

LWV[®] Voter

September 2020

Dear League Members & Friends,

The countdown to the November election is 60 days. Much has changed for 2020, but the League of Women Voters celebrated its first 100 years and remains committed to empowering voters and defending democracy. We continue to support Americans' right to vote and equip voters with the knowledge they need to cast their ballot. We are planning local candidate forums via Zoom webinar and will encourage the public to submit their questions via email or phone message. Voter education outreach and Get Out the Vote efforts continue; we are doing this essential work mostly virtually. Votersedge.org will be up soon with candidate information so you can be well-informed to complete and return your ballot.

More details are provided in this newsletter about our efforts. Learn more at our **September 12 Fall Membership meeting** at **9:30am** – our first one conducted virtually. A Zoom invitation will be emailed to you. Please forward it to friends you hope will consider joining LWVBC. Our Fall meeting typically is a coffee and croissants event, so make yourself comfortable at home with your favorite beverage and we will toast the great work of the League.

Since our last Voter, the US Census deadline has been moved back to September 30, 2020. A legal challenge has been filed in US District Court about the revised timeline, but we all need to encourage our friends and neighbors to respond before September 30 in order to have an accurate Census count. The California self-response rate is 66.9%, but Butte County is only at 52.6%. We have our work cut out for us with the LWVBC Census Phone Bank project.

Butte County also received \$204.4 million from PG&E's Camp Fire settlement. Learn more from Toni Reid, our Observer for the Board of Supervisors, so you can contact your Supervisor and let them know how you believe this money would best be spent.

It is time to **renew your LWVBC membership** for 2021. As a League member, you have the opportunity to participate in local, state, and national League work. Your membership dues add to the League's grassroots strength as well as our financial resources. I personally thank you for your support and look forward to the time when we might stand face to face with each other so I can further express my gratitude. Until then, take care.

Yours in Making Democracy Work,
Debra Barger
President

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

PO Box 965, Chico, CA 95927
www.lwvbuttecounty.org
(530) 895-VOTE (8683)

League Observer Corps Update

Greetings fellow League members from the Observer Corps. These are certainly trying times to be doing our work as observers of the Boards and Commissions that we have agreed to observe. Many have postponed meetings during this pandemic and most others are only available to the public through online video.

But with adversity comes opportunity. It occurred to me that many of you might now have the time and the interest to view some of these meetings and become more informed as to who the members are and what work they are providing to the community. There are dozens of options

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But with adversity comes opportunity. It occurred to me that many of you might now have the time and the interest to view some of these meetings and become more informed as to who the members are and what work they are providing to the community. There are dozens of options that currently do not have League observers, including:

- Chico City Council
- Bidwell park Commission
- Butte County Planning Commission
- Paradise Town Council



Sadly, we have also had Kim Schaffer, our Observer to the Chico City Council, resign because of family responsibilities. Having an observer for that council is very important to the League, especially since elections will be held by district this year and the composition could be quite different.

If you have some time and are comfortable watching meetings online, please contact me. We can review the many possibilities and discuss the meeting schedules to see what works best for you. You may also go online to the City of Chico Website, Butte County Website or other city/county websites to view the various boards and commissions elected or appointed within their jurisdiction and their meeting schedules.

Please do give this work some consideration. It is valuable to the League to have informed members who can keep the League updated on what government boards and commissions are doing. It also can provide the all of us with a clearer idea of how these groups function and what service they provide to the community.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from and working with many of you.



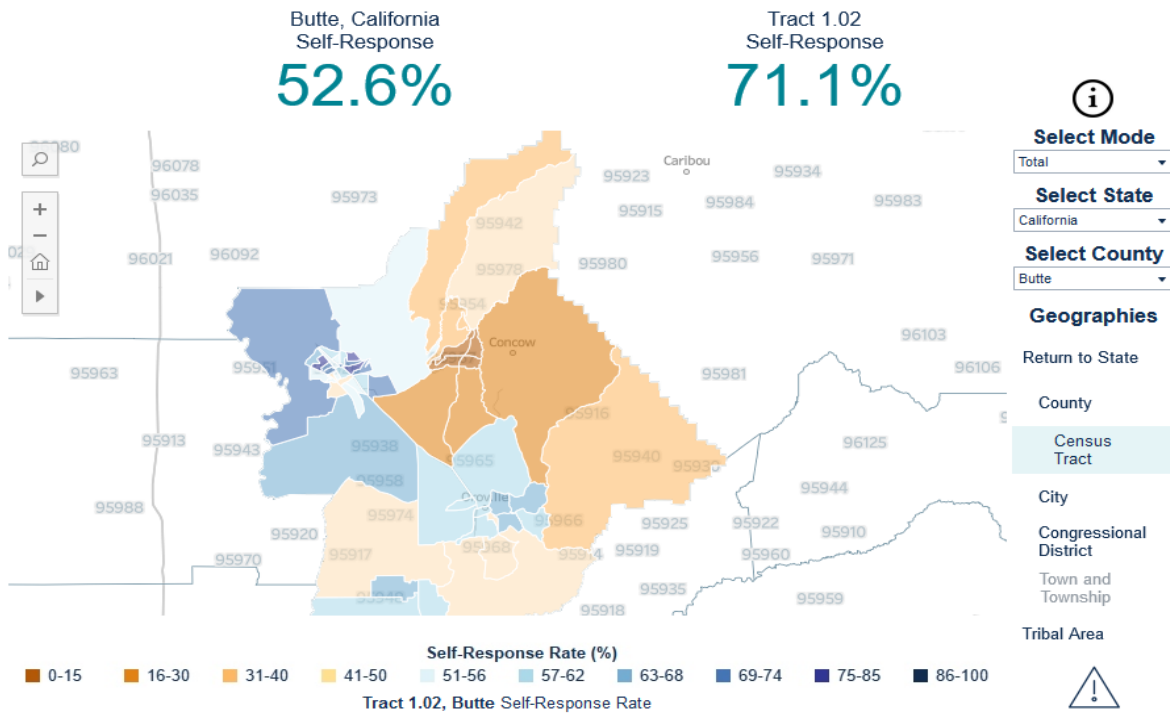
*Submitted by Toni Reid
Observer Chair
530-534-6591*

Census Phone Bank Project Update

LWVBC launched our first ever census phone bank project in partnership with the Butte County Complete Count Committee to promote the 2020 Census. Butte County lags in responses and this means that less Federal and State money will reach our County. The Census graphic below tells a stark story.

Self-Response by Census Tract

This map features self-response rates from households that responded to the 2020 Census online, by mail, or by phone. Rates can be viewed in [rankings here](#).



For every man, woman, and child counted, about \$10,000 comes back to our County in services. These services include public health, public safety, roads and other infrastructure projects, to name a few, so we need to improve our response rate by September 30, 2020.

We received phone numbers for two hard-to-count census tracts in the Chico area on August 14. We held a Zoom training on August 18 and started making calls. By the end of the week, 246 calls had been made by a dedicated group of 15 callers. The following week another 932 calls were made, of which 182 had already completed the census and 381 were left messages. There were 239 bad numbers, 68 were not available, and 62 did not want calls. Following Debra Barger's Census presentation to Chico's AAUW group on Aug. 30, we recruited two additional callers.

It has been an interesting project for the team. Some of the people who had already completed their census have expressed concern that their response was not received, but there is not a cross reference of our lists with Census reports received. Some respondents are delighted that we are calling and are looking forward to the candidate forums and our pro and con positions, and a few do not want to hear from us. All in all, it is a worthy endeavor and not difficult to do. We welcome more participant callers, so please email me at maureenkirk@earthlink.net if you are interested in making calls for a worthy cause.

*Submitted by Maureen Kirk
Government Director*



Candidate Forums

It's a big election year in Butte County with around 18 contested local races. The COVID-19 pandemic and the need to social distance has forced the League to rethink our normal forum structure. This year, our candidate forums will be remote and we will need to lean more heavily on the use of technology than we have in years past. We are working on a collaboration with the Redding Area League and the Western Nevada County League for those races that we have in common, such as the US Representative for Congressional District 1. We are also working on the logistics of how to conduct our additional local races. Most likely these will be over Zoom webinars, because that is the medium du jour, and one that many people have quickly become familiar with because of its use in work and school environments, among others.

**YOUR VOTE
YOUR VOICE
ELECTION 2020**

The public will need to submit questions in advance. We are working out a process for soliciting and gathering those questions. Butte County Public Access Television (BCACTV) has agreed to air any recorded forums that we hold. Our League President Debra Barger has been in communication with NSPR about the possibility of broadcasting the US Representative Congressional District 1 forum. Possibly more.



We need volunteers! Even though we are not having face-to-face forums we still need assistance. You could be a forum moderator, help to screen questions in advance, or assist on the day of the forum with all the moving parts. It would be helpful if volunteers have some familiarity with webinars and technology. Contact me if you are interested in participating. Of note, recent League guidelines on forum moderators recommends that the moderator not be a constituent of the area covered by the race. This may not be possible for all Butte County races, but we will do what we can to meet this recommendation.

*Submitted by Claire Greene
First Vice President*

Help Our Voter Registration Outreach

September is National Voter Registration Month. The election is fast approaching and these unusual times demand different strategies for connecting with different groups of Butte County residents. We don't have a Salmon Festival, Johnny Appleseed Days or Wildcat Welcome event this election season to set up tables to register and educate voters. Thus, I have been reaching out to various entities such as school districts, hospitals, the county jail, and the Paradise Chamber of Commerce with flyer and article formats with non-partisan voter information. My question to all of you, do you have suggestions or contacts with any Butte County businesses or organizations with newsletters, whether print or electronic, that might be willing to include our voter information? If you could share the contact information with me, I will connect with them. My email address is pattyhaley@sbcglobal.net.



<http://registertovote.ca.gov>

We are planning a few safe in-person tabling events at the Chico Saturday Farmers Market. Also watch for more details on a first-ever National Voter Registration Day Drive Through on Tuesday, Sept. 22. At these events we will also be sharing census information to help Butte County do a Complete Count. If you would be interested in volunteering for these events, please contact me at email address above.

*Submitted by Patty Haley
Director, Voter Outreach*



Butte County Board of Supervisors Observer Report

For the past eight years it has been my privilege to serve as League Observer to the Butte County Board of Supervisors. I feel much more aware of what is happening in and around my County and I hope that I have been of service to the League by reporting on that governing body yearly and providing information from those meetings pertaining to League positions to the League Board of Directors.

The longer I have attended the bi-monthly meetings, the more it has been impressed upon me the wide-ranging decision-making required by these Supervisors and the work they must do to inform themselves of the facts in order to make wise choices. I do not always agree with the decisions reached, nor do all the Supervisors agree among themselves. But I have always felt that each Supervisor comes to his/her decision based on what they perceive to be the best interests of the citizens of Butte County. I respect their service and the serious work they do to be prepared to make the hard choices.

The Board of Supervisor meeting on August 25th had a very serious presentation by the County Administration Staff on how to proceed with policy and planning regarding the \$204.4 million received from the PG&E settlement after the Camp Fire. The money has been placed in a separate fund and now the Board must make decisions on how the money should be spent. It sounds like a lot of money, but listening to the report from the staff on the many, many projects that urgently need funding in our county, it will certainly not begin to cover all of it. The Board faces the difficult decision on how the money will be best spent. Suggestions made by the Administrative staff included road projects, communications, paying off existing county debt, using funds as county share of grant applications, housing, capital projects (such as the jail), and many other potential uses.

The Board asked the county staff to come back to the Board meeting on October 13th with another report which would include a recommendation from each County Department on what that department would see as a first priority. It seems that each of us, as League members and as citizens of Butte County, should also participate in this discussion. Each of us were affected by the Camp Fire in some way, as well as by other disasters that have happened in our County. All of us have opinions on what we consider most important to rebuild and improve our county as well as making it safer and better able to serve its citizens.

I encourage everyone to contact your Supervisor to let them know how you feel the PG&E funds would best be spent. They will appreciate hearing your input. It will help them work through the many choices and to better inform the Board as they make these difficult decisions.

If you would like to watch the Oct. 13th meeting at 9:00am go to: buttecounty.net/boardofsupervisors/boardmeetings and scroll down to Upcoming Events. Click on the October 13 meeting to activate the video.

Contact the Board

Board of Supervisors

Contact Supervisor Connolly

Contact Supervisor Lucero

Contact Supervisor Ritter

Contact Supervisor Lambert

Contact Supervisor Teeter

Ashley Snyder

Assistant Clerk of the Board

ClerkoftheBoard@ButteCounty.net

Phone: 530.552.3300

Fax: 530.538.7120

*Submitted by Toni Reid
League Observer for Butte County Board of Supervisors*



Time to Renew Your League Membership!

Traditionally, membership has been a focus of the September Fall Coffee for the Butte County League of Women Voters. Since this year's annual Fall Coffee will be a virtual meeting (*watch your email for your invitation*), we need to ask all members to mail in their dues to renew their membership.



Dues are \$75 for an individual member and \$125 for a household membership. The League pays \$32 per member to the LWVUS and \$28 to the Zoom invitation via LWV of California. This leaves \$15 per individual members and \$5 for a household for local efforts. If you renew online, also consider donating to help cover the processing costs for the Square.

The URL for the membership form for renewal is:

<http://lwvmcva.net/sites/default/files/lwvmembership.pdf>

You may also use the enclosed dues envelope to renew or share the pre-addressed envelope to a potential new member. Checks should be made payable to **LWV OF BUTTE COUNTY** and mailed to:

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

In an election year, we should be able to encourage more interested friends, family, and acquaintances to become participating members of the League of Women Voters of Butte County. When we email you the invite to our September 12 meeting, please share with others and encourage greater participation during this election year. At that meeting, they can learn about the League, our goals, activities, and possibly be recruited to help with voters' forums or observers for the League.

California Secretary of State's Where's My Ballot?

Don't forget to sign up for California's "Where's My Ballot?" It's never been easier to track your ballot.



Track your vote-by-mail ballot every step of the way—when it is mailed, received, and counted. The California Secretary of State is now offering **Where's My Ballot?**—a new way for voters to track and receive notifications on the status of their vote-by-mail ballot.

Sign-up at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov to receive automatic email, SMS (text), or voice call notifications about your ballot.



League of Women Voters Lingo

ACTION ALERT: Request from the LWVUS (national) or LWVC (state) to take action in support of a League position.

ADVOCACY: After study, the promotion of League positions on local, state, and national public policy issues to government officials, the media, and the public.

ANNUAL MEETING: Local year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaw changes and adopt a budget and program of work for the next year.

CMDW: Campaign for Making Democracy Work.

CONCURRENCE: Agreement by League members with a position on an issue reached by another League.

CONSENSUS: Collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as whole, after objective study of an issue.

CRM: Customer Relationship Management System (database).

DEI: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

EDUCATION FUND (EF): The tax-deductible arm of national, state and large local Leagues, handling funds to be used only for educational purposes, not for action on issues.

ETP: E the People (software for voter guides and website).

PMP: Per Member Payment – that portion of local dues remitted to the state and national Leagues.

POSITION: A statement of the League's point of view on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), and used as a basis for League action.

PPFM: people Powered Fair Maps.

PROGRAM: The issues that we choose for concerted study, education and action at local, state and national levels.

PROGRAM PLANNING: The biennial grassroots process whereby each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the local, state, and national League will focus time, talent, and money, a/k/a choosing priorities.

VOTE 411.ORG: Voting and ballot information website for 49 states (not California).

VOTERSEEDGE.ORG: Voting and ballot information website for California.

VOTER GUIDE: Non-partisan publication giving candidates' qualifications and positions on selected issues.

Do you have other League terms or acronyms that might be puzzling? Suggest additions to the League Lingo by emailing presidentlwvbutte@gmail.com.





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

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- Renew Membership
- Volunteer for:
 - Census Phone Bank
 - Virtual Candidate Forums
 - Voter Registration Outreach
 - Board Positions

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:



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

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
<i>Vacant</i>	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
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Natural Resources
<i>Vacant</i>	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 can 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.