

# LWV<sup>®</sup> Voter

April 2023

Dear Fellow League Members,

I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting & Potluck, Monday, May 22. (See [page 2](#) for more info.) Along with other important business, we will vote on changes to the bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to allow transition to 501(c)(3) status. For more information on this process, see page 3 of the [February Voter](#).

Thanks to all who came to the February 11 Member Meeting and shared ideas about the League, and thanks also to the members who responded to our follow-up email survey (see results [page 4](#)).

Based on what we learned from you, the Board has put together a Proposed Program (see [page 2](#)), which members will vote on at the Annual Meeting.

One thing that came up repeatedly on Feb. 11, and was echoed in survey results, was a desire to focus on the act of voting: specifically, misinformation about election integrity and the disengagement of eligible voters. On Feb. 11, members made these suggestions for League action: arrange tours of the Elections Office to show how ballots are counted; programs/information that address dis- and misinformation; education about voting by mail; education on the importance of voting and how each vote counts, etc.

This aspiration to fight back against the tide of mis- and disinformation is reflected in the Proposed Program. It'll be exciting to see what we can accomplish leading up to the 2024 General Election.

Meanwhile, see [page 3](#) for "A Few Sources" on how to address mis- and disinformation.

Also, don't miss Social Policy Director Janet E. Rechtman's article on [page 3](#) on the League's homelessness position and how we can help.

If you have thoughts on League activities or want to offer your help, please send an email to [presidentlwvbutte@gmail.com](mailto:presidentlwvbutte@gmail.com).

Sincerely, Satsie Veith, President *Satsie Veith*

LWVBC President

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**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>  
OF BUTTE COUNTY (CA)

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## Proposed Program for 2023–2024

**Social Policy:** Housing/Homelessness; Healthcare; Criminal Justice

**Government:** Election Integrity; Combatting Misinformation; Encouraging Voter Participation; Nonpartisan Redistricting

**Natural Resources:** Acting on Issues of Climate Change and Growth in Butte County

After hearing from members at the February 11 Member Meeting and in the responses to the [Member Survey](#), the Board decided on the above Proposed Program. As required by our bylaws, the Program captures what members wish to work on in the coming year in order to focus League action in those areas. The Board believes this program will give our Program Committees room to address interlocking issues in creative ways.

Members will be asked to approve the Proposed Program at the Annual Meeting on May 22.

— Satsie Veith

## LWV of California Biennial Convention

**Coming Soon:** [League of Women Voters of California Biennial Convention](#)

- **When:** Friday, May 19, to Sunday, May 21, 2023
- **Where:** Hyatt Regency San Francisco Downtown SOMA, 50 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, SF
- **Attendance is open to everyone:** All League members are encouraged to attend, also members of the public are welcome to come and learn about the League.
- **Our Voting Delegation:** While the convention is open to all, our League is entitled to send 4 voting delegates. As of this email, it looks like we will have a full delegation of four. However, there is always the chance of a change in plans. Please let us know at [presidentlwvbutte@gmail.com](mailto:presidentlwvbutte@gmail.com) if you would like to serve as a delegate, if the chance arises.

## 2023 Annual Membership Meeting & Potluck Dinner

**When:** Monday, May 22, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Meeting Room at Chico First Baptist Church, 850 Palmetto Avenue, Chico, CA

**Why:**

- *Vote on Officers and Directors*
- *Vote on Budget for 2023–2024*
- *Vote on Program for 2023–2024*
- *Vote on Changes to Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation for Transition to 501(c)(3) Organization*

*Please come to do League business, have a great dinner, meet friends and new people, and have fun.*

*Watch for Annual Meeting Agenda & Materials Packet in late April for more information.*



## Social Policy

# What Can Be Done about the Wicked Problem That Touches so Many Lives in Our County?

Priorities matter. For example, at the State of the City address, when a Chico city official reflected on the significant progress Chico had made on issues related to homelessness, he added, “Naturally, for those who live next to one of the remaining sites, there hasn’t been enough progress.” One hopes that in future remarks, he will also express concern for homeless people who live in the remaining sites.

The truth is homelessness is a wicked problem—a problem with many intersecting causes and an infinite number of possible solutions. As the official’s remarks suggest, one’s understanding of the problem depends in large part on one’s point of view. Resolutely nonpartisan, your League only takes a point of view on a subject after exhaustive study and consensus building. So, for example, the League’s point of view on housing and homelessness, first adopted in 1970, is:

Support of equal opportunity in housing. Support of measures to provide state programs to increase the supply of safe, decent, and adequate housing for all Californians. Support for action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians.



The League sees the issue through the lens of those who need housing rather than those who are affronted by the sight of unhoused people on the streets and in their neighborhoods. I must admit, I too am affronted by the sights and sounds of street level poverty, as is this official and many others in our community. So, while the wickedness of this problem includes the challenges of adjacency and esthetics, the League reminds us that the first priority is the people who, for whatever reason, have no better choice than to live on the streets.

The Social Policy Committee has agreed to offer ideas about how to get involved with issues of housing and homelessness. Here’s the suggestion for this issue of the newsletter:

South Chico Community Assistance Center (<https://www.southchicocac.org/>) is relatively new, and very understaffed and underfunded. It’s very grass roots but the grass is growing! They do a foodbank and could use staples and food donations. Contact them directly if you are interested in doing more.



Janet E. Rechtman, Director, Social Policy

## A Few Sources on How to Identify and Respond to Mis- and Disinformation

A [News Literacy Project](#) website features [three programs](#) from last fall, two of them presented in partnership with the [League of Women Voters Education Fund](#), on how to spot election misinformation and address it effectively.

LWV of Torrance Area presented a program on Jan. 19, 2022, on “[Democracy, Disinformation, and Distrust](#): Building Citizen Capacity to Impact Mis-/Disinformation.”

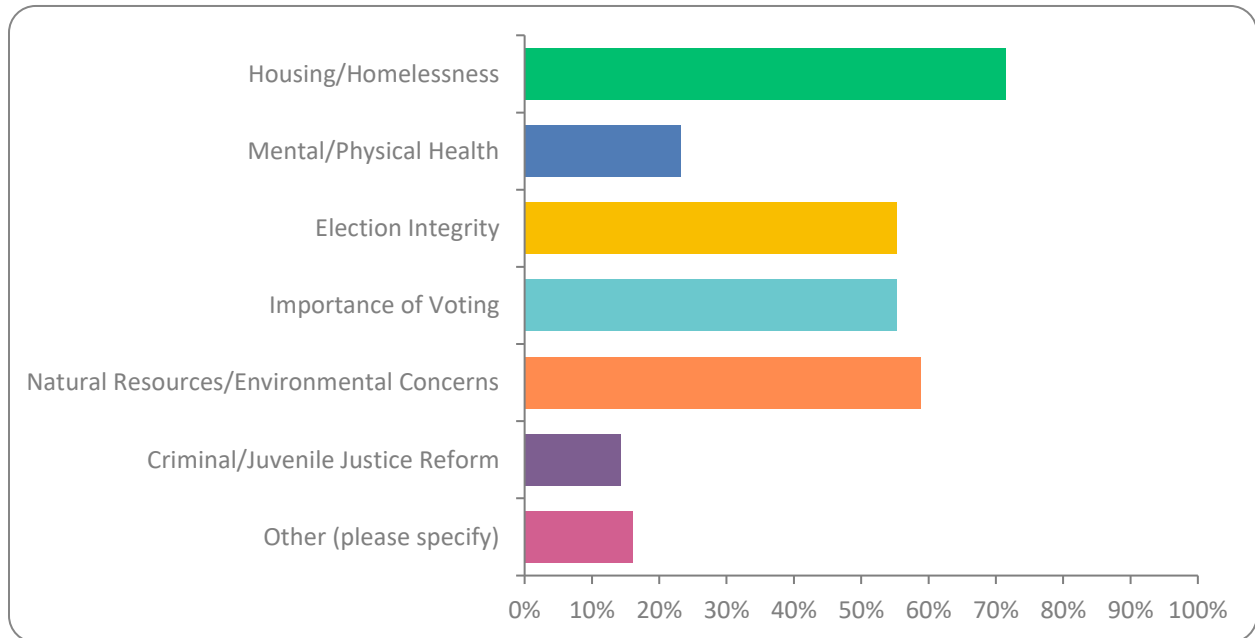
League of Women Voters Education Fund “[Your Guide to Mis- and Disinformation](#)”

## Results of Member Email Survey

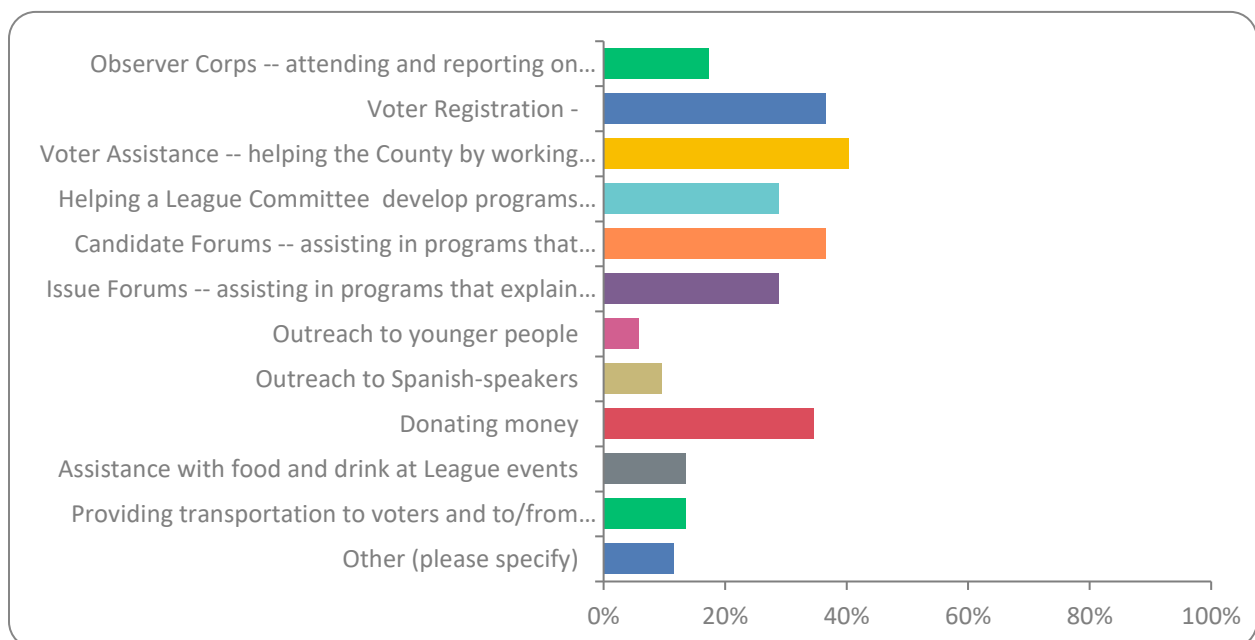
In late February, as a follow-up to the February 11 Member Meeting, we emailed a survey to all LWVBC members. The goal was to gather input on what issues you would like our local League to engage in and what activities you would like to participate in.

Here is a summary of the 56 responses we received.

Q1 What do you think are the **three** most important issues the League should address in the 2023–25 program years?



Q2 Please indicate which of the volunteer opportunities available through the League of Women Voters of Butte County (listed below) are of interest to you. Check as many as apply.





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**

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### 2022–23 LWVBC Board Members

<a href="#">Satsie Veith</a>	President
<a href="#">Claire Greene</a>	1st VP - Voter Service
<a href="#">Marcia Moore</a>	2nd VP - Membership
<a href="#">Sandra Flake</a>	Treasurer
<a href="#">Mahalley Allen</a>	Secretary
<a href="#">Toni Reid</a>	Director Natural Resources
<a href="#">Janet Rechtman</a>	Director Social Policy
<a href="#">Caroline Langen</a>	Director Observer Corps
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Communications
<i>Vacant</i>	Director County Liaison
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Assistant Voter Service
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Government
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Voter Registration

### League of Women Voter of Butte County's Mission

Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages citizens to play 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 16 years or older, male or female, may become a League member.

**LWVBC Board meetings are the 2nd Tuesdays each month at 5:30 pm.** During the COVID-19 pandemic, these meetings will be held via Zoom. All League members are welcome to attend and participate. Please reach out to President Veith for meeting Zoom credentials if you wish to join our meetings.

To contact a Board member, you may email them at their email (linked to their name on the left) or you may call 530-895-VOTE (8683) to leave a message. Please be sure to provide your name, contact information, and a brief description of what you need.