

January 2025 VOTER



LWV Founder Carrie Chapman Catt was born January 9, 1859, in Ripon,
Wisconsin.

Will we channel her determination and spirit in 2025?

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

President's Letter

League Leaders and Members:

Welcome to 2025!

I hope everyone had a good holiday season.

We are in a challenging time and LWV at all levels has important work in progress.

Our **LWVDV Program Planning meeting** will take place **Saturday, February 8 at 10:00 am** at the Willow Pass Community Center in Concord. Plan to attend and participate in our discussion about LWVDV priorities for the 2025-2026 year. We need input from our members! We'll also be serving refreshments afterwards for some good mingling time – please plan to attend.



We are getting our [Action-Advocacy team meetings](#) going again with new leadership. The first meeting will be on **Monday, January 20 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm** on Zoom.

We will also be conducting **Legislative Interviews with our state senator and representatives**. These interviews will help LWVC plan for the

legislative term, and need to be completed by the end of February. Please contact mary@lwvdv.org if you want to get involved. We need volunteers to schedule interviews, ask the questions, and take notes during the interviews. In the past, some meetings have been in person and others on Zoom. The format is different this year: we will not have topics provided by LWVC but instead we'll ask each legislator about their priorities.

LWVUS has taken on some big projects, including a **Federal Judiciary Study**. At the LWVUS 2024 Convention, delegates voted to proceed with a study of the federal judiciary to be completed on a fast-track timeline in time for a position statement to be announced at the LWVUS Council in June 2025.



Local Leagues will be holding discussions in early 2025 to respond to consensus questions that will shape the new position. More information on the study and local League participation is [here](#). We need members to assist with this study by reading LWVUS materials and serving as resources at the consensus meeting -- please email me at president@lwvdv.org if you are interested!

Looking forward to seeing you in 2025!

Mary Schreiber, LWVDV President

Lunch with the League!

Join us for our monthly no-host lunch on **Wednesday, January 8th, 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 and kicking off the New Year together!



New Member Orientation in January

Many new members have joined this fall – Welcome to the League!



As your membership chair, I would normally have been in contact with you all to schedule an orientation. However, I was in the hospital and a rehab facility for some time and have been unable to keep up with my duties. I'd like to thank Paul Derksen, our Treasurer, and Karen Dolder, our Secretary, for helping out in my

absence. I apologize to new members who have not received a welcome email from me. I will be writing these in the next week.

I'm projecting I can provide a Zoom orientation on Saturday morning January 11th from 10:30 am to about noon.

Please email me at membership@lwvdv.org to RSVP. You'll learn valuable information that will prepare you to participate in our Program Planning Meeting in February, as well as learning about how you can get involved.

Cathleen Kirk, Membership Chair

Skills Training Opportunity!

If you'd like to learn how we create the LWVDV announcements, emails and newsletter using the Mailchimp platform, here's your chance! We will be doing a **virtual training on Friday, January 17th, from 1-3 pm**. You will watch Leslie Stewart put together a brief email with images, and see how to maintain the various mailing lists.

There's no commitment to utilize these skills, but if you are active with LWVDV, they will probably come in handy for an activity or team outreach. Please email communications.director@lwvdv.org if you want to be included in the training, or if you can't attend but would like to know more.



Action/Advocacy Meetings Resume

The monthly Action/Advocacy meeting will return this month after a brief hiatus during the busy months leading up to the 2024 election. Mary Schreiber has transitioned full-time to her present position as President of the LWVDV.

Anna Honda and Joanne Supersad will start co-chairing the Action Committee in the new year.



We are eager to kickstart the Action/Advocacy monthly meeting with renewed energy. Please come and share your passion, knowledge, and skills to support the League of Women Voters' values and principles. **Join us every third Monday of the month 3 pm - 5 pm, starting on January 20th.**

To sign up for the Zoom meeting link, please email action-advocacy@lwvdv.org.

Celebrating Democracy -- During and After the Election!



As you know, the 2024 election cycle was crazy busy for the League, but thanks to all of the amazing League members who stepped up to contribute financially, or to do the necessary work during that craziness, things went smoothly and successfully. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, one and all!**

Contra Costa County has approximately 723,000 registered voters. Nearly 75% of them voted. This is very good news -- especially when considering that many did not vote in the primaries. The following link offers the County Election Office's stats for every contest, as of December 2:

[ElectionSummaryReportRPT](#)

In readying ourselves for the November election, the League had many and varied partnering opportunities with the County Elections staff. Whether it was for voter registration days, doing outreach presentations in the community about mis/dis information, serving as panelists for Community Conversations, or creating TikTok videos with young people for young people, our County Elections staff always happily collaborated with the League. Sometimes unexpected events happen, and the League can help.

Indeed, on the evening before Election Day, one of the Antioch ballot drop boxes was so full it was overflowing. Antioch voters reached out to the Elections Office to let them know about the issue. Now, getting from Martinez to Antioch is not an easy task during the commute hours especially when there is an accident. As fate would have it, there was an accident that night. Nonetheless, our Clerk Recorder, Kristin Connelly, headed to Antioch and on her way, she

called a League member who she knew lived in Antioch. Kristin explained the issue and asked if the member could stand by the ballot box and let voters know that the box would be emptied soon and not to worry.



The League member arrived at the box within 10 minutes. She explained to the voters where another drop box was located or, if they preferred, they were welcome to stay and wait. A number of voters opted to wait and just chilled, chatting among themselves. What started as a problem led to an unexpected moment of community for those who chose to wait to drop their ballot. Within a few more minutes, Kristin arrived to empty the very stuffed ballot box (*see photo*).

Our County Elections Office cares about our votes. A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone in the County Elections Office for the work they do for all voters in our county.

Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV Voter Services Co-Chair

LWV and the Challenges to Being Able to Vote

The 2024 election was the most litigious in the history of the nation. **The heavy lifting of the pro-voting cases was carried by non-profit organizations like the League of Women Voters.** Check out [Democracy Docket](#) for details. Author Marc Elias notes, "Finally, we need to realize that there is no off-season for protecting voting rights. The fight for fair voting rules takes place every month of every year, period."

From the Treasurer: Financial Report

The [certification and financial report for 2023-2024](#), as outlined in the bylaws, is now available. The statements in this link were prepared without audit from the books and records of the corporation.

The budget line-item overages, highlighted in yellow and orange, were acknowledged and ratified by the Board at the September board meeting.



The accounting for Per Member Payments (PMP) changed in January 2023. Through January 2023, PMP was an expense paid out of restricted reserves. Under the new method effective February 2023, PMP is a liability on the

balance sheet instead of an expense in future year statements. For any questions, please contact me at treasurer@lwvdv.org.

The financial records for fiscal year 2023-2024 will be reviewed, not audited, by the Financial Review committee. LWVDV members Anna Honda and Leslie Winslow were appointed by the Board to this committee.

Paul Derksen, Treasurer

Board Briefs for November 2024

At its November 14 meeting, the LWVDV Board took the following actions:



- Established a 6-month operating reserve
- Approved a \$425 contribution to the LWVC Education Fund

The Board also

- Heard plans to restart the Action-Advocacy Committee in January, with Anna Honda chairing and Joanne Supersad assisting.
- Began planning annual interviews of state legislators that are used as a basis for advocacy by LWVC.
- Discussed the transition to the new LWVUS system for membership management.
- Made plans for the annual Program Planning membership meeting, scheduled for February 8th.
- Received a report from the Financial Strategy Committee on investment and management of the Lee Lawrence Bequest.
- Scheduled the final report and program guidelines for the Lee Lawrence Bequest for presentation by the Program Development Committee at the January 2025 Board meeting.
- Considered suggestions for building on the recent election-related partnerships with Hispanic community organizations, and future possibilities for working with St. Mary's College and interns.

There was no December 2024 Board meeting.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members Sandra Bennett, Mary Breffle, Ellen Bull, Leah Lazzeretti, Nancy Petsuch, Jeane Samuelsen, and Ruth Winchell-Moyes!

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

If your renewal is in February or later, remember to register with LWVUS in January to complete your renewal! See our [previous email](#) with the explanation of upcoming changes.

Membership: Join Us or Renew!

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

Membership is not based on the ability to pay. To request dues assistance, please email membership@lwvdu.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@lwvdu.org) to upgrade your status!***

- \$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: Catt, Library of Congress; signpost, Pixabay; Supreme Court, Mark Thomas on Pixabay; Bar Camino, website; orientation, LWVDV; computer, Morguefile; Action-Advocacy, Canva; Shawn Gilbert, also Kristin Connelly, Shawn Gilbert; calculator, Pixabay; Zoom meeting, Vertical Response.

CALENDAR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 11:30 am
Thursday, Jan. 9, 10:00 am
Monday, Jan. 20, 3:00 pm

Luncheon
Board Meeting
Action-Advocacy

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 11:30 am
Thursday, Feb. 13, 10:00 am
Monday, Feb. 17, 3:00 pm

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.

LWVDV Board Members (through June 2025):

[Mary Schreiber](#), *President*

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

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

[Paul Derksen](#), *Treasurer*

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

[Cathleen Kirk](#), *Membership Chair*

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

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

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

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

[Anna Honda](#), *At-Large Board Member*

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

Published monthly except
July and December

Editor: Leslie Stewart

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

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