



IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

**Women's History
Month - Brown Bag**
Thursday, March 1
12:30 – 1:30 pm
DVC Student Union

**Food Production &
Greenhouse Gases:**
Counting Carbs
Tuesday, March 6
12:00-1:00 pm
Palo Alto & online
(see page 7)

**Contra Costa Housing
Forum**
Monday, March 26
8:30am-2pm
Pleasant Hill
Community Center
<https://endpovertycc.org/2017-contra-costa-housing/>

Candidate Forum Tapings
April 16-20
Martinez
(see page 4)

**District Attorney
Candidate Forum**
Tuesday, April 24
5:30-7:00 pm
Walnut Creek
(see page 4)

Monthly Public Meeting

Championing the Student Gun Safety Movement



Saturday, March 17
3 – 4:30 pm

Social Hall, Civic Park Community Center
1375 Civic Drive
Walnut Creek

See Page 2 for Action Alert!

Free! Everyone welcome!
Light refreshments

info@lwvdv.org (925) 283-2235



Local Membership Call to ACTION/ADVOCACY

Championing the Student Gun Safety Movement

For once it seems possible! The teen students in Florida and their articulate and continued dedication to getting Congress to act on gun violence and making schools safer are a catalyst to actual change.

Just look at how banks, car rentals, airlines have dropped their current business participation with the NRA.

The students are calling attention to the voting records of those national and state representatives who are supported by donations from the NRA and who are consistently voting in their favor.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN IN:

- While we initiate activity/advocacy planning
- While we create a network of mutual support to advocate for change
- While we create talking points that refresh the dialog and help spur on this momentum
- While we plan a Saturday, March 17th presentation including speakers from current locally active gun safety (providing safe schools and communities) organizations (like The Sandy Hook Promise)
- While we plan for participation in a local march on March 24th when teen students are demonstrating in Washington, D.C.

Call the league office: 925-283-2235 and leave your name and contact email and cell number for "Championing the Student Gun Safety Movement".

Or email info@lwvdv.org and provide your name and contact email and cell number for "Championing the Student Gun Safety Movement".

Consider calling in (1 515-604-9792 Access Code 535291) or attend the Action/Advocacy committee meeting on Thursday, March 1st 10 am and/or the Board Meeting March 8th. Let's join in the teen students' challenge – NEVER AGAIN! NEVER ANOTHER SCHOOL SHOOTING!

LWV Diablo Valley ACTION: City Redistricting

League members in Antioch, Martinez and Concord have been following the rushed move to elect city councils by district. This was occasioned by potential lawsuits under a recently passed voters rights law. The cities need to adopt new maps by late spring for the 2018 elections. Some school districts are also affected.

LWV Diablo Valley has given input to the cities about the League positions on redistricting, including support of independent redistricting commissions.



LWV California ACTION: Gather Signatures THIS MONTH for the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 (Closing the Proposition 13 Corporate Loophole)

LWVDV will send out an email to members when petitions are available. Arrange to pick one up from the office or have it mailed to you.

If we all gather enough signatures, the funding act will qualify for the ballot.

Signature Gathering How-To's:

- The campaign name is "Our Schools & Communities First"
- Our goal is to get as many valid signatures as possible
- The talking points are below — use them, and stick to them

The rules for signature gathering are:

- You must be at least 18 years old to circulate petitions
- SIGNERS must be registered voters **in the county listed at the top of the petition**
- Fill out the petition fully:
 - County name at the top
 - Each signer should fill out themselves: printed name and address, city, zip; signed name — all as registered to vote
 - Declaration of circulator: address, dates circulated, signature, date and city where signed
- When circulating, make sure the title and summary are visible



A FEW TALKING POINTS:

- For forty years, wealthy corporations have used a loophole in Prop 13 to pocket billions of dollars.
- Closing the loophole will reclaim \$11 billion per year for our schools and local services.
- This measure protects homeowners, renters and small businesses.
- Corporations will finally be required to pay their fair share.

More talking points will be attached to the petition when you receive it.

"KNOW YOUR LEAGUE": Action Committee

"Maybe the League should say something about that?" Once the League has studied an issue and come to a position, it's time to do something – and Action Committee is where it starts.



Chaired by long-time activist Lee Lawrence, the Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month from 10am – noon at the League office. The agenda ranges from issues where the state League is asking for local Leagues to help (see signature-gathering, above) to tracking local issues like affordable housing, redistricting, and now gun violence. The Committee provides recommendations for action to the full Board. For more information, email info@lwvdv.org or call the LWVDV office at 925-283-2235 and leave a message for Lee.

Correction: In last month's Voter, Pat Snyder was listed as LWVC Healthcare Consultant. Pat has reminded us that she is no longer in that position for LWVC. We regret the error.

VOTER SERVICE

Candidate Forums for June Election

LWV Diablo Valley will provide a moderator for the Forum for Contra Costa District Attorney's race on the June ballot, Tuesday, April 24, 5:30 - 7:00 pm, at Leshner Theater in Walnut Creek. This forum is co-sponsored with the County Bar Association. This is a free public event. Volunteers will be needed for timing, question card collection & sorting. Please contact Ann Flynn, info@lwvdv.org for information on volunteering.

The Contra Costa County Library has invited LWVDV to moderate a Candidate Forum for County Superintendent of Schools on Thursday, May 3, 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the Concord Library, [2900 Salvio Street](#). Moderator will be Ann Flynn, and volunteers are needed for timing, question card collection and sorting. Please contact info@lwvdv.org for information on volunteering.

Televised Candidate Forums for June Election



Taping for televised candidate forums will be done April 16-20 at the Contra Costa TV studios in Martinez. The County Elections Department has secured professional broadcasters as moderators. League volunteers are needed as timers and in-studio coordinators for all forums relevant to LWVDV. We have also been asked to provide questions for candidates running in the LWVDV-area races. Please contact Martha Goralka,

info@lwvdv.org, for more information.

Voter's Edge California

Voter's Edge California (VEC), the nonpartisan online information system of The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund and Maplight, is gearing up for the 2018 Election Cycle. After the March 9th filing deadline for candidates, VEC volunteers will begin inviting candidates to participate, and adding information to the VEC system about local ballot measures, candidate forums, and election events.

Volunteer to help with VEC. There are many ways to help with VEC, most of which you can do from home at any time. Encouraging local candidates via phone, email, and FaceBook to participate in VEC is easy and rewarding. Look for more information about that in the April **Voter**. If you want to take an even more active role, and attend a VEC Training Session, send a message to County Coordinator Marian Shostrom at <http://lwvdv.org/contact.html>.

LWVDV PRIORITY: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

League Volunteers for Homeless

The League of Women Voters is developing a plan to be one of the groups of volunteers to provide meals to Trinity Center Homeless during the winter months. This will be an opportunity for a few volunteers at a time, from the League, to provide and serve dinner to about 30 people at Trinity Center.

One of our members, with her family, has already provided one meal this year and two last year. Sue Brandy gathers her Walnut Creek family, her daughter Lisa, son-in-law Chris and her two grandchildren Kennedy (9) and Beckham (6) to cook a meal for Trinity Center, serve the meal and then share the meal with the people present. "We all enjoy the opportunity to serve the homeless. We have shared responsibility for the dinner, each of us filling our own kitchens with wonderful aromas and then transporting the meal to the center. The children, in particular, look forward to the evening. They love talking with the people present. It's a wonderful experience for all of us and truly appreciated by the homeless participants."

If you are interested in participating in this volunteer opportunity call Trinity Center at 925.457.3935 or sign up online at <http://signup.com/go/JLFNNZS>. (Please note: Food can no longer be prepared in home but must be purchased from a restaurant.)



If you want to get involved in advocating for homes for people of all income levels in your own community and/or the county, join our Task Force! We meet monthly and also communicate by email. Next meeting will be Monday, March 5, in Walnut Creek from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Contact Ashley Coates for location and possible carpooling. Ashley can be contacted through info@lwvdv.org.

You Could be a Governor's Appointee

Diane Bianchi, LWVDV member

The Governor's office is actively soliciting people to volunteer to fill empty positions on Boards and Commissions. At a workshop earlier this month, Appointments Secretary Mona Pasquil Rogers said she is actively seeking people to fill these positions.

Go to www.gov.ca.gov; click the tab "Appointments" along the top of the website' click on "Boards and Commissions Appointees"; select the link that contains the letter of the board or commission you are interested in applying for to determine if there are any vacancies or terms that will be expiring soon. Following the description of the board or commission will be a numbered page listing the current composition of the board showing the current incumbent (or vacancy), the date of the appointment, and the term ending date, if any.

To apply on line go to www.gov.ca.gov; click the red tab "Appointments" along the top of the website; click on the Online Application Form link. Complete application (you must complete the entire application before you log off. If you do not, it will not be saved.) Print and sign the authorization form at the end of the application. Submit the authorization form and resumé via mail or fax to: Office of the Governor, Attention: Appointments Unit; State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814 FAX 916-558-3190.

The Appointments Secretary encourages people to contact her directly if they have any questions. She shared that many people (usually women) underestimate their qualifications and she is eager to speak with individuals who have questions about a position they are interested in. Her phone number is 915-445-1915. She is eager to fill these appointments and has been directed by the Governor to do so.

Meet Your Board: Co-President Suzan Requa

My leadership background that means the most to me: Coordinator Status of Women Committee, City of Concord, initiating a central county networking newsletter and supporting Rape Crisis Service ; Parent Club President, Valle Verde Elementary School, building confidence and increasing donations for the Parent Club Foundation and collaboration between teachers and parent club; Jr. League Oakland East Bay, VP Communications, helping nonprofits communicate their services and goals effectively for mail and fundraising campaigns; and Mentoring Chair of Women of AT&T, facilitating the Mentoring program of teams of AT&T high level executives building leadership and networking skills with career women managers.



LWVC Recommendations for the June Ballot

Proposition 68 - California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. The water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking, and are a key part of our state response to climate change. **The LWVC supports this measure.**

Proposition 69 - Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes If passed, this measure would raise excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel, provides for regular increases to those taxes based on inflation, establishes a new fee on zero-emission vehicles, and raises vehicle registration fees. The new revenue from these taxes would be used for transportation-related purposes -- repairing streets and bridges, addressing deferred maintenance on highways and local roads, improving public transit, and investing in needed transportation infrastructure to benefit all Californians. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services, including safe roads and good public transportation. **The LWVC supports this measure.**



Proposition 70 - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund This measure would add a requirement that two-thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB of Cap-and-Trade allowances. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions. **The LWVC opposes this measure.**

Proposition 71 - Effective Date of Initiatives Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after election day, that is not always the case. Prop 71 would provide that an initiative would take effect 5 days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results. This is a common-sense measure, ensuring clarity about what is – and is not – California law. **The LWVC supports this measure.**

DONATE

To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at www.lwvdv.org.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & UPDATES

If your name appears below, then it is time to renew your membership in March. Please use the form on the back page. If you have already renewed, thank you! *(We send three notices before deleting but remember: expiration date does not change even if payment is later.)*

Carol Murota

Melinda Hall

Barbara King

Cherie Cotsifas

Welcome, new members: Sue Basso, Walnut Creek; Susan Kimmel, Pleasant Hill; Gayle Saxton, Orinda

Did you join LWV before 1968? If you have been a member ever since then, you are a Life Member and do not pay dues. Contact Membership Chair Audrey Albrecht to upgrade your status!



We're on Facebook! Visit us and LIKE our Facebook page. <http://tinyurl.com/of4o2pj>
And Twitter! Follow us on Twitter -- @LWVDiabloValley

Please help us grow our social media network!

Volunteer to help with Twitter campaigns!



Counting Carb Emissions: Food Production and Greenhouse Gases



March 6, 2018, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm, Palo Alto (or by webinar)

LWV California's Climate Change Task Force and LWV Palo Alto will host featured speaker Chris Field, Director of Stanford Woods Institute.

For more information, including links to sign up for the webinar or join the LWVC Climate Change Task Force, go to <https://lwvc.org/events/food-production-and-greenhouse-gases-counting-carb-emissions>



LWVDV VOTER
 Published ten times per year
League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley
 500 St. Mary's Road, #14
 Lafayette, CA 94549

LWVDV Board Members:

- Suzan Requa, *Co-President*
- Martha Goralka, *Co-President & Voter Service Chair*
- Carol Murota, *Vice President*
- [vacant], *Secretary*
- Barbara Hill, *Treasurer*
- Lee Lawrence, *Action/Advocacy*
- Leslie Stewart, *Communications*
- Barbara Coenen, *Office Mgr*
- Carole Woods, *Program*
- Audrey Albrecht, *Membership*
- Marian Shostrom, *Voter's Edge*
- Sue Brandy, *At-Large Director*
- Ann Flynn, *At-Large Director*

Membership: Join Us or Renew!

Membership is not based on ability to pay. To pay alternate dues or to request a scholarship, please contact Barbara Hill at the League office: (925) 283-2235.

- \$ _____ \$65 Individual Membership. Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$95 Family Membership (2). Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$35 Associate Membership. Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
 (For a student member)
- \$ _____ GIFT MEMBERSHIP (circle appropriate category above)
 Gift Membership from: _____
 (Please write recipient's information below.)
- \$ _____ \$10 included to receive printed copies of the *Voter* by US Mail
- \$ _____ Additional Donation to LWVDV
- \$ _____ **TOTAL** of ALL above enclosed to LWVDV.

(LWVDV is a 501(c)3 organization. Dues and donations to LWVDV are tax-deductible. Tax ID number supplied on request.)

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Please print, complete, and mail this form along with your check to:
 LWVDV, 500 St. Mary's Road #14, Lafayette, CA 94549

**CALENDAR
 MONTHLY MEETINGS**

- Mar 1** **Action Committee**
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Mar 8** **Board Meeting**
 10:15 am -- [LWVDV Office](#)
 12:15 pm
- Mar 17** **Monthly Meeting**
 (see page 1)
- Apr 5** **Action Committee**
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Apr 12** **Board Meeting**
 10:15 am [LWVDV Office](#)
 12:15 pm