

IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

“Sips and
Conversation”
about suffragists
Wednesdays
Zoom, 7 pm
See [website](#)

SEE INSIDE FOR:

How to Star in Pros &
Cons, page 3

Virtual Voter Services,
page 3

Voter’s Edge California:
Making It Happen,
page 4

A Royal Suffragist,
page 6

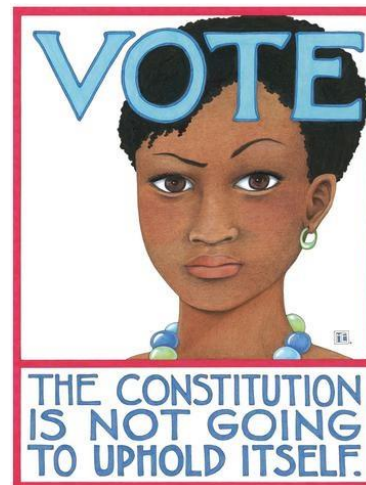
and more!

For information on how
to access virtual
government meetings,
check our [webpage](#) for
information.

Stay safe and well!

lwvdv@lwvdv.org
(925) 283-2235

Community Conversation



Women of Color Activists Then & Now

*hosted by the
League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley
and the Contra Costa County Library*

**Thursday, August 27th,
at 4:00 pm via Zoom**

Panelists include

- **Dr. Alison M. Parker**, University of Delaware
- **Dr. Lori Watson**, Educator and Author
- **Diana Madoshi**, board member, National Women’s History Alliance
- **Lauren Babb**, Planned Parenthood Northern California

Moderator: Alison Peters, Adult Services Librarian, El
Cerrito Library

Details and bios [online here](#).

President's Letter from Suzan

Dear League Leaders and all League Members:

We have a plan: It is clear that each and every one of us can do something to right our tilting ship and repair our tattered democracy.

We have a National plan: LWVUS has published [100 Days & 100 Ways to Get Ready for Election Day](#). Number 76 on the list urges you to call your Senators at 1-888-415-4527 to ask them to include \$4 billion in funding to secure our elections in the next stimulus package. Encourage your friends and family in other states do the same!



We have a California plan.: LWVC started promoting the Secretary of State's voter information campaign, **Vote Safe California**. This year, all Californians will receive their ballots by mail so they can avoid the polls and stay safe. Visit vote.ca.gov to learn more, update your registration, and get prepared to vote.

We are building a local plan: Coming soon - our local plan for the LWVDV. What a relief and so motivating to finally be getting close to an election which will have so much impact on our troubled democracy. We know how to do this! We can help our communities to accomplish unprecedented voter registration and foster significant voter turnout with well-informed voters.

It's going to take a willingness to work safely and to learn the new online techniques of providing voter information through Zoom and Google Meets and Webinars and social media. We can strengthen our communities through outreach designed with diversity, equity, and inclusion in mind. *(See pages 3 and 4 for more plan details.)*

Our plan depends on all of us to participate in some way that's right for us and our communities:

1. **Watch for our emails and social media posts and follow up as requested.** We will provide training and scripts when applicable!
2. **Take action!** Follow the LWVUS [100 Ways](#) and participate as you choose.

We look forward to hearing from you about activities and voter services as we plan!

Call our office (925-283-2235) or send an email (lwvdv@lwvdv.org - new email address) if you have questions.

Board Briefs

In June and July, the LWVDV Board

- Approved a letter to Contra Costa County opposing a Negative Declaration of environmental impact for oil exploration and drilling in the Brentwood area
- Approved a letter to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors requesting that the Board's Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 discuss the impact of Covid-19 on racial justice, equity, and safety net issues for Contra Costa residents.
- Heard a report on the LWV Bay Area Convention, including information on new regional working groups on issues including transportation, regional planning and housing.
- Heard reports on progress setting up Google Suite for Nonprofits, including new email accounts and associated online services.
- Held two Board training sessions for old and new Board members, including a two-hour Civil Discourse exercise.

Pros and Cons for 2020

Kay James, Pros & Cons Co-Chair

I don't need to tell you that this election cycle in 2020 will be like none other we've had in the past. Due to COVID-19, we will not be giving any in-person presentations on the ballot measures. However, thanks to Zoom and the ability to create some video recordings, the public will be able to get that important information in other ways. We've already had a good number of requests from organizations requesting presentations from the League, so our information is needed more than ever.

Here is what our Diablo Valley League is planning, in conjunction with St. Mary's College, thanks to a connection made by Diane Bianchi with a Professor of Communications there. We will be making a video for each of the 12 ballot measures, with the help of this professor and some interns that he's now enlisted for the project. Once produced, the videos will be made available to groups for viewing through YouTube links. Additionally, a number of organizations still want a Zoom presentation with League members, in conjunction with or separately from the video information provided. And, this would be our opportunity, as League volunteers, to supplement any new information that may occur from the time of the video production until the time of a Zoom presentation, which would be closer to the election. And, importantly, we could also be available to answer any questions from the audience that may arise via Zoom.



So, for all of you veteran Pros and Cons presenters, and for any new people interested in this important work, there will be an opportunity to participate in the Pros and Cons project for this election. There will be a need for volunteers to partner up, from the safe distance of their individual computers, to engage in Zoom presentations. Getting involved in the ballot measures is always such a rewarding experience, and being informed of the measures is a dual reward, since not only will you be able to vote on the measures with more accuracy yourself, but you will be able to help the public by sharing this information with them.

I would like to add that these endeavors we're attempting as an individual League require expending some resources, which we don't actually have readily available. Luckily, St. Mary's College has equipment and a room for recording that is being offered to us, but the interns should be paid. The professor, who is amazing, is doing all of this work gratis, and this is a godsend. However, if anyone has any ideas about raising some funds for these student interns, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you, as this is a major challenge for us.

Please let me know, via email or by telephone, if you are willing, able and available to join us for Pros and Cons in this historic, coronavirus election cycle. pros.cons@lwvdv.org, (925) 283-2235.

Volunteers Needed for Voter Services Activities!

Voter Services Team Co-Chair, Suzan Requa

Allies can be anyone or any organization who supports you to achieve something for mutual benefit. **Allies** are people/organizations united by a common cause.

For this 2020 election it is more important than ever to strengthen our community connections, focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion to ensure the highest level of informed voter participation. We know that peer-to-peer engagement is the most successful motivator of voter turnout. So, we will be focused on expanding our ally base and working with them to learn their needs for voter services and to foster a combination of their leadership and ours in the delivery of those voter services. *(continued on page 4)*

(from page 3)

Your volunteer help is needed! Would you like help with outreach to connect with non-profits or community organizations with diverse membership in East County?

The pandemic is driving us to provide all voter services online. Fortunately, Zoom webinars, videos on YouTube, Contra Costa County website, CCTV, our LWVDV website, Voter's Edge, and social media are more widely used and will continue to be useful methods to communicate during this health crisis. We are discussing how to best reach our Diablo Valley communities with information about online resources including Contra Costa County Voter Registration, Voter's Edge, state ballot measure Pros and Cons, and Candidate Forums. We'll plan our school outreach activities once decisions are made on school start and what methods will be supported by teachers in high schools and colleges.

Your help is needed to promote and deliver Voter Registration and Voter Information services through Zoom. Training will be provided! Teams of 2 or 3 volunteers will participate.

Additionally, we are considering options for those neighborhoods with historically lower voter turnout or with voters who may not be internet users or simply still want to use paper voter registration forms. Phone banking may be important in this effort.

Finally, we are planning for National Voter Registration Day and will be providing you more information about that effort.

We will be contacting you if you have expressed an interest in Voter Registration through the membership survey or have participated previously. If you want to ensure your participation, email voter.service@lwvdv.org or call 925-283-2235 and leave your contact information and voter registration volunteering as part of the message.

We look forward to working with you in this unique online voter registration and voter information effort for the November 2020 election.



An Inside Look at Voter's Edge

Marian Shostrom, Contra Costa Voter's Edge Coordinator

Are you wondering about the difference between League of Women Voter Education Fund's VOTE411 and California's Voter's Edge (VE)? Here is a bit of history: Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006, VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election-related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public, both general and state-specific, on many aspects of the election process. If you go to VOTE411.org, and use the pull-down menu for California, you will see information for California. When you click on "Candidate and Ballot Measure Information", you will see a link to Voter's Edge.

In 2014, three state Leagues (California, Illinois, and New York) had pilot programs to test Voter's Edge, which included information about financial contributions from MapLight.org. After the pilot, LWVC decided to continue the partnership with MapLight, and California voters have learned about candidates, measures, and financial contributions before each election since then. If you liked using ***The Easy Voter Guide***, you will be glad to know it is part of Voter's Edge. You will see the guide when you look at information about state ballot measures.

Candidates will be able to post information on Voter's Edge on **September 7th**. Data from the March primary indicates that voters began searching Voter's Edge (VE) about six weeks before the election, with heaviest use during the final month, after Vote by Mail ballots were received.

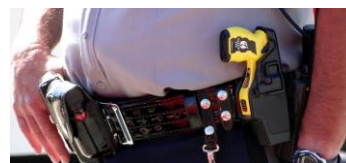
Timeline for Voter's Edge:

- **August 14-August 28:** Contra Costa Voter's Edge Coordinator will get a preliminary candidate list from Registrar of Voters (ROV) and research contact information for candidates.
- **August 22:** VE County Coordinator requests election data files from ROV, which go to LWVC Education Fund for uploading to the VE site. It usually takes a while for ROV to send files. Then they have to be uploaded and checked for accuracy.
- **August 26:** Deadline for candidate questions to be submitted to VE.
- **August 27:** Certified candidate list available from Secretary of State and county elections offices.
- **September 7:** Go live date! Voter's Edge site opens up with information on candidates, ballot measures, and financial contributions.

If you want to volunteer to call candidates or research information about local measures, email voters.edge@lwwdv.org.

Action/Advocacy Committee

The Action/Advocacy Committee meets on the first Saturday, from 10 am – noon. The September meeting will be on **Saturday, September 5**. This will be a **Zoom Only Meeting**.



Recent discussions have included oil drilling near Brentwood and policing practices in local communities.

Please join us while you are sheltering in place. To add an issue to the agenda, or if you want a Zoom link to join the meeting, email Marian Shostrom, action-advocacy@lwwdv.org, using subject line: Action Zoom Link

Schools and Communities First – November election news! Prop 15!

Carol Murota, SCF Campaign Coordinator

The Schools and Communities Funding Act of 2020 is on your November ballot! Numbered Proposition 15, and endorsed by our Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on July 28, 2020 — only Supervisor Candace Anderson cast an opposing vote.

Please, send letters of support for Prop 15, aka Schools and Communities First, aka Split Roll, to your newsletters and newspapers. Post the facts and your support on NextDoor and Facebook. Prop 15 is vigorously opposed by the well-funded and organized Howard Jarvis Foundation and some real estate organizations. Their carefully worded letters and op-eds omit important details. They often falsely imply homeowners will lose their Prop 13 protections. The SCF website has easy tools and a fill-in script to make sending letters easy to do. <https://www.yes15.org/write-to-your-local-paper>

Lafayette's Housing Remains an Issue

Carol Murota, Lafayette Observer

Lafayette continues its very expensive and protracted housing battle over the Terraces of Lafayette. The Planning Commission held two meetings, hearing from residents in support of and in opposition to the project. After 7 hours, a majority of the Commissioners reluctantly agreed to approve the project, being unable to find legal cause to deny the developer's permit. (*continued on page 6*)

(Lafayette, continued from page 5) City Councilmember Cam Burks appealed their recommendation. In response, the full City Council will hold a public meeting on August 10, 2020. If you wish to 'attend', please confirm the start time and details on the LoveLafayette website.

Local Politics: The Lafayette city mayor announced his resignation. Mayor Anderson's term expires in November, 2020.



Suffragists You Need to Meet: Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Widemann Dowsett (1861-1929)

Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV Vice President

Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Widemann was born in Lihue, Kauai, on March 28, 1861. Her mother was a native Hawaiian chieftainess who was part of the Royal Hawaiian family, and her father was an immigrant from Germany who was a coffee planter and served as a cabinet minister to Queen Lili'uokalani. Widemann married Jack Dowsett in 1888. A few years later, she watched as the U.S. Marines landed in Hawaii and overthrew her Queen. In short order, the Republic of Hawaii was established and then, by 1893, annexed as a territory of the U.S.

The National American Woman's Suffrage Association under Susan B. Anthony quickly seized on the opportunity to advocate to the U.S. Congress for Hawaiian women's equal suffrage in their "Hawaiian Appeal" of 1899. Dowsett and other Hawaiian women criticized this appeal as misguided because they thought it was more appropriate to directly petition the local government for civil rights.

Dowsett established the National Women's Equal Suffrage Association of Hawaii (WESAH) in 1912, while Carrie Chapman Catt was visiting. It was the first suffrage organization in Hawaii. The WESAH was inclusive of all women of the islands, regardless of heritage or race. The WESAH formally became affiliated with the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1913. Catt spoke highly about the Hawaiian women's suffrage activism. She returned to the islands again in 1918, to encourage them to move forward.

The Hawaiian Senate approved the woman's suffrage bill in 1919, but the House of Representatives resisted approval, even after Wilhelmina Dowsett had organized a parade of over 500 women of all ages and nationalities to march on the House floor demanding "Votes for Women." White male legislators feared that Native Hawaiians would have more power to regain control of the legislature if women had the right to vote. After several demonstrations and a month of waiting for the House to vote, Dowsett began organizing and lobbying the U.S. Congress directly. Simultaneously, she and other suffrage activists organized groups of women across the islands to prepare them for the day when they won the vote.

Ultimately, Hawaiian women won the right to vote when the 19th Amendment was ratified. As a territory, however, Hawaii's elected representation was not on par with mainland states. Full representation and full voting rights for both women and men of Hawaii would not occur for another 39 years, when the territory became the 50th state to join the Union. Sadly, Wilhelmina Dowsett, after years of political leadership, did not live to see full voting rights achieved in her homeland. She passed away December 10, 1929.

Photo source: Hawaii State Archives.

This Month's Exercise in Exploring Our Own Unconscious Biases

Sue Brandy, LWVDV At-Large Board Member

As the August Board Meeting approaches with new board members, the Board will be looking at whether they want to continue to address racial bias and injustice through discussing the chapters in *Waking Up White*, or perhaps through some other process. For those of you who have been following the questions the Board is reflecting on, we will be skipping questions for the meeting in August until the new board has the chance to decide how they want to move forward.



During the last months, board members have reflected on the messages that they have learned (and sometimes continue to hear in their heads) from their families and communities that have given messages of bias and discrimination. Sharing these messages has been a valuable experience in understanding how biases get passed on (or don't) through generations.

We will keep membership up to date on how the Board is addressing these vital issues for the League and for each individual and invite you to join in our process.

We invite you again to join us in exploring these questions for yourself. Reading *Waking Up White* is an opportunity to identify the beliefs we hold, sometimes unknowingly, that impact our perception of others.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Welcome new members Michelle Balovich; Jeanne and Michael Chiotto; Michele and Larry Downes; Tanya Doyle; Jean Fiske; Judith Goff; Kathleen Hanau-Gaines; Julie Hartford; Emily Itoku; Judith, Bruce, and David Kearns; Linda Lang; Brenda Muhareb; Janelle Smith; Claire Spanbock; Bill Speir; Maureen and Thompson Tully; Natalie Vansant; Elizabeth Wegenka; and Abigail Yeates! If you have a summer membership anniversary, watch for your renewal reminder. We need you, so please renew!

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 Chair Cathleen Kirk (cathleen.kirk@sbcglobal.net) to upgrade your status!



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

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: Join Us or Renew!

Membership is not based on ability to pay. To pay alternate dues or to request a scholarship, please contact the League office: (925) 283-2235.

\$80 Individual Membership
\$115 Family Membership (2)
\$35 Additional Family Membership
\$10 Student Membership
(LWVDV is a 501(c)3 organization. Dues and donations to LWVDV are tax-deductible. Tax ID number supplied on request.)

LWVDV Board Members:

Suzan Requa, *President, Voter Registration*
 Shawn Gilbert, *First Vice President*
 Karen Dolder, *Secretary, Office Manager*
 Paul Derksen, *Treasurer*
 Mary Schreiber, *Action/Advocacy*
 Ann Flynn, *Meetings Co-Chair*
 Diane Bianchi, *Meetings Co-Chair*
 Cathleen Kirk, *Membership Co-Chair*
 Martha Goralka, *Voter Service Co-Chair*
 Elaisa Acosta-Mendez, *Communications*
 Sue Brandy, *At-Large Director*
 Janet Hoy, *At-Large Director*

**CALENDAR
MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Aug 1 Action Committee
 10-noon Zoom Meeting*

Aug 13 Board Meeting
 10:15 am - Zoom Meeting*
 12:15 pm

Sept 5 Action Committee
 10-noon Zoom Meeting*

Sept 10 Board Meeting
 10:15 am - Zoom Meeting*
 12:15 pm

*To participate in a Zoom meeting, leave a message with your email address on the office phone and meeting link will be sent to you.

**The League of Women Voters
of Diablo Valley
Voter**

Published monthly except
July and December

LWV of Diablo Valley
 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
 925-283-2235 info@lwvdv.org

Editor: Leslie Stewart
 Current/past issues are posted on our
[website](#).

**Empowering Voters
Defending Democracy**