



Voter



Dear Fellow Leaguers and Friends,

We have completed the 2022 election cycle with a lot to be proud of, thanks to all the League members and friends who worked to empower voters and defend democracy in the general election season. [Please see the full list of accomplishments on page 5.](#)

So how did Butte County do this election? Not in terms of who won or lost, but how many voters made their voices heard at the ballot box? Voter turnout in Butte County, as of Nov. 23, was **59.07%** (73,211 ballots cast out of 123,929 registered voters). This was up 20% from the June 7 primary results, but about 24% below the 2020 general election turnout. While these results may or may not be unusual, one thing is clear: **lots of registered voters are not voting.**

One of the League's primary concerns is voter participation. Some local leagues have taken a hands-on approach to this issue. For example, in this last election, LWV of Tallahassee targeted a particular precinct with historically low turnout. That is something our League members could do as well.

On another topic, please be sure to read the article by League member Becky White on the [recent change to the LWVUS position on Health Care \(page 4\)](#). This is an inspiring look at how change happens within the League through grass-roots actions by League members and how it may eventually impact national policy.

These last two issues lead right into the next topic: our next [League Member Meeting](#), which is scheduled for **Saturday, February 11 at the First Baptist Church located at 850 Palmetto**. The start time for the meeting will likely be 10:30 or 11am. At that meeting, we (the plan anyway) will decide on the issues we want LWVBC to focus on in the coming year. I hope you will join us and bring your ideas and passion. More information to come.

In the meantime, have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Satsie Veith
LWVBC President



Inside this issue

[Update on Becoming a 501\(c\)\(3\) Corporation](#)

[Social Policy Message](#)

[A Look at Our League From 1961](#)

[Redistricting Developments – California & Nationwide](#)

[LWVUS Adopts New Position on Fixing US Healthcare System](#)

[LWVBC's General Election 2022 Activities](#)

[League Membership](#)

[Donate](#)

[Board Members](#)

[Mission](#)



PO Box 965, Chico, CA 95927
www.lwvbuttecounty.org
(530) 895-VOTE (8683)

Update on Becoming a 501(c)(3) Corporation

On November 14, the League of Women Voters of Butte County (LWVBC) met in a noticed Zoom meeting to take the first step in making a change from 501(c)(4) to 501(c)(3) status.

Tom Carson, our adviser about how to make this conversion, joined us. A LWVUS Finance and Tax Consultant, Tom has helped almost all the 40+ Leagues in California which have made this change.

At the meeting, members unanimously approved the motion, brought forward by recommendation of the Board of Directors, to correct an error in the Articles of Incorporation under which we operate in State of California:

“That Article Third of the Articles of Incorporation be amended as follows:

Article Third: This corporation is a nonprofit public benefit corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for charitable and educational purposes. This corporation elects to be governed by all the provisions of the nonprofit corporation laws of 1980 not otherwise applicable to it under part 5 of division 2 of that law.”

After the approval of the motion, there was a brief discussion on next steps, with some consideration of when to bring forward changes to the bylaws and the articles of incorporation necessary to become 501(c)(3) corporation. The Board will consider bringing forward these changes either in a special meeting or at the annual meeting.

The approved amendment, with required fees, was submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State by regular mail on November 18. We are still awaiting a response. Once we receive the approval of the Secretary of State, we will proceed with the following steps:

1. A conversion will require approval of the membership of both
 - a. changes to the Bylaws that affirm our change in subsection [to a §501(c)(3)], and
 - b. another amendment to the Articles of Incorporation making the same change.
2. If the membership approves both, and after the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation is approved by the office of the Secretary of State, the LWVBC needs to submit new tax forms to the IRS reflecting the change in subsection.
3. Once the IRS accepts the new forms, the conversion is official.



A full discussion of the rationale for this process was included in the September issue of the Voter, available on the LWVBC website: <https://my.lwv.org/california/butte-county/newsletters>.

*Submitted by Sandra Flake
LWVBC Treasurer*

Social Policy Message

From inception, the League of Women Voters has been committed to securing equal rights and equal opportunity for all along with promoting social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. In this spirit, the League has tackled many different social issues, from women's equality to civil rights to welfare reform to workplace protections -- the list goes on and on. So, while assiduously nonpartisan when it comes to elections, the League has had a historical role when it comes to social policy issues of importance to voters regardless of their genders or political affiliations.

As we prepare for the new year, we invite you to reflect on social policy as a two-sided coin: advocacy for reform — incremental changes in existing systems and practices — and advocacy for justice — the demand for right action which may sometimes require radical changes in existing systems and practices.

Our local League's work around housing and homelessness illustrates both sides of this coin. Through our partnership with OLLI at CSU Chico, we focused on reform by offering a series of three webinars on the subject of housing and homelessness in our community.

The first two webinars are available at the League website (link ere). Our first webinar explored issues related to homelessness, and the second presented responses to homelessness and affordable housing. The final webinar, available in the first quarter of next year, will look at how the issues have evolved.

In addition, League members brought a focus on justice to the discussion by voter registration outreach among people who are homeless. And, finally, the League's commitment to justice in this area is summarized by the state's Housing Action Plan: [The League of Women Voters of California supports actions to reduce and eliminate homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered, throughout the State.](#)

We invite you to lend your support to the League's work in this area by working for reform and advocating on justice so that we can translate this vision into reality.

*Submitted by Janet D. Rechtman
Director, Social Policy*

A Look at Our League From 1961

A few days ago, I was going through some old newspaper stories that my brother collected from local papers and found the following article. It offers an interesting glimpse of the work of the League in 1961 and the growing pains of a town, with a population roughly 15% of what it is now.

Published May 19, 1961 (probably in the Enterprise-Record):

Women Voters to Observe Annual League Day Meet

Chico League of Women Voters will observe League Day Monday at the home of Mrs. B.W. Shaper, 1190 Pa Imetto Ave.

The annual event begins at 8pm and will include reports of the state convention, observers at city and county meetings, and a decision on whether the League should incorporate. Delegates who will report on the state convention will be Mrs. Louis Turner, president, Mrs. Russell Esvelt, and Mrs. Grover Willis.

Observer reports will include that of Miss Myrtle Smith, City Council Meetings. She will emphasize the transition from the old to new city charter government, organization of the new seven-man council, the recently adopted firmer policy of the council toward city commissions and the council's present approach to the problem of annexation.

Mrs. Marvin Burnett will report on Chico Board of Education sessions. She will review such items in the board's work as sale of Chico Junior High School, search for a site for a second high school, plans for a new elementary school and use of money from the recent tax override.

Also reporting will be Mrs. William T. Simmons, observer at meets of Chico Area Recreation District Board; Mrs. Clifford Roberts, Park Commission; Mrs. Donald Veith and Mrs. Frank Wood, Council of Social Agencies; Mrs. Shaper, Lay Committee on Mental Health.

Mrs. F.D. Newsome and Mrs. Kenneth Poppen will tell members about the development of low rent housing for Chico, and Mrs. John Bergstresser will review community action on annexation of city fringe areas.

Support of low rent housing and annexation are continuing responsibilities of the league here, Mrs. Turner stated. Mrs. E.G. Wood will present a plan for incorporation of the Chico League for membership vote.

*Submitted by
LWVBC President Satsie Veith*



Redistricting Developments – California and Nationwide

(For previous articles on Independent Redistricting Commissions in California, see the June-July and September issues of the Voter.)

CA: Independent Redistricting Commissions (IRCs) Mandated in Three More Counties

This September, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation requiring that, after the 2030 Census, Board of Supervisor district lines be drawn by IRCs in Fresno, Kern, and Riverside Counties. For more details, see: [Voters Push to Take Local Redistricting from Politicians](#), Cal Matters, Sept. 15, 2022.

“From the past [2020 Census] cycle, we now have over a year’s worth of observational data, and we came to the conclusion that, just, without a doubt, independent redistricting commissions do lead to better outcomes for voters than any of the available alternatives,” [Alesandra] Lozano [of Common Cause], said.”

[Gov. Gavin Newsom Strips Fresno County’s Supervisors Power to Draw Election Lines](#), Fresno Bee, Sept. 20, 2022

“The League of Women Voters of Fresno backed [Assemblymember Joaquin] Arambula’s bill [to require an IRC in Fresno County]. The organization, in a letter of support, said the California Fair Maps Act moved the county closer to ‘an inclusive and more transparent process.’”

Nationwide: Mixed Results

This 47-minute podcast recorded on Nov. 17 for the NPR program 1A includes a discussion of a range of mid-term election results, from gerrymandering in Florida and Georgia to a new independent commission in Michigan.

[1A Remaking America: How Redistricting Affected this Year’s Midterms Elections](#)

*Submitted by
LWVBC President Satsie Veith*



LWVUS Adopts New Position on Fixing US Healthcare System

This is a story of how, through the research and determined action by League members around the country, LWVUS has changed its position on health care, enabling more direct advocacy for a health care system that better serves all Americans. – Thank you to *League Member Becky White* for submitting it and for her work on this issue.

The U.S. healthcare system is a disaster. In 2020, the [CDC reported](#) 31.6 million (9.7%) people were *uninsured*: 11.5% of people under age 65; 5.0% of children, and 13.9% of working-age adults (aged 18–64).

Moreover, [according to the Commonwealth Fund](#), in 2022, 43% of working-age adults were *inadequately* insured; that is, their coverage didn't provide them with *affordable access* to healthcare. Underinsured respondents skipped or delayed care because of the cost.

As a result, un- or under-insured persons suffer untreated illnesses that often worsen, leading to longer absences from work or school. Or they become serious enough to require more extensive, more expensive treatment. Lacking insurance—hence, lacking access to primary care providers, the un- or underinsured turn to emergency rooms. (For example, Chico's North State Shelter Team learned that Enloe's ER treated 3,810 uninsured homeless patients in the last year—totaling \$14.2 MILLION.) Of the eleven wealthiest nations, the U.S. ranks last on access to care, administrative efficiency, equity, and health outcomes.

Leagues of Women Voters—at national, state, and local levels—have long been [keenly aware of these issues](#). The national league (LWVUS) adopted its first healthcare position in 1993, [advocating that](#) a “basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost be available to all U.S. residents,” as well as equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical care delivery, and tax-funded national healthcare.

The 1993 position was good—as far as it went. However, it allowed multiple entities (private, government, and employers) to both pay for and determine the kind and degree of coverage of insurance policies. So, for example, Policy A could include, while Policy B denied, coverage for labor and delivery. Too often coverage was determined by profit margins. In 1993, no one dreamed the LWVUS would need to confront—and oppose—a system driven by profit instead of medical need.

Leagues Come Together to Advance Health Care Reform (and You Can Join)

Fortunately, in 2005 Leagues across the country formed the Health Care Reform for the United States [HCR4US](#) research and study group to “advance the League’s position by encouraging education and action by their state and local Leagues”.

This group meets monthly; [to join click here](#). To read the monthly newsletter: [click here](#).

LWVNYS Conducts a Study and Makes Recommendations

LWVUS only adopts a position after *thoroughly* researching an issue. However, if a state or local League conducts such research and publishes a position, LWVUS can choose to “concur” with that position.

In 2019, when New York State was considering adopting a single payer, tax-supported, universal coverage healthcare plan, LWVNYS rigorously researched this issue, ultimately recommending that their state adopt a tax-funded, single-payer, universal coverage healthcare system—healthcare for all. See *Proposed Concurrence Statement* [here](#). See also the previous LWVUS position [here](#), pages 129-133.

LWVNYS Petitions LWVUS to put “Concurrence” on 2022 Convention Agenda; Delegates vote to pass it.

In September 2021, LWVNYS learned that national concurrence with their policy was a possibility. In October, an explanation of concurrence and the NYS policy—including implications for LWVUS healthcare advocacy—was sent to all Leagues around the country. On February 1, 2022, LWVNYS petitioned LWVUS to place concurrence with its healthcare policy on the agenda for the national convention.

In June 2022, delegates to the LWVUS National Convention voted overwhelmingly in favor of concurrence as reflecting their concerns, thereby enabling LWVUS to actively petition Congress and US healthcare administrators to change our country’s approach to healthcare provision and funding.

Specifically, LWVUS advocates for:

- 1) Universal access...EVERYONE is covered;
- 2) Equity...EVERYONE gets minimum BASIC care;
- 3) Administrative efficiency is maximized by eliminating profit-based private companies that deny or complicate access to health care; and
- 4) Better health outcomes as a result of 1+2+3.

And here’s the kicker: This will cost less! US health expenditures reached \$4.1 TRILLION (\$12,530/person) in 2020 and are projected to reach \$6.1 TRILLION in the next 5 years. A universal, single-payer system is estimated to save \$812 billion on healthcare administration ALONE and \$2 trillion over 10 years.

Submitted by
Becky White, League
Member



LWVBC's General Election 2022 Activities

THANK YOU!

Thank you to every League member and friend who gave their time supporting democracy and voters' rights during the 2022 general election season. A few specific thanks go to:

Informing the public about the Candidates and the Issues

- ❖ Voter's Edge: Jane Wanderer, County Coordinator (CoCo) for Butte and Kern Counties.
- ❖ 10 Candidate Forums, 4 in-person and 6 online: the Forum Team was headed by Claire Green, 1st VP for Voter Services, with assistance from Linda MacMichael, Carol Burr, Margaret Swick, Jane Wanderer, and Helen Gesick. Timekeepers were Tim McAnulty, Leslie McLean, George Gold, William Tefteller, and Stevi Mittman.
- ❖ We also thank the additional League members who offered help at the in-person forums in Chico and Paradise.

State and Local Ballot Measures Research and Presentations

- ❖ Carol Burr and Toni Reid.

Support for Voters and the Voting Process

- ❖ Voter Registration Outreach to Unhoused Persons at the Torres Shelter, Windchime Park, and City Plaza: Roxanne Ferry, Marvey Mueller, Charles Copeland, Andy Holcombe, Erika Montanez, Mary Huntsinger, Nancy Wirtz, Katy Azevedo, and Satsie Veith.

Collected Ballots on Election Night

- ❖ Toni and Bill Reid, Debra Barger, Alexandra Shand, Linda Lunsford, Carol Krok, and the Carol Chell Family.

Staffing Durham Voter Assistance Center Sat. Nov. 5-Nov. 8

- ❖ Jo Anne Kidd, Linda Dunbaugh, Marvey Mueller, Satsie Veith, Alexandra Shand, Linda Lunsford, Katy Azevedo, Toni Reid, Caroline Langen, Angela Risdon, Dawn Dawson, and Kim Kurnizki.

Staffed Phone at League Office on Election Day

- ❖ Jane Quan-Bell, Mary Huntsinger, Sunday Cummins, Wendy Brown, and Bonnie Keller.

Thank you, everyone for supporting our League and Butte County voters!

*Submitted by
LWVBC President Satsie Veith*



League Membership

The Holidays are upon us! But it is also time for League membership renewals. Many of you have already responded and submitted your renewal and dues. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support of our membership.



If you have not yet turned in your renewal, we encourage you to do so by **December 31**.

New Members: For all the new members who have joined since May of this year, your dues are paid up through December 31, 2023.

Renewal can be done online [here](#). Or you can mail your check to the League office:

**LWVBC
P.O. Box 965
Chico, 95927-0965**

Please send the check with the membership form you may obtain [here](#).

And remember, as you renew, this is a great time to recruit new members to our very active League.

*Submitted by
Marcia Moore
VP for Membership*





League of Women Voters of Butte County
P.O. Box 965
Chico, CA 95927

Happy
Holidays!



Happy
New
Year!

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

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

2022-23 LWVBC Board Members

Satsie Veith	President
Claire Greene	1st VP - Voter Service
Marcia Moore	2nd VP - Membership
Sandra Flake	Treasurer
Mahalley Allen	Secretary
Toni Reid	Director Natural Resources
Janet Rechtman	Director Social Policy
Caroline Langen	Director Observer Corps
Vacant	Director Communications
Vacant	Director Countywide Liaison
Vacant	Director Assistant Voter Service
Vacant	Director Government
Vacant	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.

