



IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

Saturday, February 2
12:00 – 2:00 pm
**New Member Lunch &
Orientation**
3338 Mt Diablo Blvd
Lafayette
(see page 4)

Saturday, February 9
9:30 am – 3:30 pm
League Day
“Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion in the Bay Area”
San Francisco

Thursday, February 14
LWV is 99 years old!

Saturday, March 16
3:00 – 4:30 pm
**How to Be a Government
Watchdog**
Ygnacio Valley Library
Walnut Creek

Saturday, April 27
LWV Bay Area Council
San Francisco

May 30-June 2
LWVC Convention
Pasadena

Monthly Meeting

PROGRAM PLANNING

(Annual Priority Setting)

See pages 3, 5 and 6



10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Saturday, February 23

Sequoia Room
Lafayette Community Center
500 St. Mary’s Road, Lafayette

*Free, everyone welcome!
Light refreshments served*

info@lwvdv.org

(925) 283-2235

League Leaders' Letters



From Martha Goralka:

It is only February of 2019 and we already have plans in place for the upcoming 2020 elections. But first we're focusing on **Program Planning**, selecting our issues of focus for the coming year. Especially if you've never done this, please plan to join in the fun on February 23 from 10 am to 1 pm in the Sequoia room at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette. We'll review our previously adopted positions and consider new areas of study. The League takes positions after members carefully study an issue and participate in a process of reaching what we call a consensus, where almost every participating member agrees on a course of action. All of our action is based on these positions. Last year we did this at the national level. This year we're considering the state level issues in preparation for next May's LWV California convention, as well as our local positions and priorities (*for more, see pages 5 and 6.*)

Because of our new March primary, filing deadlines for county, state and federal positions have moved up to December 2019. We're already planning the primary CCTV taped forums in January of 2020, as well as the November general election forums. The Schools Voter Education Team is kicking off its voter pre-registration and registration plans partnering with local schools. Even though we just celebrated our November 2018 election work, we're on our way to the next one!

Check out our jam-packed League calendar as we continue to Make Democracy Work for everyone! This is a year you will be enticed to "Do it all"! And it's not even our 100th birthday for another year!



From Suzan Requa:

Hello League members and friends:

Did you see the view of miniature satellites on *60 Minutes*? It sends chills through me, how very much observed and data collected we are. We are behind in protecting ourselves and protecting our democracy from the implied threat of all these scientific discoveries and the possible corruption of their good intent.

"Never argue with a fool. Onlookers may not be able to tell the difference." This Mark Twain line, repeated by Mark DeSaulnier, is a perfect statement of the frustration of our current political climate.

Note that we are suffering from an underlying political assault on federal workers and federal agencies as not important. We can change the messaging about our public

employees as a talented and valuable resource for our country -- that has now become apparent after the government shut down.

We do have very good news. With the election of many diverse members of the House of Representatives, we have proven again that grassroots political discourse and avoiding dark money can be successful and very representative of the commitment to providing service to our communities.

You will see the results of our LWVDV strategic planning sessions play out in strengthened methods to accomplish our main goals of providing and expanding voter services and expanding volunteerism to promote and defend our democracy. Watch for our Schools Voter Education Team volunteer news and work to expand Voter Registration/Voter's Edge venues throughout our communities. Watch for volunteer news on our newly reactivated Observer Corp and its relationship to Action and Advocacy, beginning with our March meeting.

After the recent Women's March, it is apparent that we would all benefit from a stronger network to communicate action alerts and activities among non-partisan non-profits in our Central and East County cities that are working to promote involvement and action to meet community needs, without overwhelming everyone with information.



Have an interest? New to taking action? Would like to gain knowledge and experience? Let us know through email or office phone messages what is of interest to you. We are building teams and team support to meet our communities' needs. Join in!

February Orientation Lunch for New Members (note change in location!)

Meet some experienced League members and others who have joined in the past year or so. We will share what motivates us and what we want to accomplish in 2019. Learn about League's history, structure, and how you can participate in Making Democracy Work! *[Note: This is a repeat of the January 26 event.]*

Saturday February 2, 12:15 pm to 2:15 pm at Supervisor Candace Andersen's office, 3338 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette (next to the fire station). Street parking only.

The event is free, but please RSVP to let us plan for food and space. To RSVP use the Eventbrite link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwvdv-lunch-orientation-tickets-54074775108>

If you cannot attend but would like more information, or have questions, email ashleyaoc@comcast.net.

Money & Politics – Notes from the Lafayette Forum

Suzan Requa, LWVDV Co-President

“Money & Politics – Fixing our Tattered Democracy” was a recent presentation with discussion. Representative Mark DeSaulnier described the priorities of HR1, the bill in progress in the House of Representatives to repair our democratic campaign process.

Ann Ravel described the dismantling of the FEC and how, starting in 2007, leaders in Congress defeated the FEC enforcement mechanisms of disclosure, penalties, and accountability that allowed the dark money to proliferate. Ann Ravel is a senior fellow at Maplight, which partners with LWVC partner to provide details of top campaign donors for candidates and ballot measures on Voter’s Edge. “Overturn Citizens United” is the top priority to reform campaign finance laws, with a long-term battle ahead. She advised that political campaign corruption has been very hard to prove.



Trent Lange, President of California Clean Money Campaign, led the successful effort (LWVC included) to require disclosure of campaign advertising donors in issue-related ads. In California the actual political ad donors are listed in a clear banner at the top of each political ad. Non-profit 401(c)4s can no longer be named as front organizations, hiding the originators of the big money for political donations. Additionally, a Social Media Disclose Act has now passed the Legislature.

Michele Sutter, Co-founder of Money Out, Voters In, described how courts have redefined the First Amendment from free speech for people to free speech for corporations and moneyed interests. Michele described how the corporate media is benefiting from corporate advertising during campaigns, and in 2016 earned \$6.7 billion through political advertising. She notes the lack of enforcement on the emoluments clause and supports impeachment proceedings to get public review of evidence in regard to Russian money in our election.

Lafayette City Council: A brief report from a recent meeting.

Carol Murota, LWVDV Lafayette Observer



Running a city is a complicated business. A recent Lafayette City Council agenda included discussions of funding of school crossing guards, felons’ ownership of dogs, the complexities of the PG&E bankruptcy and City agreement, especially as pertains to tree removal, and the unexpected need to replace a Lafayette City Council member.

On first glance, the **crossing guard** discussion seemed limited to safety, but the city’s contribution actually affects educational programs. Richard Whitmore, Superintendent of the Lafayette School District, came before the City Council to request an increase in Lafayette’s contribution to pay for crossing guards. He identified crossing guards as the most important and immediate safety need; as such, the school district recently increased the number of crossing guards to assist students going to and from school. This expansion of coverage, plus rising labor costs and inflation, reduced the city’s historical share of costs from 50% to closer to 27%. Generously, the City Council voted unanimously to return to their previous level of 50% funding for the foreseeable future. This continued partnership allows the school district to redeploy funds

for educational programs while continuing to ensure safety for school children. A win for education, the city, and the school district.

As we are discovering, government is run on 'norms' and habits. When the unexpected occurs, we don't always have ready tools. This happened to the Lafayette City Council when faced with the unexpected need to **replace councilmember** Mark Mitchell. Remarkably well-qualified citizens stepped up to serve. Lafayette citizens were passionately engaged in the replacement process. The City Council had to figure out how to replace Councilman Mitchell without benefit of pre-determined process. Obviously, this was a difficult and vocal process as the overriding concern was for transparency. Two things that stood out were the persistence of Lafayette residents and the dedication of the Lafayette councilmembers to make a decision based on their best judgement in the best interest of the city. The City Council is determined to create a process in the unlikely event that this situation re-occurs. Time to move forward.

You can be a League observer like Carol – learn how at our March meeting!

Get Ready to Set State and Local Priorities for 2019-2021!

(Adapted from LWVC Program Planning webpage)

Program Planning. In the League, this is the process by which we decide where and how we will focus our resources – member time, money, reputation – over the next two years.

Where do League members want to have the most impact? What will help build the League name – and help build our organization? In addition to setting local priorities, we will also provide our input to the state League board to prepare for decisions at Convention, May 30-June 2, 2019.

What do we want prioritized in Diablo Valley?

This past year we chose two local priorities, Affordable Housing and Immigration. In addition, we determined that we wanted to put extra effort on a state priority, Healthcare. During the year, in response to the Parkland shooting, we added Preventing Gun Violence to our priority list. Now it is time to look at what issues we want to work on next year.

What do we want prioritized in California?

The LWVC [Program Planning Kit](#) includes background information about work that we know will be on our plate and a few ideas to start your thinking.



What's new about LWVC program planning this year?

- **We don't need to review all of the positions!** Of course, if you have questions or concerns about any position we definitely want to hear them; bring them to the Program Planning meeting on February 23, or email advocacy@lwvc.org.
- **Proposals for new positions via concurrence.** There are several proposals for new positions to be adopted via concurrence (*see information below*). Concurrence allows us to add a position resulting from a local League study without each local League completing a similar study.

All three proposals for concurrence are summarized on the next page. Full information on all is on the LWVDV website (click on Articles) and will be provided at our meeting on February 23.

Concurrence on Voter Representation/Election Process (proposed by LWV Sacramento County)

(proposed replacement for current LWVC Elections Systems position under Government)

Position in Brief: Support election methods at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation for all voters.”

. . . Leagues that did studies and consensus discovered no electoral method is perfect. However, some are better than others at representing voters and creating more opportunities for women and under-represented voters. These Leagues recommended election methods as a result of their studies as well as criterion for evaluating a method and best practices.

This concurrence position does NOT support any particular election method but rather supports the LWV goals for “an open, governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.” It allows for Leagues to use the position to evaluate or propose electoral options. In many jurisdictions, options are needed as remedies to voting rights lawsuits that seek minority representation.

Concurrence on Civil Discourse (proposed by LWV San Luis Obispo County)

(Proposed as addition to current Government position)

Promote civil discourse through action and education for all government bodies, staff, and citizens for the purpose of improved public policy decisions and processes. Civil discourse means, at a minimum, mutually respectful, courteous, constructive, and orderly communication.

Concurrence on Criminal Justice Reform (proposed by statewide LWV committee)

(proposed as addition to current LWVC Government positions)

Position in Brief: LWV-California supports:

- a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry;
- the elimination of systemic bias, including the disproportionate policing and incarceration of marginalized communities;
- policing practices that promote safety for both law enforcement officers and the communities they serve;
- collaboration between government and community-based programs throughout every stage of the criminal justice system;
- a focus on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting the successful re-entry into California communities of those who have been incarcerated; and
- reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about law-enforcement programs and policies.

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 February. 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.*)

Sue Basso

Jan Berckefeldt

Michael & Susan Brandy

Jane Britton

Connie Chiba

Jim & Kathy Jakel

Kay James

Susan Kimmel

Julia Linde

Deloris McCabe

David & Frances McNamee

Jacquelin Pels

Grant & Rachel Pickett

Joyce Pollack

Joanna Rains

Wyatt Recob

Dave Requa

Mary Sarracino

Gayle Saxton

John Sergeant

Nancy Thursby

Jean Veltema

Penny Walker

Steve Weir

Barbara Werum

May Worth

Renee Zeimer

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LWV of Diablo Valley

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Current/past issues are posted on our [website](#).

Welcome, new members: Claudette Staton, Barbara McHuron, and Stephanie Williams-Rogers!

Did you join LWV before 1969? If you have been a member ever since then, you are a Life Member and do not pay dues. Contact Membership Chair Ashley Coates to upgrade your status!



We're on Facebook!

<http://tinyurl.com/of4o2pj>

@LWVDiabloValley

Visit us and LIKE our Facebook page.

And Twitter! Follow us on Twitter --



BART Oversight Committee Member Needed!

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area is looking for applicants for the League representative on the Measure RR BART Oversight Committee. BART staff will provide an orientation, materials and support. Members must attend at least 50% of the semi-annual meetings, and may serve for up to three two-year terms. The BART web site includes information about the Citizens' Oversight Committee and Committee Reports are posted in this section at: <https://www.bart.gov/about/bod/advisory/bond>.

For application forms and more information, contact Alex Starr, LWVBA Transportation Chair, at apstarr@ix.netcom.com



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 500 St. Mary's Road, #14
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LWVDV Board Members:

- Suzan Requa, *Co-President*
- Martha Goralka, *Co-President & Voter Service Chair*
- Sue Brandy, *Vice President*
- Karen Dolder, *Secretary*
- Barbara Hill, *Treasurer*
- Lee Lawrence, *Action/Advocacy*
- Leslie Stewart, *Communications*
- Barbara Coenen, *Office Mgr*
- Marian Shostrom, *At-Large Director*
- Ann Flynn, *At-Large Director*
- Diane Bianchi, *At-Large Director*
- Ashley Coates, *Membership*
- Tammy Moulton, *At-Large Director*
- Nancy Thursby, *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.

- \$ _____ \$75 Individual Membership. Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$105 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

- Feb 2 Action Committee**
10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Feb 14 Board Meeting**
10:15 - [LWVDV Office](#)
12:15 am
- Mar 2 Action Committee**
10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Mar 14 Board Meeting**
6:30 - [LWVDV Office](#)
8:30 pm

Check out our website, www.lwvdv.org to keep up on meetings and activities!