



February 2024 VOTER

Measure X 2023:
**The Allocations, Lessons Learned,
and Ensuring Equity in 2024**
Thursday, February 15 | 4 p.m.



Our annual check-up on the successes and challenges of where the money goes. *Details below.*

IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Leaders' Letter](#)
- [Help Register Voters](#): **Feb 6, 7, 8** at DVC
- [League No-Host Lunch](#): **February 14** in Walnut Creek
- [Community Conversation](#): Measure X, **February 15** on Zoom
- [Pros & Cons on Proposition 1](#): **February 15** on Zoom

- [LWVBA Healthcare Webinar, Chronic Diseases: February 12](#) on Zoom
- [Voter Services: Ready, Set, GO!](#)
- [Voter Services Updates and Resources](#)
- [Sign Up to Monitor Polls](#)
- [Pay Your Dues with Zelle!](#)
- [Board Briefs](#) from January Meeting
- [Membership Updates and Information](#)
- [List of Monthly Board, Social, and Action-Advocacy Meetings](#)
- [LWVDV Board List](#)

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

Leaders' Letter

Greetings, League Leaders and Members!



February is an important month for the League. February 14th marks the 104th birthday of the League of Women Voters. Celebrate the League's 104 years of accomplishment by joining a national discussion, hosted by LWVUS, on *Empowering Our Democracy in 2024!* Focusing on the power of voters, especially young voters, this event will be live-streamed on Facebook Live on February 14th from 8:30 – 9:30 am (PT). [Register here](#).

As mentioned in January, we have scheduled our [Program Planning/General Membership meeting for Saturday, February 10, 2024](#), from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Pleasant Hill Community Center in the McHale Room. This will be a hybrid meeting, both in-person and on Zoom. It will focus on LWV Diablo Valley's [Program Priorities](#) for the next fiscal year as well as what we will recommend to LWVUS for their convention in June. In the League, members decide where and how we will focus our resources – time, money, and reputation. **Please plan to attend our meeting on the 10th – register [here](#) for location and Zoom details. We need your ideas!**

February is Black History Month, a time to reflect and celebrate Black history, as well as recognize the contributions of Black activists who have helped power our

democracy. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion should always be a part of our efforts as we continue to build a League that is representative of an inclusive democracy.

We will have our monthly no-host LWVDV luncheon on February 14th (the League birthday!) at Bar Camino in Walnut Creek, starting at 11:30 a.m. Other important February dates include:

- **19:** President's Day
- **27:** Anniversary of SCOTUS upholding the 19th Amendment

In addition to Black History Month, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors is declaring February to be Civil Grand Jury Awareness Month. The Civil Grand Jury actively investigates local government and is accepting applications for the 2024-25 term through March 24, 2024 – [check it out](#).

Happy Valentine's Day and as always, thank you for your support!

Anne Granlund, President
Kathy Gallagher, Vice President



LWV Mourns Dr. Turner

We are very sad to share the news that LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner passed away unexpectedly on January 28. She was a highly respected leader and a fearless advocate for voting rights and women's rights.

Dr. Turner devoted her life's work to creating meaningful changes in the lives of voters across the nation. Her slogan was, "Keep on keeping on." [You can read the official statement on LWV.org here.](#)

Come and Get Your Voter Registration Groove On!

If you can help do voter registration at **Diablo Valley College** on any or all of these days -- **February 6, 7, and 8 from 1-3 pm** -- please contact shawn@lwvdv.org. We would love to see you!





February League Luncheon & Birthday Celebration!

Join us for a no-host lunch on **Wednesday, February 14th**, 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.

Measure X 2023: The Allocations, Lessons Learned, & Ensuring Equity in 2024

Voters passed Measure X in November 2020, a County-wide sales tax to support health and human services for our local neighbors and families. The tax money continues to be collected and allocations were made in 2023. What lessons have been learned?

As we move forward into 2024, how do we ensure equitable implementation that reflects the values and needs of the residents of Contra Costa?

Explore the successes and challenges of “your tax dollars at work” with our panel in a **Zoom webinar on Tuesday, February 15, from 4:00 – 5:30 pm.**

Panelists include **Marianna Moore**, Director of the Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa; **Kendra Carr**, Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice; and **Ken Carlson**, Contra Costa County Supervisor. **Demnlus Johnson**, District Representative for Supervisor Glover, will be the moderator.



[Register for the event here.](#)

Once you've registered, information on how to access the Zoom webinar will be sent to your email address 24 hours before the program. Audience questions will be collected and answered through Zoom chat and at the end of the webinar.

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.



Proposition 1: Pros & Cons, February 15, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

It's big, it's complicated, it's on the March ballot! Learn the essential information about Proposition 1 in our virtual Pros & Cons presentation. Share with your friends!

[Join the event here.](#) For more information, please email Janet Hoy at janet@lwvdv.org.

LWV Bay Area Upcoming Events

February 12 at noon -- the **third Death vs Dollars webinar**, "How Can We Deal with Chronic Disease -- Like Long COVID, Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases?" For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Save the Date: March 9, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm is the annual regionwide **League Day**. This year's theme is "Finding Solutions - Connecting the Dots".

Voter Services: Ready, Set, GO!

The January 16th Candidate Forum moderator training held at the Walnut Creek Library was a wonderful success. Fourteen enthusiastic, inquisitive members came to eagerly learn, share, and ask questions of LWVDV's very experienced moderator, Martha Goralka. It was a fun evening and a treat to have very new members



participate.

On February 2nd, LWVDV, in partnership with the County Elections Office, CCTV and LWV West Contra Costa County, will be in the CCTV studios in Martinez for Candidate Roundtable filming. All candidates in the following contests were invited to participate: State Assembly, Districts 11 and 15; County Supervisor, District 5; U.S. Representative, District 10.

We are already looking beyond the primary and building our volunteer team for general election forums. If you are interested in helping, please email voter.services@lwvdv.org.

Celebrate Democracy: Exercise Your Power...VOTE!

Things to Know About Voting:

- **CA Voter Information Guides have been mailed**
- **February 5** - County starts to mail out ballots
- **February 20** - The last day to register to vote online; **mail-in paper forms must be postmarked today**

After February 20th, anyone can still register to vote at the County Elections Office or at early voting sites. However, you must be prepared to vote at the site right after registering.

Important! Are You Registered as No Party Preference (NPP)?

As a voter who declined to provide a political party preference, or if you registered with an unknown or unqualified political party, you are considered a "No Party Preference" (NPP) voter. **Your primary election ballot will not have presidential candidates on it. Please visit this link for important information about how to receive a primary ballot that includes presidential candidates:**



[No Party Preference Voters - Contra Costa County \(contracostavote.gov\)](https://contracostavote.gov)

Sign up now for Where's My Ballot?

It is easy to do, and you will be notified of when your ballot is mailed to you. After voting and returning your ballot you will receive notice of when it is received and then when it is counted. <https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>

Vote Using Facts, Not Fiction

As we move closer to our 2024 elections, we will encounter untold amounts of information noise that is intended to mis/disinform and to confuse. This is a deliberately designed strategy. Sowing confusion is intended to keep voters from voting. It is incumbent on each of us to sort through the quagmire, a task easier said than done. The [LWVDV webpage](#) on this issue includes informative and helpful resources like these to add to your tool box and to share:

- Watch "Mis/Disinformation: How to Recognize and Respond to It" (90 min.) <https://www.youtube.com/c/LeagueofWomenVotersofDiabloValley>
- Subscribe to **News Literacy Project's** rumorguard@newslit.org
- Watch "Introduction to Media Literacy; Crash Course" Media Literacy #1, [Bing Videos](#) 10:37 min.

Shawn Gilbert, Voter Services Chair

Sign Up to Be a Poll Monitor!

The March 2024 primary elections are quickly approaching! This year, Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus, California Common Cause, and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights are teaming up to run the largest **non-partisan election protection program** in the state.



They are currently looking for volunteers to help them observe polling places across the Bay Area, Southern California, and Central Valley on Saturday, March 2 and Tuesday, March 5. No prior experience

or legal background is necessary, and volunteers will receive training on how to conduct poll observation. Attorneys and law students can earn MCLE credit or *Pro Bono* hours by participating in this program; other volunteers can receive a stipend. Please visit their web pages to learn more and [sign up](#) by February 9.

Anyone with questions can email pollmonitor@advancingjustice-alc.org. And please help to spread the word among friends, colleagues, and any other networks you may have. They hope you'll join them on Election Day to help make sure our elections run smoothly and fairly. *This notice was shared by LWV California.*

From Your Treasurer

Tired of writing checks but not ready to pay by credit card (or PayPal)? We have a new payment option for you! If you use Zelle, you can now send your dues payment or donation directly to the League by using payment@lwvdv.org. OR send an email

to payment@lwvdv.org with your name, email address, and amount you wish to pay, and we will send you a request for payment thru Zelle. This is a no-fee alternative to writing checks, and is more efficient.

Board Briefs for January 2024



At its meeting on January 11, the Board took the following actions:

- Approved a collaboration with St. Mary's College on projects aimed at informing young voters.
- Set the date for Program Planning for Saturday, February 10th, from 10 am to noon.
- Set the date for Annual Meeting for Saturday, June 1st, from 10 am to noon.
- Agreed to endorse Moraga School District Measure D on the March ballot.

The Board also:

- Received copies of the revised Non-Partisan Policy for LWVDV.
- Declined to participate in a coalition, The Alliance to Protect Public Schools, over concerns about partisanship.
- Heard an update on the review of positions which will be presented at Program Planning.
- Learned about ongoing Legislative Interviews with state legislators.
- Heard that luncheon attendees prefer a monthly luncheon rather than continuing with Happy Hours every other month.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members Michael Davidson, Christine Cesca, Chris Stieger, and Beatrix Agronow!

If you have a February membership anniversary, watch for your renewal reminder. We need you, so please renew!

*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!***

Membership Dues: Join Us or Renew!

Sign up [online](#) or send a check to the address at the end of this Voter.

\$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: Community Conversations, Contra Costa County Library; Leader's Letter (both), LWVUS; Voter Registration, Ann Flynn; Luncheon, Bar Camino; Pros & Cons, Canva; moderator training, Shawn Gilbert; Where's My Ballot, Ballottrax; Board Briefs, free clipart.

CALENDAR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Evening Board and all Action-Advocacy meetings are on Zoom*. Morning Board meetings are at the LWVDV office. Luncheons are at Bar Camino, Walnut Creek.

Thursday, Feb. 8, 11:00 am	Board Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 14, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Saturday, Feb. 17, 10:00 – noon	Action/Advocacy Committee
Wednesday, March 13, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Thursday, March 14, 7:00 pm	Board Meeting
Saturday, March 16, 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) and the meeting link will be sent to you.

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*

[Shawn Gilbert](#), *Voter Service Co-Chair*

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

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

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of Diablo Valley**

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