school students registered to vote. Mr. Mousalimas and his staff have been extremely enthusiastic about this endeavor.

Board member Susan Mora Loyko has been working with the editor of Connections – a local bi-monthly newspaper with a

circulation of about 6,000 that is published by the Peace and Justice Network. Our local League has been asked to contribute an article on a regular basis. If you have an interest in writing something, please feel free to get more information from Susan.

In October, our local League was one of many sponsors of the Women's Rights in the 21st Century Forum and Expo. Board members Jane Wagner-Tyack and Tara Gallegos represented the League at this event. According to League member Vecky Elliott, the event's mission was to connect women to organizations whose work is focused on advancing women's rights and engagement. Funds raised at the event went towards a scholarship fund for young women.

Thank you for supporting your League!

## Board of Directors 2017-18

### Officers

Christeen Ferree, President  
Kathy Casenave, 1st Vice President  
Cate White, 2nd Vice President  
Susan Mora Loyko, Secretary  
Jane Wagner-Tyack, Treasurer

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Tara Gallegos  
Bea Lingenfelter  
Gretchen Newby  
Diane Park

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Social Media – Tara Gallegos  
Voter Services/Speakers Bureau –  
Vickie Markarian, Dee Matteucci,  
Bea Lingenfelter  
Advocacy – Cate White, Margo Praus

### Voter Editors

Copy Editing – Jane Wagner-Tyack  
Design and Layout – Tara Gallegos

## Meet Our New Board Members

### Gretchen Newby

Gretchen is an ardent advocate in our community. Since 1991, Gretchen has served as Chief Executive Officer of Friends Outside, a national nonprofit group which provides programs and support to family and individuals involved in the criminal justice system. In 2018, she will chair the San Joaquin County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. Gretchen moved to Stockton in 1999 from the Santa Clara area where she served on various commissions and boards, including two terms on the Santa Clara School Board. Gretchen holds an MA in Counseling Psychology from Santa Clara University and a BS in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University.



### Tara Gallegos

If you have attended a community event in San Joaquin County in the last ten years - you have probably met Tara. She has performed community outreach, marketing, social media, and communications for the Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library, San Joaquin Regional Transit District, San Joaquin Delta College, and California Public Employees' Retirement System. Tara is eager to help advance and expand the League's message and communication platforms. She is especially passionate about protecting and promoting voter access to information. Tara holds an MPA from Arizona State University and a BA in Communications from Graceland University.



# Understanding DACA

DACA stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, who are defined as those brought to U. S. without documentation as children.

Last summer, President Trump rescinded the Obama administration's executive order protecting these individuals and offering them a path to permanent resident status.

In a bi-partisan response, two separate bills replacing the order — one in the Senate, and one in the House of Representatives — have been introduced. Both offer protection and a path to permanent residency for people brought here as children and who have resided in the U.S. at least four years, provided certain conditions are met, such as attending college or holding a full-time job.

The Senate bill is S. 1615, and the House bill is H.R. 3440. These are collectively known as DACA legislation.

Cate White  
LWVSJC Advocacy Chair

LWVUS supports these bills, which were introduced last July. LWVUS was one of nearly 200 organizations signing a September letter to members of Congress urging them to pass the Dream Act without amendment. Says the letter:

*The DACA program provided a measure of common sense and compassion to immigrants who were brought to this country as children and who have grown up here. Approximately 800,000 young adults who grew up in this country have registered with the federal government, submitted to background checks, paid fees, and have worked to obtain an education. In return, they were given a reprieve from the threat of deportation, work authorization, and the ability to make valuable contributions to our communities. They have gone on to raise families of their own, volunteered to serve in our military, started their own businesses, and become integral to our communities. . . .*

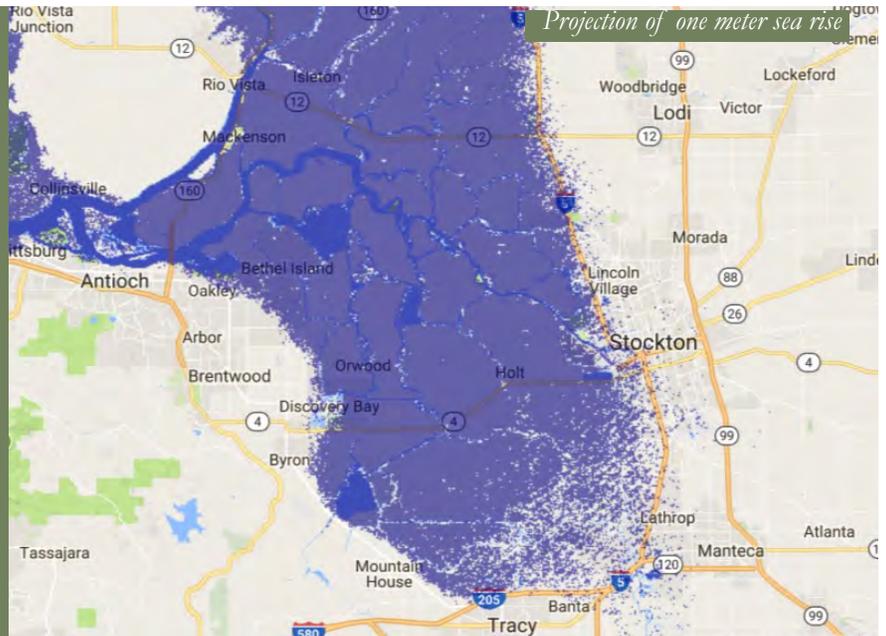
*We stand united in calling on you to immediately pass the Dream Act without amendment so that young people who were brought to this country when they were children are protected. We call on you to treat this with the urgency you would if it were your own son's or daughter's life at stake.*

Both our local Representatives, Jerry McNerney and Jeff Denham, have signed as co-sponsors of H.R. 3440. Representative Denham was recently visited by the LWVUS Lobby Corps promoting the DACA legislation. Two other bills offering varying amounts of protection

have subsequently been introduced in the House of Representatives. These are not considered part of the DACA legislation. H.R. 496, or the Bridge Act, offers 3 years of protection from deportation, while H.R. 1468 offers 5 years. Both require certain conditions to be met. Neither offers a path to permanent residency status, expecting that issue to be covered in a more comprehensive immigration bill yet to be written. Representative Denham has signed on to both those bills, while Representative McNerney has not. Neither has LWVUS support.



# Climate Change: Taking it Local



Yep. You didn't imagine it. It's getting hotter. And generally, dryer. It's hard on crops, hard on forests, and hard on us.

One sneaky, quiet, insidious result is sea level rise. The rate of sea level rise has been slow, but is accelerating as the melting of ice sheets on Greenland and Antarctica accelerates.

Conservative estimates now are for seven to 10 feet (2-3 meters) of sea level rise by 2100, and very probably over three feet (1 meter) by 2050.

## Local Actions

We can't stop the Pacific Ocean, but local actions to slow climate change will help – more than you may think.

For scores of local actions, see Appendix B of the California Air Resources Board Scoping Plan.

For guidance you may use the LWVC climate change action policy, and for help we have formed a Climate Change Task Force.

If you want to play a part and make a difference, let us help. Email [climatechange@lwvc.org](mailto:climatechange@lwvc.org).



**Saturday, February 3, 2018  
12:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.  
Fireside Room, Central United  
Methodist Church  
3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton**

# Upcoming Event: Transitioning From Fossil Fuels

How do we transition from an overdependence on fossil fuels to increase the use of alternative energies?

**What we know:**

- Carbon dioxide is the waste product from fossil fuel combustion.
- 97% of climate scientists state that our dumping of this waste product into our atmosphere is a major cause of climate change, which may be leading to increased severe weather events.
- This invisible byproduct produces pollution that kills 7 million people prematurely each year.

Is there any other waste product that we knowingly allow to be freely dumped?

We charge fees for garbage and fees to carry

away waste water; we charge large fines on companies that dump toxic waste irresponsibly and we fine for littering. But dumping carbon dioxide carries no fine or fee.

We need to put a price on carbon emission, whether by carbon tax or fee or by cap and trade.

LWVSJC and the Sierra Club's Delta-Sierra Group are co-hosting a forum to present different approaches for pricing carbon.

Speakers include:

- Diz Swift, LWV of California, will discuss the need for change and the LWV approach to various alternatives
- Hal Ferber, Citizens' Climate Lobby, to discuss an annually increasing carbon fee with a dividend to be returned to the people.
- An additional speaker (TBA) will address Cap and Trade.

**Margo Praus - LWVSJC Advocacy**

# Update on Water Issues



The tunnels haven't been stopped yet.

The League of Women Voters of California publicly opposed WaterFix, the plan to build twin tunnels under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. On the state League's webpage for California Water Resources, under Bay-Delta issues, members can read LWVC's op ed published in the San Jose Mercury News. An op ed submitted to the Los Angeles Times was

not published, but members can see a letter opposing WaterFix that LWV of the Claremont Area sent to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

LWVC will continue to follow the very problematic tunnels process as discussion moves from two tunnels to one, still with no

guarantees that any facility will be designed and operated to protect fisheries and Delta water quality and to reduce exporters' reliance on the Delta, as required by law.

### Legislation

LWVC supported seven water bills this past session. The Governor has signed three of them: AB 574 on potable water reuse; SB 231 exempting stormwater services from the Prop 218 requirement for voter approval; and SB 252 placing some requirements on permitting of new wells in overdrafted groundwater basins. The other bills we supported are now two-year bills.

### Groundwater and River Flows

Local planning is going forward to produce a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin as required by the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Although we don't have ground subsidence in San Joaquin County as other Valley counties south of us do, ours is considered a critically overdrafted basin. We could use more LWVSJC members following the SGMA process. If this subject interests you, please email me at [JaneTyack@mac.com](mailto:JaneTyack@mac.com).

The state League did not take a position on the State Water Resources Control Board's Bay-Delta Plan update seeking to increase flows into the Delta from the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced rivers to meet water quality objectives. Changing the way water is managed on these rivers will be particularly challenging as agencies like the South San Joaquin Irrigation District on the Stanislaus River work to modify their use of groundwater under SGMA.



Jane Wagner-Tyack  
LWVC Water Program Co-Director  
& Legislative Consultant

# Voters in Action

## Examining Voter Patterns in San Joaquin County.



Voting is a habit formed early in life. Interest in encouraging participation among younger voters crosses partisan divides. Participation includes everything from registering to volunteering and voting! Thanks to the League of Women Voters, more and more San Joaquin County youth are being encouraged to participate in civic life.

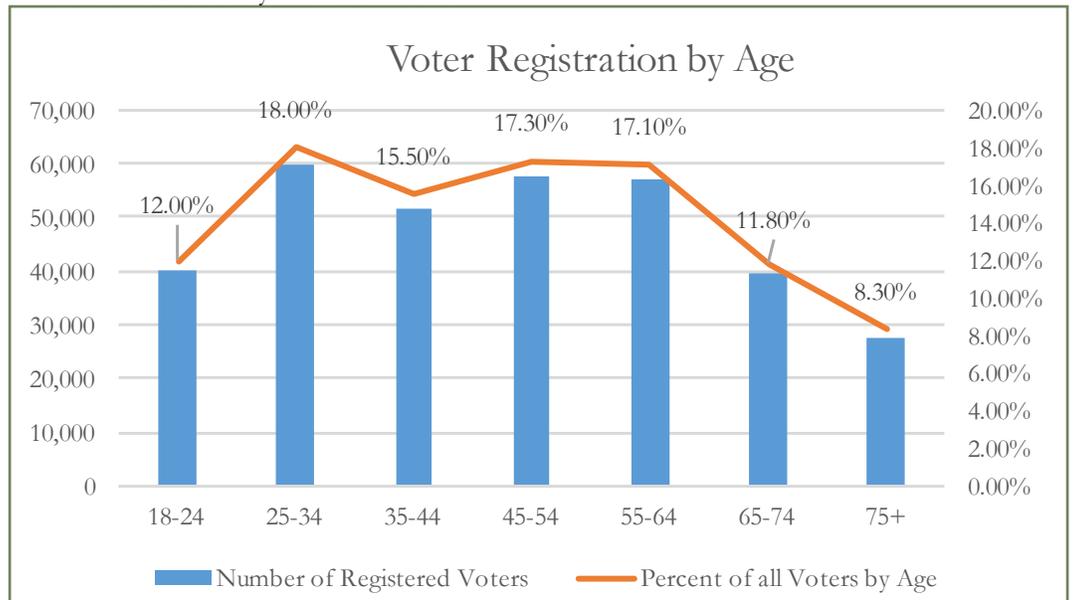
All around us, it appears voters are more politically engaged. We will wait until 2018 to see if that translates into registration and turnout.

For now, we can look at data from the 2016 Election:

### Voter Registration by Age

The 18-24 year cohort naturally contains fewer voters than other 10-year age ranges. Yet they are 12% of our voters, which is impressive considering 35-44 and 65-74 year olds make up 15.5% and 11.8% of the electorate, respectively. Information about the number of eligible voters in each group is not available, but it still raises questions.

\*Statistics from County's voter database

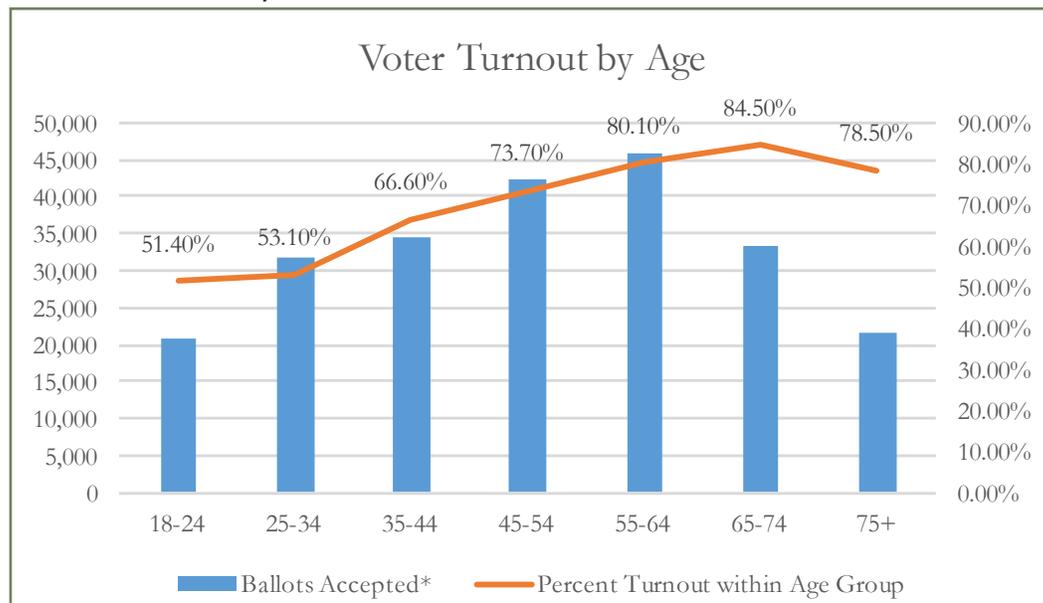


Do registration efforts focus on the youth vote over other age groups? Perhaps peer pressure to register plays a role with them more than with other groups. The Registrar of Voters Office is fostering connections with hard-to-reach voters, such as nursing home residents, disability communities, homeless, minority language groups, military personnel, law enforcement and overseas voters. Across the board, we strive to register every eligible voter.

## Voter Turnout by Age

18-24 year olds have the lowest turnout. Do they need more encouragement to cast a ballot? In November 2016, only about 51% of them voted, whereas almost 85% of 65-74 year olds cast a ballot.

\*Statistics from County's voter database



Learn more about Melinda Dubroff, voter information, and San Joaquin County's vision for voter services at [sjcrov.org](http://sjcrov.org)

Some of our strategies for 2018 address this directly. Our materials will be more understandable to casual readers. Use of plain language, visual cues and graphic design should appeal to a broader base of voters. Our website will be easier to navigate to find when and where to vote, and will encourage people to share on social media that they voted.

We hope these refinements and collaboration with the League will impact 2018. I look forward to reporting back.

As your County Registrar of Voters, thank you for the opportunity to share this information.



## Legislative Wrap Up

At the close of the 2017 California legislative session the League of Women Voters of California celebrated some major legislative victories:

- The California Values Act passed, ensuring state and local resources are not being used to fuel mass deportations, destroy families, and cripple our economy.
- The passage of SB 2 and SB 3 will generate about \$5 billion for more affordable housing over the next five years.
- Campaign ads will have to identify their big money donors prominently on TV, radio, online, and in print with the passage of the Disclose Act.
- Community college students will be assessed more fairly, creating a clearer path to success and preventing them from being tracked into unnecessary non-credit remedial classes thanks to AB 705.
- The passage of AB 918 means the millions of voters with limited English skills will have access to more information in their language, including facsimile ballots — a critical step to ensure all voices are heard on election day.

## Advocacy

In addition to the many action alerts that LWVC sent, the League was also advocating for other bills at the Capitol. This year, Governor Brown signed ALL of the League-supported bills that came across his desk! California now has 27 new League-approved laws, improving California's policies on the environment, education, voting rights, and more.

## Ongoing Efforts

Unfortunately, our efforts to reform California's broken bail system were stalled, but we'll have another chance to fix that when SB 10 is taken up again next year. We're also looking forward to ongoing efforts to address the housing shortage and progress on key higher education bills. The League is also ready to take action on campaign finance reform and any legislative responses to new federal activity.

## CEDAW

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. An international

human rights treaty consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. The U.S. signed the Treaty, but the Senate never ratified it.

SCR 78, introduced in the California legislature this year by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, supports the provisions in CEDAW and promises to continue to seek out all sources of discrimination against women in the state. The resolution was introduced in August, very late in the session. It passed out of the Senate on a vote of 37 to 0, with 3 no votes recorded. It is now in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Visit [sjc.ca.lwvnet.org](http://sjc.ca.lwvnet.org) to learn about our local positions including:

- Citizen Participation
- Off Premise Advertising
- Agriculture
- Planning/Land Use
- Solid Waste
- Transportation
- Water
- Housing
- Probation
- Public Health

## Sylvia Kothe Scholarship Award

This year's recipient of the Sylvia Kothe Memorial Scholarship is Cynthia Charco.



Cynthia was born and raised in Stockton and graduated this past spring from Cesar Chavez High School. Her plan is to study at Delta College and then transfer to UC Davis.

Cynthia has three other siblings: one older sister and a younger sister and brother. Her older sister also attends Delta College and will be transferring to UC Davis this year. She and her sister are the first in their family to pursue college degrees. Cynthia is a very good student and excelled academically throughout her school years. Initially, she was interested in the

biotech field. Her emphasis changed this last year when she was inspired by a professor of psychology.

She is currently awaiting job placement on campus and checks weekly for any openings in work study.

When asked what she would like us to know about her she said, "I am very shy." Although introverted, she is clearly very motivated to succeed. We wish her well.

# Women's Rights Forum

Seven local organizations pooled their resources on October 14 for a forum and expo exploring “Women’s Rights in the 21st Century.”

The event was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County, The Eleanor Project, the Democratic Club of Greater Tracy, the San Joaquin Pride Center,

Planned Parenthood, Emerge California, and the San Joaquin County Commission on the Status of Women. Keynote speaker Kimberly Ellis, first African American Executive Director in Emerge America’s national network to get Democratic women into positions of power, set the tone for the program which featured a variety of women’s rights advocates, all with their own unique and important perspectives.

## Quotes From the Event

“Before I die, I’d like to see the Equal Rights Amendment become part of the U.S. Constitution”

Beverly Fitch McCarthy, founder of the San Joaquin Commission on the Status of Women

“Regardless of income or zip code, women’s bodies and healthcare are always up for negotiation. The full scope of reproductive care should not be up to an insurance company or a government program. Without complete reproductive freedom, women will never have complete economic freedom.”

Cheri Greven, Regional Director of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood

“Girls and women continue to be under-represented in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, which is where the jobs are. San Joaquin County now has the largest STEM program of any county office of education in the state.”

James Mousilimas, San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools



Kristen Birtwhistle  
The Eleanor Project

Zuleima Flores  
Younger Women’s Task Force

Maimuna Sayed  
Emerge CA

**Patricia Sitkin**, a long-time League member and community activist, passed away June 15, 2017, shortly after her 91st birthday. She was born in San Francisco and raised on a family sheep ranch east of Linden, attending a one-room schoolhouse.

Pat attended Stanford University. She taught fourth grade at Linden Elementary. She and her husband, Elmer Sitkin, were cofounders of the Bidwell School in Stockton, in 1965. This was a private school with the aim of raising the standards of excellence in local education.

Patty, as she was known to her family, opened her home to people from all walks of life. She worked as a journalist and as an author, publishing four novels, each focusing on human rights issues. Her family states that “Patty informed and inspired all those that were lucky enough to talk with her about current politics” -- a truly remarkable woman of inclusive and liberal values.

**Pearl West**, former League member and long-time community leader passed away in June 2017 at the age of 94.

Born in New Jersey and reared in Southern California, then San Francisco, West grew up during the Depression and saw the value of a strong role for government. She attended Stockton Junior College and then completed her bachelor’s degree in political science from then-College of the Pacific. In high school and college, West was known as a champion debater. She married Stockton resident Weldon West, who later practiced here as a cardiovascular surgeon.

Pearl West served as coordinator of Community Education at San Joaquin Delta College, president of the Lincoln Unified School District Board of Trustees and in many other local, statewide and national organizations. She helped to mobilize community support for the first school-based health center in San Joaquin County. In 1970, the Stockton Board of Realtors declared her “Mr. Stockton,” an honorary title that has been rechristened “Stocktonian of the Year.” In 1978, then-Governor Jerry Brown appointed West to lead the agency then known as the California Youth Authority. She is believed to have been the first woman in the nation to lead a statewide prison system.

# LWVC Senior Director of Program Retires



Trudy Schafer, Senior Director of Program and lobbyist for LWVC for the last 25 years has retired.

Trudy worked tirelessly as the League’s voice at the Capitol, both behind the scenes and publicly testifying before various legislative committees. If you’ve ever been to a state League convention, you will probably remember her running down a long list of bills supported by the League, reviewing what they contained and what their progress was in the Legislature, all without notes.

One of her foremost achievements was working toward redistricting reform, and then following through on its successful implementation.

LWVC paid tribute to her work and dedication on their website with these words: “Trudy has been the longtime face of the League, a one person institutional memory, our historian, our touchstone, and a mentor for many League leaders.” She will be truly missed.

In Trudy’s honor, LWVC has established the Trudy Schafer Fellowship to train and support emerging policy leaders. To learn more and to contribute, go to: [lwvc.org/schaferfellowship](http://lwvc.org/schaferfellowship).

Cate White  
LWVSJC Policy Advisor

# EVENT CALENDAR

The following is a list of events to look forward to in the upcoming months. Please visit [sjc.ca.lwv.net](http://sjc.ca.lwv.net) for the most updated information about these and other League events:

- |                      |                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TBA                  | Immigration Program<br>Health Plan of San Joaquin<br>7751 South Manthey Road<br>French Camp                                       |
| Saturday, JANUARY 27 | Program Planning Meeting for 2018-2019<br>Grace Hall, Zion Lutheran Church<br>808 Porter Road, Stockton                           |
| Saturday, FEBRUARY 3 | Transitioning from Fossil Fuels<br>12 - 2:00 p.m.<br>Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church<br>3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton |
| Saturday, MARCH 3    | Health Care Forum<br>Health Plan of San Joaquin<br>7751 South Manthey Road<br>French Camp                                         |
| APRIL & MAY          | Voter Service for June Primary                                                                                                    |
| Tuesday, JUNE 5      | Primary Election                                                                                                                  |

## Our Mission

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.

## COVER PHOTO

Clockwise from left: Mandeville, Venice, and Medford islands where Middle River, Potato Slough, and Little Connection Slough join the Stockton Deep Water Channel and the San Joaquin River. Photo by Shutterstock.