

April 2026 VOTER



2026 Elections: A Changing Landscape

A League In-Person Presentation and Community Conversations Webinar

see more below

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President's Letter

League Leaders and Members:

We are heading into our election season; the Primary Election is June 2 and the General Election is November 3. The League's two "arms" – impartial voter services and issue-oriented action-advocacy – will both be active in the coming weeks.

Our League will be contacting candidates to submit their information for VOTE411, our nonpartisan voter guide. Voter Services will be doing tabling in the community to help citizens register to vote and to encourage voters to learn about the candidates and issues before voting. Our county has a high percentage of eligible voters registered but the percentage of people who vote is much lower. We are working to change that!



On the action-advocacy side, our state League, LWVC, is part of a coalition supporting the California Fair Elections Act, which allows local governments to establish publicly financed campaign funding. For more information, read this [statement from Common Cause](#). The California Fair Elections Act will be on the ballot in November.



A potential ballot measure that LWVC will be watching closely is the California Voter ID measure, which will likely qualify for the November ballot. It would require proof of citizenship, which would be a passport or birth certificate, in order to vote. LWV is opposed to these requirements, which disenfranchise millions of voters who don't have access to these documents or have changed their name, which many married women do. More information to come.

We welcome new members Katie Becker, Beth Neilson, Maryann Slee, Meredith van Schoick, Anita Embleton, and Anna Dancu.

Mary Schreiber
LWVDV President

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Time-sensitive items have been moved to the weekly emails -- please watch them for upcoming events and activities! You can also check our [website!](#)

MEMBER IN-DEPTH INFORMATION

"2026 Elections: A Changing Landscape" Webinar and Presentation

The April Community Conversation **webinar**, "2026 Elections: A Changing Landscape", will take place **Thursday, April 16 at 1:00 p.m.**

Elections in 2026 will look and feel different—and voters are already seeing the shift. Join the League of Women Voters for a **practical, nonpartisan conversation on what's changing in election administration and voting access at the national level, in California, and right here in Contra Costa County.** We'll cover key issues that could shape how elections are run and how votes are counted, what new legislation (such as the SAVE Act) or court decisions may mean for voters, and what to watch for with vote-by-mail, polling places, and voter registration. You'll leave with clear takeaways, trusted resources, and concrete steps to help yourself and others vote confidently in 2026. As always, we will include time for Q&A.



Register: <https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/v2/events/69aa2602cd3d863bd9240a38>

Information on how to access the Zoom webinar will be sent to your email address 24 hours before the program.

The webinar will have simultaneous Spanish interpretation and the Library will provide closed captioning. This program will be recorded and uploaded to the Library's YouTube and the LWVDV YouTube channels after the event. For special accommodations, please contact the Library with 72 hours' notice.

Sponsors include the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, the League of Women Voters of West Contra Costa County, the Contra Costa County Library and Contra Costa TV. Contact programs@lwvdv.org for more information.

In-person presentations of this same material are available to community groups now. To schedule a presentation, contact Marion Morris, marion@lwvdv.org.

ACTION



Whether you're **curious about where your water comes from** or concerned about the future of our local resources, this is a conversation you won't want to miss. We're thrilled to host the **Contra Costa Water District** for a special virtual presentation on the current state of water in our county. It's a great opportunity to get the "inside scoop" on our local supply, upcoming infrastructure projects, and what we can expect in the seasons ahead.

Join us at the **April Action-Advocacy monthly meeting on April 20, 2026 at 3pm**, and bring your questions—we'd love to see you there!

RSVP action-advocacy@lwvdv.org

Event Highlights

- **Direct Access:** Hear straight from the experts managing our county's most vital resource.
- **Local Impact:** Understand how current water levels and state policies specifically affect our neighborhoods.
- **Q&A Session:** A chance to get clarity on your billing, conservation tips, or long-term water security.

VOTER SERVICES

Celebrating Democracy!

Out and About in the Community

League members have been out and about at **Los Medanos College (LMC)** and **at St. Mary's College** during the past month. LMC celebrated Women's History



Month, so Ruth Ann, our suffragist mannequin, was on the campus as part of the festivities and as a representative of the history of women's long fight to win the right to vote. League members talked to numerous young people about the upcoming June 2nd Primary, VOTE411, the change in the Post Office rules and the importance of voting for local races and issues in the primary.

Ruth Ann also made the journey to St. Mary's College for the Safe Spring Break Fair. Several young people registered to vote and learned about the importance of voting in the June 2nd primary. It was a beautiful day to be on the campus chatting with young people. The League will be returning to St. Mary's on April 20th for tabling at Denim Day.

Voter Services Co-Chair Ana Pan facilitated another **voter registration Zoom training** for new members interested in tabling at the Food Bank. Additionally, Voter Services held an evening **Moderator Training** at the Walnut Creek Library as part of preparing for the upcoming candidate forums. The first forum is happening on April 30 for Superior Court Judge, Position Q. A big **thank you to Ann Flynn**, one of the LWVDV's most experienced and seasoned moderators, for being the trainer. Great job, everyone for all of your good questions. Thank you for your enthusiasm.



Staying Informed on Everything About Voting

The Brennan Center for Justice is a good, reputable site to follow. In the following link, Michael Waldman does a nice job of helping readers understand the connection between the unconstitutional war the U.S. is carrying out in Iran and the upcoming elections. [Take a moment to read about this important issue.](#)

Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV Voter Services Co-Chair

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

League Members Star at DeSaulnier Town Hall

The League of Women Voters Diablo Valley was proud to participate in Congressman Mark DeSaulnier's recent town hall on Advancing Women's Equality, held in Orinda in honor of Women's History Month. The League was

represented by Janet Hoy and Kamryn Young, who joined Congressman DeSaulnier and Ruth Fernandez of First 5 Contra Costa as the event's panelists, and shared their perspectives on issues impacting women and families.



Janet shared background on the League's long history of protecting voting rights and referenced a statement from League of Women Voters CEO Celina Stewart warning that the United States is facing a constitutional crisis. She emphasized the importance of community

mobilization in response to growing threats to democracy, particularly those affecting voter access. Janet specifically discussed the federal SAVE Act, explaining how its documentation requirements could disproportionately disenfranchise married women and other marginalized voters, as well as a potential voter ID initiative that may appear on California's November ballot, noting how such measures often make voting more restrictive rather than more secure.

Kamryn spoke about low civic participation among young adults, particularly when it comes to voting, and addressed the gap between young people's interest in social and political issues and their actual engagement at the ballot box. She highlighted how feelings of political disconnection and lack of representation can discourage young people's participation, and shared the League's ongoing efforts to meet young people where they are in order to make civic engagement more accessible. Overall, the conversation underscored the importance of informed voters, community involvement, and intergenerational engagement in strengthening democracy and advancing women's equality!

ONGOING ACTIVITIES -- GET INVOLVED!

SUPPORTING OUR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

Our 2024-2026 LWVDV Program Priority

The LWVDV vigil supporting immigrants appearing for their court hearings at the Concord Immigration Court was held on Tuesday, March 17th from 10:30-12:30.

On Tuesday, April 21 the vigil will be held from 12:30-1:30. Migrants have court appearances at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. so our League will be there in the afternoon to show our support. We have signs in English and Spanish for anyone who would like to join us.



The **Immigration Court** is located at **1855 Gateway Blvd, Concord CA**. Parking is available in the parking garage on the 5th floor or at Park and Shop on Willow Pass Road which is across the street from the Immigrant Court Building.

Please join us in standing in support of our immigrants who are undergoing challenging and difficult times. For information email diane@lwvdv.org

Help Us Get to Know You



Answer the LWVDV Member Interest Survey using the QR code here.

Or click on this link: <https://forms.gle/w3Xf2R7KtpfnacF16>

Or go to LWVDV.org. On the left-hand side, under Join/Renew, click on Interest Survey.

Thanks from your Membership Co-Chair, Ashley Coates ashley@lwvdv.org

Board Briefs for March 2026

At its meeting on March 12, the Board took the following actions:

- Set the Annual Meeting date for May 30th at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center.
- Approved the logo for the LWVDV Youth Council.



The Board also:

- Heard recommendations from the Finance Committee, including developing a policy for the use of Unrestricted Reserves, and a suggestion for a Development Director position.
- Designated delegates for LWVUS Convention in June as Mary Schreiber, Shawn Gilbert, Kathy Gallagher, and Janet Hoy. There is an unfilled delegate slot. Other members plan to attend as non-delegates.
- Received detailed reports on Youth Engagement and the activities of Youth Intern Kamryn Young.
- Appointed five Board members to develop the wording for proposed priorities to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

- Discussed LWVDV-branded items (business cards, buttons and hats) which will be available.
- Reviewed reports from eight LWVDV teams.

Membership Updates and Information

We welcome new members Katie Becker, Beth Neilson, Maryann Slee, Meredith van Schoick, Anita Embleton, and Anna Dancu.

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!

Sign up online by going to our [website](#) and using the Join page (*preferred*), or send a check made out to LWVUS to the LWVDV address at the end of this Voter (*only if you have no other option*). **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!**



New/interested member orientations will be held on the same days/times each month moving forward. To attend, please send an email to membership@lwvdv.org to RSVP and request Zoom link. The days/times for orientations are as follows:

- 2nd Tuesday 7-8pm via Zoom only
- 3rd Saturday 9:30-10:30am hybrid (Zoom & in-person at the Walnut Creek Library, Prologue Coffee & Tea)

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@lwvdv.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: Community Conversation, Contra Costa Library; VOTE411, Vote with the League, LWV; ballot box, Leslie Stewart, LWVDV; Los Vaqueros reservoir, George Miller on Wikimedia Commons (CC 2.0); Los Medanos and St. Mary's College, Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV; Town Hall, Rep DeSaulnier on Facebook; immigrants, Jason Leung on Unsplash; online meeting, Vertical Response; INFO sign, Anne Nygard on Unsplash

CALENDAR of MONTHLY MEETINGS

Team meetings are on Zoom. Board meetings are hybrid meetings at the LWVDV office or via Zoom. *Luncheons are at WiseGirl in Pleasant Hill, Coffee Socials are at Panera in Countrywood, Walnut Creek.

To participate in a Zoom meeting, send your email address to lwvdv@lwvdv.org or call (925-283-2235) and leave your email address and the name of the meeting. We will send you the meeting link.

Thursday, April 2, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Tuesday, April 7, 5-6:30 pm	Membership Team
Wednesday, April 8, 11:30 am	Luncheon*
Thursday, April 9, 10:00 am	Board Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Sunday, April 12, 4:00 pm	Youth Council
Monday, April 20, 3 pm	Action-Advocacy
Thursday, April 23, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Saturday, April 25, 9:30 am	Coffee with the League*
Sunday, April 26, 4:00 pm	Youth Council
Tuesday, April 28, 10:30 am	Communications Team
Thursday, April 30, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team

Tuesday, May 5, 5-6:30 pm	Membership Team
Thursday, May 7, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Sunday, May 10, 4:00 pm	Youth Council
Wednesday, May 13, 11:30 am	Luncheon*
Thursday, May 14, 10:00 am	Board Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Monday, May 18, 3 pm	Action-Advocacy
Thursday, May 21, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Saturday, May 23, 9:30 am	Coffee with the League*
Sunday, May 24, 4:00 pm	Youth Council
Tuesday, May 26, 10:30 am	Communications Team
Thursday, May 28, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team

LWVDV Board Members (through June 2026):

[Mary Schreiber](#), *President*

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

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

[Paul Derksen](#), *Treasurer*

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

[Anna Honda](#), *Action-Advocacy Co-Chair*

[Audra Ruthruff](#), *Membership Chair*

[Shawn Gilbert](#), *Voter Services and Community Conversations Co-Chair*

[Ana Pan](#), *Voter Services Co-Chair*

[Janet Hoy](#), *Civic Engagement Chair*

[Kathryn Wilder](#), *At-Large Board Member*

[Anne Granlund](#), *At-Large Board Member*

[Brooke Schwartz](#), *At-Large Board Member*

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Current/past issues are posted on our [website](#).

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