



# The Voter

**LWVSJC**  
*Thanks*

**Bill Loyko**  
for donating his time  
and expertise to facilitate our Blueprint for Advocacy discussion.

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*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.*

How to contact the League:  
LWVSJC  
P.O. Box 4548  
Stockton, CA 95204  
209-465-0293  
Email: LWVSJC@aol.com  
www.sjc.lwvnet.org

## Health Care At the Crossroads

The health care system in California (and the United States) is in crisis. Fewer individuals and families have adequate health coverage. View the award-nominated short documentary, *The Healthcare Solution: California OneCare*, and learn about legislative proposals that will address this crisis and provide health care for all Californians.

Presenters will address facts and myths surrounding health care issues:

- Roger Speed, Health Care Services Director, Retired; Co-Chair Health Care for All—San Joaquin

**WHAT**—*The Healthcare Solution: California OneCare* (documentary and discussion)

**WHEN**—Tuesday, March 20th, 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE**—1212 N. California, County Mental Health facility

Parking available on site.

- Paula Le Veck, R.N., Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, CSU Stanislaus
- Jerry Bailey, Retired Educator, Co-Chair, Health Care for All—San Joaquin

Presenters will also compare health care bills in the State legislature (there are at least three under consideration) and the program proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger and will outline their coverage and costs. Information on the informational 365 Day, OneCare Campaign to raise awareness in San Joaquin County will also be available. Join us!



## Health Care Advocacy In San Joaquin County

**MANTECA**  
365 Day Campaign  
Open House  
Friday, March 9th  
4:00-6:00 p.m.  
Manteca Public Library  
320 W. Center Street  
Learn about potential solutions to the health care

crisis in California and how you can help to make changes for the better.

**TRACY**  
365 Day Campaign  
Walk through Tracy  
Wednesday, April 4th  
4:00-6:00 p.m.  
Supporters of universal

health care (the League is one) will march through Tracy with signs showing our support as a way to raise awareness of residents. For information, call Marvin Rothschild at 832-5725.

## President's Message — Colleen Foster



*Democracy is not a spectator sport!*

We are approaching a busy spring. We have opportunities to give input into how our communities grow, to learn about health care issues and legislation—and to volunteer to work at the Asparagus Festival!! These three activities give a capsule glimpse of the League: education and information, civic involvement and action.

While participating in the Asparagus Festival may seem the 'least' of the three, it is crucial to the continued vitality of our local League. At our March Board meeting, LWVSJC officers and directors decided not to recommend an increase in member dues at this

time—and to continue the hearty fundraising efforts that we have engaged in these last two years. Remember: after our PMP (per member payment) is made to LWVUS and LWVC, we have \$2.50 of your dues to work with locally. We obviously need to supplement that income if we are to continue to offer voter services, community education on issues, and speak as advocates on important local, state and national issues.

We also have an opportunity to get involved in the LWVUS Immigration Study—a critical issue of our time.

## LWVSJC IN ACTION: Supporting LWVUS Voting Rights Position

The following letter was sent to The Record in support of the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007, based on LWVUS voting rights position:

*“Delegates to the 2006 League of Women Voters national convention voted to update the League’s Voting Rights position to address the need for verifiable voting. Citizens across the country are concerned with the accuracy of elections that rely on machine voting; for if a vote is not counted, what voting rights do citizens really have?”*

*The League position states that voting methodology should be secure, accurate, recountable and accessible, and that every election must provide for routine audits in randomly selected precincts.*

*On February 5, 2007, Congressman Rush Holt of New Jersey introduced a bill man-*

*dating voter-verified paper ballots—H.R. 811, the “Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007.” The Holt bill, as it is known, addresses the League’s concern that all elections provide voter verified paper trails with audits. The text can be found at [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org) and a petition to send to your congressional representative urging support of the bill is available at [www.CommonCause.org](http://www.CommonCause.org).*

*Diane Park, LWVSJC”*

Note: California already has legislation protecting our ballots. From the Secretary of State’s Web site: “All direct recording electronic (DRE) voting machines used after January 1, 2006, must have an accessible voter-verified paper audit trail, pursuant to California Elections Code Section 19250.”

### LWVSJC Board of Directors for 2006-2007

#### Officers

**Colleen Foster**, President/Voter editor  
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**Peaches Ehrich**, 1st VP/Fundraising  
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#### Directors

**Vickie Markarian**, Speakers Bureau  
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#### Off Board

**Diane Park**—CCCoS Liaison  
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**Pat Thomas**—Membership Secretary  
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**Barbara Walker**—Membership Database  
463-4919 [bt451@pacbell.net](mailto:bt451@pacbell.net)

#### Nominating Committee

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

It's Asparagus Festival Time!

Please Volunteer.

April 27, 28, 29, 2007

We have two beverage booths this year.

Shifts are 9:30-2:00 and 2:00-6:00

on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

We need two (2) volunteers for each Friday shift and three (3) volunteers for each Saturday and Sunday shift – a total of 32 shifts.

We will be doing ID checks for Beverage Booths #1 and #6.

Volunteers must be 21 years of age.

We need to have our volunteers lined up by March 27<sup>th</sup> –

So sign up now!!

You get into the Festival for free.

Ask a friend or two to sign up with you.

(Or just sign up your friends!)

This is one of our main fundraisers of the year.  
Your help is vital to a financially healthy League.

To volunteer,

Contact Lorelee McGaughey  
(478-6906 or [loralie@sonic.net](mailto:loralie@sonic.net))

Thank you!!

# GIVE YOUR INPUT ON GROWTH

## Help Decide the Future of San Joaquin County

If you love traffic, congestion, and hazardous growth, then don't read any further!

BUT, if you are like most of San Joaquin County residents and would like to see a positive change in your community, then the Valley Blueprint is an opportunity!

The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process is an eight county planning effort that will help develop a regional vision of land use and transportation to guide growth in the San Joaquin Valley over the next 50 years. The Blueprint Planning Process will be an unprecedented example of local jurisdictions in the San Joaquin Valley demonstrating increased regional identity and a unified purpose in addressing the region's challenges. The goal of the Blueprint Project is to develop a preferred future growth vision for the region through the use of community workshops and scenario planning.

The California Department of Finance forecasts the population of San Joaquin County to grow by over a million new residents by 2050. Such explosive growth brings challenges:

- What should our growth vision be?
- Where will the roads go?
- How will growth affect our environment?

The Valley Blueprint provides an opportunity to work together to meet these challenges.

County residents will help shape the future of San Joaquin County through a series of 10 community workshops. By engaging citizens and policymakers at the local and county level, the Valley Blueprint will be able to create a regional vision to ensure that California's fastest growing region will thrive into the 21st century.

### 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 29, 2007**; 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Tracy Community Center  
300 E. 10th Street, Tracy

### 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

### North & Central Stockton/Morada

Wednesday, March 28, 2007; 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
United Cerebral Palsy Assn  
333 W. Ben Holt, Stockton

### Lathrop/French Camp/Weston Ranch

Date To Be Determined  
Lathrop City Council Chambers  
390 Towne Center Drive, Lathrop

**Advanced registration** is encouraged. You can register online at [www.sjcog.org](http://www.sjcog.org). **Or you can register before each workshop** at 6:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be available.



The public is encouraged to participate in the workshop for the area in which you live or work—but residents are welcome at any workshop.

These workshops will identify the most important values and goals for the future of our community and the county as a whole. Workshops to be scheduled later in 2007 will focus on alternative future alternatives.

For more information, contact Anthony Zepeda, SJ-COG Regional Planner, at 468-3913 or [azepeda@sjcog.org](mailto:azepeda@sjcog.org).

**NEW Workshop:**  
Countywide Workshop  
in **Spanish**  
Wednesday  
March 28, 2007  
6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Registration: 5:30 p.m.  
El Concilio  
308 N. California  
Stockton



# Blueprint for Advocacy

Continuing our planning efforts, thirteen League members met on February 3rd to create a Blueprint for local Advocacy. League member Bill Loyko facilitated our discussion. Our purpose was to focus on issues that we in the San Joaquin County League believe is important to act on locally. As a way to help us articulate what we wish to achieve locally—and how—we came up with a brief paragraph about local advocacy:

*“The League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County should visibly advocate for truthful, open, sound government and for environmental practices that will positively affect our community. Through consensus and relying on league studies, we will focus on a few key issues. Mindful of the established and highly respected reputation of the League, we will lobby elected officials for our positions, collaborate with community partners, and encourage an informed and engaged electorate.”*

This paragraph was adopted as a guiding statement by the Board at its March 1, 2007 meeting. This statement is in no way in

tended to supplant the League mission or any LWVUS/LWVC documents but to give us a focus for our own local action.

League members chose four areas to focus our local energies:

- Health Care
- Land Use
- Water
- Environment

Attendees also signed up to work on committees. A current Board member is the Chair of each committee:

- Health care: Cate White
- Land Use: Colleen Foster
- Water: Susan Loyko
- Environment: Esther Vasquez

If you are interested in working on any of these issues, please contact the Chair. ***We welcome your participation!***

## LWVC Program Planning Input

We also discussed LWVC positions and gave them feedback on what positions need updating and whether we need any new studies. They will compile information from all local California Leagues before recommending issues for education and advocacy at Convention in May. We gave the following input to LWVC:

- Positions needing updates: Initiative & referendum, Land use, Transportation, Water.
- New Studies: Environment/global warming (probably the purview of LWVUS but we need to have some input there), the relationship between jobs and education
- Issues untouched by the Community College study (retention, voc ed, regionally appropriate curriculum)

## Legislative Interview: Senator Mike Machado

Each year, LWVC asks local Leagues to speak with one or more of their local representatives in the State legislature about issues that concern the League. This year LWVUSJC was asked to visit with Senator Mike Machado and ask him about health care reform, the State’s financial situation, redistricting and meeting the increased demands of an increasing population. Senator Machado, who has been very responsive to the League in the past, was unable to meet with us in the time frame we had but League members Cate White and Daphne Shaw did meet with his long time aide Anne Baird to discuss the issues.

- **Health Care:** Senator Machado supported SB840, Sen. Sheila Kuehl’s one

payer universal health care proposal, in the legislature last year. Several alternative bills are being proposed this year and the Senator will evaluate each one. He believes some kind of compromise bill will pass this year.

- **Redistricting:** This is not an issue of importance to Sen. Machado.
- **State Finances:** He is very concerned about the structural deficit in the State budget and feels the problem lies with entitlements and the shrinking General Fund. He heads the Sub 4 Group in the Senate that is looking into these problems.

- **Resources:** He continues to be concerned about the interface between water and land use decisions, specifically developers being allowed to build in the flood plain without bearing any responsibility for levee failure.

- **Other Issues:** Asked what issues he has as personal priorities, he listed three:

- Water
- Health Care
- Prisons

Thank you to Sen. Machado and Anne Baird.

# LWVUS IMMIGRATION STUDY

Four background papers on immigration issues can be found on the national League web site: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) For Members section. In the next several issues of *The Voter*, excerpts from these papers will be published to give our members some idea of the issues and complexity of the issues to be studied. Members are encouraged to seek out the complete documents.

## **IMMIGRATION AND THE ECONOMY**

By Chris Carson

Although religious motivation significantly impacted the founding and early development of American colonies, economic motives outweighed religious ones beginning fairly early in our country's history. This is reflected not only in the influx of voluntary immigrants looking for a better life, but also in the importation of indentured servants or slaves to fill the labor requirements of colonists' farms and businesses. Immigration was at the core of nation-building, so much so that the Declaration of Independence listing the wrongdoings of King George III alleged that the British government had hindered and obstructed immigration into the colonies.

### **Labor Force Requirements**

Over the course of American history, numerous businesses have targeted specific immigrant groups for employment. Overall, the flow of immigration throughout the 19th and early 20th century was directly tied to the strength or weakness of the American economy; levels of immigration fluctuated widely in response to economic cycles of boom and panic in this country.

The current high volume of immigration is second only to that of a hundred years ago, prior to the introduction of significant immigration restrictions during the 1920's. This is the result of a complex interaction of changing U.S.

demographics, global developments and a growing U.S. economy.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 56 million new jobs will be created in this country between 2002 and 2012. During this same period, more than 75 million Americans will retire, and declining native-born fertility rates will be approaching replacement level. Half of the new jobs will require no more than a high school education, but native-born workers are becoming more educated with every decade. In 1960, half of all American men dropped out of high school to look for unskilled work, whereas less than 10% do so now.

The shortfall of unskilled labor—estimated to run to hundreds of thousands of workers a year—is showing up in sector after sector. [The construction industry ... the restaurant business]

### **Entrepreneurship**

Immigration also helps fuel the entrepreneurship that is so significant to the growth of the national economy. The four countries with the highest proportionate creation of new businesses are the US, Canada, Israel and Australia, all countries with high rates of immigration. In the US, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses has grown at three times the national average, while the number of Asian-owned businesses has grown at twice the national average.

### **Unemployment Among Immigrants**

Statistics show that immigrants are less likely than natives to be unemployed. The vast majority of immigrants coming to the US do so in order to work. It is no surprise, then, that labor-force

participation among foreign-born men exceeds that of the native-born.

### **Effect on American Workers**

Opponents of immigration often suggest that if employers paid American workers more, they could reduce the need for foreign labor. Many industries cannot pay more, because they would then be undercut by imports from abroad. Even in sectors such as construction and hospital-

ity, in which the work must be done in the US, it is necessary to decide whether it is better to lure an American to a less productive job than he or she is capable of by paying more compensation for less skilled work.

### **Immigration Reform**

For the past decade or so, market forces have attracted some 1.5-1.8 million skilled and unskilled immigrants to work in the United States each year. However, annual legal quotas admitted only about a million each year. The result is a significant imbalance. ... A realistic immigration system is one in which the annual legal intake is more or less equal to the flow generated by supply and demand.

The business community argues that there is no reason to forfeit immigrant-driven economic expansion and the concomitant improved standard of living that benefits all Americans. Opponents of increased immigration consider the costs and benefits of an expanding economy and place greater emphasis on environmental and cultural issues.

Clearly, this is a many-faceted debate. There are no easy answers.



*Immigration was at the core of nation-building*

# Member News

We had so much 'news' in the last two Voters that we missed reporting on the fun evening we had over the holidays at hostess Dee Matteucci's home. Thank you, Dee, for your outstanding hospitality—as usual.



Holiday Party Hostess Dee Matteucci



Intern Betsy Hammer, Daphne Shaw, Vickie Markarian



Esther Vasquez, Genie Van Schoten, Bev Blum

## Directory Update

### Welcome Renewing Member

Frank Orozco  
213 E. Swain  
Stockton, CA 95207  
477-0234

### Change of Address

Bea Lingenfelter  
2353 Fawnwood Lane  
Manteca, CA 95336  
239-3881  
beaal@comcast.net

### Welcome New Member

**Candace Blue**  
829 W. Monterey, 95204  
939-9530 (h) 235-2915 (w)  
cblue@humphreys.edu



### Memorial Service For Peg Keranen

Saturday  
March 10, 2007  
1:30 p.m.  
Unitarian Church  
2737 Pacific Avenue  
Stockton

### *Rally in the Valley!*

LWVC Convention  
Is coming to Bakersfield!  
May 18-20, 2007

Support our League colleagues in the Valley and consider attending Convention this year!

Contact Colleen Foster for more information.

## LWVUS Immigration Study An Opportunity to Get Involved

At a recent meeting, the LWVUS Board voted to shorten the LWVUS Immigration Study from a three-year study to a two-year study. Under the new timeline, LWVUS will distribute a Leader's Guide, including consensus questions, in August, 2007, and consensus forms will be due back in the national office by February 1, 2008. Using these responses, the Immigration Study Committee will prepare a position statement for Board approval at their spring 2008 meeting.

The Study timeframe has been shortened so that a position can be taken at national convention in 2008. The time for us to get involved is now!

An extensive reading list including League white papers on various immigration topics is available on the League web site: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Some of this information will be reprinted in our Voter. The scope of the study as well as referral to other web sites is also on the LWVUS web site.

Immigration is a topic of interest to our local community. It is a study that our League should undertake. We have had two members indicate they would be interested in working on this study. **If you would like to be part of the study Committee, please contact President Colleen Foster: 951-2311 or [malialani@comcast.net](mailto:malialani@comcast.net).**



League of Women Voters  
of San Joaquin County  
P.O. Box 4548  
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[www.sjc.lwvnet.org](http://www.sjc.lwvnet.org)

## CALENDAR

**March 20, 2007, 6:30 p.m.**

**Healthcare at the Crossroads—comparing universal health care options**  
1212 N. California Street, Stockton

**Give your input on Growth in San Joaquin County:** See Voter article on community forums planned for March, 2007.

**April 4, 2007, 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

Walk through Tracy — to support Health Care for All

**EARTH DAY—April 22, 2007**

**Victory Park, 11:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**

**ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL**

**April 27, 28, 29, 2007**

**Volunteer NOW!**

**LWVC CONVENTION**

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

**LWVSJC ANNUAL MEETING—Thursday, June 14, 2007**

**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*