

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TULARE COUNTY

“... To promote informed citizen participation ...”

THE VOTER

FEBRUARY 2016

LWVTC Calendar

- February 11** 9:30 am
Board meeting at Dale Simmons’s home
- February 12** 4:00–6:00 pm
One Billion Rising, starts at Garden Street Plaza, downtown Visalia; LWVTC supports this event. (see p. 7)
- FEBRUARY 16** Noon
Unit meeting at Sue Sa’s; Program: Kim Loeb on new groundwater law (see p. 2); Reserve by Feb. 12.
- February 16** 7:00 pm
Movie Night! *Iron-Jawed Angels* at home of Dale Simmons (see p. 7)
- February 22** (tentative)
1st session of LWV Fresno’s Higher Ed Study (see p. 4)
- March 10** 9:30 am
Board meeting at Dale Simmons’s home
- MARCH 15** Noon
Unit meeting at Sue Sa’s; Program: TBA
- April 9**
Young Activists’ Conference at Redwood H.S.; LWVTC will offer a workshop on civic engagement and voter reg. (see March issue)
- April 14** 9:30 am
Board meeting at Dale Simmons’ home
- April 18** dinner event
LWV Fresno 75th Anniversary celebration; at Roger Rocka’s, Fresno
- APRIL 19** Noon
Unit meeting at Sue Sa’s; Program: TBA
- JUNE 7** 7:00 am –8:00 pm
Primary Election; (see p. 7 for detailed Election Calendar)

December Meeting Recap

MIP PART III:

“A PEEK BEHIND THE CURTAIN”

By Dale Simmons

Dr. Tom Holyoke kindly took leave of his professorial duties in the Political Science Dept. at C.S.U. Fresno to speak at our Unit meeting on December 15. We are studying Money in Politics, and he gave us his perspective.

He said that over \$1 billion was spent for the 2012 presidential election. We will know less about how much is spent in 2016, Holyoke said, as the single biggest problem is the tracking of donations. We know less about who is backing the candidates! Both the older Super-PACs and the trendier 501(c)(4) nonprofits raise huge amounts of money, while candidates control smaller funds directly through their own campaign committees.

Holyoke said the political landscape has been redefined by the Supreme Court—most notably decisions in *Citizens United* (2010) and *McCutcheon* (2014). Super-PACs can now accept unlimited contributions, but cannot coordinate work with campaigns (although they can attack other candidates). Super-PACs must report contributors, and typically are funded by individuals.

More mysterious are the 501(c)(4) nonprofits which have alleged social welfare functions. Money is given to these with no reporting requirements. This “dark money” is spent on “social welfare education” politics. The I.R.S. is the only authority over 501(c)(4)s, but had its budget cut by Congress after questioning the legitimacy of some of these organizations. Advertising dollars have been used for media attacks on politicians and significant social program nonprofits (e.g., Planned Parenthood), but Holyoke feels the Federal Election Commission is unfortunately “toothless” in its ability to level the playing field.

The Supreme Court now considers the spending of money in our political arenas to be “free speech,” and has said it is protected under the First Amendment. However, the Court also permits Congress to regulate behavior that has the potential for corruption. Holyoke pointed out that changing the Court would require changing the political control of Congress. Further to consider: vast unequal contributing appears to threaten the rule of one-person, one-vote political participation.

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**Don't forget to make your
Lunch Reservations**

Contact: **Mary Ann Bringhurst**
on or before Fri. **February 12**
by e-mail
newellgb@hotmail.com
or phone (732-1251).

MT BEEF WITH BEEF

Welcome back from the holidays! 'Tis the season now for implementing New Years resolutions...

I'm cutting way down on my consumption of beef. Why? Not for health reasons. Not because of the daily use of antibiotics in feed. Not to cut down on the greenhouse gas methane. Not even, I'm ashamed to say, on humanitarian grounds. My motivation is that beef production requires so very much water! Beef is the most water-intensive protein we eat—one pound requires 2,000–9,000 gallons to produce. The same amount of chicken requires 400–700 gallons.

Cows not only consume water directly, but their ruminant diet consists nearly entirely of that most thirsty plant category: grasses—alfalfa, corn, sorghum, etc. This is where the truly exorbitant use of water comes in. Add to that the fact that environmental laws require the “effluents” of cows be diluted—with water, of course—in an attempt to protect our groundwater. If dairy and beef production were cut in the Valley, irrigation concerns for all other farming would be significantly eased.

Of course the most eco-friendly path is that of vegetarianism (or, more radically, veganism), but there are concerns about human dietary health. And the biggest hurdle between me and vegetarianism is prime rib. I'm not giving that up entirely. No, I'm not going cold turkey on beef. I'll eat it if it's served at a friend's house, or sometimes at a restaurant. But I now find I never buy it at the grocery store. There are so many other options! Fish, seafood, chicken, pork, lamb, turkey, duck, eggs, beans. What did we have for Thanksgiving instead? Goat! This most consumed meat world-wide is delicious—and makes beef taste bland.

An excess of beef and dairy production in our arid Valley requires huge amounts of water. Some see dams as the solution, but these destroy fish habitats. Since the heyday of dam building, salmon populations are down 95 percent. Wild salmon is now typically \$24 a pound! Ground beef is as low as \$3 a pound. (The difference in flavor and nutritive value between wild and farmed salmon is even greater than that between grass-fed and industrially-produced beef.) I prefer salmon, and very much resent this price disparity. The taxpayer subsidy of beef farming has priced salmon beyond most people's reach.

Wendell Berry observed, “Eating is an agricultural act.” Nudging away from beef is one lifestyle change that can make a difference.

KIM LOEB

**“The ABCs of SGMA”
The New Groundwater Law**

Quite a bit has happened since LWVTC did a study of water two years ago. The drought—now in its fifth year—and the consequent strain on water resources proved to be the catalyst for Gov. Jerry Brown to initiate the state's first-ever Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The culmination of a trio of laws, SGMA (pronounced “sigma”) requires action at the local level throughout California.

Kim Loeb will tell us all about this, and what it means for Tulare County. As Visalia's Natural Resources Conservation manager, Loeb is also on the Technical Advisory Committee of the brand-new Mid-Kaweah GSA (Groundwater Sustainability Agency). This puts him in the eye of the storm.

Loeb has been with the City of Visalia for six years, and sees his job as working “to reduce the City's utility expenses, reduce water usage and increase supplies, and to work toward sustainable practices.” He is a State-certified engineering geologist, hydrologist and environmental assessor, and is involved with professional associations that deal with groundwater issues at the state and national levels.

Loeb worked 23 years in the private sector—most recently as vice-president at EnviroSolve Corp. Earlier, he served five years in the Air Force before getting his degree in geology at California State University, Northridge.

Though he grew up in southern California, Loeb and his wife raised their two daughters—one now in college, and one at Golden West—here in Visalia. In his spare time, he enjoys Americana music and motorcycling, but laments that he “doesn't spend nearly as much time in the Sierras as I'd like.”



THE VOTER

**Monthly newsletter of the
League of Women Voters of Tulare County**

P.O. Box 3011
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<http://tularecounty.ca.lwvnet.org>

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Issue Background Reading

A new set of acronyms is coming into our vocabulary around groundwater law, as are significant changes to how we manage this critical natural resource. Some of the basics are excerpted here. Warning: Even though they are about water, the readings are pretty dry. Kim Loeb's talk on "The ABCs of SGMA" should pump up the topic.

WHAT'S SGMA? AND WHAT IS TULARE COUNTY DOING ABOUT IT?

FROM CALIFORNIA'S DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES WEBSITE

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a Strategic Plan for its Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Program. DWR's SGM Program will implement the new and expanded responsibilities identified in the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Some of these expanded responsibilities include:

- (1) developing regulations to revise groundwater basin boundaries;
- (2) adopting regulations for evaluating and implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and coordination agreements;
- (3) identifying basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft;
- (4) identifying water available for groundwater replenishment; and
- (5) publishing best management practices for the sustainable management of groundwater. ...

Water Code sections of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SB 13 changed DWR's role with respect to reviewing and posting groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) formation notices—these changes generally relate to:

- (1) notification completeness reviews;
- (2) overlapping GSA boundaries; and
- (3) exceeding service area jurisdictions as a GSA. ...

Description of the Region

The Tulare Lake HR covers approximately 10.9 million acres (17,000 square miles) and includes all of Kings and Tulare counties and most of Fresno and Kern counties [see map on right]. ... Significant geographic features include the southern half of the San Joaquin Valley, the Temblor Range to the west, the Tehachapi Mountains to the south, and the southern Sierra Nevada to the east.

The region is home to more than 1.7 million people as of 1995.

groundwater basins and 7 sub-basins of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin, which crosses north into the San Joaquin River HR. These basins underlie approximately 5.33 million acres (8,330 square miles) or 49 percent of the entire HR area. Groundwater has historically been important to both urban and agricultural uses, accounting for 41 percent of the region's total annual supply and 35 percent of all groundwater use in the State. ...

Tulare Lake Hydrologic [sic] Region



Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region

The cities of Fresno, Bakersfield, and Visalia have groundwater recharge programs to ensure that groundwater will continue to be a viable water supply in the future. Extensive groundwater recharge programs are also in place in the south valley where water districts have recharged several million acre-feet for future use and transfer through water banking programs. The extensive use of groundwater in the San Joaquin Valley has historically caused subsidence of the land surface primarily along the west side and south end of the valley... ★



Senate Bill 13 changes to GSA formation

Senate Bill (SB) 13, which was passed in September 2015 and becomes law in January 2016, amended or clarified numerous

and Visalia are entirely dependent on groundwater for their supply, with Fresno being the second largest city in the United States reliant solely on groundwater.

The region has 12 distinct

Photo Gallery



Faye Zeeb, guest Sharon Fisher, Phyllis Ogden, Sue Gampietro and Susan Sevier toast the season at our holiday luncheon, at Sue Sa's Club House.

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES



Fresno State political science professor Thomas Holyoke presents "A Peek behind the Curtain," the third in our series on Money in Politics (see p. 1).



LWVTC Members donate non-perishable foods (or cash) to Visalia's Emergency Aid Pantry at 217 NE Third Ave.



Dorothy Osak and Lois Brannan take their turns reading fellow members' predictions for 2016.



Among the revelers on December 15 are Donna Denham, Joanne and David Dudley, Phoebe Taylor and Donna Mekeel.

Fresno League Invites LWVTC to Higher Ed Study

By Terry Cornelius

As reported at our September Unit meeting, the California State League (LWVC) is currently conducting a Study of Higher Education. The areas of focus are equity, funding, affordability, preparedness, opportunities and barriers to success.

Although the League of Women Voters of California has positions on education covering issues in preK-12 education and the California Community Colleges (C.C.C.), it does not have a position on public higher education in California inclusive of the C.C.C., the California State University (C.S.U.), and the University of California (U.C.) systems. This lack has prevented the LWVC from commenting on, or advocating for or against, proposed policies and legislation affecting higher education.

This Study will try to identify some of the barriers that undermine equitable academic attainment, and to suggest opportunities that could open clogged pathways in our state's system of public higher education.

The State League website does, of course, have considerable reading materials available online for this Study. Take a look at <https://lwc.org/study/education-0> for relevant briefings.

Although LWVTC is not undertaking this Study (which concludes in May), LWV Fresno is currently putting a three-session Study together, tentatively scheduled for **Feb. 22**, **March 7** and **April 2**. Members will be notified by email when the first date is firm, so those interested can participate. Stay tuned!

U.S. LEAGUE OPPOSES FY2016 CLEAR WATER DILUTION

LWVUS was a signatory—along with more than 200 organizations as diverse as the Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, the Pennsylvania Council of Churches and Amigos Bravos—to a November 19, 2015, letter urging Congress to reject amendments to the FY 2016 budget that would undermine the EPA’s Clean Water Rule. The [letter](#) is excerpted here.

Our organizations, ... urge you to oppose all ideological and anti-environmental riders proposed for inclusion in appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2016, including language that would undermine the Environmental Protection Agency’s and Army Corps of Engineers’ final Clean Water Rule.

The Clean Water Rule restores critical pollution safeguards to a variety of our nation’s waterways, ... For decades, the Clean Water Act provided comprehensive protections for water bodies across the country, from the smallest head-water streams to the giant Mississippi River.

However, two Supreme Court decisions threw protections for some of our waterways into question. ...

To develop the Clean Water Rule, the agencies engaged in a very transparent and thorough process, including holding more than 400 stakeholder meetings, providing more than 200 days for public comment, and conducting a detailed and open analysis and peer review of the science on which the rule is based. Over 800,000 people commented in support of the rule,

and poll after poll has found small businesses, hunters and anglers, and a bipartisan majority of voters in favor of the Clean Water Rule and more protections for our water.

Yet, big polluters ... [h]aving been unable to kill the rule through the normal legislative process, are turning to the appropriations process to push their anti-clean water agenda in a last ditch effort to undermine this scientifically-sound, widely-supported rule. ... Big polluters are trying to force Congress to choose between clean water and keeping the government open—a ridiculous, dangerous, and false choice....

LWVTC VOTER REG GEARS UP FOR SPRING

By Terry Cornelius

We are gearing up for high school voter registration for 2016! This includes partnering with the Tulare County High School Voter Registration Project to reach all high schools in Tulare County. In July of 2015, California Secretary of State, Alex Padilla, put out a resolution naming the two weeks in both April and September as High School Voter Education Weeks.

We are currently setting up our agenda for April. If you have volunteered to help, you will be hearing from us soon. If you would like to add your name to the volunteer list, contact Terry Cornelius at terrymcs@sbcglobal.net.

LWV.ORG

Website Revamped

The national League website has been refurbished. It is content-rich, and fascinating reading for the democratically inclined. Check it out.

And don't forget these, more local, sites:

lwvc.org California

tularecounty.ca.lwvnet.org LWVTC

Make It Fair: Update

This from LWV California —

“The [Make It Fair Coalition](#) was formed to work for reform of Proposition 13 by changing the unfair way in which commercial property is taxed in California. The League of Women Voters of California joined the Make It Fair campaign because school districts and local governments in California desperately need more revenue to rebuild services and restore educational opportunities for the state’s children. ...

“Together, over the past several months, the Coalition has made huge progress in bringing real reform to Prop 13 to the forefront of public debate. ... **Even with this significant and encouraging progress, the Make It Fair coalition has decided not to pursue an initiative for the November 2016 ballot.** Instead, Make It Fair will work to build an even more powerful coalition, expand public education, make the electorate reflective of California’s diverse population, and raise funds to ensure the success of any future initiative. ...”

Members Profile

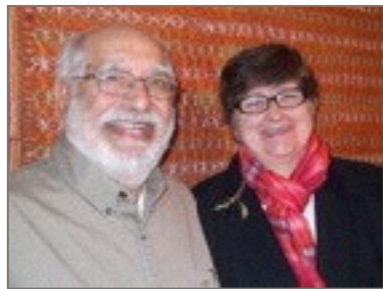
KATHARINE & DALJIT SINGH

Integral to our Money in Politics Study team are Katherine and Daljit Singh. Though relatively new to the League—she joined five years ago, and he is brand-new—they are life-long policy wonks. Though born in vastly different circumstances, their academic and professional interests coincide rather perfectly.

Katherine grew up in staid, rural Kings county, and her family has been involved in farming, “ultimately walnuts,” for four generations. They arrived in 1882, “when it was part of Tulare County,” she notes. She credits her father—who climbed Mt. Fuji in the 1930s—for inspiring her interest in Asia.

Daljit, on the other hand, witnessed major political upheaval as a 5-year-old. Born in British India, in the peculiarly-named town of Montgomery, Punjab, history-changing violence broke out in the summer of 1947. “I remember quite a bit,” he says. As the country split, “we fled to India, with just the clothes on our backs, on the top of a train.” His father stayed behind, as his

mother shepherded five children through the treacherous situation. “Nobody thought it was permanent,” Daljit recalls. Then Pakistan came into existence on August 14, 1947. They were apart for three harrowing months,



“going from one Sikh temple to another,” until they were finally united. They settled in Delhi. His story, and others, can be found on U.C. Berkeley’s oral history [Partition Project](#) website.

Interestingly, Katherine, after graduating U.C. Santa Barbara in political science, went to Pakistan on a Cold War exchange program. (She later returned on a Fulbright Scholarship, to do research in Urdu, on a Muslim reformer.) Meanwhile, Daljit came to the U.S. as a student at Cal Poly, Pomona, and graduated from Cal State, Fullerton.

Their interests intersected at Claremont Graduate School, where they met in class, and earned masters and PhDs in government and Asian studies. Daljit also has advanced degrees in both law and public administration.

Their married and professional lives have taken them far and wide, starting in Colorado and Minnesota (“*extremely cold*”). They both taught at Tuskegee, Alabama, “not long after the civil rights era,” they recall. “It was a segregated town.” In D.C., Daljit was dean of the College of Business and Public Management, at the University of the District of Columbia.

Their longest stint was at the University of Guam, where they settled in for 17 balmy years. She worked as a professor and public information officer, and he was

Elections in the News

This BBC News excerpt can be found in full at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35075702>.

SAUDI ARABIA:

WOMEN VOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME

By BBC Middle East Bureau December 12, 2015

Women in Saudi Arabia have cast their first votes in the country's history, in municipal elections. Women were also standing as candidates, another first, ... A total of 978 women registered as candidates, alongside 5,938 men.

Female candidates had to speak behind a partition while campaigning or be represented by a man. Turnout was high, state media reported.

About 130,000 women registered to vote, officials said. That figure still falls well short of male voter registration, which stands at 1.35 million. ...

The election is for municipal councils with few powers, but it's a milestone for Saudi women. ... [Women] voted in...polling station[s] for women only. The election is segregated, like everything else in this deeply conservative society. ...

Elections themselves are a rare thing in the Saudi kingdom—[December 12 was] only the third time in history that Saudis have gone to the polls. There were no elections in the 40 years between 1965 and 2005.

The decision to allow women to take part was taken by the late King Abdullah and is seen as a key part of his legacy. In announcing the reforms, King Abdullah said women in Saudi Arabia “have demonstrated positions that expressed correct opinions and advice.”...

professor—later dean—of the College of Business and Public Administration, a popular major in a territory where government is the biggest employer.

They returned to California upon retiring in 1996, but keep busy. She taught Asian-American studies at C.O.S., and he taught public administration at Fresno State. Acting locally, Katherine organized the Stonebridge Neighborhood Assn., to “ensure surrounding developments are compatible with the neighborhood. I attended a lot of General Plan update meetings,” she admits. Daljit has been an elected delegate to two national presidential conventions.

They have two adult children—a daughter in British Columbia and a son in Florida—and one young grandson. The couple helps care for Katherine’s 99-year-old mother, and travel whenever they can.

Daljit considers the League to be “a nice balance” with his other civic activities, which include Rotary and the American Cancer Society. Katherine likes that “you can always have a substantive conversation with League members.” A proponent of civil discourse, she maintains that, in League, “It is something we not only *can* do, but I think we *do*.”

Event

ONE BILLION RISING

By Dorothy Osak

Friday, February 12, 4-6:00 pm
Garden St. Plaza, downtown Visalia



LWVTC is helping to sponsor, locally, this call to stop violence against women and girls. Participants will walk down Main

Street, handing carnations to passers-by with information about local resources for victims of violence. The event will culminate in a celebration back at the Garden Street Plaza with music, dancing and resource booths.

This campaign was launched on Valentine's Day 2012 as a response to the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than **one billion women and girls**.

One Billion Rising has become the biggest mass effort to end violence against women in human history. In 2014, the campaign's priority was justice for all survivors of domestic violence. Last year's global coordinators chose the theme of "Revolution" to bring attention to the structural and systemic changes needed to create a world where violence will be resisted until it is unthinkable. This year, the focus is on marginalized women, and moving awareness from the personal to the political.

Come join the gathering at Garden and Main streets on the 12th. Flowers will be provided, and all ages are welcome. Participants are encouraged to wear red, pink or black.

MOVIE NIGHT!

We've been unable to get *Suffragette* to come to Visalia (zero Oscar nominations sealed its fate), so Movie Night will feature a film that takes off where that plot ends. *Iron Jawed Angels* dramatizes the early days of women's struggle for the right to vote in the U.S., a movement that gained much energy from work done in the U.K.

This 2004 HBO production stars Hillary Swank as suffrage leader Alice Paul, with Anjelica Huston as LWV founder Carrie Chapman Catt. It takes us through crucial historical events, starting with the 1913 Women's Suffrage Parade in D.C.—timed to get Woodrow Wilson's attention the day before his inauguration—and ending with a member of the Tennessee legislature changing his tie-breaking vote because "a good boy always does what his mother asks him to do," thus triggering ratification of the 19th Amendment. The film is largely a docudrama, but does take some artistic license (e.g., the Patrick Dempsey character is fictional).

The title refers to a remark by a Massachusetts congressman that the movement was "the nagging of iron-jawed angels," but also evokes the brutal force-feeding of jailed activists.

RT: 2:05

Iron Jawed Angels

Tues., February 16, 7:00 pm

At the home of Dale Simmons
1501 S. Mountain St., Visalia
(corner Royal Oaks, east of County Center)

Primary Election Calendar

February 1

Iowa Caucus

February 1–10

Declaration of intent period (first step of 2-step filing process for judges only)

February 8–March 11

Ballot measure qualification period (Arguments must be filed within 10 days of original paperwork. Rebuttals must be filed within 10 days after those.)

February 9

New Hampshire Primary

February 15–March 11

Candidate filing period

February 20

S. Carolina Republican Primary

February 27

S. Carolina Democratic Primary

March 12–16

Candidate filing extension period (applies only if an incumbent does not file)

April 11–May 24

Write-in candidacy period

April 28–May 17

Voter Information Guide mailed out

May 9–31

VbM ballots mailed out

May 23

Last day to register to vote in Primary

May 31

Last day to apply for a VbM ballot (These can still be obtained by going into the Election Office right up to Election Day.)

JUNE 7 7:00 am –8:00 pm

Primary Election Day

June 10

Vote-By-Mail ballots must be received by Elections Office by this date—must be postmarked no later than June 7. (This is a new rule, first implemented in 2015.)

June 15

VbM signature affidavits must be received by the Elections Office. (These are required of voters who returned VbM ballots—received by June 7—without signatures. This, too, is a new rule first implemented in 2015.)

NOVEMBER 8

General Election Day

League of Women Voters of Tulare County
P.O. Box 3011
Visalia, CA 93278



Be an engaged citizen! *Join . . .*

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TULARE COUNTY**

The League is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that encourages informed and active participation in government through education and advocacy. Members include women and men of every age, race, background and political belief. The more than 1,200 local Leagues work to promote citizen action on local, state and national issues.

Why the League ?

Because you care about the future of America. You recognize that your rights as a citizen come with a responsibility to participate fully in the democratic process. As a member you can:

- Stay informed about the issues that concern you the most,
- Make your views heard by adding your voice to ours
- Sharpen your skills for effective leadership, networking and public outreach.

Annual membership dues are \$65.00 for individuals and \$90.00 for households. Dues and donations to the League are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes.

Visitors are welcome to our regular meetings, at noon every third Tuesday of the month—September through May—at The Clubhouse, 699 W. Center St. in Visalia.

<http://tularecounty.ca.lwvnet.org>