



February 2024

President's Message

Spring is in the air. Almost. The trees are in bud and the atmosphere is "airish" (to quote Andy Griffith). Valentine's day is close at hand, and you can feel the love emerging, even between the raindrops.

But wait. If the League is all about empowering voters and defending democracy, as the late great Tina Turner might ask, "What's love got to do with it?"

Everything.

When your League speaks of **L.O.V.E.**, we mean **Lots of Voters Everywhere**. The voters who are for and those who are against. Those whose candidates win and those who are defeated. Our ability to vote for people and ideas we favor is grounded in principles of fairness and equity.

L.O.V.E. for our communities involves caring for others, honoring our multiple connections. **L.O.V.E.** are at the center of the democratic social contract, which translates voice into votes and votes into policy. **L.O.V.E.** expect fairness and inclusivity, even when (or especially when) we agree to disagree.

Defending democracy absolutely depends on **L.O.V.E.** as we consider issues and candidates who can influence our quality of life, and for our commitment to future generations.

This spring, League volunteers are sharing their love for democracy with strong outreach for voter registration: rookie Board member **Corky LeTellier** has organized [a team of outstanding volunteers](#) who have registered voters at libraries and public gatherings.

Voter Services VP Claire Greene is inviting the community to **warm up for the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 11, with an opportunity to [meet candidates in the upcoming primary](#)**. We will gather at 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Chico Masonic Center.

You can learn more about League activities and how you can help at our [member meeting](#) on **February 17 at 10:30 a.m.** at First Baptist Church in Chico. At that meeting, **Professor Charles Turner from Chico State will speak about the Electoral College and the National Popular Vote Compact,**

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and we will learn about the League's position on how we should elect the President and Vice-President. Also, we are invited to **meet with Chico AAUW members to discuss *How the Word Is Passed*—2024 [Book in Common](#)**.

So, get ready share your love this spring by contributing your time, talent, and treasure to your League of Women Voters. By ensuring **L.O.V.E.**, we can go a long way toward encouraging that other kind of love, something we more of these days.

Finally, last but certainly not least, please see Treasurer Sandra Flake's update on our [progress to being a 501\(c\)\(3\) organization](#). And **thank you Sandra!**

Janet Rechtman & Satsie Veith,
Co-Presidents

Speed Dating with the Candidates—The Best Super Bowl Pre-Game Activity Ever!!!!



Date: Sunday, February 11

Time: 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Location: Chico Masonic Family Center- 1110 W.
East Ave, Chico, CA, 95926

Speed Dating with the Candidates is an innovative approach to connect voters with candidates running for various offices in a relaxed and interactive setting. During the event, candidates will rotate from table to table, giving attendees the opportunity to engage in direct conversations, ask questions, and learn more about their stances on important issues. The League has invited candidates from the following races: Butte County Supervisor Districts 1, 4, and 5; State Senate District 1; US Congressional District 1; and State Assembly District 3.

Bring your questions and concerns, as this event aims to facilitate open and constructive dialogue between candidates and the public. Whether you are a seasoned voter or a first-time participant, Candidate Speed Dating promises to be an enjoyable and enlightening experience for all.

Voter Registration Team Rocks!

Our members are in the middle of some very important Voter Registration opportunities, and I would like to thank those who have helped with this effort and those signed up for upcoming events.

We are registering voters at libraries, at Senior facilities, and at public forums such as the South Chico Community Assistance food handout and the African American Family and Cultural Center.

So far, we have helped approximately 20 voters update their registration and answered questions from many more.

Thanks to all for your support,

—Corky LeTellier

What Does LWV of California Recommend on Proposition 1?

Vote NO.

“While the additional housing resources offered through Prop 1 are sorely needed, they do not outweigh its flaws.”

—From LWVC Recommendation.

Read the full [recommendation here](#).





Celebrate **LOVE** at your League's Winter Meeting *Lots of Voters Everywhere*

Agenda:

- Coffee and Conversation
- Presentation: The Electoral College: What is it Good For?
- Featured Speaker: Professor Charles Turner, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
- Meet our CSU Intern: Sierra Josfan

Saturday, February 17 – 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

First Baptist Church -- 850 Palmetto Avenue -- Chico



League of Women Voters of Butte County

Email: lwvbutte@gmail.com



Big Changes in LWVBC Observer Corps

We are pleased to report that as of the beginning of 2024, we have four new members added to the LWVBC Observer Corps! With their observer assignments also listed, they are:

Pam Bodnar and Helen Gesick, Chico Unified School District

Merrily Stover Butte, County Board of Supervisors

Laura Clausen, Chico City Council

Thank you and welcome aboard!

Current observers are:

Debra Barger, Downtown Chico Property-Based Improvement District (PBID)

Margaret Bomberg, Chico Area Recreation District

Satsie Vieth, Butte County Water Commission

Ramona Flynn, New assignment in progress

Jo Ann Kidd, Durham Unified School District

And Toni Reid, after nine years of service, is retiring.

We are grateful for the dedication and perseverance of all of these committed observers. If you are interested in learning more and also becoming an observer, please contact Caroline Langen, 530-342-5388.

Join Book in Common Meetings with AAUW

League members are invited to join with Chico AAUW members at two conversations to discuss this year's Book in Common—[*How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*](#), by Clint Smith.

How the Word Is Passed has won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction, the Hillman Prize for Book Journalism, the Stowe Prize, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and it was selected by the *New York Times* as one of the 10 Best Books of 2021. The book is available for purchase at the campus bookstore and at local bookstores.

Author [Clint Smith](#) is a staff writer for *The Atlantic* whose previous writing includes two books of poetry: *Above Ground* and *Counting Descent*.

The two conversations will be facilitated by League and AAUW member Carol Burr.

The first session will be held on February 19 at 3 p.m. at the Woodoak condominium club house located at 555 Vallombrosa, directly across from the Post Office. This session will cover the "Prologue" through "Angola Prison."



The second session will be on March 18 at 3 p.m. at the same location. This will cover “Blandford Cemetery” through the “Epilogue.”

The visitor parking lot is on the left as you enter the main driveway to the Woodoak complex. The clubhouse is to the left across from the parking lot.

Clint Smith is scheduled to speak at Laxson Auditorium on the CSU, Chico campus, on April 11 at 7:30 p.m. AAUW is planning to purchase tickets for those interested so they can attend as a group.

—Satsie Veith

Progress on the 501(c)(3) Conversion

We are at the final stage of converting the League of Women Voters of Butte County to a 501(c)(3) organization. At our Annual Member Meeting in May 2023, we passed changes in our bylaws and amendments to our Articles of Incorporation identifying us as a 501(c)(3) organization.

Since then, we have taken the final two steps. First, we sent our amendments to the Secretary of State. In September, we received notification from the Office of the Secretary of State that our amendments were accepted.

The last step was to complete the tax forms that make the conversion with the Internal Revenue Service and to pay the required \$600 fee. To do so, acting on behalf of the LWVBC, I had to gather lots of information, including five years of financial data, and documents, including our most recent bylaws, the original Articles of Incorporation (approved in 1962), and all amendments to those articles. I had a lot of assistance from Tom Carson, who has served as our adviser from the LWVUS/LWVC, throughout this transition, who advised me on the narratives required in Form 1023 and more.

Finally, on January 25, I signed and uploaded the required forms and supplementary documents on the Internal Revenue Service web site. Within moments, we received the IRS notice that our documents were received. We are awaiting the IRS response in the next 180 days. It may be an approval, or it may be a request for information. I am confident, however, that, ultimately, we will succeed!

Email, Phone, and Address Updates

We have discovered some errors in the data in our database—sometimes a phone number, email, or address has changed, but we don’t have the new information to update our roster and the LWV national database.

If you have made any changes in the last few years, feel free to request verification of your information with an email to lwvbutte@gmail.com. We don’t want you to miss any information about your League!

—Sandra Flake, Treasurer



Click vote411.org for information on the candidates and ballot measures on your ballot this primary season. (Vote411 is the replacement for Voter’s Edge.)

LWVUS Program Planning and the Campaign to Make Democracy Work

Every two years, LWVUS asks for feedback from state and local leagues on the LWVUS Program—the issues it will focus on in the coming two years.

In a few weeks, we will send each member an email survey asking for your feedback on the current LWVUS Program and any changes you think should be made. Your combined responses will form LWVBC’s input to the national League.

Using our and other responses from around the country, LWVUS will present a Program to the delegates to the biennial League Convention. The delegates will approve the Program as recommended



by the Board or make changes. (This year, the LWVUS convention will be in Washington D.C. and online. Please consider whether you would like to be one of our League's delegates. More about that later this year.)

Though LWVUS has Positions on a [multitude of issues](#), the centerpiece of the Program is the [Campaign to Make Democracy Work](#).

The Campaign to Make Democracy Work focuses on these five areas:

- Voting Rights
- Improving Elections
- Money in Politics
- Redistricting
- Abolishing the Electoral College

The following are some sources and examples regarding League action in each area.

VOTING RIGHTS/ACCESS TO VOTING

[Powering the Midterms](#): 2022 Midterm Elections Impact Report.

[Statehood for the District of Columbia](#), whose residents currently have no representative in Congress.

LWV of Georgia's [lawsuit](#) to block Georgia SB 202, a law that restricts early voting and ballot drop boxes and criminalizes providing food and water to voters waiting in line at the polls (aka "linewarming"), along with other restrictions on voting.

[Toolkit: Voter Purge Legislative Resource Guide](#)

The League supports Voter Accessibility Measures such as: Automatic voter registration; online voter registration; multilingual voting resources; extended polling hours; mail-in voting; early voting; eliminated ballot notary and witness signature requirements; extended registration deadlines; expanded polling locations; eliminated or relaxed ID requirements; added protections for in-person voting.

Promotion of voter access to information through VOTE411 (in California, formerly Voter's Edge).

IMPROVING ELECTIONS

Leagues all over the country work to register voters, organize candidate forums, and produce educational materials for voters on state and local ballot measures.

MONEY IN POLITICS

The League says:

"Despite [Citizens United](#), every American should be able to see which corporations are spending money on which candidates, how that money is being spent, and how politicians are influenced by it. When we understand who is trying to influence our votes and how, elections operate with increased transparency, and we have more information to inform our decisions. Eliminating dark money is an uphill battle, and we're using all of our resources to ensure that the people come out on top."

[In the Know](#): How the League is Transforming Money in Politics.

Take Action: Ask Your Representative to [Support The Disclose Act](#).

On January 22, 2024, LWVUS joined other organizations in a [letter to presidential candidates](#) asking them to disclose information about their campaign "bundlers" on a regular basis.

REDISTRICTING

In September 2019, a few months after the US Supreme Court issued the [Rucho v. LWV of North Carolina](#) decision, holding that federal courts would not intervene to prevent partisan gerrymandering, the League launched a nationwide redistricting program called [People Powered Fair Maps](#).

PPFM aims "to create fair and transparent, people-powered redistricting processes that eliminate partisan and racial gerrymandering nationwide." Major goals of this plan are to promote citizen knowledge of and engagement in the redistricting process and the use of independent redistricting commissions to draw district lines.

ABOLISHING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE/ DIRECT ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

LWVUS has had a Position calling for abolition of the Electoral College since 1970. In 2022, delegates to the LWVUS convention in Denver and online voted to add this goal to the Campaign to Make Democracy Work.

The Electoral College suppresses voter turnout because voters in non-"swing" states may feel their votes do not count. The EC also weights the votes cast in some states much higher than votes cast in



other states, thus violating the principle that all votes should have equal weight. For example:

Florida has 29 EC votes. Each elector represents 743,000 people.

Wyoming has 3 EC votes. Each elector represents 192,000 people.

Source: LWVUS Brochure: The Electoral College Hurts Our Democracy.

Central to LWVUS's work toward the goal of direct election of the president is building popular support for direct election of the president and for the [National Popular Vote Interstate Compact](#). The NPVIC is an agreement among states that each state's electors will be awarded to the presidential ticket that wins the national popular vote. It becomes binding

only when enough states have agreed to bring that outcome about. As of now, 16 states (including California) and DC have signed on.

For more information on the League's position, read:

[The Electoral College, What Is It Good For?](#)

[Local View: Popular Vote for President "Essential to Representative Government"](#)

Also, don't forget to come to our February 17 meeting to hear Prof. Charley Turner speak on the Electoral College and the NPVIC.

And Congratulations! If you have read to this point in the article, you clearly, as they say on BBC show Newscast, "OOZE STAMINA!"

—Satsie Veith

LWVBC Welcomes a New Intern



The League is pleased to introduce our new intern: Sierra Josfan, a fourth-year student at CSUC majoring in communication and minoring in Women's Studies, so this internship is right up her ally. Sierra has hit the ground running by helping with marketing for our Speed Dating event and building a presentation for our member meeting on February 17. She is also working with Corky LeTellier and the board on organizing Voter Registration outreach events at CSUC and Butte College in Chico. When first joining our League, she expressed a huge interest in getting people her age to go out and vote and get involved within the voting community. You will have a chance to meet Sierra in person (and thank her for her enthusiastic work on behalf of the League) at the member meeting, one more reason to be there or be square.



League of Women Voters of Butte County

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

★ **Renew Your Membership**

★ **Donate**

★ **Recruit New Members**

★ **Volunteer for Board Positions**

2023–24 LWVBC Board Members

Satsie Veith	Co-President
Janet Rechtman	Co-President
Claire Greene	1st VP - Voter Service
Marcia Moore	2nd VP - Membership
Sandra Flake	Treasurer
Carol Holzgrafe	Secretary
Toni Reid	Director Natural Resources
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Social Policy
Caroline Langen	Director Observer Corps
Corky LeTellier	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 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 to vote on League issues.

LWVBC Board meetings are typically on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm on Zoom. All League members are welcome to attend. The Zoom link is posted on the Calendar page of the LWVBC website prior to the meeting.

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.