



## February 2026 VOTER

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And Happy Birthday, LWV -- 106!!

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## President's Letter

League Leaders and Members:

I hope you are taking care of yourselves during this difficult time. We are being bombarded with horrifying news and images from Minnesota and elsewhere. LWVUS is speaking up to fight for democracy. LWVC just posted this [Statement from LWV on Federal Immigration Enforcement and the Erosion of Constitutional Rights](#).

There have been **ongoing news releases** from LWVUS in the past few days. You can see them at the [LWV Newsroom](#). In addition, you can refer to the post about the National Guard, the Insurrection Act and Martial Law [here](#).

LWVDV is continuing our work to Defend Democracy and empower our members and our community. Information about our **Unite and Rise team** is [here](#). To keep up with our LWVDV team working on **Immigration**, email [diane@lwvdv.org](mailto:diane@lwvdv.org).



Community and connection are vital during these difficult times. Our first **no-host coffee**, organized by our Membership team on Saturday, January 24, was a success. The next one is **Saturday, February 28, at Panera on Bancroft in Walnut Creek**.

**We welcome new members Laura Crosby, Aleida Socarras, Elaine Peoples, Cheryl Thomas, and Carol Greenley!**

Mary Schreiber, LWVDV President

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR



### **Consensus Meeting: L WVBA Regional Position Changes**

**Saturday, February 7, 10 am - noon on Zoom  
(watch for email with meeting link)**

You can review the [Study Kit](#) with the consensus questions before the meeting.



### **Member Orientation for February**

LWVDV Membership will be holding one New/Prospective Member Orientation in February on **Tuesday, Feb 10th from 7-8pm via Zoom.**

**Please RSVP to [membership@lwvdv.org](mailto:membership@lwvdv.org) to receive the Zoom link.** We welcome you to join our orientation to learn more about the League and how you can get involved!



### **Lunch with the League, February 11th!**

**JOIN US for our monthly no-host lunch on Wednesday, February 11th, at 11:30 at WiseGirl Restaurant, 1932 Oak Park Blvd, Pleasant**

Hill – our new location for these events! JOIN US for lunch and celebrate LWV's 106th birthday, catch up with old friends and meet new ones!

New members, prospective members, long-time members, friends -- all are welcome! (*To make lunch payments easier, please bring cash or checks, or plan to use Venmo.*) Free parking is available in the parking lot, including behind the buildings, and on the street.

**PLEASE RSVP! Please email Janet Hoy at [janet@lwvdv.org](mailto:janet@lwvdv.org) to let her know you're coming so that we can plan seating.**



## **Program Planning Membership Meeting**

**Saturday, February 21, 2026, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm (with lunch!)**  
**Pleasant Hill Community Center**

**LWV Program = What we want to do this year, and how we will do it (locally and at other levels)**

Our LWVDV Program Planning meeting will be held **FEBRUARY 21, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM** at the **Pleasant Hill Community Center**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Morning coffee and a light lunch will be served.

At this meeting, members will have an opportunity to discuss what we would like **LWVDV Program Priorities** to be for our League year starting July 2026. The meeting packet, including the agenda and our current priorities, will be sent to members before the meeting. Our current LWVDV Priorities are [here](#).

At our Program Planning meeting we will also discuss our **input on LWVUS priorities**. Here is an excerpt from the Leaders Guide to LWVUS Program Planning 2026-2027:

Women Defend Democracy: Democracy Under Siege

*“...the LWVUS board recommends adoption by the 2026 Convention of a campaign, **Women Defend Democracy: Democracy Under Siege**, to empower the organization to act decisively to protect and defend our democracy. The campaign will focus on Voting Rights, Election Protection, Redistricting, Individual Liberties, Immigration, and The Presidency”.*



## LWVDV Coffee Saturday Social

The LWVDV Membership Committee hosted our first ever Saturday Coffee Social on Saturday, January 24, at Panera Bread in Walnut Creek. The event was attended by a fantastic group of long-time, new, and prospective LWVDV members. We had a great time getting to know each other, talking League work, and just generally socializing. It was a fun time by all!

We hope you will join us for the **next Saturday Coffee Social on Saturday, February 28th, from 9:30-11:00am at Panera (744 Bancroft Rd in the Countrywood Shopping Center)**. If possible, please RSVP to [membership@lwvdv.org](mailto:membership@lwvdv.org) so we can save enough space for everyone (or just feel free to show up - we welcome everyone, and encourage you to bring a friend!)

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES -- GET INVOLVED!

### ACTION

**California voters' privacy is protected!** Following intervention by the League of Women Voters of California on behalf of voters, a federal court dismissed the DOJ lawsuit seeking California's full, un-redacted voter registration data. This is a significant victory for voters!

LWVUS has joined League of United Latin American Citizens and Common Cause in **calling on Congress to launch an independent investigation into recent use-of-force incidents involving federal immigration personnel**. This partnership reflects broad, nonpartisan concern about transparency, accountability, and constitutional compliance.

In memory of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, let us gather to turn our collective grief into action and our voices into a movement for a better future. When we remain silent, we give our consent to the decay of our democracy. Change doesn't happen when we wait for it; it happens when we show up for it. History has shown us time and again that the most powerful force in the world isn't a single leader or a closed-door policy—it is the **collective roar of people**.



**Grab your sign, bring your voices, and join a local rally.** Your presence is more than just a gesture — it is a powerful statement that their legacy lives on through our determination.

- Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, we will join Indivisible Resistors Contra Costa at their protest. **Details: Feb. 14, email [janet@lwvdv.org](mailto:janet@lwvdv.org); Feb. 28, email [anna@lwvdv.org](mailto:anna@lwvdv.org).**
- On a Tuesday or Thursday once a month, we will join Indivisible Resistors Contra Costa and Commit to Democracy at the Concord Immigration Court. **Details: Tuesday, February 17, email [diane@lwvdv.org](mailto:diane@lwvdv.org).**

**And Save the Date for the March 28 No Kings Rally!**

*Anna Honda, Action Chair*

## VOTER SERVICES

In November 2025, the Voter Services Team was approached by the Contra Costa & Solano County Food Bank to determine if the League would be interested in a partnership to register voters. **We said YES!**

In January, the Voter Services Team Leaders, Shawn Gilbert and Ana Pan, completed training approximately 20 volunteer LWVDV members to register voters. **Beginning on February 5th and continuing through at least June 25th, LWVDV will be providing information on voting and registering eligible voters at various food pantry locations throughout Contra Costa County.** Volunteers will not be waiting for people to approach them. Instead, volunteers will be walking the waiting line and speaking with individuals while they wait for the pantry to open.



Partnering with the CC&S Food Bank is an opportunity for LWVDV to do important outreach in a community we do not often engage with. We hope to begin to build a relationship that will lead to increased knowledge of voting rights and processes, as well as a richer connection with the League.

**There are still many open dates/times to register voters.** If you would like to join this important effort, please contact Ana Pan at [ana@lwvdv.org](mailto:ana@lwvdv.org). And a **BIG** thank you to all of the League members who completed the training and are signed up to register voters!

## Happy 106<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, LWV!!



As we celebrate this amazing anniversary, I invite us to pause a moment to remember that **the first organized demand for rights by women in the U.S. began in 1848, in Seneca Falls, New York**. It was then that a few hundred women, and a few of their male supporters, came together to demand women be included as full citizens

of the republic. At this first of its kind convention, the delegates presented the **Declaration of Sentiments** mirroring the 1776 Declaration of Independence, but with more emphasis on equality. This was 72 years before the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920.

The [Declaration of Sentiments](#) introduction states:

*When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one portion of the family of man to assume among the people of the earth a position different from that which they have hitherto occupied, but one to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes that impel them to such a course.*

*We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted, deriving their powers from the [consent of the governed](#).*

*Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these rights, it is the right of those who suffer from it to refuse allegiance to it, and to insist upon the institution of a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.*

A lot of years preceded the winning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. It was a multi-generational fight and so much happened over those years. Of course, another 45 years would pass before our sisters of color would be able to vote. Indeed, many Black women were already fighting in the movement for abolishing slavery and were being confronted with untold patriarchal barbs for being women and speaking out. A long battle, and one that continues!

Shawn Gilbert, Voter Services Co-Chair

## Board Briefs for January 2026

At its meeting on January 6, the Board took the following actions:



- Appointed Anne Granlund, Paul Derksen, Mary Schreiber, Kathy Gallagher and Brooke Schwartz to the Budget Committee for 2026.
- Accepted a \$500 restricted donation and added a budget line for Marketing under Communications.
- Moved money from unrestricted reserves to fund the Civic Engagement and Communications Fellow, Kamryn Young.

The Board also:

- Learned that the new Unite & Rise presentation on the history and changes in voting rights is ready for review by the Board.
- Discussed plans for the Program Planning meeting on February 21 at the Pleasant Hill Community Center.
- Received reports from eleven LWVDV teams.

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## Membership Updates and Information

**We welcome new members Laura Crosby, Aleida Socarras, Elaine Peoples, Cheryl Thomas, and Carol Greenley!**

### **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 [note change in February -- see above]. To attend, please send an email to [membership@lwvdv.org](mailto: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](mailto: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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*Image credits: Valentine, LWVUS; immigration protest, Jason Leung on Unsplash; speech bubbles, Geralt on Pixabay; conversation, Tim Gouw on Unsplash; Wise Girl, website; planning, This is Engineering on Pixabay; coffee, LWVDV on Canva; woman signing, Maxine Arton for LWVDV; cake, LWVDV; online meeting, Vertical Response*

### CALENDAR of MONTHLY MEETINGS

Action-Advocacy and Membership meetings are on Zoom\*. Board meetings are hybrid meetings at the LWVDV office or via Zoom. Luncheons are at WiseGirl in Pleasant Hill.

<b>Tuesday, Feb 3, 5-6:30 pm</b>	<b>Membership Team</b>
<b>Wednesday, Feb 11, 11:30 am</b>	<b>Luncheon</b>
<b>Thursday, Feb 12, 10:00 am</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
<b>Monday, Feb 16, 3 pm</b>	<b>Action-Advocacy</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 3, 5-6:30 pm</b>	<b>Membership Team</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 11, 11:30 am</b>	<b>Luncheon</b>
<b>Thursday, March 12, 10:00 am</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
<b>Monday, March 16, 3 pm</b>	<b>Action-Advocacy</b>

**\*To participate in a Zoom meeting, send your email address to [lwvdv@lwvdv.org](mailto: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 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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## **The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley *Voter***

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

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Happy 106<sup>th</sup> Birthday, LWV!

