

IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

Saturday, September 14
LWVC Climate Change
Forum
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Sacramento

Thursday, September 19
Election Preview Taping
CCTV, Martinez
10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Tuesday, September 24
**National Voter
Registration Day**
(more details soon!)

Saturday, October 12
New Members and Guests
Orientation
Concord Library
10 am -12 pm
(see page 3)

Saturday, October 19
Interactive Workshop on
Civil Discourse:
What Kind of Talk Does
Democracy Need?
1:00 – 4:00 pm
Location TBA

Tuesday, November 5
Election Day
(local measures)

September Meeting

Women Power the Vote!



Voters Service Kick-off

Saturday, September 21

3:00 – 4:30 pm

**Pittsburg Library
80 Power Avenue
Pittsburg**

**Guest Speaker:
Joe Canciamilla, County Clerk-Recorder
Plus LWVDV experts (see page 3)**

Everyone welcome!

info@lwvdv.org (925) 283-2235

Suzan's President's Letter

Dear Leaders, Members and Friends of the League:

We have had, in our country and in our LWVDV, a particularly difficult week.

In our country, our current Senate leadership has failed us -- **by continuing to obstruct their own constitutional duties.**

Failing to act to protect us from gun violence against men women and children and driven by racism;

Failing to act to protect us from Russian interference in our election systems, and allowing our Federal Election Commission to become dysfunctional;

Failing to create a functional and humane immigration policy and implement it operationally;

Failing to end an inhumane and cruel child family separation and detention immigration policy, and choosing to send very ill children to their death by ending their access to lifesaving medical treatment.

We don't even need to talk about the corruption in leadership, both of cabinet officials and in the office of the current President.

Our LWVDV leadership is pausing to recover from the deliberate overwhelm driven by the current abuses of power nationally and the need to mend internally by setting do-able agreed-upon priorities and designing next steps in appropriate sequence throughout our 2020 election year.

Here's the good news. One overarching priority will be ongoing, the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. *Yes, I said it. CELEBRATION! In spite of all the insanity, we are going to CELEBRATE this amazing accomplishment of women gaining the right to vote 100 YEARS AGO and the successful effort to grow women in elected leadership past and present. (See webpage.)*

*****Looking back. Moving forward. WOMEN POWER THE VOTE*****

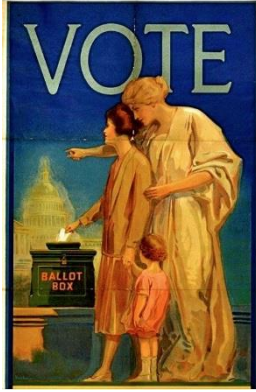
Women will power the vote again to restore our previously admired democracy and refocus on effective governance!

Yours in League, Suzan Requa

Anniversary Celebration Begins!

Approximately 40 attendees, including Brownies and Girl Scouts, attended the 19th Amendment Anniversary Party on August 24 in Concord. After a very informative talk by LWVDV Vice President Shawn Gilbert, the group celebrated with cake, sparkling cider and photos with our very own suffragette representative, Margaret Ruth (photo shows Shawn Gilbert and Arlynda Huerta with Margaret Ruth, photo credit to Karen Dolder).





Women Power the Vote: 100 Years of What We Do Best

On Saturday, September 21, 2019, the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley will sharpen our 2020 focus on serving voters with a general meeting featuring all things Voter Service. This meeting will run from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Pittsburg Library, 80 Power Avenue in Pittsburg.

Contra Costa County Clerk and Registrar Joe Canciamilla will be our first featured speaker, explaining the County's push for voting by mail that will make it easier for commuters and others to carefully cast their ballots.

This jam-packed program will continue with Marian Shostrom briefly describing Voters Edge, the League's unique online educational service for candidate and issue information. Kay James will describe opportunities to present the Pros & Cons of ballot measures that the League offers to community groups in September and October before general elections. Martha Goralka will give a brief presentation on volunteering as timers and moderators for live and CCTV-taped local candidate roundtables and forums for both primary and general elections. Registration trainer extraordinaire, Renee Zeimer, will conclude with a half-hour voter registration training.

This Fall League Kick-Off meeting is one you won't want to miss as our primary and general election season heats up. National Day of Registration is on September 24th, so you'll be ready to head out the door to register others to vote either by mail or at a local polling place.

Suffragists You Need to Meet

Tye Leung Schulze:



Leung was born in 1887 in S.F. Chinatown. As a young girl, she attended segregated schools for Chinese children only. At the age of 12, she ran away from her home to escape the arranged marriage her parents were planning for her in Montana. She found refuge in a Presbyterian Mission Home administered by Donaldina Cameron, a teacher and activist, who worked to rescue and protect Chinese women from sex trafficking. Cameron mentored Leung and encouraged her English learning. Leung joined Cameron in her work as an interpreter to young Chinese women rescued during police raids of Chinatown brothels.

In 1910, Leung passed the Civil Service Exam and became the first Chinese-American woman to be hired by the federal government. Leung was assigned to be an interpreter for newly arrived Chinese immigrants at Angel Island's Immigration Station. In 1913, following the successful passage in 1911 of the woman's suffrage bill in CA, Leung became the first Chinese-American woman to vote. That same year, Leung left California and traveled to Washington state in order to marry her newfound love, Charles Schulze. Inter-racial marriages were illegal in California at this time. Upon their return to California, both were forced to leave their government positions. Leung dedicated her life to combating bigotry and prejudice against women and immigrants.

This biography is part of Shawn Gilbert's presentation on women who fought for the vote. For a second biography, Mabel Ping Hua-Lee, see our [Anniversary page](#) on the LWVDV website. Look for another set of courageous women next month!

Orientation for New Members and Guests: October 12

Ashley Coates and Cathleen Kirk, LWVDV Membership co-chairs

Our next LWVDV Orientation Coffee for new members and guests will be on Saturday, October 12, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Location: Concord Library, 2900 Salvio St., Concord, 94519

We hold orientations for members and guests quarterly, to give you an overview of League's history, mission, procedures, current priorities and how you can get involved.



If you have joined LWVDV recently or would like to attend as a guest, please register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/league-of-women-voters-coffee-for-new-and-prospective-members-tickets-70445497379>

Please **register for the event by Tuesday, October 8**, and indicate any guests in your party. Invite a friend or coworker! *(If you've already confirmed your attendance by emailing Cathleen Kirk, you do not need to RSVP using EventBrite.)*

Action/Advocacy Committee: Save the Dates

Marian Shostrom, Action/Advocacy Co-Chair

Join the LWVDV Action Committee as we discuss current 2019-2020 priorities (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.

Action/Advocacy meets from 10 a.m.–noon at the League Office, 500 St. Mary's Road. A poll found that a majority prefer to meet on a Saturday morning, so I have scheduled these meetings:

- Saturday, September 7, 2019
- Saturday, October 5, 2019
- Saturday, November 9, 2019

News alert! Proposition 13 Initiative is Getting an Update!

Carol Murota, SCF Coordinator for LWVDV

LWVC is a major partner in writing and driving the initiative called *Schools and Communities First* that will close the loopholes that allow LARGE corporations like Disney, Walmart, Shell, and Chevron to avoid paying property taxes at the higher rate that newer businesses assessed at current market value pay. LWVC is working to protect ALL properties where people live: homeowners, mobile home residents, renters, PLUS agricultural properties and small businesses!

Did you know California homeowners currently pay 75% of the property tax revenue? Before Proposition 13, homeowners paid 56%. When this initiative passes, businesses like Disney, or the Hotel Bel Air in Beverly Hills, will pay their fair share of property taxes.

An estimated \$11 billion in recovered property taxes from commercial properties will be divided between schools and communities. When Proposition 13 passed 40 years ago, K-12 education funding dropped by 60%! California now averages \$12,000/student; New York and New Jersey spend over \$20,000/student. Time to reinvest in education!



The rest of the \$11 billion will go to cities, counties, and special districts who will control how they choose to use their new money—longer library hours, new park facilities or more staff for clinics or emergency response.

80% of this \$11 billion will come from only 8% of commercial properties, those worth more than \$5 million. It is time for these properties to pay taxes on their market value. Additionally, when this initiative passes, all properties (not just our homes) will be reassessed when sold. The

loophole that let businesses get around that reassessment will be closed.

Yes, you may recall we helped qualify this initiative last year, but the Schools and Communities First coalition has made some changes that will make it even easier to get this passed on the November 2020 ballot. **We are joining the LWVC and other local Leagues and coalition partners to gather signatures to re-file this improved initiative.**

Join a core group of our members to gather signatures, educate voters, and get endorsements to get this initiative refiled and passed! The work is fun and you can be as involved as you choose; from signing a petition to speaking to local groups, there is room for everyone. Please email LDVCarol@gmail.com if you want to get involved.

Action Alerts (*responding to Alerts is a LWVDV Program Priority*)

LWV California: The strength of representative democracy depends on everyone's participation, yet nearly 50,000 Californians on parole cannot vote. We are co-sponsoring ACA 6 because the fight is far from over. <https://my.lwv.org/california/action-alert/tell-your-assemblymember-free-vote-californians-parole>

LWV California: Roughly two-thirds of all plastic ever produced has been released into the environment, polluting every street, park, river, coast, and ocean. SB 54 and AB 1080 would alleviate the scourge of plastic. <https://my.lwv.org/california/action-alert/act-now-combat-plastic-waste-crisis>

Highlights from Our LWVDV Observers

From Martha Goralka, Antioch USD Observer: Several items were pulled from the consent calendar. One had to do with what a contract for a school bond consultant would cover – which was the first I'd known that another school bond issue was in process of consideration. (I serve on the school bond oversight committee for the past two bonds – and thought we'd be disbanding soon due to the completion of the work.) . . . The board is working to plan a retreat to facilitate getting to know each other better, and perhaps head off personal misunderstandings that have happened in the past. . . Perhaps the most interesting action item was the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Rocketship Delta Prep Charter School being accepted as compliant and both the AUSD superintendent and the head of the school applauding the process and outcome of this previously contentious MOU noncompliance issue.

Yes, We Still Do eScrip!

It's an easy way to support LWV Diablo Valley when you shop or dine out (or on your next cruise!) Register with eScrip and earn money and rewards for LWVDV. Go to <https://escrip.com/wheretoeam>, choose your favorite stores and restaurants, and complete registration to start earning for LWV Diablo Valley. (Be warned, just looking at that list of restaurants can get you hungry!)



Wildfire! What Should You Do?

Gail Murray, LWVDV reporter

Junipers around your house are easy to maintain. And the tall pine tree that towers over your roof is stately. However, these plants, along with eucalyptus and pampas grass, are some of the most fire prone vegetation and can quickly ignite your house, according to Kathy Woofter, Prevention Specialist with the Contra Costa Fire District, at the League's Wildfire! program. Woofter was one of four panelists at the August 20 program at Heather Farm Park.

"The safety of your home depends on how your neighbors are maintaining their home," said Woofter. Even if you don't have junipers or pine trees, your neighbor might. Woofter volunteered to speak to groups of neighbors and homeowners' associations about the 30-100 foot defensible space needed around homes to prevent destruction from wildfires.

Walnut Creek Police Captain Steve Gorski described the city's emergency preparedness plan, and said that the first action residents can take is to be sure they are signed up for emergency notifications. **Nixle**, <http://www.nixle.com/>, is a free app and communication tool that connects residents with Walnut Creek Police Department alerts, and can be used for evacuations, security threats, severe weather, road closures and more. He also recommended signing up for your local Next Door app at <https://nextdoor.com>. Even though Next Door may include information extraneous to your interests, the police department does use it to reach people with its alerts. (See our website's [Wildfire Issues](#) page for more tools.)

PG&E does NOT proactively shut off power to entire cities, said Pamela Purdue, PG&E Senior Public Safety Specialist. This is misinformation brought about by reports of PG&E's plan to prevent wildfires, she said. A shut-off is triggered by the combination of a red flag warning day and low relative humidity. Low humidity is caused by a lack of cooling overnight after a hot day. The criteria also include sustained winds of 25 miles per hour and gusts of 45 miles per hour. Under these combined circumstances, PG&E's meteorologists will make a power safety decision. Residents of the affected area will be given 48-hours-notice, then 24-hours-notice, and then again just before the power is cut off.

Because equipment and power lines have to be inspected after a shut-off, it can take 24-48 hours to restore the power. Urban areas will be restored more quickly than remote communities. "We know that shut-offs can impact police and fire services and that there are bad people out there," said Purdue, indicating that PG&E will work diligently to get power restored.

Laura Johnson, a volunteer with the city's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), described actions residents can take to make themselves ready. CERT trains community members in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. She said that residents can sit through the training classes to educate themselves even if they don't want to commit to being a CERT volunteer.

The message from all four panelists is that to survive a wildfire, it is wise to be prepared.

FIRESAFE GRANT APPLICATION FOR GROUPS

Diablo Firesafe Council, www.diablofiresafe.org, is offering cost-sharing assistance of up to \$5,000/project to civic or homeowners' associations or organized groups of individuals to hire a contractor to reduce fuel loads and create defensible space on properties. Projects can include chipping, weed whacking, tree thinning or removal, brush cutting, and grazing. Projects must be in Alameda or Contra Costa Counties within a local or Cal Fire hazard area or a federal Community at Risk. Applications are due November 15, 2019. Contact Cheryl Miller, Executive Coordinator at DFSCMiller@comcast.net.

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 September. Please use the form on the back page. If you have already renewed, thank you!
(Remember: your membership expiration date does not change if payment is made after that date.)

Farah & Moira Anwar	Barbara Hollenbach	Elizabeth Ludwig	Adelia Sabiston
Margaret Campos	Nan Hornberger	Cindy Mataraso	Melanie Speir
Ashley & Ken Coates	Marie Kahn	Sandra Moriarty	Lisie Thayer
Lisa Dell'Anno	Clara King	Gwen Regalia	Gail Van Tassell
Tara Doolittle	Cathleen Kirk	Marti Roach	Avon Wilson

Welcome, new members Eileen Hinds, Concord, and Laura Griffin, Martinez! And we omitted Pat Hoy last month – apologies for that!

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

You can Renew Your Membership Online!

Now when it is time to renew your membership, we will mail you a form. You can mail it in with your dues check, or fill out the online form and pay online.

- To renew and pay online, go to www.lwvdv.org.
- On the left-hand side, click on "Join or Renew" then click on "Renew Form".
- Fill Out the Renew Form online, choose the relevant dues level, scroll down to Pay Now (using Paypal) then click on submit to submit your form.

(Additionally there is the hybrid approach: fill out the Renew Form online, submit it, then print out the payment form and mail that in with your check.)

Thank you to our webmaster, Leslie Stewart, for setting this up.
Please contact me if you have questions about or problems with this process.

Ashley Coates, Membership Co-Chair ashleyaoc@comcast.net 925-247-4034



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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*

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**

- 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
- Oct 5** **Action Committee**
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](http://www.lwvdv.org)
- Oct 10** **Board Meeting**
 10:15 - [LWVDV Office](http://www.lwvdv.org)
 12:15 am

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