

LWV[®] Voter

November 2020

Dear League Members & Friends,

During the upcoming North Valley Week of Giving, **December 1-7**, please consider supporting the League of Women Voters of Butte County. During these challenging and divisive times, it is important that we all support a voice for nonpartisanship and an informed citizenry. That voice is the League of Women Voters, which just celebrated 100 years of effort on behalf of our democracy across the nation. Established in 1945 in Chico and then expanded to Butte County in 1966, our local League focuses primarily on local and state politics, although we share the perspectives and positions of our national organization.

Local politics matter, and it is the place where each of us can really see how our votes affect us and our communities. As a member of the LWVBC, I have had opportunities to participate in informing voters about state and local issues, all in a non-partisan way. When helping new voters learn how to let their voices be heard, I feel I am fully participating in the democratic process—in addition to casting my own vote.

There are only a few places where you can get complete, accurate information on voting and candidates, and the League of Women Voters of Butte County leads in this area, hosting candidate and issues forums, providing candidate submitted profiles, and supporting voter registration and engagement.

So, how can you help defend democracy? Help us reach out to others to make a tax-deductible donation to the League of Women Voters of Butte County Education Fund at the North Valley Community Foundation at this link:



<https://nvcf.org/nvweekofgiving/league-of-women-voters-of-butte-county-education-fund>

Despite the disruptions and uncertainties that we continue to face, we remain resilient and I am confident, united we will emerge stronger and wiser. Please accept my heartfelt thanks.

Yours in Making Democracy Work,
Debra Barger
President

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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
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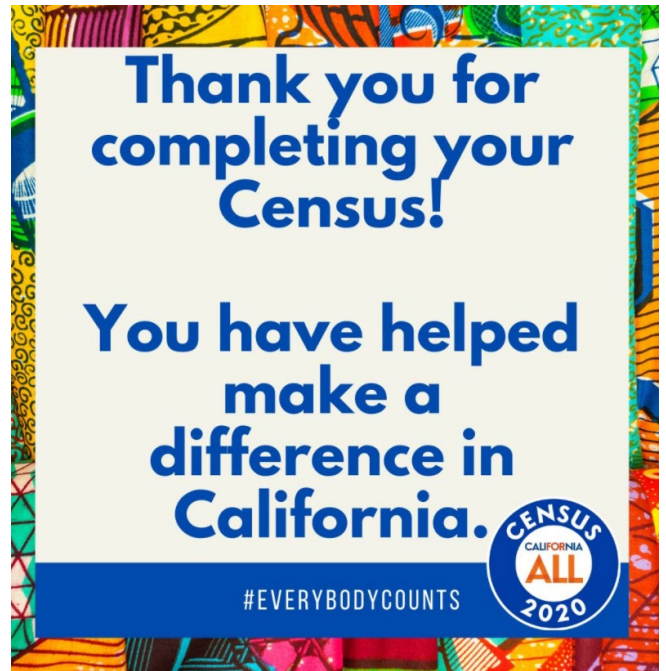
Census Phone Bank Efforts a Success

The LWVBC partnered with the North Valley Community Foundation and the Complete Count Census Committee to make calls to two historically difficult to count census tracts in the Chico area. Both tracts have a lot of apartments and households with unrelated people. Since the pandemic restrictions in March, there has been much movement. Our purpose was to reach out to these people and convince them to complete their census using their April 1, 2020 residence information.

There were 16 dedicated callers: Susan Kehm, Satsie Veith, Debra Barger, Toni Reid, Merilee Meuter, Roxanne Ferry, Caroline Langen, Sandra Flake, Maureen Kirk, Cindy Triffo, Mary Jensen, Patty Haley, and William Haley. After Debra made a Census presentation to AAUW, we added three more callers to the team, Katy Azevedo, Jack Azevedo, and Cindy Wolff.

A total of 1,676 calls were made of which 332 had already completed census, 652 messages were left, 408 bad phone numbers, 107 do not calls, 91 no answer / no answering machine, and 39 mailboxes were full. There were also many duplicate phone numbers.

The census deadlines changed from October 31 to September 30 and again to October 16. Still at issue is whether undocumented persons will be counted. Oral arguments will be heard at the Supreme Court on November 30.



Our calls were made to ensure our county is not undercounted and therefore deprived of the resources and political representation we rightly deserve. A few statistics to ponder: The national self-response rate is 67%, California self-response rate is 69.6% and Butte County self-response rate is 55.2%. Alameda, Orange, and Santa Clara counties have a response rate just over 75%. The US Census Bureau reported 99.9% total response rate with their Non-response Follow-up.

I would like to extend a big thank you to all of the callers. It was not a difficult job but somewhat tedious to make calls and chart the results. Our hope is that we made a difference.



The “Golden Telephone” award goes to Roxanne Ferry for her dedication and the most calls completed.



Marilee Meuter was not far behind and deserves the “Silver Telephone.”

Thanks to all who participated.

*Submitted by Maureen Kirk
Director, Government*

LWVBC Election Night Observers

With much national discussion about election security, one might be curious regarding the whole ballot counting process. And, so it happened, that on election night, three of us were actually fortunate enough to be observers of that very process at the Butte County's Hall of Records in Oroville.

League members, Sandy Shepard, Caroline Langen and Satsie Veith, were treated a little bit like visiting royalty by various members of Candace Grubbs' very enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff. They led us along the Hall's lower corridors, which are flanked by windows big enough to be able to clearly view the various machines, tables, and desks of the entire complex operation. And they spent time with us to explain the details and processes of ballot counting.



There are several steps to complete that the ballot counting process. Did you know that, when they arrive, the ballots are counted three times? Once manually, and twice by machine. Did you realize that the Hall of Records has a computer record of all the signatures you have used on documents over the years? So, after counting the ballots, the signature on each ballot envelope is matched against those on file to determine its authenticity.

What was quite impressive was how, in spite of very long lines during the day, by 8PM on Election night, the very efficient staff had processed ALL the ballots that had been submitted and received by mail, from Voter Assistance Centers, and from official ballot drop boxes. No ballots were uncounted until shortly before 9PM when over a thousand ballots arrived from the Chico Library. Then the machines began rumbling again. Candace Grubbs even took time to hand us copies of the first tally—even before giving it to the TV news reporter!

Certainly, this was not the boring task that we had anticipated, rather a wonderful opportunity to observe our democracy at work! Many thanks to those who worked diligently to complete this very important work.

*Submitted by Sandy Shepard
League Member*

League Taxes Filed

The League of Women Voters for Butte County's 2019-2020 tax return has been filed.

A copy is available in the League Office for any League member who is interested in reviewing the documents. To schedule a time to review the returns, please contact our League Treasurer:

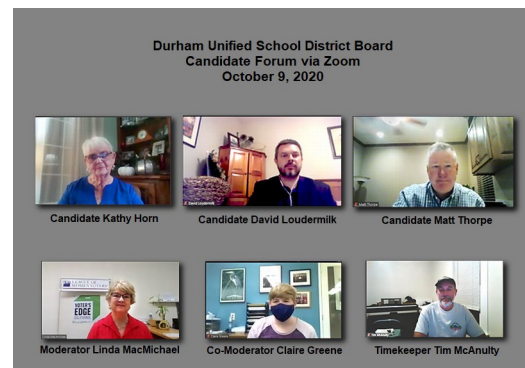
Sandra Flake a
smflake1@gmail.com or
530-514-1001



Candidate Forums Report

The League of Women Voters of Butte County conducted candidate forums for candidate races in Chico, Paradise, Durham, Gridley, Biggs, and Oroville. All these forums were held via Zoom webinars utilizing a purchased license. The public was invited to attend each forum, but it was determined that “live” questions during a forum would be too distracting to the candidates. Also, any questions asked “live” could not have been screened in the traditional way the League has done for in-person forums. Forum questions were solicited from the public in advance. The public was directed to send their questions to our League Gmail address

(lwvbutte@gmail.com). We received fewer questions than we anticipated, most likely due to the new format for the forums and the method of question gathering.



The forums were recorded and later [posted on the League’s website](#) and our [Facebook page](#). The Chico City Council race was not conducted as a forum, but was a series of individual interviews with each of the candidates, during which each candidate was permitted an opening and closing statement, were each asked the same ten questions to which they had one minute to respond to each question. This was done because of the high number (10) of candidates for the Chico City Council race.

The Paradise Town Council also had a high number (13) of candidates. The Paradise Chamber of Commerce decided to interview the Town Council candidates and sought the League’s guidance on forum procedures and nonpartisanship.

LWVBC also collaborated with the LWV of Western Nevada County and the Redding Area to support LWVWNV’s hosting of the Congressional District 1 Forum.

Not every candidate was available to attend the forums, which is normal even in “regular” forum years. However, the events of 2020 (pandemic and regional fires) upended people’s lives in additional ways and created new “obstacles.” Despite the unprecedented year, reception of the virtual forums from the candidates and the general public was positive. The [Chico Enterprise Record](#) even listed the League efforts as a “**Hit**” on October 17, 2020:

HIT — As tough as it was to shift while doing a dozen other things, the League of Women Voters of Butte County gets an A-plus for transforming their candidate forum events. Having worked for years with the league, we know the challenge grows at election time, from reaching out to all the candidates to securing a fair place for the forums to be. Every election, the league has managed to pull off some amazing forums that give the public a chance to really see and interact with those running for office. But add COVID and scheduling, questions and interactions get horribly complex. Democracy in action, the league came through again, hosting almost a dozen candidate forums on its website, while allowing the public to submit questions in advance. It may even be better this way because the recorded forums are still on the league’s website <https://my.lwv.org/california/butte-county> and can be viewed anytime. Shout outs go to the Chico and Paradise chambers for their roles in candidate events, which are on their websites too. More information is available this year on the candidates than in any in the past that we can remember.

Submitted by Claire Greene
First Vice President



Reflection on the 2020 Election

The election is over, the vote is in, and on we go. I am still getting used to the fact that the Election is over. After, literally, years of candidate and country preparation, build-up, listening to ads, seeing posters everywhere, reading emails, and more . . . it's over. Nonetheless, now is the time for a bit of reflection as well as gratitude to everyone who helped with tabling at the Farmers Market, served at Voter Assistance Centers, and a myriad of other ways so many contributed to the process of this election. *Thank you all!*



I heard many poignant stories from League volunteers at the Voter Assistance Centers (VAC). My favorites include a mom and dad bringing their little ones to the VAC and allowing the children to drop the ballots in the box, smiles all over their faces. Another one involved a child about 9-years-old who shared his extensive knowledge of the election. He was quite proud of himself. Clearly his parents had taken the time to explain the importance of the process and the duty to vote. Then there were moms taking pictures of their children voting for the first time as they dropped ballots into the box, big grins on their faces! Another mother shared, as she “dragged” her daughter in, that her daughter was somewhat reluctant. However, when they came back out after voting in-person, the daughter was beaming. These are just a few of the examples people shared with me of their experiences at a VAC. Yes, there were a few rude folks, indignant at being asked to remove their blatant election gear, but those were few and far between. For the most part, I think we all felt honored and grateful to have the opportunity to contribute to this sacred event in our country.

*Patty Haley
Director, Voter Registration*

Join our Virtual Holiday Happy Hour Thursday, Dec. 3

We have much to be grateful for as 2020 comes to a close! We want to connect with our members during this holiday season and hope you will join the League Board from **4-6pm on December 3** for the LWVBC **Virtual Happy Hour**. We will email you a Zoom invitation in the next couple weeks—we hope you will be able to drop in for a tad to toast the work of the League BYOB. For a little blast from the past, perhaps you might like to whip up some treats to enjoy from the great LWVBC Winetasting events that have been shared over 35 years. Below are two tasty traditions to tempt your tastebuds.

Gourmet Mushrooms

- 4 lbs mushrooms
- 1 tsp ground pepper
- 1 lb butter
- 2 small cloves garlic, minced
- 1 bottle Burgundy wine
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 ½ Tbsp Worcestershire Sauce
- 3 beef bouillon cubes
- 3 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1 tsp dill seed



Combine all ingredients in large pan. Bring to a slow boil on medium heat; reduce to simmer. Cook 5 hours with pot covered. Remove lid and cook until liquid barely covers mushrooms. Allow to cool. Mushrooms remain firm and turn very dark.

Red Pepper-Walnut Paste

- 2 heaping cups lightly toasted walnuts
- 2 to 3 cloves of garlic
- 1 Tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons cider vinegar
- 3 Tablespoons of fresh lemon juice
- ¼ teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 ¼ teaspoons salt (or to taste)
- 4 medium sized red bell peppers, roasted
- Black pepper or cayenne to taste and peeled
- 4 Bags of crostini

Place walnuts & garlic cloves in a food processor until finely ground, but not to a paste. Seed peppers; cut into chunks, add to the walnuts with vinegar, lemon juice, cumin and honey. Process to a smooth paste, then transfer to a bowl. Season to taste with salt, pepper, and cayenne. Cover tightly and store in the refrigerator. Serve with crostinis or fresh veggies.



Membership Renewal

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



This is a good time to renew your membership with the League of Women Voters of Butte County. Only 61 of our members have paid their dues for 2021—this is less than half our membership. As a reminder, fees are \$75 for an individual or \$125 for a household. Please submit your renewal by:

Envelope—An envelope to submit your dues payment was included with the Voter that we mailed in September. Make your check payable to **LWV of Butte County**. Mail your check and the form to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BUTTE COUNTY
P.O. BOX965
CHICO, CA 95927-0941

Website—If you cannot find the envelope or prefer to pay online, you can pay for your dues on our website. From the following link, you can print off a membership form or even renew online. The membership form makes it easy to contribute to the LWV Butte County to help us cover League expenses—especially important during this time of Covid-19 when we cannot have our usual fundraising events.

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

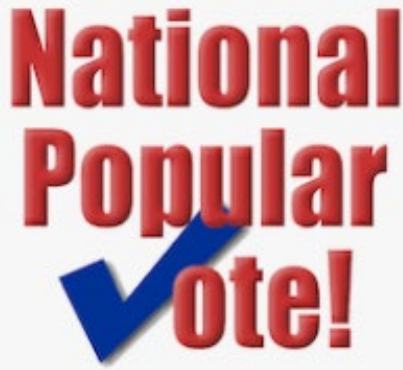


Also, please consider making an additional gift of \$15 towards a student membership or someone in your family whose interest has been piqued by the recent election. The League would be excited to see an influx of new members—our membership does matter!



National Popular Vote “270 in 2024”

The National Popular Vote compact is a state-based approach that retains the power of the states to control how the President is elected, retains state control of elections, and retains the Electoral College. The National Popular Vote bill will guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.



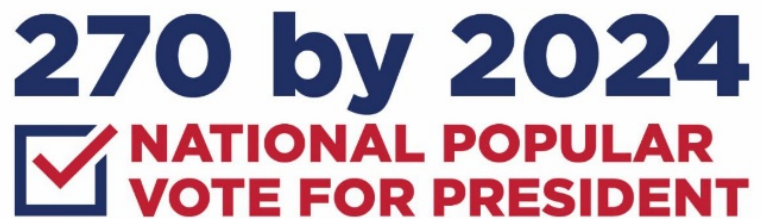
Since 2006, the National Popular Vote bill has been enacted by 15 states and the District of Columbia (together possessing 196 electoral votes), including 4 small states (DE, HI, RI, VT), 8 medium-sized states (CO, CT, MD, MA, NJ, NM, OR, WA), and 3 big states (CA, IL, NY). The bill will take effect when enacted by states with 74 more electoral votes (for a total of 270 out of 538).

The U.S. Constitution (Article II) gives states exclusive control over awarding their electoral votes: “Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors...”

The shortcomings of the current system stem from state “winner-take-all” laws that award all of a state’s electoral votes to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in each state. The winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes is not in the U.S. Constitution. It was not debated at the 1787 Constitutional Convention. It was not mentioned in the Federalist Papers. It was used by only three states in the first presidential election in 1789 (and all three repealed it by 1800).

Because of these state winner-take-all laws, presidential candidates ignore states where they are safely ahead or hopelessly behind. State winner-take-all laws have enabled 5 of our 45 Presidents to come into office without winning the most popular votes nationwide.

The National Popular Vote interstate compact will go into effect when enacted by states with a majority of the presidential electors—that is, 270 of 538.



After the compact comes into effect, every voter in all 50 states and DC will acquire a direct vote in the choice of all of the presidential electors from all of the states that enacted the compact. The presidential candidate supported by the most voters in all 50 states and DC will thereby win a majority of the presidential electors in the Electoral College (at least 270), and therefore become President.

For additional NPV information, see Every Vote Equal: A State-Based Plan for Electing the President by National Popular Vote. LWV remains committed to NPV.

(downloadable for free at www.NationalPopularVote.com)

*Submitted by Debra Barger
President*





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



<https://nvcf.org/nvweekofgiving/league-of-women-voters-of-butte-county-education-fund>

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

2020-21 LWVB Board Members

<u>Debra Barger</u>	President
<u>Claire Greene</u>	1st VP Voter Service
<u>Roxanne Ferry</u>	2nd VP Membership
<u>Sandra Flake</u>	Treasurer
<u>Mahalley Allen</u>	Secretary
<u>Vacant</u>	Director Assistant Voter Service
<u>Lori Fuentes</u>	Director Communications
<u>Satsie Veith</u>	Director Countywide Liaison
<u>Maureen Kirk</u>	Director Government
<u>Toni Reid</u>	Director Observer Corps
<u>Patty Haley</u>	Director Voter Registration
<u>Vacant</u>	Director Natural Resources
<u>Vacant</u>	Director Social Policy

Underline indicates email link

LWVBC'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 Barger 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 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.