



**League of Women Voters Solano County  
Annual Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 5, 2024**  
**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**LWVSolano Host is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4537073149?omn=87409262239>**

We are pleased to announce the launch of **Unite 8.5**, a national effort by the League of Women Voters which aims to mobilize 8.5 million voters using the power of voter engagement as a cornerstone of our democracy. Unite and Rise 8.5 showcases the many ways voters can drive change through advocacy, mobilization, civic education, and engagement. Our guest speaker, Helen Hutchinson, the Executive Director of the LWVCA will explain this powerful new initiative and the role each of us can take individually and collectively in the defense of democracy.

# **Annual Membership Meeting Agenda**

**June 5, 2024**

**6:00 – 8:00 pm**

## **Nonpartisan Policy League of Women Voters Solano County**

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any political party. The League of Women Voters Solano County may take action on governmental measures and policies, in conformity with the principles of the LWVUS, but it shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. Board members' activities must be limited to preserve the League's nonpartisan status.

### **1. Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions – Rami Muth**

Our Parliamentarian is Dr. Sarah Chapman

### **2. Rules of the Day – Janice Adams**

- Voting: Voting is limited to members in good standing of the League of Women Voters Solano County.
  - A 'Yes/No' poll format will be used frequently on items only requiring the approval of majority of voting members.
  - Some polls may include multiple choices... specific instructions will be shared, as needed.
  - All reported Zoom polls are anonymous.
- Quorum: 15% of members in good standing shall constitute a quorum.
- Participation: League members and community members may ask questions and add comments.
  - 'Raise Your Hand' if you wish to get the Moderator's attention.
  - You may ask questions or make comments in the Chat window. A Chat Moderator will synthesize and relay chats to the moderator during the meeting, as needed. Chats can be addressed to 'Everyone' or to specific individuals.

### **3. Report of Nominating Committee – Carole Paterson**

The Board of Directors consists of four officers and six directors who are elected by the annual meeting to staggered two-year terms. Additionally, not more than 3 directors may be appointed by the elected members of the Board. The appointed directors hold office until June 30 following the next annual meeting. Elected directors (and officers) take office July 1 following the annual meeting (For current Board, Appendix page 3)

- **Additional Nominations Before the Annual Meeting:**  
Nominations from the floor may be made by any member. To facilitate a remote Zoom meeting, nominations deadline were to be submitted to [LWVSolano@gmail.com](mailto:LWVSolano@gmail.com) with "Nominations" in the subject line **by midnight on June 1, 2025.**

Proposed Slate of Candidates for 2025

Highlighted Names are Proposed Candidates for 2025-2026

Nominations from the floor must have been received by June 1, 2025

Position	Candidate Term	
President	Rami Muth	2024-2026
Vice President	Janice Adams	2025-2027
Secretary	Leslie Lessenger	2025-2027
Treasurer	Char Hummel	2024-2026
Director	Craig Paterson	2025-2027
Director	Sarah Chapman	2025-2027
Director	Kathy Pratt	2024 -2026
Director	Marti Hardisty	2025-2027
Director	Carole Paterson	2024-2026
Director	Mary Cornaby	2024-2026

Proposed Nominating Committee 2025-2026

- Election of Slate of Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee
- Contingency action: If there are nominations from the floor, those positions will be separated from the slate for a vote to specifically choose one candidate among those who are nominated
- Introduction of New Board and Nominating Committee for 2025-2026

**4. Proposed Budget – Char Hummel (appendix pages 4-5)**

- a. Review Proposed 2025-2026 Budget
- b. Discussion and Adoption of 2025-2026 Budget

**5. Approval of Bylaws**

**6. Program Recommendations for 2025-2027 – Janice Adams**

- a. Proposed Program Priorities
  - Priority #1- "The Fight for Facts: Navigating the Information Crisis."
  - Priority #2 – Voter Education, Voter Access and Participation and Voter Registration
  - Discussion and Approval of 2025-2026 Program Priorities

**7. Status of the League – Rami Muth and Janice Adams**

Our League is a collection of small committees and individuals who work together to accomplish great things. Written summaries of their work are attached in the appendix.

Committees:

- a. Voter Services – Craig Paterson (Appendix page 6)
- b. Membership – Leslie Lessenger (Appendix page 6-7)
- c. Youth Outreach Democracy Matters – Sarah Chapman (Appendix page 7-8)
- d. Program Planning and Events – Janice Adams (Appendix page 9)

**8. Closing Comments** – Rami Muth

If you are interested in joining the League or would like to pay your dues by mail, please send your checks to LWVS, PO Box 83, Benicia, CA 94510 or use this link to join.

<https://portal.lwv.org/membership>

**9. Adjourn Annual Meeting** brief intermission where **participants can participate in a postcard writing activity and/or have light refreshments**

**10. Introduction of Guest Speaker** Janice Adams including time for Q and A - 7:00 – 8:00

Guest Speaker: Helen Hutchinson, interim Executive Director of the League of Women Voters California. As a lifetime member with over 50 years of service, Helen has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to empowering voters and defending democracy. Helen will explain the LWV's new initiative Unite 8.5 which aims to mobilize 8.5 million voters to empower individuals to actively participate in the democratic process and advocate for the protection of voting rights. There will be an opportunity for audience participation during this portion of the meeting.

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**Appendix**

**2025- 2026 Board of Directors**

Consisting of 4 officers and 6 Directors who are elected, and up to 3 appointed Directors

	Term Expiration
Rami Muth, President	2026
Janice Adams, Vice President	2027
Char Hummel, Treasurer	2026
Leslie Lessenger, Secretary	2027
Carole Paterson	2026
Kathy Pratt	2026
Craig Paterson	2027
Marti Hardisty	2027
Sarah Chapman	2027
Mary Cornaby	2026
Appointed Director Fred Fraser	2026

**We form committees based upon need. We are a small league that works together to accomplish our goals, and the formal committee structure is only used as needed.**

- Executive Committee: (Meets as needed, LWVS Officers, open to board members and committee chairs, others by invitation) Chair: Rami Muth
- Budget Committee - Chair: Fred Frazier
- Membership: folded into the work of all committees - Chair: Leslie Lessenger
- Voter Service - Chair: Craig Paterson
- Program Planning and Events and Fund Raising- Chair: Janice Adams
- Youth Outreach Democracy Matters - Chair: Sarah Chapman

# **LWV Solano County Budget Proposal 2025-26**

**Submitted by Treasurer Charlene Hummel**

**This 2025-2026 budget proposal was developed with input from the LWV Solano County committee chairs and board of directors.**

## **INCOME:**

**Total budget income for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is estimated at \$4,380.**

- **Membership:** This fiscal year begins the new approach for managing LWV membership. Beginning February 2025, LWVUS will receive all members' dues via Chapter SPOT web-based application. Local chapters will receive a portion of the members' dues for operating expenses. LWVUS suggests using an average of \$60 per renewal to calculate a local budget of 20%. With 82 members (in accordance with Chapter SPOT records), LWV Solano should receive \$10.73/member or approximately \$880 for the year. LWVUS distributions occur randomly throughout the year with each member's renewal. The LWVUS has agreed to "make whole" if we experience a shortfall in membership fees. This will be determined at the end of the fiscal year.
- **Donations:** We will keep the same level of expected donations as last fiscal year (\$250).
- **Fundraising:** The chapter budget for fundraising efforts will remain the same as most off-election years at \$2,000. Most events will collect less than \$500 each.
- **Grants:** We will keep the same level of expected donations as last fiscal year (\$1,250). Grant providers are new each year and dependent on member submissions and awards. The grant funds will be used exclusively to support the intern that has been hired.

## **EXPENSES:**

Total budget expense for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is estimated at \$4,000.

- **Administration:** This category has expenses that include Insurance, Post Office box rental, Permits, Web Site, On-line Services, and Miscellaneous Supplies. Total allocation for this element is estimated to be \$1,350.
- **Programs:** This category has expenses associated with Intern Communication and Outreach, Program Materials and Expenses, Democracy Matters, and Legislative Action. Total allocation for this element is estimated to be \$2300.
- **Other Services:** This category has expenses associated with Conferences, Voter Services, and Advocacy. Total allocation for this element is estimated to be \$350.

**League of Women Voters Solano County Budget Report Date: 4/17/25**

Budget Line Items		2025-26		
		Approved	Actual	Notes
<b>INCOME</b>				
	Membership	\$ 880.00		
	Fundraising	\$ 2,000.00		
	Donations	\$ 250.00		
	Grants	\$ 1,250.00		
<b>Total income:</b>		<b>\$ 4,380.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Administrative				
	Insurance	\$ 40.00		
	Post Office box rental	\$ 200.00		
	Taxes, licenses, permits	\$ 25.00		
	Web site	\$ 400.00		
	Online services fees (Zoom, Google, PP)	\$ 550.00		
	Misc. & Supplies	\$ 135.00		
Programs				
	Intern communication & outreach	\$ 1,250.00		
	Program expenses	\$ 500.00		
	Study materials/supplies	\$ 200.00		
	Democracy Matters	\$ 150.00		
	Legislative Action	\$ 200.00		
Other Services				
	Conferences & Conventions	\$ 100.00		
	Voter Services	\$ 150.00		
	Advocacy	\$ 100.00		
<b>Total Expenses:</b>		<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Total (Income - Expenses)</b>		<b>\$ 380.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	

<b>BMO Checking Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,128.32</b>	as of 4/09/2025
<b>BMO Savings Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,011.96</b>	
<b>Total Funds Available:</b>	<b>\$ 10,140.28</b>	

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charlene Hummel (Treasurer)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Voter Services Committee**

**Contact Information:** Craig Paterson, [craig\\_paterson@yahoo.com](mailto:craig_paterson@yahoo.com)

### **Responsibilities of the committee:**

The Voter Services Committee's main responsibilities are to register citizens to vote, to help people understand their rights as a citizen, and to encourage eligible students in high school and college to register. This committee is present in the community at events and activities where people gather to be able to promote the work of the League in Solano County. The committee is also interested in developing partnerships with other organizations who share a common passion for registering and informing citizens of their opportunities and rights as citizens. The beginning of the year was focused on events leading up to the election.

### **Highlights from the year:**

- Committee members Craig Paterson and Leslie Lessenger worked with the state League Vote411 team to populate the Solano County Vote411 site with candidates who were running for elected office. The committee saw a 75% success rate for securing information to input into Vote411 from candidates in the Primary election.
- Committee members Barbara King, Kathy Pratt, Rami Muth, Janice Adams, and Carole Paterson conducted voter education programs and registered students in Benicia, Vallejo, and Travis high schools as well as the Vallejo Adult school and the Benicia Liberty Alternative School, and the Children's Network Parent Learning and Training program. A partnership with the NAACP/Theta Delta Theta Sorority was helpful in conducting registering teens to vote in the three Vallejo High Schools and the Adult School. Over 350 students registered to vote.
- We conducted 5 Candidate forums, a town hall meeting and 3 Pro/Con Proposition forums.
- A Rock the Vote effort was conducted with Solano Community College Leadership Team. Over 100 student participated.
- We conducted a TikTok contest called Why Vote? The winning students had their video posted online
- We also conducted an essay contest throughout Solano County called What Democracy Means to Me. The winning essays were posted online and students received recognition from the League and their schools.
- News releases were submitted to local news outlets sharing information about registering to vote and League related to voting activities.
- A column was established in the Fairfield Daily Republic focusing on misinformation and disinformation. The writing team includes Mary Cornaby, Kathy Pratt, Carole and Craig Paterson and other interested writers are welcome to join the team. The lead article focused on how to identify misinformation and disinformation using a set of tools mentioned in the article. This is an ongoing series of focused on critical issues facing our democracy such as the status of National Parks, Social Security, the SAVE Act and voting rights and voter suppression.

## **Membership Committee 2024-2025**

### **Responsibilities/Goals:**

- Actively recruit new members that represent the demographics of Solano County. The goal is to diversify our membership in terms of age, race, and ethnicity.

- Continue to implement and expand our youth outreach efforts with the Solano Youth Coalition and cultivate other partnerships.
- Actively engage our members by encouraging committee participation and volunteer work to support the efforts of the league.
- Actively seek out partnerships with aligned groups that want to support the efforts of the LWV

### **2024-2025**

- The league has entered into partnerships with other groups in Solano County as a mechanism to extend our reach and forge meaningful alliances that support our common goals.
- We hold periodic events to support and engage our members. On September 22, 2024, we held a membership event called Each One Reach One, at the Rock Creek Winery in Fairfield. Stephanie Doute of League of Women Voters of California was our guest speaker.
- More than 8 candidate and informational forums were held in the fall of 2024, with membership materials provided at each.

### **New LWVUS platform: ChapterSpot**

Members can now join LWVUS, LWVCalifornia, and LWVSolano County at the website <https://portal.lwv.org/membership>. The website sends out reminders at 60 days and 30 days prior to expiration. At 30 days it is recommended that the local league also contact the member. There is a grace period of 60 days after expiration. Lists of expiration dates, etc. are available on the portal to designated officers.

Eventually, ChapterSpot will give us the ability to send emails to those on our roster. Members can update their own information on the roster, or designated league officers can do so.

Leslie Lessenger keeps Mail Chimp updated with members and “guests.” We are limited to 1000 emails per month in the free version. Emails were sent in April to over 200 “guests” inviting them to join. A few accessed the portal and did so. Leslie sends new members a welcome email and Carole Paterson makes a welcome phone call.

A new membership form was developed which includes a QR code to the member portal. Potential members can also fill out the paper form and send it with a check to the local league (check made out to LWVUS). The local treasurer then accesses the portal and registers the member and mails the check to the national office.

**Meetings:** This committee was folded into the work of all committees and events. We do not have specific meeting times.

### **LWVSC Youth Outreach Report and Democracy Matters Civics Education Program (2024-2025)**

Contact Information: [sarahchap1913@gmail.com](mailto:sarahchap1913@gmail.com) and [ramilmuth@gmail.com](mailto:ramilmuth@gmail.com)

**LWV Call to Action:** to increase youth engagement in the political process. In addition to responding the League’s direct call to action, the LWVSC’s Youth Outreach goals are to 1) use League programs, activities and resources to prepare students to enter adulthood and society as responsible citizens respectful of humanity, individual dignity and with a community mindset; and 2) to provide groundwork or frame-of-reference for



ongoing political engagement; 3) increase league membership with knowledge about its resources used to protect our fragile democracy.

**LWSC's Action Response:** Created Democracy Matters: LWVSC Civics Education Program (DM) and entered a partnership with Solano Youth Coalition (SYC); Travis Education Center (TEC); Mare Island Technical School (MIT); Golden Hills Alternative School; Parent Training Learning Institute (PTLI) and ARC Solano, to provide Solano students/citizens hands-on, project-based, civics learning activities that inform how democracy works by demonstrating what citizens must do to make it work in the local government setting.

The training and project-based learning activities of three hallmark league programs offered to students are:

**1) Observer Corps Training (OCT)**

Demonstrates how to attend, observe, and participate in local governing boards and agency meetings.

**Forum Training**

Emphasizes the importance of an informed citizens and demonstrates how to plan and conduct a forum not only to encourage students to attend candidate and issue/policy information forums, but how to organize and present their own forums using the rules of engagement and civility practices used by the historic League of Women Voters.

**2) Voter Training**

Shows participants not only how to register to vote, but how to cast an informed vote, i.e. how to access all voter related information such as ballot drop off posts, in-person voting venues, biographies and voting records of candidates, information on propositions, etc. Also, in this training, DM collaborator—Office of the Registrar of Voters—supplies voting equipment and technology to enhance the impact of a hands-on experience of this civics-learning activity.

These activities are designed to give students a better understanding of how government systems work; to get students involved in community issues; and to provide useful league tools and resources on how to participate in the process of debating, electing, governing and consensus building. Several trainings were conducted in 2024-2025 to help implement the Democracy Matters an interactive Civics Education program.

**The Value of Collaboration**

In addition to partnerships with the aforementioned learning institutions, collaborative partners include:

- a) Local elected officials who provide personal and practical insights on the role they play as well as information on procedures and processes required to instigate issue solutions and policies that impact collective thereby individual day-to-day life experiences in our communities.
- b) Voter Registrar – provide students/citizens hands-on training on how to register voters, how to vote and how to access official voting information and services. Training includes how to use voting technology and equipment; viewing of how votes are counted; as well as training and the opportunity to be a poll worker.
- c) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority – adopts a poll and engages DM youth trainees as poll workers during elections.

## **Program Planning and Events Committee**

**Responsibilities:** The Program Planning and Events Committee is responsible for planning and implementing a wide range of activities that reflect the program priorities established by the league locally and on a state and national level.

**Members:** Janice Adams, Rami Muth, Carole Paterson, Craig Paterson, Mary Cornaby, Sarah Chapman, Barbara King, Marti Hardisty

**Contact Information:** Janice Adams, Vice President [janiceadams1775@yahoo.com](mailto:janiceadams1775@yahoo.com)

- John Gardner, the Registrar of Voters of Solano County, spoke at our Annual Meeting in June. He spoke about voter security for the upcoming and explain the county's process and procedures to ensure safe and fair elections.  
We also voted on our slate of officers and program priorities.
- During the summer we continued our Banned Book Reading Group and read and discussed Dante and Aristotle Discover the Secrets of the Universe.
- Hosted two events at Solano Community College to assist with voter registration and voter education. The "Rock the Votes" events were highly successful and our partnership with Solano Community College continues to grow. Additionally, we continued our work with students at MIT Academy High School in Vallejo, providing in-class instruction on the history of voting, voting rights, and local government.
- We held two contests to support our goal of youth education: a Spoken Word Contest for high school students and a TikTok Contest for college students.
- In February we were honored to have State Senator Cabaldon who spoke to over 90 members and guests, providing an update on the state of the state and how changes in Washington are impacting California.
- Every two years we ask members to identify state areas of focus. We solicited input in a variety of ways including in person discussions, surveys, and community outreach. The local priorities identified will be presented and voted on at the annual meeting in June. We also submitted issues identified to the state league to and those priorities will be voted on at the State League Conference.
- The committee oversees fundraising and raised almost \$3,000 this year. We supported the Crockett Community Foundation in their election of officers raising \$1,500 and hosted our annual Wine and Bingo fundraiser in May raising \$1,250. Our funds are used to support programs we host throughout the year.