

August 2025 VOTER

ACTION ALERT!! Independent redistricting is threatened by Governor Newsom's proposal to do mid-decade redistricting outside the process set up by the voters. For more information, and to respond, see the [LWVC webpage](#).



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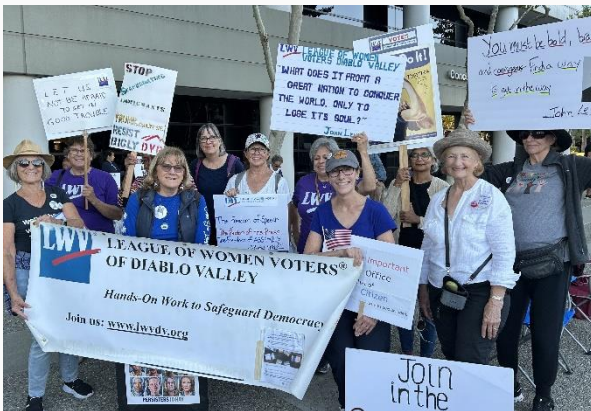
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The PDF of this issue is available on the [website](#).

President's Letter

League Leaders and Members:

LWVDV Leadership and members are keeping busy during this time of rapid change in our government. The Unite and Rise Team and the Action-Advocacy Committee organized a group to participate in the **Rally for Democracy** in Walnut Creek on June 14. This event was well attended and generated much enthusiasm.



Our LWVDV Unite and Rise team organized participation in a Rally and Vigil for Immigrant Rights honoring John Lewis, “**Good Trouble Lives On**”, on July 17. This took place on Clayton Road in Concord beside the building that houses the Federal Immigration Court. The community responded enthusiastically, with lots of cars honking and thanks to participants.

At our Annual Membership Meeting on May 31 we formally approved our **2025-2026 Priorities**. More information is located on our website [here](#).

LWV US continues to show leadership and is releasing frequent press statements on many issues. Our Communications Team posts these on our website and Social Media.

With all the challenges and activities, please make time for rest and relaxation!

Mary Schreiber, LWVDV President

ON THE CALENDAR



Lunch with the League

Join us for our monthly no-host lunch on **Wednesday, August 13th**, 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.

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



FACT over FICTION -

Navigating the News

Sunday, August 24, 2025

12:30 pm

**The Children's Chapel, Mt Diablo
Unitarian Universalist Church
55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek**

Recognizing that all of us want clarity, transparency, and trusted sources of news and information, LWVDV has organized an eye-opening presentation on how to spot questionable information.

No fee. No advance registration. Open to the public – join us!



Unite & Rise 8.5 – An Initiative to Defend Democracy

On **Saturday, August 30th**, at **11:30 am**, LWVDV will join Indivisible Resisters for a **Honk and Wave rally**, place to be announced. Lunch opportunity after the rally! Watch for emails with more details.

Contact unite.rise@lwvdv.org to help with planning or get ideas for signs.

On **Wednesday, September 3**, from **7:30-8:45 pm**, LWVDV will host a **panel discussion with local elected officials** on “[The Impact of Federal Cuts on Our Local Communities](#)”. They will discuss DOGE and BBB’s impact on local health, education, and social services. The event will be held in the Oak Room of the Walnut Creek Library, 1644 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek, and is free to the public with advanced RSVP to unite.rise@lwvdv.org

These activities are part of a national effort to mobilize 8.5 million people through civic engagement, education and collective power. LWVDV’s Unite & Rise team plans to participate in monthly rallies or similar events, and will hold a substantive information event once a quarter. If practical, the group will also do postcard campaigns.



Voter Services: Help on Constitution Day, September 17th

September 17th is National Constitution Day. LWV Diablo Valley will be at Diablo Valley College to do Voter Registration from 12:30-3:00. Los Medanos College (LMC) will also need volunteers for voter registration. The time for LMC will be approximately 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. This will be confirmed soon. If you can give a bit of time to help at one of these locations, be sure to let Ana Pan or Shawn Gilbert know. Voter.services@lwvdv.org



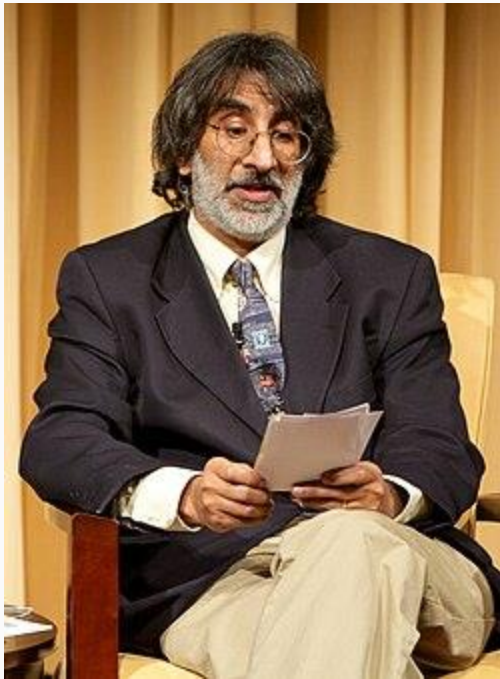
The Challenges to Voting Rights Then and Now

September Community
Conversation webinar
Thursday, September 18, 2025
1:00 pm **(NOTE Time change)**

LWVUS President Dianna Wynn will join this panel along with a member of the production company of the musical *SUFFs*, which will be performed in San Francisco in October, and hopefully a key Federal legislator from California who will round out this powerful webinar in September. Contra Costa Librarian Alison Peters will moderate the discussion.

The panelists will focus on the history and obstacles the suffragists faced in passing the 19th Amendment, the founding of the League and its commitment to insure the right to vote, the driving force and commitment of the *SUFFs* production to bring this to life on stage, and the threats posed by the upcoming vote in the Senate on the SAVE Act legislation, especially to women.

More info to follow as we finalize this very important webinar in this time in our history.



**A Conversation with
Professor Akhil Amar**
Monday, October 13th (Time to be
confirmed)
St Mary's College, Claeys Room

Professor Akhil Amar, Yale constitutional scholar, will discuss his **new book, *Born Equal: Remaking America's Constitution, 1840–1920***, which explores the transformative amendments that redefined freedom, equality, and voting rights in the post–Civil War era. At a moment when there are multiple challenges to our Constitution, this conversation with Dr. Amar is timely.

Amar, cont'd. St. Mary's College and Community Conversations -- a partnership of the League of Women Voters Diablo Valley and West Contra Costa County, the Contra Costa County Library, and CCTV -- host this event. Professor Emeritus Stephen Woolpert will moderate the conversation. A book sale and signing will follow the program.



Join the League at SUFFS in San Francisco!

The Broadway production of the musical “[SUFFS](#)” is coming to the Orpheum Theater in San Francisco. A Tony Award-winning musical, SUFFS is about the passionate American women who fought tirelessly for the right to vote.

SUFFS will be playing at the Orpheum from October 22 to November 9, 2025. There will be a special League Day performance for the League on Saturday, October 25 at 7:30, with special mixers before and after the show. **(more)**

Broadway SF is offering discounts for the League and will donate \$10 to our League for each ticket purchased with the promo code LWVDIABLO. The promo code is good for any performance except for Saturday matinees.

NOTE: LWVDV has reserved a block of tickets for the 1:00 pm matinee performance on Sunday, October 26. *A members-only email arriving the week of 8/4 will provide details.*

OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS



Resources for Members

In addition to the emails and Voters you receive in your email inbox, you have many options to actively look for League activities and how to be involved.

First: our website! www.lwvdv.org is updated frequently. Check it out!

Second: This [Member Resource Document](#).

If you know another way to obtain League info, especially at the state or national level, please send it to webmaster@lwvdv.org and membership@lwvdv.org.

Ashley Coates

Treasurer's Corner

Looking for some help after the close of our fiscal year!

First, your treasurer is looking for a **tax accountant** who can assist in completing the tax returns for 2024-2025. Unlike previous years, we can no longer complete the postcard filing but need to file a full tax return due to the large bequest the League received last year. Familiarity with the Form 990 series would be really helpful. I have completed similar tax returns during my PTA days but would sure appreciate some help this year.



Please contact Paul Derksen at treasurer@lwvdv.org if you're interested and able to help.

Your Right to Vote—the Last Defense of Our Democracy—Is Under Siege

*Editor's Note: Here are a few paragraphs of a recent blog post by **Gail Murray**, former elected official and lifetime LWVDV member. You can read the full post [here](#).*



"This is a house-on-fire moment!"

I quickly put down the homemade banana bread I was snacking on. I was sitting in the City of Concord's community room on a bright Saturday morning in May. With me were about thirty-five members from the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley around tables at our annual meeting. An additional dozen participants on the Zoom screen facing us in the room looked at Janet, our speaker sounding the alarm.

Janet explained, "For the first time in its 105-year history, the League of Women Voters (LWV) has determined that our nation is in a constitutional crisis." The whack, whack, whack of the pickleball courts outside was muted as we absorbed this dire warning about the state of our democracy.

"The national League has defined a constitutional crisis when the executive, legislative or judiciary branches cannot or will not adequately protect the Constitution," she continued, "when any level of the federal government takes actions to destroy democratic institutions."

[Read more!](#) (and follow Gail's blog for more like this!)

Voter Services:

Out and About in the Community

Partnering with the Contra Costa Library for its **Summer Exploration Stations** was successful and a lot of fun. A big **THANK YOU** to Joanne Supersad, Nancy Petsuch, Martha Goralka, Ana Pan, Genoveva Calloway of LWV West Contra Costa County, Karlina Meyer, Langston Aiken and Shawn Gilbert for bringing their smiles and friendliness to the youngest members of our community. The children truly enjoyed meeting Bertie the Western Burrowing Owl, and Barkley, the giant fluffy dog who talked to them about voting. We also thank Amy Mockoski, Librarian III- Youth Services, for her amazing work to bring so many community groups together to share fun and information with the children and their families. Those organizations include: Alexander Lindsay Museum, Contra Costa Central Sanitation District, Our Water Our World, Save Mount Diablo, and numerous others.

July 12th : LWVDV joined the Oakley Libraries and “Spidey” for their **summer reading fun day**. Yes, even Spider-Man is registered to vote!



July 17th : The “**Good Trouble Lives On**” Vigil and Rally at the Concord

Immigration Court was a success. League members were present in good numbers and one of our members spoke to the large, diverse group of about 300, emphasizing that it is important to continue John Lewis’s Good Trouble work of protecting and expanding voting rights, especially in these fraught times for democracy and the rule of law.

Elections Ahead...the Challenge, Keeping them Free and Fair!

- Heather Cox Richardson brings to light the attempt to undermine voting... [Bing Videos](#)
- [Trump’s Voter Suppression Tactics Align U.S. With Overseas Dictators](#)

Celebrating Our Partner, the Contra Costa Elections Department!

The following information comes from this past month’s Elections Newsletter. As Contra Costa voters, we are fortunate to have an elections office that is a leader in establishing values and standards for free and fair elections. Congratulations, and thank you to all the county elections staff for your dedication and commitment.

"The Contra Costa County Elections Division has been selected by the nonpartisan U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence as a member of the Pathfinder Cohort in the Centers for Elections Excellence. 75 Election offices in the Pathfinder Cohort including 3 other California offices will focus on researching what it takes to achieve the standards for election excellence and chart pathways for the field. They'll help deepen our understanding of what resources are required to run excellent elections, how much excellent election administration costs, and how achieving excellence impacts voters. And they'll be first in line to pursue official recognition through the Alliance certification platform.

"Selection to the Pathfinder Cohort is a continuation of the work the Contra Costa elections team has done over the past 2 years as part of the inaugural cohort of centers. The first cohort drafted the voluntary, nonpartisan Values and Standards for Election Excellence. At a high level, the values lay out a shared vision for how local election offices across the country can aspire to excellence while the standards concretely define what excellent election administration looks like in practice.

"The Contra Costa County Elections Division is thrilled to continue our commitment to excellence through our selection as a Pathfinder!"

Board Briefs for June 2025



At its June 12th meeting, the Board took the following action:

- Confirmed the Executive Committee approval of the design for card-sized handouts about the League for use at rallies and other events.

The Board also

- Heard plans by the Unite and Rise team for the June 14th Rally for Democracy at Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek.
- Planned LWVDV participation in the Cyndi Lauper Farewell Tour promotion of VOTE411 at the Toyota Pavilion in Concord on August 26th.
- Discussed the progress of forming a Youth Council and next steps.
- Debriefed the Annual Meeting organization and accomplishments.
- Discussed how LWVDV members planned to cover the multiple workshops at the LWVC Convention later in June, and noted that LWVDV President Mary Schreiber was a panelist for one of the leadership workshops.

The Board did not hold an official meeting in July, but used a Board Retreat for training.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members Jennifer Chaney, Allison Pickard and Luz Sierra!

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 (*preferable*), 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!**

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.)

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CALENDAR of MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Wednesday, Aug 13, 11:30 am

Thursday, Aug 14, 10:00 am

Monday, Aug 18, 3 pm

Wednesday, Sept 10, 11:30 am

Thursday, Sept 11, 10:00 am

Monday, Sept 15, 3 pm

Luncheon

Board Meeting

Action-Advocacy

Luncheon

Board Meeting

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.

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LWVDV Voter

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Editor: Leslie Stewart

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

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*