



The Fresno VOTER

Phone: 559-226-VOTE

Web site:
<http://fresno.ca.lwvnet.org>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President	Francine Farber
Vice Presidents:	
Administration	Kay Bertken
Program	Terri Figgs
Voter Services	Liz Shields
Secretary	Pat Campbell
Treasurer	Jane Worsley

DIRECTORS

Student Unit	Diane Blair
Transportation	John Donaldson
Natural Resources	Mary Savala
Membership	Dolores O'Neal
On Leave	Eileen Bryan

VOTER Editor

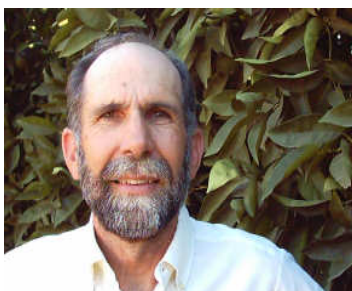
Francine Farber

WEBMASTER

Jackie Canfield

Regional Workshop scores success with varied topics, good speakers, Valley visitors

by Georgia Sisson



Dr. David Cehrs



Tony Boren



Dr. Robert Merrill

A crowd of over 40 people from Fresno, surrounding counties and the state League filled the Community Room at Stone Soup on September 25 for a Regional Workshop on a variety of topics.

Speaking on Water Issues were Roberta Borgonovo, Water Director for LWVC, Dr. David Cehrs, hydrologist and director of the Kings River Conservation District, and Dr. Robert Merrill, geologist and professor emeritus at CSUF.

Borgonovo presented her experience in working to help put the \$11 million Water Bond Measure through the state legislature in 2009. Local League water specialists met with her monthly by teleconference. After the study was completed, the measure was opposed by LWVC because in its final version it relied on existing water resources and potentially shifted the expense of development from the beneficiaries to the taxpayers.

The second part of the water program was the panel, Water: Deeper Than You Think, conducted by Dr. Merrill, and Dr. Cehrs.

They pointed out that water is a finite resource which has been over-drafted here since 1945, that the water table in Fresno County is declining at an average of .9 foot per year and that there is a limit below which there is no water. Over the last 55 years the water table under the urban and irrigated areas has declined by 100 feet. To achieve sustainability Fresno County would need to reduce its use by 15% which at current uses would mean taking 110,000 acres out of irrigated agricultural production.

Under California law domestic uses of water have top priority. Merrill and Cehrs pointed out that agriculture has decided that environmental sources of water are the only available sources left for them to increase use, but climate change will certainly change the snow pack reservoir we depend on.

The problem as they see it is that an increasing population will need more food, which depends on more water, or we can
(continued on page 6)

Calendar

Regular Board Meeting
 Tuesday, October 12
 League Office, 5 p.m.

Lunch & Learn
 Proposition Advocacy
 Wednesday, October 13
 Stone Soup, Noon

Last day to register
 For November 2 election
 Monday, October 18

Regular Board Meeting
 Tuesday, November 16
 League Office, 5 p.m.

Lunch & Learn
 Charter Schools
 Wednesday, November 17
 Stone Soup, Noon

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY

APRIL 2, 2011

LWVF 70th Anniversary

President's Message



Member News

Please Update Your Roster

Lucy Elgin

lucyandgeorge@aol.com

Shirley Golden

goldensings@sbcglobal.net

Margaret Johnson

Phone 638-6476

Luisa Medina

luisamedina49@sbcglobal.net

Carolyn Murphy

billletter2@gmail.com

Bernadette Siegel

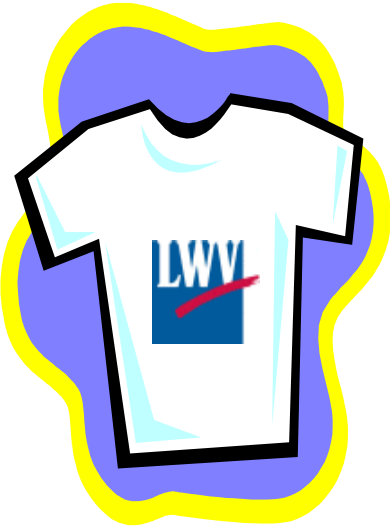
detteart@att.net

Kathy Webb

225 Schooner Court

Richmond, CA 94604

GET YOUR LEAGUE T-SHIRTS NOW



Front



Back

LWVF is selling these terrific t-shirts as a fund-raiser. They are going fast! Shirts come in medium, large and extra large, are made of 100% cotton and are pre-shrunk. The logo is in red and blue, with blue script on the back.

They are selling for \$10 each, or you may buy 5 or more at \$9 per shirt.

They make great stocking-stuffers and gifts for your friends.

To order leave a message at 226-8683 or e-mail me at fmfarber@hotmail.com.

Francine

This month we have received donations from

- ◆ Kathy Webb
- ◆ In memory of Phyllis Wilson:
 - Mary Biskup
 - Bette and Bill Noblett
 - San Joaquin Valley Town Hall

We gratefully accept celebratory and memorial gifts.

If you make out your check to LWVF Fed Fund, it will be tax deductible.

Please send to Jane Worsley, Treasurer, LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710



Lost Lake Development Opposed by League

by Mary Savala and Radley Reep

Several hundred people banded together twenty-five years ago to safeguard the environment along the San Joaquin River from the Ball Ranch housing project. From that battle arose the San Joaquin River Parkway with its pledge to restore, conserve and protect the river bottom.

Today a similar threat is shaping up. At stake is the future of Lost Lake Park at the northerly stretch of the San Joaquin River Parkway. It appears the Fresno County Board of Supervisors is lending its support to Table Mountain Rancheria's (TMR) interest in transforming the park into a venue for large regional events.

The County of Fresno obtained a grant of \$400,000 in 2007 to develop a Master Plan for Lost Lake Park. In the fall of 2008, TMR offered to lease or purchase the site, suggesting the park could accommodate a par course, a BMX track, 17 soccer fields, 2 baseball diamonds, 2 softball diamonds, 2 Little League diamonds, a 9-hole executive golf course and a golf driving range, plus concessions. **The Board of Supervisors considered the matter and agreed to continue the planning process, provide a tour of the site to TMR and hold additional meetings to inform the public.** An "understanding" was memorialized in a letter from County Public Works Director Alan Weaver to Dan Casas, legal counsel for TMR, dated Dec.23, 2008.



The letter reports that the County will prepare an estimated cost to continue the current maintenance/service level at Lost Lake Park through the balance of that current fiscal year and will prepare a grant application for Indian Gaming Funding for the maintenance and operations along with capital improvements. In return the County will incorporate features identified in the TMR plan into the proposed master plan for the park, including areas for 8 to 12 soccer fields and 4 to 6 baseball fields. A community park will be incorporated near the entrance to Friant Road, and the County will

work with TMR to formalize terms for a Lost Lake Park lease for TMR to operate and improve Lost Lake Park.

No more public meetings have been held.

The County Indian Gaming Community Benefit Committee with Supervisor Henry Perea as Chairman approved a grant from TMR in April 2009 for \$330,000 to operate and maintain Lost Lake Park. Six months later the public release of the Master Plan included development of a Friant Community Park that could be used for a variety of purposes from hosting large events to active sports. Open areas could accommodate up to 10

world cup standard soccer fields (20 practice fields) and 3 softball fields.

The Park Master Plan is still being refined. The May 2010 version includes 1500 parking spaces and room for expansion plus the installation of 23 restrooms; the 47 acre park within a park will offer opportunities to stage regional events. These high-intensity uses conflict with the fundamental goals of the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan spelled out at the 2007 public workshop:

- **Preserve and restore the riparian corridor**
- **Protect wildlife species that depend on or prefer the river environment**
- **Provide for conservation, education and recreation**
- **Provide a continuous trail in cooperation with affected landowners**
- **Protect irreplaceable natural and cultural resources**
- **Protect existing undeveloped areas of the river bottom**

The Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning is undertaking an environmental assessment of the proposed Master Plan, which envisions moving 2 million tons of earth to re-sculpt the greater part of the site, including a large area of habitat for wildlife. Because the County determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report was not a favored approach, there will be no publication or peer review of the environmental impact of the plan nor any consideration of alternatives.

The League has consistently supported the goals of the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan. Please direct questions and comments to Radley Reep 297-4203, or Mary Savala 431-1227.

Voter Services

by Elizabeth Shields

We have received a renewal of our contract with the Fresno County Elections Department through 2013 for our work in handling absentee ballots and manning the phones on Election night.

The Fresno County Office of Education is again going to tape our candidate forums. There are fifteen local races for Congressional districts, state senate and state assembly seats, FUSD districts and runoffs for county supervisor, city council and county assessor-recorder positions.

The forums will be taped in mid-October and broadcast on local educational channels. The schedule will be sent to members when it is available.

Easy Voter Guides have arrived for the November 2 election. They are available in English and Spanish. If you represent a group that requires quantity copies, please call the League office and leave a clear message at 226-8683. Individual copies are available at local libraries and at the League office.

So far several requests have been received for presentations on the propositions- one from Hadassah on October 3 and another from a group at Wesleyan Church.



In-class sessions are being arranged with Hoover, Roosevelt, Fowler and Clovis West as part of our grant-funded student

voter registration project. Information on voting was presented to classes at Yokomi Elementary school on September 27 – it's never too young to start! Also in September we helped Madera Advocacy with a voter registration project.

October is Voter Education Month

Law Office of
Sara Hedgpeth-Harris

Attorney at Law

1204 W. Shaw Avenue, Suite 102
Fresno, Ca 93711
(559) 283-8780 Office
(559) 478-5073 Fax
sara.hedgpethharris@gmail.com

Bar No. 124114



BYERS
ACCOUNTANCY
CORPORATION

Licensed with the California
State Board of Accountancy

SHIRLEY M. GOLDEN, CPA

shirley@cpabyers.com

1141 W. Shaw Ave., Ste. 103
Fresno, CA 93711-3713
(559) 803-6981 Phone
(559) 803-6984 Fax

EYE-Q
Latest technology. Caring doctors.

1 800 DR VISION • eyeqvc.com

twitter.com/DrVision

The Voter

Volume 69, No. 7

The VOTER

is a monthly publication of the
League of Women Voters Fresno.

Mailing Address:
1345 Bulldog Lane
Fresno, CA 93705

LEAGUE BALLOT INITIATIVE
RECOMMENDATIONS

November 2, 2010 STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION

Fresno: Measure Q School Bond for Fresno Unified: **Strongly Support**

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| ❖ PROP 20 Redistricting of Congressional Districts | OPPOSE |
| ❖ PROP 23 Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards | OPPOSE |
| ❖ PROP 24 Tax Fairness Act | SUPPORT |
| ❖ PROP 25 Simple Majority Vote for Budget | SUPPORT |
| ❖ PROP 26 "Polluter Protection" | OPPOSE |
| ❖ PROP 27 Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting | STRONGLY OPPOSE |



NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| PROP 18 Water Bond Measure | REMOVED FROM BALLOT |
| PROP 19 Legalize and Regulate Marijuana | NO POSITION |
| PROP 21 \$18 Vehicle License Fee for Parks, Wildlife Programs | NEUTRAL |
| PROP 22 State Government Prohibited from Taking Local Funds | NEUTRAL |

Join us on Wednesday October 13 for "Prop Talk"

An Advocacy Session to Explain

League's Positions on the Ballot Initiatives

"Lunch & Learn" with League at Noon at Stone Soup

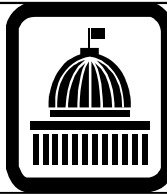
You bring your lunch - we supply the beverages and snacks

No charge for this event!

Questions? Call 226-5455

Legislation

by Terri Figgs



At midnight September 1st the gavel came down and the 2009-2010 legislative session came to a close. The governor has until September 30th to sign or veto all the measures passed by the state legislature.

Some of the bills sent to the Governor's desk:

SB 918 (Pavley) - Water recycling. Increases water recycling in the state by directing the California Department of Public Health to complete public safety standards for using recycled water to recharge groundwater basins and augment surface storage. This measure ensures the development of a safe, cost-effective, and drought-proof source of new water for the state.

AB 499 (Hill) - California Environmental Quality Act. Makes clarifying amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to ensure that all parties with a direct interest in a CEQA case are aware of a pending lawsuit and parties with no direct link to the case are not unnecessarily dragged into litigation.

SB 1142 (Wiggins) - Agricultural resources: grants. Creates a track within the Department of Conservation's California Farmland Conservancy Program to fund agricultural

easements that can provide secondary conservation benefits such as flood protection and habitat preservation.

SB 1365 (Corbett) - Public safety: consumer products. Bills allows the Department of Toxic Substances to test for lead and to enforce the federal Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act to ensure public safety.

SB 1433 (Leno) - Air pollution penalties: inflation adjustments. Adjusts ceilings for air pollution violations with inflation so the real value of statutory air penalties does not further decline. The ceiling for the most commonly used category (strict liability) has not been increased since 1982.

AB 1963 (Nava) - Pesticide poisoning. Bill improves the pesticide poisoning prevention program to protect farm workers who handle pesticides. By simply having laboratories send test results electronically to the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), state officials will have the necessary information to monitor the existing pesticide poisoning prevention program and protect farm workers.

Regional Workshop

(Continued from page 1)

import more food, which will require more transportation. OR we can grow more food, which means limiting growth, hurting the building industry. OR we can grow more people, more expensive food, less total food and less food choices : grains and beans, which require less water, rather than fruits and vegetables, and have a change in lifestyle, especially regarding landscaping.

They discussed countries which have decided to grow their own food, such as Japan, France, Poland and China. Saudi Arabia and South Korea are buying ag land world-wide to produce food for their own importation.

Possible solutions to these problems are legislative apportionment of ag lands, administrative allocation of water through the state water boards, or adjudication of basins. Without improvement, eventually the food and water supply will not support the population.

Also presenting was Tony Boren, executive director of the Fresno County Council of Governments, representing 15 municipalities and the county government. He spoke about the complex planning and implementation that is ongoing with the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint process.

Helen Hutchison, state second vice

president for advocacy and program, spoke about the state redistricting process. Teresa Espana is one of 60 people state-wide still remaining in the pool for the new redistricting panel, which started out with thousands of applicants. She spoke about her experiences with the many-tiered requirements including five essays and an interview.

Janis Hirohama, the president of LWVC, made a presentation about the methods that League uses to determine advocacy issues. She also spoke about the propositions that will be on the November 2 ballot and explained how league came to positions as support, oppose, neutral, or no position.

Education

by Kay Bertken



Fresno Unified is moving ahead with a new school year, another set of modestly improved scores on California's assessment of English Language Arts (ELA) and math, a failed effort at federal Race-to-the Top funding, and a facilities bond ready for the November ballot.

New Student Data Base to Increase Access

The new school year began successfully but with some confusion accompanying a comprehensive new student data base system. **The new Atlas system tracks student enrollment, attendance and grades and discipline and replaces a complex patchwork of aging systems that have made it difficult to access information.** Mirroring the introduction of comprehensive data systems in industry, the launch revealed data base and training shortcomings that needed to be fixed quickly. With at least temporary fixes made, it is hoped that information will be readily and conveniently available.

Improved Test Results but More Gains Needed

Last year's results from the California STAR testing system were presented to the Board of Trustees in September. The tests assess students in grades 2 through 11 as achieving one of five achievement levels: Advanced, Proficient, Basic and Below Basic. It reports the percent of students receiving Advanced or Proficient scores. Over the last four years the FUSD percent on the ELA test has gone from 30.3% in 2007-2008 to 38.5% in 2009-2010. **In math the scores have gone from 29.3% achieving proficient or above to 40.3% last year.** The overall percentages for the state last year were close to 52% for ELA and 53% for math.

The improvements are positive news, but the reality still exists that most District students are struggling. When the data is broken out by subgroups, there exists a persistent and significant achievement gap between groups. All ethnic minority groups, English language learners and socio-economically disadvantaged students scores are improving but still well below the comparison white subgroup. The gaps are more pronounced on the ELA than on the math tests.

Other measures from last year also moved in a positive direction. The proportion of tenth graders passing the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) on the first try is up to 71% in ELA (up from 68% in 2007-2008) and 75% (up from 71%) in math. More students are taking Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes and passing those tests. More students are taking algebra in the 8th grade and scoring at least proficient on the algebra test though the percentages have dropped slightly because of the increases in numbers taking the tests.

Failed Race to the Top

Fresno Unified along with the rest of the country received news of the Race to the Top winners last month. The California application had been developed by a small group of districts including Fresno Unified. **The feedback from the Department of Education indicated that the lack of a comprehensive data system at the state level was the primary defect which resulted in California not being a winner again.**

Measure Q Facilities Bond

There will be a local facilities bond measure on the November 2 ballot that would raise \$280 million to upgrade all of FUSD schools and begin the necessary facilities improvements identified by the recently adopted District Facility Master Plan. This bond would replace an old bond that expires in 2011 so it would not raise the current authorized tax rate. The League has endorsed the measure; and our president, Francine Farber, is among the signers of the arguments-in-support that will appear on the sample ballot.

Measure Q, standing for Quality Education and Quality Schools, will expand the availability of career-vocational education by investing in the construction and expansion of career-tech facilities. It will address the dropout issue by improving our comprehensive high schools and investing in alternative and continuing education sites. The bond sets aside funds to replace portable classrooms with permanent buildings and to continue technology investment..

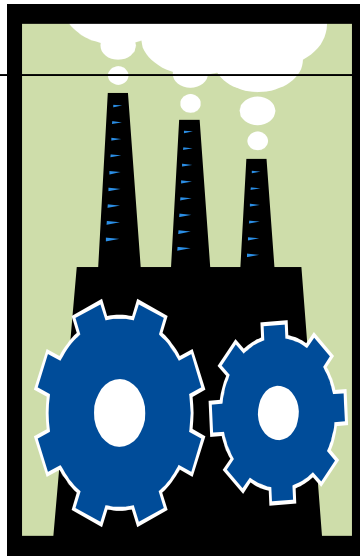
In parallel with the bond measure and the District Master Plan, architects are developing long term site plans for each of the District's aging high schools: Roosevelt, Fresno High, Edison, McLane, Hoover and Bullard. Over the next months, there will be community meetings with the architects at each of the high schools. to allow community members to participate in the exciting work of re-imagining these campuses.

Natural Resources

by Mary Savala

Sidewalks

Patience Milrod is representing League and Medical Advocates for Healthy Air pro-bono as part of her representation of the lawsuits against the City General Plan and Copper River Ranch for mitigation of air quality issues several years ago.



The General Plan Amendment dealing with sidewalks has been continued at Fresno City Council for the 4th time to October 7. Patience reminded the City of Fresno that mitigation requiring sidewalks on both sides of the street cannot be modified administratively without due process.

Greenhouse Gases

The California Air Resources Board has accepted the San Joaquin Valley's targets for reduction of green house gases as "place holders" for an interim period of time, and is anticipating reaching greater targets as transportation

modeling is improved and can show better methods of modifying transportation habits and land use to achieve greater reductions. There is much grumbling in the business community and apprehension among transportation and land use planners regarding the political will to achieve even modest goals for green house gas reductions. Note Proposition 23, which suspends clean energy and air pollution standards in California until the state unemployment rate reaches and remains at an unrealistic percentage. **LWVC opposes Prop 23.**

Student Unit

by Diane Blair



The first meeting of the semester was held on September 15 on the CSUF campus. We elected officers and discussed election activities for the Fall semester. The new officers are: **Chair: Becky Lindh; Vice-Chair: Stephanie Hartzell; Treasurer: Ana Mendoza.**

Plans include voter registration drives on campus and organizing a "Prop Talk" forum on campus on some of the ballot initiatives. Fresno State will host one of three gubernatorial debates on October 2 in the Satellite Student Union. The debate will be closed to the public; the student unit will discuss how to advocate for student access and involvement. Members will also host a table at the annual "Take Back the Night Event" to raise awareness about gender violence.

The LWVF Board has decided to waive the \$10/semester student membership fee. Most service-oriented student groups on campus do not have membership fees. Some students may be taken aback by the thought of paying to be a part of a group that is already asking them to give of their time and energy.


The costs associated with the student group are not significant. Student members receive the Voter electronically and as the faculty advisor I provide snacks at our meetings. It may be more important to see the Student Unit as a way to outreach, to introduce students to the work of the League, and to generate positive experiences with civic engagement, and not worry so much about dues and membership commitments. Several Board members have volunteered to underwrite student membership dues.

We are grateful to our sponsors for their support in "Making Democracy Work."
 League members who wish to be sponsors or to secure sponsorship for us, may contact Francine Farber at 226-5455

PATIENCE MILROD
 LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

844
 North Van Ness
 Fresno, California
 93728
 559/ 442-3111
 pm097@csufresno.edu

Congratulations
 League of Women Voters
 for
 another successful year
 of service
 to our community



HEBERGER & MERRITT INC
 Certified Public Accountants
 John W. Heberger, CPA, CVA
 Gayle T. Merritt, CPA

Between Barstow & Bullard 5680 N. Fresno St., Ste. 110
 Fresno, CA 93710-8331

Frederick J. Kruger, D.P.M.
 Diplomate, American Board of Podiatric Surgery
 Diseases, Injuries and Surgery of the Foot

(559) 447-9040
 FAX (559) 447-9042 By Appointment

Joe Figgs




J Figgs Real Estate Brokerage
 1576 W. Minarets
 Fresno, CA 93711

Phone 559-431-7274
 Cell 559-779-3952
 Fax 559-432-6608
 Email: jfiggs@comcast.net

PRINT SHACK
 Printing, Copies & Design
 379 E Shaw Avenue
 Fresno, CA 93710
 (Mission Village)

Bruce Tamiyasu
 Owner
 ph 559.221.0768
 fx 559.221.0760
 cell 559.273.8575
 printshack@gmail.com



NELSON
 PHYSICAL THERAPY

Larry Nielson, P.T.

2747 W. Bullard, #105, Fresno, Ca 93711
 Phone: 559.261.1425 Fax: 559.261.4573

Principal Financial Group

Robert H. Gunning
 Senior Financial Services Representative
 Prncor Registered Representative
 Financial Advisor
 CA Insurance Lic 0E61490

1350 East Spruce Avenue
 Fresno, CA 93720
 (559) 261-2000 Ext. 142 / Fax (559) 261-0501
 Cell (559) 250-5377
 gunning.bob@principal.com

Baker Manock & Jensen PC
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Kenneth J. Price
 Attorney at Law

kprice@bakermanock.com
 Cell: 559.349.6664

Fig Garden Financial Center
 5260 North Palm Avenue
 Fourth Floor
 Fresno, California 93704
 Tel: 559.432.5400
 Fax: 559.432.5620
 www.bakermanock.com



League of Women Voters Fresno, Inc.
 1345 Bulldog Lane, Suite 4
 Fresno, CA 93710

Non-Profit Organization
 US Postage Paid
 Fresno 93706

Permit # 896

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Successful Regional Workshop.....	1
President’s Message/Member Info.....	2
Lost Lake Development Problems.....	3
Voter Services/Sponsors.....	4
Proposition Advocacy.....	5
Legislation.....	6
Education.....	7
Natural Resources/Student Unit.....	8
Our Sponsors.....	9

Democracy is not a spectator sport

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!

Men and Women of Voting Age Making Democracy Work

MISSION: The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens and influences public policy through voter education and advocacy on issues .

NONPARTISANSHIP: The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

DIVERSITY POLICY: There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVF on the basis of race, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or socio-economic level.

TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS: For more information, please leave your name and phone number on the League message phone, 226-8683, or contact our **Membership Chair, Dolores O’Neal at 435-1185**. Prospective members receive one issue of *The Fresno Voter* free.

JOIN US! Members receive newsletters from national, state and local Leagues, may access local, state and national League websites and list-serves, and may participate in League studies of issues.

Yearly Dues Individual - \$60 ~ Family - \$90 (2 members, same address) ~ Student - \$30

Please send your check payable to the League of Women Voters, Fresno, with registration form (below),
 to: LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Suite 4, Fresno, CA 93710.

.....

Name: _____ Ph. _____ E-mail _____

Address: _____