

April 2025 VOTER



League members joined other community groups in Walnut Creek for Light for Our Democracy demonstration, March 4, 2025.

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The PDF of this issue is available on the [website](#).

President's Letter

League Leaders and Members:

We continue to see disturbing attacks on our democracy. Some of our members participated in Light for Our Democracy event during the President's address on March 4 (*photo, left to right: Diane Bianchi, Ana Pan, Ashley Coates*). Check our website and watch for emails about other actions you can take -- such as [opposing the SAVE Act](#) as it comes up for a vote in Congress.

LWVUS continues to respond with on-point messaging, which is being [posted on our LWVDV website](#) and social media. We welcome Annie Mueller to our Social Media team!

We are grateful for the support of our members and are encouraged by new members who join looking for ways to participate. The [Nominating Committee](#) is hard at work and you may get a call about serving on a team or committee. We are encouraging the practice of co-chairs which has been an effective way to make the committee or team function better with less burden on one person. **If you are interested in serving on a committee or team**, attend a [Lunch with the League](#) on the second Wednesday of the month, an [Action-Advocacy meeting](#), or contact nc@lwvdv.org.



I started as Co-Chair of Action-Advocacy, and it was a great way to learn the role, even though I had no experience, just interest in the work. We all have skills in interests we can use to support LWV's belief in representative government, supporting basic

human needs and individual liberty. More on what we believe [here](#).

Our **Annual Membership Meeting** is scheduled for **May 31 at the Willow Pass Community Center in Concord**. Please plan to join us to hear about and vote on our Program Priorities. This will be the final version of the priorities we discussed in February. We will also be introduced to and vote on our new Board of Directors and budget for July 2025-June 2026.

Meanwhile, we have work to do, and you can help!

Mary Schreiber
President, LWV Diablo Valley



On April 5, We Unite to say: Hands Off!

Join LWV & partners on April 5 for a National Day of Action! It's time to show that the PEOPLE are taking action to stop the corruption and power grab. Whether you're outraged by attacks on voting rights, job cuts, attacks on privacy, or the gutting of essential services—this moment is for you.

Together, we have the power to stop this takeover. Join us and [find an event nearby](#) -- there is one in Walnut Creek -- and **make your voice heard!** Questions about joining up with LWVDV? Email them to action-advocacy@lwwdv.org.

MEMBERSHIP -- ORIENTATION & RESOURCES

Orientation to LWVDV for Members (or prospective members)

If you want to learn about LWV and how to become involved, join our next Orientation on **Saturday April 5 (9:30 to 10:45 am)**.

Sign up to participate: <https://evite.me/bgyunS9Fn6>

You have the choice of attending **via Zoom, or in-person at our office** "The Boardroom" at Lafayette Community Center. I will send the Zoom link and address a few days prior to the event.

Resource for All LWVDV Members

There is an **updated version of the LWVDV Member Resources document** available! It includes these sections:

- our Position Statements (national, state, local)
- our website and the most recent Voter newsletter
- emails from us: how to quickly spot them in your inbox
- our monthly social lunches
- our Facebook, Instagram and YouTube info
- how to fill out our Interest Survey (have your interests/availability changed? fill out a new survey)
- how to get Action Alerts
- our local Action-Advocacy meetings
- our Community Conversations webinars
- and more!

Email membership@lwvdv.org to have a copy emailed to you.
Ashley Coates, LWVDV Membership Team

Lunch with the League, Wednesday, April 9th

Join us for our monthly no-host lunch on **Wednesday, April 9th, at 11:30 am** at Bar Camino, 1470 North Broadway, Walnut Creek. There's easy, affordable parking across the street at the library parking lot.



Catch up on protests, and meet old and new friends!

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

Looking for members for the budget committee!

Are you willing to invest 3-5 hours over the next month to help build the budget for our next fiscal year? Generally it involves two 1-hour meetings as the budget committee, and then 1-3 hours follow up with various chairs/leads to find out what monies they need for next fiscal year. **Please let us know by April 9, 2025**, so the board can make the appointment at the next board meeting on April 10. Contact Paul Derksen at treasurer@lwvdv.org.

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION - TWO EVENTS

Foro de Inmigración / Immigration Forum

10 a.m. Sábado 12 de abril / Saturday, April 12

St. Francis of Assisi Church, 860 Oak Grove Rd, Concord, 94518

Survival Forum for Hispanic Immigrants

Food prices, high rents, and -- increasingly -- the federal government are making life difficult for immigrants in our community. In an **April 12th Immigration Forum at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Concord**, the Mexican consulate, together with several local service organizations, will describe the civic, legal, and everyday survival skills necessary for immigrants in an increasingly frightening civic environment.

The forum covers several **good government topics as well as Know Your Rights**. [El Timpano](#) and the [Immigration Institute of the Bay Area](#) will explain journalism and legal services that enable immigrants to defend themselves civically. The [Monument Crisis Center](#), [Hijas del Campo](#), and [First 5 Contra Costa](#) will explain how to keep body, soul, and family together when earning a wage could result in deportation. Other sponsors of the survival forum include [GANAS](#) (Genuine, Animate, Navigate, Assist, Succeed), [Faith in Action East Bay](#), and [Catholic Charities of the East Bay](#).

For more information email [Alba Hernandez](#) at Faith in Action East Bay.

April Community Conversation



The New Economic & Social Realities
of Immigration 2025
Thursday, April 17 | 4 p.m.

The New Economic & Social Realities of Immigration 2025

April 17, 2025, 4 pm, on Zoom

Join us to better understand the economic, legal, and social impacts of the changing immigration policies and learn about the effects on all members in our community.

Jon Haveman from the National Economics Education

Delegation will put into perspective the economic benefits of immigrants and the cost to our community economically, socially, and culturally when they are no longer part of our society. **Contra Costa County Chief Public Defender Ellen McDonnell** will address the legal hurdles our immigrant neighbors face in Immigration Court. Attendees will receive resource information on how they can offer their support. **Doug Lezameta, President of Contra Costa Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** will moderate this webinar.

[Register here.](#)

After registration, the **Zoom webinar information will be emailed** 24 hours before the program. Audience questions will be collected and answered through the Zoom chat.

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

VOTER SERVICES UPDATES



TWO Special Elections are coming up in May and June!

The Acalanes Union High School District has called for a special election on **Tuesday May 6, 2025** and qualified voters will be voting on [Measure T](#). If 2/3 of the voters voting on Measure T vote "Yes", that measure will pass.

This is an all-mail election and only those registered voters in the Acalanes Union High School District will receive Vote by Mail Ballots the week of April 7th.

On **Tuesday June 17, 2025**, a special election will be held to fill a vacancy in Trustee Area 3 of the Martinez Unified School District.

This special election will involve only those voters in the Martinez Unified School District, Area 3. This is an all-mail election and only those registered voters in the Martinez Unified School District Area 3 will receive Vote by Mail Ballots the week of May 12th.

If you need more information or have questions about these 2 special elections, please reach out to the Contra Costa Elections Office. [Contra Costa County | County Clerk](#)

Join the Summer Fun!

The Contra Costa County Library is once again inviting LWV Diablo Valley to participate in the **Summer Exploration Stations Program**. Our puppet friends are excited to be getting out into the community again in order to talk to children and their families about voting.

The Youth Librarian, Amy Mockoski, says the League is a hit with everyone and she guarantees that the League will designate locations inside each library. **All programs from 11 am - 1 pm. Dates and locations**

are: Dougherty Station, Friday June 6; Walnut Creek, Wednesday, June 11; Brentwood, Wednesday, June 18; Hercules, Wednesday, June 25.

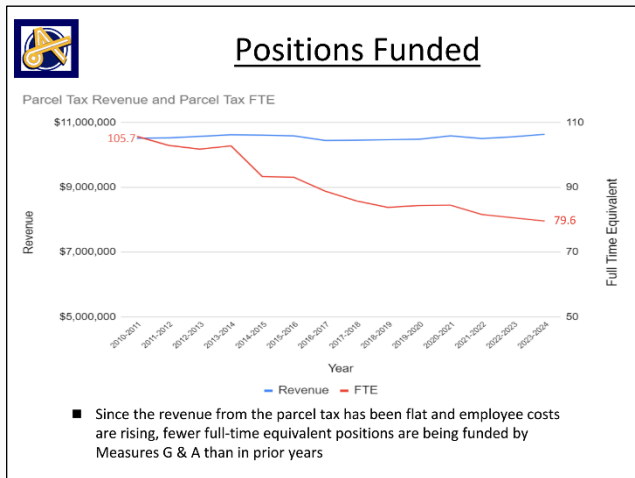
If you would like to be a part of this summer fun time, please contact Shawn@lwvdv.org.



so
to
big
have
run

Measure T - Sustaining Educational Funding Act of 2025

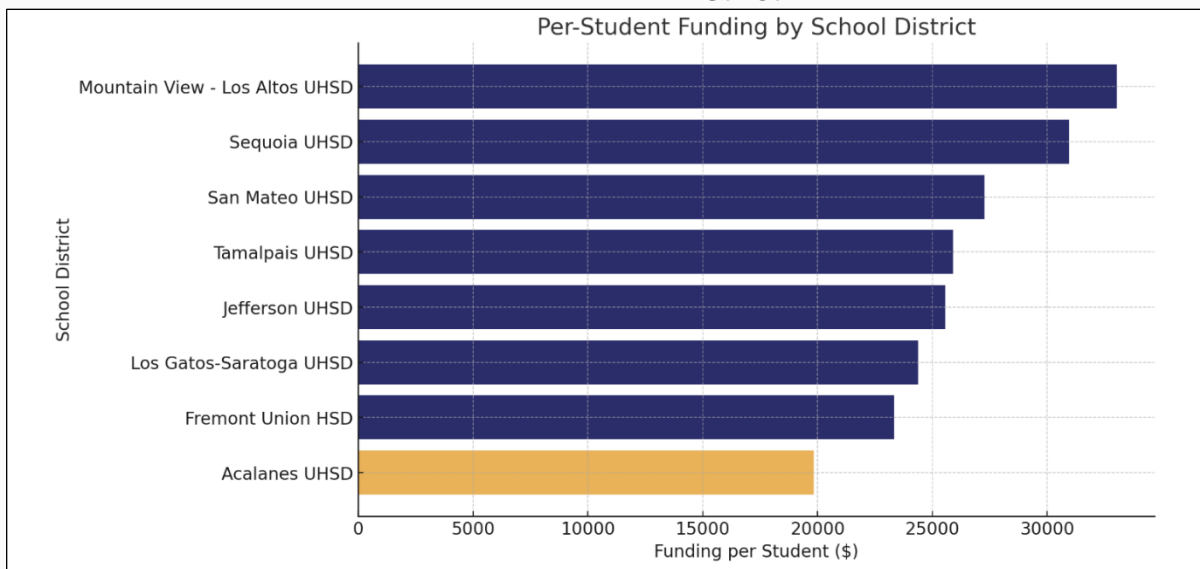
Measure T is a local parcel tax for the Acalanes Union High School District on the May 6 special election mailed ballot, and provides locally-controlled funding to retain great teachers, manage class sizes, offer Advanced Placement classes, and provide academic counselors. The cost of providing these programs grows steadily every year, and cuts will be required without Measure T. Local parcel tax funding has not changed in 15 years. Significant one-time funds that were provided to school districts due to the pandemic recovery funding are no longer available.



Measure T is a local solution to these funding challenges, reducing reliance on State and federal governments. Despite generous support from the community, the District's per-pupil funding remains below the State average for high school districts.

(from Measures G & A Parcel Tax Draft Annual Report 2023-24 issued March 5, 2025)

Per Student Funding by High School District



(from Education Data Partnership - ed-data.org; General Fund Revenues 2022-2023)

Measure T includes strict accountability protections, ensuring funds are spent as promised. No funds can be used for administrator salaries, and an independent citizens' oversight committee will monitor all spending.

Measure T's proposed rate is \$130 per parcel (with an automatic adjustment for inflation based on the Bay Area Consumer Price Index but no more than 3%), and Measure T automatically expires in eight years and cannot be renewed without voter approval.

Currently, property owners in the AUHSD attendance area pay \$301 per parcel (Measure G - “Excellence in Education Tax of 2009” at \$189 and Measure A - “Sustain Educational Excellence Tax” at \$112). The amount has not changed since 2010. An exemption is available for senior citizens aged 65 and over. Those who are currently exempt do not need to reapply.

Strong local schools set students up for success, enhance property values, and strengthen our communities.

Helpful Information: Measure T requires 66.7% support to pass. The high schools within the district include Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas, and Miramonte, as well as ACIS. Ballot measure text is available at Contra Costa County - Elections Department - [Upcoming Elections](#) / [Voter Information Guide](#) (incl. Arguments for and against Measure T)

Making Democracy Work Takes Teamwork Where Do YOU Fit In?

We have much work to do this year. It is exciting that we have many engaged volunteers. There are some critical areas where we need members to step up. If you are new member or a member who wants to get engaged, please check out the opportunities below.

Membership - We hope to identify co-chairs to manage this critical program. There is something for both introverts and extroverts in this portfolio!



Community Conversation webinars - Join the planning group and understudy the current leaders to keep this valuable activity running smoothly.

Civic Engagement - Assist the Civil Discourse group to make contacts and help local elected boards fighting meeting disruptions. Melanie Spier, our current chair, is hoping to find an engaged co-chair who can collaborate to provide effective models for civil conversations in our communities.

And best of all – LWVDV Board! Join the movers and shakers who lead the teams, or just as an At-Large member. This is the best way to learn more about the League while helping make it a force in our community.

Interested? Contact the Nominating Committee, nc@lwvdv.org, or start by exploring our website and re-reading some Voters to see what we do and then contact us. Be a cog or a bigger wheel – it's all teamwork!

A Celebration of Life for Cathleen Kirk will take place on **April 13 at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center from 1:00 to 5:00 pm**. All LWVDV members are invited.



Please send any comments or memories of Cathleen to lwvdv@lwvdv.org, attention Karen Dolder, and she will collect and collate them. We are planning to have a poster with pictures and tributes to Cathleen. Please contact Mary Schreiber at mary@lwvdv.org if you have questions.

To attend on Zoom, use the following link:

Topic: Cathleen Kirk Celebration of Life

Time: Apr 13, 2025 01:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82992443510?pwd=Cfv6NuVbe7hQhpljAK3x9CL3ktbQhq.1>

Meeting ID: 829 9244 3510

Passcode: 427797

Board Briefs for March 2025

At its meeting on March 13, the LWVDV Board

- Reviewed recent activities by LWV protesting federal administration policies.
- Heard that signatures are needed for the California Fair Elections Act (SB 42).
- Began planning for the 2025 Annual Meeting.
- Discussed the need for leadership for the Immigration Program Priority for 2025-26.
- Agreed to work on forming a Youth Council to engage with youth and create strategies for civic education.
- Considered how to increase participation in the Communications Team to meet new needs.
- Noted that Participation Guidelines should be developed for LWVDV participation in protest events.
- Heard an update on the Federal Judiciary Study.



- Continued discussion of a donation to the Women’s Suffrage National Monument.
- Formulated plans for participation in the Celebration of Life for Cathleen Kirk on Sunday, April 13.

Mark your calendars! LWVC's [Drag for Democracy: Virtual Bingo Extravaganza](#) is happening on Saturday, May 10, from 4:30-5:30 pm PT via Zoom, and you won't want to miss it!

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members Hollie Felts-Howell, Audra Ruthruff, Ann Thomson, and Marcie Tuttle!

Thank you to our Renewing Members!

We very much appreciate our continuing members. With more members, our voice is stronger.

Membership: Join Us or Renew!

We have a new process for membership. Sign up online by going to our [website](#) and using the new Join page, or send a check made out to LWVUS to the address at the end of this Voter. **If you have an upcoming membership anniversary, please check the Join page on the website for instructions on how to renew with the new system. We need you, so please renew!**

***Membership is not based on the ability to pay.** You select the dues amount when you join or 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@lwvdu.org to upgrade your status!*

Suggested dues: \$75 Individual Membership (\$20 minimum)

(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: Light for Our Democracy photos, LWVDV; Hands Off, event publicity; lunch, Bar Camino online; survival forum, flyer for event (cropped); April 17 webinar, CC Library; ballot dropbox, LWVDV; puppets, LWVDV; hands, Word clipart; Cathleen Kirk, LWVDV; online meeting, Vertical Response.

CALENDAR of MONTHLY MEETINGS

Board meetings are hybrid meetings at the LWVDV office or via Zoom*. Action-Advocacy meetings are on Zoom. Luncheons are at Bar Camino in Walnut Creek.

Wednesday, April 9, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Thursday, April 10, 10:00 am	Board Meeting
Monday, April 21, 3:00 pm	Action/Advocacy
Thursday, May 8, 10:00 am	Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 14, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Monday, May 19, 3:00 pm	Action/Advocacy

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

LWVDV Board Members (through June 2025):

[Mary Schreiber](#), *President*
[Kathy Gallagher](#), *Vice President/Observer Corps*
[Karen Dolder](#), *Secretary, Office Manager*
[Paul Derksen](#), *Treasurer*
[Diane Bianchi](#), *Community Conversations Co-Chair*
[Ashley Coates](#), *Membership Chair*
[Shawn Gilbert](#), *Voter Services Co-Chair*
[Ana Pan](#), *Voter Services Co-Chair*
[Melanie Speir](#), *Civic Engagement Chair*
[Anne Granlund](#), *At-Large Board Member*
[Anna Honda](#), *At-Large Board Member*

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