

April 2024 VOTER



The Phillips refinery in Rodeo is one of four in Contra Costa. Join us on April 18 for a webinar on the Fight for Clean Air in Contra Costa County -- [more below](#).

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Leaders' Letter

Dear League Leaders and Members!

As we gear up for the election season, a reminder that our mission is Making Democracy Work by Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. These core values inform all our advocacy and voter education efforts. **The League is known for and relied upon to be a strictly non-partisan source of accurate electoral information.** We don't support individual candidates or political parties, but we are political in that we take positions on legislation and work to promote a free and fair electoral process. We act on national and state League issues but also what is happening at our own local level, and always through a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion lens.



We will be very busy this year and are looking for **enthusiastic volunteers to help with all our election-related activities:** voter registration, Pros & Cons presentations, candidate roundtables and forums, election observers, and many others - from moderators and timers to presenters, scheduling, and behind-the-scenes roles.

This will be an important year to engage with and inform our communities as they prepare to vote. We have an active group of members making presentations on reliable and factual news sources and how to spot mis- and disinformation. **Please let us know if anything piques your interest and fits your availability.** Contact us via our website

at lwvdv.org. We will provide training and will do our best to accommodate your needs. For more information, go to <https://my.lwv.org/california/diablo-valley/volunteer>. We are a fun and active group and welcome new volunteers!

The next Community Conversation webinar is **The Fight for Clean Air in Contra Costa County**, on Thursday, April 18th, at 4:00 pm, with great panelists scheduled – more information can be found below. Our next no-host monthly **LWVDV luncheon** is at 11:30 am on April 10th at Bar Camino in Walnut Creek. These no-host lunches are well attended and a wonderful opportunity to meet and connect with other League members, as well as hear the latest on what we are up to. Plus, the food is delicious!

April is Arab American Heritage Month and National Volunteer Month. Other important April dates include:

- **14 – 20:** National Volunteer Week (right up our alley!)
- **16:** [DC Emancipation Day](#)
 - Opportunity to highlight the push for DC Statehood
- **22:** Earth Day



Happy Spring and thank you for your support!

Anne Granlund, President
Kathy Gallagher, Vice President



April Lunch with the League

Join us for our monthly no-host lunch on **Wednesday, April 10th, at 11:30 am** at Bar Camino, 1470 North Broadway, Walnut Creek. There's easy parking across the street at the library parking lot.

Please let Janet Hoy know you're coming -- you can email her at janet@lwvdv.org. We're looking forward to seeing everyone!

THE FIGHT FOR CLEAN AIR: Industrial Incidents and Community Activism

Thursday, April 18th, 2024 - 4:00 pm



Local air quality has at times been compromised due to industrial incidents. As a consequence, grassroots organizations have formed to address, advocate, and protect the community's right to clean air and good health. **Join us for our Community Conversations webinar on Thursday, April**

18th, at 4 pm, to learn about local environmental incidents and recent legislation proposed to keep communities like Contra Costa safe and healthy.

As currently planned, our panel will include Michael Kent, Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Ombudsman and staff for the Hazardous Materials Commission; Heidi Taylor from Healthy Martinez; Marisol Cantu, Richmond Progressive Alliance, AB 617 Community Steering Committee Co-lead; and a representative from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Audience questions will be collected and answered through the Zoom chat.

[Click here to register](#) and receive log-in instructions. After registration, the Zoom information will be sent to your email address 24 hours before the program.

Community Conversations are co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, the League of Women Voters of West Contra Costa County, CCTV, and the Contra Costa County Library. The Library will provide closed captioning for this event, and the Library and LWVDV are underwriting simultaneous Spanish translation. This program will be recorded and uploaded to the [Library](#) and [LWVDV YouTube](#) channels after the event.

Contact programs@lwvdv.org for more information.

Two Healthcare Events in April and May

**LWV Bay Area Healthcare Webinar:
Race and Gender and Your Health
Tuesday, April 9th, 2024 - 12:00 pm-1:30 pm**



Please join us for a revealing discussion about race and gender disparities in healthcare. Race is reflected in the pandemic's disproportionate effect on communities of color. Women's diseases are often missed and misdiagnosed. Women and people of color are often ignored by the medical profession. Clinical studies and research are typically limited to white male patients when we know that women's bodies are different. We will

also explore the long-term impact of discrimination and micro-aggressions on our bodies.

Our expert speakers will be [Dr. Susan Rogers](#), immediate past President of the Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) and assistant professor of medicine at Rush University, and [Kavita Ramdas](#), Activist in Residence for the Global Fund for Women and Director of the Women's Rights Program at the Open Society Foundation, a globally recognized advocate for gender equity and justice.

Register [here!](#)

Remedies For a Broken Health Care System Lafayette Library, Thursday, May 9th - 7:00-8:30 pm

Health Care for All (HCA) - Contra Costa and Alameda County Chapters invite you to a presentation and discussion about current healthcare costs, quality, equity, access, and remedies for our healthcare system's problems. We encourage employers, healthcare providers, and consumers to attend.

The presentation, **Remedies for a Broken Health Care System**, will take place Thursday, May 9th from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall, 3491 Mount Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. Q & A will follow.



Speakers for the event are Jim Kahn, MD, a healthcare economist and professor at the Institute for Health Policy Studies, UCSF Medical School, and Laurel Lucia, the Health Care Program Director for the University of California Berkeley Labor Center and a consultant to the Healthy California for All Commission.

Registration is appreciated: tinyurl.com/HCAMay9.

This HCA event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Diablo Valley; Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) - Bay Area; and Contra Costa/Solano California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) Action Team. For more information contact Janet Thomas at (925) 878-9098

ACTION ALERT!

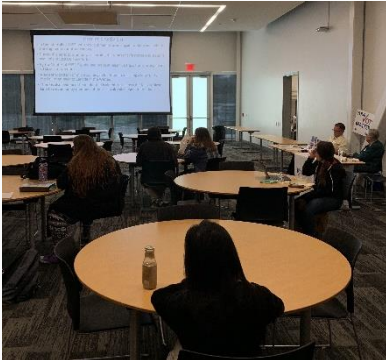
Write to Your Representatives to Support the JLVRAA!

LWVUS is actively advocating in support of the ***John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (JLVRAA)***, and needs our help to elevate the unique perspectives from our local level of government. Please [use this template to write a letter to your members of Congress](#) in support of the JLVRAA. *As with all federal actions taken by state and local Leagues, communication is only permitted with the members of Congress who directly represent our jurisdiction.*

Voter Services: Celebrating Democracy!

Liberty and equality...will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost. – *Aristotle*

LWVDV Partners with Community Colleges:



League members Paul Derksen and Martha Goralka were present for the Harriet Tubman Day program at Los Medanos College. They spoke with students about VOTE411 and invited students to sign up to be poll workers for the upcoming November General Election.

Come and Get Your Voter Registration Groove On at DVC!

- League members are returning to **DVC to do voter registering on April 18th**.
- Another opportunity at **DVC is on Saturday, May 18th** (time to be determined).
- Please contact shawn@lwvdv.org. We would love your help!

Additionally:

The Contra Costa Library has invited LWVDV to participate again in its **summer Exploration Stations program** for elementary students. Last year, League members provided a voting experience for the young people which aligned with the library's environment theme. We had our friendly puppet friends (compliments of Martha Goralka). The children loved them! This year's theme is animals, perfect for our puppet friends to visit the children again. If this fun time sounds interesting to you and you would like to help plan it and participate on any of the days in the following schedule, please contact voter.services@lwvdv.org. All times are 11 am - 1 pm:



- Oakley Library, Saturday, June 1
- Brentwood Library, Wednesday, June 12
- Pleasant Hill Library, Tuesday, June 18
- El Sobrante Library, Thursday, June 20

One last thing...

I invite you to view the following program from the National Constitution Center:

Do we really have the right to vote? Could the 2024 election be so close that it goes to the Supreme Court as it did in 2000? Find out the answers in this insightful conversation.

[Democracy Checkup: Preparing for the 2024 Election - Town Hall Video | Constitution Center](#)

Shawn Gilbert, Voter Services Co-Chair

**FROM OUR TREASURER:
Do you have a Donor-Advised Fund?**

A donor-advised fund - or DAF - is an account with a sponsoring charitable organization that allows donors to combine favorable tax benefits with the flexibility to support their favorite causes. After establishing a donor-advised fund, the donor may recommend grants to qualified public charities. They may also advise the sponsoring organization on the investment strategy for the assets in the donor-advised fund.

As an IRS-qualified 501(c)(3) organization, the **League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley is grateful for the opportunity to receive grants awarded by donor-advised funds.**



You can grant money to our League that will go towards Programs, including Community Conversations, Voter Education, and Voter Services. You can even grant money to the League to pay for your membership dues. All of these are permitted purposes under the grant terms of your DAF.

Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, and BNY Mellon make it easy to jumpstart a grant recommendation to a nonprofit through donor-advised funds. Just use the [DAF Direct option on our website](#) to initiate your gift. If you have a DAF with Vanguard Charitable, [click here](#).

If you have questions about recommending a DAF grant to the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, please email LWVDV Treasurer [Paul Derksen](#), or call him at 925-283-2235 ext. 4.

Board Briefs for March 2024

At its meeting on March 14, the LWVDV Board took the following action:



- Approved the decision of the Executive Committee to not support LWV Vermont's proposed concurrence expanding the LWVUS healthcare position, but to refer the proposal to LWVC.
- Approved a proposal for a bylaws amendment on the number of elected directors on the LWVDV board, to be presented to delegates at the LWVDV Annual Meeting on June 1.
- Approved a recommendation by a subcommittee to continue the current office lease for another three years.

The Board also:

- Heard that Martha Goralka will recuse herself from all Voter Services activities in Antioch to avoid a problem with our nonpartisanship policy due to her husband's political activity.
- Learned that all current LWVDV positions have been reviewed except for two, in readiness for the Annual Meeting.
- Discussed potential delegates to the LWVUS Convention (a hybrid event).
- Reviewed evaluations of the Program Planning meeting by participants.
- Considered the issue of a replacement for Sue Boudreau, LWV West Contra Costa County, who is stepping down as VOTE411 county coordinator to move to England.
- Explored the use of the Mis/Disinformation brochure at upcoming presentations, and the possibility of a Spanish version.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members Carolyn Bowden, Audrey Flitter, and Elsie Mills!

If you have an April membership anniversary, watch for your renewal reminder. We need you, so please renew! Not a member? Join Us! Sign up [online](#) or send a check to the address at the end of this Voter.

*Membership is not based on ability to pay. To request dues assistance, please email membership@lwvdv.org, or call the League office at (925) 283-2235 and request a callback from the Membership Chair. 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 (membership@lwvdv.org) to upgrade your status!*

\$80 Individual Membership
\$120 Family Membership (2 members)
\$40 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 -- call the LWVDV office at 925-283-2235.)

Image credits: Leaders' Letter, LWVDV member, LWVDV, daffodils, Tina Sara on Unsplash; Lunch, Bar Camino website; Clean Air (both), Creative Commons; LWVBA, LWVBA; HCA, CDC on Unsplash; Voter Services, both by Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV; DAF, money-knack on Unsplash; Board, Vertical Response.

CALENDAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Action-Advocacy meetings are on Zoom*. Board meetings are hybrid meetings at the LWVDV office or via Zoom. Luncheons are at various locations -- watch announcements.

Wednesday, April 10, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Thursday, April 11, 10:30 am	Board Meeting
Saturday, April 20, 10:00 – noon	Action/Advocacy Committee
Wednesday, May 8, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Thursday, May 9, 10:30 am	Board Meeting
Saturday, May 18, 10:00 – noon	Action/Advocacy Committee

*To participate in a Zoom meeting, leave a message with your email address on our [email](#) or on the office phone (925-283-2235) -- the meeting link will be sent to you.

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Voter

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Issues are posted on our [website](#).

LWVDV Board Members (through June):

[Anne Granlund](#), *President*

[Kathy Gallagher](#), *Vice President/Observer Corps*

[Karen Dolder](#), *Secretary, Office Manager*

[Paul Derksen](#), *Treasurer*

[Mary Schreiber](#), *Action/Advocacy Chair*

[Diane Bianchi](#), *Community Conversations Co-Chair*

[Cathleen Kirk](#), *Membership Chair*

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[Melanie Speir](#), *Civic Engagement Chair*

[Janet Hoy](#), *At Large Board Member*