

# LWV<sup>®</sup> Voter

February 2025

## Co-Presidents' Message

Dear League Members,

This is a busy and challenging time. Below you will find Janet's thoughtful piece on the role of the League and actions we may all want to consider. But this *Voter* also covers important practicalities, such as the [transformation](#) in dues collection and membership, our successful transition to a [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) nonprofit tax status, the nominating committees' [search](#) for new board leaders, an opportunity to [learn more](#) about how the League works, and our upcoming meeting schedule. See also [LWVUS statements](#) on actions of the new administration.

— *Satsie Veith*

## Being Nonpartisan in a Partisan World

As you all know, the work of the League of Women Voters in empowering voters and defending democracy is founded on the principle of nonpartisanship. Historically this has played out in United States as the refusal to endorse candidates and/or positions proposed by the established political parties. While numerous political parties have emerged over the course of the League's activities, the Republicans and Democrats have dominated electoral politics, something we call the two-party system.

Of late, polls and elections alike have reflected dissatisfaction with partisan politics. Indeed, partisans in today's political environment appear to be at war with each other, taking hard lines based on the direction of party leadership. Such behaviors give primacy to party loyalty rather than the will of the voters—in direct opposition to the mission and values of the League of Women Voters.

As League members, we have the duty and the power to advocate for [League positions](#) on key issues facing our country, our state, and our communities. There are

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

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many ways to advocate and many paths to engagement: You may want to join a committee working on issues that interest you. You can join our Observer Corps and follow the actions of a local agency. You can help register voters and educate voters on ballot measures at the next election (June 2026). Some Leagues are looking for hands-on actions such as distribution of [“Know Your Rights” red cards](#). Please let us know your ideas and what you want to work on. And, as always, you can bring friends and family to League functions so they can learn more about how nonpartisanship works in our highly partisan environment.

Even if the only thing you do is become a member of the League of Women Voters, you put on record your commitment to empower voters and defend democracy through nonpartisan advocacy and action. So, thank you for joining us in this important work.

— *Janet Rechtman*

## Upcoming League Meetings

### Please Put These Upcoming League Meetings on Your Calendar Now!

Location of all meetings is Chico First Baptist Church, 850 Palmetto Avenue, Chico, CA

**Coming soon:** LWVBC Potluck / Winter Member Meeting

**Date & Time:** Thursday, February 27, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

**Featured Speaker:** Claire Greene, our VP for Voter Services, will speak on “Planning a Candidate Forum: The How, Who, What, When, and Where”



### NEXT UP:

- **Thursday, March 20, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Federal Judiciary Study Consensus Meeting.**

League members gather to reach consensus on study

questions sent out by the LWVUS [Federal Judiciary Study Committee](#), which is working on developing the first League position on the federal judiciary.

- **Thursday, May 22, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. LWVBC 2025 Annual Meeting.**

Members vote on board nominations, bylaws revisions, budget approval, program, etc.

## February 1 Meeting Completes Its Mission

Thank you to all the members who turned out for our Local Position Review and Program Planning Meeting! About 25 people showed up on a rainy morning to look at our Local Positions and think about our League’s next steps. It was a fascinating discussion covering many aspects of League structure and intricacies of League advocacy.

*Summary of Results:* General agreement, subject to board approval and member vote, for an update of the LWVBC [Position on Water Resources of Butte County](#) (last reviewed in 2002), and possibly subscribing to, or emphasizing for our League, the [LWVC Housing Position](#).

*Local Program:* General agreement, subject to board recommendation and member vote at Annual Meeting, to keep our current program (issues to emphasize) in the fiscal year 2025–2026. That program currently is **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.

*California Program:* General agreement, subject to board approval, to recommend to the LWVC Board that in their [Key Issues](#) for 2025–2027 they emphasize Water as a separate issue rather than include it in Climate Change and Sustainability; also focus on Reproductive Rights and Immigration.

—Satsie Veith



## Our League Is a 501(c)(3)

### The League of Women Voters of Butte County Is Now a §501(c)(3) Organization

In late January, the League of Women Voters of Butte County received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service verifying that, effective November 14, 2024, we are a §501(c)(3) organization.

We began the process of changing from §501(c)(4) to §501(c)(3) in fall 2022, and we completed the final step of filing IRS form 23 in late January 2024. In fall 2024, we worked with the IRS agent assigned to our case to resolve questions and concerns, resulting in the letter of determination, dated December 28, 2024, that we received late last month. So, as of November 14, 2024, the LWVBC is a public charity, able to receive donations that are tax deductible.

Contributions and dues are deductible for donors and members of a §501(c)(3) organization, provided that the contributor/member does not receive anything of value in return and the contributions/dues are not specifically designated for use by the recipient for lobbying expenditures.

Neither contributions nor dues are deductible for donors and members of a §501(c)(4) organization. Since, effective February 1, 2025, dues will be paid directly to the LWVUS, a §501(c)(4) organization, with a portion being returned to the local league, dues will not be deductible. However, contributions made to the local league are tax deductible.

#### For the League of Women Voters of Butte County, we see these benefits:

1. Donors and members who itemize deductions for tax purposes achieve a tax benefit from donations. This can include in-kind contributions, such as those that occur when members attend the LWVUS or state League conventions or councils and absorb some or all of the cost of attendance.
2. LWVBC is now able to use the current Education Fund in the North Valley Community Foundation as a secondary reserve and to transfer funds from it to LWVBC's Tri Counties account as those funds are budgeted and needed. The Tri Counties Bank account will remain the primary account on a day-to-day basis.

In summary, conversion to §501(c)(3) status provides

a significant tax benefit for donors and members without imposing any practical restrictions or limitations on our League's typical operations.

Without the assistance of our League consultant Tom Carson, we would not have been able to complete this process. Tom provided us with guidance, information, templates, and support through the entire process. We owe him our thanks and gratitude.

—Sandra Flake, LWV of Butte County

## Membership Update

### ChapterSpot Transition Moves Forward

We've all been getting updates on the new League membership, ChapterSpot, which will provide a **centralized portal online** where any person can join the League or renew their membership regardless of which League they are joining. **All members have been sent an email inviting them to log in to the Member Portal and update their information** (not to pay dues—that won't be for a few months yet). So, the day the program went live, Feb. 3, has come and gone. And no Millennium Bug-type problem seems to have occurred. The transition seems to be working.

Click [HERE](#) to view a LWVUS VIDEO which explains these changes. It is also available on the LWVBC Join website page.

**If you missed the invitation email to log in to ChapterSpot, no problem—you can do so anytime simply by going to our League's website [Home page](#) (bottom left) or [Join page](#) (bottom left) and clicking on the LWV Member Portal button.**

### There are some significant changes to the membership fee structure.

In the new system, **dues** are set as follows:

- **Pay what you can:** Any individual may join the League for one year by paying any amount equal to or greater than **\$20**.
  - The suggested amount will be **\$75**.
- **Member types:**
  - There is no longer a Household Membership type—only Individual Membership.
  - There is no longer a Student Membership type. Like any other member, they must pay

at least \$20, unless the local League subsidizes them out of their local League budget.

- Current Household and Student memberships will continue throughout this year. They will be automatically changed to Individual (Primary) members—note the minimum membership fee for these will also be \$20.
- Persons who have been members for 50 years or more are Life Members and will continue to have their member dues waived.
- Auto-Renew: Members will be encouraged to register their banking/credit card information to sign up for automatic renewal.
- Members who usually renew by check may still do so, but the checks must be made out to LWVUS. They should still be sent to our local League address: P.O. Box 965 Chico, CA 95927. They will be forwarded to LWVUS for processing.

Do remember that almost all our current members will not really have to worry about renewing our memberships until next Fall—with memberships expiring on December 31, 2025. (As always, we recommend thinking about renewing earlier than that last deadline. September and October are good months to be doing so.) Membership renewal reminders will come from the LWVUS office.

—Marcia Moore, 2ndVP, Membership

## The LWVBC Needs You!

We know democracy is not a spectator sport and accomplishing the work of our League is not either. We need your skills on the LWVBC Board! The polarization of American politics means the League's nonpartisan focus and a healthy dose of public engagement are needed now more than ever. With our shared commitment as League members, we can achieve even more through leadership service on the LWVBC Board. Given a slight breather before the mid-term election cycle returns, now is an opportunity to rebuild and rejuvenate. Our LWVBC Board meets monthly, typically via Zoom on the second Tuesday. Terms of office are two years from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

Your Nominating Committee seeks individuals to fill the following LWVBC Board officers and directors positions:

### Officers:

President (or 2 co-presidents)  
1st Vice President  
Secretary

### Directors:

Natural Resources  
Social Policy  
Observers  
Government

The **job descriptions** for all Board positions can be reviewed [here](#) on our website. If you have someone you would like to see nominated or would like to explore more about Board service, please let us know at [lwvbutte@gmail.com](mailto:lwvbutte@gmail.com).

—Debra Barger, Nominating Committee Chair

## Learn about League Leadership

Whether you are a long-term League member or just recently joined or somewhere in between, have you ever wondered how League leadership in this grassroots organization really works?

If you would like to learn more about how League Leadership functions at the local, state, and national level, **please join us at the League Office, 635 Flume St., Chico**, for some refreshments and an informal discussion session. While we will focus on local league roles (both on and off board), state and national level committee and Board functions will be included. From Local League President to Vote 411 “Cocos,” from Observer Corps Director to LWVC State Education Fund Chair, come learn about the many roles that allow the League at all levels accomplish Making Democracy Work.

Former and current members of local and state level leadership positions will facilitate the discussion and answer all your questions. Two different sessions are offered so you can choose which one fits your schedule best:

**Wednesday evening, Feb. 26 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**  
**OR, Sunday, March 2 from 3 to 4 p.m.**

While drop-ins are welcome, we ask that you **please RSVP to [lwvbutte@gmail.com](mailto:lwvbutte@gmail.com)** so we can plan our refreshments accordingly. Warm beverages and fresh citrus will definitely be plentiful so please join us.

—Debra Barger

## LWVUS Statements on Actions of New Administration

On January 25, 2025, LWVUS CEO Celina Stewart issued a statement in response to the new administration's assault on democracy.

In the first week of President Trump's second term, we've witnessed an undeniable assault on the foundation of our democracy.

The League is deeply dismayed by the executive order eliminating federal voter access initiatives (Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions). This order removes federal support for voter access and registration initiatives. This is a direct attack on the progress made to ensure that all Americans can freely and fairly participate in our elections. Instead of dismantling efforts that expand voter access, our government must enact policies that eliminate barriers, modernize voter registration, and provide accurate election information to all Americans.

By pardoning the January 6 perpetrators, the President sends a signal to extremists who seek to use violence to undermine the will of the voters. The actions that took place on January 6, 2021, must never happen again. Unfortunately, these pardons endorse the violence of that devastating event. We must work to safeguard our institutions, uphold the will of the people, and commit to a peaceful transfer of power.

As an organization working towards a multi-racial representative democracy, the League is outraged about the new administration's rollbacks to federal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility initiatives (Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing). Abandoning these values across our government proliferates intolerance of the freedom of expression and identity and is a hateful act used to target federal employees of color and of the LGBTQIA+ community.

All of this week's actions are distressing and dangerous for people of vulnerable populations who are already disadvantaged in society. This administration's tactic is to exert control over the American people through chaos and fear. Now is the time to lead with compassion, move in partnership, and stand in solidarity with those most directly impacted by the extreme and harmful actions taken this week.

As our democracy continues to be tested, the League of Women Voters will remain steadfast in our fight to empower voters and defend democracy for all people.

Stewart followed up on February 6, 2025, in response to the "weaponization of government against Americans."

In the first 17 days of the Trump administration, we've witnessed nothing short of the weaponization of government against Americans. The callousness of the most recent actions, including the terrorizing of the immigrant community, shows a blatant disregard for the well-being of the American people. We've seen the weakening of the Department of Justice's civil rights work, continued attacks on people of color and the LGBTQIA+ community, and the elimination and freezing of humanitarian aid to other countries. These efforts are dangerous for our country, compromising our international ally relationships and putting many Americans' livelihoods at stake.

As an organization committed to empowering voters and defending democracy, the League is outraged by the current administration's actions against the American people. We are equally concerned about the inaction of our elected officials in Congress to exercise their constitutional authority and put a stop to this attack on democratic institutions, Americans, and the rule of law.

Over the past few weeks, we've witnessed a number of alarming actions from the executive branch met with little response from our elected officials in Congress. All members of Congress have a responsibility to serve the people they represent and swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Congress is undermining the system of checks and balances upon which this country was founded by not responding to the executive branch's violation of the law and encroachment on its authority. We call on Congress to act now to stop the infringement on its legislative authority and respond to the ongoing assault on our democracy on behalf of the American people.

For over a century, the League has remained steadfast in our commitment to the American people and our democracy. President Trump's latest actions put both in deep jeopardy. We call on our elected officials to stand up to tyranny, protect our democracy, and honor their oath to the American people."



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**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:lwvbutte@gmail.com). Your message will be forwarded to the appropriate board member as needed.