

# LWV Voter

April 2022

Dear League Members and Supporters,

The June 7, 2022 primary election season is upon us! Dates from the primary election calendar are provided on page 5.

Our League is focusing on three activities:

- **Candidate Forums** – again on Zoom – for Congressional District 1, State Assembly, Board of Supervisors Districts 2 and 3, and County Assessor. No other local races are contested. See more information on page \*\*\*.
- **Voter Registration Outreach**: Volunteers will be needed. Watch for further information by email.
- **NEW! Ballot Pickup on Election Night**: By agreement with the County Elections Office, volunteers will help to pick up ballots on election night and deliver them to the Hall of Records. Details on page 2 including a volunteer opportunity for you!

## Upcoming League Programs

- I hope to see many of you at the **Annual Meeting on May 25**. The meeting will begin at 5:30pm and will be held at the Picnic Pavilion. See page 3 for more details.
- The Natural Resources Committee's very informative **Water Issues in Butte County Part One**, presented live on March 3, will be followed up by a second installment at the end of June. A third installment is planned for next fall.
- The Social Policy Committee will present, in partnership with OLLI, a Housing/Homelessness Program on June 15. See more about this on page 2.

I know the war in Ukraine is on everyone's minds. I would like to end, in memory of the victims, with a poem by Emily Dickinson:

*They dropped like Flakes –  
They dropped like Stars –  
Like Petals from a Rose –  
When suddenly across the June  
A wind with fingers – goes –*

*They perished in the Seamless Grass –  
No eye could find the place –  
But God could summon every face  
Of his Repealless – List.*

Sincerely,  
**Satsie Veith**  
LWVBC President

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**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF BUTTE COUNTY (CA)

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

# Homing in on Homelessness

Consider this – 15,000 people have been displaced by wildfire in Butte County over the last four years. Many of those people are now struggling to find a place to live.

*How in the world can we help these people and the many others who are homeless or at risk for homelessness?*



In 1943, psychologist Abraham Maslow outlined a theory suggesting that five categories of human needs dictate an individual's behavior. Those needs are physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization.

Some of the homeless people in our community live in encampments and are unsheltered on the street. Their highest needs are physiological, namely a safe, clean place to stay. If these needs are met, a person may then be able to address his or her needs for social and health care services, employment, and a more settled life.

Understanding this progress is at the heart of an upcoming series of LWV programs called “Homing in on Homelessness: The Path from Crisis to Care.” Recent research by Dr. Keith Coburn and others confirms that homelessness is a [housing problem](#).

His work points out that while rates of homelessness vary widely across the US, there is little correlation between the incidence of homelessness and common explanations like drug use, mental illness, poverty, or local political contexts. In other words, people become homeless because there are not enough HOMES.

Further, the very process of building more permanent, affordable homes benefits the whole community by creating jobs, increasing opportunities for local businesses to thrive, and improving overall quality of life.

**“It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it.”**

–Nelson Mandela

On **June 15 at 5pm**, in partnership with the [Osher Lifelong Learning Institute \(OLLI\)](#), the League will present a program of data driven insights into the challenges created by the search for affordable housing. These programs will be open to the public, so please let interested people know about the upcoming event. More details to follow.

[Go to olli.csuchico.edu](http://go.lli.csuchico.edu)

By Janet Rechtman  
LWVBC Director, Social Policy

## Volunteer Opportunity!!

Our League has entered into an agreement with the County Elections Office to help pick up ballots from various secure ballot drop boxes on election night that will immediately be delivered to the Hall of Records in Oroville.

Volunteers are needed to be Official Ballot Retriever (OBR). How do you become an OBR?

You will need to attend a swearing in ceremony at the Hall of Records in Oroville on the afternoon of June 7. You will then be assigned to a designated ballot drop box along with one other OBR to do the following:

1. At precisely 8pm on June 7, the two OBRs will lock the ballot box – closing the location.
2. You would then remove the ballots and secure them in a locked red bag.
3. The pickup information needs to be logged.
4. Then, the ballots are delivered to the Hall of Records in Oroville.



Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and residents of Butte County. If you or a family member are interested in volunteering for this, or have questions, please respond to [lwvbutte@gmail.com](mailto:lwvbutte@gmail.com).

By Satsie Veith  
LWVBC President



# ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us for an “**in-person**” 2022 LWVBC Annual Business Meeting and Potluck. We will conduct needed business before we break for a potluck and time for us to socialize. The annual meeting will be:

**On Wednesday, May 25, at 5:30 PM.**

**At the Picnic Pavilion, 1705 Manzanita Avenue**

(located behind the Elks Lodge—the same place as the 2021 Fall Coffee and 2020 Annual Meeting)

We hope you can join us. All are welcome to bring food to share at the potluck. Beverages will be provided.



The agenda and supporting materials will be emailed to all members by April 25. We will be voting on revisions to the LWVBC Bylaws intended to shorten and simplify the current version. In addition, we will vote on the League’s budget for 2022-2023, nominees for board positions, and programming for the coming year.

The Board hopes to see you all there!

## Update on US Felon Voting Rights

According to [a report](#) from The Sentencing Project, as of 2020, 5.2 million Americans were unable to vote due to convictions for felony offenses. The voting rights of persons convicted of a felony vary widely from state to state.

# LOCKED OUT

# ★ ★ ★ 2020 ★ ★ ★

ESTIMATES OF PEOPLE DENIED VOTING RIGHTS DUE TO A FELONY CONVICTION



When California voters passed Proposition 17 (backed by LWVC) in November 2020, our State joined 20 others that disenfranchise a convicted felon *only during incarceration*. Here is the status of felon voting rights across the country:

- **Never lose right to vote (4 jurisdictions):**  
D.C., Maine, Puerto Rico, Vermont
- **Lose right to vote only while incarcerated (21 states):**  
California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington
- **Lose right to vote until completion of probation or parole (16 states):**  
Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- **Lose right to vote until restoration of rights, pardon, or other requirement (11 states):**  
Alabama, Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, Tennessee, Virginia, Wyoming.

For more information, see:

[States Move Fast After Congress Failed to Expand Felon Voting Rights](#), Politico, Feb. 2, 2022.

*“We’re in the middle of a movement on this issue,” said Henal Patel, the director of the democracy and justice program at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, which helped lead the successful 2020 push for reenfranchisement of people no longer incarcerated. “We are in a wildly different place than where we were in 2005, even 2010.”*

[Texas Made an Example out of Crystal Mason – For Trying to Vote](#), Huffpost, July 29, 2019.

*“Even though election officials never counted Mason’s vote — she used a provisional ballot — Tarrant County District Attorney Sharen Wilson (R) chose to prosecute the case. . . . Last year, Judge Ruben Gonzalez Jr. (R) agreed with Texas and found her guilty, sentencing her to five years in prison.”*



[A Year Later, Florida Needs to Revisit Felon Voting Rights](#), Michigan Daily, Oct. 5, 2021

*“Rather than creating a system where felons repay their debt to society for their crimes, fines and fees act essentially as an obstructive poll tax. Only an estimated 50,000 felons in the last two years have actually registered to vote.”*

[Proposed \[Virginia\] Constitutional Amendment Could Restore Former Felons’ Voting Rights](#), 12OnYourSide, Feb. 19, 2022

*“We also know the message it sends to people who are caught up in the criminal justice system, and they’re basically being told that ‘you don’t matter anymore,’” Haywood said. “You’re not part of this participatory democracy we claim to have.”*

By Satsie Veith  
LWVBC President

## District Confusion?

*Confused about which new Supervisor District you are in? Well, you are not alone.*

With the switch from the old districts to the new districts, people may be uncertain about which new district they are in. This may help:

The Butte County Board of Supervisors webpage [offers maps of all districts](#).

To look up your address on the new maps, click on the [Interactive Web Map](#). When you type your address in the search box, be sure to follow instructions, as it is a bit finicky.

### Old Districts vs. New Districts – Which are in Effect?

County Counsel Bruce Alpert stated at the March 8 Board of Supervisors meeting that the new districts are in effect now. But Clerk-Recorder Candace Grubbs pointed out during the same meeting that under the Elections Code—*supervisors continue to represent their old districts until they (or others) are elected to represent the new districts.*



Interactive Web Map  
All Districts  
District 1 Map  
District 2 Map  
District 3 Map  
District 4 Map  
District 5 Map

While some counties have written agreements on how to manage the transition, Butte County is less formal. It seems that as a practical matter, a constituent may contact any supervisor, and that supervisor will decide whether to handle the issue or to refer them to a different supervisor.

As Ms. Grubbs reminded the supervisors, *“You guys represent everybody.”*

By Satsie Veith  
LWVBC President

## Recall Reform: Recommendations from the Little Hoover Commission

In February, the [Little Hoover Commission](#) released a [report](#) with six recommendations to reform California’s recall process for state office-holders:

- Raise the signature requirement from 12% of voters in the last gubernatorial election to 10% of registered voters.
- Replace the existing recall process with a “snap” recall election in which the incumbent would run directly against all challengers and the top-vote-getter would win.
- Extend timeframe for conducting recall elections to between 88 and 125 days.
- Prohibit beginning a recall during the first 90 days and last 6 months of office-holder’s term.
- The Legislature should refer the above as separate propositions on the November 2020 ballot.
- The Legislature should clarify the nomination standard.

### But do voters support these recall reforms?

In this [blog post](#), the Pacific Policy Institute of California reports that a majority of voters do *not* support the above reforms to the recall process, yet over half would like to see the reforms on the November ballot.



By Satsie Veith  
LWVBC President

# Voting Information for June Primary

If you need to register to Vote, know anyone who needs to pre-register to vote (ages 16 and 17), or want to check your voter registration status, go to [California's Online Voter Registration site](https://www.sos.ca.gov/voterservices/onlinevoterregistration).



Be sure to sign up for [Where's My Ballot?](#) to track when your ballot is mailed, received, and counted.



## Election Dates to Remember

### April 28 to May 17

The [primary election official voter information guide](#) is mailed to all voters.

### May 6 until June 7 at 8 pm

Secure Ballot Drop Boxes will be [available at these locations](#).

### May 9

**Ballot Mailing Underway.** The County Elections Office will begin to mail ballot packets, including the [Countywide Voter Information Guide](#), to all active registered voters. Ballot packets will be mailed to the addresses indicated on voters' registration information.

### May 23

**Last Day to Register** for June 7 primary. Prospective voters may register and cast a provisional ballot at a Voter Assistance Center up to and on Election Day.

### May 28 and June 4

**Voter Assistance Centers (VACs) will be open at these locations.** All VACs offer voter registration, replacement ballots, accessible voting machines, and language assistance.

### June 7



**Election Day.** No ballots will be accepted at VAC's or Ballot Drop Boxes after 8pm. Mailed ballots must be post-marked no later than June 7 and received by June 14.

### June 7








**LWVBC Ballot box pickup.** At 8pm, deputized LWVBC volunteers will pick up ballots from some drop boxes and deliver them to the Oroville County Elections Office.

No propositions or referenda are up for a vote in Butte county. The following are:

## Federal

-  US Senate (Special Election to Complete Current 2017-2023 Term & Election for 2023-2029 Term)
-  US Congress, CA District 1







## State-Wide

-  Governor **and** Lt. Governor
-  Secretary of State **and** Attorney General
-  Controller **and** Treasurer
-  Insurance Commissioner
-  State Superintendent of Public Instruction
-  CA State Assembly, District 4
-  CA State Board of Equalization, District 1

## Judicial




-  Butte Co. Superior Court Judges Depts 1, 5, 9, 11

## County-Wide


-  Board of Supervisors Districts 2 and 3
-  Assessor **and** Auditor-Controller
-  County Clerk-Recorder
-  District Attorney **and** Sheriff-Coroner
-  Treasurer-Tax Collector
-  County Superintendent of Schools

## WAYS TO VOTE

After following instructions on how to sign and seal the return envelope with completed ballot:

-  Deposit ballot in US mail (no postage needed)
-  Deposit ballot in [secure ballot drop box](#)
-  Take ballot to a [Voter Assistance Center](#)

More assistance with voting:

-  Remote Accessible Vote by Mail - Any voter can request to have their ballot sent to them electronically. To use this service, return the postage paid postcard in your packet or call (530) 552-3400 Option 1 or (800) 894-7761 within Butte County. *Please note a printer is required to utilize this service.*

For accessible services for voters with disabilities, see the [Countywide Voter Information Guide](#) page 29.

For more information, go to [buttevotes.net](https://buttevotes.net) or [sos.ca.gov](https://sos.ca.gov).

**What is on the Ballot? Read on....**



By Satsie Veith  
LWVBC President

# NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Water is certainly on everyone's mind right now with the extended drought and water restrictions looming for everyone this summer and possibly beyond.



Photo By PAUL ROGERS | Bay Area News Group

The League's Natural Resources Committee has been working on our next water program – which will be held late June. We are in the process of lining up speakers and deciding on a final date. We are excited about the presentation and will have final details for you soon.

As a friendly reminder, the public comment period is open for the [Vina Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan \(GSP\)](#). The final date to comment on the GSP is April 30. You can access the submitted plans and review any comments made by others by clicking on the blue comment bubble available on the [GSP website](#).

*By Toni Reid  
Director, Natural Resources*

## LWVC SPEAKER ON WATER- Jane Wagner-Tyack



Jane Wagner-Tyack (pictured), Program Co-Director and Legislative Consultant, Water at League of Women Voters of California was the keynote speaker at a conference hosted by the United Methodist Women of Northern California/Northern

Nevada. She tracks issues such as [Restore the Delta, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\)](#), and helped write the script for the documentary "[Over Troubled Waters](#)", available on YouTube.

The theme of the Methodist Women's water conference was Sustainable and Just Water – believing safe water should be accessible and affordable to all, especially to marginalized people.

Wagner-Tyack gave a brief history of California's water situation. A long slide into the drought began after the little ice age – between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Our State has been in a hydrologic imbalance for a while.

She showed two maps of California: plenty of surface water in the north and the greatest population in the drier south. Also shown was an outline of the Delta Watershed encompassing the Sacramento Valley and the San Joaquin Valley.


To learn more about Wagner-Tyack's study of groundwater sustainability, click on [www.cleanwaterfund.org/2019/11/12/perspective-s-groundwater-sustainability-jane-wagner-tyack-league-women-voters-california](http://www.cleanwaterfund.org/2019/11/12/perspective-s-groundwater-sustainability-jane-wagner-tyack-league-women-voters-california). If you get lost, just google Jane Wagner-Tyack. This is a great link to review before LWVBC's next forum on water.

*By Suellen Rowilson  
Member, LWV Butte County  
Natural Resources Committee*

## Upcoming Candidate Forums


### SAVE THE DATES!

Claire Greene and our Voter Services Committee are planning four candidate forums, to be presented on Zoom. All other Butte County races are uncontested. *Tentative* dates are:

 Butte County Board of Supervisors Districts Two and Three: **April 27**

 Butte County Assessor: **April 28**

 CA State Assembly District 3: **May 2**

 US Congress, District 1: **May 4**

**Stay tuned for more details!**





# LWVBC Membership

I am pleased to share that we now have 120 active LWV of Butte County members. There are very few 2021 members who did not renew who are currently inactive. Anyone can still renew online or request an envelope to submit their dues. We do not want anyone missing out on the 2022 election season.


Do you have family or friends who would like to become better informed about our current areas of interest: water in Butte County, housing and the homeless, redistricting, as well as more about California and national areas of interest?


There are ways members can participate with the League. You will also get to meet others interested in nonpartisan concerns for citizens. Encourage friends to join. If they join by May 1, they will get 20 months of membership for \$75. Does someone have a birthday who appreciate a gift of a League membership? Or, maybe for a couple celebrating an anniversary with a household membership (only \$125).

If you have any questions, please contact the LWVBC office at 530-895-8683.

If you renew or purchase a membership for someone online, please consider making a small donation towards covering the processing costs for the Square (online system).

## RENEWAL OPTIONS:

 Paying on our website: [HERE](#).

 Mailing a check payable to LWV OF BUTTE COUNTY to:

**LWVBC**  
**P.O.BOX 965**  
**CHICO, CA 95927-0941**

You may use the dues form below to renew or share with a potential new member. Encourage your friends and family to join the League of Women Voters of Butte County as we have several activities scheduled and will of course be involved in candidate forums, voter registration efforts, and more in the coming months.

*By Roxanne Ferry  
VP of Membership*



Thank you for supporting the League of Women Voters of Butte County. Membership is open to all individuals who are at least 16 years of age. Please make your *Membership Dues* check payable to: **LWV of Butte County** and enclose this form with your remittance to P.O. Box 965, Chico, CA 95927.

Individual. .... \$75.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Household (2 individuals). .... \$125.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Student ..... \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation. .... \_\_\_\_\_

Total Remittance \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tax deductible donations to our Education Fund may be made through our North Valley Community Foundation fund, and payable to LWVBC Education Fund of NVCF.

Dues and Donations may also be paid online at:  
[www.lwvbuttecounty.org](http://www.lwvbuttecounty.org)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*I am interested in working with the League on the following:*

Observing gov't agency meetings \_\_\_\_\_; Voter Registration drives \_\_\_\_\_; Civics and Voter Education \_\_\_\_\_

Social Policy Programs: Education \_\_\_\_\_; Health Care \_\_\_\_\_; Housing/homelessness \_\_\_\_\_; Other \_\_\_\_\_

Natural Resource programs: Water \_\_\_\_\_; Transportation/air quality \_\_\_\_\_; Climate change \_\_\_\_\_; Other \_\_\_\_\_

Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_; Membership/Communication outreach \_\_\_\_\_; Office Management \_\_\_\_\_; Tech support \_\_\_\_\_





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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### 2021-22 LWVBC Board Members

<a href="#">Satsie Veith</a>	President
<a href="#">Claire Greene</a>	1st VP - Voter Service
<a href="#">Roxanne Ferry</a>	2nd VP - Membership
<a href="#">Sandra Flake</a>	Treasurer
<a href="#">Mahalley Allen</a>	Secretary
<a href="#">Lori Fuentes</a>	Director Communications
<a href="#">Toni Reid</a>	Director Natural Resources
<a href="#">Patty Haley</a>	Director Voter Registration
<a href="#">Janet Rechtman</a>	Director Social Policy
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Countywide Liaison
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Assistant Voter Service
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Government
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Observer Corps

### 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 who subscribes to the purpose and policies of the League regardless of age or gender, 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. The Zoom link and agenda will be posted on the Calendar page of the League website.

To contact the League, email us at [lwvbutte@gmail.com](mailto:lwvbutte@gmail.com) or call the League Office at 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.