

IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

Tuesday, January 7
Homelessness Forum
Walnut Creek Library
6:30-8:30 pm
(see page 7)

Friday, January 10, or
Saturday, January 11
Voter Registration/Voter's
Edge Training
(see page 4)

Thursday, January 16
Candidate Forum Taping
CCTV, Martinez
(see page 4)

Saturday, February 1
Suffrage Exhibit Reception
Martinez
(see page 8)

Friday, February 14
LWV 100th Birthday!

Monday, February 17
Voter Registration
Deadline

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)

Two Big January Events!

Saturday, January 18
Women's March
Walnut Creek Civic Park
(see page 3)



Saturday, January 25
Program Planning:
Priority Setting for 2020+
(LWVUS, LWVBA, LWVDV)

10:30 am – 1:30 pm
Contra Costa Water District
1330 Concord Ave, Concord
(see page 7)

info@lwvdv.org (925) 283-2235



President's Letter

Dear League Leaders, Members and Friends:

If you have ever—or never—before had the thought, I'd really like to volunteer with the League of Women Voters (Diablo Valley) this year . . . This is the time, 2020 is THE YEAR you are so needed!

In our lifetime there has never been a time like this one when even the fundamentals of our democracy feel seriously endangered. Our voter services and our online voter information resources are needed now even more with the voter information challenges, the deliberate misinformation campaigns we are facing.

#WhyIVote_LWVDV initiates our 2020 Get Out the Vote campaign. Join with us by sharing what is important to you that motivates you to vote. What you share can have meaning for a new voter or a previously turned-off voter or a voter who just needs a meaningful reason to restart their voting again. Take a selfie for our Instagram or Facebook page including friends and or family with a sign sharing your WhyIVote message. Create a Twitter message using **#WhyIVote_LWVDV** to share your enthusiasm with the process.

2020, a new decade, a 100-year anniversary celebration of the successful accomplishment of the 19th Amendment and women gaining the right to vote through the hard fought battle of the suffragists.

2020, a new decade, a 100-year anniversary celebration of the formation of the League of Women Voters – February 14th 1920.

2020, a new decade, join us – bring family and friends to the January 18th Women's March 2020 with the theme "Voting is our Superpower" Visit our tables at the Women's March—learn about ways to volunteer with our LWVDV in this election year.

2020, a new decade, a national Census year—a very important year to support Census participation for accurate voting representation and accurate count for provision of government services.

2020, a new decade to join in our January 25th membership meeting to select our Program Priorities for taking action, advocating and proposing local, regional and national policy directions and voter information.

2020, a new decade, a new Presidential Primary Election date of March 3rd in our state of California. Have you checked your voter registration status? Cocovote.us > [MyVoting Information](#). Know what to do if you are registered as "no party preference" and want to vote for President in the California Primary Election? Registertovote.ca.gov

2020! YES! You'd really like to actively volunteer in our LWVDV! [Join online now!](#)

2020! YES! You'll meet us at the Women's March, Walnut Creek Civic Park, January 18th!

2020! YES! You will send a WhyIVote photo and/or message using **#WhyIVote_LWVDV** !

2020! YES! Let's help Get Out the Vote and provide voter services together!

In League, Suzan Requa

Women's March 2020

Stephanie Williams-Rogers, LWVDV Communications Committee

This year's Women's March theme is, "Voting Is Our Superpower" and we're proud to have two booths at the March. We have great activities planned throughout the March and would love to see you there on Saturday, January 18:

9:30 a.m. #WhyIVote_LWVDV

10:30 a.m. Rally

11:15 a.m. March starts

Come down and check out our booths and see what we're up to for our 2020 get-out-the-vote and 100th Year Anniversary activities:

#WhyIVote_LWVDV Participate in our #WhyIVote campaign by stepping into our photo booth and sharing why you vote. Invite your family and friends to share as well! We're asking those in attendance at the rally and march to share their #WhyIVote message on social media using our #WhyIVote_LWVDV hashtag. Help us spread the word!



Take a selfie with suffragist Margaret Ruth LWVDV will have a life-size mannequin of suffragist Margaret Ruth. This is an opportunity to celebrate League's 100th anniversary and the passage of the 19th Amendment. Come down to our booth and take a picture and share it with your family and friends!

P.S. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU

We could use volunteers to make our time at the Women's March a success. The following opportunities are available:

Poster Making (10 volunteers) Join us as we meet the weekend before the March for fellowship and poster-making. Meet fellow LWVDV members, share some good cheer and help us make posters for the Women's March. Exact date and location TBD.

Mingle with Marchers (20 volunteers) Help with *Voter Registration* or *Schools and Communities First* Petitions, recruiting new members, managing the picture taking at the 2 locations or discussing LWVDV voter service activities leading up to the Primary. Assignments will be distributed day of Women's March.

LWVDV Booth Set-Up at 8:30 a.m. day of Women's March (**5 volunteers**)

LWVDV Booth Take-Down 1:00 p.m. day of Women's (**5 volunteers**)

RSVP: to our email info@lwvdv.org or call the office 925-283-2235 if you would like to volunteer for any of the above activities.

Here are some links to costume ideas for those who want to dress as suffragists.

<https://www.amazon.com/California-Costumes-Womens-American-Suffragette/dp/B07PZVV9SQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1Ib9fuBqx0>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/857091372812014222/?lp=true>

VOTERS SERVICE:

Focus on Forums & Roundtables

Martha Goralka, LWVDV Voters Service Chair

Hope you had a wonderful holiday and are ready for this New Year with its opportunities and challenges!

The 2020 election cycle has already started. We're partnering with LWV West Contra Costa County, CCTV and the Elections Department for the televised round tables at CCTV studios on January 16th. The 7th California Senate, 14th Assembly District and the Board of Supervisors District Five roundtables will be broadcast live at 5, 6 and 7 pm. All of the other contested Board of Supervisors, State Assembly, and State Senate races plus the countywide transportation measure will also be covered earlier in the day. **We need two timers for every race.** If you'd like to help out, please give me a call at (925) 706-1419 or e-mail Martha@Goralka.com.

But that's not all! We're partnering with the Contra Costa Library for three forums, together with CCTV, the Elections Department and the West County League, and need timers for those forums, too. The West County League will be providing a moderator and timers for the Forum on February 4th in Hercules for Contra Costa Board of Supervisors District 5 candidates. **We will have a satellite location at the Pittsburg Library and need at least one person to help gather questions from this live audience.** Ann Flynn will be moderating the San Ramon Forum on February 6th at the Brentwood Community center for Contra Costa Supervisor, District 3. Gail Murray will be moderating at the San Ramon library for Assembly District 16 on February 13th (*photo shows Gail on CCTV moderating a forum in Clayton in 2018*). **We need two timers** for Brentwood and San Ramon.



The final live forum hasn't been scheduled yet—but we're partnering with the Industrial Association of Contra Costa County to present a forum for Supervisor District 5—probably in Martinez and probably in early February on a date that doesn't conflict with our other forums. **We will need a moderator and timers.**

I'm hoping you join me in the opportunity to celebrate the League's 100 birthday by volunteering to help educate voters through participating in these roundtables and forums for both the primary and general elections.

How-To's for Voter Registration, Online Voter Registration and Voter's Edge

We are initiating a new training which combines Voter Registration and online voter registration information with Voter's Edge "User Guide" training. Here are the current dates of the January trainings, to be held at Suzan Requa's home:

- **Friday, January 10th 3-4pm**
- **Saturday, January 11th 10:30-11:30am**

We will have a signup sheet at the Women's March on January 18th and will schedule additional trainings if members show an interest in future posted February training dates. Members and friends and non-profit representatives can also request Voter Registration/VEC/Online Training through our email, info@lwvdv.org, or office voicemail (925-283-2235) by leaving their contact information in their message.

VOTERS SERVICE: No Party Preference and the Primary Election

It's important to know the following and share it widely:

- Voters who are registered "No Party Preference" (NPP) WILL NOT see primary candidates for President on their ballots **unless they take action** to request a party ballot.
- If an NPP voter will be getting a vote-by-mail ballot, they need to **act by January 6** to get a different ballot when ballots are mailed February 3.

Democratic, Libertarian and American Independent Party options:

- NPP voters are allowed to request ballots from the Democratic, Libertarian and American Independent Parties without changing party registration (they can stay as NPP).
- NPP voters who go to the polls will not be given ballots with primary candidates for President **unless they ask for them**, and they will be limited to Democratic, Libertarian or American Independent Parties if they do ask.
- An NPP voter who gets a mail-in ballot with no presidential candidates and wants to vote in the Democratic, Libertarian or American Independent primary may take the **unvoted** mail-in ballot to the polls and exchange it for a ballot from the desired party. If the voter has already mailed in the ballot they received in the mail, **requesting a new ballot at the polls will not work** -- they will be given a provisional ballot which will be cancelled when the earlier vote is seen on the records.

Republican, Peace and Freedom and Green Party options:

- To get a ballot from the Republican, Peace and Freedom or Green parties, voters **must re-register**.
- The deadline to re-register if an NPP voter wants to vote in the Republican, Peace and Freedom, or Green Party presidential primary is **February 17**.
- When they re-register, they also need to request a new mail-in ballot if they are a vote-by-mail voter; they will be shown on the poll register with the correct party designation, and will be given the ballot they want if they go to the polls and turn in any unvoted ballot they may have already received.



Also good to know:

- After January 6, an NPP voter can request a **replacement mail-in ballot** (or can re-register as member of a party and ask for a mail-in ballot) and a replacement ballot will be mailed, but they will have less time to return their ballot.
- Only presidential races are affected by these requirements (*other than the registration deadline which applies to everyone*). NPP voters will see all other races and candidates that are on the ballot for their precinct.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.cocovote.us/registration-and-voting-options/voting-for-president-2020/>.

To check your current party registration, visit <https://www.cocovote.us/registration-and-voting-options/my-voting-information/#VoterLookupandSampleBallotSearch>

ACTION/ADVOCACY

Schools and Communities First!

Carol Murota, LWVDV Campaign Coordinator

Thanks to a great team of petition circulators and speakers, in 2019 we returned 60+ petitions with more than 500 signatures. I set our League goal at 1,000 signatures. We have almost 3 more months and I think we can reach this number.

Fortunately, we have several groups helping us. Rossmoor Democrat Club President Katha Hartley and Move-On leaders, Ogie Strogatz and the indomitable Sheilah Fish, invited us to gather signatures at their watch parties, and rallies, several Peace and Justice groups have had or are holding meetings focused on SCF, our local Democratic groups have petitions, our stalwart Rossmoor members show up to Rossmoor meetings, and individual League members have taken petitions to their church groups. Several League members are getting signatures from neighbors and at holiday gatherings. Every signature helps!



In 2020, we are looking forward to the energetic Sue Brandy, Janet Hoy, Peggy Huston, and Bette Felton making the AAUW connections to launch our January push, plus house parties! If you want to get involved, send me an email at LDVCarol@gmail.com.

Many thanks to League member Renee Zeimer who got me started with suggestions and her Rolodex. Some of you might need to google that!

Please let Governor Gavin Newsom know you want his support for this important initiative by signing a petition at <https://www.evolve-ca.org/petition>. Evolve has a great strategy for delivering these effectively.

At a recent townhall, our District 16 State Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan said she gets, at the most, 80 calls [either for or against] on issues. That constituent interest encourages her to look very closely at the topic. This is where you come in!

It can seem intimidating, but all you need to do is tell staffers that **as a constituent**, you hope to see an endorsement or support for any issue of concern. It is easy, takes less than 5 minutes and no one asks you detailed questions. They just tally responses. If you do this with regard to the Schools and Communities First initiative, **please do this as a constituent**. The 'SCF Campaign' leadership will handle official legislative outreach but you, as a constituent, always have a voice. There is no proposition number as of yet. This will be on the November 2020 ballot when it qualifies.

1. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Assembly District 16 [Tri-Valley and Lamorinda], 925-328-1515
2. Tim Grayson, Assembly District 14 [Concord, Pleasant Hill, Martinez, Pittsburg], 925-521-1511
3. Steve Glazer, Senate District 7 [Antioch, Tri-Valley, San Ramon, Lamorinda], 925-258-1176 in Orinda or 925-754-1461 in Antioch.

If you received a petition for SCF from the State League, please feel free to drop it by the League office. [Yes, it fits in the mail slot in the door!] League headquarters is eager to get them back, even if you haven't filled in all 9 slots. If you would like you can also drop them at one of our 'regional' hubs. If you let me know where you are located, I can send you the 'hub' location – there are too many League volunteers to list all the addresses here.

Want to host a house party? Send Carol Murota some dates. Get your neighbors and friends together and one of our team will answer questions and bring petitions! Easy to host, fun way to get folks together, and a convenient way to be active.

Don't miss out! If you are interested in learning or getting active send me an email at LDVCarol@gmail.com or leave a phone message at 925-283-2235.

Local Measures on the March Primary Ballot

Marian Shostrom, Contra Costa Voter's Edge Coordinator

The March 3, 2020 Primary will include national, state, and local contests, as well as a state school bond measure, and **seven local measures**. All LWV Diablo Valley members will vote on *Measure J*, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority Sales Tax. Depending on where you live, you may also be voting on: *Measure T*, Antioch Unified School District School Facilities Improvement District No. 2; *Measure L*, Lafayette School District Parcel Tax; *Measure M*, Moraga School District Parcel Tax; *Measure A*, Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Bond Measure; or *Measure Y*, a Town of Danville Ordinance to approve the Magee Preserve Project. These local measures will be discussed at the January 4, 2020 LWVDV Action Committee Meeting. (10 am at the LWVDV Board Office)

Many of you used Voter's Edge California (VEC) to learn about state and local candidates and initiatives, and who was funding them in the 2018 election. VEC is a partnership between The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, and MapLight, <https://maplight.org> which provides financial information. **Beginning in mid-January, look for information about candidates and measures to appear on the Voter's Edge web site:** <http://votersedge.org/ca>



Program Planning/Priority Setting

League program is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward. Leagues determine their program for the upcoming cycle in early spring and vote on it at Annual Meetings or Conventions in early summer. Our meeting will cover LWVUS and LWV Bay Area for the next two years, and LWVDV for one year.

For LWVUS, Leagues are asked to share information on how their work will impact the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® as well as identify LWVUS positions that they intend to use in education and lobbying. This year, LWVUS is also asking state and local Leagues to provide input on the pilot concurrence process. In June 2019, LWVUS authorized a pilot concurrence on electoral systems. The purpose of the pilot was to give Leagues additional time to review and consider this position during their program planning.

To look at existing positions and decide if they are still right for us or if something needs to change, go to:

US: <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/LWV%202018-20%20Impact%20on%20Issues.pdf>

Bay Area: <http://lwvbayarea.org/advocacy/positions>

Diablo Valley: <https://my.lwv.org/california/diablo-valley/positions>

Here's to Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Catt! 2020 Woman Suffrage Exhibit in Martinez

On January 23, 2020, a new exhibit will open at the Contra Costa County History Center, 724 Escobar, Martinez. Titled "Women Win the Vote, In California, Contra Costa and the Nation," it features the 72-year battle for America's woman suffrage which culminated on Aug. 26, 1920. The exhibit includes a display from the National Archives "Rightfully Hers", suffrage banners, a history of the movement and stories of County woman leaders beginning in the 1920s.

An opening reception (10 am – 3 pm) and program (1 pm) on Saturday, February 1st, is sponsored by the Contra Costa County Historical Society and the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley. 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.

Suffragists You Need to Meet: Matilda Joslyn Gage



Matilda Joslyn Gage was born March 24, 1826, in Cicero, N.Y; she died in 1898. Gage's parents nurtured her intellectual curiosity. She was a prolific writer, speaker, and thinker. She co-authored *History of Woman Suffrage*, with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, and wrote other books and essays on a wide range of topics such as women inventors, reproductive rights, and suffrage.

Gage is often thought to be the most radical of the early women's rights activists. While she was a life-long activist for women's rights, promoting the notion that suffrage was a natural right and admonishing the federal government for not protecting women's right to vote, she also devoted her life to ending oppression against all people. Gage chastised the Christian community for upholding the Bible's view of women as inferior and subservient to men, and wrote passionately about the importance of separation of church and state, saying in October 1881, "that the greatest injury to women arose from theological laws that subjugated woman to man."

Gage was also dedicated to supporting the treaty rights and the sovereignty rights of Native peoples, and a few years before her death she received an honorary adoption into the Wolf Clan of the Mohawk Nation. She wrote:

"That the Indians have been oppressed - are now, is true, but the United States has treaties with them, recognizing them as distinct political communities, and duty towards them demands *not an enforced citizenship* but a faithful living up to its obligations on the part of the government. "

For more about this amazing woman, see <https://matildajoslyngage.org/>

Homelessness Forum in Walnut Creek

The City of Walnut Creek is holding a public forum to answer questions that may also be true in your community, questions such as: How does our community deal with the impact of homelessness in our Walnut Creek community? How do we deal with drug use and homelessness? How do we find ways for everyone to feel safe? How do we respond if approached by someone who is homeless? How are neighborhood concerns received and responded to?



You may want to attend to discover what is currently being done in Walnut Creek to address homelessness and how community members can get involved!

When: January 7, 2020, 6:30–8:30pm

Where: Walnut Creek Library, Oak View Room 1644 N Broadway, Walnut Creek

RSVP to the forum by using the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/walnut-creek-community-forum-on-homelessness-tickets-84918853577>

Have questions or prefer to RSVP by e-mail? Contact us at wchomelessctf@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

January is the month when we “lock in” our membership roster with LWVUS to determine the number of members we have so that our per-member-payments to other levels of LWV can be determined for the next fiscal year. 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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- Cathleen Kirk, *Membership Co-Chair*
- Martha Goralka, *Voter Service Co-Chair*
- Linda Soliven, *LWVBA Liaison, Census*
- 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**

Jan 4 Action Committee
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)

Jan 9 Board Meeting
 6:30 - 8:30 pm
 Zoom Mtng*

Feb 1 Action Committee
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)

Feb 13 Board Meeting
 6:30 - 8:30 pm
 Zoom Mtng*

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