



# Voter

Dear League Members & Friends,

According to Census Bureau statistics, 61.4% of voting-age citizens participated in the 2016 Presidential election. This compares to 61.8% in 2012. In 2016, the only age group to show a slight increase (1.1%) was the 18-29 demographic. Let's work together to do better ... a LOT better! The first step *in doing better* is to make sure we understand the mechanics of voting.

For the March primary and in future elections, *all* Butte County registered voters will receive their ballots by mail. Read on to learn about ballot return options and why it's important that your voter information be accurate. Also, the information in this newsletter may enable you to assist a friend or neighbor with voting questions.

A good move now is to check the accuracy of your voter registration status at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov). They'll ask for your California driver's license number (or California ID number) and the last four digits of your social security number. You cannot make changes at this site. Changes need to be made at [registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov)

Thank you for being a League member. We need you to do better.

Sincerely,

**Linda MacMichael**

President



January - February 2020

**Butte County March 3, 2020  
Election: More Ways More Days**

See details inside to make sure you and everyone you know is ready to vote!

**Candidate Forum for Butte County  
Board of Supervisors, District 1 and  
District 4**

**Wednesday, January 15, 6:30pm  
Butte College  
Black Box Theater**

**Local Candidates Roundtable  
"Speed Dating" NEW**

**Saturday, February 1  
9:30am**

**Chico High School, Lincoln Center**

**Counting Everyone in 2020  
Census Challenges and  
Opportunities**

**Thursday February 13**

**5:30pm Potluck, 6:00pm Program  
Masonic Family Center Chico**

Check us out on Facebook and Instagram

LWV of Butte County  
PO Box 965, Chico, CA 95927  
[www.lwvbuttecounty.org](http://www.lwvbuttecounty.org)  
(530) 895-VOTE (8683)

## Check your Voter Status. Make Sure You Are Ready to Vote!

To ensure you are ready for the **March 3, 2020 primary election**, think first about being ready for **February 3, 2020**. February 3 is the date ballots will be mailed to **every** registered voter in Butte County. Since Butte County elections will now comply with the Voter's Choice Act, everyone registered to vote in Butte County will receive a vote-by-mail ballot. Look for a white envelope with a blue stripe between February 5 and February 15.

Check your voter status now by going to [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)

- Check if you are registered to vote
- Check where you are registered to vote
- Check your political party preference
- Check your language preference for election materials

Change your voter status now by going to [registertovote.ca.gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov). If you moved, you must update your registration with your new address to ensure you receive the correct ballots. Remember if you are a displaced voter who intends to return to your affected address or who has not made a housing decision at this time on, you can continue to use the address of your damaged property for voting. Update your voter registration with the address where you want to receive your vote-by-mail ballot.

League members are likely prepared and ready to go as registered voters. If you have checked a political party preference, you will receive a ballot with the presidential primary candidates for your preferred party. For example, if you are registered as a Republican, you will be mailed a ballot with Republican presidential candidates. If you are registered as a Democrat, you will be mailed a ballot with Democratic presidential candidates.

If you **are registered as No Party Preference (NPP)**, you should have received a postcard from Butte County Elections for you to confirm which of the three ballot options for the presidential primary you wish to receive. The American Independent Party, the Democratic Party, and the Libertarian Party are the three political parties which have chosen to allow a No Party Preference registrant to participate in their party's presidential primary.

It is very important you return the postcard with your presidential party choice so you can vote in one of those three presidential primaries. If you are No Party Preference and you do not send your post card back, you will get a ballot without presidential primary candidates. If you receive a ballot without presidential primary candidates and you want to vote for one, do not fill out the mailed ballot. You can contact Butte County Elections at 530-552-3400, option 1 or go to a Voter Assistance Center for a replacement ballot. See [How to Vote for US President](#) on the Secretary of State's web site for more information.

With the adoption of the **new Voter Assistance Center Model** in Butte County under the Voter's Choice Act (VCA) legislation, all voters will receive their ballot by mail and have the choice of how, when, and where they vote. By the end of January, the Secretary of State will mail the statewide voter guide for the March 3 Primary Election. Also, Butte County Elections will mail registered voters a postcard reminding voters about vote-by-mail ballots being mailed starting February 3. Butte County Elections will also send a Countywide Voter Information Guide with more details about Voter Assistance Center locations and times plus Ballot Drop boxes throughout the County.

After voting your ballot at your convenience, you can return your ballot in one of 3 ways:

1. By mail – **postage is paid** -- in the preaddressed envelope designed to cover your required signature
2. Turn it in at **any** Voter Assistance Center location in Butte County
3. Drop it in any Official Ballot Drop Box

**Three Voter Assistance Centers** in Chico (CSU, Chico Bell Memorial Union), Oroville (Hall of Records), and Paradise (Terry Ashe Recreation Center), will open with trained staff on Saturday, February 22, 10 days before the election and be open daily through Election Day.

Ten more Voter Assistance Centers in Durham, Gridley, Magalia, Palermo, and more locations in Chico and Oroville will open 3 days before the election on Saturday, February 29, for a total of 13 locations. **Any Butte County voter can go to any of the 13 Voter Assistance Centers.** All Voter Centers will be open on March 3 from 7am to 8pm but there is no need to wait! Check out [buttevotes.net](http://buttevotes.net) for all Butte County locations, addresses, and open times.

At any Voter Assistance Center, you will be able to:

- Turn in your Vote-By-Mail ballot
- Receive a replacement ballot
- Register to vote and vote a ballot
- Receive language assistance
- Vote on an accessible ballot marking device

There will be 10 **Official Ballot Drop Boxes** in Butte County including two available 24 hours per day -- one in Chico at Butte County Employment and Social Services and one in Oroville at the Hall of Records. A ballot can be deposited in any of these secure drop boxes starting 28 days before the election. Your vote-by-mail ballot will include an "I Voted" sticker so whatever way you choose to return your ballot, wear your "I Voted" sticker and encourage others to vote! **New California law permits any eligible citizen to register and vote at any of the Voter Assistance Centers up to and including Election Day.**

## More Voter Registration Outreach Training

We will be conducting one more voter registration training prior to the March primary on Tuesday, January 21 at 5:30pm in the League Office. If you have never attended a voter registration training or just need a refresher for all the changes related to the Voter Choice Act and Vote Centers in Butte County, please join us at the League Office at 635 Flume Street in Chico. No need to sign up, just show up for the training.

If you are willing to cover Chico, Durham, Oroville, or Paradise, we still need volunteers to staff all our voter outreach tabling events on Tuesday, January 28 at each of the Butte County Library branches. We have members of our bilingual outreach team, Marvey Mueller, Margarita Ayala, and Roxanne Ferry staffing Gridley and Biggs. Please email Debra Barger at [debra.barger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debra.barger@sbcglobal.net) to volunteer. You can help make a difference!

### Remember:

- ✓ **Renew your LWVBC membership by January 31**
- ✓ **Vote!! And encourage friends and neighbors to vote**
- ✓ **Get ready for Census 2020 opening in March**
- ✓ **Watch the LWVBC calendar for more 2020 activities**

#### **Our 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.

*LWV Board meetings are the 2nd Tuesdays monthly @ 6:30 pm in the League office, 635 Flume Street in Chico. All League members are welcome to attend and participate. To reach a Board member, call 530-895-VOTE (8683) to leave a message.*