



December 2023

President's Message

As your League gears up for the coming election seasons (yes! Seasons—the primary and the general elections in 2024), we want to focus our attention on the issues and opportunities that are most important for our members. That's why, at the Fall Coffee in September, we asked folks for their thoughts on what matters most to them. Here are their answers.

HOW TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY

Elections:

- Vote!
- Remove barriers to voting
- Automatic voter registration
- Engage young voters
- Inform voters on issues
- Campaign finance Reform

Representation:

- Redistricting Reform
- Make sure everyone is represented
- Elect candidates committed to democracy
- Term limits
- Test politicians on civics

Civic Participation:

- Encourage public participation in local government
- Start early and strengthen civics education in schools

Government Reform:

- Eliminate US Senate Filibuster
- Ethics for the US Supreme Court

Other:

- Good media / Free Press
- Engage in local League activities

And REASONS TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY:

- Protect rights for everyone else (non-whites & females)
- Fair immigration practices
- Pursue Justice (no one is above the law)
- Fair wages—less for CEO's, more for workers
- Enforce regulations against child labor

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We are glad to report that your League can provide opportunities for member engagement in each of these areas, including:

- **Elections:** Voter registration, voter services including ballot pickup and staffing a Voter Assistance Center, candidate meet-ups and, brand new this year: two presentations by Registrar of Voters Keaton Denlay on how Butte County Elections work (see more information [here](#)).
- **Civic Participation:** through the [Observer Corps](#), League members can make sure public meetings conform to the Brown Act
- **Representation and Civic Participation:** Over the course of the year, your League will provide opportunities to reach out to a variety of community constituencies to encourage

engagement of people of all ages and backgrounds.

While the positions and activities of your League are strictly *nonpartisan*, we are not *nonpolitical*. We also encourage League members as individuals to share their views on important issues such as redistricting and government reform. With that in mind, we will be offering a variety of informational programs to provide the latest, greatest information on these important subjects.

So you can see, your League has responded to our members' voices and created a broad menu of opportunities for engagement. We hope you will join your fellow members to follow through and do the hard work of empowering voters and defending democracy. Thanks in advance for your help.

Janet Rechtman & Satsie Veith,
Co-President



Please come join us for conversation and refreshment this holiday season!! Feel free to bring family and friends!!—the LWVBC Board (Sandra, Janet, Marcia, Claire, Satsie, Toni, Caroline, Corky, and Carol)

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Monday, December 11

Stop by the League Office
for cookies, cider and conversation!

4:00-6:00 pm **635 Flume Street, Chico**

Meet Corky LeTellier Our New Director for Communications!

Many years ago I was involved with the League of Women Voters in the Seattle area but since we then moved to several places, I have just recently become interested again.

After living in Colstrip, Montana, Issaquah, Washington, Chester and Weaverville, California, and being a part of many volunteer organizations, I landed in Chico four years ago. My mother said, "It's time to stop hiding out in the mountains and come back to civilization!" There are also two grandchildren living here.

Since buying a home four years ago, I have joined the Chico Peace Alliance, am working with the North Valley Harm Reduction Coalition, and am a member of Newcomers and First Christian Church. All are wonderful places to make a small difference and meet a diverse group of people.

As the League of Women Voters Butte County communications person, I hope to help educate the public with the goals of voter registration and voter education, building strong connections in the Chico community.

—C. LeTellier



'Tis the Season

During these longest nights of the year, as you're sitting next to a cozy fire (maybe) roasting chestnuts, or addressing holiday letters, or thinking about what to give Aunt Sally or Uncle Joe, let me give you another productive, meaningful, profitable, beneficial, and worthwhile very small but important task. And that is (drumroll) renewing your League membership NOW. I know, you've just received dozens (maybe hundreds) of requests for donations, but this is truly something that will give back to you all year long.

You don't really need me to remind you of all the benefits we share as members but, just in case, here are a few:

1. knowing that the work we do in the League can have a community-wide, state-wide, and nation-wide effect,
2. working with others to maintain and sustain the values of our democratic society,
3. supporting the research that is done at a local, state, and national level to educate the voting public,
4. helping increase the numbers of people who become active and educated voters,
5. sharing a sense of teamwork to accomplish much more than can one person alone. Not a complete list but it's good to recall.

So, here's the deal.

First, if you have renewed, A BIG THANK YOU! And, if you haven't, there's no better time than RIGHT NOW. If you are NOT SURE, please contact Sandra Flake or myself at lwvbutte@gmail.com. Dues are \$75 for an individual and \$125 for a household.

How to Pay Dues

- By Mail: Send a check made out to LWV OF BUTTE COUNTY to: League of Women Voters of Butte County, P.O. Box 965, Chico, CA 95927. If possible, print and enclose the registration form at this link: https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/lwvmembership_0.pdf.
- Online: Here's the link for online payments: <https://leage-of-women-voters-of-butte-county.square.site/>

—Marcia Moore, VP for Membership



SAVE THE DATES for Butte County Election Presentations!

This January, LWVBC and the Butte County Elections Office will co-sponsor two presentations by Registrar of Voters Keaton Denlay on voting and elections in Butte County.

ON ZOOM Tuesday, January 9, at 7 p.m.: How We Vote.

IN PERSON at the Hall of Records in Oroville, Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 4 p.m.: How Our Ballots Are Counted (space will be limited).

Please help spread the word about these presentations by letting your friends and family know. More information will be coming soon.

CA Redistricting Update: The Mixed Fate of 2023 Legislation

This year, LWV of California supported two bills to improve and extend the reach of the [Fair Maps Act of 2019](#) and to expand the use of [independent redistricting commissions](#) (IRCs) in local elections. Gov. Newsom signed one and vetoed the other.

Signed: [AB 764](#), which explicitly prohibits drawing district lines in order to protect an incumbent, establishes a legal process to challenge redistricting violations, expands the Fair Maps Act to include school boards and other local districts, and increases requirements for transparency and public participation in the redistricting process.

Vetoed: [AB 1248](#), which would have required use of IRCs in counties and cities with populations greater than 300,000, and a school district or community college district with a population greater than 500,000. (Butte County's population is about 205,000, so it would not have been affected.)

In his [veto message](#), the Governor stated that he supports the goals of AB 1248, but believes it should have been included in the annual budget process because of the costs involved in implementation.

Also signed: AB 34, establishing an independent redistricting commission (IRC) for the Orange County Board of Supervisors, and SB 314, doing the same for Sacramento County.

Also vetoed: SB 52, which would have required a charter city with a population over 2.5 million (that is, Los Angeles) to establish an IRC.

For more background on these bills, see [Why CA Politicians Will Keep Drawing Their Own Election Districts](#), by Sameea Kamal, CalMatters.

Click [here](#) for more information on redistricting and why it matters.

—Satsie Veith

Would You Like to be a League Observer?

Our Observer Corps members attend meetings of local agencies to monitor compliance with open meeting laws and keep track of local government actions. Observers do not participate but report back items of interest to the League for possible action.

Our Current League Observers:

- Debra Barger Chico Property Improvement District
- Margaret Bomberg Chico Area Recreation District
- Toni Reid Butte County Board of Supervisors
- Satsie Veith Butte County Water Commission
- Leslie McLean Chico City Council
- Ramona Flynn Behavioral Health Advisory Board
- Jo Ann Kidd Durham School District

We are seeking for observers for the following agencies:

- Butte County Air Quality Management
- Chico Unified School District (School Board)
- Paradise Town Council
- Butte County Library Advisory Board
- Chico Planning Commission
- Chico Police Community Advisory Board
- Oroville City Council
- Tuscan Water District (if/when formed)



Voter Registration Drive 2024 — Sign up for Training!

There's still time to sign up for the voter registration training on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 10 a.m., at the League Office, 635 Flume Street, Chico. (Respond to this email or send a message to presidentlwvbutte@gmail.com to sign up.)

Also coming soon:

- Signups for the March Primary Election Season
 - Ballot Collection on Election Night
 - Staffing a Voter Assistance Center leading up to Election Day
- Volunteering for Candidate Events.

It's Time for Legislative Interviews

Want to ask your State Senator or Assemblyman about their position on climate change?

Now's your chance.

It's Legislative Interview season. Each year, LWV of California asks members of local Leagues to meet with their state representatives and report back on their answers to several selected questions. The answers are used to help LWVC's efforts to advance legislation. The interviews are also a great opportunity for local Leagues to reach out to the legislators and their staffs and remind them that we are their constituents.

If you are interested but wondering how to do this, be assured there will be training!

[For more information click here.](#)

If you decide you may be interested, please email presidentlwvbutte@gmail.com and let us know.

Attention League Members: Voter's Edge Is Now VOTE411!

Starting this primary election, the online elections database formerly called [Voter's Edge](#) will transition to [VOTE411](#). It will be essentially the same: a way for voters to access concise and accurate information on candidates and ballot measures. Please share this news with members of the public to make the transition smooth for everyone.

The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund press release is below:

League of Women Voters of California Education Fund
Announces Transition to Vote411 for Ballot Planning

California, November 1, 2023 - The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) is thrilled to announce an upgrade to its voter empowerment tools. Beginning with the 2024 election cycle, Californians looking for election information from the LWVCEF will use VOTE411 as their new ballot planning tool.

VOTE411, a leading digital platform dedicated to electoral information, will offer voters in California a streamlined and intuitive interface to research candidates, understand ballot measures, and prepare to vote confidently. This shift signifies the League's continued commitment to empowering voters and making democracy work for all Californians.

"We are excited about this transition," states Chris Carson, Board President of the LWVCEF. "VOTE411 has a proven track record in assisting voters across numerous states. By offering this tool to Californians, we are ensuring that they have access to the most comprehensive and up-to-date information to make informed choices."

The change comes after extensive research and consultation, ensuring the best fit for the diverse needs of California's electorate. The new platform is expected to be user-friendly, mobile-responsive, and will offer a variety of features tailored to the unique needs of California voters.

The League urges all Californians to familiarize themselves with VOTE411 ahead of the 2024 elections. The tool will be accessible across all devices and will continue the League's rich history of providing voters with non-partisan, factual, and trusted electoral information.

To use VOTE411, simply visit VOTE411.org.

About the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) The LWVCEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all Californians are informed and active participants in the democratic process. Through its educational projects and research, the LWVCEF provides Californians with trusted information about their voting rights, the electoral process, and the importance of civic participation.

Contact: Amaris Lebron, LWVC CivicTech & Project Specialist, lwvc@lwvc.org





League of Women Voters of Butte County

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

★ **Renew Your Membership**

★ **Recruit New Members**

★ **Donate**

★ **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
Caroline Langen	Director Observer Corps
Corky LeTellier	Director Communications
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Social Policy
<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.

