



**IMPORTANT DATES**  
*(regular meetings page 8)*

**March for Science Bay Area**  
**Saturday, April 14**  
11 am – 4 pm  
**Lake Merritt Amphitheater, Oakland**

**Candidate Forum Tapings**  
**Wednesday, April 18**  
**CCTV, Martinez**  
*(see page 4)*

**District Attorney Candidate Forum**  
**Tuesday, April 24**  
5:30-7:00 pm  
**Walnut Creek**  
*(see page 4)*

**Film: "Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point"**  
**Wednesday, April 25**  
7:00 pm  
**Martinez**  
*(see page 6)*

**LWV Bay Area Biennial Convention**  
**Saturday, April 28**  
10:30 am – 12:30 pm  
**San Pablo Library**  
<http://lwvbayarea.org/2018-bay-area-biennial-convention>

## Monthly Public Meeting

### Immigration Rights



A section of border fence, Tijuana

**Saturday, April 21**  
**3 – 4:30 pm**

**Community Conference Center**  
**Diablo Valley College**  
**Pleasant Hill**  
**(Parking, Lot 7 off Golf Club Road)**

**Free! Everyone welcome!**  
**Light refreshments**

[info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) (925) 283-2235



## League Leader's Letter

*Martha Goralka & Suzan Requa, LWVDV Co-Presidents*

**Martha:** Who could have guessed that a 98 year old organization could be so flexible, inclusive and show such incredible leadership? The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley changed programs and schedules to accommodate the student walkout by delivering voter registration forms to all the high schools in the Mt. Diablo School District - thanks to Suzan Requa. (90 students registered at College Park alone!)

Our board voted to sponsor and table at the student-led March for Our Lives at Civic Park in Walnut Creek on March 24th. We also switched our March Saturday program to Gun Safety, moving our Immigration program to our April Saturday meeting.

But that's not all. We're collecting signatures for the Schools and Communities First ballot issue which we're attempting to qualify for the ballot (*see below*). Kay James is working to set up Pros and Cons of our state ballot measures for the June Primary.

If you want to get involved in making democracy available to every citizen – then join us in our efforts to continue presenting outstanding educational programs, registering voters, helping candidates get their information onto Voter's Edge or perhaps advocating for affordable housing. There is a need for every member to get involved.

Our foremothers left a legacy of selfless action – let's continue their determined advocacy and success. I've attended ten funerals in as many weeks, which has left me thinking about our short time on earth. Let's make it count.

**Suzan:** The Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War stimulated younger generations' voter activism across the country. The combination of our current national leadership's challenges to fundamental democracy and terrible tragedies of school shootings have coalesced to inspire younger generations of voters and future voters and motivated community activism.



It is very heartening to see our younger generations step up into constructive action. We are receiving voter registration requests from student leadership at school districts throughout central county and non-profit organizations across the spectrum of community service. We provided almost 2,000 voter registration forms and online voter information to seven Mt Diablo Unified District high schools for student leadership before the Florida school shooting memorial activities. Acalanes High School students promoted voter registration, as did other districts that called for information. This is clearly a "tipping point" for younger generations' activism now and for our future. The student leaders of Florida are revitalizing the democratic process and providing inspirational well-spoken role models with their clarity of purpose and well-meaning marches and political advocacy.

We tabled at the March for Our Lives in Walnut Creek where we did register students and gained signatures for 20 petitions for the California Schools and Local Community Funding Act of 2018 (*see below*). We turned those in along with 10 more petitions from individual League members' efforts. Thanks to Barbara Hill who purchased our new League tabling supplies, table, rain/shade cover, chairs and document stands. Barbara Hill, Tiffany Martin, Barbara Coenen, and Karen Dolder and her husband were key contributors to the very successful effort.

**Join In:** Our tabling effort has become a significant resource effort for program priorities and voter services basics. This is a recommended activity for those of you looking to participate more at your convenience and at flexible dates and times and is a great learning experience. Call in to the League office 925-283-2235 if you would like to learn more about tabling at events.

### **LWV California ACTION: Gather Signatures THIS MONTH!**

*Carol Murota, LWVDV Vice President*

Calling on the full force of the League! Your League is gathering signatures to put 'Make It Fair' on the November 2018 ballot. Technically, Make It Fair is called the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018. The long title mirrors the more than 250 organizations that are working to close the large commercial property loopholes in Proposition 13 (enacted in 1978). Now, 40 years after Proposition 13 limited property tax reassessments, our schools, public transportation, roads, parks are bearing the full brunt of the loss of taxes that paid for these vital services.

Let us be clear, Prop 13 was intended to protect homeowners and agricultural property. It did that. But corporations exploited the law by structuring their technical ownership in ways to avoid paying their fair share. Before 1978 56% of property taxes were paid by homeowners, now, after Prop 13 was enacted, homeowners pay 72%. Corporations decreased the amount they paid from 44% to now only 28%.



With passage of the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 corporations will pay their fair share AND homeowners, renters, agricultural land and small businesses will retain their Prop 13 protections. With this small change returning to the original intent of Proposition 13, we anticipate generating an increase of about \$9 billion annually in money for education, libraries, health clinics, public safety. We, the public, will be told how this revenue will be spent. Transparency!! Another League value.

This link takes you to a youtube video explaining some of the history and benefits of this proposition. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICWx3I26An8>

If you have questions please ask – you can call the League office [925-283-2235](tel:925-283-2235). If you can sign our petition or help gather signatures to get this initiative on the November ballot, please call our League office [925-283-2235](tel:925-283-2235).

***This is a call for a rapid response*** – we have noted misleading mailers are being sent by some local legislators. We need your help to combat this misinformation campaign. The League of Women Voters believes in the power of facts. We need your help to get the facts out.

## VOTER SERVICE

*Martha Goralka, LWVDV Voter Service Chair*

### Televised and Live Candidate Forums for June Election

Our April primary CCTV roundtable is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18th from 9 am to noon with a lunch our League will be providing, then 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. We need **two timers** for these three-hour time slots. In the morning we'll cover the Contra Costa County District Attorney race and Supervisor District 4. The afternoon will cover Assembly Districts 11, 14 and 16. The West County League is staffing the Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> roundtables.



Past president Ann Flynn is coordinating two co-sponsored live forums for our League. The first co-sponsorship is with the Contra Costa Bar Association for the Contra Costa District Attorney race on Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Leshar Center in Walnut Creek. Ann Flynn is coordinating that forum for us and can use **timers, question gatherers and sorters**. Gail Murray will serve as moderator. Her second live forum is co-sponsored with the Contra Costa Library for the County Superintendent of Schools on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Concord Library. Ann will again need **timers, question gatherers and sorters**. Ann will serve as the moderator.

**We are in need of pertinent questions** for both the televised and live forums and roundtables. Please submit your thoughtful questions to [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org). They will be forwarded to Paul Burgarino for the televised roundtables and Ann Flynn for the live forums.

### Voter Registration

We have had an outpouring of requests for **voter registration** at various locations as well as requests for voter registration training. As always, a special thank you to Carol Weed for not only her training efforts but also her registration clearinghouse efforts — so everyone in Contra Costa County registering voters doesn't choose the same place and date and leave some areas underserved. Kay James will be scheduling dates for **Pros and Cons** presentations. Watch your e-mails for updates.

Thank you all for ALL you do to help make democracy work.

### Voter's Edge California

*Marian Shostrom, Voter's Edge County Coordinator*

**Voter's Edge California**, a joint project of MapLight and the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, is **the** place to go for nonpartisan information about candidates and measures. Candidates will begin adding information for the June 5<sup>th</sup> primary in early April, and may continue to add information until just before the election. LWVDV Volunteer Local Coordinators (LoCos) will add information about local measures as well as supplemental information about candidate contests (news articles about all candidates in a contest, links to candidate forum videos, etc.) Check it out: <http://votersedge.org/>

County Coordinator: Marian Shostrom

Local Coordinators: Sue Brandy, Ann Flynn, Emily Hopkins, Tiffany Martin, Carol Murota, Suzan Requa.

**HELP!** Your League has an immediate need for a reliable used copier. Do you know any business that could donate a copier (we can offer an in-kind acknowledgement letter for a tax deduction) or are you facile with researching used copy machines online? If you can offer help, please call our office, 925-283-2235.

## LWVDV PRIORITY: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Ashley Coates, Chair, LWVDV Housing Committee

### Contra Costa Housing Summit: "The Housing Crisis Affects All of Us; We All Can Help Fix It"

I attended the Contra Costa Housing Summit on March 26, to find out what is happening to address rising rents and home prices, and what role League members can play. We heard about rising poverty and some innovative ways to fund more housing from Elizabeth Kneebone (Turner Center for Housing Innovation and co-author of "Confronting Suburban Poverty in America").

Then a panel of residents of affordable housing shared their experiences (good and bad) and hopes for improvements which would allow them to live without worry.

We heard about how Alameda County and others in the region successfully voted for a local funding source, and were warned that Contra Costa County is now at a disadvantage when applying for state and federal funds because we don't have a "local match." We need to start working toward a revenue measure for the county on the November 2020 ballot. (First we will campaign for the November 2018 state housing bond measure.)

Many speakers emphasized that we have both a funding problem and a political will (NIMBY) problem. Supervisor Candace Andersen commented that when housing is proposed, the opponents show up and the proponents stay home. We need to show up to support housing for all income levels. Speakers emphasized the need to support housing not by talking about "units" but about PEOPLE-- focusing on values—everyone deserves a safe place to live and to not worry about also paying for food and other necessities. Also, point out the benefits to the community of providing housing; for instance, shorter commutes for workers mean less traffic on the highways and less pollution.



Josh Huber of East Bay Leadership Council stated that employers are very concerned about lack of housing for their workers. He noted that "Local Control" should not be about *whether* to develop housing but about *how* to develop it.

We were reminded that, even if state laws promoting affordable homes are passed (such as several last legislative session), they still need to be implemented. And more laws are proposed this session which we need to be supporting (or opposing). See the Legislative Action Center at [nonprofithousing.org](http://nonprofithousing.org) and LWV California's Bill Status Report (link at <https://lwvc.org/take-action/legislation>).

People also need help to stay in the homes they are renting, by preventing unreasonable rent hikes and unjust evictions. Melvin Willis described how residents of Richmond fought for and won rent control and "just cause eviction".

Speak up in YOUR community about building more-affordable homes and protecting tenants' rights, and JOIN the LWVDV Housing Committee! Contact Ashley Coates at [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) (put "Housing" in the subject line) or leave a message at [925-283-2235](tel:925-283-2235).

**Save the Date:** Monday May 14, 6:45 to 8:45 pm, Walnut Creek Library  
**Enthusiastic Advocacy: Voicing Your Support for Housing for All**  
Co-sponsored by LWV Diablo Valley and the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition

## LWVC PRIORITY: HEALTHCARE -- SB 562 Single Payer Update

*Pat Snyder, LWVDV Healthcare Chair*

The Assembly Select Committee on Health Care Delivery Systems and Universal Coverage has issued a final report . It is available here:

[http://healthcare.assembly.ca.gov/sites/healthcare.assembly.ca.gov/files/Report%20Final%203\\_13\\_18.pdf](http://healthcare.assembly.ca.gov/sites/healthcare.assembly.ca.gov/files/Report%20Final%203_13_18.pdf) . Unfortunately, the Committee did not hear testimony on SB 562 until its final hearing.

A number of new bills have been introduced in the Assembly that deal with aspects of our health care system considered by the Select Committee. However, none of these bills address in a systematic manner the complex issues that we face, particularly related to cost and access, as does SB 562.

We continue to hear about the political difficulty of enacting single payer. The Select Committee hearings and the bills that have resulted from them appear to be an attempt to avoid actually conducting legislative hearings on SB 562 and developing a comprehensive solution to our healthcare crisis. Thus they are protective of some moderate members of the Assembly.

Advocates for a single payer system for California continue their demands that the bill be released from the Assembly Rules Committee, referred to the Health Committee and examined under regular order. This would allow the introduction of amendments to the bill, including funding mechanisms.



Despite lengthy testimony by Robert Pollin, PhD of UMass Amherst on funding sources for the bill, erroneous statements continue to appear in the media about the costs of a single payer system and possible sources of revenue.

Nonetheless, public sentiment in favor of Single Payer continues to grow rapidly in the face of mounting difficulties for growing numbers of uninsured and undersinsured Californians.

To learn more about single payer please consider attending an upcoming public forum. You will view a documentary film followed by Q&A conducted by Marian Shostrum, Co-Chair of HCA-Contra Costa County, and LWV-DV Voters Edge Chair.

### **Fixit: Healthcare at the Tipping Point**

Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, Doors Open: 6:30 pm, Program: 7:00 pm  
**Martinez Campbell Theatre, 636 Ward St., Martinez, CA 94553**

## **LWVUS ACTION**

*Carol Murota, LWVDV Vice President*

Raising the profile of Voter Rights! One of the hallmark League positions is the protection of Voter Rights. Your LWVUS is asking you to support Voter Rights by using this link to support the **Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2017**.

[http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action\\_KEY=12949&\\_ga=2.23688250.1475451755.1522163013-262259417.1519323686&okay=true](http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=12949&_ga=2.23688250.1475451755.1522163013-262259417.1519323686&okay=true)

The effort to pass this bill is being led by our national LWV [you become a LWVUS member when you join our local League]. This bill will cut down on costs and update our aging registration systems and we anticipate it will increase voter participation.

**DONATE**

To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at [www.lwvdv.org](http://www.lwvdv.org).

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & UPDATES**

If your name appears below, then it is time to renew your membership in April. Please use the form on the back page. If you have already renewed, thank you! *(We send three notices before deleting but remember: expiration date does not change even if payment is later.)*

Karen Dolder                      Murial Sonne

**The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley Voter**  
 Published monthly except July and December

LWV of Diablo Valley  
 500 St. Mary's Road, #14, Lafayette, CA 94549  
 925-283-2235    [www.lwvdv.org](http://www.lwvdv.org)

Editor: Leslie Stewart

Email delivery is free, but **delivery by U.S. mail is \$10/year**.  
 Current/past issues are posted on our [website](#).

**Welcome, new members: Anne Granlund, Lafayette; Griffin Dix (honorary member) And condolences to long-time member Gwen Regalia on the loss of her husband.**

*Did you join LWV before 1968? If you have been a member ever since then, you are a Life Member and do not pay dues. Contact Membership Chair Audrey Albrecht to upgrade your status!*



**We're on Facebook!** Visit us and LIKE our Facebook page. <http://tinyurl.com/of4o2pj>  
**And Twitter!** Follow us on Twitter -- @LWVDiabloValley



*Please help us grow our social media network!  
 Volunteer to help with Twitter campaigns!*

**LWVC Recommendations for the June Ballot**



**Proposition 68** - California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act - **SUPPORT**

**Proposition 69** - Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes - **SUPPORT**

**Proposition 70** - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund - **OPPOSE**

**Proposition 71** - Effective Date of Initiatives - **SUPPORT**

**LWVBA Recommendation for the June Ballot**

**Regional Measure 3** – Bay Area Traffic Relief Plan - **SUPPORT**



**LWVDV VOTER**  
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 500 St. Mary's Road, #14  
 Lafayette, CA 94549

**LWVDV Board Members:**

- Suzan Requa, *Co-President*
- Martha Goralka, *Co-President & Voter Service Chair*
- Carol Murota, *Vice President*
- [vacant], *Secretary*
- Barbara Hill, *Treasurer*
- Lee Lawrence, *Action/Advocacy*
- Leslie Stewart, *Communications*
- Barbara Coenen, *Office Mgr*
- Carole Woods, *Program*
- Audrey Albrecht, *Membership*
- Marian Shostrom, *Voter's Edge*
- Sue Brandy, *At-Large Director*
- Ann Flynn, *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.*

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$65 Individual Membership. Indicate NEW \_\_\_ or RENEWAL \_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$95 Family Membership (2). Indicate NEW \_\_\_ or RENEWAL \_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Associate Membership. Indicate NEW \_\_\_ or RENEWAL \_\_\_  
(For a student member)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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**

- Apr 5**      **Action Committee**  
10-noon      [LWVDV Office](#)
- Apr 12**    **Board Meeting**  
10:15 am     [LWVDV Office](#)  
12:15 pm
- Apr 21**    **Monthly Meeting**  
(see page 1)
- May 3**     **Action Committee**  
10-noon      [LWVDV Office](#)
- May 10**    **Board Meeting**  
10:15 am -- [LWVDV Office](#)  
12:15 pm