

# A COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

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## Fresno Residents Urge Leaders to Improve Housing

By Vic Bedoian

Thanks to money from the American Rescue Act of 2021, Fresno officials have targeted \$40 million to improve housing in the city. But many residents, especially in less affluent parts of town, are asking how that money will be spent. And they have a lot to say about the state of housing in the city that they want officials to hear.

Some of them had a chance to express their concerns on a warm summer day in a southeast Fresno neighborhood of neatly modest homes near Winchell Elementary School. It's a mixed neighborhood of older houses populated by both renters and homeowners. It is a microcosm of Fresno's broader reality.

At a community-led press conference organized by the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability (LCJA), a few dozen local folks encouraged city leaders to allocate some of that money to help improve homes and protect the rights of renters.

Karla Martinez of the LCJA emphasized the local housing and rental emergency, "The city of Fresno continues to rank at the top of the list for the highest rental increases in the nation with the hottest rental market in the country."

"Families who have lived in Fresno for years are being evicted and displaced. Tenants are forced out of their homes through intimidation, harassment, illegal evictions and constant rental increases.

"Community leaders, residents and families, veterans and young people continue to ask, 'What will I do and where will I go?'" She pointed out that the City of Fresno should be working with residents to identify solutions.

Araceli Sanábria is a first-time homeowner and has lived in her house for 13 years. "I am a low-income homeowner and like many other homeowners, I want to improve my home but don't have the income to do so. There are many of us who buy houses with problems because we want to fulfill the dream of having our own home, but it comes at a cost.

"The City should use \$3 million of the \$40 million in American Rescue Plan dollars to improve and rehabilitate homes here in Fresno. We are always the most forgotten, and that has to change."

Sanábria said the City could help low-income homeowners like her to weatherize their houses to make them more energy-efficient.



Karla Martinez of the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability speaks during a press conference in which a few dozen local folks encouraged City of Fresno leaders to allocate some of the American Rescue Act money to help improve homes and protect the rights of renters. Photo courtesy of Vic Bedoian

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## Is the Fresno Police Department above the Law?

By Bob McCloskey

Our modern culture in America has long castigated and ignored the poor and unhoused. Many people just want the unhoused to go away, disappear or become invisible. Fresnoans are no different.

And sadly, when unhoused persons are hurt or killed, they are treated as if they never existed and oftentimes their killers are not brought to justice. I recall attending a vigil on Sept. 25, 2020, for 51-year-old Jose Pulido, who was hit and killed by a Fresno Police Department (FPD) detective who was texting while driving. The detective, Benito Soto, was initially charged with vehicular manslaughter but was never convicted and remains on the force.

Another example of a potential vehicular manslaughter incident is a recent accident involving an unhoused man and an FPD officer. On Aug. 1, at about 3:30 p.m., eyewitnesses say that an FPD vehicle might have run over a prone unhoused man on the sidewalk in front of the downtown police department.

What these witnesses saw was a prone man under a police vehicle in between the front and rear wheels. It appeared to them that he had just been run over. The witnesses work in a building with a full view of the sidewalk where the man was

lying. They heard tires screeching, then ran to the window and saw the police car over the man.

The identity and condition of the victim are still not known. Witnesses report that the victim appeared to be young and was moving. FPD Lieutenant Bill Dooley responded to the claim that the victim was run over at a recent press conference. He said that "we are aware of an incident that occurred on August 1, 2022, involving a police vehicle and a pedestrian. An investigation immediately commenced and is still ongoing.

"We believe it's in everyone's best interest to await the completion of that investigation. Based on the outcome of that investigation, appropriate actions will be taken, if necessary."

Shawna Haymond was one of the witnesses watching from a nearby building with a full view of the sidewalk where the man was under the police vehicle. She said, "I just couldn't believe what I was seeing...a police officer had apparently run over a person. My colleagues and I were pretty alarmed that someone was hurt."

Haymond said she was disturbed about several things she saw that day. First, "the officer didn't even touch him (the victim) or offer any kind of aid, never got down on the ground to talk to him and didn't take his pulse. He just stood there making a call on his cell phone."

When the office workers immediately called 911, the dispatcher said someone had just called in the incident. It appears that the officer might have made the call on his personal cell phone and not the police radio. This might have been the first attempt to cover up this incident. Police radio is monitored by the local media, and the media would have come to the scene and reported on it.

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### OPINION & ANALYSIS

## Increased Investment in Healthcare Worker Retention

By Angela Millan

To fight for the health of my patients at Golden Valley Health Center, I, along with hundreds of community clinic workers united in SEIU, traveled to Sacramento to make sure that lawmakers heard directly from our community on the crisis facing our clinics.

We are facing a breaking point: Our state's community clinics are underfunded and, without the necessary investment in retaining and training workers, our patients suffer.

Because we were willing to take a stand and demand better for our communities, our coalition of community clinic workers, patients and CEOs was able to secure a historic investment in our community clinics. With the leadership of State Senator Bob Hertzberg (D-Sherman Oaks) and Assembly Member Wendy Carrillo (D-Los Angeles), community clinic workers will receive much-needed relief.

Last month, Governor Gavin Newsom and the state legislature committed more than \$70 million to invest in the retention of community clinic workers. Because we were willing to speak out, 70,000 community clinic full-time and part-time workers will receive \$1,000 retention payments.

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# Fresno Residents Urge Leaders to Improve Housing

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Renters such as Maria Muñoz, who lives in the Jackson community of southeast Fresno, could also use assistance. There's no air conditioning, and the extreme heat has caused suffering.

Another renter, also named Maria, has lived in her current home for about two years and has seen her rent increase dramatically, despite what she considers the substandard condition of the house. She would like to see housing money go toward helping her landlord make improvements and for the City to adopt rent control.

Even those who can afford to buy an entry-level home in Fresno are having challenges like Maria Flores, a recent immigrant. She couldn't figure out why the house was too hot or too cold until her construction-worker husband

discovered the house had not been insulated. It has taken a three-year effort to install insulation, but she worries about other immigrant families who might not have the resources to take care of a similar problem.

Martinez emphasized the extent of Fresno's housing crisis, "The experiences are not just happening to the select few in a city where half of the residents are renters. These occurrences are happening on a daily basis."

On behalf of community residents, she urged leaders to take immediate action on community-identified priorities:

- \$4 million for a fully funded, comprehensive eviction protection program to reduce future costs associated with education for children experiencing homelessness, child welfare, public benefits from job loss and lasting impacts of evictions
- \$2 million for a homeownership opportunities program to provide communities and families with the stability to remain and invest in their neighborhood
- \$2 million for a rental assistance program to strengthen the social safety net and increase economic stability in vulnerable communities
- A rent stabilization resolution to help keep families in their communities and in their homes
- \$3 million for housing improvement and rehabilitation projects to fund households to conduct weatherization

improvements to their home and rehabilitate blighted homes to sell them as affordable housing

- Local tenant protections from unfair evictions and practices designed to push them out of their apartments

Martinez cautioned that time is of the essence, "American Rescue Plan funding was allocated around two years ago, and they have yet to spend most of that allocation, yet they do have a timeline or else the federal government does need to take back those funds. Folks are struggling now, and they need that help."

The ideas presented are already familiar—they are part of the "Here to Stay" report that City leaders developed alongside residents to identify priorities and programs that address quality-of-life concerns. Housing advocates planned to present their proposal to the Fresno City Council on Sept. 29 demanding commitment and investment in solving one the city's most pressing predicaments.

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*VicBedoian is an independent radio and print journalist working on environmental justice and natural resources issues in the San Joaquin Valley. Contact him at vicbedoian@gmail.com.*

# Is the Fresno Police Department above the Law?

Continued from page 1

Haymond was also bothered immensely by what she saw when the ambulance arrived. "The ambulance arrived quickly. The first responders touched the man's feet, and he was moving his feet. Then, the emergency medical technicians picked him up by his armpits and knees instead of using a backboard that was clearly within reach."

"He was taken away quickly, [and] he was still alive and grimacing in pain," she said. "I didn't see any blood or broken bones."

She was also disturbed when "a sergeant arrived and approached several witnesses on a nearby bench. The officer that appeared to have run over the man then joined the sergeant. Both officers stood close together and interviewed these witnesses."

Such behavior is totally out of compliance with FPD policies and procedures. To interview witnesses in this case, unhoused witnesses, with the perpetrator of a potential crime is simply outrageous and was an obvious attempt to intimidate the witnesses.

"Another troubling issue was how they interviewed witnesses from our office," Haymond said. "My friend waited 20 minutes to be interviewed. She finally left and came back to our office. I urged her to go back down. She was finally interviewed."

"The police did not take detailed statements from us but did offer us chaplain services if we wanted them. When I saw what I saw, I just couldn't understand it. I was horrified and upset. I wasn't properly interviewed, and it was cleared up so quickly."

"It's such a power imbalance. [The FPD] can do whatever they want to do. This time, however," Haymond continued, "a group of well-educated women with Ph.D.s and master's degrees witnessed it. Potentially, this young man had no one to fight for him."

"If I was run over by the police, my family would use all the necessary resources to fight for me. It looks like this is being swept under the rug, and [the victim] is being treated like garbage."

This alleged incident occurred on Aug. 1. An inquiry to the FPD public information officer on Sept. 14 regarding the investigation had received no response as of our press deadline.

A month after the incident, on Sept. 1, a press conference was held by homeless advocate Dez Martinez (We Are Not Invisible) and attorney Kevin Little.

At the press conference, Martinez said, "This should have been addressed. I have never seen a human being run over by a Fresno police officer and [yet] the crime scene was cleaned up in 30 minutes."

Little said, "This incident should have been made known to the public immediately, investigated aggressively and not in silence, shrouded behind the walls of the police department. This individual, like most of the unhoused, remains nameless and faceless."

Haywood concluded, "It makes me wonder if this has been swept under the rug as a PR attempt to make things not stick to the police department's reputation. It's like this incident and this person's health are a sacrifice so that reputation can stay strong."

It's been more than seven weeks, and there is absolute silence from the FPD on this incident. Is there really an investigation? The reputation of the FPD, the mayor and the City Council are on the line. Express your outrage and contact them to demand full transparency now.

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*Bob McCloskey is a prisoner and inmate rights advocate and a homeless advocate. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.*

# Increased Investment in Healthcare Worker Retention

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The past two years have been difficult for community clinics across our state. Despite ranking among the largest healthcare systems in the state and serving more than 6 million Californians, the hundreds of federally qualified health centers—also known as community clinics—are often overlooked and overwhelmed.

Community clinics ensure that everyone, regardless of their ability to pay, their race, immigration or housing status, can access quality care. Without community clinics, our patients—more than 70% of whom are people of color and more than half fall under the federal poverty line—would have nowhere to turn to care outside of an emergency room.

I grew up in Dos Palos in the farmworker community. When I was younger, my mom worked in the fields and when we needed healthcare services, we couldn't afford the healthcare services available in town, so we had to travel up to an hour to the nearest community clinic.

Today, there are more community clinics to better serve our communities, but we have a long way to go to ensure that every patient that comes through our doors has timely access to care and the support they need and deserve.

As a patient access representative in the call center in Atwater, I'm proud to build strong relationships with our returning patients and it feels like we've become family. There's great satisfaction in finding an appointment for hard-to-schedule services, too.

Like many community clinic workers, I work two jobs because community clinics pay much less than larger healthcare settings or businesses. While most of us would love to continue the important work of serving California's most vulnerable patients, community clinic workers are more frequently finding other job opportunities with better pay and benefits, as well as better career growth opportunities.

It's a heartbreaking choice to have to make, but community clinic workers are often faced with the choice of being able to put food on the table or stay working at their clinic.

From the Bay Area to Los Angeles, from the Central Valley to the Central Coast, down to Riverside and San Diego, community clinic workers and patients shared countless stories of weeks-long waits for appointments because of a shortage of community clinic workers. We spoke of how our patients were struggling because of our clinics' challenges to retain workers.

Meeting community clinic workers in Sacramento who shared the same passion for our patients reminded me that I'm not alone in the fight to ensure that our patients at Golden Valley Health Center receive the best care possible. We are a movement of community clinic workers, working with community clinic CEOs and our patients and social and racial justice organizations to make sure that everyone in California can access the care and support they need to live full and healthy lives.

This retention bonus is a start in the right direction, but it's only the beginning for our movement. Community clinic workers and leaders, along with our patients, will continue to organize and fight to fix the systemic underfunding of a critical part of our healthcare safety net.

During the first few months of the pandemic, I and countless other community healthcare workers felt alone learning what protocols and practices kept coworkers and patients safe. We had to keep our doors open for most of the pandemic to keep our health services available.

Joining together with fellow clinic workers and speaking out for communities reminds me that, for us to emerge stronger and to ensure that our clinics can withstand any challenges that come our way, we must be willing to stand up and take collective action.

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*Angela Millan resides in Livingston. She is a patient access representative for Golden Valley Health Centers, which serves the northern and Central Valley regions. She is also an active union leader at SEIU 521 and SEIU Community Clinic Workers United.*



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# The Nazi Ideology, The Past is Back

FROM THE EDITOR

When we think about Nazism, we normally think about something from the past, something that happened in Germany from 1933 to 1945. We think about an oppressive government that murdered millions of people, both in concentration camps—Jews, Roma people (“Gypsies”), socialists, union activists, communists and “inferior” people were eliminated—and in a bloody war fought mainly in Europe. A similar regime existed in Italy in the early 1920s: fascism.

Both regimes shared a similar ideology: the belief that they were the “superior race,” meaning there were “inferior” ones—immigrants, Jews, Roma people, etc. And those “inferiors” should be eliminated because they are challenging the “superiors,” the bad (and dirty) ones trying to replace the good guys. Sounds familiar, doesn’t it? And for a reason.

This dangerous and bloody ideology is still around us. And it is shocking to learn that it never left us. In fact, the Nazi ideology was, to a certain extent, inspired by the Jim Crow laws and spirit.

Just watch the new PBS documentary, *The U.S. and the Holocaust*, directed by Ken Burns.

It is a well-documented film taking us to the origin of Nazism in Germany and the sources that inspired Nazism—coming mainly from the United States.

That ideology is back. And running strong. The Jan. 6, 2020, coup attempt is a good example. A real wake-up call that our democracy is

in jeopardy. Then, Trump followers (directed by him) tried to topple the government. They failed. But will they next time?

The far right is trying to control all aspects of our daily lives to impose their will (and racism). Yes, Nazis burned books. Now, school districts in the United States, controlled by far right people, are banning books.

And the far right wants to ban women’s and LGBTQ+ rights, as well as voting rights for minorities—just look at what is going on in Texas and Florida.

Nazism is here, among us. It is not something of the past. And it’s coming to take our democracy. We can’t just sit and watch.



The *Community Alliance* is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The goal of this monthly newspaper is to build a powerful progressive movement that will support social, environmental and economic justice; immigrant rights; and a living wage for all working people. We seek to expose social and political injustices and to link the diverse network of activists working in our community.

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## Letters to the Editor

### The Ineffective Leadership of Fresno

Thanks for the great, informative June issue! On the front page, an excellent explanation of Measure C helped many of us realize what a mess all of this is and how totally ineffective the “leadership” of the mayor, [the Fresno] City Council, COG [Fresno County Council of Governments] and the transportation authority is—much thanks to Kevin Hall and his tenacity on climate politics in the Valley!

All these “leaders” get in their single vehicles and drive on Highway 41 from their plush north Fresno residences, over the blighted city, to City Hall, while everyone else tries to find decent transportation!

It’s totally disgusting and all of these people (including the County Board of Supervisors) must be voted out if we are to survive! But, it’s been

this way since Fresno’s inception and there’s no way these big, selfish fish in a small, polluted pond will ever do what’s right for the majority and not special interests! We’re a microcosm of the federal government and states’ rights.

Susan Schmale Sanger

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# Padilla under Scrutiny on Workforce Law

By Melissa Montalvo

(Editor's note: This article was originally published by FresnoLand, a nonprofit news organization.)

Fresno farmworker and immigrant rights groups are calling on Senator Alex Padilla to vote "no" on a piece of federal legislation they say would hurt both domestic and guest agricultural workers.

On Aug. 29, about 20 people gathered in front of the Robert E. Coyle Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in downtown Fresno to state their opposition to the bipartisan Farm Workforce Modernization Act (FWMA).

"We strongly believe that farmworkers deserve better than the anti-labor Farm Workforce Modernization Act," according to a joint statement by two Fresno area organizations.

"We don't want laws that divide workers; we want living wages, better protections for farmworkers and a comprehensive immigration reform for all workers."

The proposed law would create a pathway to legal residency for some undocumented agricultural workers who meet certain criteria and would expand the guest agricultural work program, also known as H-2A, a step opponents say could hurt farmworkers already in the United States, as well as guest workers employed through the program.

Opponents are instead calling for comprehensive immigration reform for the estimated 11 million undocumented people already living in the United States.

"We need a comprehensive immigration reform for all workers and for all people that live in this country and are contributing to the greatness and the economy of this country," Oralia Maceda Mendez, program director for the Binational Center for Indigenous Oaxacan Community Development (CBDIO), said in Spanish, during the news conference.

"We want to urge Senator Padilla to oppose this (Farm Workforce Modernization) Act," said Myrna Martinez Nateras, program director for the American Friends Service Committee. "And more than anything, to listen to us."

While the legislation has passed the House of Representatives, it has not yet been introduced into the Senate. According to a July report by Politico, the expansion of worker rights to cover H-2A workers is a "sticking point" in the Senate negotiations.

As the son of Mexican immigrants and California's first Latino U.S. Senator, Padilla has been a vocal advocate for immigration reform since taking office in January 2021. He was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to replace Kamala Harris when she became vice president. Padilla is seeking a new term in the upcoming November midterm elections, where he will face Republican attorney Mark Meuser.

Padilla supports the FWMA legislation and has said it would lay the foundation for immigration reform.

"Farmworkers labor every day under difficult and often dangerous conditions to put food on our tables and fuel our nation's economy," he said in an e-mail statement to the *Fresno Bee*.

"They deserve to be treated with dignity and provided a pathway to documented status."

## Why Farmworker Advocacy Groups Disagree on the Legislation

Farmworker advocacy groups are split on whether to support the FWMA.

The act, co-authored by Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose) and Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.), results from a bipartisan effort that includes farm labor unions and advocacy groups and agricultural employers. An initial version of the legislation was proposed in 2019 but died a year later after failing to gain traction in the Senate.

The United Farm Workers (UFW) union and Farmworker Justice, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, which support the legislation, say it would provide legal status to a large number of farmworkers.

Under the FWMA, undocumented farmworkers already working in the United States would be able to earn their green cards if they work in agriculture for 4-8 years and meet other criteria, according to a fact sheet from Farmworker Justice.

An estimated 350,000-450,000 California farmworkers could potentially obtain legal status through the FWMA, Daniel Costa, director of immigration law and policy research at the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute, told the *Fresno Bee* in June. Still, the exact number is difficult to pinpoint, Costa said, due to the challenges of securing exact data on the undocumented population.

Opponents, however, say the FWMA requires too many additional years of agricultural work to qualify for legal status.

Fabiola Ortiz Valdez, an organizer with the National Food Chain Workers Alliance, told the *Fresno Bee* in June that asking farmworkers to put in more years of "backbreaking work" under the promise of immigration relief is "completely unfair," especially for the older farmworkers who have worked for decades in the fields.



About 20 people gathered in front of the Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in downtown Fresno to state their opposition to the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (FWMA). In this image, Myrna Martinez Nateras of the Pan Valley Institute of Fresno explains why her organization and others oppose the FWMA. Photo by Eduardo Stanley

Those protesting on Aug. 29, including representatives from the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker social justice organization that calls for humane migration responses; CBDIO, the Binational Front of Indigenous Organizations; and the California Institute for Rural Studies, said that expanding the H-2A program under the FWMA could result in domestic workers already in the United States being replaced with foreign workers. They said they fear employers could use the program to replace workers who exercise their rights to speak out against poor working conditions.

But agriculture industry groups say the program is necessary to meet labor shortages in agriculture.

The H-2A program has grown exponentially in recent years.

In fiscal 2021, the Department of Labor certified more than 317,000 seasonal farm jobs to be filled by H-2A workers, up 15% from 275,000 in fiscal 2020 and more than three times the number of jobs certified in fiscal 2013, according to an analysis by the Wilson Center, a nonpartisan policy think tank.

The program's growth is especially high in California, the analysis found, which is among the top five states to use the program.

## Protesters Ask: What Did Alex Padilla Learn in the Fields?

During the news conference, Martinez Nateras questioned Padilla's decision to spend a day in the fields alongside farmworkers.

In June, Padilla accepted an invitation from the UFW as part of their "Take Our Jobs" campaign and worked alongside farmworkers picking radishes and parsley in Moorpark.

He was the first U.S. Senator to accept the invitation.

"Did he (Padilla) learn that (many farmworkers)...have been here for over 20 years and they have not been able to regularize their status? Did he learn that these workers don't have access to the essential services that they deserve?" Martinez Nateras asked.

She also said the coalition wants to meet with Padilla directly to discuss their concerns. She acknowledged that they've met with his staff "many, many times" but "haven't been able to meet with him."

Other protesters called for more scrutiny of the growing guest agricultural worker program and criticized Padilla for supporting its growth.

The H-2A program "needs to be examined from a historic angle," Cristel Jensen, a community-driven strategist for the California Institute for Rural Studies, said during the news conference. Jensen warned the H-2A program contains elements of the Bracero program and could potentially repeat its mistakes.

The Bracero program was the executive order that allowed the United States to import millions of guest workers from Mexico to work in the harvest during war-era worker shortages. The controversial program, which ran from 1942 to 1964, had a number of documented abuses, while worker protections were often ignored, according to the Bracero History Archive.

Jensen said that Padilla should take care of the farmworkers that are already living in his state rather than supporting legislation to expand the guest worker program.

Padilla said he is committed to immigration reform beyond the FWMA.

"The first bill I introduced in the Senate would provide a path to citizenship for these essential workers," Padilla said in the e-mail statement.

In the past, he has said he supports getting rid of the filibuster, which many see as a necessary step to immigration reform.

"Justice for farmworkers is long overdue," Padilla said, "and I will keep fighting to fix our broken immigration system."

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*Melissa Montalvo is a labor and economic inequality reporter with the Fresno Bee and FresnoLand. She graduated from the University of Southern California with a B.A. in international relations, minors in business law and French, and Renaissance scholar and Global scholar distinctions.*

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## FWMA Language and a Hidden "Pearl"

By Community Alliance staff

The text of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (FWMA), which calls immigrant farmworkers "aliens," establishes the e-verify system for employers to verify the residence status of applicants:

"The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall establish an electronic system patterned on the E-Verify Program for employers to verify an individual's identity and employment authorization. Employers hiring individuals for agricultural employment must use the system."

This system, according to those who oppose the FWMA, will make employers reject the work applications of thousands of farmworkers living in the United States, creating a new layer of a marginal, impoverished labor force.

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# DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

INSPIRING AND ORGANIZING COMMUNITIES TO BUILD VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS  
EMPOWERED TO PURSUE SOCIAL JUSTICE.

# VOTE 4 FAIR REPRESENTATION

**MAIL BALLOTS ARRIVE ON OCTOBER 10TH, 2022!  
LAST DAY TO RETURN BALLOT NOVEMBER 8TH, 2022!**

### 1. FILL OUT YOUR BALLOT

USE BLACK OR BLUE INK. FILL THE CIRCLE COMPLETELY.

### 2. SEAL IT

PUT THE BALLOT INSIDE THE PROVIDED ENVELOPE.

### 3. SIGN IT

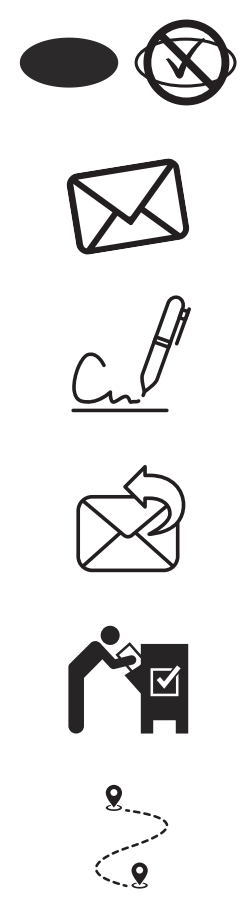
SIGN THE BACK OF THE BALLOT ENVELOPE. YOUR SIGNATURE MUST MATCH THE ONE ON YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE/STATE ID, OR THE ONE YOU SIGNED WHEN YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE.

### 4. RETURN IT

- BY MAIL - MAKE SURE YOUR BALLOT IS POSTMARKED BY NOVEMBER 8, 2022. NO STAMP NEEDED! PUT YOUR BALLOT IN YOUR MAILBOX.
- IN PERSON - DROP YOUR BALLOT OFF AT A SECURE DROP BOX, POLLING PLACE, VOTE CENTER, OR COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE BEFORE 8PM ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022.

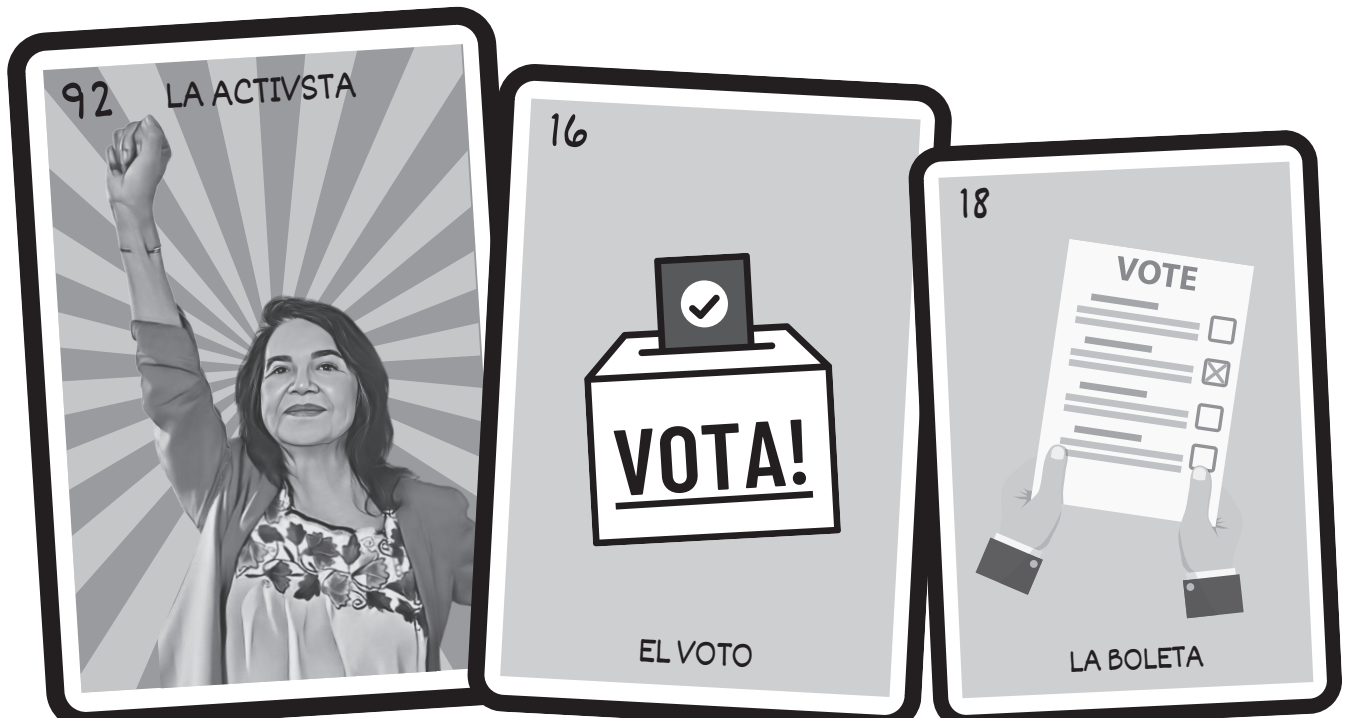
### 5. TRACK IT

SIGN UP AT: [WHERESMYBALLOT.SOS.CA.GOV](http://WHERESMYBALLOT.SOS.CA.GOV) FOR ALERTS BY TEXT (SMS), EMAIL, OR VOICE CALL ON THE STATUS OF YOUR VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT.



## RESOURCES:

**TO REGISTER & FOR EARLY VOTING PLACES VISIT: [CAEARLYVOTING.SOS.CA.GOV/](http://CAEARLYVOTING.SOS.CA.GOV/)  
TO VOLUNTEER WITH THE DOLORES HUERTA ACTION FUND CALL: (661) 877-9977**



For more information on how you can join the Vecinos Unidos® contact 1-833-564-6343 or 1-833-JOIN-DHF  
To support the organizing work of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, please visit [Give2DHF.org](http://Give2DHF.org)

# DOLORES HUERTA ACTION FUND

## 2022 CALIFORNIA GENERAL ELECTIONS VOTER GUIDE

### NEED HELP CHOOSING THE BEST CANDIDATE? THIS IS WHO WE SUPPORT!

<b>STATE</b>
<b>GOVERNOR</b>
● Gavin Newsom
<b>LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR</b>
● Eleni Kounalakis
<b>SECRETARY OF STATE</b>
● Shirley N. Weber
<b>CONTROLLER</b>
● Malia Cohen
<b>TREASURER</b>
● Fiona Ma
<b>CA STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL</b>
● Rob Bonta
<b>INSURANCE COMMISSIONER</b>
● Ricardo Lara
<b>UNITED STATES SENATE</b>
● Alex Padilla
<b>SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION</b>
● Tony Thurmond

PROP	DESCRIPTION	DHAF RECOMMENDATION
<b>1</b>	Codifies in the California Constitution a women’s right to choose to have an abortion and access contraceptives.	<b>YES, Support</b>
<b>26</b>	Allows in-person sports wagering in California’s tribal casinos, bolstering local tribal self-reliance.	<b>YES, Support</b>
<b>27</b>	Would allow out-of-state online gambling companies to expand into California with over 90% of the profits going to those out-of-state gambling companies.	<b>NO, Oppose</b>
<b>28</b>	Guarantees an estimated \$1 billion in music and arts education funding for K-14 schools with more funding dedicated to schools with high proportions of students from low-income households.	<b>YES, Support</b>
<b>29</b>	Would make California dialysis clinics have certain reporting requirements and at least one physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant on-site while patients are being treated. Supported by labor.	<b>YES, Support</b>
<b>30</b>	Would increase income taxes to fund programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build infrastructure for Zero Emission Vehicles. Supported by Lyft. Opposed by California Teachers and Governor Newsom.	<b>Neutral</b>
<b>31</b>	The tobacco industry is asking voters to overturn SB-793 which prohibits the sale of flavored tobacco products.	<b>NO, Oppose</b>

Paid for by the Dolores Huerta Action Fund  
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# Community Medical Centers Disinvestment in Fresno

By James Mendez

## History of Segregation and Disinvestment

Fresno was founded in April 1872, when the robber baron (some prefer “captain of industry”) Leland Stanford designated a site for a railway station depot for his Central Pacific Railroad. Initial development was around the depot.

Since then, land speculators and real estate developers have guided the development of Fresno. A number of the land speculators and early settlers who were involved in Fresno’s initial development had served in the Confederacy. As a result, there has always been racial segregation in Fresno.

Disinvestment of poorer, non-White areas in favor of investment in wealthier White area dates back to the beginning of the city of Fresno.

In 1873, White settlers decided that the land east of the railroad tracks was to be sold only to other White settlers. Chinese workers were forced to live on the land west of the railroad tracks. When Black and Latino workers came to Fresno in the 1920s, they were also confined to the west side.

Gambling dens, prostitution, landfills, slaughterhouses, rendering plants and pollution-producing activities were confined to the west side. The City of Fresno, the County of Fresno, developers and businesses would invest in schools, buildings, stores, banks and hospitals in the land east of the railroad tracks but not the land west of the tracks, also known as West Fresno.

## What Is Disinvestment?

Disinvestment occurs when public and/or private funds that would benefit a certain community are not spent on the development of that community. Rather, the resources that would benefit the community are used elsewhere. Often, revenue is sent to less needy or wealthier areas. Disinvestment results in a downward socioeconomic spiral of the poorer area, which leads to further disinvestment and further poverty.

Since the founding of Fresno, the private and public capital flow of investment money has been toward north Fresno and Clovis. An area to the north will be developed, then leapfrogged and forgotten while another area further north is developed leaving the previous development with fewer resources. These practices have continued to the present day.

Like other cities in the United States, disinvestment in poorer areas of Fresno, which is often racially based, can be seen by the neighborhood racial disparities in housing, life expectancy, education, healthcare, jobs, income and environmental justice.

## CMC Becomes Safety Net Provider

In August, the *Fresno Bee* published several articles by investigative reporter Yesenia Amaro. These articles explained how Community Medical Centers (CMC), aka Community Health System (CHS), the largest, local, private, nonprofit healthcare system in Fresno, is disinvesting in the safety net healthcare provider for the area, Community Regional Medical Center (CRMC).

In 1996, CRMC lost its \$20 million a year contract with Kaiser to provide hospital care for Kaiser patients. CMC needed to increase the number of patients in their hospitals to counter the loss of revenue. In 1996, CMC entered into a contract with Fresno County to provide care to poor and indigent county residents.

Ultimately, CRMC would transition to become the safety net provider for the region. In exchange, the County agreed to pay about \$20 million a year through a 30-year comprehensive fixed payment agreement. That money was to be used to provide patient care, build an ICU and a burn unit and help fund the Emergency Department.

Safety net hospitals provide healthcare for individuals regardless of their insurance status or their ability to pay. Valley Medical Center (VMC), also known as the University Medical Center (UMC), had been the area’s safety net hospital since 1890. With the closure of VMC in 2007, all care of poor, county Medi-Cal contracts and indigent patients was transferred from the responsibility of Fresno County to CMC. In addition, CMC assumed responsibility for burn unit care and Level I trauma care.

Since then, CMRC has been the sole safety net healthcare provider.

## History of CMC

The private, nonprofit corporation of Fresno Community Hospital has had a presence in Fresno since it bought the Burnett Sanitarium in 1945 at Fresno and R streets. In 1974, Fresno Community Hospital and Medical Centers became the legal nonprofit corporate entity controlling Fresno Community Hospital.

In 1979, the private nonprofit Fresno Community Hospital became Fresno Community Hospital and Medical Centers (FCHMC). FCHMC merged with Clovis Memorial Hospital, which was renamed Clovis Community Hospital (CCH). CCH’s name was later changed to its current name of Clovis Community Medical Center (CCMC).

In 1999, CMC became the umbrella term to describe the not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. In June 2021, CMC began to refer to itself as Community Health System (CHS) instead of CMC because CHS better described the role it played in the local healthcare scene. CMC/CHS owns or is affiliated with the following entities:

- Owns four hospitals (CRMC, CCMC, Fresno Heart & Surgical Hospital and the acute locked psych facility) that provide healthcare to residents in the area
- Has several large administration systems to run the facilities and the organizations
- Has an HMO (Community Health Care)
- Has the fundraising Community Health Foundation
- Is affiliated with or owns several doctors’ organizations
- Runs a medical residency program

CMC is led by the Community Medical Centers Board of Trustees, “a 15-member group made up of community volunteers who have expertise in a variety of industries and professions.” The board of trustees is the governing body of the CMC/CHS nonprofit organization.

The board was previously chaired by Flo Dunn, co-owner and current president of California Health Sciences University (CHSU), a private, for-profit medical school located near the CCMC. The board is currently chaired by Farid Assemi. Assemi is a wealthy local real estate developer, pistachio farmer and, with Dunn, a co-owner of CHSU.

CMC has several obligations. CMC provides healthcare to patients and at the same time maintains fiduciary responsibility for the organization. Board members of CMC are expected to act in the best interests of the organization, which might not necessarily be in the best interests of the community where the nonprofit organization is located.

Under well-established principles of nonprofit corporation law, “nonprofit board members have the legal responsibility to meet the duty of care, the duty of loyalty and the duty of obedience.” Board members are not supposed to use their positions on boards for self-aggrandizement or self-dealing.

As a private nonprofit hospital organization, CMC is not owned by any local, state or federal government entity. CMC does receive funds for services from government entities such as Medicare, Medi-Cal, Workers’ Compensation, the state of California and Fresno County. Because it receives government funds (such as Hospital Quality Assurance Fees), it is required to provide the quality care and access demanded by those government entities paying for the services and to spend the revenue appropriately.

## CMC Disinvests in CRMC

Private hospitals can be for-profit, driven by the financial bottom line, or nonprofit, which are more service-oriented. Publicly funded hospitals are all nonprofit. Rather than returning any profit to shareholders, as would a for-profit hospital, nonprofit hospitals reinvest revenue for services rendered that is above the cost of the service (“profit”) back into the hospital.

A nonprofit hospital is usually owned by a charitable organization or a nonprofit corporation (like Fresno Community Hospital and Medical Centers). From a tax viewpoint, nonprofit hospitals are looked upon as a benefit to the community. Because of their perceived community benefit,



Main entrance of the Community Regional Medical Center in downtown Fresno. Photo by Peter Maiden

nonprofit hospitals do not pay federal income tax, state income tax or local property taxes.

Since 2010, the California Department of Health Service has funded the Hospital Quality Assurance Fee (HQAF) program to provide “funding for supplemental payments to California hospitals that serve Medi-Cal and uninsured patients.” Over a 10-year period, the HQAF program sent \$1.2 billion to support CRMC’s work in caring for poor patients, patients with Medi-Cal and indigent patients. Instead of investing in CRMC, CMC used \$1 billion for the hospital expansion program at CCMC.

The *Fresno Bee* articles raised major concerns about the ethics of the disinvestment in Downtown Fresno’s CRMC for the betterment of Clovis’s CCMC. This is not the first time CMC has used funds designated for poor or indigent patients to fund facilities that serve a wealthier and whiter group of patients. This was done before in the late 1990s and early 2000s when CMC spent millions of dollars on a joint venture with local cardiologists to fund the Fresno Heart Hospital located in north Fresno.

After four years of planning and development, the Fresno Heart Hospital opened in 2003. CMC sustained severe financial losses of millions of dollars annually. Ultimately, CMC bought out the physicians and assumed complete ownership of the Fresno Heart Hospital in 2007. It was renamed Fresno Heart & Surgical Hospital (FHS) and expanded its services beyond cardiac procedures.

Just like now, local developers might have benefited from CMC building the Fresno Heart Hospital near land owned by family members of the CMC board. Ed Kashian, the Fresno real estate developer of River Park, “served on the Board of Trustees for the Community Hospital Medical System from 1992 to 2002, the last five as Board Chairman. Under his leadership as CMC board chairman, the hospital acquired Valley Medical Center from Fresno County.

“Allegations arose that CMC chairman Ed Kashian’s son-in-law, a real estate agent, was benefiting handsomely from the hospital’s real estate activities, particularly for the new heart hospital. Kashian would eventually resign in the wake of the allegations.”

CMC says that sending money from CRMC to CCMC was best for CMC to provide care to the wider region. CMC did not address the needs of CRMC, which needs to be retrofitted to withstand earthquakes or be demolished and rebuilt. CMC did not say sending CRMC’s HQAF money to CCMC was best for the people who live in the area of CRMC, the people who get their care from CRMC or for the long-term benefit of CRMC.

It appears CMC is disinvesting from CRMC by taking state funds designated for CRMC and investing that money in CCMC. The ethics of CMC sending state money, designated for CRMC, which is located in a poor area of Fresno, to a wealthier area is questionable.

The legality of CMC’s disinvestment, and whether there is any self-dealing by members of the CMC Board, will require evaluation by lawyers from various government agencies including the Department of Health Services, the HQAF program, Medicare, Medi-Cal, the IRS and/or the FBI.

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*James Mendez came to Fresno in 1977 for his medical residency training at what was then called the Valley Medical Center. He stayed to practice medicine and raise a family. He is now a retired physician and a community activist.*



# 8 Deadly Hospitals, Divided Houses

By Kevin Hall

Are hospitals killing Fresno? Has the House of Labor split asunder? Is the Democratic Party divided?

Why, yes, but that's nothing new, it's just much worse than anyone realized. Underlying the billion-dollar scandal rocking Community Regional Medical Centers and spurring a two-county debate over transportation sales taxes is the region's most powerful special interest group: landowners.

Served by grasping politicians and feared by bureaucrats, the lords of property have long ruled Fresno—through divide and rule—and every generation sees an episode of gross overreach that crosses lines of both morality and legality. The 1980s saw a deceptive Measure C used to gouge Freeway 168 through the heart of town; it combined with Operation Rezone to subsidize White flight to Clovis and beyond.

Years earlier, competing developers enticed Valley Children's Hospital to jump across the river into Madera County, courtesy of Freeway 41 and an offer of free land. St. Agnes similarly abandoned central Fresno and took the leap up to Herndon Avenue. Hell, even the Unitarian Church eventually joined "Alluvial Man" in the northern sprawl off Willow Avenue. It's just easier to pave over farms or natural lands, and more profitable.

And freeways make it all possible. As do political silos.

Discerning local politics is to look down a kaleidoscope in which greed, corruption and ambition tumble into pleasing patterns. Political promises made by empty suits and public relations masked as philanthropy work like cheap mirrors and plastic shards to distort reality, confuse the eye.

Consider Farid Assemi and the explosive *Fresno Bee* expose written by Yesenia Amaro. It's difficult to think of a family name more strongly associated with local philanthropy and politics. From raffling off houses for school districts—that just so happen to be building in the same new neighborhoods they are—to spending nearly \$200,000 in the failed attempt to block Measure P for parks, they give record amounts of money. Amaro outlines their extensive agricultural and land development holdings from which those profits are derived.

Apparently, that's not enough. Now Assemi has taken control of the community's largest nonprofit healthcare system and may have already damaged the level of services being provided downtown. Conflicts of interest reflect in glittery red off several governing board members' resumes.

With Assemi at the helm, the board appears to have shifted as much as \$1 billion away from the downtown hospital to its Clovis facility. There you find an adjacent private operation owned by Assemi and another board member on land bought from a third, according to Amaro's in-depth reporting.

## Freeway Dependency

The hospital industry's long-standing dependency on freeway-induced sprawl was evident on the Measure C and Measure T renewal committees in Fresno and Madera counties. Assemi's not-so-subtle agenda was represented by Community PR maven Gayle Holman, a former employee of Westlands Water District where another Assemi holds a board seat. Holman's contribution to the Measure C debate was to call for better road "access" to hospitals, and she cast several votes to ignore community input.

Meanwhile, Valley Children's Hospital played on both sides of the river with its staff serving on transportation sales tax renewal committees in two counties. Fresno's Measure C executive committee was chaired by the hospital's PR executive, Lynne Ashbeck, a Clovis City Council member; her colleague Tim Curlee sat on Madera's Measure T committee. The Madera renewal effort excluded the community, has proposed a forever tax, and wants \$375 million in road and highway subsidies for the new town growth area around the hospital.

Then there's Labor and Democrats. Both groups are conflicted. In a series of votes held this summer by the county's 15 city councils, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, the Fresno Council of Governments and the Fresno County Transportation Authority, few politicians voted against placing Measure C on the ballot. Yet the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee voted by acclamation—no roll call—in early September to take a No on C position. Not one union member or politician spoke in favor of the measure.

And while Carpenters Local 701 has joined community groups in the VoteNoMeasureC.com coalition, Chuck Riojas, head of the Building Trades Association, has signed the Yes on C ballot argument alongside Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer and Fresno County Sheriff Margaret

# Fresno's Measure C: A Leap of Blind Faith

By Stan Santos

Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 9408 was present at Fresno City Hall on July 7 to support the overwhelming opposition to the November referendum on Measure C and \$6.8 billion in public funds. Mayor Jerry Dyer's consultants and management team and the Fresno County Transportation Board betrayed the wishes of the public and voted in favor of the "half-cent sales tax aimed at improving the overall quality of Fresno County's transportation system."

CWA Local 9408 represents more than a thousand employees of AT&T and Frontier Communications in Fresno, Madera, Tulare and Kings counties. We would like to clear the freeway-centric landscape of our urban and rural communities and build a more intelligent, future-proof transportation system, none of which is included in the current iteration of Measure C. It is time to replace this narrow-sighted conceptual framework with a new vision, one of "information highways."

The transportation system of the future is one in which our children visit distant lands, perhaps even other planets, via fiber-optic networks. We are not talking about Facebook or Twitter, although social media has its role. We envision streaming video connecting Fresno to the challenges facing children and communities on the other side of the world, where they endure hunger, climate change, forced migration and war.

Through audio and visual communications platforms, we dialogue and share their hard-learned lessons and small victories as they struggle to preserve their homelands, restore natural habitats and exercise democracy and agency.

Connected classrooms of the future can take "field trips" to the depths of the ocean to listen to whales' songs and learn of the capacity of their massive bodies for absorbing tons of carbon dioxide and reducing greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere. We can travel to the International Space Station and look down on the beauty of our home, La Madre Tierra, its awesome splendor, and fragile existence in a huge and daunting universe.

## CLIMATE POLITICS

1.	<u>Kathryn McElroy</u> (Printed Name) Libertarian Party of Fresno County, Chair (Title to Appear on Argument)	<u>September 1, 2022</u> (Signature) (Date)
2.	<u>Travis Alexander</u> (Printed Name) Nor Cal Carpenters Union & Carpenters Local 701 Senior Representative (Title to Appear on Argument)	<u>9/1/2022</u> (Signature) (Date)
3.	<u>Juan Arambula</u> (Printed Name) Former Assemblymember (Title to Appear on Argument)	<u>9/1/2022</u> (Signature) (Date)
4.	<u>Luisa Medina</u> (Printed Name) Former Fresno City Planning Commissioner (Title to Appear on Argument)	<u>9-01-22</u> (Signature) (Date)
5.	<u>Sandra Celedon</u> (Printed Name) Fresno Building Healthy Communities President and CEO (Title to Appear on Argument)	<u>9/1/2022</u> (Signature) (Date)

A mix of signatures will appear under Measure C on the November ballot. The Libertarian Party allowed the VoteNoMeasureC.com coalition to submit the rebuttal argument after being denied space on the ballot by Fresno County Registrar James Kus.

Mims. The Operating Engineers have backed the Republican-led measure with \$75,000 of its members' money so far.

Rounding out the Yes on C ballot backers is none other than Henry R. Perea, a registered lobbyist for industrial developers with the City of Fresno, as reported in the September 2021 issue of the *Community Alliance*. He's supposed to appeal to Latino voters and serve as a counter to former Assembly Member Juan Arambula who has signed the No on Measure C ballot rebuttal.

Because, despite the court ruling upholding the County registrar's flawed decision to reject the No on C coalition's ballot argument, the names of Arambula, former city planning commissioner Luisa Medina, Fresno Building Healthy Community CEO Sandra Celedon and the Carpenters Union's Travis Alexander will appear on the ballot. The Libertarian Party allowed the coalition to submit the rebuttal argument that will appear directly below the Yes on C statement.

Freeways run through Fresno like veins of coal. Hollowed-out neighborhoods line their dark walls. Blackened lungs and damaged DNA are their legacy. With hospital boards and employees mixing their business interests with politics, and with politicians and unions willing to ignore the harm being caused to people's health and opportunity, nothing can change.

This November's votes on Measure C and Measure T will set the region's economic and environmental path beyond the year 2050. Yet in 18 months of meetings, not once did either committee discuss climate change. The pro-Measure C crowd is striving to stay ignorant and campaigning to deceive the public. It's time to say no to the same old status quo Fresno.

The climate future is here, now, and we must act.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Kevin Hall hosts Climate Politics on KFCF 88.1 FM every second and fourth Friday, 5 p.m.–6 p.m. He tweets as @airfresno and @sjvalleyclimate, coordinates an informal network of climate activists at www.valleyclimate.org and can be contacted at sjvalleyclimate@gmail.com for presentations and information.



"If we had computers, we could see the world over the Internet—if we had Internet," Firebaugh Migrant Housing, 2005. Photo by Stan Santos

Advanced communications networks can provide the foundation for employment, social services, education and healthcare for underserved communities throughout Fresno County. "Smart farming," or farm automation, require high-speed networks and various technologies to improve efficiency and reduce manual labor.

As automation and drones displace all but the most essential farm labor and food processing tasks, farmworker families will need connectivity to expand their geographic quest for education, employment and services, while maintaining their connection to their homes and rural life.

A recent *Community Alliance* article noted that "according to the 2022 State of the Air Report, which is published by the American Lung Association every year, the Fresno-Madera area took the lead as the most polluted city in the country for fine particle pollution, also known as PM2.5" (June 2022).

Continues on page 21





# WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

Please join Fresno WILPF for a *much-needed*



## Retreat

with the theme

### Moving Forward

where we will discuss

*Growth/Membership, Diversity, Visibility, Interns, Collaboration with other peace & justice groups, Brainstorming (always looking for new ideas)*

When: Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022  
9 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
Where: Sandra Iyall's Backyard  
4533 N. Del Mar in Fresno

\*Bring your own lunch  
\*Drinks provided  
\*We will be practicing COVID protocols





*"Nothing could be worse than the fear that one had given up too soon, and left one unexpended effort that might have saved the world"*

Jane Addams  
1860-1935  
Nobel Peace Prize 1931  
First WILPF International President

## Come to the Retreat and Be the Change!

Jane said it all!! In these difficult times, we WILPFers will NOT give up too soon and, instead, will expend our efforts to save the world. We are the ones we've been waiting for!!

We work to harvest new ideas, and we plant them as seeds of change. With such issues as voting rights, women's control of their own bodies, climate change and our democracy in peril, there has never been a more important time!

That's why your attendance at our annual retreat is SO VERY IMPORTANT. Your ideas are so very important; each one of them is a tool for change! Whether you are already a WILPF member or wanting to find out more about our branch, the place to be is 4533 N. Del Mar Ave. on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 9 a.m.

SEE ANNOUNCEMENT ABOVE! Positive change is up to each of us. Sometimes it isn't easy, but Jane reminds us to "not give up too soon."

Joni Mitchell reminds us in one of her songs: "Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." WILPFers won't let that happen.

Come to the Retreat and help us, as Jane would say, to Save the World, one enthusiastic idea at a time.

## WILPF Board Elections

At our Retreat on Oct. 15, a slate of candidates for the WILPF Fresno Board will be presented and voted upon to elect our 2022-23 Board.

The list below is our current WILPF Fresno Board.

All positions are open and nominations will be taken up to Oct. 10.

Please contact Teresa Castillo at 559-360-8054 or [taca\\_03@gmail.com](mailto:taca_03@gmail.com) to nominate yourself or another member to a Board position.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>WILPF BOARD POSITIONS</b> (per Bylaws Article VI-VIII)</p> <p><b>Officers</b></p> <p>Branch Chair—Teresa Castillo</p> <p>Branch Co-Chair—Vacant</p> <p>Recording Secretary—Leni Villagomez Reeves</p> <p>Corresponding Secretary—Vacant</p> <p>Membership Chair—Nancy Hatcher</p> <p>Membership Co-Chair—Kyla Mitchell</p> <p>Treasurer—Teresa Castillo</p> <p><b>Issue Committees</b></p> <p>Advancing Human Rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Library—Cheryl Caldera</li> <li>Homeless Advocate—Beverly Fitzpatrick</li> <li>Unpacking Racism—Dr. Jean Kennedy</li> <li>Teatro de la Tierra—Patricia Wells Solorzano</li> </ul> <p>Women, Money and Democracy—Vacant</p> <p>Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance—Leni Villagomez Reeves</p> | <p>Immigration—Danilo Castillo</p> <p>Disarm—Melissa Fry</p> <p>Earth Democracy—Jean Hays</p> <p>Legislative—Jean Hays</p> <p>Middle East—Vacant</p> <p><b>Collaborative and Functional Committees</b></p> <p>Raging Grannies—Evonne Waldo and Nancy Hatcher</p> <p>Women in Black—Sue Kern</p> <p>Crafts Faire—Beverly Fitzpatrick</p> <p>Fundraising—Vacant</p> <p>Listserv—Kyla Mitchell</p> <p>WILPF page (newsletter)—Leni Villagomez Reeves</p> <p><i>Stir It Up</i> (radio program)—Jean Hays</p> <p>WILPF US—Jan Slaughter</p> <p style="text-align: right;">—Peace ~ Teresa</p> |
|--|--|

- WILPF MEETING**  
At the Retreat on Oct. 15. For more information, contact Teresa at [taca\\_03@gmail.com](mailto:taca_03@gmail.com) or Leni at [lenivreeves@gmail.com](mailto:lenivreeves@gmail.com).
- MEMBERSHIP**  
Please renew if you haven't already. Send dues to WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755.  
For questions and information updates, e-mail Nancy Hatcher at [nhatcher46@gmail.com](mailto:nhatcher46@gmail.com) or Kyla Mitchell at [kyla.noelle@gmail.com](mailto:kyla.noelle@gmail.com).  
WILPF-US membership is \$35/year. WILPF-Fresno sponsors a low-income rate of \$20.
- STIR IT UP—WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM**  
Oct. 26, 3 p.m. (fourth Wednesday of each month). Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.
- UNPACKING RACISM**  
Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. With Dr. Jean Kennedy. RSVP with your e-mail address to [drjeankennedy@yahoo.com](mailto:drjeankennedy@yahoo.com) or text 559-270-1023.
- WOMEN IN BLACK**  
Oct. 5, noon, Courthouse (first Wednesday of each month). Check with Sue Kern at [skern@netptc.net](mailto:skern@netptc.net) or 559-439-3777.
- CUBAN WOMEN OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA—INSPIRATIONS FOR CHANGE**  
Film Festival online via Hothouse Global every Sunday in October at 5 p.m. Watch your e-mail and [www.facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/](http://www.facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/) for the link. For more information, e-mail [lenivreeves@gmail.com](mailto:lenivreeves@gmail.com).
- Find us on Facebook!**
- WILPF Fresno: [www.facebook.com/Wilpf-Fresno-395764603812264/](http://www.facebook.com/Wilpf-Fresno-395764603812264/)
  - WILPF Fresno Earth Democracy: [www.facebook.com/WILPF-Fresno-Earth-Democracy-497869307089677/](http://www.facebook.com/WILPF-Fresno-Earth-Democracy-497869307089677/)
  - WILPF Fresno Library Committee: [www.facebook.com/WILPF-Fresno-Library-Committee-437118029825800/](http://www.facebook.com/WILPF-Fresno-Library-Committee-437118029825800/)
  - Fresno WILPF Cuba Solidarity Committee: [www.facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/](http://www.facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/)

# Setback Zones from Oil and Gas Approved

By Cesar Aguirre and Nayamin Martinez

As Mexicans, we have always celebrated Sept. 16 because it is Mexico's Independence Day. But Sept. 16, 2022, had a new meaning for us and 3 million other California residents. Why? Because Governor Newsom signed into law SB 1137, a bill that will mandate a 3,200-foot setback between oil drilling and homes, schools and other sensitive receptors.

And while for many of us this is common sense, that oil sites should not be so close to sensitive receptors due to the significant exposure to cancer-causing gasses, the reality is that 3 million Californians live within 3,200 feet of toxic oil operations. Thus, the importance of this bill will establish the nation's largest and strongest buffer zone between polluting oil wells and communities, most of them people of color and low-income communities.

Furthermore, this new law will not only prohibit new drilling within the setback zone but also apply stringent pollution controls to operators and further prohibit them from reworking existing wells—essentially phasing out all operations within the setback zone over the coming years.

Newsom held a press conference to sign this bill, and others that were part of an ambitious climate change agenda, in Vallejo, one of the many communities that will benefit from this bill.

Present at the event was the author of SB 1137, State Senator Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach), who highlighted what prompted her to introduce this piece of legislation. "The combined stress of global warming and proximity to oil and gas production wells; it is our frontline communities that carry the heaviest burden with their already increased risk of asthma, heart disease and cancer.

"That is the reality and the severity of the public health challenges that pollution-burdened communities face daily across our state, and SB 1137 will help us change that. This is only the beginning—I believe SB 1137 will be a catalyst for more meaningful climate action in the near future."

In her remarks, Gonzalez also recognized that she worked alongside many dedicated environmental justice (EJ) advocates and organizations who helped push this legislation forward.

And that is true. Frontline communities and EJ organizations have been fighting for decades to end neighborhood drilling, not only at the state but also at local levels, and there was some progress before this major victory.

## OPINION & ANALYSIS



Governor Gavin Newsom during the bill signing ceremony in Vallejo on Sept. 16. Photo courtesy of Ruben Rodriguez

For example, four years ago, the small city of Arvin in Kern County made history passing the state's first local setback ordinance of 300 feet. This distance might seem small compared to the setbacks that SB 1137 will establish, but it was a remarkable victory considering that in Kern County the oil industry is strongly supported by the local politicians.

And that support and allegiance was certainly on display during the committee hearings and State Senate floor discussions of SB 1137; state senators and assembly members from

*Continues on page 21*

## 2022 November Election Endorsement Grid

	DEM	REP	Labor	FCDWC	Stonewall	CVPPAC
U.S. Senate	Padilla	Meuser	Padilla	Padilla	Padilla	—
Governor	Newsom	Dahle	Newsom	Newsom	Newsom	—
Lt. Governor	Kounalakis	Jacobs	Kounalakis	Kounalakis	Kounalakis	—
Secretary of State	Weber	Bernosky	Weber	Weber	Weber	—
Attorney General	Bonta	Hochman	Bonta	Bonta	Bonta	—
Treasurer	Ma	Guerrero	Ma	Ma	Ma	—
Controller	Cohen	Chen	Cohen	Cohen	—	—
Insurance Commissioner	Lara	Howell	Lara	Lara	Lara	—
Supt. of Public Instruction	Thurmond	Christensen	Thurmond	Thurmond	Thurmond	—
Board of Equalization	Altamirano	Gaines	—	Altamirano	—	—
Congressional District 5	Barkley	McClintock	Barkley	Barkley	—	—
Congressional District 13	Gray	Duarte	Gray	Gray	—	—
Congressional District 20	Wood	McCarthy	Wood	Wood	Wood	—
Congressional District 21	Costa	Maher	Costa	Costa	Costa	—
Congressional District 22	Salas	Valadao	Salas	—	—	—
State Senate District 4	Robertson	—	Robertson	—	—	—
State Senate District 12	Gundy	Grove	Gundy	Gundy	Gundy	—
State Senate District 14	Caballero	Shor	Caballero	Caballero	Caballero	—
State Senate District 16	Hurtado	Shepard	—	Hurtado	—	—
State Assembly District 27	Soria	Pazin	Soria	Soria	Soria	—
State Assembly District 31	Arambula	—	Arambula	Arambula	Arambula	—
State Assembly District 33	Sigala	Mathis	Sigala	Sigala	—	—
SCCCD Area 1	Rodriguez	Miranda	Rodriguez	Rodriguez	Rodriguez	Rodriguez
SCCCD Area 5	—	—	Felix/Fuentes	Felix	Felix	Felix/Fuentes
Fresno County BOE Area 4	—	—	—	Masumoto	—	—
Fresno USD Area 1	—	Horton	Thomas	Thomas	—	—
Fresno USD Area 3	—	McMahon-Gorans	—	—	—	—
Fresno USD Area 4	—	Steed	Islas	Islas	—	Islas
Fresno USD Area 7	—	Wittrup	Wittrup	—	—	—
Central USD Area 1	—	—	Sellers	Sellers	—	—
Central USD Area 2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central USD Area 4	Kherfan	—	—	Brooks	Kherfan	—
Central USD Area 7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clovis City Council (at-large)	Hebert	Basgall	—	Hebert	—	Hebert
	—	Bessinger	—	—	—	—
	—	Pearce	—	—	—	—
Sanger City Council District 2	Castellanos	—	—	Castellanos	—	Castellanos

**DEM:** California Democratic Party & Fresno County Democratic Party

**Labor:** California Labor Federation & Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Central Labor Council

**Stonewall:** Fresno Stonewall Democrats  
**CVPPAC:** Central Valley Progressive PAC

**SCCCD:** State Center Community College District

**REP:** California Republican Party & Fresno County Republican Party

**FCDWC:** Fresno County Democratic Women's Club

**BOE:** Board of Education

**USD:** Unified School District

Note: For the blank cells, the entity made no endorsement in that race or we were unable track down the information.

# Peace & Social Justice Calendar October 2022

Sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

Note: Contact the organizer for up-to-date information on whether meetings are in person or via Zoom.

**SAT 01** **Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley** 9 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-435-4043.

**Celebration of California's First Hmong American Judge**  
Noon. Guardian Angel Corp., 4837 E. McKinley Ave. The Hmong Democratic Club invites you to celebrate the appointment of club officer and Fresno attorney Pahoua Lor to a judgeship. She was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom and will be sworn into the Fresno County Superior Court bench on Oct. 4. For more info, vickyjvang\_00@yahoo.com or 559-349-8304.

**Mapping Queer Fresno** 2 p.m. Fresno EOC LGBTQ+ Resource Center, 1252 Fulton St. "Empresses and Emperors of the Valley: The Imperial Dove Court De Fresno & Sequoia Empire of Visalia and Tulare." Local activists, researchers and community members share stories and histories of Fresno's diverse LGBTQ+ community. For more info, contact qistoryfresno@gmail.com.

**OCT 01-14** **Rogue Festival Accepting Applications**  
Applications accepted online at fresnoroguefestival.com. \$40/application. The Rogue Festival typically receives more applications than it can accommodate; performers for the 2023 Rogue Festival will be selected from the applicants by a lottery to be held on Oct. 16. Half of all available performance slots are reserved for performers from the Central Valley. The 2023 Rogue Festival will take place March 3-11 in multiple venues in Fresno's Tower District. For more info, visit fresnoroguefestival.com.

**SUN 02** **Cuban Women of the African Diaspora: Inspirations for Change** 5 p.m., streaming at youtube.com/D5t4jRMBbo8 for 24 hours. Cuban women of the African diaspora speak for themselves in a series of films by Juana Maria Cordone-Cook, a scholar of the amazing surge of Afro-Cuban creativity made possible by the Cuban Revolution. For more info, contact teatrodlatierrapresente@gmail.com.

**MON 03** **Democratic Women in Action** 6 p.m. Marie Callender's Restaurant, 1781 E. Shaw Ave. For more info, contact 559-681-3140 or ggaston1234@aol.com or visit www.dwiafresno.org.

**TUE 04** **Gandhi's 153rd Birth Anniversary Celebration** 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Fresno State Peace Garden. Stop the Hate. Stop the Gun Violence. Build a Culture of Peace. Program includes garlanding and flower ceremony, special guest speakers, classical dances and musical tributes, proclamation and pledge against hate, and meditation and candlelight vigil. For more info, call 559-435-2212.

**National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)** 5:30 p.m. Los Amigo's Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave. Speaker: Socorro Santillan, public affairs director for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte. Topic: Current Status of Women's Reproductive Health Post *Roe v. Wade*. For more info, contact 559-222-6212 or joanne@pbyoga.com.

**WED 05** **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m. *Community Alliance* radio show hosted by Daren Miller. Guest: Michael D. Evans. Topic: General Election Outlook. For more info, visit www.kcf.org.

**THU 06** **ArtHop Downtown/Tower District** 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Museums, studios, galleries and other venues open their exhibits free to the public. For more info, visit FACarthop on Facebook.

**Mapping Queer Fresno** 6:30 p.m. Fresno EOC LGBTQ+ Resource Center, 1252 Fulton St. "Fighting for Our Survival: AIDS and HIV Mobilization from 1980s to Now." Local activists, researchers and community members share stories and histories of Fresno's diverse LGBTQ+ community. For more info, contact qistoryfresno@gmail.com.

**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)** 7 p.m. For more info, contact 559-360-8054 or taka\_03@ymail.com.

**FRI 07** **CineCulture: Olga** 5:15 p.m. Discussion via Zoom. Discussant: TBA. Set against the backdrop of the Euromaidan uprising and civil unrest in Kyiv, Ukraine, in late 2013, *Olga* is the story of a 15-year-old gymnast struggling with her dual identity—she is both Swiss and Ukrainian. She trains for the Olympics as a Swiss athlete thanks to her deceased father's nationality, while her mother, a freelance journalist, reports on the ground in Kyiv and faces daily dangers. What will happen to Olga? Sponsors: The French Program and the Department of Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures. Link to view the film posted 3-5 days earlier at cineculture.csufresno.edu. For more info, contact mhusain@csufresno.edu.

**SAT 08** **Central Valley Progressive PAC** 3:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-978-4504 or simone.rhodes@seiu521.org.

**SUN 09** **Cuban Women of the African Diaspora: Inspirations for Change** 5 p.m., streaming at youtube.com/mpr9ym3MSCM for 24 hours. Cuban women of the African diaspora speak for themselves in a series of films by Juana Maria Cordone-Cook, a scholar of the amazing surge of Afro-Cuban creativity made possible by the Cuban Revolution. For more info, contact teatrodlatierrapresente@gmail.com.

**MON 10** **Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA)** 6 p.m. Via Zoom. 3rd Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Celebration. "Spirit of Faithful Leadership" Fannie Lou Hamer Award recipient for 2022: Dezie Woods-Jones. Panel discussion on the life and importance of Fannie Lou Hamer in the civil rights movement, particularly in the fight against voter suppression. Panelists: Dr. Venise Curry, Fresno Unified School District Trustee Keisha Thomas, Pastor B.T. Lewis, D'Aungillique Jackson and local high school and college students. For more info, contact 559-916-2590 or swgamble@aol.com.

**TUE 11** **Stonewall Democratic Club** 5:30 p.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St. For more info, contact 559-709-8016 or conantm@aol.com.

**What's on Your Ballot?** 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. 210 Cafe, 210 W. Center Ave., Visalia. Navigating the Propositions: From Online Gambling to Reproductive Rights. Moderated by Paul Hurley. Live-streamed on Facebook (*Visalia Times-Delta* and Dolores Huerta Foundation). Presented by the League of Women Voters of Tulare County.

**Peace Fresno** 7 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 Van Ness Ave. In person/via Zoom. For more info, call 559-355-9717.

**WED 12** **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence radio show. For more info visit www.kcf.org.

**THU 13** **ArtHop Metropolitan/Fresno Metro Area** 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Museums, studios, galleries and other venues open their exhibits free to the public. For more info, visit FACarthop on Facebook.

**Fresno Move to Amend** 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Support a constitutional amendment to establish that corporations are not entitled to constitutional rights and that spending money is different from exercising freedom of speech. For more info, e-mail fresno@movetoamend.org.

**Fresnans against Fracking** 7 p.m. Chipotle Mexican Grill, 4978 N. Cedar Ave. For more info, contact 559-390-1338 or martinrj93638@yahoo.com.

**FRI 14** **CineCulture: Costa Brava, Lebanon** 5:15 p.m. Discussion via Zoom. Discussant: TBA. Three generations of the Badri family have resided in an idyllic mountain home. Though the location is picture-perfect, familial arguments bubble up beneath the surface. As the family's resolve wavers, the government seizes their property and proceeds to carve it into a landfill. What will happen to them? Sponsors: The French Program and the Department of Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures. Link to view the film posted 3-5 days earlier at cineculture.csufresno.edu. For more info, contact mhusain@csufresno.edu.

**SAT 15** **West Fresno Democratic Club** 9 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-930-4909 or westfresnodemclub@gmail.com.

**Ethnic Studies @50: Memory and Celebration** 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Room 2206, Fresno State Library, 5200 N. Barton Ave. A one-day event commemorating 50 years of ethnic studies at Fresno State. Panels will feature early founders of ethnic studies on its history and current faculty members and students discussing why ethnic studies remains a vital and expanding field of research and teaching today. Lunch and refreshments. For more info, contact jenbanh@mail.fresnostate.edu.

**Mapping Queer Fresno** 2 p.m. Fresno EOC LGBTQ+ Resource Center, 1252 Fulton St. "Intersectional Pride and Queer Futures: Voices of Asian-American, Black, Two-Spirit and Latine Queer Community Activists." Local activists, researchers and community members share stories and histories of Fresno's diverse LGBTQ+ community. For more info, contact qistoryfresno@gmail.com.

**SUN 16** **Democratic Socialists of America** 2 p.m. For more info, visit Facebook @ Democratic Socialists of America, Fresno, CA.

**Cuban Women of the African Diaspora: Inspirations for Change** 5 p.m., streaming at youtube.com/f0bR9vUvGqw for 24 hours. Cuban women of the African diaspora speak for themselves in a series of films by Juana Maria Cordone-Cook, a scholar of the amazing surge of Afro-Cuban creativity made possible by the Cuban Revolution. For more info, contact teatrodlatierrapresente@gmail.com.

**MON 17** **California Latina Democrats-Fresno** 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-284-0408 or chaircalatinadems@gmail.com.

**TUE 18** **Central Valley Partnership** 5:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-967-1940 or agrariandemocracy@gmail.com.

**Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC)** 6 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-287-1308 or bapacfresno@gmail.com.

**WED 19** **KFCF 88.1 FM: Speaking Truth to Empire** 3 p.m. Hosted by Dan Yaseen. For more info, visit www.kcf.org.

**San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club** 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, call 559-312-3925.

**Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter** 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Speaker: Tyler Coleman, terrestrial wildlife program manager at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Topic: The History of Bears in the West. This presentation will cover bear ecology and history over the past 150-200 years, including bear management practices in the West. Methods used today in Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks will provide important examples of why certain management practices are used. Free and open to the general public. Advance registration is required. To register or for more info, visit sierraclub.org/tehipite.



**THU 20** **Clovis Democratic Club** 7 p.m. Denny's Restaurant, 710 W. Shaw Ave., Clovis. For more info, contact 559-322-9740 or jenikren@gmail.com.

**FRI 21** **CineCulture: Peaceful** 5:15 p.m. Discussion via Zoom. Discussant: TBA. The moving story of a mother facing the unbearable and her son in denial of a serious illness and facing his approaching death. Between them, a doctor and a nurse fight to do their job and bring them to acceptance. Mother and son have one year, four seasons, to "dance with the disease, tame it and understand what it means: to die while still alive." Sponsors: The French Program and the Department of Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures. Link to view the film posted 3-5 days earlier at cineculture.csufresno.edu. For more info, contact mhusain@csufresno.edu.

**SUN 23** **Cuban Women of the African Diaspora: Inspirations for Change** 5 p.m., streaming at youtube.com/fpwCkVMThh8 for 24 hours. Cuban women of the African diaspora speak for themselves in a series of films by Juana Maria Cordone-Cook, a scholar of the amazing surge of Afro-Cuban creativity made possible by the Cuban Revolution. For more info, contact teatrodlatierrapresente@gmail.com.

**MON 24** **Fresno County Democratic Women's Club** 11:30 a.m. Marie Callender's Restaurant Garden Room, 1781 E. Shaw Ave. \$25/person. For more info, contact 559-905-1836 or patrbar73@gmail.com.

**TUE 25** **California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA)** Via Zoom. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Annual Regional Convention and Senior Vote Forum. Register at bit.ly/CARA2022FresnoKern. For more info, contact 510-663-4086 or cynthial.cara@gmail.com or visit californiainalliance.org.

**FRI 28** **CineCulture: Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress** 5:15 p.m. Discussion via Zoom. Discussant: Dr. Ed Emanuel. Set in the early 1970s during the later stages of China's Cultural Revolution, two male university students are sent to a remote mountain village in southwest China for three years of Communist reeducation to purge them of their decadent Western education. Amid the back-breaking work and stifling ignorance of the community, they fall in love with a local beauty, the daughter of the most renowned tailor in the region. When they discover a hidden suitcase filled with banned books by Western writers, they read these works to the little seamstress for hours on end in a secret meeting place. Link to view the film posted 3-5 days earlier at cineculture.csufresno.edu. For more info, contact mhusain@csufresno.edu.

**SUN 30** **Cuban Women of the African Diaspora: Inspirations for Change** 5 p.m., streaming at youtube.com/7-kV0UQlysk for 24 hours. Cuban women of the African diaspora speak for themselves in a series of films by Juana Maria Cordone-Cook, a scholar of the amazing surge of Afro-Cuban creativity made possible by the Cuban Revolution. For more info, contact teatrodlatierrapresente@gmail.com.

Submit upcoming community activities to calendar@fresnoalliance.com by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

# The Central Valley Progressive PAC has endorsed the following candidates for the November 8 Election



Genoveva Islas

**Genoveva Islas** is the incumbent in the Fresno Unified School District Trustee Area 4 and has been a strong advocate for progressive values on the school board. Veva is also the founder and director of Cultiva La Salud, a public health advocacy group that works to advance health equity in California's San Joaquin Valley.



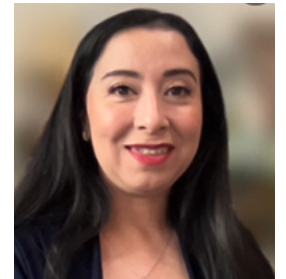
**Gilbert Felix & Robert Fuentes** are candidates for the State Center Community College District Trustee Area 5. We like them both so much we decided on a dual endorsement.



Magdalena Gomez

**Magdalena Gomez** is the incumbent and is running unopposed in the State Center Community College District Trustee Area 4. The CVPPAC endorsed her in 2018 when she won this position. At that time, we asked if she would support community college classes on the history of social movements, organizing and Labor Studies? She replied that not only does she want these classes on community college campuses, but also available to high school students in Fresno County.

**Destiny Rodriguez** is a candidate for the State Center Community College District Trustee Area 1. She says her priorities are "making sure we have classes available for green jobs training, nursing programs, regenerative agriculture, sequestration programs, technical assistance and skilled workforce training."



Destiny Rodriguez



Joe Hebert

**Joe Hebert** is the only Democrat running for a seat on the Clovis City Council. Clovis does not have district elections, giving Joe an advantage as the nine Republicans/Independents will split conservative votes. In his response to a CVPPAC question, Joe confirmed he is pro choice, believes working people should be paid a living wage and climate change as an environmental crisis that must be addressed by decreasing our dependence on fossil fuels and increasing solar, wind and other alternative energy sources.

**Eve Castellanos** is a candidate for the Sanger City Council. She supports a living wage, is pro choice and believes in police accountability. On affordable housing, she she supports "a comprehensive routine interior code inspection for rental housing. I also support local and online educational workshops on housing rights for all residents of rental properties in Sanger to increase their knowledge of their rights as tenants."



Eve Castellanos

THE CONTENT IN THIS SECTION IS PAID FOR BY THE CENTRAL VALLEY PROGRESSIVE PAC

## FRESNO FREEDOM SCHOOL PRESENTS... PROGRESSIVE BLACK SUMMIT "BLACK FARMERS: FOOD TO TABLE"



Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, 10 am-2 pm

Free AME Church  
806 Collins Ave. Fresno, CA 93706

CONTACT:  
Ms. Aline Reed  
progressiveblack98@gmail.com

Inspirational Speakers  
Healthy Food Workshops  
African Drumming

FREE HOT LUNCH  
for 1st 100 attendees!!!!

Masks required indoors  
and will be provided.



# A Word about the Azov Regiment: Yaroslava's Song

By Zarina Zabrisky

Photos by Zarina Zabrisky

Yaroslava, the wife of a Ukrainian prisoner of war, is a warrior. For months, she's been struggling to liberate her husband of 30 years, a father of her four children and grandfather of four grandchildren, and Azov regiment fighter.

Mykola is kept by the Russian military in a pretrial detention facility in Olenivka, in the Russian-occupied Donetsk Oblast. Yaroslava's two sons-in-law, the fathers of her four grandkids, are also there. All three men defended the Azovstal plant in Mariupol.

The Russian occupational forces besieged Mariupol, a city by the coast of the Azov Sea, in March 2022, soon after the start of the full-scale invasion in Ukraine. The Azov regiment, a unit of the National Guard of Ukraine, founded in 2014 as a volunteer paramilitary militia to defend Donbas from the Russian invasion and fight pro-Russian forces, fought for the city but by early April, retreated to the bunkers of Azovstal, a steel plant.

On May 17, following the order of the Ukrainian president and commander-in-chief Volodymyr Zelenskyy, after almost three months of fierce resistance, more than 2,500 defenders surrendered to the Russian military. Most were sent to Olenivka, and only a few were exchanged for Ukrainian POWs.

Russia threatened to hold a tribunal for the Azovstal defenders, labeling them "Nazis." Vyacheslav Likhachev, a historian and a member of the Expert Council of the Center of Civil Liberties, explains that the Azov regiment has disassociated with the ultra-right movement.

Families, who have not heard anything about their loved ones for months, appealed to the international community leaders to demand an exchange. They have addressed the Pope and the Chinese and Turkish presidents but to no avail.

On July 29, a powerful explosion shook Olenivka, killing 53 Ukrainian POWs. Russian proxy state authorities and the Kremlin-funded press claimed that the Ukrainian military used a U.S.-made HIMARS rocket to kill their own servicemen to "prevent them" from talking about alleged war crimes.



Yaroslava with her two daughters, Victoria and Anastasiya

Ukrainian authorities denied the claims and accused Russia of committing a terrorist act to hide the evidence of torture. Based on the situational analysis, independent Western military experts and CNN journalists concluded that the Russian version was likely a fabrication.

I first met Yaroslava and her two older daughters in a small village in the Cherkasy region. As we walk along the shadowy main street past a dusty World War II monument commemorating Soviet soldiers, the women tell me their love stories: simple, wholesome, almost trivial as most stories of a happy and peaceful life.

Meeting at dance parties in their villages, going to the capital city, Kyiv, to work odd jobs to make money for wedding rings, returning home to raise children next to their parents, moving to Mariupol as a clan, taking kids to karate and ballet classes and dreaming of getting a French bulldog puppy.

Yaroslava's story is somewhat different, though. A native Russian from Siberia, she met her Ukrainian flame at 19, dropped out of college, followed him to Ukraine, and stayed for life. Her birth country has now attacked her chosen country, drove her from home, and took her and her daughters' men away. Her only son, also an Azov regiment soldier, was injured at war.

A bright blonde with piercing blue eyes, she speaks Ukrainian, telling me about her husband's love "for his land, rivers, lakes, mountains." I am reminded of Yaroslava, one of the main characters of the medieval epic poem "The Word about Igor's Regiment" (usually translated as "The Tale about Igor's Campaign"), written in the late 12th century.

Prince Igor and his son were taken prisoners during a war campaign. His wife, Yaroslava, climbed the city wall and called to the wind, the sun, the Dnipro for help. Her chants worked magic: birds, animals and the soil itself brought her prince home and the joy spread all the way to Kyiv.

The complex beauty of the epic poem matches the debates about its origin, authorship and national "ownership." Russia claims the epic poem along with the lands that inspired it. Back at the hotel, I reread Taras Shevchenko's Ukrainian translation of the song in the Old East Slavic language, "I will fly like a cuckoo bird, I will zigzag, I will wash his bloody wounds with my sleeves."

Yaroslava's two older daughters are quiet, with beautiful black hair and sad eyes. Like their mother, they married young and



A replica of the metal cages built by the Russian authorities for the tribunal intended for Azov fighters, installed at the main street of Kyiv, Khreshchatyk, with a mirror inside, "so you can imagine how it feels."

dedicated themselves to raising children. Anastasiya tells me that her husband was crushed by what the Russians did in Mariupol, bombing buildings, burning alive women and kids inside.

"Dmytro just wanted to defend them," she says, crying. "He'd visit, bring them food and toys, and next day nothing's left, just ashes...Nazis are those who came here to kill our children."

Victoria is more reserved. Her husband was injured during the explosion in Olenivka.

"I saw Oleksii's name on the list of wounded. We don't know if we can trust these lists."

Other than that, the family knows nothing about the fates of the men. Russia does not share any information with the Ukrainian authorities or international humanitarian organizations such as the United Nations or the Red Cross.

Matilda Bogner, the head of the UN human rights mission in Ukraine, said that "Russia is not allowing access to prisoners of war, adding that the UN had evidence that some had been subject to torture and ill-treatment, which could amount to war crimes," as reported by Reuters.

Over the next month, I met dozens of Azovstal women—mothers, sisters and wives of the Azovstal defenders. Not everyone wants to be recorded, but each one is determined to find and free her loved one.

Natalya from Mykolaiv organizes a photo exhibit in Kyiv and tells me about her brother's passion for art, photography and painting, her brown eyes brimming with tears.

Kateryna Prokopenko, the wife of the Azov commander, Lieutenant Colonel Denys Prokopenko, awarded the title "The Hero of Ukraine" by President Zelenskyy, sits down to talk to me on Aug. 24, Ukraine Independence Day, in Kyiv. Fit, hip, wiry, an athlete and an artist, Kateryna shares her romantic story: Denys proposed to her as they were backpacking in Scandinavia, presenting a ring "brought by a troll."

As the air raid sirens howl nonstop, Kateryna shows me her animation art: signature cartoon goats and birds. Then, she leads me to a human cage she designed as a replica of the metal cages built by the Russian authorities for the tribunal intended for Azov fighters. Her "cage" is installed at the main street of Kyiv, Khreshchatyk, with a mirror inside, "so you can imagine how it feels."

Lisa was getting ready to marry the love of her life when the war started. She can't find her fiancé and has not heard from him for months. "The war ruined all plans," she says.

"I had a dream the other night that I got him out of prison and carried him in my arms all the way home...We are ready to shout to the whole world—no, to the whole galaxy—help us free them!"

I met Yaroslava again in Kyiv, a month after our first meeting, and she and her daughters are heading to protest by the President's office. They still have not heard a word about their husbands.

"Why can't the whole world stop one person? Why can't we stop the war? Is the whole world helpless against Putin? Why?" asks Yaroslava.

(Editor's note: As this our press deadline neared, Zarina informed us that of the Azov fighters mentioned, only Denys and Aleksey had returned home.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Zarina Zabrisky is an American journalist and an award-winning novelist currently reporting on the Russian war in Ukraine. She is a war correspondent for Bywire News (UK); writes a Daily Review column for Euromaidan Press, an online Ukrainian English-language independent newspaper since 2014; and contributes articles and podcasts on information warfare, reports from the sites and interviews with military experts and eyewitnesses for these and other publications, including The Byline Times (UK).

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# Thoughts on the 9/11 Tragedy

By Norman Lambert

The tragedy of 9/11 has come, been acknowledged with great ceremony, and gone. But not the aftereffects. Slightly less than 3,000 lives were lost on that momentous occasion. As a direct result of this destruction and loss of life, we have fought two wars and essentially lost both of them.

In Afghanistan alone, during the 20 years of war we lost 6,241 military and civilian contractors' lives, which exceeds the death toll of 9/11 twice over (*Skeptical Inquirer Magazine*). If one includes all deaths of all nationalities resulting from the Afghanistan hostilities of the past two decades, it comes to 176,000, far greater than the event that triggered the hostilities to begin with.

The Brown University Cost of War Project has estimated that our country's total cost for the past 20 years of warfare in the Middle East is \$8 trillion. That money was spent to punish the people who conducted the events of 9/11.

The only problem is that none of the perpetrators of 9/11 were from Iraq or Afghanistan. The majority were from Saudi Arabia, and we continued to treat the Saudis as trusted allies at that time and ever since.

When we compare the loss of life in 9/11 to other ongoing issues in this country, such as motor vehicle deaths, we find that slightly more than 3,000 deaths occur on our streets and roads every month. That's more than 36,000 deaths per year caused primarily by driving at unsafe speeds and driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Why have we as a nation not taken this extremely high death toll and made a national effort to decrease this number? After all, we spent \$8 trillion in the Middle East over the past 20 years and walked away from Afghanistan leaving it in the hands of the Taliban, the same as it was when we invaded it.

What if the trillions of dollars that we spent over the last 20 years on war were directed instead to improve the safety of automobile drivers? We could develop new strategies and new technology, making both cars and roads safer. We'll never know because we were blinded by our need to punish someone for 9/11, even if we punished the wrong ones.

As a direct result of 9/11, we beefed up our own 17 intelligence agencies, including the CIA, the NSA and Homeland Security, at a cost of close to \$70 billion per year.

## OPINION & ANALYSIS



The World Trade Center towers on fire after the attack on Sept. 11, 2001. Photo courtesy of The Commons

And 20 years later, we have not reduced their budgets even though there have been no foreign enemy attacks on our nation.

And please, don't say that our combined intelligence agencies have protected our nation from attack, when all those agencies together could not tell President Biden that immediately after removing our troops from Afghanistan the country would within days fall to the Taliban.

Afghanistan has been a costly problem since the Soviet invasion. To cause the Soviets a problem in their invasion, we secretly armed the Taliban with weapons and munitions. When the Soviets pulled their troops out of the country, the Taliban took control of the nation.

Then came 9/11, and we decided to punish Afghanistan for harboring terrorists. So, we invaded a country ruled by the Taliban who a few years before that we were furnishing with war materials.

Maybe it's time for us to put aside our gallantly failed attempts to spread democracy throughout the world and begin trying to take better care of our own citizens.


\*\*\*\*\*

*Norman Lambert is a native Californian, a former small business owner, a writer, a Democratic Socialist and a secular humanist. He has retired in Fresno.*

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# Political Humor

By Mitch Cantwell

## Rumor Has It...

On his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, President Joe Biden said he did not feel any nervousness or anxiety in meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman until he saw what was displayed on the table between them: a knife, an ax, a saw and a cutting board.

Jared Kushner recently said that his father-in-law Donald Trump was a fighter, "He's always been a fighter." That's why he is suffering such brain damage after his epic battle against 16-year-old 90-pound Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg.

Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel is upset over the new IRS funding program that targets only the wealthiest taxpayers and corporations. "They should be targeting poor people, shouldn't they? After all, there's more of them!"

When Donald Trump learned he might be indicted on several charges of espionage, money laundering, bribery, witness tampering, etc., his family and friends immediately began ordering more diapers and soft rubber golf clubs.

Senator Mitch McConnell and several other Republican lawmakers have been on the offense since President Biden's \$20,000 student debt cancellation. They have been overheard stating that "more people receiving these loan cancellations tend to be graduates in the fields of health, math, science and engineering. And everyone knows well-educated people are a danger to our American way of life."

Glenn Beck, a master of telling fairy tales, was recently asked if he would be willing to travel to Taiwan for a visit. He replied, "No! Leaving the west coast to travel westward might cause me to fall off the edge of the earth!"

Florida Governor Ron Descants has put out a new law banning any books that might contain words that are not to his liking. Among the latest books to be banned, Webster's Dictionary.

Donald Trump recently suffered a severe heart attack followed by a stroke. His critical condition is believed to have been brought on by five cheeseburgers, six diet Cokes, and... Jared Kushner.

Sound technicians have to move their microphones down behind Donald Trump's backside whenever he speaks, so they can better pick up what he's saying.

Tucker Carlson suffers the same ruddy orange complexion as Donald Trump because he is afflicted with the same serious complications of inflamed hemorrhoids.

Many preschool children in America were highly insulted when they were told that Donald Trump's hissy-fit tantrums were like that of a spoiled little four-year-old.

## The Case for Non-Lethal Bullets

Whereas the general population of the United States can no longer tolerate the shooting to death of fellow citizens and especially children in school classrooms; and

Whereas we know that private citizens are not willing to give up their guns and that manufacturers are not willing to give up the production and lucrative sales of these weapons;



Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg speaking in Berlin about climate change on Sept. 24, 2021. Photo courtesy of The Commons

We therefore recommend the halting of lethal bullet manufacturing to be replaced by non-lethal bullets.

Such bullets should consist of a softer perhaps sponge rubber bullet with a much lower muzzle velocity, which, though possible capable of penetrating a paper target, would be incapable of penetrating skin.

All lethal bullets in the possession of civilian citizens would be exchanged for an equal number of non-lethal bullets within a reasonable period of time to be set by law. After that period of time, anyone found in possession of lethal bullets would face a fine for each bullet.

For home protection, private citizens could substitute mace or tasers.

Hunters who insist on the right to kill game animals would, when applying for a hunting license, purchase the number of lethal bullets for the hunting season, and any unused bullets could be turned in for a refund on their deposit.

This would satisfy pretty much all people involved in this dilemma, and the most important problem we face is the protection of innocent people from the tragedy of gunshot wounds and death, without infringing on the rights of the Second Amendment.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mitch Cantwell, Ph.D., is a retired professor of anthropology and a member of Kings Canyon Indivisible.

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For Peace Fresno updates and info email  
[ken.hudson@peacefresno.org](mailto:ken.hudson@peacefresno.org)



**SAVE THE DATE: Friday, December 2**  
Medea Benjamin, co-founder of the high-profile, women-led antiwar group CODEPINK will be speaking in Fresno as a part of a book tour for *War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict*, which she co-authored with Nicolas J.S. Davies. The book will be published in October.

Dan Yaseen to interview Medea Benjamin on  
"Speaking Truth to Empire"

Airing on radio station KFCF, 88.1 FM

Wednesday, October 19, 3:00 – 3:30 pm

[peacefresno.org](http://peacefresno.org)

[facebook.com/PeaceFresno](https://facebook.com/PeaceFresno)

### HOWARD'S HOPEFULS

Here are my November 8, 2022, primary election voting recommendations. Most are clear choices, some are very close calls. I hope you find this list useful. However you choose to vote, PLEASE VOTE! Thank you.

—Howard K. Watkins

#### FEDERAL

U.S. Senator (both full & partial terms)	PADILLA
Congress Dist. 5	BARKLEY
Congress Dist. 13	GRAY
Congress Dist. 20	WOOD
Congress Dist. 21	COSTA

#### STATE

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Lt. Governor	KOUNALAKIS
Secretary of State	WEBER
Controller	COHEN
Treasurer	MA
Attorney General	BONTA
Insurance Comm.	LARA
Supt. of Pub. Instr.	THURMOND
St. Bd. of Equal. #1	ALTAMIRANO
State Senate #12	GUNDY
State Senate #14	CABALLERO
State Senate #16	HURTADO
State Assembly #8	None
State Assembly #27	SORIA
State Assembly #31	ARAMBULA
State Assembly #33	SIGALA
Supreme Ct. Justices	YES on All
Court of Appeal 5th Dist.	YES on All
State Props 1, 26, 28-31	YES
State Prop 27	NO

#### FRESNO COUNTY

County Bd. of Educ. #1	Tapscott-Munson
County Bd. of Educ. #4	MASUMOTO
St.Ctr.Com. Col. Dist. 1	RODRIGUEZ
St.Ctr.Com. Col. Dist. 4	GOMEZ
St.Ctr.Com. Col. Dist. 5	FELIX
Central Unified Dist. 4	KHERFAN
Fresno Unified Dist. 1	THOMAS
Fresno Unified Dist. 3	DAVIS
Fresno Unified Dist. 4	ISLAS
Fresno Unified Dist. 7	WITTRUP
Measure C	NO
Measure E	YES

#### CITY OF CLOVIS

Clovis City Council	HEBERT
Measure B	YES

#### CITY OF FRESNO

Measure M	YES
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#### CITY OF SANGER

City Council Dist. #2	CASTELLANOS
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# 50 Years of Ethnic Studies 2.0

By Homer Gee Greene Jr.

The academic discipline of Africana/Black studies/ethnic studies discussed in a September 2022 *Community Alliance* article has again expanded. This expansion is now at the high school level. The central question is how do institutions teach the history of race relations at the high school level.

The College Board will answer this question by offering a new Advanced Placement (AP) course and related exam on African American studies. This AP course is being made available to 60 high schools nationwide this fall. The course, part of a pilot program, will be interdisciplinary in its scope and cover history, literature, the arts, geography and other academic areas.

"If the pilot program pans out, it will be the first course in African American studies for high school students that is considered rigorous enough to allow students to receive credit and advance placement at many colleges across the country.

"The plan for an Advanced Placement course is a significant step in acknowledging the field of African American studies, more than 50 years after what has been credited as the Black studies department was started after a student strike at San Francisco State College in 1968, said Henry Louis Gates Jr., a former chair of Harvard's department of African and African American studies and director of the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research" (*New York Times*, Sept. 1).

The College Board is not at this time releasing copies of the syllabus for the course or any related content of the course. It also will not identify any of the 60 high schools participating in the pilot program.

According to the College Board, students in the program will take the pilot exam but will not receive AP scores or college credit. All the data generated will be used to create a permanent syllabus and related content for a nationwide AP course in African American studies.

Possible subjects to be covered related to the Black experience, nationally and internationally, might include the ancient African civilizations of Egypt, traditional African kingdoms and related cultures, the trans-Atlantic slave trade, the lives of enslaved African people and how they resisted their enslavement, the impact of the Harlem Renaissance, the Black arts movements, the Black Power movement, Black pride, the civil rights movement, Black feminism, Black queerness, Black philosophy, Black politics, the Black Lives Matter movement, the politics of the African diaspora, critical race theory, the 1619 Project, and intersectionality.

It has taken 50 years for African American studies to be instituted at the university and college levels of academia. This construct is now finding its way to the high school level. The College Board indicated that if the pilot program is successful, all high schools that want it can make the full AP course available to their students in the 2024-2025 school year. The College Board also indicated that this course has been in development for more than 10 years.

"[Marlon] William-Clark [a social studies teacher in Florida] said he was 'surprised and not surprised' that it had taken such a long time after the rise of African American studies to establish this course.

"The way I look at it is that often history is told from the perspective of the winner,' he said. 'We're getting to a point in our country's history where diverse voices are being valued, and that's what this course does'" (*New York Times*, Sept. 1).

This movement has now come to Fresno. Instead of being under the academic identifier of Black studies or African American studies, the Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) will offer a requirement under the academic identifier of ethnic studies.

FUSD is now requiring students, beginning with incoming freshmen in the fall of 2023, to complete one 10-credit, two semester-long ethnic studies course to meet the graduation requirement. The course will include content not usually covered in a Euro-centric view of political and racial interaction in America with people of color.

"FUSD defines ethnic studies as 'a critical and interdisciplinary study of race, ethnicity and indigeneity'—distinct from the field of history in the way it specifically looks at how race and racism 'have been, and continue to be' powerful social, cultural and political forces" (*Fresno Bee*, Sept. 12).

It could be argued that the 50 years of ethnic studies classes offered at Fresno State and Fresno City College helped FUSD come to the decision to offer ethnic studies for their students more quickly than other school districts. The district had planned to offer these courses in the last school year after passing a resolution in August 2020 but delayed the launch to recruit and train more teachers for the newly required courses.

In October 2021, Governor Newsom signed legislation requiring an ethnic studies requirement for all California high school students, starting with the incoming freshmen in 2026. Hence, FUSD will meet this state mandate three years earlier than the majority of high school districts. FUSD will follow the model curriculum for ethnic studies courses that was finalized by the state in March 2021.

Another reason for the rapid development of the ethnic studies graduation requirement evolved from a group of FUSD teachers organized as the Fresno Ethnic Studies Coalition. The coalition was a prime mover behind the 2020



For students to graduate from high school, incoming freshmen students for the fall 2023 class in the Fresno Unified School District must complete a 10-credit, two-semester ethnic studies course to graduate.  
Image courtesy of Nettrice Gaskins

initiative to make ethnic studies a graduation requirement for all high school students in the district. As a result of the coalition's efforts, the FUSD trustees supported the proposal at their Aug. 24 meeting. The board then voted to amend its bylaws to include the new graduation requirement.

"I think this is hugely valuable to helping our students learn their personal cultural histories and contributions to this nation," said Trustee Veva Islas (*Fresno Bee*, Sept. 12).

Black studies and ethnic studies have evolved from a protest by Black university students for more academic representation in colleges and universities curriculums to being offered as a high school AP course in African American studies and an ethnic studies graduation requirement for local Fresno high school students.

\*\*\*\*\*

Homer Gee Greene Jr. is a freelance writer and photographer, documentarian for the Clark Bonsai Collection and founding partner and business manager for the start-up tech company ScholarDev LLC. He is retired from Fresno City College.

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Photographs by David Bacon



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**TOP REASONS TO VOTE NO:**



**Higher Taxes.**

Politicians are rushing voters to lock in higher sales taxes for the next 30 years. Measure C is just one of the many new taxes politicians and special interest groups want to impose on Fresno taxpayers this year alone. The current Measure C doesn't even expire until 2027. We have time to get it right. Vote NO on Measure C.



**Makes it harder to pay for basic needs.**

Inflation is already hard enough on families. We are in the middle of dealing with surging prices for gas, food, rent, and everyday expenses. Measure C will just make it harder to pay for basic needs. It's time to reign in out-of-control spending by politicians. We cannot afford to pay for more political slush funds.



**Backroom Deals.**

Measure C was written behind closed doors by the same politicians and bureaucrats who, for 35 years, have failed to keep their promises to fix our broken streets and clean our air.



**After more than three decades, our neighborhoods still have Broken Roads because of Broken Promises.**



**Leaves existing neighborhoods behind & ignores the safety of our children.**

Measure C renewal is more of the same. The expenditure plan DOES NOT guarantee sidewalk and road repairs in existing neighborhoods, fails to adequately fund safe routes to schools, and focuses investments on major road expansions that will cause uncontrolled sprawl and make our air quality worse.



**Measure C explicitly limits funding from being used to pay for crosswalks, streetlights, and adding and repairing sidewalks with curbs and gutters in existing neighborhoods.**



**Lack of real oversight and transparency.**

There is no actual oversight on how the \$7 billion will be spent. Their Citizens Advisory Committee is only advisory, only meets once a year, and has no authority to veto decisions to borrow against future revenues or Plan amendments.



**Measure C lets politicians borrow against future tax dollars and leaves a \$7 Billion dollar bill for our grandkids to pay.**



**Rushed Process.**

A broad coalition of advocates from every sector of our community repeatedly called on the Measure C renewal committee to take the necessary time to bring Fresno County residents into the discussion to ensure all transportation needs were identified and properly prioritized. Instead, politicians and bureaucrats rushed through the process and left taxpayers out of the conversation.



**Fails to clean our air and address the growing climate crisis.**

We are facing many challenges - a growing housing crisis and a worsening climate crisis. While we have some of the worst air quality in the nation, politicians only want to invest 2% of Measure C toward improving air quality, despite transportation being the largest source of pollution.



**Fails to invest in neighborhoods that need it most.**

Measure C fails to prioritize communities with the worst road conditions and highest needs.



**Fails workers and the local economy.**

Measure C doesn't guarantee local workers jobs and training programs.



**Cuts public transportation.**

Measure C cuts public transit by 50%, making it harder for vulnerable residents without cars to access essential services and medical care.



**Fails to help get our fair share of federal and state transportation dollars.**

Measure C fails to draw down state and federal funds to support public transit and transit-oriented development that could help build affordable housing along transit corridors in existing communities.



**Lacks vision.**

Measure C does not provide the transportation system we need for our future. Measure C does not include funds for electric charging stations, light rail, new technology and solar generation.



**Works for the rich, taxes the poor.**

Measure C makes taxpayers pay for road and infrastructure improvements that benefit developers and their pet projects



**Leaves rural and unincorporated communities behind.**

Measure C leaves rural and unincorporated communities without robust regional transportation options and fails to plan for future growth and transportation needs in our region.



**Cuts programs for seniors and people with disabilities.**

Measure C eliminates existing funding for senior transit, farmworker van pools and services for people with disabilities.

# Fresno Center for Nonviolence 2022



**October 2022**  
When going trick or treating this Halloween, don't go dressed as a superhero or super villain or a politician or a general but go dressed up as a peacenik. Guaranteed to scare some folks, maybe even make them think, now that's the greatest trick you may pull on anyone.

Edited by  
Richard  
Gomez.

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To see a more colorful version of our page go to our website.

*In honor of what would have been Howard Zinn 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, I offer, a shorten version of his speech titled "The Uses of History and the War on Terrorism." To read more of his speech go to: "War Poisons Everybody": Remembering Legendary Historian Howard Zinn on His 100th Birthday | Democracy Now!*

**HOWARD ZINN:** I was talking to my barber the other day because we always discuss world politics. And he's totally politically unpredictable, as most barbers are, you see. He said, "Howard," he said, "you know, you and I disagree on many things, but on one thing we agree: War solves nothing." And I thought, "Yeah." It's not hard for people to grasp that.

We've had a history of war after war after war after war. What have they solved? What have they done? I received a letter from General Marshall, general of generals, a letter addressed personally to me, and to 16 million others, in which he said, "We've won the war. It will be a new world." Well, of course, it wasn't a new world. It hasn't been a new world, war after war after war.

I came out of that war a war in which I was an enthusiastic bombardier, I came out of that war with certain ideas, which just developed gradually at the end of the war, ideas about war. One, that war corrupts everybody who engages in it. War poisons everybody who engages in it. You start off as the good guys, but as the war goes on, the good guys begin behaving like the bad guys. You can trace this back to the Peloponnesian War. You can trace it back to the good guy, the Athenians, and the bad guys, the Spartans. And after a while, the Athenians become ruthless and cruel, like the Spartans.

And we did that in World War II. We, after Hitler committed his atrocities, we committed our atrocities — you know, our killing of 600,000 civilians in Japan, our killing of probably an equal number of civilians in Germany. These were just ordinary people, like we are ordinary people living in a country that is a marauding country, and they were living in countries that were marauding countries, and they were caught up in whatever it was and afraid to speak up. And I don't know, I came to the conclusion, yes, war poisons everybody.

So, war — well, Einstein said this after World War I. He said, "War cannot be humanized. It can only be abolished." War has to be abolished; you know. And it's — I know it's a long shot. I understand that. But you have to — when something's a long shot, but it has to be done, you have to start doing it. Just as the ending of slavery in this country in the 1830s was a really long shot, but people stuck at it, and it took 30 years, but slavery was done away with. And we can see this again and again. So, we have a job to do. We have lots of things to do.

One of the things we can learn from history is that history is not only a history of things inflicted on us by the powers that be. History is also a history of resistance. It's a history of people who endure tyranny for decades, but who ultimately rise up and overthrow the dictator. Over in Nepal. Million people in the streets, and then the ruler has to get out of the way. So, this is what we're aiming for in this country.

Everything we do is important. Every little thing we do, every picket line we walk on, every letter we write, every act of civil disobedience we engage in, any recruiter that we talk to, any parent that we talk to, any GI that we talk to, any young person that we talk to, anything we do in class, outside of class, everything we do in the direction of a different world is important, even though at the moment they seem futile, because that's how change comes about. Change comes about when millions of people do little things, which at certain points in history come together, and then something good and something important happens. Thank you.

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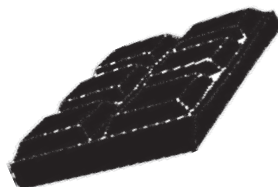


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In September our show was hosted by Josh Shurley with guest Bob McCloskey from Community Alliance on homelessness in Fresno.

# The Woman King

By Dr. Malik Simba

While I was doing doctoral studies on the trans-Atlantic slave trade and its impact on African kingdoms in West Africa, it never crossed my mind that Hollywood would produce a film on this topic. However, after attending the "First Friday" showing of the new film *The Woman King*, I was prompted to write this film review.

This film is the first Hollywood effort at exploring an extremely contentious period in human history, the trans-Atlantic slave trade. During this period of the 1820s, African slaves were captured and traded to Europeans in exchange for primarily guns and other material items.

The film delves into the mechanics and complexities of how the kingdom of Dahomey existed and survived within the vortex of the West African slave trade and more specifically regarding King Gezo and his women's military arm of Amazon warriors, called the Agojie.

The film's narrative explores the behavior and statesmanship of King Gezo of Dahomey and his women warriors, led by General Nanisca, played by Viola Davis. Davis's warriors include the noted British actress and James Bond lead, Lashana Lynch, as Izogie; British actor of *Star Wars* fame, John Boyega, as King Gezo; and actress Thuso Mbedu as Nawi, daughter of Nanisca, sired during a vicious gang rape by Oyo kingdom soldiers, the sworn enemy of Dahomey.

A promotional gimmick observed by anyone who has viewed the film is that Nanisca is not a king; in fact, she repeatedly says that she fights for her king.

The backstory of the film is interesting, with noted actress Maria Bello traveling to the West African nation of Benin (Dahomey) to research a story that fascinated her, the story of the Agojie. Returning to the states, Bello, with the assistance of writer Dana Stevens, wrote the script and successfully pitched it to Davis; Davis hired *Love and Basketball* director Gina Prince-Bythewood to direct the film.

Bello and Stevens are Americans of European ancestry, and their script and screenplay are sophomoric and formulaic. Therefore, the film's themes are tragedy, revenge, redemption and, as always, a love story unrequited.

Bello outlined the broad sweep of Dahomey's slave history and was obviously assisted by a Dahomean historian who knew the little-known problematic of palm oil (legitimate trade) versus continued slave trading (illegitimate trade). However, this person was not given credit in any reviews or interviews with Bello or Stevens.

The palm oil dilemma was directly connected to what historians describe as the structural social relations of the trade as determined by the dialectic between "buyers and sellers." This was the class relations between European merchant capitalists and their class counterpart, the African aristocratic caste/class, which was the sine qua non of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

As my doctoral research was on Ashanti law, I traveled to Ghana and Benin. At the Oba's (king) palace in Benin, I heard the tour guide proudly describe the huge English oak and decorative royal chair as being acquired at the time of

the slave trade—"acquired" by the exchange of numerous slaves captured.

In *The Woman King*, viewers see the Portuguese buyer of slaves and the seller, King Gezo and his kingdom of Dahomey. Also, the film shows the imperialistic conflict between the aggressively expanding empires of Oyo versus Dahomey. Imperialistic expansion eventually led to the landlocked Dahomey capturing the port of Whydah. In the film, it is captured by the Agojie led by General Nanisca.

*The Woman King* portrays King Gezo as a rational, reflective, diplomatic leader, but this image must be contrasted with how historians have written and examined the King. These professional historians have not tooted his horn, and their writings reveal the darker side of an absolute monarch advancing the slave trade to increase his wealth and power.

Yes, there is a dialogue between King Gezo and his Portuguese partner-in-crime that has Gezo responding to the Portuguese slaver that the slaving in humans has made Gezo rich and powerful. Boyega as Gezo quietly acknowledges this fact. According to several historians, Whydah slavers shipped around one million captured Africans to the Americas from 1658 to 1865.

One popular 1957 Hollywood film that parallels this darker image is *Band of Angels*. The film stars Yvonne De Carlo, Sidney Poitier and Clark Gable as a slaver and slave raider acquiring slaves with King Gezo. On one such raid, Gable sees the King's men recklessly killing old men, women and children.

Gable's character, Hamish Bond, sees an infant crawling out from under his dying mother, who had been spared, and the child's fate would have been the same, but Bond steps between the child and the attacker and is speared in his leg. An angry Bond turns and shoots and kills several of Gezo's men. King Gezo starts laughing maniacally, stops the bloodshed and hands Bond the infant male child.

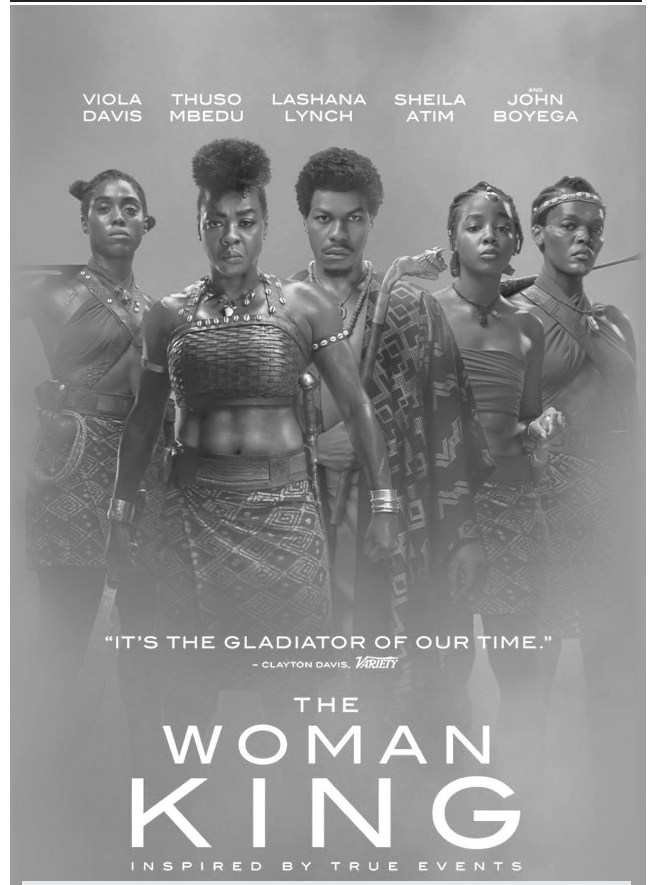
Bond decides to end his career as a slaver and goes to New Orleans with the child. He uses his acquired wealth to become a southern gentleman and raises Rau-ru (Poitier) as his own. De Carlo plays a white-looking mulatta slave woman who falls in love with Bond.

This interracial "forbidden love-lust" is a thematic stereotype in Hollywood storytelling, and Bello fell headfirst into it as she has Malik (Portuguese slaver whose mother was Dahomean) and Nawi becoming lovers via one night of passion. It is obvious that gender and race relations are the driving forces of this aspect of the film's portrayal of the Agojie.

At this point, one can pause to pose this question: What is the origin of the Agojie? The composition of the fighting group includes women slave captives and young women such as Nawi who asserted their independence from the patriarchal society of Dahomey. Nawi refuses her father's coercive marriage to an older man.

As with most women in the Agojie, they experience some aspects of women's subjugated social condition that is normalized in a male-dominated sexist culture and society. General Nanisca is seen as an outcast (*osu*) because she was a victim of rape while other outcasts violated the male societal rules that penalized women birthing twins or committing adultery. In Dahomey, the entire culture reeks of sexism gone berserk.

## FILM REVIEW



Official poster of the movie *The Woman King*

By the 1890s, most of the Agojie were slaughtered (including the real Nanisca) by the colonial French invading army and their new "maxim" gun.

*The Woman King* is not the film for those who would like to romanticize African kingdoms with pomp and pageantry. It was a hard life for those at the bottom but not for those in the palaces as clearly seen in the film with Gezo's pampered harem of multiple wives.

In an unintended way, this film reveals that those who sold slaves have a guilt, as it is said in Bantu, "time longer than rope." However, no one today takes any responsibility for this awful history.

For example, while I was visiting Kumasi, the capital of the Ashanti nation, one Akan man (a citizen of the Ashanti nation) said to me, "Oh, you have just come from the coastal Fanti nation who sold your ancestors to the Europeans," and while leaving Fanti land, one man said, "And now you are going inland to visit the Ashanti who sold your ancestors to the Europeans." Like the old R&B song goes, "And the beat goes on."

(Author's note: For further reading on the Agojie, visit [www.blackpast.org](http://www.blackpast.org) and read "Ahoisi (Amazons) of Dahomey." Since the release of *The Woman King*, there have been more than one million readers of this encyclopedic entry.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. Malik Simba is professor emeritus of Africana studies and history at Fresno State.

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# Vivos Se Los Llevaron\*

By Leni Villagomez Reeves

On Sept. 26, 2014, a group of almost 100 student activists from the Ayotzinapa Normal School (a teacher training school) near Tixtla, in the middle of the state of Guerrero, Mexico, headed to Mexico City in five buses to attend a protest at the 46th anniversary of the Massacre of Tlatelolco.

Four of the buses were ambushed by police and troops, who began shooting. They grabbed students from the buses and forced them into vehicles.

According to a surviving student, Angel Neri de la Cruz, when the gunfire and screams stopped, students came out of their hiding places and did a head count. They were missing 43 *compañeros*. The following day, the mutilated body of one of the kidnapped students was thrown into a street. None of the others has ever been found.

## Why Kill Kids from a Teachers' College?

Why is the government afraid of "normalistas," as teaching students are called? Who are these students learning to be teachers? Rural normal schools are where bright students from poor, rural, mostly indigenous, families go to study. The schools are known for their social and political activism.

"Because these schools are planting consciousness in the students—to think, to look out not only for yourself, but for your community," says de la Cruz, "that is why the government is afraid."

"It is not afraid of the four years you're there. It's afraid of what you will do when you graduate from there. It's not beneficial for the government because the students are social activists."

Students usually start at a normal school after primary and secondary school, which means many of the students are ages 15–18. Look at the faces in the photo.

## A False Government Explanation

Officials of the government of then-president Enrique Peña Nieto (2012–2018) fabricated a version of these events, falsely identifying other bodies as those of the students. Searches revealed more than 50 graves in the region with bodies of nearly 200 other people, although not the students.

The official line was that drug cartels had burned the students, then tossed their remains into a river. It is now known that this fake evidence was elicited by torture.

## The Israeli Connection

Central to this falsified narrative, which federal officials established by torture and that has since been entirely discredited, is Tomás Zerón de Lucio, then head of the Criminal Investigative Agency created under Peña Nieto.

When the investigation was reopened after the election of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (known as AMLO), Zerón fled from Mexico, first to Canada, then to Israel, which has no extradition treaty with Mexico. He's been there about three years, wanted for embezzlement of



Students at Fresno High School, in solidarity, show photos of the 43 students of Ayotzinapa, Mexico, who "disappeared" in the hands of the local authorities and law enforcement officers in 2014. Photo taken Oct. 2, 2019. Photo courtesy of The Commons

\$50 million worth of state funds as well as for torture and abduction.

Mexican officials say that Zerón has connections to powerful Israeli companies that helped him flee Mexico. While in office, Zerón apparently authorized the purchase of tens of millions of dollars in surveillance systems from Israeli intelligence firms.

Mexico has demanded the extradition of Zerón, but Israel has not acted on the extradition request. A senior Israeli official was quoted in the *New York Times* as saying, "Why would we help Mexico?"

The inaction is retaliation for Mexico's support for UN and UN Human Rights Council resolutions criticizing Israel for war crimes and the killing of Palestinian protesters in Gaza, according to the anonymous Israeli official.

## The Government Did It

As everyone knew, the government was responsible. Now it's official.

In May 2018, a federal court ruled that the criminal investigation had not been prompt, effective, independent or impartial and ordered a Truth and Justice Commission, and AMLO created the Commission for Truth and Access to Justice in the Ayotzinapa case shortly after he took office in December of that year.

The commission concluded that Ayotzinapa was a crime committed by the government and that authorities from different government agencies participated. The Defense Ministry actually had a soldier working undercover as an agent, posing as a student at Ayotzinapa; he is among the 43 missing, and military authorities never took action to search for him.

The army knew exactly what was going on and participated. An army colonel ordered the killing of six of the students about four days after they disappeared.

## Results of the Commission

Former Attorney General Jesús Murillo Karam was arrested on charges of enforced disappearance, torture and obstruction of justice for his role in the creation of a false narrative. Murillo Karam impeded a proper search and investigation by creating and promoting a false version of the case, while knowing that this version came from statements fabricated under torture and not from a real investigation of the facts.

Other high-ranking officials had warrants issued for their arrest, including Zerón; Gualberto Ramirez, a former anti-

kidnapping chief under the former attorney general who is now a fugitive; Carlos Gómez Arrieta, former head of the Federal Ministerial Police, who is currently on trial; and Army Captain José Martínez Crespo, also on trial.

Another 85 arrest warrants were issued, including "20 military commanders and troops of the 27th and 41st battalions in the city of Iguala, as well as five administrative and judicial authorities of the state of Guerrero; 26 police officers from Huitzuco; six from Iguala, and one from Cocula; as well as 11 state police officers from Guerrero and 14 members of the criminal group Guerreros Unidos," according to the National Prosecutor's Office.

On Sept. 15, Mexican authorities arrested retired Army General José Rodríguez Pérez, who was the commander of the military base in Iguala, Guerrero, when the students were ambushed and kidnapped.

## Vivos Los Queremos\*

What about Peña Nieto's responsibility for these actions?

Will the trials really yield convictions and accountability?

What about the thousands of other disappearances and extrajudicial killings?

There's still work to be done.

## Massacre of Tlatelolco

"2 de octubre No Se Olvida" (Oct. 2 is not forgotten). Where the students were going and why: On Oct. 2, 1968, as the culmination of repression of organizing by unions and workers, campesinos and students, the Diaz Ordáz government ordered troops to fire on unarmed civilians at a large peaceful march in the Plaza de las Tres Culturas in Mexico City. Between 300 and 400 people were killed.

No one was ever held accountable although investigations finally revealed the truth. The U.S. government was supplying the weapons and the intel, along with instigation of government violence, as usual.

Each year, Oct. 2 is remembered by students, activists and progressive Mexican people.

\**Vivos (se) los llevaron, Vivos los Queremos* ("They took them alive, We want them back alive.")

\*\*\*\*\*

Leni Villagomez Reeves is a local physician and activist. Contact her at [lenivreeves@gmail.com](mailto:lenivreeves@gmail.com). Check out her news and views about Cuba on Facebook ([fresnosolidarity/](https://www.facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/)).



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Peace Fresno invites you to join our monthly meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Some meetings are held at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence and some are on Zoom. For details contact [danyaseen@comcast.net](mailto:danyaseen@comcast.net).

Peace Fresno sends email messages about twice a month with information about upcoming community events. To receive messages contact [camille.russell@att.net](mailto:camille.russell@att.net).

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# Fresno's Measure C: A Leap of Blind Faith

Continued from page 8

During the height of the pandemic, bad air, "failing water systems" and the onslaught of Covid-19 combined to increase the suffering in Central Valley communities. A study provided by the Centers for Disease Control highlighted the lack of Internet connectivity as a contributing factor in increased mortality rates during that time. This adds to the urgency for using every available resource to address community needs in a holistic manner.

The Central Valley landscape also presents opportunities for investment in large sections of undeveloped and idle agricultural land that can be repurposed for solar and wind generation, light manufacturing, electronics assembly and housing. But all require increased investments in communications networks.

In recent years, California has been flooded by initiatives that promise "local hire" and "lifting disadvantaged communities." Similarly, Measure C claims it will "provide good paying jobs" and "develop reasonable local hiring and contracting goals."

This should benefit the large numbers of youth and workers who seek to transition from the on-and-off cycles of farm labor. However, most of the eligible projects, "Construction (rehabilitation, maintenance and/or reconstruction) of streets and roads, unpaved roads and alleys," are the exclusive domain of operating engineers or similar craft trades.

Despite low achievement levels in language arts, math and college entry exams, many Valley youth dream of higher education and demonstrate the aptitude for careers in science and engineering. This is further evidenced by the increased numbers of high school students in rural communities such as Tranquillity who participate in dual enrollment programs.

In 2019, under the sponsorship of educator Espi Sandoval, 11 seniors graduated with associate of arts degrees from West Hills Community College before graduating from high school. The number increased to 40 in the following year and has expanded to include Kerman, Mendota, Firebaugh and Huron. But many complain of the huge challenges, working late into the night to complete online assignments and testing over unreliable Internet connections.

The San Joaquin Valley could be the next Silicon Valley, but this will not happen for our inner city and rural disconnected families. They continue to be victims of the business plans and appetites of Internet service providers and network operators such as AT&T, Comcast and Frontier.

It is only in recent years that growing numbers of the public and community leaders have become aware of the need to "bridge the digital divide." And we must use every opportunity to do so, through legislation, regulatory oversight and funding pipelines such as Measure C.

Measure C could be a complementary source of funds for building advanced communications networks alongside major thoroughfares and arteries. These public funds could serve as matching grants in conjunction with state and federal infrastructure projects, which are increasingly focused on high-speed communications and information networks.

The State of California is currently disbursing more than \$6 billion for broadband infrastructure, which will create approximately 10,000 miles of fiber network access and thousands of connections to homes and businesses to

underserved communities such as those in Fresno County. And the Biden administration's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act promises billions more in federal funding for broadband in California. Why can't our local leaders share that vision?

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) with the California Emerging Technology Fund contracted a study entitled "Transportation Broadband Strategies to Reduce VMT and GHG." The study concluded that the participation of nonessential workers in telecommuting yielded a 15% reduction in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and a 11.5% reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

It also reported that "communications network infrastructure—conduit, fiber and other physical assets—may be incorporated into many transportation projects at a small marginal cost." The cost to drop conduit in an open trench is about 1/6th the cost of a stand-alone project. Including fiber would cut the cost of backbone or middle-mile infrastructure in half.

Telecommuting centers, including multiple employer collaboratives, have been in existence for more than a decade in countries outside the United States. These remote work centers are now found in at least 20 countries on five continents.

For Measure C to contribute to the "highways of the future" we must educate our elected leaders and the community of the need to abandon the archaic patterns of land use and the reliance on patching potholes and building physical transportation infrastructure. Maybe now is the time for reflection, dialogue, planning and the adoption of a new vision. We owe it to future generations.

\*\*\*\*\*

Stan Santos is an activist in the immigrant and labor community. Contact him at [comworkeradvocate@gmail.com](mailto:comworkeradvocate@gmail.com).

# Setback Zones from Oil and Gas Approved

Continued from page 10

Kern County were firmly opposed to SB 1137 claiming that it would take away jobs and harm people in the countries from where we will have to import oil.

Some even claim to be concerned for the indigenous people of Ecuador, where we would presumably be importing oil from. How does this argument even make any sense? You care about the well-being of people in Ecuador, but you are not concerned for the 3 million Californians who are affected by our own oil industry?

We should all be concerned for the safety of all people and protect them from toxic oil pollution, within and outside California, but our fellow elected officials need to begin taking care of their own people. And we are happy to see that after intense discussions SB 1137 passed, but it was nerve-racking especially during the floor votes in the Assembly and the State Senate where there were moments of being a few votes short to make it to the finish line, but some last-minute convincing made its magic.

As a fellow EJ advocate, Dr. Catherine Garoupa White expressed that "California's politicians have finally listened. We're glad the legislature and the governor have at last taken necessary action for setbacks.

"Today's monumental win belongs to frontline communities who've been fighting for setbacks for years,

and it's a big indicator that the tide is turning on Big Oil in Sacramento."

Yes, it is true that champions are needed in the state legislature and a governor who is willing to fight climate change, but frontline communities have led the movement calling on local and state legislators to establish a buffer zone between toxic oil wells and their homes, schools, parks and workplaces.

From knocking on neighbors' doors to document the unexplained nosebleeds and headaches to organizing headline-grabbing protests with international climate activists, the fight for setbacks has been a grassroots effort with the most impacted Californians tirelessly advocating for their health and safety.

In recognition of the leadership played by EJ advocates in passing SB 1137, several of us, including Cesar Aguirre, were invited to attend and speak at the press conference in Vallejo. We felt honored and humbled to represent the hundreds of other advocates who fought so hard for this.

While we were still in celebration mode and thinking of how we can help the governor achieve his goal of completing a phaseout of in-state fossil fuel operations, we received a reminder that the oil industry is not passively waiting for the implementation of SB 1137; they will fight it with all their power and money. And they will do that by promoting a statewide referendum on SB 1137.

Just three days after the bill was signed into law, Attorney General Rob Bonta had already received a request for a title and summary for a proposed referendum. So, we will soon have to switch from celebration mode to protection mode and we will need all the support that we can get, from the government, frontline residents and all communities in California who care to protect our state from climate change. We will keep you posted on how to help.


\*\*\*\*\*

Cesar Aguirre is a community organizer for the Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN) in Bakersfield.

Nayamin Martinez is the executive director of the CCEJN.

## Stop the Hate-Save the Date


### Town Hall to Support a High School for Huron



Maria Cabrera, with a sign saying "Equal Education," applauds a speaker at an event for a Huron high school. Photo by Peter Meiden

**What:** Town Hall Meeting  
**When:** Thursday, November 17, at 6 p.m.  
**Where:** John Palacios Community Center Huron, CA

The rise in hate crimes throughout California and across the United States has created widespread calls for action, with funding provided for this series by the California State Library under the statewide Stop the Hate initiative. This event is being organized by the Community Alliance newspaper and Huron Mayor Rey Leon.



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# La Pérdida de 1,7 Millones de Inmigrantes Alimenta la Escasez de Mano de Obra y la Inflación en EE.UU.

Cerca del 15% de las ofertas de trabajo que emplean a trabajadores inmigrantes o nacidos en el extranjero en los EE. UU., todavía están vacantes, mientras que el sistema de inmigración legal se encuentra en aprietos. Desde el empaque de carne hasta la construcción de viviendas, pasando por los profesionales de STEM y las enfermeras, la economía posterior a la pandemia se tambalea por una fuerza laboral diezmada por políticas de inmigración restrictivas, que

La reducción de la inmigración desde mediados de 2019 hasta finales de 2021, prácticamente no ha habido inmigración neta en los EE. UU.,” dijo el Dr. Giovanni Peri, profesor de economía y fundador y director del Centro de Migración Global de UC Davis, citando datos del censo de la Oficina de EE.

“Aunque a finales de 2021 y principios de 2022 estas cifras volvieron a crecer, el hecho de que se detuviera la entrada de inmigrantes, hizo que el país perdiera más de 1,7 millones (de inmigrantes),” agregó Peri y señaló que 900.000 de ellos habrían sido universitarios y 800.000 habrían sido no universitarios concentrados en sectores como alimentación, hostelería, y el cuidado de niños y tercera edad. “Estamos hablando del 1,1% de la fuerza laboral estadounidense,” agregó Peri.

Peri habló durante una rueda de prensa el 26/8/22 organizada por Ethnic Media Services que hizo sonar la alarma sobre cómo la falta de inmigrantes está perjudicando la economía. Mientras tanto, la discusión pública se centra en un estimado de 2 millones de cruces fronterizos estimados para el año fiscal.

Según la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales, en julio de 2022 había 10 millones de puestos de trabajo vacantes en EE.UU. Antes del COVID, en un periodo similar, esa cifra era de 6 millones.

La Medida ‘C’ podría ser una fuente complementaria de fondos para la instalación de redes de comunicaciones avanzadas junto a las principales vías y arterias. Podrían trabajar en conjunto con proyectos de infraestructura estatales y federales, que se centran cada vez más en las redes de comunicaciones e información de alta velocidad. El estado de California está dedicando más de \$6 mil millones para infraestructura de banda ancha. Incluye aproximadamente diez mil millas de red de fibra óptica y miles de conexiones a hogares y negocios para comunidades desatendidas como las del condado de Fresno. La ley de Inversión en Infraestructura y Empleos (IIJA) de la Administración Biden promete miles de millones más en fondos federales para California. ¿Por qué nuestros líderes locales no pueden compartir esa visión? En marzo se publicó un estudio titulado “Estrategias de banda ancha de transporte para reducir VMT y GEI”. VMT representa millas recorridas por vehículos y GEI son emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero. El estudio concluyó que la participación de los trabajadores no esenciales en el teletrabajo produjo una reducción del 15% en VMT y una reducción del 11.5% de las emisiones de GEI. Ver: Estrategias de banda ancha de transporte para reducir VMT y GHG También informo: “La infraestructura de la red de comunicaciones (ductos, fibra y otros activos físicos) puede incorporarse a muchos proyectos de transporte a un pequeño costo marginal. El costo de dejar caer el conducto en una zanja abierta es aproximadamente 1/6 del costo de un proyecto independiente. Incluir fibra óptica reduciría el costo de la infraestructura troncal o de media milla a la mitad. Los centros de teletrabajo, incluidas las múltiples colaboraciones de empleadores, han existido durante más de una década en países fuera ahora en al menos veinte países de los cinco continentes. Para que la Medida C contribuya a las “Carreteras del Futuro”, debemos educar a nuestros líderes electos y a la comunidad sobre la necesidad de abandonar los patrones arcaicos de uso de la tierra y la dependencia de parchear baches y construir infraestructura física de transporte. Tal vez ahora sea el momento de la reflexión, el diálogo, la planificación y la adopción de una nueva visión. Se lo debemos a las generaciones futuras.

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*Stan Santos es un activista por los derechos laborales de los trabajadores y de los inmigrantes. Contacto: comworkeradvocate@gmail.com.*

Los expertos están de acuerdo en que debe haber un esfuerzo del gobierno para hacer que el programa de visas H1B (patrocinado por los empleadores) sea más fuerte e incluso para todos los sectores, al mismo tiempo que se aborda la monstruosa acumulación de solicitudes de tarjetas verdes y de asilo. Atrasos y Retrasos en los procesos migratorios “En los últimos seis o siete años hemos visto tremendos retrasos en los procesos de inmigración en todo el país, tanto en los tribunales como a través de los Servicios de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de los Estados Unidos (USCIS),” dijo Gregory Z. Chen, director sénior de relaciones gubernamentales en la Asociación Estadounidense de Abogados de Inmigración. Chen señaló que cuando el presidente Barack Obama dejó el cargo, había alrededor de 500.000 casos de inmigración atrasados en comparación con 1,4 millones de casos durante la administración Trump.

“Al día de hoy tenemos alrededor de 1,6 millones de casos que esperan ser escuchados, (cada uno) por lo general toma de cuatro a seis años”, agregó Chen. “Muchas empresas están ansiosas por operar”. En tanto, el Sistema Automatizado de Exportaciones (AES), organismo encargado de tamtar los permisos de trabajo, también incrementó sus tiempos de trámite de 180 días a hasta siete meses.

Estos retrasos pueden solucionarse a través de una reforma migratoria integral. Aunque casi el 70% de los estadounidenses está a favor, no ha habido interés en un Congreso polarizado para aliviar las restricciones incluso para los inmigrantes legales. Chen destacó como la Ley de Reducción de la Inflación del presidente Joe Biden—recientemente promulgada—originalmente incluía disposiciones para legalizar a los inmigrantes no autorizados, una disposición que tuvo que ser abandonada para obtener el apoyo bipartidista.

“La realidad sobre lo que la inmigración representa como un beneficio para el país y la economía, a menudo no se ve por la idea de que está relacionada con problemas de seguridad nacional fronteriza”, dijo Chen, quien no ve un proyecto de ley de reforma migratoria verdadero ni siquiera en 2023. Escases de profesionales de enfermería Para Julie Collins, perfusionista y directora del programa del Departamento de Ciencias Cardiolpmonares de la Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud de la Universidad Rush, un campo en el que la ausencia de inmigrantes se siente con fuerza es la atención médica.

Collins trabajó en el piso de COVID de su hospital durante dos años y vio de primera mano el impacto de la escasez crítica de profesionales de enfermería. “Esta ayudaando a cubrir los turnos y vi cómo las enfermeras se estaban desgastando al cuidar a los pacientes en las unidades de COVID”, dijo. “A medida que COVID comenzó a mejorar, las enfermeras buscaron la jubilación anticipada, algunas cambiaron de profesión y algunas incluso murieron de COVID. Esto nos dejó con menos enfermeras para cubrir los

Aunque muchos de los pisos de COVID se han cerrado, los hospitales tienen poco personal y la atención personalizada de los pacientes ha terminado, dijo. “A menudo, las enfermeras atienden a múltiples pacientes, lo que aumenta sus posibilidades de cometer errores y causar angustia emocional”, dijo Collins. Hay cerca de 194.000 puestos vacantes para enfermeras y no hay suficientes enfermeras estadounidenses para cubrirlos. Desde los años 80, cuando los hospitales no tenían suficiente personal, enfermeras de otros países han ocupado estos puestos. Pero hoy, anualmente, las visas H1B están limitadas a 140,000 y las visas patrocinadas por familiares están limitadas a 226,000.

“Veo lo cansadas y agotadas que están las enfermeras y lo frustradas que se sienten porque no se escuchan sus voces”, dijo Collins. “Si los hospitales pusieran un sistema para que pudieran seguir trayendo enfermeras (inmigrantes), no tendrían problemas para llenar los puestos vacantes”, concluyó.

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*Jenny Manrique es una periodista colombiana radicada en Estados Unidos. Trabajo para The Dallos Morning News y Univision, entre otros medios. Manrique escribió ampliamente sobre derechos humanos e inmigración. Recibió las becas Neuffer, de la WMF (International Women’s Media Foundatión); Ochberg, de la Escuela Columbia de Periodismo; y la Beca de Periodismo de Salud de la USC.*

Según la FWMA, los trabajadores agrícolas indocumentados que ya trabajan en Estados Unidos pudieran obtener su tarjeta verde de residencia si trabajan en la agricultura entre cuatro y ocho años y cumplen otros criterios, según una página informativa de Farmworker Justice.

Según dijo en junio a The Fresno Bee Daniel Acosta, director de Investigación de Leyes y Políticas de Immigration del Economic Policy Institute, entre 350.000 y 450.000 trabajadores agrícolas de California pudieran obtener un estatus legal a través de la FWMA. Sin embargo, el número exacto de trabajadores es difícil de precisar, dijo Costa, debido a las dificultades para obtener datos precisos sobre la población indocumentada.

Los oponentes, sin embargo, dicen que la FWMA requiere demasiados años adicionales de trabajo agrícola para calificar para el estatus legal.

Fabiola Ortiz Valdez, organizadora de la National Food Chain Workers Alliance, dijo a The Fresno Bee en junio que pedir a los trabajadores agrícolas que hagan más años de "trabajo agotador" bajo la promesa de una asistencia migratoria es "completamente injusto", especialmente para los trabajadores agrícolas de mayor edad que han trabajado durante décadas en los campos.

Las personas que protestaron el pasado 29 de agosto—entre ellas representantes del American Friends Service Committee, una organización cuáquera de justicia social que pide respuestas migratorias humanas, el CBDIO, el Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales y el California Institute for Rural Studies—dijeron que la ampliación del programa H-2A gracias a FWMA pudiera resultar en que los trabajadores locales que ya aquí sean reemplazados por trabajadores extranjeros. Dijeron que temen que los empleadores usen el programa H-2A para sustituir a los trabajadores que ejercen su derecho a denunciar las malas condiciones de trabajo.

Pero la industria agrícola dice que el programa es necesario para cubrir la escasez de mano de obra en la agricultura.

El programa H-2A ha crecido exponencialmente en los últimos años.

En el año fiscal 2021, el Departamento del Trabajo certificó más de 317,000 empleos agrícolas estacionales para ser cubiertos por trabajadores H-2A, un aumento de 15% respecto de 275,000 en el año fiscal 2020, y tres veces más que en el año fiscal 2013, según un análisis del Wilson Center, una institución de análisis político no partidista.

Según el análisis, el crecimiento del programa es especialmente alto en California, el cual está entre los cinco estados que más usan el programa.

Los manifestantes preguntan: ¿qué aprendió Alex Padilla en los campos?

Durante la conferencia de prensa, Martínez Nateras cuestionó la decisión de Padilla de pasar un día en los campos junto a los trabajadores agrícolas.

En junio, Padilla aceptó una invitación del Sindicato de Campesinos como parte de su campaña "Take Our Jobs" y trabajó junto a jornaleros agrícolas de California cosechando rábanos y perejil en Moorpark.

Fue el primer senador estadounidense en aceptar la invitación.

¿Se ha enterado (Padilla) de que (muchos trabajadores agrícolas) ... llevan aquí más de 20 años y no han podido regularizar su situación? ¿Se enteró de que estos trabajadores no tienen acceso a los servicios esenciales que merecen?", preguntó Martínez Nateras.

También dijo que la coalición quiere reunirse con Padilla directamente para discutir sus preocupaciones, pero reconoció que se han reunido con su personal "muchas, muchas veces", pero "no hemos podido reunirnos con él", dijo Martínez Nateras.

Otros manifestantes pidieron un mayor escrutinio del creciente programa de trabajadores temporales agrícolas y criticaron a Padilla por apoyar su crecimiento.

El programa H-2A "necesita ser examinado desde un ángulo histórico", dijo Cristal Jensen, una estratega comunitaria del California Institute for Rural Studies, durante la conferencia de prensa. Jensen advirtió que el programa H-2A contiene elementos del programa Bracero y pudiera repetir sus errores.

El programa Bracero fue la orden ejecutiva que permitió a Estados Unidos importar millones de trabajadores invitados de México para trabajar en las cosechas y en los ferrocarriles durante la escasez de mano de obra en la época de la II Guerra Mundial (1939-1945). El controvertido programa, que funcionó de 1942 a 1964, tuvo una serie de abusos documentados, mientras que las protecciones de los trabajadores fueron a menudo ignoradas, según el Archivo Histórico Bracero.

Jensen dijo que Padilla debería ocuparse de los trabajadores agrícolas que ya viven en su estado, en lugar de apoyar la legislación para ampliar el programa de trabajadores

invitados.

Padilla dijo que está comprometido con la reforma migratoria más allá de FWMA.

"El primer proyecto de ley que presente en el Senado proporcionaría la posibilidad de obtener la ciudadanía para estos trabajadores esenciales", dijo Padilla en la declaración por correo electrónico.

En el pasado había dicho que apoya la eliminación del filibusterismo que muchos ven como un paso necesario para la reforma migratoria.

"La justicia para los trabajadores agrícolas está pendiente desde hace mucho tiempo", dijo. "Voy a seguir luchando para componer nuestro desbaratado sistema de inmigración".

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Melissa Montalvo cubre notas sobre desigualdad económica y mano de obra para The Fresno Bee y Fresnoand. Ella es reportera bilingüe y graduada de la Universidad de Southern California. Cubrió temas sobre la industria alimenticia y agrícola, temas indígenas y cultura México-Americana como freelance para plataformas como L.A. Taco, Civil Eats y otras.

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Escondida

El Lenguaje de FWMA y Una "Perla"

Por Alianza Comunitaria

El texto del Acta de Modernización de la Fuerza Laboral Agrícola (FWMA, por sus siglas en inglés), que llama a los jornaleros agrícolas "extraterrestres" (aliens), establecimiento de los solicitantes de empleo para que los empleadores comprueben el estatus migratorio de los solicitantes de empleos.

"El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS, por sus siglas en inglés) establecerá un sistema similar al programa de verificación electrónica (E-Verify) para que los empleadores puedan verificar la identidad y la autorización de empleo en EE.UU. de los solicitantes. Los empleadores que contraten personas para trabajo agrícola deben usar este sistema".

Este sistema, de acuerdo a quienes se oponen al FWMA, hará que los empleadores rechacen las solicitudes de trabajo de miles de jornaleros agrícolas que viven en EE.UU., creando un nuevo estrato de mano de obra marginada y más pobre.

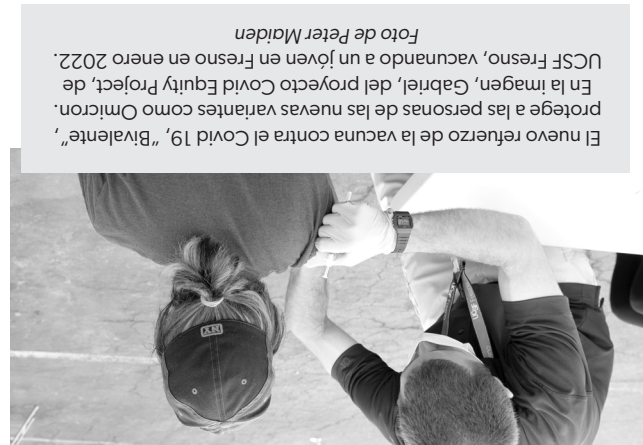
En este sentido, el Dr. Chávez afirmó que las vacunas son seguras, están creadas con base científica y han sido probadas antes de ser distribuidas en el mercado. "Una persona vacunada que se contagia puede recuperarse y evitar morirse".

Existen dos versiones del nuevo refuerzo. El fabricado por Pfizer está aprobado para personas de 12 años en adelante, y el producido por Moderna es para personas de 18 años en adelante.

El Covid 19, como la influenza, llegó para quedarse. Y el virus seguirá mutando, creando nuevas variantes que obligará a las vacunas a actualizarse constantemente—como ocurre con la influenza, es casi seguro que cada año tendremos una nueva vacuna.

"Vacunarse genera un pequeño malestar pero nos brinda seguridad", afirma el Dr. Chávez. "Para evitar contagios, aparte de vacunarnos tenemos que seguir usando mascarilla en lugares cerrados, poco ventilados y con circulación de gente, mantener la higiene personal—lavar nos las manos al llegar de la tienda sigue siendo importante—, no tocarnos la cara antes de lavarnos las manos, y si nos enfermamos, quedarnos en casa para evitar contagiar a los demás".

Respecto al uso de la mascarilla, el Dr. Chavez destacó que el uso de éstas es importante no solo como protección



El nuevo refuerzo de la vacuna contra el Covid 19, "Bivalente", protege a las personas de las nuevas variantes como Omicron. En la imagen, Gabriel, del proyecto Covid Equity Project, de UCSF Fresno, vacunando a un joven en Fresno en enero 2022. Foto de Peter Maiden

contra el Covid 19 sino también contra el contagio de otras enfermedades virósicas como la influenza. También, en lugares con alta contaminación ambiental—como es el caso del Valle de San Joaquín—, el uso de la mascarilla puede ayudarnos para evitar que las partículas presentes en la polución ambiental llegue a nuestros pulmones.

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Eduardo Stanley es el editor de Alianza Comunitaria. Puede contactarlo en: editor@fresnoalliance.com.

# Grupos Defensores de los Derechos de los Inmigrantes Instan al Senador Alex Padilla a Oponerse a una Propuesta de Ley

En cambio, piden una reforma migratoria integral para los 11 millones de indocumentados que se calcula que ya viven en Estados Unidos.

"Necesitamos una reforma migratoria integral para todos los trabajadores y para todas las personas que viven en este país y que están contribuyendo a la grandeza y a la economía de este país", dijo Oralia Maceda Méndez, directora de programas del Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Caxacaqueño (CBDIO), durante la conferencia de prensa.

"Queremos instar al senador Padilla a que se oponga a esta propuesta de ley (de modernización de la fuerza laboral agrícola)", dijo Myrna Martínez Nateras, directora de programas del American Friends Service Committee. "Y más que nada, que nos escuche".

Aunque la legislación fue aprobada en la Cámara de Representantes, aún no ha sido presentada en el Senado. Según un reporte de Politico del mes de julio, la ampliación de los derechos de los trabajadores para cubrir a los trabajadores H-2A es un "punto de fricción" en las negociaciones del Senado.

Alex Padilla, hijo de inmigrantes mexicanos y primer senador latino de California, es un firme partidario de la reforma migratoria desde que asumió el cargo en enero de 2021. Fue designado por el gobernador Gavin Newsom para sustituir a Kamala Harris cuando ésta se convirtió en vicepresidente. Padilla busca un nuevo mandato en las próximas elecciones intermedias de noviembre, donde se enfrentará al abogado republicano Mark Meuser.

Padilla apoya la propuesta FWMA y ha dicho que esta sentaría las bases para una reforma migratoria.

"Los trabajadores agrícolas trabajan todos los días en condiciones difíciles y a menudo peligrosas para llevar comida a nuestras mesas y alimentar la economía de nuestro nación", dijo el lunes en una declaración por correo electrónico a The Fresno Bee. "Merecen ser tratados con dignidad y que se les proporcione un camino hacia un estatus documentado".

Por qué los grupos activistas de los trabajadores agrícolas no están de acuerdo con la legislación

Los grupos activistas de los derechos de los trabajadores agrícolas están divididos en cuanto a si apoyan o no la FWMA.

La propuesta de ley fue co-escrita por los representantes Zoe Lofgren, demócrata de California y Dan Newhouse, republicano de Washington, y cuenta con el apoyo de algunos sindicatos y grupos activistas y de empresas agrícolas. Una versión inicial de la legislación se propuso en 2019, pero un año más tarde quedó en la nada ya que el Senado no la discutió.

El Sindicato de Campesinos (UFW, por sus siglas en inglés) y Farmworker Justice, una organización sin fines de lucro con sede en Washington D.C. que apoyan la legislación, dicen que proporcionaría un estatus legal a un gran número de trabajadores agrícolas.

# Nuevo Refuerzo Contra Covid 19 Trae Más Seguridad

Continua de página 24

vacuna". Esta aclaración es importante debido a rumores y tergiversaciones creados alrededor de la vacuna, que incluye la falsa información de que el mayor número de fallecimientos por Covid 19 ocurrían entre quienes se habían vacunado. Todo lo contrario, "Durante el mes de julio de 2022, las personas no vacunadas tienen 2.6 más chances de contagiarse de Covid 19 que las que se vacunaron al menos con las dosis primarias", asegura un reporte del Departamento de Salud pública de California, emitido el 22 de septiembre de 2022. Y agrega: "Las personas no vacunadas tienen 3.6 veces más chances de morir por Covid 19 que aquellas que se vacunaron" durante el mismo período de tiempo.

# LLAMAZA COMUNITARIA LA VOZ DEL MOVIMIENTO PROGRESISTA DESDE 1996

Esta nota fue publicada originalmente en Fresnoland, una organización no lucrativa de noticias

## Grupos Defensores de los Derechos de los Inmigrantes Instan al Senador Alex Padilla a Oponerse a una Propuesta de Ley

Por Melissa Montalvo, Fresnoland

Algunos grupos de trabajadores agrícolas y de derechos de los inmigrantes de Fresno están pidiendo al senador de California Alex Padilla que vote "no" a una propuesta de ley federal que, según ellos, perjudicaría tanto a los trabajadores agrícolas nacionales como a los temporales.

El lunes 29 de agosto, unas 20 personas se reunieron frente al edificio federal Robert E. Coyle, en el centro de Fresno, para manifestar su oposición a la propuesta de ley bipartidista llamada Acta de Modernización de la Fuerza Laboral Agrícola (FWMA, por sus siglas en inglés).

"Creemos firmemente que los trabajadores agrícolas merecen algo mejor que el Acta de Modernización de la Fuerza Laboral Agrícola, que está en contra de los trabajadores," según una declaración conjunta de dos organizaciones del área de Fresno. "No queremos leyes que dividan a los trabajadores, querremos salarios dignos, mejores protecciones para



Una activista muestra un cartel durante la manifestación contra la propuesta de ley HRI1603, llamada "Acta de Modernización de la Fuerza de Trabajo Agrícola", el pasado 29 de agosto. Día Nacional de Acción por la Justicia de los Campesinos e Inmigrantes. Foto de Peter Maiden

los trabajadores agrícolas y una reforma migratoria integral para todos los trabajadores". La propuesta de ley crearía una oportunidad de residencia legal para algunos campesinos indocumentados que cumplan ciertos criterios, y también ampliaría el programa de empleo temporal para trabajadores agrícolas, también conocido como H-2A,

Continúa en página 23

## La Medida 'C' de Fresno y las Carreteras del Futuro

Por Stan Santos

Communications Workers of America Local 9408 estuvo presente en la junta del 7 de julio de 2022 para apoyar la abrumadora oposición al referéndum de noviembre sobre la Medida C y \$6.8 mil millones en fondos públicos. Los consultantes y el equipo de administración del alcalde Dyer y la Junta de Transporte del Condado de Fresno traicionaron los deseos del público.

CWA Local 9408 representa a más de mil empleados de AT&T y Frontier Communications en los condados de Fresno, Madera, Tulare y Kings. Deseamos construir un sistema de transporte más inteligente y preparado para el futuro, ninguno de los cuales está incluido en la iteración actual de la Medida C. Es hora de reemplazar este marco conceptual de visión estrecha con una nueva visión, una de "autopistas de la información".

En el sistema de transporte del futuro nuestros hijos visitan tierras lejanas, incluso otros planetas, a través de redes de fibra óptica. Visualizamos la transmisión de video que nos conecta con los desafíos que enfrentan los niños y las comunidades del mundo, donde soportan el hambre, el cambio climático, la migración forzada y la guerra.

A través de plataformas de comunicación audiovisual, dialogamos y compartimos las lecciones y victorias en su lucha por preservar su patrimonio, restaurar la naturaleza y ejercer la democracia y el albedrío.

Las aulas conectadas del futuro hacen "excursiones" a las profundidades del océano para escuchar los cantos de las ballenas y aprender cómo absorben en sus cuerpos masivos toneladas de dióxido de carbono reduciendo los niveles de gases de efecto invernadero en la atmósfera. Viajamos a la Estación Espacial Internacional y contemplamos la belleza de nuestro hogar, la Madre Tierra, su impresionante esplendor y frágil existencia en un universo enorme y hostil.

Las redes de comunicaciones avanzadas pueden proporcionar la base para el empleo, los servicios



Cable de fibra óptica usado para internet de alta velocidad. Foto cortesía The Commons

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trabajo manual.

A medida que la automatización y los drones desplazan a la mano de obra, las familias campesinas necesitarán conectividad para expandir su búsqueda geográfica para educación, empleo y servicios, manteniendo su conexión con sus hogares y la vida rural.

Como se indica en un artículo reciente de Community Alliance, "De acuerdo con el informe del Estado del Aire 2022, que publica la Asociación Americana del Pulmón cada año, el área de Fresno-Madera tomó la delantera como la ciudad más contaminada del país por la contaminación por partículas finas, también conocida como PM2.5." Ver: <https://fresnoalliance.com/fresno-madera-area-no-1-in-the-nation-for-worst-air-quality/>

Durante el apogeo de la pandemia, el aire contaminado, los sistemas de agua deficientes y COVID-19 aumentó el sufrimiento en las comunidades del Valle Central. Un estudio proporcionado por los Centros para el Control de Enfermedades destacó la falta de conectividad a Internet como un factor que contribuye a las altas tasas de mortalidad. Esto se suma a la urgencia de utilizar todos los recursos disponibles para abordar las necesidades de la comunidad de una manera holística.

El paisaje del valle también presenta oportunidades para la inversión en tierras ociosas que pueden reutilizarse para la generación solar y eólica, la fabricación ligera, el ensamble de productos electrónicos y viviendas. Pero todos requieren mayores inversiones en redes de comunicaciones.

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Covid 19 sigue entre nosotros, aunque gracias al mayor nivel de vacunación, los contagios han disminuido y también las muertes e internaciones hospitalarias. Sin embargo, los especialistas recomiendan mantener las precauciones. En este sentido, la buena noticia es la aparición en el mercado del nuevo refuerzo llamado "Bivalente", que es efectivo no solo para el virus original sino también para algunas nuevas variantes como Omicron.

"Las vacunas anteriores incluyen las cepas originales del virus, pero estos cambian con el tiempo y los nuevos contagios se deben a estas nuevas variantes del virus", explica el Dr. Gil Chávez, Director Adjunto del Centro de Enfermedades Infecciosas del Departamento de Salud Pública de California, durante una reunión de prensa con medios latinos organizada por Ethnic Media Services a principios de septiembre de este año. "Esta nueva vacuna incluye las cepas de las nuevas variantes—BA.4 y BA.5—que son las causantes del casi 100% de los contagios actuales".

Esta nueva vacuna reemplaza a los dos refuerzos anteriores, pero no a las dos primeras dosis, que siguen siendo cruciales para evitar contagios o consecuencias graves a causa del Covid 19. En otras palabras, si alguien no se ha vacunado todavía, deberá empezar por la primera dosis, seguida por la segunda, y dos meses después podrá aplicarse el nuevo refuerzo, "Bivalente". Los dos refuerzos que se aplicaron hasta ahora ya no están disponibles en el mercado porque fueron reemplazados por el "Bivalente".

El Dr. Chávez insiste en que las consecuencias de las vacunas son insignificantes. "Habitualmente sientes un poco de malestar en el brazo, al día siguiente puede persistir este malestar, pero es como cualquier

## Nuevo Refuerzo Contra Covid 19 Trae Más Seguridad

Por Eduardo Stanley