

IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

February 1-May 28
Suffrage Exhibit
Martinez

Friday, February 14
LWVUS Day of Action
(see page 4)

Monday, February 17
Voter Registration
Deadline

Saturday, February 22
Orientation to League
10:30 – noon
Ygnacio Valley Library
(see page 3)

Saturday, February 29
LWVBA League Day
“Looking Back, Moving
Forward”
Dominican Center
Fremont
[http://lwvbayarea.org/2020-
league-day](http://lwvbayarea.org/2020-league-day)

Tuesday, March 3
PRIMARY ELECTION

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY, LWV!
February 14, 1920



Honoring Carrie Chapman Catt
Founder, LWVUS

(read more on page 6)

info@lwvdv.org (925) 283-2235

President's Letter from Suzan

Hello League Leaders, Members and Friends,

We've got work to do.

We all have to be distressed by the constant political bullying and misinformation—all counter to our values and the model we want to provide to our own children and all families so impacted.

Our children know we must heal our democracy, and work together to face change and issues that are now overwhelming and devastating us. We need a balance of effective government services and talented, knowledgeable leadership and business acumen.

Our proven successful election strategy is grassroots voter registration and impartial communication about candidates and ballot measures through Voter's Edge California, and action/advocacy through neighborhood networks, libraries, and schools.

A new effort from members and friends is becoming more and more essential for broader grassroots impact. Our LWVDV website, our personal email and social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), as well as our "friends and family" social media, all have to grow in effectiveness to counter negative local political ads reaching communities of interest so easily.

Email LWVDV (info@lwvdv.org) with your name and email or phone, and how you might like to volunteer. Here are some options in addition to Martha's voter services activities.

- 1) Providing online voter registration and Voter's Edge California access and information at libraries and community centers.
- 2) Participating in a fact-based social media and NextDoor campaign, including members and friends and active users of social media. (Our League is endorsing several school bond measures and a future-facing tax measure on the March 3 primary ballot. Sharing our League of Women Voters endorsements and sharing facts can contribute to these measures' success.)

SO VOTE 2020, considering that the most essential criteria (aside from experience and proven accomplishment), will be the ability to bring most of us together again. Then we can rebuild democratic processes that lead us to much needed community solutions for each of the challenges so overwhelming us. Then we can better protect our children and model appropriately how we communicate and collaborate to initiate our best-case community-based solutions.

WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD IS SILENT, EVEN ONE VOICE (VOTE) BECOMES POWERFUL.

Motivate others to VOTE through your messages: #whyIvote_LWVDV on Twitter, Facebook or email.



photo: Maxine Arton

VOTERS SERVICE: Learn About Candidates and Ballot Measures

Watching Forums and Roundtables

Martha Goralka, LWVDV Voters Service Chair

Televised candidate forums and a discussion of Measure J were taped on January 16th by CCTV, co-sponsored by the Contra Costa Elections Department, LWV Diablo Valley, and LWV West Contra Costa County. Information on watching these online or on your cable TV station is available at <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/7097/Election-Previews>

LWV Diablo Valley (LWVDV) is also presenting two live candidate forums with the Contra Costa Library, CCTV, and the Contra Costa Elections Department, and one with another organization:

- Feb 4, 6:30-8:00 pm – Viewing party at Pittsburg Library for a County Supervisor District 5 forum being held at Hercules Library. Participants can submit questions from the Pittsburg Library site. Co-sponsors include LWV West Contra Costa County.
- Feb 6, 6:30-8:00 pm – Live forum at Brentwood Library for County Supervisor District 3 candidates.
- Feb 10, 7:00-8:00 pm – Live forum at IBEW Hall, Martinez, for County Supervisor District 5 candidates, sponsored by the Industrial Association of Contra Costa County.

For more details on the live forums, see the LWVDV Calendar [webpage](#).

Voter's Edge California—Look Before You Vote!

Marian Shostrom, Voter's Edge California County Coordinator

Be sure to go to <http://votersedge.org/en/ca> to learn about candidates and state and local measures before you vote in the March 3, 2020 primary. You will see information about who is funding state and federal candidates, as well as state-level measures. Financial information is provided by MapLight.org.



Candidates provide information about themselves. If any of your candidates have not yet provided information, you can click on that candidate, and then click on a link that says: **Encourage candidate to share their information on Voter's Edge**. You can easily send an email, asking them to post information so that you can make an informed decision. **We want all candidates to participate—you can help make that happen.**

Ballots will be mailed the first week of February.

Our next LWVDV Orientation Coffee for new members and guests is this month!

Date: Saturday, February, 22nd from 10:30 to 12:00

Location: Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Rd, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

We hold orientations for members and guests quarterly, to give an overview of the League's history, mission, procedures, current priorities, and how you can get involved. If you have joined LWVDV recently, would like to attend as a guest, or are a member who wants to know how to get involved please register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/league-of-women-voters-of-diablo-valley-member-orientation-tickets-89487915765?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Please **register for the event by Tuesday, February 18**, and indicate whether you'd like to bring a guest who might be interested in the League. We'll be serving bagels and coffee so we appreciate having a proper headcount. *(If you've already confirmed your attendance by emailing Cathleen Kirk, you do not need to RSVP using EventBrite.)*

ACTION/ADVOCACY

Schools and Communities First!

Carol Murota, LWVDV Campaign Coordinator



We have lots to celebrate! We've returned 1050+ signatures to the *Schools and Communities First (SCF) Campaign* thanks to our energetic and expanding team of petition circulators. The hardworking enthusiastic reliables—Sue Brandy, Janet Hoy, and Peggy Huston—continue to make presentations, most recently to an AAUW group organized by Bette Felton. On the same night, Barbara Coenen worked with our Rossmoor Democratc Club friends who welcomed Barbara, Nancy Thursby and friends and collect more signatures. And the Saturday before, at the Women's March, our expanding team circulated through an enthusiastic crowd. Confirmed! Yes, that was a Diane Mader sighting, softly but persistently talking to marchers, petitions in hand. We even enlisted (the always helpful) Mike Brandy to hold up a large SCF poster so people could locate and sign petitions circulated by Sue Brandy and other League members. We had the Women's March blanketed!

Sadly, while we are having so much fun building momentum, the Campaign statewide is at only 50% of the 1.6 million target, and not on schedule. **We have until March 18, 2020**, to get our petitions to Sacramento. Loud cheers for our Diablo Valley Leaguers who, at events and through personal contacts, continue the work to get this measure on the ballot.

The opposition is distributing fancy brochures and emotional arguments. I hear from Facebook and NextDoor readers that there are many misunderstandings and misleading statements. This underscores that our signature drive is our opportunity to get SCF on the ballot and address voters' worries. Our work is important!

We provide trusted information, as Lee Lawrence never tired of declaring, and Renee Zeimer reminds me! When it is time to VOTE, people TRUST our facts and our position. Talk with your neighbors and friends if you hear misinformation. Our February house parties are opportunities to get the truth out and get signatures. Our September events will re-focus our slide show and Q&A to pass SCF.

Let me know (ldvcarol@gmail.com) if you have a group interested in our program or want to join us to promote SCF – so much fun when we are doing this work together!

February 14th Day of Action--Redistricting

Marian Shostrom, Action/Advocacy Co-Chair

In honor of the 100th Birthday of the League of Women Voters, the League is sponsoring a coordinated Day of Action to strengthen democracy. The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley will focus on the issue of redistricting. The **People Powered Fair Maps Campaign** began in September 2019, and will continue through 2020 ahead of the 2021 redistricting cycle.

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley will focus on educating and engaging local leaders and residents on redistricting processes that align with LWV positions. LWVDV members will encourage cities and school districts to use independent commissions when they redraw districts after the 2020 Census. On February 14th, we will use a variety of tools such as meetings, social media, and letters to the editor to begin the process. Join us in encouraging fair and impartial redistricting:

- Attend the Action/Advocacy Committee Meeting on February 8th, from 10 am – noon in the LWVDV Office, 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette.
- Email info@lwvdv.org and let us know if you would like to help with this important issue.

Census 2020 Update - Diablo Valley League Volunteers Needed

Linda Soliven, LWVDV representative, 2020 Census Steering Committee

Starting on March 12, households will receive a postcard in the mail inviting them to fill out the census online for the first time ever. The Census is only nine questions, will take about ten minutes, and will impact us for the next ten years.

Please look for an invitation from Mary Schreiber to join her as a "boots on the ground" **Census Ambassador** in your community and nearby locations as needed. After training, which is educational, interesting and fun, you can be invaluable in ensuring everyone will be counted where they live on April 1, 2020:

- Be the Ambassador that can answer concerns such as using a computer and explaining the "nuances" of the questions.
- Be the Ambassador to note citizens in your community who need translation and other assistance that may best be served by Census NGO's established in Contra Costa County.
- Be the Ambassador who is aware of community reach-out groups, churches, etc. that could use assistance and may not be aware of where that assistance is. There is still technical assistance and grant money available to such reach-out groups or individuals.

Questions, More Information? Call or email: Linda Soliven, 925-776-2342, soliven75er@gmail.com

Healthy California for All Commission Inaugural Meeting

Pat Snyder, LWVDV Healthcare Observer

The Healthy California for All Commission held its first meeting on January 27 in Sacramento. The charge of the commission is to provide the Governor and Legislature with options and recommendations to advance progress toward achieving a health care delivery system that provides coverage and access to all Californians through a unified financing system, including, but not limited to, a single-payer financing system.

The Commission's 13 voting members include California Health and Human Services Secretary Mark Ghaly, who chairs the Commission, eight gubernatorial appointees and four legislative appointees. There are also five ex-officio, non-voting members. Their work will be supported by a consulting team and staff from the Department of Health and Human Services. The list of members is available on the Commission website: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/healthycaforall/>

At this first meeting, Commission members heard presentations by members of the consultant team who considered the history of health reform in California, the status of health care in the state today, and an overview of the policy questions that must be addressed to achieve a unified financing system.

The Commission is mandated to issue an initial report on their work by July 2020, with a final report due February 1, 2021. The next meeting is on Monday, April 6, 2020, in Sacramento.

A video recording of the day-long meeting and other materials are available on the Commission's website (*link above*). LWVDV members Marian Shostrom, Janet Thomas, Harry Baker, and Pat Snyder attended the meeting.

Vote with the League!

Proposition 13, School Bonds – YES
Measure J, Transportation Sales Tax – YES
Measure L, Lafayette Schools – YES

Measure M, Moraga Schools – YES
Measure T, Antioch Schools – YES

Suffragists You Need to Meet: Carrie Chapman Catt

Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV Vice President



Carrie Chapman Catt was born January 9, 1859, in Ripon, Wisconsin. She completed her upper academic studies at Iowa State Agricultural College (now Iowa State University) where she was the only woman in her graduating class. After graduation, Catt became a teacher and later Superintendent of Schools in Mason City, Iowa. It was during the late 1880s that she became involved in the woman's suffrage movement.

Catt proved to be a skilled political activist and orator for peace and woman's suffrage. In 1900, she was chosen president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), replacing the aged Susan B. Anthony. In this role, Catt traveled the nation at the behest of many state women's suffrage groups, encouraging women's efforts and prompting men to support a woman's right to vote. Before long, Catt was traveling across the globe as an international speaker promoting the importance of

woman's suffrage. She also created the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA) in 1902, as a body dedicated to spreading the ideas of democracy around the world.

Following the death of her husband in 1905, Catt stepped away from NAWSA for a while to mourn and travel. During that time, she served as president of the IWSA, traveling the world and speaking on behalf of women's rights, especially their right to vote.

Returning to the U.S. in 1907, Catt formed the Interurban Suffrage Council (ISC), which was an association of most of the smaller suffrage groups in New York City. The ISC held its first Convention of Disenfranchised Women at Carnegie Hall with over 800 delegates participating. It was then that Catt founded the Woman Suffrage Party (WSP) of New York.

The focus of the WSP was on winning women's right to vote in New York. As the chosen chairperson of the Party, Catt adeptly guided the efforts to raise awareness about women's right to vote through meetings, flyers, parades, door-to-door campaigning, and unique fundraising tactics like "self-denial week", which encouraged women to walk instead of paying a fare for transportation and then donate the savings to the Party. While the WSP was inclusive and welcomed women of all backgrounds, many white society members still were not accepting of mixing with minorities or the poor.

Ultimately, New York women won the right to vote in 1917. Prior to New York women winning the vote, Catt had resumed being president of NAWSA in 1915. Under her "Winning Plan" leadership, which combined strategic state-by-state suffrage campaigns with skillful lobbying pressure for a constitutional amendment, suffragists were victorious when the 19th Amendment was ratified in August 1920.

True to her nature, Catt had already turned her thoughts to thinking about what would come next, now that the 19th Amendment was ratified. With her constant focus on raising awareness and educating women about politics, Catt founded the League of Women Voters in February, 1920.

The mission of the League of Women Voters, as a nonpartisan organization, continues to be protecting and promoting democracy. This February 14, we celebrate the League's centennial. **Happy 100th Birthday, League of Women Voters!**

News You Can Use

If you couldn't attend the Martinez exhibit reception on February 1st, we're sorry that you missed the talk by LWVDV member Beverly Lane (*pictured at the preview in December for members of the Anniversary Committee*). Remember that you can still visit the Contra Costa County Historical Society and see the exhibit, "Women Win the Vote", until May 28th.

See the historical society website at <https://www.cocohistory.org/> for more information. Open hours are 9 am - 4 pm Tuesday-Thursday, and 10 am - 2 pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays.



Do you live near or use the Iron Horse Trail? A new plan for the trail still needs your input. For more information, maps and reports, as well as the link to respond, visit the website at <https://www.ihtactive.com/>. Deadline is February 13, 2020.

A one-day course on women's suffrage will be offered by Cal State East Bay's Scholar OLLI program on April 22, 2020. For more information and to register, see the webpage at <https://www.scholarolli.com/product/programs/courses/the-long-road-to-suffrage/>

LWVBA League Day is Feb 29th in Fremont! Panels will look at how women's suffrage has changed our region, and how 1920s issues are echoed in 2020 topics such as sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace, human trafficking, and fighting poverty. Details at <http://lwvbayarea.org/2020-league-day>

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Do you have a February membership anniversary? You should be receiving a renewal reminder. Please be sure your membership information is current!

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

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.

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- 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, Lafayette, CA 94549

**CALENDAR
 MONTHLY MEETINGS**

- Feb 8** **Action Committee**
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Feb 13** **Board Meeting**
 6:30 - Zoom Meeting*
 8:30 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Mar 7** **Action Committee**
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Mar 12** **Board Meeting**
 10:15 am - Zoom Meeting*
 12:15 pm [LWVDV Office](#)

***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.**