



August 2026 VOTER



**DEMOCRACY
NEEDS ALL OF US!**

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

Kick off August with a Day of Action!

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

Presidents' Letter

League Leaders and Members:

I hope you are all enjoying your summer. It is important to rest and recharge.

We continue to see a lot of news about voting and election security at the national level, with false claims being made by top officials. LWVUS put out this strongly-worded [press release](#) after the President's speech on July 23, which was full of disinformation.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved with LWVDV. Here are a few in August – read this Voter and our weekly emails for more!

- Check out the LWVUS [Unite and Rise](#) page for information about activities at the national level.
- There is a [Unite and Rise for Voting Rights event in Berkeley](#) on August 8, organized by the LWVUS team.
- Please join us for our [LWVDV Unite and Rise for Voting Rights event in Walnut Creek](#) on August 9.

Our [Voter Services](#) team is gearing up for the November 3 election. There will be many volunteer opportunities, including events on campuses at Diablo



Valley College, Los Medanos College, and St. Mary's College for Voter Registration Day and Constitution Day in September. I have participated at Diablo Valley College and encourage you to consider it.

If you are undecided on how to become more involved, the LWVDV luncheon in Pleasant Hill on the second Wednesday of the month or the Member Coffee at Panera Bread on Bancroft in Walnut Creek on the fourth Saturday of the month are great opportunities to meet other members and learn about what they are doing. You will find that there are many ways to participate.

Mary Schreiber, on behalf of herself, Anne Granlund and Kathy Gallagher, LWVDV Co-Presidents

Welcome new members Frank Hall, Barbara Harris, Katha Hartley, Joanna McAndrews, Kimberly Mahoney, Moksha Menta and Rachael Zavala!

Unite & Rise 8.5 On Track for Election Season



Activities for Unite & Rise are in full swing. We have our [Voting Rights Day of Action](#) on **Sunday, August 9, at 3:00 at the Walnut Creek Library.**

Come and learn about the importance of the Voting Rights Act -- and the recent court decisions that are now threatening its effectiveness. Hear from an array of speakers talking about their personal voting stories and sign up to help get young people in Contra Costa County out to VOTE!

We are planning postcard parties and more! We will also be reactivating the monthly rallies! Please join us -- RSVP to janet@lwvdv.org

HOW YOU CAN HELP RIGHT NOW!

Membership Outreach

The LWVDV Membership team is seeking volunteers to **help staff as many LWVDV Membership outreach tables as possible** at upcoming League events between now and November. We will share information about the LWV and build connections.



This is a great opportunity to get involved in a small way (volunteer according to your schedule)! For more information or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Audra at membership@lwvdv.org.

VOTE411: Stock Our Site with Information

[VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) helps voters find the information they need to vote. It is available in English and Spanish (<https://www.vote411.org/es>)



Ashley Coates and the VOTE411 team will be inviting **all local candidates in Contra Costa County** to post their campaign information (at no charge) on VOTE411.org. After the Elections Office releases the candidate list, we email all candidates a link to their VOTE411 profile form.

We need several volunteers during August and September for various tasks, including:

- Research candidate email addresses as needed -- look online for how to contact them and update the contacts sheet (a Google Sheet).
- Contact candidates by phone/text after an invitation is sent. (We need to make sure they received the invitation!) Follow up a week later if the candidate has not posted.
- Enter local ballot measure information into VOTE411.
- Place VOTE411 "lawn signs" near busy intersections.
- Place VOTE411 bookmarks in locations such as coffee shops, hair salons and bulletin boards.
- (Advanced team members) Send emails produced by the VOTE411 system and review candidates' posts.

Every volunteer receives a CAVOTE411 email address to use when contacting candidates. Help is available from experienced team members.

Training starts in early August, and volunteering starts in late August. **Time commitment varies from 4 to 8 hours per week** until the first week of October.

Email Ashley@lwvdv.org if you can help!

SOMETHING TO DO RIGHT NOW!

Become an Expert on Elections in Contra Costa!

Tiffany Martin is the latest LWVDV member to complete the **Contra Costa County Certified Election Observer Program**, participating in the cohort for the June 2, 2026, primary election. Members who have participated previously include Patti Bittenbender, Paul Derksen, and Martha Goralka, who was in the very first class!

Tiffany reported that the training is an extremely thorough grounding on everything that goes into running an election in Contra Costa County. It involves five half-day "class sessions"; one is a Poll Worker Training chosen from the classes given to poll worker trainees prior to the election.



Even if you've been a poll worker in the past, as Tiffany has been, you'll still learn a lot. Once trained, **you become an expert on our county's election department** and can help others understand everything that is involved.

Tiffany recommends signing up right away for the November election classes. The program for the June Primary started in April, and the timeline will probably be similar for November. The cohort is capped at 10 people, which is another reason to apply soon.

<https://www.contracostavote.gov/wp-content/uploads/Website-page-for-CEO-program.pdf>

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JERE RAMSEY AT THE IMMIGRATION COURT

Supporting Our Immigrant Community Members

LWVDV member Jere Ramsey was mentioned in a recent article in an online publication, *Mission Local*, describing the Concord Immigration Court. The changes in the way that the court is now hearing cases, and the impacts, show up starkly in the numbers that she has been gathering. The article is a quick read and full of good information on what is happening now. You can read it [here](#). To learn more, get on an email list for updates, or volunteer to help, contact the LWVDV Immigration team at immigration.questions@lwvdv.org.



VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

The Many Ways We Celebrate Democracy!



Voter Services had a good time partnering with the Contra Costa Library again for its **Summer Exploration Stations**. The League team -- Elizabeth Howell, Shawn Gilbert, and Ling Hunger -- enjoyed helping young ones cast their ballots on what sort of garden should be planted for bees and butterflies. Now, Voter Services is in a

much-appreciated lull after the scurrying of the summer fun and the Get Out the Vote activities and events for the June primary election cycle. It's always fun interacting with a lot of folks in the community.

Get an early look at what is going to be on the **November ballot**:

[CalMatters California Voter Guide 2026](#)

Good News from the County Elections Office!

1,056 poll workers showed up on Election Day, including 50 student poll workers, who are the next generation of volunteers helping democracy happen. Final turnout statistics for this Primary Election are as follows:

- 731,497 registered voters
- 327,699 ballots cast (44.80% turnout) *(Note from Shawn Gilbert -- This is an increase of nearly 10 points from the 2024 Primary. The League's work had a part in this uptick, I think.)*
- 302,849 voters returned their Vote-By-Mail Ballot (92.41% of ballots cast)
- 24,850 voters chose to vote in person during this election (7.58% of ballots cast)

Board Briefs for June and July 2026

At its meeting on June 11, the 2025--26 Board took the following action:

- Appointed a Tech Committee: Valerie Ventre-Hutton, Audra Ruthruff, Brooke Schwartz, Kathy Gallagher, and Paul Derksen.

The Board also:

- Debriefed the Annual Meeting.
- Named Mary Schreiber, Kathy Gallagher, Audra Ruthruff, Janet Hoy, and Shawn Gilbert as delegates to the LWVUS Convention.
- Scheduled and planned a Leadership retreat for July 11 at the home of Brooke Schwartz, to be followed by an August 1st Board retreat.



- Recognized outgoing President Mary Schreiber and Treasurer Paul Derksen.

The 2026--27 LWVDV Board subsequently met on June 11 and took the following actions:

- Appointed Allison Picard as an at-large member of the Board.
- Named Brooke Schwartz and Cheryl Thomas as Board representatives on the Nominating Committee.

In a business meeting prior to the Leadership Retreat on July 11, the Board took the following action:

- Accepted an anonymous donation earmarked for support of the Communications and Youth Engagement fellowship position through the November 2026 election.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members Frank Hall, Barbara Harris, Katha Hartley, Joanna McAndrews, Kimberly Mahoney, Moksha Menta and Rachael Zavala!

Thank you to our Renewing Members! We very much appreciate our continuing members. With more members, our voice is stronger.

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

Membership: Join Us or Renew!

Sign up online by going to our [website](https://www.lwvdv.org) 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**, you will receive an email reminder. **Please log in to portal.lwv.org to renew.** If you have questions, check the [Join page on the LWVDV website](https://portal.lwv.org) for instructions. If you chose auto-renew previously, you will not receive a reminder. Problems? Contact Ashley@lwvdv.org.

Membership Portal Tips

1. To view or change any part of your membership information, log in to portal.lwv.org. Enter the email address that is in the record. If you are not

sure, you can ask membership@lwvdv.org to tell you what email address is in your record.

2. Renewing Membership: Within 30 days of your membership expiration date, we will send you an email asking you to renew. You can renew your membership by logging in to portal.lwv.org. If you log in to portal.lwv.org with an email address the system doesn't recognize, it will prompt you to either sign up (if newly joining) or try logging in with another email.

3. Gifting Membership: Once you are logged in to portal.lwv.org, you should see a box next to your Membership that says Grow Our Community, and an option to purchase a gift membership. Follow the directions. Be sure to tell your friend that you have gifted them a membership!

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: Unite & Rise photo and logo, VOTE411 logo from LWVUS; young voter, election training, summer program volunteers from LWVDV; Hello, biljaST on Pixabay; immigration law, Creative Commons; online meeting, vecteesydotcom.

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 on Bancroft, Walnut Creek.

Tuesday, Aug 4, 5-6:30 pm	Membership Team
Thursday, Aug 6, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Sunday, Aug 9, 4:00 pm	Youth Council
Wednesday, Aug 12, 11:30 am	Luncheon*
Wednesday, Aug 12, 7:00 pm	Unite & Rise Steering Committee
Thursday, Aug 13, 10:00 am	Board Meeting
Thursday, Aug 13, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Monday, Aug 17, 3:00 pm	Action-Advocacy
Thursday, Aug 20, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Saturday, Aug 22, 9:30 am	Coffee with the League*

Sunday, Aug 23, 4:00 pm	Youth Council
Tuesday, Aug 25, 10:30 am	Communications Team
Wednesday, Aug 26, 7:00 pm	Unite & Rise Steering Committee
Thursday, Aug 27, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Tuesday, Sept 1, 5-6:30 pm	Membership Team
Thursday, Sept 3, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Wednesday, Sept 9, 11:30 am	Luncheon*
Wednesday, Sept 9, 7:00 pm	Unite & Rise Steering Committee
Thursday, Sept 10, 10:00 am	Board Meeting
Thursday, Sept 10, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Sunday, Sept 13, 4:00 pm	Youth Council
Thursday, Sept 17, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Monday, Sept 21, 3 pm	Action-Advocacy
Tuesday, Sept 22, 10:30 am	Communications Team
Wednesday, Sept 23, 7:00 pm	Unite & Rise Steering Committee
Thursday, Sept 24, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Saturday, Sept 26, 9:30 am	Coffee with the League*
Sunday, Sept 27, 4:00 pm	Youth Council

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.

LWVDV Board Members (through June 2027):

[Mary Schreiber](#), Co-President

[Kathy Gallagher](#), Co-President

[Anne Granlund](#), Co-President

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

[Kathy Erickson](#), Treasurer

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

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

[Audra Ruthruff](#), Membership Chair

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

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

[Janet Hoy](#), Unite & Rise 8.5 Co-Chair

[Brooke Schwartz](#), Communications Chair

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

[Cheryl Thomas](#), At-Large Board Member

[Allison Picard](#), At-Large Board Member

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**The League of Women Voters
of Diablo Valley *Voter***

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