





LWV Voter

February 2022

Dear League Members and Friends,

Thanks to all who responded to our Membership Survey. We emailed you the results in December, and have included them with this newsletter (*see second attachment in email*). From the responses to what our League should work on over the next two years, there was the most support for:

-  Voting Rights
-  Protecting Election Results
-  Climate Change and Water
-  Housing/Homelessness

We have a great program in the pipeline on the Myths and Realities about Housing and Homelessness and a [Butte County Water Program on Thursday, March 3, at 7 PM, via Zoom](#). Details will be posted on [Facebook](#) and our [web site](#). Nothing is more basic to the League, or to our democracy, than voting rights and protecting election results. We will be focusing our efforts there as well.

Thank you to Social Policy Director Janet Rechtman for suggesting this quote from [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) from his speech given at a rally to urge enforcement of Brown v. Board of Education at the Lincoln Memorial on May 15, 1957:

"Give us the ballot, and we will no longer have to worry the federal government about our basic rights.

Give us the ballot, and we will no longer plead to the federal government for passage of an anti-lynching law; we will by the power of our vote write the law on the statute books of the South and bring an end to the dastardly acts of the hooded perpetrators of violence.

Give us the ballot, and we will transform the salient misdeeds of bloodthirsty mobs into the calculated good deeds of orderly citizens."

Sincerely,

Satsie Veith

LWVBC President

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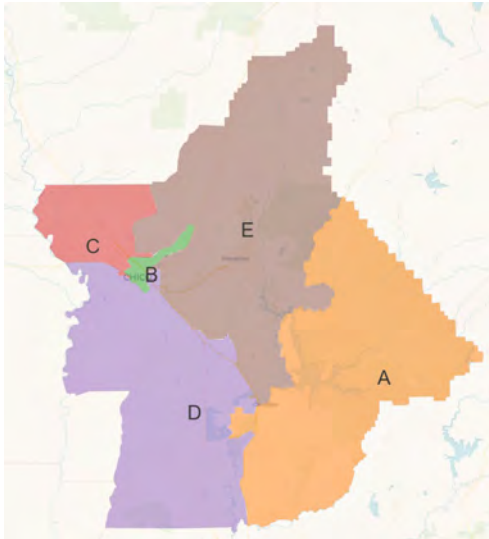
 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF BUTTE COUNTY (CA)

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Local Redistricting Roundup

Butte County Board of Supervisors

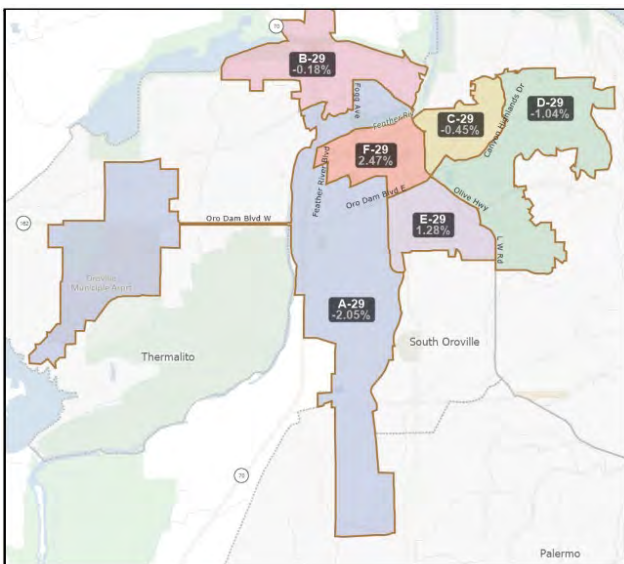
On December 14, 2021, the Board voted 3-2 to select [this map](#) for supervisor districts based on the 2020 Census.



Opponents, claiming the map violates the California Fair Maps Act prohibition on partisan gerrymandering (see CA Elections Code [S. 21500\(d\)](#)), began a [referendum](#) to block the map; however, they [failed to gather enough signatures](#). It is unclear what further actions opponents may take. Elections will take place for Districts Two and Three during the June primary.

Oroville City Council

The Council approved [a new map](#) on January 6, 2022. The vote was 5 yes, 1 abstention, and 1 absent. See the Chico Enterprise-Record story [here](#).



Chico City Council

The City has hired [a redistricting consultant](#), but no public outreach events have as yet been scheduled. The deadline to complete the process is April 15. Elections for some council districts will be held in November.

Chico Unified School District

According to their [current schedule](#), the CUSD Board will vote on a map on February 2 or 16.

Did You Know that You Are a Deferred Voter?

If you have been looking forward to voting for the California State Senator this year, sorry! Even though we last elected a state senator in 2018, Butte County voters will need to wait an extra two years - until 2024.

This is because, as part of redistricting following the 2020 Census, Butte County will be shifted from an even-numbered senate district (4) to an odd-numbered district (1). Odd-numbered districts will not vote until 2024. And, after December 31, 2022, we will no longer be in Senate District 4.

This happens every time there is redistricting of districts with staggered elections. The expectation is that the California State Senate Rules Committee will appoint someone to “provide appropriate constituent services” to the voters who have fallen between the cracks (so to speak) for the two years before we get to choose a senator of our own.



For more information, see this LWVC flyer on [“Deferred and Accelerated Voters.”](#)

In LWVBC'S recent member survey, the top three issues were voting rights, climate change and water, and housing and homelessness. Taken together, these three issues are a perfect illustration of the League's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

The case of [Warren vs. Chico](#) is a case in point. In recent years, challenges related to housing and homelessness have featured strongly in our communities. Among other concerns were the proliferation of encampments occupied by homeless people along Chico's waterways and in public spaces, a direct connection to the issues of water. Further, studies suggest that a significant number of the people in these encampments were displaced by wildfire, a connection to climate change.



Read articles by Natalie Hanson, Chico ER/Mercury-Register Reporter

These concerns (among others) led the Chico City Council to a strong push for "enforcement" – forcibly relocating the people and their encampments away from fragile ecosystems. Opponents of the enforcement-only approach called for a humane approach to meeting the needs of homeless persons, urging their elected officials to offer safe, clean, appropriate and secure shelter for people living in the encampments. Advocates offered countless times to provide porta potties and trash bins - even at their own cost -- and the City Council repeatedly refused. This, in turn, led to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit was settled last week in favor of homeless persons: the Judge ruled that Chico's enforcement ordinances were unconstitutional. Settlement of the suit requires the City Council to provide a more robust system of support for homeless persons and advance notice before relocation of the people and their encampments. The City will be under the Judge's monitoring for five years to ensure compliance.

Our democracy assumes that voters as well as elected and appointed officials make decisions in good faith. While there will almost always be disagreement about those decisions, responsible citizens are obligated to abide by the rule of law; to work diligently to elect candidates they prefer; and/or organize a formal or informal challenge to illustrate these preferences.

Good faith government insists that the right to vote be available and utilized by all qualified residents, that there is transparency and clarity about (right and/or wrong-headed) government decisions, and, finally, that democracy is a dialogue, not a war of words.

The notion of good faith government is the heartbeat of the mission of the League of Women Voters: **empowering voters – defending democracy.**

The LWV Butte County social policy committee will be focusing on issues related to housing and homelessness over the next 18 months. We will start this spring with a program focused on "Myths And Reality Of Housing And Homelessness."

If you would like to be part of the committee, please contact drjr@uga.edu. Meanwhile, watch the newsletter for further details about these programs that are clearly important to our League membership as well as our community.

By Janet Rechtman
Director of Social Policy

RECUSAL RULES: When Must a California Public Official Recuse because of a Financial Conflict of Interest?

WHAT IS THE LAW AND WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

Conflict of interest laws are part of the [Political Reform Act](#), originally passed in 1974 as [Proposition 9](#). The Act also enacted other anti-corruption measures and created the [Fair Political Practices Commission \(FPPC\)](#), an independent commission charged with enforcing the Act.

WHAT IS THE BASIC RULE?

“No public official at any level of state or local government shall make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use his(her) official position to influence a governmental decision in which he(she) knows or has reason to know he(she) has a financial interest.”
([Gov. Code § 87100](#))

WHO IS A PUBLIC OFFICIAL?

“[E]very member, officer, employee or consultant of a state or local government agency.” (Note: Judicial recusal is covered by different rules.)
([Gov. Code § 82048](#))

WHEN DOES A PUBLIC OFFICIAL HAVE A “FINANCIAL INTEREST” IN A GOVERNMENT DECISION?

When “it is reasonably foreseeable that the decision will have a material financial effect, distinguishable from its effect on the public generally, on the official, a member of his or her immediate family, or on any of the following: ... [there follows a list of “financial interests”].
([Gov. Code § 87103](#))

So, if you are a public official tasked with making a decision on a matter with a potential financial impact, you may need to ask yourself:

- Do I have a direct economic interest in this decision?
- If so, is it a material (significant financial) interest?
- If so, is it reasonably foreseeable that this decision could have a material effect on my economic interest?
- If so, is that effect distinguishable from the effect on the public generally?

[Based on slides 16 and 17 of [Institute of Local Government presentation](#).]

[FPPC regulations](#) define concepts such as “[reasonably foreseeable](#),” “[materiality](#),” and “[effect on the public generally](#).”



For more context, see also the FPPC’s [Recognizing Conflicts of Interest](#) and Chapter 2 of ILG’s [Understanding the Basics of Public Service Ethics](#).

WHAT MUST A PUBLIC OFFICIAL WITH A CONFLICT DO (AND NOT DO)?

[Some types of officials](#), such as those who serve a board of supervisors, city council, or planning commission, [are required to do the following](#) when the matter comes up for discussion or vote:

- Publicly identify the nature of the conflict;
- Recuse from discussing and voting on the matter;
- Leave the room until after the discussion or vote on the matter is concluded (unless it is on the consent agenda).

AFTER RECUSING, MAY THE OFFICIAL SPEAK ABOUT THE ISSUE ALONG WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC?

Only if the financial interest is “personal”, that is, it involves only the official and/or immediate family members. See FPPC Regulation [18704\(d\)\(2\)](#).

CAN A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC ATTEMPT TO INITIATE AN ENFORCEMENT ACTION IF S/HE BELIEVES AN OFFICIAL HAS VIOLATED THESE RULES?

Yes. S/he can [file a complaint with the Fair Political Practices Commission](#). If, after investigation, the FPPC decides the complaint has merit, it may choose from a range of actions, from a warning letter to a civil lawsuit.



California
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL PENALTIES?

Yes, including [conviction for a misdemeanor](#) and [removal from office](#) in California.

Some Fun Recall Facts

As reported in the November 2021 [LWVBC Voter](#), LWV of California is considering whether or not to advocate for reform of the current California recall rules. Here are some **fun recall facts** to consider:

Nationwide in 2021

- **537** officials were targeted by recall attempts - up from 301 in 2020 and 233 in 2019.
- **131** were in California.
- **237** officials were serving on a school board.
- **367** recall attempts failed to make the ballot.
- **25** succeeded in removing the official by ballot
- **19** officials resigned after a recall was filed.

The above facts and more can be found on [Ballotpedia](#).

How many signatures are required on a petition to recall a Governor?

- Alaska: 25% of last votes cast for the office
- Arizona: 25% of last votes cast for the office
- California: 12% of last votes cast for the office
- Colorado: 25% of last votes cast for the office
- Georgia: 15% of eligible voters at last election
- Idaho: 20% of eligible voters at last election
- Illinois: 15% of last votes cast for governor in each of at least 25 counties, plus 20 members of the House and 10 members of the Senate, no more than half from one party
- Kansas: 40% of last votes cast for the office
- Louisiana: 33.3% of eligible voters for office at last election
- Michigan: 25% of last votes cast for the office
- Minnesota: 25% of last votes cast for the office
- Montana: 10% of eligible voters for the office at the last election
- Nevada: 25% of last votes cast for the office
- New Jersey: 25% of registered voters
- North Dakota: 25% of last votes cast for the office
- Oregon: 15% of all votes cast for governor in last general election
- Rhode Island: 15% of last votes cast for the office
- Virginia: 10% of last votes cast for the office to get a trial in state court

- Washington: 25% of last votes cast for the office
- Wisconsin: 25% of all votes cast for governor in last general election

How do California's gubernatorial recall rules compare with other states?

- **40** states allow recall of at least some officials.
- **20** states provide for some form of recall of the Governor- 19 by election, 1 by court trial.

If the Governor is recalled, how is a successor chosen?

- **7 States: Election on the Same Ballot:** Arizona, California, Colorado, Michigan, Nevada, North Dakota, Wisconsin
- **2 States: Separate Special Election:** Georgia, Illinois
- **1 State: Appointment:** Virginia
- **9 States: Lieutenant governor takes over:** Alaska, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington

The above facts and more can be found on [Ballotpedia](#).

Pro's and Con's of Recall Reform

While some commentators point out that California's rules may make it too easy for voters to remove, for instance, a governor who has broad public support, others defend the importance of the recall as a tool of direct democracy or point to the possibility that reforms made now might benefit the political party currently in control of state politics.

Here are some links to articles presenting different viewpoints:

- [CA Recall: There's a Method to What Looks Like Madness](#) – Raphael J. Sonenshein, CSU, Los Angeles
- [CA Secretary of State Shirley Weber on Problems with Current Recall Rules](#) – capradio.org
- [Efforts to Recall Governors Common, But Rarely Succeed](#) – npr.org
- [Are Recall System Changes Reforms or Power Grab?](#) – Dan Walters on calmatters.org

By Satsie Veith
LWVBC President





VOTER'S EDGE CALIFORNIA COUNTY COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION



DUTIES INCLUDE:

Engage with your County's Elections Office

- Develop a working relationship with staff in your county's elections office in order to request candidate contact lists and ballot measure information; and
- Encourage your elections office to promote VEC on their website.

Collaborate with your Local League(s)

- Coordinate with local Leagues to draft and approve candidate questions;
- Facilitate integration of VEC into your League's Voter Service strategies;
- Enter League produced content in VEC, such as local *Pros & Cons*, and videos of candidate forums and/or *Pros & Cons* presentations; and
- Promote VEC at candidate forums, *Pros & Cons* presentations, and in meetings of community groups.

Support your Local Candidates

- Invite candidates to participate;
- Follow up with those candidates via phone and email to make sure they received the invitation, know how to proceed, and to encourage them to participate in VEC; and
- Read and determine whether the candidate submissions have not abused the terms of participation, then approve/reject candidate submissions.

Discover Sources to Keep Voters Informed

- Add official ballot measure data to the site;
- Post information about candidate and elections events sponsored by your League and other community organizations; and
- Link to relevant news articles, and other value added elections content.

Manage a Team in your County

County Coordinators (CoCos) are responsible for the jobs described above. CoCos may build a team of Local Coordinators (LoCos) and are responsible for managing LoCos' work. The duties of a LoCo is to help the team with the tasks listed above. CoCos should be comfortable enough with their computer skills to monitor and enter data when necessary. Plenty of training will be provided! You can structure the workload to suit you and your team, and divvy it up in a variety of ways. For example, one person can do the candidate outreach and another work on data entry. Or one person can send out the initial letters of invitation, another manage ballot measures, another make the follow-up calls to the candidates, etcetera.

Time Commitment

The amount of time the job takes depends on the particular election, the number of contests and candidates in your League's territory, and the candidates' responsiveness. It is hard to quantify, but other volunteers attest that the work is deeply rewarding and they are able to get much of it done in off hours. Most of the work will occur from March through June and then again from August through November.

Training is planned for February and March, in advance of the June 2022 Primary.

**Want to join us? Let your local League know you're interested
and email Jane Wanderer at ca-bt@votersedge.org.**

SAVE THE DATE!!

MARCH 3, 2022 at 7:00 pm

ZOOM MEETING – Details will be posted on our Facebook and League website

The LWV of Butte County Natural Resources Committee will be presenting a program on Butte County's water history and current usage. Please join us to discover:

Where does YOUR water come from?

How is it distributed?

Why does it matter?

Hope to see you there. Click below to check out our Facebook (will be listed under Events) and web site (will be listed under Calendar) for Zoom details.



“Our children should learn the general framework of their government and then they should know where they come in contact with the government, where it touches their daily lives and where their influence is exerted on the government. It must not be a distant thing, someone else’s business, but they must see how every cog in the wheel of a democracy is important and bears its share of responsibility for the smooth running of the entire machine.”

Eleanor Roosevelt




Member of the League of Women Voters



LWVBC Membership

Membership dues for the Butte County League of Women Voters should be paid by January 31, 2022. If you have not paid your dues, please do so now in order to avoid being dropped from our membership roster.

Dues paid now will cover your League membership for 2022. Dues have not changed since last year:

-  Individual member: \$75
-  Household: \$125
-  Student: \$15


LWVBC is assessed \$32 per member to the LWVUS and \$28 to the LWV of California. This leaves \$15 per individual members and \$5 for household for local LWV efforts.


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 many activities scheduled and will of course be involved in Voters Forums the spring.

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

RENEWAL OPTIONS:

 Paying on our website:
<https://league-of-voters-of-butte-county.square.site>

 Mailing a check payable to LWV OF BUTTECOUNTY to:

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

Thank you for your ongoing support of the League's activities. We could not do it without you.

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 \$ _____

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 _____

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



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**

2021-22 LWVBC Board Members

Satsie Veith	President
Claire Greene	1st VP - Voter Service
Roxanne Ferry	2nd VP - Membership
Sandra Flake	Treasurer
Mahalley Allen	Secretary
Lori Fuentes	Director Communications
Toni Reid	Director Natural Resources
Patty Haley	Director Voter Registration
Janet Rechtman	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

Please contact the League office if you are interested in becoming a member of the Board.

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 of 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 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.