



**IMPORTANT DATES**  
*(regular meetings page 8)*

Saturday, August 17  
LWV Bay Area Event  
"Women's Equity: Global,  
National & Local  
Perspectives"  
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  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Nineteenth Amendment

Saturday, September 14  
LWVC Climate Change  
Forum  
11:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Sacramento  
*(see page 3)*

Saturday, September 21  
Monthly Meeting  
"Voter Services"  
3:00 – 4:30 pm  
Location TBA

Tuesday, September 24  
**National Voter  
Registration Day**

**Monthly Meeting**  
***(note it's on a Tuesday!)***

**Wildfires: Local Preparedness,  
Communication and  
Evacuation**



**Tuesday, August 20**  
**6:30 – 8:30 pm**  
**Lakeside Room, Heather Farm Park**  
301 North San Carlos Drive  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

***Panel of experts plus short film***  
***(for more details, see page 3)***

**Everyone welcome!**

[info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) (925) 283-2235

## Leader's Letter

Dear Leaders, Members and Friends of the League:

We are here for you and our communities as we have been for one hundred years (next year).

**Empowering Voters; Defending Democracy.** No small task. Now we are strengthening our message and building our organization and our community effectiveness through **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.**

We will be offering you continuous opportunities to participate in grass roots democracy as always, and we will be making plans to celebrate our 100 year anniversary. Read your emailed Voter, check our website and Facebook and Twitter/Instagram—whatever social media you use.



We have priorities for the coming year: Health Care; Affordable Housing/ Homelessness; Wildfire Safety (government services coordination and public safety); along with recent requests to support equitable local re-districting (*more to follow*), and responding to ALERT messages from National and State and our local LWVDV.

Our Action/Advocacy Team is discussing the CCTA (Contra Costa Transportation Authority) long-term all-use transportation planning for LWVDV consideration; we encourage you to go online and state your priorities for our county transportation design.

We have re-designed our significant effort for **schools voter registration and voter engagement** and created a specific team for this work.



We continue plans for Schools and Communities First advocacy for the 2020 Ballot.

Send your ideas for how you would like to celebrate our 100-year anniversary and how you might like to volunteer for this very

important salute to women's voting history and outstanding community leadership. Email us at [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org)

And an appeal to you all—a request to help heal our democracy, and restore our values—every day CALL, EMAIL, TWITTER your government and/or DONATE to END THE CRUEL FAMILY SEPARATIONS and to provide the families the care they need to help them recover.

Yours in League, Suzan

## How You Can Participate, Beginning Now!



### **August 20 Meeting on Wildfire Preparedness, Communication and Evacuation**

*Ann Flynn and Diane Bianchi, LWVDV Program Chairs*

Are you prepared for a wildfire in our area? Do you know what you should pack in a Go-Bag? Do you have an evacuation plan? Can you open your garage door if the electricity is out? How will you contact your family and friends? Does your city or town have an emergency plan?

Although Contra Costa County has not been hit with a large, uncontrollable wildfire yet, we need to be prepared ourselves. Our county fire, local police, and emergency services will be taxed to their limits, so it is important that citizens do what they can to keep themselves and their neighbors safe.

Join us for a public meeting to learn the hazards and what you can do to make yourself ready. Hear the latest in planning from Contra Costa County Fire District and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and other local experts.

### **New Member Orientation: Vote for Dates in September/October!**

*Ashley Coates and Cathleen Kirk, LWVDV Membership co-chairs*

We hold orientations for new members quarterly, to give you an overview of League's history, mission, procedures, current priorities and how you can get involved. We have plenty of volunteer opportunities coming up related to Voter Registration, the March 2020 election, League's 100-year Anniversary, and more.



If you have joined LWVDV recently and haven't yet attended an orientation, we hope to see you at our next orientation in Brentwood or Antioch! (We can help arrange carpooling.)

Please fill out **this short survey** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8G2TJMW> to indicate the dates and times you expect to be available. Please hold these dates on your calendar until we can announce in the September Voter what the winning date/time is!

### **NorCal LWVC Climate Change Forum**

Saturday, September 14, 11:00am – 3:00pm

CSU Sacramento (room to be announced), 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819

- Meet League members from your region of California
- Learn what other Leagues are doing
- Learn about state legislation
- Learn how you can collaborate

For more information or to join the Task Force, email [climatechange@lwvc.org](mailto:climatechange@lwvc.org)

## Issue Resource Chairpersons and Teams – Volunteers Welcome!

*Sue Brandy, LWVDV Administrative Vice President and Coordinator of Issue Resource Chairs*

An Issue Resource Chair, previously known as Item Chair, is a member who focuses on learning and being a resource person for the League about a given topic (such as Gun Violence Prevention or Climate Change). These chairpersons become knowledgeable about the League positions that are relevant to their issue topic and make recommendations for action and advocacy to the Action Committee. Issue Resource Chairs can establish an Issue Resource Team to assist them in covering the topic.

We know that not every member of the League is able to stay current on all issues as they come up for legislative action, are focused upon by other agencies, come before local government entities, or need action alert responses. As a League we would like to be informed about many different topics that relate to the positions we have taken over the years, as well as to State and National League positions. By having one team, or even one person, specializing in the action and advocacy of each topic, we have the opportunity to respond and understand far more issues.

Right now, we are working to reinvigorate our Issue Resource Teams. Many of the issues that have been identified as important already have Chairpersons. All are open to other members joining to form a team. A larger team offers the League an opportunity for increased breadth and depth about that topic. Please look at our list of issues and consider joining as a chairperson or a team member.

### Topics and Chairpersons:

Campaign Finance Reform/Money in Politics	<b>OPEN</b>
Census 2020	<b>OPEN</b>
Climate Change	Marti Roach
Criminal & Racial Justice	<b>OPEN</b>
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Liz DiGiorgio
Education/Charter Schools	<b>OPEN</b>
Energy/Air Quality	<b>OPEN</b>
Gun Violence Prevention	Christina Soto-Maynez
Hazardous Materials	Leslie Stewart
Healthcare	Pat Snyder, Marian Shostrom
Immigration	<b>OPEN</b>
Meeting Basic Human Needs	<b>OPEN</b>
Public Transportation/BART	<b>OPEN</b>
Redistricting	<b>OPEN</b>
Water	Linda Soliven



If you are interested in learning about these volunteer positions please email me: [brandylcsw@gmail.com](mailto:brandylcsw@gmail.com)

**Thank you to all of the members who have volunteered to be issue resource chairs. Some of these issues have other interested members who will soon be working with their chairperson to form a team.**

## Action/Advocacy Committee

*Marian Shostrom, LWVDV Action/Advocacy Co-Chair*

League members may take action on issues where we have studied the topic and have reached conclusions that allow us to take positions. The Action/Advocacy Committee meets monthly to discuss issues and recommend possible actions to the LWVDV Board. Recent activities have included advocacy for affordable housing proposals in several cities, statements on the Concord Naval Weapons Station re-use plans, and support for an independent redistricting commission for the City of Martinez. 2019-2020 priorities for LWVDV include Health Care, Affordable Housing, and Wildfire Prevention and Emergency Response, as well as LWVC priorities, such as the *Schools and Communities First* initiative on the November 2020 ballot.

The next meeting of Action/Advocacy is from 10 AM – noon on August 3, 2019, at the League Office, 500 St. Mary's Road. Do join us, and, even if you can't attend that meeting, please fill out this Doodle Poll: <https://doodle.com/poll/zrqxm7vztnydzmn9>, which asks when would be a good time for you to attend Action/Advocacy Meetings. We realize Saturday mornings may be busy for many of you. If you have comments about the time or place we meet, please add them.

## Healthy California For All Commission Established

*Pat Snyder, LWVDV Healthcare Priority Issue Team Member*

This commission, which replaces the Council on Health Care Delivery Systems, has just been passed by the Legislature and signed into law (SB 104, section 4). Its purpose is to develop "a plan for advancing progress toward achieving a health care delivery system for California that provides coverage and access through a unified financing system, including, but not limited to a single payer financing system, for all Californians."



Governor Newsom has been actively involved in negotiations about the nature and work of the Commission. The Commission is mandated to meet by September 1, 2019. To date no appointments have been announced. Healthy California Now, the coalition advocating for a single payer Medicare For all system for California, has submitted a list of recommendations to be considered. The commission is to provide a progress report by January 2020, with updates due every six months thereafter, and the final report due by February 1 2021.

The Commission will include 13 members—8 appointed by the governor, 2 by the Senate Committee on Rules, and 2 by the Assembly Speaker. The commission will be chaired by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH. There will be 5 ex officio, non-voting members, all of whom hold another position in the state government, including the Chairs of the Assembly and Senate Health Committees (Jim Wood and Richard Pan).

It is hoped that the commission will develop information on many of the questions that are commonly raised related to establishing and implementing a single payer in California, including "key design options". The issues listed in the legislation that are to be addressed by the commission are comprehensive. Thoughtful and careful investigation of these issues will be very valuable in supporting efforts to reform the health care system effectively through a single payer system.

## The (League Observer's) View from Lafayette

*Carol Murota, LWVDV Observer Chair*

Affordable housing, available housing, any housing - housing writ large - is an overwhelming concern in our state and our community. Everyone responds in different ways. To find out more, I recently met with Lafayette's Interim City Manager, Niroop Srivatsa. I learned our California legislature is considering some 200 bills that address housing. To keep apprised of and to improve the city's input into these bills, Lafayette hired a legislative advocacy firm who tracks and regularly reports on the progress of bills at city council meetings [another good reason to be a League Observer]. With this firm's help, and the efforts of many other cities across the state, the Mayors Council was able to stop SB 50. This bill would have overridden locally developed and adopted height limitations, housing densities, and parking requirements, and would have allowed fourplexes on all residential lots within California.

From my seat as a League Observer in city council meetings, I see that some Lafayette residents want affordable housing especially for community members who currently commute into Lafayette - people who teach their children, provide public safety [like police and fire fighters], work in local businesses, and are a part of the fabric of this semi-rural residential city. But not all residents know Lafayette must also meet the State's housing requirement.

The state assesses a Regional Housing Need Allocation [RHNA] number for each community based on projected housing needs. Lafayette's RHNA number is 400 units for the period 2015 to 2023 with the following designations: 138 units for very low income households, 78 units for lower-income households, 85 units for moderate-income households, and 99 units for above-moderate-income households. (Independent of the RHNA requirements, Lafayette requires that 15% of new residential development built in the downtown area be priced at below market rates.)

The city is in a difficult position. It is required by the State to meet its RHNA number. The city itself cannot build the housing required by the State, nor does it have the money to incentivize housing production. It can only respond to developers who propose projects. At the same time, as I sit in city council meetings, I hear that some residents want housing projects placed near public transit, others feel there is too much building going on or want projects slowed to give new residents time to become part of this semi-rural community. It is a delicate balancing act.



Given these complications, it is notable that Lafayette has issued 154 permits since 2015. In the next few months 177 housing units are expected to "pull" building permits. Fifty-five units are under current review. The Town Center III project added 69 units of centrally located condominiums, seven of which are below market rate. The city anticipates developers will submit more projects in the coming years to continue to bring affordable housing to Lafayette without changing the essential semi-rural character of this small city.

You can comment on building projects, attend any public meetings, and respond at the City Council meetings. <https://www.lovelafayette.org/residents/housing> takes you to the Lafayette website that describes housing. <https://lafayette.icitywork.com/> takes you to a "major development projects" page. This is fundamental work of the League - engaging your government - be in the room when it happens!

**Congratulations to Shawn Gilbert** - The PowerPoint presentation she developed on The History of the Suffrage Movement for DVC's Brown Bag Series is going on the road! Carol Jensen of LWV South San Mateo County will be using it for a series on women and their public achievement at the public library there.

DONATE

To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at [www.lwvdv.org](http://www.lwvdv.org).

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & UPDATES

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

Patti Bittenbender  
Sharon Burke  
Elaine Carroll

Chris Coons  
Allison Dibley  
Carol Federighi

Shawn Gilbert  
Jean Kitchens  
Anna Lee

Elaine McClellan  
Sam Stewart  
Lietta Wood

**Welcome new members Adonia Williams, Rosemarie and Michaela Frydman, Patricia Baxter, Martha Slavin, Dallas Chavez, and our NC transplant, Janet Hoy!**

*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 Chairs Ashley and Cathleen to upgrade your status!*



Visit us and LIKE our **Facebook** page. <http://tinyurl.com/of4o2pj>  
Follow us on **Twitter** -- @LWVDiabloValley  
**AND NOW**, on **Instagram**: @lwvdiablovalley

## LWV Bay Area presents a Nineteenth Amendment Anniversary Event

### Women's Equity: Global, National & Local Perspectives

**Sat Aug 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am - 1:30pm**

San Francisco Library, Latino Room

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco

Public event – bring a friend!

Suggested donation \$5 or \$10

For more information: <https://tockify.com/lwvbayarea/detail/15/156606120000>



**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, *President*
- Shawn Gilbert, *First Vice President*
- Sue Brandy, *Admin. Vice President*
- Karen Dolder, *Secretary, Office Co-Mgr*
- Barbara Hill, *Treasurer*
- Marian Shostrom, *Action/Advocacy*
- Stephanie Williams-Rogers, *Communications*
- Barbara Coenen, *Office Co-Mgr*
- Ann Flynn, *Program Co-Chair*
- Diane Bianchi, *Program Co-Chair*
- Ashley Coates, *Membership Co-Chair*
- Cathleen Kirk, *Membership Co-Chair*
- Gayle Saxton, *Voter Service Co-Chair*
- Martha Goralka, *Voter Service Co-Chair*
- Linda Soliven, *LWVBA Liaison*
- Leslie Stewart, *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**

- Aug 3**      **Action Committee**  
 10-noon      [LWVDV Office](http://www.lwvdv.org)
- Aug 8**      **Board Meeting**  
 10:15 -      [LWVDV Office](http://www.lwvdv.org)  
 12:15 am
- Sept 7**      **Action Committee**  
 10-noon      [LWVDV Office](http://www.lwvdv.org)
- Sept 12**    **Board Meeting**  
 6:30 -      [LWVDV Office](http://www.lwvdv.org)  
 8:30 pm

**Check out our website,  
[www.lwvdv.org](http://www.lwvdv.org) to keep up  
 on meetings and activities!**