

## January 2026 VOTER



Another year of celebrating democracy and also defending it!

### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### [President's Letter](#)

#### **For Your Calendar**

- [Membership Committee](#), Jan. 6
- [Member Orientations](#), Jan. 13 & Jan. 17
- [League Lunch](#), Jan. 14
- [California Fire Insurance Costs \(Community Conversation\)](#), Jan. 15
- [Coffee Saturday Social](#), Jan. 24

#### **Other League Activities**

- [Legislative Interviews](#) -- join us!
- [Regional Positions Study](#) -- learn about it!

- [Voter Registration at Food Banks](#) -- sign up!

### League News and Information

- [Voter Services Youth Grant -- and Thanks!](#)
- [Board Briefs](#) from November Meeting
- [Membership Updates and Information](#)
- [List of Monthly Board and Social Meetings](#)
- [LWVDV Board List](#)

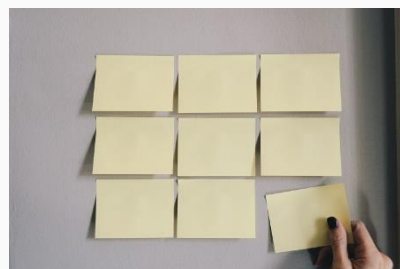
The PDF of this issue is available on the [website](#).

## President's Letter

League Leaders and Members:

### Welcome to 2026!

We have a busy year ahead of us.



Our Program Planning meeting will be held February 21 at the Pleasant Hill Community Center. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

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. There will be more details coming soon – in the meantime, please review our [current LWVDV Priorities](#) and the LWVDV and LWVUS [policy positions](#).

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 members and leadership are also busy with other activities. Currently there is **a group studying proposed changes to LWVBA Positions** on Regional Government and Regional Planning. The review team will present information to members to reach consensus. *(See article below.)*

We are also **conducting interviews with our state legislators** to provide information about them to LWVC. These interviews are being coordinated by the Action-Advocacy Committee. *(See article below.)*

**Unite and Rise** is planning more activities and **Voter Services** will be getting ready for primaries in June.

Thanks to all of our members for their participation!

**Please welcome new members Janice Harsono and Maddy Quine!**

Mary Schreiber, LWVDV President

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR



### Membership Committee **(NEW!)**

**Tuesday, January 6** is the first meeting of the new Membership Committee! This meeting will be held the first Tuesday of every month from 5-6:30pm via Zoom only.

If you're interested in joining us, please email [membership@lwvdv.org](mailto:membership@lwvdv.org) to request the Zoom link.



### Member Orientations for January

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](mailto:membership@lwvdv.org) to RSVP and request the Zoom link.

**The days/times for orientations** are as follows:

- **2nd Tuesday (Jan 13th)** 7-8pm via Zoom only
- **3rd Saturday (Jan 17th)** 9:30-10:30am hybrid (Zoom & in-person at the Walnut Creek library, Prologue Coffee & Tea)



## Lunch with the League, January 14!

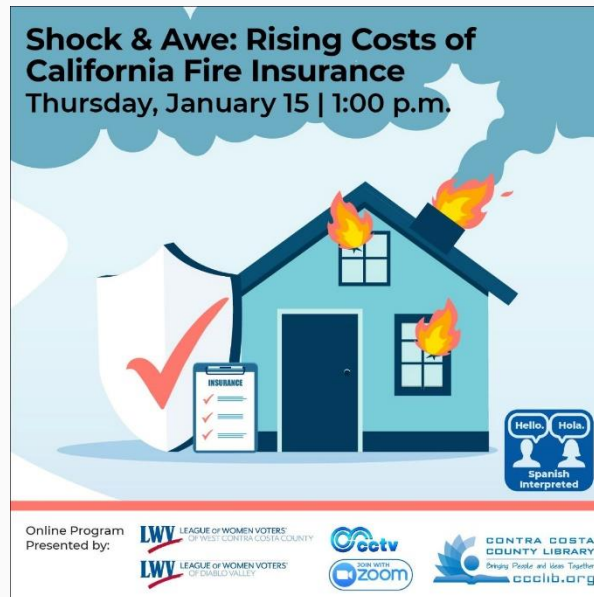
**JOIN US** for our monthly no-host lunch on **Wednesday, January 14, at 11:30** at WiseGirl Restaurant, 1932 Oak Park Blvd, Pleasant Hill – our new location for these events!

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.  
**Janet Hoy**  
**925-283-2235**  
[janet@lwvdv.org](mailto:janet@lwvdv.org)

JOIN US for a *prix fixe* lunch to kick off the New Year, 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.*)



California homeowners are experiencing the “shock and awe” of the increase in their insurance rates. This webinar will address how insurance rates are determined, strategies for fire mitigation, current state legislation impacting insurance rates, and efforts by community groups to inform homeowners about ways to protect their property.

This webinar will be moderated by **Contra Costa Fire Chief Lewis T. Broschard III**. Our expert panelists will include: **Emily Rogan, Senior Program Officer, United Policy Holders; Steve Young, Senior Vice President/General Counsel, Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of California; Marc Evans, Moraga/Orinda Firewise Network; and Chris Bachman, Contra Costa County Fire Marshall.**

[Register here.](#)

After registration, the Zoom webinar information will be emailed 24 hours before the program. Audience questions will be collected and answered through the Zoom chat.

Community Conversations are co-sponsored by the LWV Diablo Valley, the LWV West Contra Costa County, Contra Costa TV, 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. It will also be rebroadcast on Contra Costa TV, available to watch on Comcast Cable 27, ATT/U-Verse 99, Astound 32 & 1027, or online at [contracostatv.org](http://contracostatv.org).

Contact [programs@lwvdv.org](mailto:programs@lwvdv.org) for more information.





## LWVDV Coffee Saturday Socials **(NEW!)**

**Saturday, January 24th** is the first Coffee Social for members (especially new ones) and potential members to meet each other, discuss ways to engage local voters in protecting democracy, and explore potential involvement in LWVDV activities. These are planned for the fourth Saturday of every month from 9:30 - 11:00 am at Panera Bread in Countrywood Shopping Center (744 Bancroft Rd., Walnut Creek).

**Please RSVP** to [membership@lwvdv.org](mailto:membership@lwvdv.org) if you're planning to attend. Plan to arrive 10 minutes early to order and pay for your beverage/food. Look for an LWVDV welcome sign to join our group at Panera.

## OTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES FOR YOU

### LWVDV Talks to Legislators -- Be in the Room!

Join the LWVDV Action-Advocacy team on the **legislative interview project** in January. [Sign up for more information.](#)

**What will we do?** We will ask for meetings with three local state legislators. Team members will attend together and take notes of the interview. We will submit the completed notes to the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) by February 23, 2026. Commitment is estimated to be 4-6 hours.

**What is this about?** Every year, the League of Women Voters of California encourages local Leagues to interview their state legislators or staff. Legislative interviews are a powerful tool - increasing League visibility, gathering information, and raising awareness among California's state representatives about our interest in policies they are considering. It's a chance to emphasize that while the League never



supports or opposes candidates or parties, we are a political organization that takes positions on issues after thorough study and consensus, and that League members are their constituents.

Legislative interviews are an opportunity for legislators to share their priorities with local Leagues and develop an understanding of League positions and priorities. Furthermore, the state League learns more about legislators and the interests of local Leagues, gaining information useful in planning statewide advocacy and education.

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## Get Ready for a Consensus Meeting on LWVBA Regional Position Changes Saturday, February 7, 10 am - noon on Zoom

At the request of the LWV Bay Area (LWVBA), various Bay Area Leagues (including LWVDV) have created committees to study proposed changes to LWVBA's [Regional Government & Regional Planning positions](#).



- LWVDV Study Committee members are Ana Pan, Bill Smith, Joanne Supersad, Kathy Gallagher, Leslie Stewart (Committee Lead), Rhiannon Shires, and Shawn Gilbert.
- LWVDV Committee members have been informing ourselves about the original positions and the proposed changes so that we can guide our members through the **consensus process scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 10am-noon, via Zoom**.
- Our Committee deadline for responding to LWVBA is February 27, 2026.

Please read [this explanation](#) of the Update Study for greater detail on what you need to do to be an informed participant in the consensus process. Email [leslie@lwvdv.org](mailto:leslie@lwvdv.org) to be added to our committee email list and meetings.

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## Voter Registration for Food Assistance Clients

**LWVDV Voter Services** is partnering with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano to do voter registration at various Food Bank depot locations around our county. The goal is to have a consistent presence from February to the June

primaries to inform, educate, and build trust while helping new voters to register.



**At least two volunteers are needed for each date. A Voter Registration training session** will be held during the last part of January to go over the process of registering and the specifics of helping people at the Food Bank.

Please join Voter Services in this important work. To sign up, contact: [Ana@lwvdv.org](mailto:Ana@lwvdv.org) or [Shawn@lwvdv.org](mailto:Shawn@lwvdv.org)

Here are the dates and locations for February. (The March schedule will be in the February Voter.)

### FEBRUARY 2026

<b>Week of Feb 3–7</b> Thu Feb 5, 9–10am (arrive 8am)	Senior Food Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Concord 4000 Clayton Rd, Concord, CA 94521
<b>Week of Feb 10–14</b> Thu Feb 12, 10–11am (arrive 9am)	Senior Food Church of the Good Shepherd – Pittsburg 3200 Harbor St, Pittsburg, CA 94565
<b>Week of Feb 17–21</b> Wed Feb 18, 2–3pm (arrive 1pm)	CPP WIC Concord 2731 Syston Dr, Concord, CA 94518
<b>Week of Feb 24–28</b> Wed Feb 25, 9–10am (arrive 8am)	Senior Food Antioch Senior Center 415 W 2nd St, Antioch, CA 94509
Thu Feb 26, 10–11:30am (arrive 9am)	Senior Food Diane Avenue Church of Christ – Pittsburg 283 Diane Ave, Pittsburg, CA 94565

## LEAGUE NEWS



### Congratulations, Voter Services!

LWV Diablo Valley was **selected for a grant award** from among “a record-breaking number of applications.” The LWV Education Fund is pleased to offer our League funding of **\$750** for our Youth Voter Registration Project. The grant award period is from January to June 2026. LWV Diablo Valley will be using



this award money to help our new Youth Council in its work to engage more young people in voting.

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### **Celebrating Democracy Every Day in 2026, Happy New Year!**

**Thank you to all of you** for generously sharing your time, talent and treasure throughout this past year. The LWV Diablo Valley is out in the community all year long connecting, informing, educating and building trust with our county neighbors. Every little thing that each of us does accumulates to create a swell of energy in the important work of protecting our democracy.

*Shawn Gilbert, Voter Services Co-Chair*

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## **Board Briefs for November 2025**

At its meeting on November 20, the Board took the following actions:

- Ratified the decisions of the Executive Committee on sharing our logo with AAUW and approving a Memorandum of Understanding as a partner in the SAFE Center.
- Adopted a draft policy on Youth Engagement.
- Approved the creation of a Youth Internship position with stipend, and determined the source of necessary funds for the first two months.
- Approved signing on to an LWVUS statement on data collection by the federal Department of Health Services.



The Board also

- Set the date for the annual Program Planning meeting as Saturday, February 21, beginning at 9:30 am.
- Discussed updates and follow-up reports from Board Retreat working groups.
- Established an informal mid-month meeting for exchanging Board-related information.
- Learned that the Unite & Rise 8.5 team is working on an Electoral Challenges presentation for 2026.

The Board did not meet in December.

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# Membership Updates and Information

**Welcome new members Janice Harsono and Maddy Quine!**

## **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 new 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. To attend, please send an email to [membership@lwvdv.org](mailto:membership@lwvdv.org) to RSVP and request Zoom link. The days/time for orientations are as follows:

- 2nd Tuesday (Jan 13th) 7-8pm via Zoom only
- 3rd Saturday (Jan 17th) 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: New Year, Morgefile; planning, Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash; Hello, biljaST on Pixabay; training, LWVDV; WiseGirl, website; coffee, Himman Amin on Unsplash; CA Legislature, FastLizard4 on Creative Commons; map, Wilimedia; woman with clipboard, Maxine Arton for LWVDV; winner, Pete Linforth on Pixabay; online meeting, Vertical Response*

## CALENDAR of MONTHLY MEETINGS

Board meetings are hybrid meetings at the LWVDV office or via Zoom\*. Luncheons are at WiseGirl in Pleasant Hill.

**Wednesday, Jan 14, 11:30 am**

**Thursday, Jan 15, 10:00 am**

**Monday, Jan 19, 3 pm**

**Wednesday, Feb 11, 11:30 am**

**Thursday, Feb 12, 10:00 am**

**Monday, Feb 16, 3 pm**

**Luncheon**

**Board Meeting**

**Action-Advocacy**

**Luncheon**

**Board Meeting**

**Action-Advocacy**

\*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. 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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