



IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

May 30-June 2
LWVC Convention
Pasadena

Saturday, June 15
LWVDV Annual Meeting
10:30 am – 1:00 pm
Contra Costa Water
District

Saturday, July 20 OR 27
LWVDV Leadership Team
Retreat
Location TBD

Saturday, August 17
LWV Bay Area Mini-
League Day:
Voting Rights 2019 to
Equal Rights 2020
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
San Francisco

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/voting-rights-1920-to-equal-rights-2020-a-workshop-on-the-rights-of-women-tickets-58973619684>

Sunday, August 18
100th Anniversary of the
Nineteenth Amendment

Monthly Meeting

Census 2020: Complete Count for Contra Costa County



Saturday, May 18
3-4:30 pm

Pittsburg Library Conference Room

80 Power Ave.

Pittsburg, CA 94565

*.3 miles from Pittsburg Center BART station,
parking available at library*

Speakers

Contra Costa County Supervisor Diane Burgis,
Chair of the 2020 Census Committee

Julia Marks, Staff Attorney, Asian Americans
Advancing Justice—lead on Census 2020

Spread the word – everyone welcome!

*Call or email with city and phone number if you'd
like to carpool:*

info@lwvdv.org (925) 283-2235

Leaders' Letters

Martha Goralka, LWVDV Co-President



Suzan and I are serving our final full month as co-president partners. I am grateful she has consented to continue her service to our Diablo Valley League with a new co-president. I am even more grateful to have served with such amazing partners as you, our incredible membership – both new and longtime Leaguers.

Our board plotted a course for a more diverse, equitable and inclusive league with an absolute commitment to keeping democracy alive through our voter service efforts. Not only did you, our members, sign up for every kind of voter registration effort, you also signed up to time, moderate, and hand out question cards at both live and taped candidates roundtables and forums; you signed up to contact candidates for VotersEdge participation; you signed up to give special Pros and Cons presentations of ballot issues – or speak to groups about voting... But you didn't just sign up – you showed up! I am so proud to be part of the women and men who make up our extraordinary membership.

When I became a League member in 1970 when my son was two years old, I thought 50 years was a long time. And now another forty nine years have passed and it seems like a minute or two. I think our foremothers would have been proud to see us continue their efforts during this past year, not to mention the past 100 years. I'm looking forward to working with each of you as we enthusiastically forge our way into the next League century. I'm so proud to know and work with you!

Suzan Requa, LWVDV Co-President

We are working behind the scenes to design and implement new changes as part of our local League transformation effort. Our upcoming Annual Meeting will reveal all that has been initiated and the planning for the outstanding effort intended for the LWV 100 year anniversary and the election year 2020.

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Meeting for all members on Saturday, June 15th, 10am to 1pm, location to be confirmed soon. Speaker: Lynn Mackey, recently-elected Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools. Thank you, Superintendent Mackey, for agreeing to speak to us and also to assist our School Voter Education Team!

The Annual Meeting business will include helpful information on how to volunteer in key areas of Voter Services, Communications, New Member Orientations, 3rd Saturday Info Meetings, Action/Advocacy and Program Priorities. There are important votes for new officers, our budget for 2019/2020 and Program Priority selection.

We are looking forward to State Convention in Pasadena this year. One of the very effective resources provided at the Convention is local Leagues sharing their successful community efforts to advance democratic processes, grow and diversify the League membership and increase Action/Advocacy effectiveness throughout our state of California. We will be providing what we learn through Voter articles and implementation of activities or Action/Advocacy where those can be effective here in LWVDV.

We have not been as successful as we would like to be in meeting and discussing LWVC specific issues with our state legislators. Moving forward, we are proposing a small group of 2-3 LWVDV members who will schedule a meeting with their local City Council members and/or their local Contra Costa County Supervisor to request specific follow up and transparency on issues of Wildfire Prevention,



Wildfire Emergency Communication and planned evacuation procedures. If you would like to participate in this effort and meet with your local officials, please call the League office at 925-283-2235 and leave a message with your name, cell number and your city location so we can team up with the appropriate elected official for your address. Or email info@lwvdv.org with the same information. Please see the additional information on specific questions about Wildfire Proposed Action on the next page.

Note that we have an initial East County Public Information Meeting planned on Saturday, May 18th on the Census. This meeting is open to the public and all LWVDV members.

Yes, we can make and are making a difference! Take the initiative and call in to volunteer in an area of special interest to you. This is a good time to get in on initial planning of our activities.

Charter Schools Concurrence Proposed for Convention

At our Program Planning meeting, we requested LWVC look at updating our Education position to address charter schools.

The Fresno League, has proposed a charter school position (see [LWVDV website](#)) for adoption by concurrence at the LWVC Convention. Since all California Leagues did not have the position language for their Program Planning, this concurrence will be proposed as a non-recommended item. **As such, it would require approval by three-fifths of the delegates for adoption*.**

**FYI: The proposed concurrences on Criminal Justice and Election Processes are recommended for passage at Convention, but the Civil Discourse and Homelessness positions are listed as non-recommended program items. Like the Charter Schools position, these must be voted on for consideration and will also take a 3/5 vote to pass.*

Wildfire Prevention, Emergency Communication and Evacuation Procedures (see [Suzan's Leader's Letter](#) for more information)

Wildfire response takes complicated coordination between government agencies. Our LWVDV has raised this issue with the Bay Area League and forwarded a request to the state League to stress the urgent need of our communities for planning measures to be implemented and communicated to everyone within our state. Together we can work to prevent another catastrophic wildfire outcome like the one in Paradise.



These questions are the starting point for dialogue with our local leaders to ensure that required coordination of services and service districts has been or will be established with the necessary urgency.

Proposed discussion points:

1. We are here as your concerned constituents of "City or County district". We observed from previous wildfires that our system of emergency communication is broken and may be further impacted by a PG&E power outage. What do we have in place to communicate alerts and evacuation orders in every location in our area, including addressing the difficulty and complexity of nighttime events?
2. What are the plans in our area for evacuation procedures and locations including for schools, hospitals, senior communities and care homes, daycare facilities, business offices and any other setting that presents special needs? Can you provide the complete list of coordinating agencies with their command hierarchy in an effort of this scale?
3. What are recommended fire prevention and evacuation preparation activities that are essential for individuals, homeowners and businesses?
4. What will you as an elected official do as next steps to identify planning and communicate to the public the information requested for every local community? Do we need a special Task Force to accomplish what is needed?

With a wildfire and high wind conditions, there is no community that will be safe from the threat of wildfire if it is in the path of the high wind. Let's get prepared and do what is needed to maintain preparedness. **Watch for our August Third Saturday public meeting on Wildfire Danger in Contra Costa County!**

Updates on Student Voting Activities

Shawn Gilbert, Co-Chair, School Voter Education Team

As presented at the April board meeting, Co-Chair Tammy Moulton is working on the map of election participation to determine the lowest turnout areas for us to focus on. It is fairly clear that East County is in need of attention.

I presented a History of Suffrage Powerpoint at DVC for their brown bag lunch series in March for Women's History Month.

A number of members did training and observation for the DVC Student Government election this month.

I've connected with the Student Activities' director and the College Career tech at Antioch High about partnering to develop a student position in leadership who will help promote student voter registration during the two times a year that the state has designated. We still are waiting to hear back from the state about the change in their second date for high school voter registration, due to the primaries now moving to March.

Finally, I spent a day recently in Mr. D. Busboom's government classes at San Ramon High doing voter registration. He was happy to have the League be available to do student registration. He wants to stay connected and would like me to come each semester next year.

Good news from the Observer Corps!

Carol Murota, Observer Corps Chair

Outgoing League co-president, Martha Goralka, and Jen Faught, and Gayle Saxton are among the newest Observer Corps members. A few more League members are checking their schedules and commitments, and I am hoping they will help us keep an eye on 8 more city councils as well as the County Board of Supervisors and the Contra Costa Community College District. This is a great way to connect our communities and our League work.

I admit, when I was initially approached about this watchdog role, I feared I was promising to attend every meeting and file monthly reports. Let me assure you, having observed the Lafayette City Council for 3 years, I have not changed my hiking nor skiing schedules. All city council meetings are video taped, available on line and while sometimes not as thrilling as being in the room, it is just as informative.



The League is run by busy volunteers! I was relieved that I was not expected to watch every meeting, live or streamed, nor expected to report on every action. I do often discover a topic or discussion that relates to a League interest – like affordable housing/rent control, or a City program that might be replicated in other cities. The Action Committee appreciates information on what is happening in our communities. The Communications Team also welcomes any notice or brief report for publication in our Voter. Information is power, and League readers appreciate knowing what is going on.

Perhaps my favorite aspect of being an Observer is the willingness of council members to give me in-depth briefings. I feel like I learn nuances and perspectives that I might have missed.

I love the deep dive and the opportunity to pass along that background and education to my League friends. The League is run by busy members, every bit adds to the picture. Join us! Please contact me at LDVCarol@gmail.com, let's talk!

Schools and Communities First – 2020

On March 30, 2019, Helen Hutchison, LWVC President, with a coalition of social justice partners, kicked off the campaign to build momentum to pass the Schools and Communities First proposition that will be on the 2020 ballot. About 100 people from many different organizations were trained to train their friends, family, and community to explain and get endorsements for this proposition.

Designed to substantially increase funding for schools and local government services *by updating the appraisals of corporate/commercial properties not yet paying taxes at their fair market value*, these re-appraisals are anticipated to produce \$11 billion each year while retaining California's position as the state with the lowest corporate property tax rate. Homeowners, renters, and landlords — any place where people live -- will not experience any changes in their property taxes.

You can learn more about and get involved in this exciting League effort. A recording of a May 1 webinar will be accessible on the Members Only section on our website at www.lwvdv.org or email Carol at LDVCarol@gmail.com.

Health Care Reform Update

Marian Shostrom, Health Care Item Co-Chair



LWV Diablo Valley co-sponsored a showing of the Film *Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point* on April 18th. A group of about 60 people watched the 38-minute film, and then listened to panelists Dr. Mary Boegel, MD, Pat Snyder, RN, PhD, and Dan Geiger, MBA. Mr. Geiger gave an overview of a Single Payer system. Ms. Snyder talked about current national and state legislative efforts. Dr. Boegel talked about her experiences practicing medicine in Canada as well as in the United States.

LWVDV member Janet Thomas introduced the program, and LWVDV member Ann Flynn moderated the lively Q and A. If you missed the program, and want to stream the movie at home, you can do that by going to this website: <https://fixithehealthcare.com/>. In addition to Fix It, there are other documentary films, including: *Medicare for All: How do we pay for it?* and *Big Pharma: Market Failure* available for streaming at home. If you would like to host a viewing of any of these films with a Q & A, contact Marian Shostrom, info@lwvdv.org

We all know that Health Care reform in the United States is complicated because we have so many different systems and payers, including Socialized Medicine (Veteran's Administration) and Single Payer (Medicare).

Single payer Medicare for All bills have been introduced in both the House (H.R. 1384) and the Senate (S. 1129). Neither bill can clear the Senate, but this is an opportunity for all of us to learn more about the single payer model, which would provide affordable and equitable health care for everyone, vs. the Public Option, which would provide Medicare for more people than Medicare currently covers, but would leave much of the current system in place. Physicians for a National Health Program, PNHP, has an excellent FAQ page about Single Payer: <https://pnhp.org/what-is-single-payer/faqs/>.

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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**

**The League of Women Voters
of Diablo Valley Voter**
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Editor: Leslie Stewart

Email delivery is free, but **delivery by U.S. mail is \$10/year**.
 Current/past issues are posted on our [website](#).

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.)

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Lily Abells | Vikki Chavez | Elaine Jegi | Christine Scimia |
| Sharon Anduri | Lara DeLaney | Shelly Lewis | Marian Shostrom |
| Harry Baker | Kathryn Doyle | Tiffany Martin | Leslie Stewart |
| Judith Carney | Gail Givens | Alexandra Morris | Hollace Ungerleider |

Welcome, new members: Katie Bhatt, Camille LeBlanc, Marcia Lassiter, Catherine Newman, Dawn Morrow, Ed Moser and Holly Plank, and Carol Chan-Zuckerman!

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



SAVE the DATE: February 14, 2020 (it's a Friday!)

The LWVUS has declared a League Day of Action to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the League. The theme will be "Women Power the Vote!" Goals and activities will be developed in the coming months for state and local Leagues to participate in this high visibility opportunity. This day of action will complement any existing plans Leagues may have, staying true to our brand, and offering all Leagues the opportunity for engagement and celebration in honor of our centennial.

The League of Women Voters is a Women's Vote Centennial Initiative [Taskforce partner](#), meaning that our League is too. For more ideas and opportunities to celebrate, check the [LWVUS Anniversary page](#) on their website or our new [LWVDV website Anniversary page!](#)



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 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*
- Shawn Gilbert, *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**

- May 4** **Action Committee**
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- May 9** **Board Meeting**
 6:30 - [LWVDV Office](#)
 8:30 pm
- June 1** **Action Committee**
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Jun 13** **Board Meeting**
 10:15 - [LWVDV Office](#)
 12:15 am

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