

# LWV<sup>®</sup> Voter

December 2024

## President's Message

Hello, fellow League members:

We're thinking of this time as an interlude. We have completed a round of activities around supporting voting and informing voters—candidate forums, Pros & Cons presentations, and voter registration—and now we are regrouping.

Coming up soon: The *League Holiday Party*, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 3 to 6 p.m., at the League Office, 635 Flume Street. Food and conversation with good friends, what could be better! Please bring goodies, if you are so inclined, and please feel free to bring guests.

In the near future, watch for information on our *upcoming meeting schedule* (no dates or locations finalized yet): Program Planning /Local Position Review in the winter, a Social Policy Committee presentation perhaps in the spring. We are also hoping to have a general planning session perhaps in early January.

Also on the horizon: the long-promised *Dues Transformation*. This does not affect the dues we are currently collecting for 2025, but look for changes for 2026 dues. Among these changes: a “pay-what-you-can” dues rate (minimum \$20 per person) designed to make League membership more affordable. LWVUS will collect the dues and distribute a share to state and local leagues. You will be hearing more about this as time goes on.

Most of all, thanks to everyone for their hard work empowering voters in the past election year. While 2025 does not have many voting opportunities, there is still plenty of League work ahead. Most critically, the national League has focused on changes in voter eligibility, and challenges to women's equality. The League of *Women* Voters has its roots in the latter—and we know limits to the rights of women can affect everyone.

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PO Box 965, Chico, CA 95927

[www.lwvbuttecounty.org](http://www.lwvbuttecounty.org)

(530) 895-VOTE (8683)

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Locally, as we shift our focus from electoral politics, we will find ways to lift up voices that speak to more local concerns. We encourage you to volunteer to help our League educate our communities about concerns such as health care, housing, criminal justice, redistricting, and environmental concerns. We will be happy to connect you with League members working in each of these areas.

To learn more, email [presidentlwvbutte@gmail.com](mailto:presidentlwvbutte@gmail.com).

*Janet Rechtman & Satsie Veith*, Co-Presidents

## How to Deal with Election Misinformation

Yes, it's out there. Perhaps you, like me, have had conversations with friends or family who are wondering about certain internet-bred rumors. What to do?

**Get the facts.** Here, for example, is a link to a CBS news article, one of many fact-checks available online: [Analysis: Election Conspiracies Persist](#), 11/20/2024, by David Becker of CBS News.

*For those who work in elections, and particularly the election officials around the country—public servants of both parties—these [election conspiracy] claims are familiar, and [exhausting](#). And to be clear, these claims are false on their face.*

**Be sure your source is reliable:** From [LWVUS Blog: The Essentials of Fact-Checking](#): Know Your News.

*Any news source with credibility, integrity, and*

*accuracy relies on facts. In a time where not all news is based in truth, it's crucial to grasp the basics of fact-checking when consuming media.*

**Respond** in a way that stops the mis/disinformation from spreading: From the [LWVUS blog Your Guide to Mis- and Disinformation](#).

*Once you've spotted inaccurate information, follow these tips to keep it from spreading (and get it removed).*

1. **Don't engage:** *It may be tempting to comment on an inaccurate Facebook post about how wrong it is, or to click on it to read all of the writer's claims, but don't! Every like, click, share, and comment contributes to the piece's rate of engagement, which tells whatever website you're on that it's good content that they should show to more people. Many outlets take advantage of this, posting headlines that they know will have you firing back a response – because good or bad, that response will promote their piece.*
2. **Share correct information:** *For every incorrect piece of info you see or hear, try to share one that's correct. Instead of creating further discourse around something you don't want people to hear, get people talking about what you do want them to hear.*
3. **Report when needed:** *Whenever you see disinformation online, report it to [ReportDisinfo.org](#). You can also report most social media posts to the platforms themselves.*

—Satsie Veith



**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

**Wednesday, December 11**

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

**3:00-6:00 pm**      **635 Flume Street, Chico**

## Reflecting on the Election: We Will Speak Up and Speak Out

*From LWVUS President Diana Wynn, Nov. 14, 2024*

Last week, the 2024 presidential election was decided. Donald Trump will again become President of the United States. He won both the Electoral College and the popular vote, and when that happens, it means the voters have spoken.

Like you, we are still processing the implications of this election. Thanks to the tireless efforts of election workers and other democracy defenders, the election worked in many positive ways. Voter turnout was the [second highest it's been in the past century](#), eclipsed only by the 2020 election.

We know how hard League members worked to empower voters in this election, alongside other activists in pro-democracy and civil rights spaces. The success of the democratic process is a testament to their tireless efforts. As LWV's CEO Celina Stewart, Esq., and I said in our [joint statement](#) on November 6, "We are thankful to Leagues across the country ... as well as every election worker and democracy defender who guaranteed our fair and free voting process."

### **We Are Concerned for the Futures of Women, Communities of Color, the LGBTQIA+ Community, and Our Nation's Immigrants**

We are proud of the League's work this election to empower voters and protect voting rights. However, we are deeply concerned for the future of women in the United States — as well as LGBTQIA+, Black, brown, and immigrant communities.

We have reason to be concerned considering Mr. Trump's past actions in office, promises made, and the tinge of sexism and racism throughout the campaign.

### **Our Concern Is Nonpartisan**

The League does not endorse candidates, but we have always engaged in political advocacy. The election is now over, and those who were elected are no longer candidates. As a nonpartisan organization, the League has every right to call out statements, actions, and policies that are counter to our values and principles.

The League is an expert in nonpartisanship with over a century of experience in pro-democracy work. Navigating through a hyper-partisan political

environment in a nonpartisan manner can be confusing to some. Despite what political parties may have you believe, issues are not inherently partisan. Of course, political parties take partisan positions on issues. But that does not alter the League's nonpartisan approach.

*Advocating for gender and racial equity is not partisan. Calling out attacks on democracy is not partisan. After all, our mission is to "defend democracy." We cannot live up to our mission if we are unwilling to speak up and speak out. [emphasis added]*

### **Women's Equality Is Not Partisan**

Support for women's equality is nonpartisan. Our belief in the rights of women is not derived from a specific candidate or party. Nobody — Democrat, Republican, or other — has an exclusive claim on equality.

The League has stood for the political rights and representation of women for over a century, and in that time, political support and public opinion around issues like suffrage, abortion, workplace discrimination, maternal rights, and more have evolved and shifted. Yet, we have always stood firm in our values.

Our concern for and commitment to women's empowerment is grounded in our core values. To claim this commitment is partisan is to belittle — and seek to silence — us.

[CLICK [HERE](#) FOR THE FULL STATEMENT.]

## Spotlight on California's Attempt to Reduce Plastic Waste and Pollution

What is CA SB 54, aka "The Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act"?

This question was answered at a Nov. 18, 2024, Zoom Webinar (link below) hosted by the LWVC Food, Soil, and Agriculture interest group.

According to presenter Michelle Fay of [StopWaste](#), this law "is the most ambitious plastic pollution prevention law in the world." Passed in 2022, it "aims to fix many of the longstanding concerns that we've been having around the volume of packaging, the

volume of plastic in our lives, and the responsibility of meeting all these ambitious goals... falls no longer on us as consumers but more so on the producers.”

SB 54 is intended to:

1. Reduce the volume of plastic and other packaging,
2. Increase recycling,
3. Shift packaging pollution responsibility to producers,
4. Provide clarity and consistency for consumers
5. Stimulate investment in reuse and refill systems,
6. Fund clean-up efforts in disadvantaged communities.

Currently, only about 5% of single-use plastic used in California for packaging and food ware is recycled.

If SB 54 is implemented as intended, by 2032:

1. All single-use packaging and plastic single-use food ware will be recyclable or compostable.
2. 65% of single-use packaging and food ware will be recycled.
3. 25% of single-use plastic packaging will be reduced by weight and components.

Click [HERE](#) to view the full presentation. You will be asked to enter this passcode: \*K74vqdC

—Satsie Veith

### In Memoriam

Two of our long serving and deeply committed members have died recently. Both Mary Kowta and Jim Gregg were active members of LWVBC for decades. They served in many League positions, and they will always be missed.

**Mary M. Kowta**



Mary was a pleasure. Her good spirits and welcoming nature made every League task a bit easier. She said “yes” often and could be found working on local action studies, helping with forums, and participating in the Wine Tasting fundraiser. Mary and Mark were a team with the League as they were in life. Thank you, Mary, for being such an asset to the League of Women Voters and for being our friend.

**James E. Gregg**



Jim and Lyla Gregg were foundational members of LWVBC. Jim generously donated his esteemed photography to the auction at our annual Wine Tasting fundraiser. He was our go-to resource for information on legislative issues and elections. He brought his statewide experience to understanding ballot measures. Carol Burr described Jim and Lyla as a dynamite team who gave generously to the community.

We will miss Mary and Jim. They gave generously of their time and expertise to the League, and we are grateful.

—Margaret Swick



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**

**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
Mahalley Allen	Secretary
Toni Reid	Director Natural Resources
Janet Rechtman	Director Social Policy
Caroline Langen	Director Observer Corps
Corky LeTellier	Director Communications
<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 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. The agenda is posted on the website and you can contact us for the zoom link.

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.