



IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

Wednesday, March 13
Immigration & Affordable Housing
12:45 pm
Mt. Diablo UU Church
5 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek

Saturday, March 30
Communications Training: LWV Website & Emails
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Pleasant Hill Co-Housing
2200 Lisa Lane, PH

Thursday, April 18
Healthcare4All
Presentation & Film: "Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point"
7-9 pm
Our Savior Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
(LWVDV is co-sponsoring – this is our monthly meeting)

Saturday, April 27
LWV Bay Area Council
Location TBD
(see page 7)

May 30-June 2
LWV Convention
Pasadena

Monthly Meeting
How to Be a Government Watchdog



Learn how the League keeps an eye on councils, boards and commissions

Saturday, March 16

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Ygnacio Valley Library
2661 Oak Grove Road
Walnut Creek

Free, everyone welcome!
Light refreshments served

info@lwvdv.org (925) 283-2235

Program Planning Priorities – Your Opportunity to Vote

Suzan Requa, LWVDV Co-President

Our LWVDV held its annual Program Planning meeting on Saturday, but we are not quite done – we need your help!

As we selected the policy priorities for the year, we also were aware that we want to find opportunities to:

- generate and deliver ongoing information through multiple sources like our website, Facebook and twitter and alerts;
- provide, perhaps co-sponsor, voter and community information presentations;
- actively track legislative activity to advocate successfully for our approved positions;
- and coordinate volunteer time and effort focused on our chosen local priorities.

Three new commitments for volunteer time other than Program Priorities

We have a few ongoing local, state and national advocacy and celebratory activities important to our League message and member growth. Two of those efforts are important for 2020 only, so we will not need as much time for them in 2019.

One of these important advocacy activities is our state League-sponsored **“Schools and Communities First”** state ballot initiative for November 2020, which will change the way that Proposition 13 taxes are assessed for very wealthy commercial property owners that have avoided them, raising money for public schools (40%) and other community services.



The second is the **100 year anniversary of the League of Women Voters and the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote**. We definitely want to plan informative and celebratory events for that critically important and hard fought success - getting the right to vote.

Finally, we have initiated a new effort, our **new Schools Voter Education Team** for regular contact at central and east county high schools, community and state colleges for voter registration and Voter's Edge and voter education activities. This commitment will need your support and volunteer time to be successful. Those members joining the team this year will be designing and setting the course for the regular delivery of voter services at schools. Lead Members of the Schools Voter Ed Team have met several times over the past month to develop a strategic plan for expanding the LWVDV outreach to county schools. The goal is to develop a consistent partnership with the CCC Elections Office that aligns with the state's efforts to promote more civic engagement in schools. Since the county is large and volunteers are few, the team is focusing initially on the more underserved communities where voter turnout is low.

Program Priorities for your consideration

So you see how difficult it has been for us to select program priorities without broader membership response, here is the lengthy list of suggestions for our local LWVDV program priorities that came from our initial discussion at the meeting on Saturday. All of these are issues where we agreed there was potential for meaningful activity.

- Health Care Reform
- Affordable Housing
- Immigration
- Local Government Redistricting
- Civil Discourse
- Money in Politics

To allow as many members as possible to participate in choosing the priorities that will be recommended by the Board for decision at Annual Meeting, we are offering a SurveyMonkey online survey – just two quick questions! Please fill it out NOW at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YZQDXDG>.

Please pick four areas that are of interest to you to participate in. This does not mean that you would participate in all four. What it does mean is that you would like to volunteer your time to participate in the program priority of most interest to you that is selected by you and by the full membership as one of the priority programs.

League Day: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Whether you attended League Day in San Francisco in February, or just wish you had, there are online resources available that support the messages from that meeting.

Check them out at <http://lwvbayarea.org/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-dei>. Links include speaker slide decks, two short videos (which were unfortunately not shown that day due to technical difficulties) and the video that was streamed from the event.



[Photo left to right: Melissa Breach, LWVC Executive Director; Virginia Kase, LWVUS CEO; Madeline Kronenberg, LWVBA Board President. Photo credit: Carol Murota.]

Action Committee Calendar Reminders

All are welcome at our monthly **Action/Advocacy Committee Meeting** on Saturday, March 2, from 10 am to 12 noon. We will be reviewing current activities in the areas of our priorities (Immigration, Affordable Housing, Health Care, and Preventing Gun Violence), current state and national Action Alerts, the results of our Program Planning Meeting Feb 23, and new ideas from our members. This is a great way to learn how the League advocates in support of the positions arrived at through our studies of particular issues. Join us!

On Wednesday, March 13, two of our top LWV-DV advocacy priorities, **Immigration and Affordable Housing**, will be discussed in a program at the Mt Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, at 12:45 pm in their Diablo Room. Members of our allies, the Contra Costa Immigrant Rights Alliance, will be participating. And many of our LWV-DV members are members of this religious community. I (Lee Lawrence) will be there -- I hope you will be there too!

Skills Training: League Website and E-Blast How-To Sessions

Leslie Stewart, LWVDV Communications Chair

Come learn the backstage process of putting together webpages and adding events to our website – it's easier than you would think! The My League Online (MyLO) platform was intended to be used by members without HTML or other website background, and to make it possible for several members to contribute in different ways (i.e., by changing the membership survey or adding their own events).



A second part of the session will deal with Vertical Response, the program we use to send out our regular emails to all of you with news and meeting reminders. It's almost as easy as writing an email!

The trainings will be on **Saturday, March 30**, from 10:00 – 11:30 am for the website and from 11:30 to noon for Vertical Response, in the Common Room at Pleasant Hill Co-Housing, 2200 Lisa Lane, Pleasant

Hill. Child care will be offered (thank you, Tammy!)

This is an activity of the Communications Committee. In the past we have had a Twitter training with a social media specialist. We hope to schedule an update on that along with training on Instagram and Snapchat sometime soon – let us know if you are interested!

Did You Know?

In December, the **LWV UN Observer for Climate**, Robin Tokmakian, LWV Monterey, CA, and three Delegates (Rebecca Boyd, LWV Wilmette, IL, and Claudia Keith and Cathy Frischmann, LWV Corvallis, OR) attended the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* in Katowice, Poland.

Action Alert for HR 1, the For the People Act

Our national League of Women Voters strongly supports H.R. 1, the For the People Act, which has been introduced in the House of Representatives. The League actively participated in drafting this bill which protects voting rights, restores the Voting Rights Act, and makes illegal many of the forms of voter suppression which have become widespread in the past 10 years.

The League has issued an Action Alert for all its members to contact their congressional representatives to support the bill. We are fortunate that our representative, Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, is a co-sponsor of H.R. 1. We can call to thank him for his support of this bill at his Washington office at (202) 225-2095, and/or at his Walnut Creek office at (925) 933-2660.

Here are some of the bill's key provisions, as summarized by the Brennan Center for Justice, which also strongly supports the bill:

- **Streamlining Voter Registration:** H.R. 1 would bring [Automatic](#) and [Same-Day](#) Voter Registration to voters across the country. Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) is a transformative reform under which eligible voters are automatically registered when they provide information to the government at the DMV or other government agencies, unless they opt out. Since 2015, 15 states and the District of Columbia have approved AVR; if adopted nationwide, AVR could add as many as 50 million new voters to the rolls. Same-Day Registration (SDR) allows eligible voters to register at the polls on Election Day, making it less likely that voters will be disenfranchised by last-minute registration problems. It is already offered in 16 states. Combined with AVR, SDR would solve most of the serious registration problems voters experienced in 2016 and 2018.
- **Commitment to Restore the Voting Rights Act.** H.R. 1 reaffirms Congress's commitment to [restore the full protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act](#), the landmark civil rights law that was hobbled by the Supreme Court's 2013 *Shelby County* decision. *Shelby County* enabled states to pass a wave of restrictive voting measures and set the stage for the brazen attempts at voter suppression we saw in 2018. The bill makes clear that Congress is committed to reversing the effects of the Supreme Court's decision.
- **Nationwide Early Voting.** H.R. 1 also would ensure that all voters have at least two weeks of [early voting](#), including evening and weekend hours. Early voting, which is offered in most but not all states, boosts turnout for those who may have difficulty getting to the polls — such as working Americans and those providing childcare — and reduces long lines on Election Day. It also provides an important protection for election integrity by allowing officials to spot and address problems well in advance of Election Day. Early voting is extremely popular with voters and helped fuel record-breaking turnout in 2018.
- **Citizen-Funded Elections.** H.R. 1 would create a [small-donor matching](#) system for Congressional races and revamp the matching system for presidential contests. Small-donor matching is an innovative reform that uses public funds to amplify



small private donations. The bill would provide qualified presidential and congressional candidates with \$6 in public funds for every \$1 raised from small donors. A similar program has existed for decades in New York City, where it has diversified the donor pool, helped candidates of modest means run for office, and allowed elected officials to spend more time talking to their constituents instead of dialing for dollars. The bill also increases presidential public financing for general elections.

- **Other Important Campaign Finance Reforms.** H.R. 1 also includes strong measures to close [loopholes in federal campaign disclosure rules](#), [curb foreign funds in U.S. elections](#), and [fix the Federal Election Commission](#), our nation’s dysfunctional campaign finance regulator.
- **Gerrymandering Reform.** H.R. 1 would curb extreme partisan gerrymandering by ensuring that states draw congressional districts using [independent redistricting commissions](#) whose members represent diverse communities across the state, by establishing fair redistricting criteria, and by mandating greater transparency for the redistricting process.
- **Election Security.** H.R. 1 also contains a number of provisions to improve election security, including a requirement that states [replace paperless voting machines](#), new grants to help states enhance election security on an ongoing basis and develop better processes for auditing disputed election results, and new security requirements for election system vendors (including an obligation to report cybersecurity breaches).
- **Ethics Reform.** Finally, H.R. 1 [shores up government ethics](#) by strengthening enforcement of ethics rules in the Executive Branch, requiring disclosure of presidential tax returns, tightening restrictions on congressional conflicts of interest, and requiring the Supreme Court to adopt a code of ethics.

In addition, the bill also prevents the purging of voter rolls based on eliminating the voter registrations of voters who have failed to vote in recent elections.

Resource for the March 16 Monthly Meeting:

OBSERVERS: Serving as an observer is something that anyone can do. It is an opportunity for new or less active members to contribute to the organization’s work. It might be something that would appeal to students or new residents who are trying to learn more about their new community, or to recent retirees who have new- found free time and more flexible schedules.

While there are no “qualifications” per se, ideally observers are:

- good listeners and able to summarize and “interpret” proceedings in a fair way;
- interested in local government and/or issues being discussed by the governmental body that they are observing;
- able to serve as an “ambassador” for the organization (e.g., talking about the organization with other attendees at a meeting);
- discreet and courteous;
- not working a personal or partisan agenda while serving as a League observer.



This information is excerpted from:

https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/lwvef_observingyourgovernment.pdf

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
Anne Granlund**

**Cherie Cotsifas
Margaret Yeaman**

Welcome, new members: Cam Smith, Joan Field and Mary Dean!

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



LWV Bay Area Council: Regional Voters Service Training

The Biennial Council will consist of a short business meeting and then proceed to a special Voters Service 101 presentation from LWVC. This 101 course will cover Forum "to do's" as well as how to handle bad behavior from candidates and guests, what's needed for a seamless video production, and an opportunity to discuss the creation of a regional question bank. We realize all counties and public offices are not alike. However, a question bank allows the "idea-juices" to flow as inspiration to other Leagues.

Date: Saturday, April 27th

Time:

9:30 Networking

10:00 - 1:30 pm - Council with presentation by LWVC

Location: TBA



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*
- 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 ___
 - \$ _____ \$110 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**

- Mar 2** **Action Committee**
10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Mar 14** **Board Meeting**
6:30 - [LWVDV Office](#)
8:30 pm
- Apr 6** **Action Committee**
10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Apr 11** **Board Meeting**
10:15 - [LWVDV Office](#)
12:15 am

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