



ALEX PADILLA
California Secretary of State

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

March 18, 2019

Contact:

SOS Press Office

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MEDIA ADVISORY

State Archives Speaker Series: Paving the Way: Women's Struggle for Political Equality in California

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Archives Speaker Series continues Thursday, March 21, with speakers Steve and Susie Swatt. They will be discussing their most recent work, “Paving the Way: Women’s Struggle for Political Equality in California,” in which they tell remarkable stories of dozens of resilient women – most lost to history – who overcame long odds, discrimination, and stereotypes to help transform the political landscape of California from the Gold Rush to current times.

The talk marks their second Speaker Series appearance; previously, they discussed their first book, “Game Changers: Twelve Elections that Transformed California,” winner of the California Historical Society’s book of the year and other awards.

About the Speakers

Steve Swatt, lead author of “Paving the Way: Women's Struggle for Political Equality in California,” spent more than 25 years with United Press International in Los Angeles and KCRA-TV in Sacramento, mostly as a political reporter. He won a Northern California Emmy and recently was honored by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his contributions to journalism and his community. After his journalism career, Steve became managing partner of a statewide public affairs firm and taught political communication at Sacramento State University. He was lead author of “Game Changers: Twelve Elections that Transformed California.”

Susie Swatt spent nearly 40 years in the State Legislature, much of it as a chief of staff in both the Assembly and Senate. She also served as a special assistant for the State Fair Political Practices Commission, winning a national ProPublica award for "outstanding investigative work in the public interest." She currently serves on the Friends of California Archives board and the advisory council of UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies. Susie is co-author of “Game Changers: Twelve Elections that Transformed California and of Paving the Way: Women's Struggle for Political Equality in California.”

***Media interested in attending should RSVP to sos.press@sos.ca.gov**

WHAT: California State Archives Speaker Series
WHO: Steve and Susie Swatt
WHEN: Thursday, March 21, 2019
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. (Talk begins at 5:15 p.m.)
[Link to RSVP](#)
WHERE: California State Archives
1020 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
CONTACTS: Nancy Lenoil – State Archives, (916) 653-7715
Sam Mahood – Secretary of State, (916) 653-6575

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