



April 2025

Presidents' Message

Please see the following pages to see *all the many upcoming events* in the next two months. We are devoting this space to the change in the League's IRS classification.

As many of you know, our League recently received IRS approval of our transition from a 501(c)4 to a 501(c)3; this was effective retroactively on November 14, 2024.

What's the difference between the two?

According to IRS law, a 501(c)3 organization is a public charity, private foundation, or private operating foundation with open membership. A 501(c)4 is a civic league or association operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare or local association of employees with limited membership.

The rules governing advocacy are slightly different for each type:

- 501(c)3-Public charities: limited lobbying ability; cannot support or oppose candidates; can accept tax-exempt, tax-deductible contributions. Examples: American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, Nature Conservancy, many other local Leagues.
- 501(c)4-Social welfare organizations: unlimited lobbying; secondary activity for elections; exempt from federal income tax; may not offer tax deductible contributions. Examples: LWVUS, LWVC, ACLU, NRA, Sierra Club. Many 501(c)4's are supported by 501(c)3 foundations that can accept tax-deductible contributions (like our NVCF Education Fund).

Inside This issue

Annual Meeting & Potluck

LWVC Convention

May Day! May Day!

LWVBC Criminal Justice Committee

March 20 Federal Judiciary Study Consensus Meeting

Growing Our League—The Long Game

Donate

Board Members



PO Box 965, Chico, CA 95927

www.lwvbuttecounty.org

(530) 895-VOTE (8683)

© 2025 League of Women Voters Butte County
All rights reserved.

So what can our local League do as a 501(c)3? Everything we've done as a 501(c)4.

We can engage in:

Community Education

LWV/BC is currently organizing public programs around issues related to Criminal Justice and Water Policy. Programs like these inform the public about issues important to the League.

Voter Support Activities

Through Candidate Forums, Voter Registration Drives, VOTE411, and other voter support, LWVBC members are active advocates for empowering voters and encouraging public statements by candidates.

Pros and Cons on Ballot Measures

In election seasons, LWVBC offers formal presentations to community groups and public offerings, informing voters about both sides of political issues and upcoming referenda.

Observer Corps

Without saying a word, LWVBC observers advocate by being a visible presence at public meetings and watching for issues of interest to the League or violations of the Brown Act.

Lobbying for or against local ordinances

In recent years our local League has not done much direct advocacy for legislation, choosing instead to

focus on educational and voter support activities.

While a 501(c)3 has less leeway to lobby than a 501(c)4, it can still be done. We would simply need to be mindful of the [IRS guidelines](#) on lobbying by a 501(c)3. Also, as always, we would need a League position to support our advocacy and a consideration of the League guidelines on when advocacy is a good choice.

A note on donations: Donations directly to our League are now tax-deductible; this is in fact the main reason we have made this transition. Donations to the League Education Fund have always been tax-deductible. And because both accounts are now 501(c)3 public charities, the LWVBC Board will be able to transfer money between the funds as needed. However, there's one big difference: the Education Fund is invested with North Valley Community Foundation. When those investments are doing well, EF earns a lot more money for the League than the interest on our checking account ever will. So, the bottom line is that we are requesting donations to both, just as before. All donations will be used to fund and support LWVBC events and activities, either directly or by providing operational support such as membership, accounting, office supplies, etc.

If you have questions, please contact us at lwvbutte@gmail.com.

—Janet Rechtman & Satsie Veith, Co-Presidents

Coming soon!

2025 LWVBC Annual Meeting & Potluck

5:30 PM to 7 PM Thursday, May 22, 2025

First Baptist Church, 850 Palmetto Ave., Chico

Please mark your calendars now to join us for friendship and great food!

Business to be conducted: Board Elections, Budget, Bylaws, Program

LWVC Convention

Virtual Event | June 17-22, 2025



What: The 70th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of California

When: Saturday, June 21 – Sunday, June 22, 2025.
The general sessions on those days begin at 9:00 a.m. and are scheduled to end at 4:00 p.m. Workshops and special events are scheduled from Tuesday, June 17 through Friday, June 20, 2025.

Where: Virtual teleconference meetings, using Zoom.

Who: Attendance at Convention is open to everyone; we encourage all members to attend and are eager for the public to come learn about the League. We ask that you extend invitations to your friends and contacts.

PLEASE NOTE: Our League is assigned **four voting delegate** spots at the Convention, based on our membership. There is **no limit on the number of nonvoting attendees** who may attend. We have funds budgeted to pay for registration fees. Please let the board know at lwvbutte@gmail.com if you are interested in serving as a delegate from our League or if you would like to be a nonvoting delegate and have your registration fee reimbursed. (Fees are discussed below.)

Why: LWVC meets every other year to conduct business as outlined in the bylaws. See below for specifics. But just as important, the purpose of the Convention is to inspire and empower Californians to increase their active and informed participation in civic life. Come meet passionate people from across the state who are making democracy work!

Read about the schedule, workshops, special activities, and more on our site: <https://lwvc.org/convention>.

This site is updated as plans take shape, so please check this site frequently.

Registration will open on April 28—watch for that upcoming email!

Registration rate for delegates is \$75 per person. This gives you participation and voting access during all plenary sessions and access to workshops, caucuses, plus other events throughout the week.

Nonvoting attendees are welcome to observe plenary and participate in workshops, caucuses, and other events at a flat-fee registration rate of \$30 per person.

May Day! May Day!

May Day is a traditional holiday celebrating the beginning of summer, complete with flowers, dances around a Maypole and general good cheer. May Day is also an international recognized cry for help, coming from the French “M’aidez!!!!” or “help me.”

Here in Chico, May Day will be our League’s chance to celebrate new members and orient prospective members who want to learn more about how the LWV works to defend democracy and empower voters in these times of national emergency.

Please let us know by return email if you plan to join us and/or if you will be inviting others to attend. We will gather at the League office (635 Flume Street) on May 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

LWVBC Criminal Justice Committee

The League of Women Voters of Butte County Criminal Justice Committee will hold a conversation with our membership about criminal justice and immigration.

Thursday, April 24, 2025

6:30 p.m. (cookies, tea, and decaf)

First Baptist Church, 850 Palmetto Ave., Chico

The first statement in our Criminal Justice Position is that we support a criminal justice system that is *just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages*

The first statement in our Immigration Position is that *we believe that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families, meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States, and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crisis*

Shall we advocate and educate the Butte County public about our Positions on Criminal Justice & Immigration? We think that the League has the opportunity to contribute in both of these critical arenas, particularly during this raucous time in American politics.

The League Positions are posted on our website, and they will be available at our meeting, too.

We will share what we saw on our tour of the jail and talk about our conversation with Sheriff Honea. We spent considerable time developing our questions in preparation for that conversation, and we will share them with you.

Also, and perhaps most importantly, the League of Women Voters of California supported the 2020 bill, AB 1185, which authorized each county in California to implement Oversight of Sheriff Departments. Leagues throughout California are advocating for Oversight. How shall we go about it in Butte County? Let's talk about what steps we need to take.

Please join us.

—Margaret Swick



March 20 Federal Judiciary Study Consensus Meeting a Success

Thanks to the 22 or so League members who gathered on the evening of March 20, our League was able to complete the consensus questions for the Federal Judiciary Study. Thank you, everyone, for your contributions, with special thanks to Facilitator Debra Barger, Note Taker Janet Rechtman, Time Keeper Kendall Moalem, and Linda Lunsford, refreshment provider.

Here's the rest of the study process:

- 1) Our consensus responses—the level of consensus and accompanying comments are submitted to the LWWUS Study Committee, along with the reports of hundreds of other local Leagues. Deadline April 14.
- 2) The Study Committee will review all the responses, including the comments, as they draft the recommended position.
- 3) In the next two months, the Study Committee will present a proposed Position on the Federal Judiciary to the LWWUS Board for a vote and final approval.
- 4) The Federal Judiciary Position will be announced at the [League Council](#) on June 26–28, 2025.

Growing Our League— The Long Game

One issue that keeps coming up as we think about ways to increase our membership (and our reach in the community) is how to attract more young people both to the League and to become voters. We hear so much about disaffection with institutions, with unresponsive government, with hopelessness because the issues are too big, and the “my single vote can’t count” refrain.

As I’ve read through some of the research on Gen Z and Millennials’ attitudes, there is often a thread of optimism—I’d like to suggest that we, both individually and as a League, try to **focus on growing that optimism**.

One way we might do that is to think about ways (over our lifetimes) that our political activism has made a difference, whether locally, regionally, or nationally. In so doing, we may not only find ways to communicate those stories to younger people, but we may also find that we become a little more encouraged ourselves.

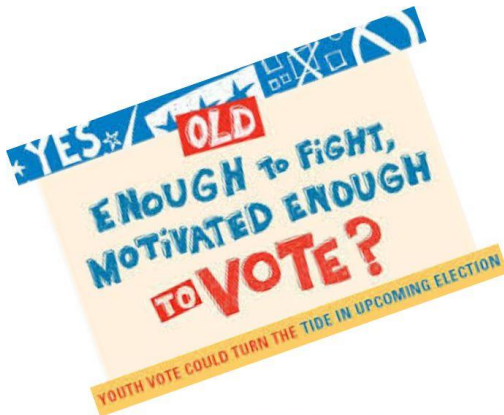
And, of course, when we feel good, we like to share those feelings. So, the next step would be to reach out to young people with some of those stories. Where do we find them? We can host events in cooperation with groups on campus, community gatherings, picnics with music and pizza ... find so many other ways. And, as we are sharing, we must also listen to what they have to tell us and perhaps brainstorm with them on how to reach out to others. People like to be useful and that is one way to engage them.

And once we’ve piqued their interest, our League chapters have lots of suggestions on ways to activate young voters—an example (and only one of many) being Greater LA at their page [Yes! Youth Engagement](#).

I’m looking forward to hearing some of our stories as I know there are many, many successes which hopefully will motivate us.

As a young woman, newly engaged in activism, said at a recent political event, I’m not yet 19 but I recommend “Just do it.” **She’s urging us—let us respond.**

—Marcia Moore, Membership VP





League of Women Voters of Butte County

P.O. Box
965 Chico,
CA 95927



<https://my.lwv.org/california/butte-county/donate>

- ★ **Renew Your Membership**
- ★ **Donate**
- ★ **Recruit New Members**
- ★ **Volunteer for Board Positions**

2024–2025 LWVBC Board Members

Satsie Veith	Co-President
Janet Rechtman	Co-President
Alexandra Shand	Treasurer
Carol Holzgrafe	Secretary
Claire Greene	1st VP Voter Service
Marcia Moore	2nd VP Membership
Corky LeTellier	Voter Registration
Lisa Cooperman	Assistant Voter Services
Toni Reid	Natural Resources
Nicole Drummond	Social Policy
<i>Vacant</i>	Government
<i>Vacant</i>	Communications
<i>Vacant</i>	Observer Corps
<i>Vacant</i>	Countywide Liaison

League of Women Voters of Butte County's Mission and Board Meetings

Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the public to take an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person, regardless of gender, age, or citizenship status, may become a League member; you must be at least 16 years old to vote on League issues.

LWVBC Board meetings are typically on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. All League members are welcome to attend. Please contact us at lwvbutte@gmail.com if you would like to attend. We will send you the Zoom link.

To contact a Board member, please send an email to lwvbutte@gmail.com. Your message will be forwarded to the appropriate board member as needed.