



# THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

October 2008

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 59 NO. 4

## Calendar of Events

### October 7th

Candidates Forum  
Oakdale Council Chambers  
277 North 2nd Avenue  
7:00 p.m.

### October 8

Board Meeting  
6:00 p.m.

### October 14th

Local Action Committee  
Meeting  
11:00 a.m.

### October 15th

Pros and Cons Forum  
MJC East Campus  
Forum Hall Room 110  
7:00 p.m.

### October 20th

Last Day to Register  
to Vote

### October 28

Lunch and Learn  
John Lazar  
Mayor of Turlock  
Appetiz Restaurant  
Roseburg Square  
12:00 Noon

All meetings are held at the  
League Office,  
720 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto, CA

This calendar is current as of  
printing. Check LWVSC Website  
for updates

[www.lwvstanislaus.org](http://www.lwvstanislaus.org)

Dear Members,

As you know over the years the League of Women Voters of Modesto and now as Stanislaus County have been working with Modesto Junior College's Civic Engagement Project. This relationship has produced the Pro's and Cons Event that has been so successful. Currently many of the members working on the committee are members of both Modesto Junior College community and The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County. This has strengthened and enhanced both organizations in providing information to our county and learning opportunities for college students.

Last year we developed our Student Intern Program to work with the Civic Engagement Project and the Political Science Department. Our intern this year is Sarah Jamison and we are very happy to have her with us. Malorie Michael, our second intern (and now a League member) has written her second article for the Voter. Please check it out. Our first intern, Sonia Moctezuma, I understand, is working to get a political science club established at MJC. This year the Civic Engagement Project and League co-produced our new Facts for Voters.

September 17<sup>th</sup>, The Civic Engagement Project with The MJC Associated Students and our League co-sponsored a Constitution Day Event for the community. It's Your Constitution - How Are You Using It? Featured Speaker was League member Amy Christensen Wolfe. Amy gave a wonderful presentation that covered information from our LWV National publication - *Choosing the President 2008*. (Required reading in League Member Steve Miller Political Science classes at MJC.) Amy's presentation was charismatic, humorous, informative, and tailored to the college age audience. She was very well received.

Sarah Jamison, our new intern, and Malorie Michael, our new student member, started the event with a power point presentation on the abuse and suffering women went through to get the constitution amended so that women had the right to vote. Sarah and Malorie also registered voters at a table with voting material and League information available. The evening was a big success and it was an event that made me very proud of our League. Many, many thanks to those League members who made this event possible. Please make time to attend the events that we co-sponsor with MJC Civic Engagement Project and MJC Associated Students. The events are informative and meaningful for our work in the community. Informing the young voters of the issues of our time helps our future. Exposing them to League helps our future as an organization. If you want to get on board with this committee, please give me a call. This relationship is one that our League needs to maintain.

I hope to see you at our upcoming Forums and Lunch and Learns!

*-Ellen Meyer, President*

*The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.*

**LWV of STANISLAUS COUNTY**  
**OFFICERS**

*President*

**Ellen Meyer 579-1603**  
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*Treasurer*

**Polly Klopfer (544-9269)**  
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**DIRECTORS**

*Membership*

**Lynn Kelso**  
**Colleen Norby**

**Margie Lipsky (Off Board)**  
*Voter Service*

**Ellen Dunbar**

**Marsha Waggoner (Off Board)**  
*Finance Drive*

**Amy Wolfe**

*Public Relations*

**Susan Novak**

*State and National Action*

**Sue Chaffee**

*Local Action*

**Patty Beyer**

*Voter Editor*

**Jean Tenney**

[jayper@mac.com](mailto:jayper@mac.com)

*Lunch and Learn*

**Mildred Kinser**

**Doris Scanlon**

**OFF-BOARD**

*Nominating Committee*

**Virginia Lish**

**Linda Walden**

*Web Master*

**Stella Beratlis**

*Office Manager*

**Myrtle Osner**

**League Office**

**720 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto**

**209-524-1698**

**[www.lwvstanislaus.org](http://www.lwvstanislaus.org)**



## State and National

November 4th 2008 is a few short weeks away. As a woman, I reflect on what a short time it has been that we have had the vote, cringe at the visuals and verbiage about what our grandmothers and great grandmothers endured: jailings, beatings, forced institutionalization for insanity, all for congregating on a sidewalk to express their First Amendment Right to be heard. I marvel that this year, less than ninety years later, two women have been serious contenders for our presidency and vice presidency in this election.

As the National and State reporter for our local league I feel impelled to sidestep the longest budget impasse in our State's history, the threat of water wars as we experience the driest times in 114 years, and my pet, radical changes in how to provide healthcare to all, to appeal to all of you to get out the vote. Please find HBO's newest movie/DVD release, "Iron Jawed Angels". Arrange a coffee or wine party. Gather some friends and watch.

I pray that you will be inspired to motivate those around you to **GET OUT and VOTE**. I know that I am preaching to the choir. But please be a part of the history. - the history of a change for the better for all, not only in America but in the World's view of us as a tough, compassionate democratic leader, not an arrogant bully.

*Sue Chaffee, State and National Director*

**DIVERSITY POLICY:**

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County in both its values and practices affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

# Voter Service

It's not too late to help us register and inform voters before the November 4<sup>th</sup> Election. Help at one of the following by contacting Susan Novak or Ellen Dunbar:

## Voter Registration at the Libraries-October 20th

We will be registering voters at the Modesto, Turlock, Salida, and Patterson libraries on the last day to register to vote, Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed for both daytime and evening hours. We are coordinating with Stanislaus County Elections to turn in completed voter registration applications before the deadline. We expect to be busy and can use your help. Contact Susan Novak.

## Forums

Oakdale City Council  
Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.  
Oakdale Council Chambers  
277 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

Candidates Tom Dunlop, Katherine Morgan, and Nita Roberts are running for 2 seats. Amy Wolfe will be moderating.

## Pros & Cons

Plan on attending League's presentation of Pros & Cons of the November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot measures:

Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.  
MJC, East Campus  
Forum Hall, Room 110

Thanks to Patty Beyer, Ellen Dunbar, and Amy Wolfe for all the work that goes into studying the issues and explaining them in language that the rest of us can understand.

*Susan Novak, Vice President*

## Board Meeting Highlights

September 10, 2008

- Board approved recommendation of Consensus Meeting to support Measure S on the November ballot. See article in this *Voter*.
- 2007 fiscal report approved by Board via e-mail prior to publication in September.
- August *Voter* praised by LWVC President for its informational content and references to LWVC Websites.
- Holiday Fling date set for December 1.

*Marie Bairey, Secretary*

Hold the date!

*HOLIDAY FLING*

Monday, December 1, 2008

6:30 p.m.

Speaker: Daryl Moore, Founding Dean,  
College of the Arts, CSUS

(Further details in the November "Voter")

## THE VOTER

This month I received a very nice note from our State President Janis Hirohama that made my day. She stated in part:

"I read the August issue of your Stanislaus County *Voter* with great interest. Let me congratulate you on the high quality of your *Voter*, which was full of interesting and useful news."

MANY THANKS go to the board who contributes to The Voter each month and a BIG HIGH FIVE goes to *Voter* Editor Jean Tenney!

*Ellen Meyer, President*

# Local Action

## League Supports Measure S

The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County Board of Directors approved the recommendation of the consensus meeting to support Measure S – Better Roads- Safer Streets Program – on the November 4 ballot. The measure proposes a ½ cent sales tax for the next 20 years dedicated to street and road improvements in the county and the nine cities. It could generate as much as \$700 million for local and regional transportation needs.

League members examined the provisions of Measure S. We recognize that an effective and efficient transportation system is essential for economic development – jobs generation, and that the proposal represents important steps toward cooperative, regional planning.

The Expenditure Plan allocates 50% of the funds to the nine cities for local street upgrades, repair and maintenance. Forty-nine percent of the funds are for the county's road system and development of three east/west connector corridors. Two of these, State Highways 108 and 132, could benefit from the county's qualifying as a self-help county to obtain state matching funds to jump start the improvements. Administrative expenses are limited to 1%. Though we found the lack of provision for alternative transportation modes to reduce automobile use as serious concerns, we agreed that the overall upgrade of the county's transportation system warrants League's support at this time. Important procedural components assure that the public interest is protected. The Expenditure Plan is for 10 years; it will be reviewed and revised for the following 10 years. There is an amendment process to modify the Plan. There is a representative watchdog Citizens' Oversight Committee which will audit the Plan's implementation annually.

Transportation funding is complex, unpredictable and often short-sighted. Measure S enables Stanislaus County and its communities to take control of their transportation systems to catch-up from the past and plan for the future.

*Patty Beyer, Local Action Director*

***“The cauldron does not burn off immigrant character, creating American sameness, but intensifies its many tastes. Ladle after ladle of ethnic infusions go into the pot.”***

The United States is often called a nation of immigrants. And it is. The quotation above expresses the diversity of immigrants and those of immigrant stock, and the vitality this diversity contributes to America.

### **Immigration: A Historical Perspective**

by Katherine Fennelly

This introductory article for the League's three-year Immigration Study is the first in a scheduled series of three articles. It provides a historical overview of immigration issues and immigration legislation in the United States, and brings us to the current situation and ongoing debate. The author points out that few subjects are as controversial as immigration and have as contentious a history. Published in 2007.

### **Unauthorized Immigration: The Case for Earned Legalization**

by Patricia Hatch and Katherine Fennelly

As a result of the LWVUS Immigration Study, the League supports a path to earned legalization as part of comprehensive immigration reform. This essay highlights reasons why creating a pathway to legal status for unauthorized immigrants already in the U.S. would be preferable to mass deportations for both the immigrant families and their U.S. citizen neighbors. Published in 2008.

LVUS Website

For the complete articles recapped above, go to the LVWUS members only website.

## Thank You, League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County

A Letter from our Recent Intern

Is it always easy to see the good? Not so much anymore, especially with all the bad. But my eyes have come across something so good that it will forever leave a vivid mark on my memory. The good for me came when I had the opportunity to become an intern for The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County. Unsure of what to expect, I walked in only hoping for the best. Luckily for me, I saw a group of individuals more or less working like a family to ensure the public education on voting and topics surrounding it. Everyone was so generous and eager to teach. Every time I was greeted by a member, I was honored to be around such wisdom and passion. I learned so much.

I tried to get as much experience from The League as I could. I either attended or assisted at various events including: Board meetings, Annual Membership Event, public hearings in the community, League presentations. I monitored an election, and assisted at a student fair, not to mention that I met some pretty amazing people along the way. These are all experiences that do not come out of a text book. This is something that I can take with me anywhere I go and I will never forget.

So I would like to personally thank The League for opening the doors for me and introducing me. For the past intern, present intern and future interns, I want to thank you. And I am proud to say that I am a member of The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County.

*Malorie Michael, Member*

## Membership Reminder:

As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, those members who have not sent in their checks for membership will be dropped from our directory. The League values your membership and dedication to our cause. If you wish to maintain your membership please send in your check as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Colleen Norby, Membership Director

### Welcome Our Newest Members

Jill Sousa  
Steve Fotheringham

*We look forward to seeing you  
at our events*

### I WANT TO ADD MY VOICE TO YOURS BY JOINING THE LEAGUE WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY!

Student Membership     \$15     \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership   \$60     \_\_\_\_\_

Household Membership   \$90     \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me with more information:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (for directory): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### MAIL TO

LWVSC

P.O. Box E

Modesto, CA 95352

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan 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.

Tear off and send to:  
League of Women Voters of  
Stanislaus County  
LWV Modesto  
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Modesto, CA 95352  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

{Check Website for Updates}

Tuesday, October 7	7:00 p.m. Candidates Forum Oakdale City Council Chambers 277 North 2nd Avenue, Oakdale
Wednesday, October 8	6:00 p.m. Board Meeting League Office 720 13th Street, Modesto
Tuesday, October 14	11:00 a.m. Local Action Committee League Office 720 13th Street, Modesto
Wednesday, October 15	7:00 p.m. Pros and Cons Presentation MJC East Campus, Founders Hall, Room 110
Tuesday October 28	12:00 Noon Lunch and Learn Appetez Restaurant Roseburg Square, Modesto Speaker: John Lazar, Mayor of Turlock \$11.00 For vegetarian entree, call one day ahead