

IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

Tuesday, November 5
Election Day
(Brentwood and El Cerrito)

Saturday, November 9
Road Trip to Sacramento
19th Amendment
Ratification Events
(see page 6)

Tuesday, November 26
Concord Library
2900 Salvio Street
Forum on Homelessness
4:00 – 5:30 pm
(see page 4 for details)

No December Voter

Sunday, December 8
Holiday Party
(New location – see page 5)



November is



Month for LWV Diablo Valley!

New Petitions Are Here!
You can get trained on circulating them now!

Petition Training in Central County

Saturday, November 16

Location TBA

Petition Training in East County

TBA (watch for announcement!)

See page 3 for more information on the new campaign to make this initiative even better and more likely to succeed in November 2020

Check our website for updates!

info@lwvdv.org (925) 283-2235

President's Letter

Dear Leaders, Members and Friends of the League:

Special thanks to Leslie Stewart who stepped in to handle the LWVDV Presidency and the Communications Team work, allowing me to take a special trip—a 50-year wedding anniversary trip—knowing that our organization was in very good hands as we continue the 100-year tradition of outstanding LWV leadership. Big thank you also to Marian Shostrom, Diane Bianchi, Ann Flynn, Martha Goralka, Ashley Coates, Cathleen Kirk, Christina Soto-Maynez, and Melanie Speir! They organized activities that provided all of us who participated with new methods to foster communication with a diversity of opinion, and new ways to inspire voter engagement.



Looking Back, Moving Forward — Women Power the Vote!

I hope that you will acknowledge with friends, family, neighbors, and other community organizations where you participate, the success of our suffragettes who advocated successfully to persuade elected all-male legislators across the country to approve the 19th Amendment 100 years ago. Many of those same suffragettes who gained the right to vote also created the League of Women Voters 100 years ago, and it is still active today empowering voters.

Join our board and members in a train trip to Sacramento on November 9th. Bring friends, family, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to share in this once in a lifetime 100-year recognition and celebration of women gaining the right to vote in California, leading to the 19th Amendment and the creation of the LWV. (See page 6 for more information.)

Now, 100 years later, women still power the vote through their management of campaigns for candidates and ballot measures, and by successfully campaigning to become elected officials themselves. In our county, we can be proud of the number of women in leadership roles. Additionally, we have two U.S. Senators who are respected women in their leadership roles, with one of them now running for the office of President of the United States.



Speaking of voter engagement, we are surprised that we have not received the number of volunteers we expected for our work with high schools and community colleges. Perhaps you think that it involves teaching civics? It's not that complicated, and it's fun to work with our youth as they become engaged in democracy!

The design work we do here in California becomes the model throughout the country. Want to participate? Want to do something constructive for our democracy in these troubled times? **Fill out our online member survey and get connected with activities for voter engagement and/or voter information right away!**

With warm regards, Suzan Requa

ACTION/ADVOCACY

Schools and Communities First!

Carol Murota, LWVDV Campaign Coordinator

We invite you to join our team of Schools and Communities First signature gatherers and speakers! Schools and Communities First is a priority for the State League! It will bring \$348 million back to Contra Costa County to be shared between K-14 schools and local governments. It does this by reassessing large commercial properties to current market value and protects residents from any changes in their Prop 13 property taxes. It also protects small businesses and agricultural lands.

This is a chance to bring reliable increased revenue to every school and local community.

Want to join the petition drive to make a strong initiative even stronger?

Come to the **Action Committee meeting** on **Saturday, Nov 2, 2019, 10 am** at the League office on **500 St. Mary's Road in Lafayette**. Look for the sign above the door saying "The Boardroom". Learn a bit about this initiative and get trained to gather signatures! Lisie Thayer, our SCF petition chair, will be there with everything you need to know and the petitions so you can get started!

Want to join the speakers team to let everyone know about this initiative?

Contact Carol Murota at LDVCarol@gmail.com or info@lwvdv.org

Pledge to vote for this initiative using this link:

<https://lwvc.org/take-action/action-alerts/sign-our-pledge-vote-yes-schools-communities-first-2020>

Let **Governor Gavin Newsom** know that you care about this initiative – sign the petition asking for his support:

<https://www.evolve-ca.org/petition>

While this initiative has qualified for the Nov 2020 ballot, the League is part of a petition drive to strengthen it. There are only a few revisions proposed but, if the revised initiative gets put on the ballot, it will expand the protections for small businesses. Another very important clarification outlines how the money for education will get distributed.



If you live in Central or East Contra Costa County, please join the League on November 16, 2019, for a program that details the importance of this initiative. Keep your eyes open for place and time!

If you can't wait to learn more or get involved, please contact Carol Murota – LDVCAROL@gmail.com or leave a telephone message at 925-283-2235.

Brentwood Special Election and Voter's Edge

Marian Shostrom, Voter's Edge County Coordinator

Brentwood is holding a special election on November 5, 2019. **Measure L** is an Initiative "to Allow for Development of Residential Dwellings and Commercial/Civic Uses, and the Protection of Open Space, by amending the Urban Limit Line, the Brentwood General Plan, and Municipal Code; Adopting a New Specific Plan; Constructing Road Improvements; and Providing Funds for Public Facilities".

If you live in Brentwood, go to Voter's Edge, <http://votersedge.org/en/ca>, and type in your address to find information about Measure L. You will see the text of the measure, and links to news articles, editorials, letters to the editor, and web sites supporting and opposing the measure, and a video of the CCTV Forum on the measure that LWVDV co-sponsored with the Elections Department. Measure L information on Voter's Edge was added by LWVDV volunteers.



LWV Diablo Valley Action Committee

Marian Shostrom, Co-Chair, LWVDV Action Committee

The Action Committee meets **Saturday, November 2nd, from 10 am–noon in the League Office, 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette.**

The committee meets monthly to discuss LWV and local issues and priorities. When appropriate, the Committee may recommend that the LWVDV Board take action on an issue, such as writing a letter, making a statement, or endorsing a local measure. For example, the Board recently sent a letter in support of an Independent Redistricting Commission in Martinez.

Local issues that will be discussed at the November 2nd meeting include the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) Tax Measure that will be on the March 3, 2020 ballot, and General Plans being developed by Contra Costa County, Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Oakley, and Walnut Creek. Join the discussion! There will also be a petition signature training for the Schools and Communities First initiative by LWVDV member Lisie Thayer.

If you want to see the notes from the October 5th Action Committee meeting, go to the Members Only section of lwvdv.org.

Forum on Homelessness

November is Homelessness Awareness Month. The Contra Costa Library has been hosting monthly programs to link up the homeless with resources, and to provide an opportunity for dialogue. On November 26, county agencies and local organizations will speak at a Homelessness Panel about the work that they do with the homeless and how the community can help. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Join with us and organizations such as Shelter, Inc; Contra Costa County Health, Housing, and Homeless Department; and more. LWVDV member Ann Flynn will be the moderator.

Date: Tuesday, November 26

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Place: Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio Street

VOTER SERVICE: Women Continue to Empower the Vote

Martha Goralka, LWVDV Voter Service Chair

The League is already getting requests to help register voters or train registrars, and to participate in advocacy training with a focus on voter turnout. This new phase of Voter Service is GOTV – Get Out the Vote.



Shawn Gilbert and I travelled to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties to meet with staffers who want to work with us on Voter Registration at their distribution sites. The Food Bank has also developed a training program for their clients on how to successfully advocate for themselves. We are looking forward to registering voters at their East County distribution sites in Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch and far East County.

Contra Costa's Interfaith Housing has also asked us to partner with them again. We'll be training their volunteers to register voters.

Thank you ALL for signing up to help with Voter Service. We've had a record number of members willing to help during the Primary and General Elections. Please save as many January calendar dates as possible for these efforts! Your continuing willingness to help is deeply appreciated.

It's been fun to meet so many new partners and so many new members, as we work to ensure diversity, inclusion, and equity in all our activities as the League begins our next 100 years of serving our communities.

Registering Voters Training in January--Please Vote for Date/Time

Membership and Voter Service Teams

We want to plan a Voter Registration training for members in early January. While the paper voter registration form is fairly simple, there are several questions people sometimes ask us when we are registering people to vote. There also are online and mobile phone options for finding out one's current registration status or registering online.

Please fill out the poll here, to indicate which dates and times you could attend (deadline to reply is November 16). <https://doodle.com/poll/yzksm6geqqtr4x93>

Let's Party!

Join us to celebrate the holidays before the start of a very busy election season! All members and guests are welcome:

Date: Saturday, December 8

Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Location: South Walnut Creek residence. Address and directions sent after your RSVP.



It's a pot-luck; your plate of nibbles will be welcomed. Please RSVP to info@lwvdv.com with what you will be bringing and how many will attend. Beverages provided.

Suffragists You Need to Meet

Maria W. Stewart



Maria W. Stewart was born in Connecticut in 1803. She was orphaned at the age of five. While she attended Sabbath School, she was basically self-educated. At the age of fifteen, she was working as an indentured servant. Stewart later became a teacher, writer and activist. In 1826, she was an important abolitionist speaker in Boston. In 1831, Stewart became the first black woman to be published in *The Liberator*, William Lloyd Garrison's abolitionist newspaper. Stewart began speaking for all women's rights by 1832. Ultimately, she became the first woman to speak to a mixed gender and race audience about economic justice. Maria W. Stewart died in 1879. She is credited with being the first known American-born woman to lecture publicly on political issues.

This biography is part of Shawn Gilbert's presentation on women who fought for women's right to vote. For more biographies, see our [Anniversary page](#) on the LWVDV website. Look for another courageous woman next month!

Her Flag, and The California Suffrage Centennial

ALL ABOARD! The League of Women Voters Diablo Valley is going on a train trip to Sacramento on Saturday, November 9th, to celebrate the ratification of the 19th Amendment in California.

1. Her Flag: Crocker Art Museum, 1:30 p.m. 216 O St, Sacramento, CA 95814. Free. <https://www.facebook.com/events/422921301694145/>

2. California Votes for Women: A California Suffrage Centennial California Museum, 1020 O St, Sacramento, CA 95814
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Free for first 500 or \$5 reduced admission:

<https://www.californiamuseum.org/cavotesforwomen>

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of California's ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote with California First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom! LWVC is part of the celebration activities!

For more information on both of these events, including transportation options, please see the Anniversary webpages at <https://my.lwv.org/california/diablo-valley/celebrate-californias-ratification-19th-amendment-november-9-sacramento>

Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime celebration!

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

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley Voter
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 Current/past issues are posted on our [website](#).

If your name appears below, then it is time to renew your membership in November or December. Please use the form on the next page. If you have already renewed, thank you! (Remember: your membership expiration date does not change if payment is made after that date.)

Susan Blair	Joan Foster	Barbara Kuklewicz	Don & Sharon Ritchey	Christina Soto-Maynez
Marcia Cannon	Cynthia Gonzales	Charlotte Liniger	Rocio Ross	Claudette Staton
Barbara Coenen	Evelyn Graetz	Carolyn Moyer	Pat Shanahan	Fred Sullivan
Karrie Connors	Jackie Hackett	Minette Murphy	Cheri Smith	Janet Thomas
Liz Digiorgio	Carol Hiestand	Heather Ramamurthy	Patricia Snyder	Lelia Tokuyama
Mary Fenelon	Rachel Irelan	Dave & Susan Requa	Beth Soloway	Gwen Watson

Welcome, new members Yvonne LaLanne, Walnut Creek and Kathi Bruce, Concord!

If you have been a League member for 50 years or more, you are a Life Member. Life Members 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

Upcoming LWVUS Webinars on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Increasing our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is a central goal for LWV. Every LWV member has access to the webinars that LWVUS has produced in the past and will produce in the future on this theme. Recordings and resources from previous webinars can be found on the [League Management Site](#).

The upcoming webinar series will take a deeper look at the topics we've been exploring for the past year and offer tools every member can use in their League work. Ideally, Leagues would watch together and make time for discussion afterward.

You can register individually at the links below:

- November 21, 2019: [Register](#)
- December 19, 2019: [Register](#)



LWVDV VOTER
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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*
- 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*
- Martha Goralka, *Voter Service Co-Chair*
- Linda Soliven, *LWVBA Liaison*
- Leslie Stewart, *At-Large Director*
- Christina Soto-Maynez, *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. NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$110 Family Membership (2). NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$35 Additional Family Membership. NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$10 Student Membership. 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**

- Nov 2** Action Committee
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Nov 14** Board Meeting
 6:30 - [LWVDV Office](#)
 8:30 pm
- Dec 7** Action Committee
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Dec 12** Board Meeting
 10:15 am - [LWVDV Office](#)
 12:15 pm

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