



IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

Thursday, May 3
6:30 – 8 pm
Candidate Forum, County
Superintendent of Schools
Concord Library

Saturday, May 12
Workshop: How to Run for
Office
9 am – 12:30 pm
Pacheco Community
Center

Monday, May 14
6:45 – 8:45 pm
*Enthusiastic Advocacy:
Voicing Your Support for
Housing for All*
Walnut Creek Library
(see page 3)

Friday, June 1
9:00 am
Demonstration of Central
Vote Counting Equipment
Clerk-Recorder-Elections
Office, 555 Escobar,
Martinez

Saturday, June 2
10 am – noon
LWVDV Annual Meeting
Speaker: Supervisor
Candace Andersen
Cedar Room, Lafayette
Community Center

Two Public Meetings in May!



Election Homework Special: Pros & Cons of Ballot Measures *plus* Using Voter's Edge

Saturday, May 5, 3:00 – 4:30 pm
Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center
500 St. Mary's Road



County Clerk-Recorder Joe Canciamilla "An Update on CCC Elections"

Saturday, May 19, 3 – 4:30 pm
Ygnacio Valley Library
2661 Oak Grove Rd, Walnut Creek

Free! Everyone welcome!
Light refreshments

info@lwvdv.org (925) 283-2235



League Leader's Letter

Suzan Requa, LWVDV Co-President

Can we make a difference? This is our most visible time to have a constructive impact.

With your participation, we can, we do and we will!

How can we help voters? How can we help our LWVDV help voters?

NETWORKING – Such a formal word, but appropriately descriptive. **Share our calendared voter service activities with your other organizations, schools where you take classes, families, neighbors and friends.**

PLAN TO ATTEND and bring someone with you and bring your questions – Candidate Forums (*see page 4*), Pros and Cons/ Voter's Edge demonstration – **SATURDAY May 5th, 3-4:30pm** (*see page 1*).

PLAN TO ATTEND and bring someone with you – **SATURDAY MAY 19TH 3-4:30pm, Joe Canciamilla Registrar of Voters, will be providing an update on elections and election security in our county. Ygnacio Valley Library.**

PROMOTE: Our **online Voter's Edge voter information** site as part of your networking activities: <https://votersedge.org>

PROMOTE: Voter's Edge for candidates who may be representing us. Contact candidates if they have not provided their information on Voter's Edge and ask them to act on this **no cost opportunity** to describe their leadership priorities. **View Candidate Forums** that have been recorded and posted on Voter's Edge. (*see page 4*)

PROMOTE: Voter Registration on paper forms for students 16 & 17 and online for 18 and over to register and make changes to their current voter registration. Paper forms are available at all post offices; for on-line registration go to <https://www.cocovote.us/contact-information/>

PROMOTE: and **gather signatures** to place The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 on the ballot which will increase state revenue by \$11 billion for local schools (40%) and community services like parks, libraries, public transportation, fire fighters, and others. (*see page 6*)

SUPPORT STUDENT VOTER ACTIVISM: If you volunteer or work at high schools, community and local colleges, any or all of these activities are invaluable to their maturing voter engagement.

BECOME A KNOWLEDGEABLE VOTER: Learn how to help others to register to vote. Learn the content of current ballot measures and what offices have candidates to consider. Learn how to use Voter's Edge. **AND share information with others.**

We can provide a wake-up call to those running for office and those currently in office that we are paying attention. Each of us can stimulate voter turnout by being knowledgeable and sharing our knowledge and enthusiasm for participating in this election.

THANKS to ALL THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED and provided an outstanding effort at forums, gathering signatures, voter registration, Pros and Cons discussions, Voter's Edge, and tabling at events. Martha Goralka, Ann Flynn and Gail Murray have done outstanding work managing and facilitating our Candidate Forums with the Contra Costa County Bar Association, the County Library, the Elections Department and CCTV.

SPECIAL COMMENDATION: Thank you to Liz Fuller, Senior Community Library Manager, Contra Costa County Library for her leadership initiative and priority focus on providing Candidate Forums with LWVDV and LWV West County co-sponsorship and facilitation.

Yours in League,

Suzan

LWVDV PRIORITY: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Ashley Coates, Chair, LWVDV Housing Committee

Housing is a Human Right. Help get the message out in your community and our county. Contact info@lwvdv.org to get on the Affordable Housing email list. We also meet monthly.

Next opportunities for involvement are: Helping with refreshments for the May 14 Exuberant Advocacy workshop (see below), and attending our monthly meeting on Monday May 7, 7:30 pm. Contact Ashley for location.

Learn and be inspired at local Affordable Housing Week events May 14-18*:

- **May 14:** Exuberant Advocacy: Voicing Your Support for Housing for All. Walnut Creek Library, 6:45 – 8:45 pm. Speakers are Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen, Walnut Creek Councilman Rich Carlston, and Advocate Anthony Federico. Co-sponsored by Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to end Poverty in Contra Costa, Multifaith ACTION Coalition, and League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley. *(For more info and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/exuberant-advocacy-voicing-your-support-for-housing-for-all-tickets-45605771089>.)*
- **May 15:** Work, Live, Play, Thrive: Community Benefits of Housing Affordability 10 am to 12:00 noon, Walnut Creek City Hall, 1666 N Main St, 3rd Floor *(For more info contact Anne Wong 925-943-5899 ext 2652)*



- **May 16:** Groundbreaking at St Paul's Commons 10 to 11:30 am, 1860 Trinity Ave, Walnut Creek *(For more info contact Arlene Skjerly 510-841-4410 ext 310)*
- **May 18:** Virginia Lane Grand Re-Opening 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, 1121 Virginia Lane, Concord *(For more info contact Jennifer Reed 510-247-8123)*

*for full schedule go to EBHO.org

LWVDV PRIORITY: IMMIGRATION

These event reminders are provided by Nicole Zapata, one of the presenters at our April 21st meeting:

- ICE On Trial: People's Tribunal at West County Detention Facility, May 5th 11am-1pm <https://www.facebook.com/events/1977801582537962/>
- Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy Interfaith Breakfast Ceremony, May 11th 8:30am-10:30am <https://www.facebook.com/events/1900702286630221/>
- Sanctuary Convening, June 1st and 2nd <http://www.im4humanintegrity.org/sanctuaryconvening2018/>

VOTER SERVICE

Martha Goralka, LWVDV Voter Service Chair, and Ann Flynn, LWVDV Boardmember

Televised and Live Candidate Forums for June Election

A televised candidate forum for **Contra Contra County Superintendent of Schools** will be held Thursday, May 3, 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Concord Library Meeting Room, 2900 Salvio street, Concord. The public is invited to attend and ask questions. All three candidates have committed to participate: Cheryl Hansen, Ronald Leone, Lynn Mackey. It will be moderated by LWVDV Boardmember Ann Flynn. This forum is cosponsored with the Contra Costa County Libraries and Contra Costa TV.

The May 3 forum along with many of our other election events can be viewed at the Election Preview link below. Settle down with a favorite beverage and a friend (or maybe just the beverage) and watch these informative events!

The candidate roundtables and ballot measure discussions which were taped in April by CCTV, in partnership with the Contra Costa Elections Department, LWVDV and LWV West Contra Costa, are now running on local cable community channels. They will also be posted online. For full information on TV scheduling, and online links, visit <https://cocovote.us/election-preview/>

The District Attorney candidate forum in Walnut Creek on April 24 was videotaped; video links are on the website of LWV Diablo Valley's partner, the Contra Costa County Bar Association (<http://www.cccba.org/community/index.php>) and on Voter's Edge (<https://votersedge.org>) .

Voter's Edge California

Marian Shostrom, Voter's Edge County Coordinator

Have you checked out Voter's Edge California, www.votersedge.org, the one-stop free resource that provides unbiased, in-depth information on local, state, and federal elections? Think of it like a supercharged version of the voter guide you get in the mail, with easily searchable



information about ballot measures and candidates tailored to your address.

Candidates provide their own information, including their profession and top three priorities if elected. Some candidates provide additional information, such as endorsements, position papers, etc. **LWV Volunteers** add content as they find it: Videos of Candidate Forums and Debates; News Articles; Links to Campaign

Finance Information, and more. **MapLight** <https://maplight.org/> provides campaign finance information for state-level races and above. **The Contra Costa County Elections Department** provides a Public Portal for Campaign Finance Disclosure. <https://public.netfile.com/pub2/?AID=ccc>

To be fully informed before you vote in the June 5th Primary Election, check out Voter's Edge California. LWVDV will provide a demonstration of Voter's Edge following the May 5th Pros and Cons presentation at the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center (*see page 1*).

Election Office Equipment Testing – You Can Watch!

Every piece of voting equipment to be used in June is being tested by the Elections Division of the County Clerk-Recorder's office over the next few weeks. If you're interested in observing this process, contact 925-335-7800 for a schedule and locations for testing. On June 1 at 9 am, the public is invited to a demonstration of the central count voting equipment at the Elections Office, 555 Escobar Street, Martinez.

A Deeper Dive Into Campaign Finance

Marian Shostrom, Voter's Edge County Coordinator

Are you interested in "following the money" and its impact on our elections? Here are a few reputable nonprofit, non-partisan resources that allow you to do so.



MapLight <https://maplight.org/what-we-do/>

MapLight has partnered with the California Secretary of State to build user-friendly, open-source software that helps Californians see the money behind their elections, including tools such as [Power Search](#) and the [Quick Guide to Props](#).

Dark Money Watch <http://www.darkmoneywatch.org/>

Dark Money Watch supports investigations of dark money in order to help the public understand how hidden donors can influence our political system.

Center for Responsive Politics <https://www.opensecrets.org/>

A comprehensive resource for federal campaign contributions, lobbying data and analysis.

Voting Rights: LWV Activity Around the Country

The LWV of Missouri and A. Phillip Randolph Institute have just [filed a lawsuit against the state of Missouri for violation of the National Voter Registration Act](#). According to the Huffington Post, the suit claims that "Missouri is violating federal law because it does not offer all residents the option to register to vote at the state's motor vehicle agency or automatically update voter registration information when people notify the state that they have moved. . ."

State Leagues around the country have been active in the courts to protect voting rights. Major successful redistricting fights which resulted in redrawing congressional districts in Florida and Pennsylvania involved LWV plaintiffs. LWV Texas is involved in a Texas redistricting case currently in front of the Supreme Court. LWV North Carolina [sued successfully](#) to throw out that state's most recent district maps, but the decision has been stayed pending other Supreme Court decisions on gerrymandering involving Wisconsin and Maryland. LWV Wisconsin filed an amicus brief in the Wisconsin case, and LWV Maryland is a key partner in the "Tame the Gerrymander" coalition supporting the Maryland case. In December 2017, LWV Michigan filed a case challenging that state's congressional and state legislative districts.

LWVUS has supported the efforts of the state Leagues as these cases have progressed. Because your dues support all levels of LWV, including LWVUS, your membership contributes to these efforts. Stay current on voter suppression, redistricting and more at <https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights> .

California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018

Suzan Requa, LWVDV Co-President & Petition Drive Chair

With passage of the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 corporations will pay their fair share AND homeowners, renters, agricultural land and small businesses will retain their Prop 13 protections. With this small change returning to the original intent of Proposition 13, we anticipate generating an increase of about \$9 billion annually in money for education, libraries, health clinics, public safety. We, the public, will be told how this revenue will be spent. Transparency!! Another League value.

Update:

FINAL DEADLINE EXTENDED TO END OF JUNE.

Most LWVDV members have been mailed a petition to gather signatures of registered voters by county in California to place the initiative on the state ballot. You will be receiving a follow up phone call to answer questions or to provide more petitions if desired.



Misinformation is being spread about this initiative! Here are some key **FACTUAL** points:

The initiative will:

- Restore over \$9 billion per year in revenue for our schools and local communities by closing the Prop 13 loophole for specific commercial property taxes.
- Help small businesses by eliminating the burdensome business personal property tax while also leveling the playing field for new businesses.
- Mandate full transparency and accountability for all revenue restored to California's schools and local communities.

The initiative will NOT:

- It will NOT raise taxes on residential property
- It will NOT raise taxes on renters nor on rental property with residents.
- It will NOT raise taxes on small businesses.

Remember, Proposition 13 taxes cannot be changed without a state initiative voting process.

If you can support this effort, please do so. Every registered voter's signature helps!!! The entire petition of 8 signatures can have 1 to 8 signatures to be turned in.

Call our League office 925-283-2235, or email us at info@lwvdv.org.

Old URL, New Look

Check it out! If you go to our same old URL, <http://lwvdv.org>, you will find a brand-new website, thanks to LWV California's new MyLO platform. It's still a work in progress, but we think it's an improvement. Explore a bit and let us know what you think!

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 May. 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.)*

Sharon Anduri
Harry Baker
Joan Buchanan

Lara DeLaney
Gail Givens
Carol Hehmeyer

Tiffany Martin
Amara Morrison
Christine Scimia

Marian Shostrom
Leslie Stewart

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley Voter
 Published monthly except July and December
 LWV of Diablo Valley
 500 St. Mary's Road, #14, Lafayette, CA 94549
 925-283-2235 www.lwvdv.org
 Editor: Leslie Stewart
 Email delivery is free, but **delivery by U.S. mail is \$10/year.**
 Current/past issues are posted on our [website](#).

Welcome, new members: Sue Basso, David Dolder, and Suzanne Ericksen!

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!

LWVC Recommendations for the June Ballot



Proposition 68 - California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act - **SUPPORT**

Proposition 69 - Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes - **SUPPORT**

Proposition 70 - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund - **OPPOSE**

Proposition 71 - Effective Date of Initiatives - **SUPPORT**

LWVBA Recommendation for the June Ballot

Regional Measure 3 – Bay Area Traffic Relief Plan - **SUPPORT**



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*
 Karen Dolder, *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 ___
- \$ _____ \$10 Student Membership. Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ 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**

- May 5** **Action Committee**
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
Note new day of week!
- May 5** **Pros & Cons**
(see page 1)
- May 10** **Board Meeting**
 10:15 am - [LWVDV Office](#)
 12:15 pm
- May 19** **Elections Update**
(see page 1)
- June 2** **Annual Meeting**
10:00 am **No Action**
 Committee
- June 14** **Board Meeting**
 10:15 am -- [LWVDV Office](#)
 12:15 pm