



The Voter

LWVSJC
Thanks

Gillian Murphy
for donating her time
and expertise to facilitate
our Blueprint for
Voter Services discussion.

GIVE YOUR INPUT ON GROWTH

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Help Decide the Future of San Joaquin County

The population of San Joaquin County is projected to double by 2030 and to grow by over a million new people by 2050. Such dramatic growth raises major questions:

- Where and how should we grow?
- Where will the roads go?
- How do we want this growth to affect our economy, agriculture, education, transportation, housing, air quality—in short, our future quality of life?

We will have a chance to help shape San Joaquin County's future at eight (8) upcoming community workshops:

Ripon
Thursday, March 12, 2007
6:30—8:30 p.m.
Ripon Community Center
334 W. 4th Street, Ripon

Escalon
Wednesday, March 7, 2007
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Escalon Community Center

1055 Escalon Avenue,
Escalon

**Lodi/Lockeford/
Acampo/Clements/
Thornton/Woodbridge**
Thursday, March 15,
2007
6:30-8:30 p.m./Crete Hall
Hutchins Street Square
125 S. Hutchins Street,
Lodi

Manteca
Wednesday, March 21,
2007; 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Manteca Branch Library
320 W. Center, Manteca

Tracy/Mountain House
Wednesday, March 21,
2007; 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Tracy Community Center
300 E. 10th Street, Tracy

North & Central Stockton/Morada
Wednesday, March 28,
2007; 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Stockton Ballroom
9650 Thornton Road,
Stockton

South & Central Stockton/Linden/French Camp/Weston Ranch
Thursday, March 29,
2007; 6:30-8:30 p.m.
San Joaquin Council of

Governments
555 E. Weber Avenue,
Stockton

**Lathrop/French Camp/
Weston Ranch**
Date To Be Determined
Lathrop City Council
Chambers
390 Towne Center Drive,
Lathrop

Registration for the workshops starts at 6:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be available.

These workshops are part of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process which will help to develop a vision to guide the San Joaquin Valley's growth over the next 50 years, beginning with input from community members. Information will be provided on the issues and participants will be able to share their ideas in both large and small groups.

The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) is organizing this public visioning process in SJ County to help residents develop a preferred scenario for future land use and transportation.

President's Message — Colleen Foster



Democracy is not a spectator sport!

Our active voter services election season has concluded—and now it's time for advocacy!

LWVSJC has several Action irons in the fire:

- Boardmember Esther Vasquez is representing the League on the Citizens Advisory Committee to the SJ Council of Government (SJCOG) regarding the implementation of Measure K.
- I am representing the League on the San Joaquin Blueprint Planning Process Leadership Group. The Blueprint process is seeking input from San Joaquin County residents

about growth in our communities. See the schedule of workshops on the front page—and attend one of them!

- Campaign for Common Ground has invited the League to participate in its coordinated efforts to give feedback to the City of Stockton on its proposed General Plan.
 - CCCoS is still fighting water privatization—and as a coalition member, this is our fight, too.
- If you are interested in these and other advocacy issues, come to our February 3rd planning session. We need your ideas and enthusiasm!

LWVSJC IN ACTION

BLUEPRINT FOR VOTER SERVICES



Facilitator Gillian Murphy list.

L league members met on January 20th to discuss what voter services are the most important to our League. Members began the discussion by identifying things they valued about the League. Helping voters understand issues was high on the

A Plan of Action was identified for each area, starting with the development of a checklist and timeline for each service offered. Participants volunteered (and sometimes volunteered others!) to work on different aspects of these services. Elements necessary for success were also identified and each service had several things in common:

- Need for more League member involvement
- Better marketing of the services we do offer



LWVSJC members discuss voter services

- Increasing our potential by partnering with others in the community

- T**hree areas were identified as the ones to concentrate on:
- Candidate Forums
 - Pros and Cons
 - Services for First Time/New/Young Voters (which could include existing services such as Mock Elections)

Small committees to develop a detailed plan of action will meet in March and April. *If you are in-*

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Nominating Committee

Ann Pentecost, Chair; Donna Brown, Barbara Walker, and Board members Sylvia Kothe and Lydia Tinder.

LWVUS IMMIGRATION STUDY

At the urging of local Leagues throughout the country, LWVUS Convention 2006 in Minneapolis, delegates voted to undertake the first new study LWVUS has done since Health Care in 1992. Immigration was identified as one on which the League had *no position*, and consequently, is unable to take action to affect public policy. *The League cannot take action without a position.*

The Immigration Study will include

- The underlying values and principles regarding immigration
- Reasons for migration from other countries
- Current federal immigration policy
- Impact of immigration

Four background papers are available on the LWVUS Members Only web site:

- Economic Aspects of Authorized and Unauthorized Immigration
- Effects of Global Interdependence on Migration
- Immigration and the Economy
- Overview: Federal Immigration Policy and Proposed Reforms

The article on Global Interdependence will be in the forthcoming national Voter.

From September 2006-June 2008, local Leagues participating in the



Immigration Study will begin to schedule public forums and/or membership meetings on immigration and write articles for the Voter and news media to publicize the study and make people aware of available materials and forums.

LWVUSJC Board will decide soon at what level our League will participate in this study.

If you believe this study is an important one for us to be active in and/or if you are interested in being on a local committee for this study, contact Colleen Foster (951-2311; malialani@comcast.net) or Cate White

Stockton City Council Appeals Water Privatization Ruling

On January 23, 2007, the Stockton City Council voted 4-3 (Bestolarides, Eggman and Nabors dissenting) to appeal the CCCoS lawsuit against to the City and OMI.

On November 6th, Judge Elizabeth Humphries ruled that the City must rescind its contract with OMI

Thames 'in its entirety' and that the City could resume its operation and management of the municipal water facility in 180 days. The City is appealing this ruling.

We will keep everyone apprised of proposed action plans by the Coalition/Plaintiffs

and any informational meetings to share those strategies. Your continued support will even become more important during the prolonged litigation.



Sylvia Kothe, Chair, CCCoS

A FEW GOOD MEN

At a recent League function, we were asked why the League continues to keep the name League of Women Voters when the name itself can be a barrier to membership, especially for men interested in the League's work. Good question.

This issue has been debated over the years by LWVUS. One of the biggest concerns appears to be that if

LWV changed its name, another organization would be free to use the name and the original League would have no control over the values and actions of a new organization and it could adversely affect the reputation of the continuing League organization.

It is fitting, therefore, to thank our male League members who have not been deterred from joining the League of

Women Voters:

Woody Alspaugh, Jerry Briscoe, Alan Campbell, Don Curtis, Bill Loyko, Al Matteucci, Frank Orozco, Paul Pecchenino, Joe Schmit, Dale Stocking, Stanley Thomas, Jim Tinder, Ron Wenzler and Doug Wilhoit.



League of Women Voters
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CALENDAR

February 3, 2007

BLUEPRINT FOR LOCAL ADVOCACY/Input into LWVC Program Planning

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

4273 Boulder Creek Circle, Stockton (Colleen Foster's home)

Lunch will be served. A \$5.00 donation towards lunch is requested.

February 5, 2007—7:00 p.m.

Campaign for Common Ground meeting: How to positively influence the City of Stockton's General Plan

Family Resource and Referral, 509 W. Weber Avenue, Stockton

March 8, 2007—6:00 p.m.

CCCoS Meeting: 3rd Annual Report Card Evaluation on the Service Contract between the City of Stockton and OMI

Valley Brew, 157 W. Adams, Stockton

ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL

April 27, 28, 29, 2007

Save the Dates—we'll be participating again this year!

LWVC CONVENTION

May 18, 19, 20, 2007 - Bakersfield, CA

Board Meetings

All League members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at President Colleen Foster's home (4273 Boulder Creek Circle, Stockton) from 5:30—7:30 p.m. *Please let Colleen know* (951-2311 or malialani@comcast.net) if you'll attend as a light meal is served.