

June/July 2024 VOTER



Just as true as it was in 2020 when we celebrated with this cake!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Leaders' Letter](#)
- [Mis/Disinformation presentation](#), June 4, Walnut Creek
- [Who Makes Education Decisions?](#) June 5 on Zoom
- [Lunch with the League](#), June 12 in Walnut Creek
- [Community Conversations](#): Plans (*and an inside look!*)
- [Pros & Cons](#): Planning Starts Now
- [Voter Services](#): Some Interesting Updates
- [The Budget Justice Coalition](#): A Report to Member Organizations
- [Board Briefs](#) from May 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

Dear League Leaders and Members:

By the time you receive this, we will have had our **Annual Meeting** on June 1st. This most important yearly meeting informs you of our activities over the past year and provides an opportunity for you to approve our local priorities, positions, budget, bylaws changes, and our leaders for the coming year. Our guest speaker was Dawn Kruger, Community and Media Relations Coordinator for the Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder-Elections Department. We have an excellent ongoing relationship with the Elections Department and appreciate that they keep us informed on their activities to support our mission of Making Democracy Work.



On June 4th, we will have an [important presentation on Mis- and Disinformation](#) at the Walnut Creek Library, which will be open to the public. Also in June, we will be participating with the county libraries and other organizations in a children's summer [Exploration Station Program](#) at various libraries throughout the county. These events will integrate a voting activity for children with the opportunity to explore our natural world and communities.

We always need and appreciate your active involvement in our League, and especially in this election year with our many activities to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. The November election will include important national, state, and local issues to be addressed. We will have voter education and registration, Get Out The Vote activities, Candidate Forums and Roundtables, Pros & Cons presentations, and many others. **We need you in any way that interests you and fits your schedule** – we can accomplish more with your help. With your input, we can also focus on local government and local issues of concern to you. **You can always reach us at lwvdv@lwvdv.org with your comments, concerns, and interest in volunteering.**

In addition to this important work, we want to have fun and get to know you better. We plan to continue our monthly no-host [luncheons at Bar Camino](#) in Walnut Creek – stay tuned for this and other social activities in the coming year!

and video? Are you worried about the impact of mis- and disinformation on our culture, our communities, our election, and ultimately on our democracy?

If so, please join us for a LWVDV presentation on Mis- and Disinformation -- how to spot it, stop it, and report it, with a special focus on the 2024 election. The presentation is open to all and will be held at the Walnut Creek Library's Oak Room on Tuesday, June 4, from 5:30-7:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided. Affordable parking is available at the library.

Click [here](#) to register in advance. Drop-ins are also welcome.

Who Decides What We Teach? Wednesday, June 5, 7-8:30 pm on Zoom

Join local education experts to explore the **facts and the issues around education content and decisions** in a webinar presented by the LWV Santa Clara County Civil Discourse Committee. Panelists will speak to federal, state, and local “rules,” parental notification and participation, sensitive topics (sex, race, gender, pronouns, etc.), and controversial topics such as ethnic studies, civics, climate change, and more.



Our expert panelists include J. Manuel Herrera of the East San Jose Union Board of Education, Jennifer DiBrienza of the Palo Alto Unified School Board, and Graham Clark, Superintendent of the Fremont Union High School District.

Our goal is to provide information about how curriculum is determined and taught, who controls the process, and potential improvements.

Our panelists will have a conversation around:

- What curriculum topics are people concerned about – and why?
- As a democratic society, how should we approach these topics?
- Who are the final arbiters of the content being taught?
- What role should parents have in determining content?

[Register here.](#)



Lunch with the League!

Join us for our monthly no-host lunch on **Wednesday, June 12th, at 11:30 am** at Bar Camino, 1470 North Broadway, Walnut Creek. There's easy and affordable parking across the street at the library parking lot. The upcoming election will give us lots to talk about!

Remember to add **Wednesday, July 10th**, to your calendar for the July lunch – don't wait for the email reminder!

Please let Janet Hoy know you're coming -- you can email her at janet@lwvdv.org. We're looking forward to seeing everyone!

Behind the Scenes... The (Community Conversations) Show Must Go On!

As the calendar moves closer to the November General Election, we will be overwhelmed with all sorts of news. Some will be very good and others, well, not so much. LWVDV's recent Community Conversations webinar, "**The State of Local Journalism and Why We Should Care**," offered a lot of important information about the issue of good journalism and fake news. The panel included professors Mickey Huff of Diablo Valley College, Nolan Higdon of UC Santa Cruz, and Bob Butler, retired reporter for KCBS News. If you missed the program here is the link to the recording. <https://youtu.be/kHnwtRrGELQ>

To the viewers of that webinar, everything looked like all was well, but **behind the scenes** some dedicated Leaguers were resolving some big issues. Susan Hildreth was the League moderator and shortly before the program was to start, her computer camera stopped working. She quickly called another team member, who called Diane Bianchi, the co-chair of the team. Diane happened to be on the road at the time of the call. She quickly returned home, gathered up her laptop, and drove to Susan's home. They hooked up the laptop and Diane got back home just in time for the start of the program -- a seamless recovery from those cyber-gremlins. **Good work, Susan and Diane!**



Please note that the May webinar, “The State of Local Journalism and Why We Should Care,” was the final event in the 2023-24 Community Conversations program year.

“**Roadmap to Voting 2024,**” will kick off the **2024-25** year in September with an in-depth look at how the Contra Costa County Elections Office prepares for an election, safely secures voters’ ballots, and counts them. October’s program will focus on the “**Pros & Cons for the California Ballot Measures**” in preparation for the November General Election.

All webinars are simultaneously interpreted in Spanish and are later posted to both the League of Women Voters Diablo Valley and the Contra Costa County Library’s YouTube channels.

Diane Bianchi and Shawn Gilbert, Community Conversations Team

Two useful links related to our May Community Conversations webinar:

[What is news literacy \(and why does it matter\)? | Definition, Best Practices, Misinformation, & Deep Fakes | Britannica](#)
[How to Detect and Guard Against Deceptive AI-Generated Election Information | Brennan Center for Justice](#)

League "Pros and Cons" -- and YOU



Accurate, non-partisan information is difficult to come by these days. In the weeks preceding elections, the League works hard to provide much-needed information to the voters of our community.

During the next two months, Janet Hoy and Sue Brandy will be **scheduling presentations of the “Pros and Cons”** for propositions that will be on the November ballot. If you are a member of an organization that has scheduled Pros and Cons in the past, or an organization that would like to schedule, **now is the time to request a date and time** on the schedule. Contact Janet or Sue as soon as possible (*see below*). Presentations can be in person or virtual.

For **those of you who have volunteered** to help present this important information, thank you. If you haven’t heard from us yet, you will soon. We will be creating two-person teams to be available to meet the needs of the community. We will provide training and a PowerPoint for all presenters.

If you don't think we have your name yet and you would like to volunteer, please contact Sue and Janet by emailing pros.cons@lwvdv.org.

Voter Services -- Celebrating Democracy!

Out and About in the Community

League members Paul Derksen, Mary Schreiber, and Shawn Gilbert spent a lovely spring day at St. Mary's College on May 15th. The Black Leadership Coalition and the Center for Women and Gender Equity invited LWVDV to their joint Activism & Advocacy Fair. It was an enjoyable day talking with students, staff, and faculty about voting and VOTE411.org. A special thank you to Ms. Cynthia Cooke St. Ange, investigator for Title X/Civil Rights at the college, for reaching out and inviting the League.



Summer Exploration Stations in Partnership with the CC County Library

Thank you to all our LWVDV members and to our sister LWV West Contra Costa member for joining our puppet friends again this summer! The League will be at various libraries across the county to share information with children and their families. Here's who will be where (all programs are 11:00 am – 1:00 pm):

- Oakley Library, June 1: Joanne Supersad
- Brentwood Library, June 12: Carol Boyd
- Pleasant Hill Library, June 18: Marion Morris and Susan Johnson
- El Sobrante Library, June 20: Linda Whitmore, LWV WCCC

Another Partnering

Thank you to Hang Mosier, Community Engagement Program Director of Satellite Affordable Housing Associates (SAHA), for reaching out to both LWV Diablo Valley and LWV Alameda to participate in civic engagement training for SAHA staff. Both Leagues will join with the County Elections Office for this June 3rd webinar.

TikTok Videos Completed!

The League is happy to announce that the TikTok videos for Get Out the Vote and VOTE411.org are complete. They were created by St. Mary's College

communications students, working with Professor Jason Jakaitis, and will be released starting this summer heading into the election. Partnering in this work with St. Mary's students was a Carondelet junior, LWVDV member Ms. Karlina Meyer. LWV Diablo Valley thanks each of the students for partnering with the League and for their creativity in producing these videos.



Get Ready for the Election!

The Voter Services leaders are busily planning for another moderator training coming up in early August, as we look forward to a very busy election cycle. We will soon be reaching out to various community partners to build our calendar dates for candidate forums. In addition to moderators, we will need timers, as well as card collectors and question sorters for in-person events. These are great opportunities to see your local candidates! If you are interested in helping at any of these forums, please contact voter.service@lwvdv.org.

Shawn Gilbert, Voter Services Co-Chair

Recent Accomplishments of the Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley is a member of the [Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition](#) (BJC). The following report from BJC Program Manager Sara Gurdian summarizes the recent activity of the BJC during the county's budget preparation and adoption process.

The Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition (BJC) advocated for a just Contra Costa County budget for the Fiscal Year 2024/25 that addresses inequities and prioritizes the needs of residents who are struggling to make ends meet. We had numerous victories.

BJC's Advocacy on Remaining \$37.5M of American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA)

BJC won a public process for how the County's remaining \$37.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will be spent. ARPA was signed into law by President Biden in 2021 which helps fund an equitable recovery from the impacts of the pandemic and addresses health and economic disparities in underserved communities. BJC deeply believes that the remaining ARPA Covid relief funds should be focused on communities most harmed by economic hardships and systemic racism. We asked that the Board of Supervisors implement a robust public engagement process to identify community priorities

for the remaining \$37.5 million. The Board directed the County Administrator's Office to hold a public process to seek this community input. BJC will collaborate with the County Administrator's Office to co-design a process to ensure community voices are centered, and the funding is equitably distributed.

Our Support for Measure X Community Advisory Board Priorities

Measure X is a half-cent county sales tax, approved by voters in 2020. It is expected to generate \$112 million annually to support the county hospital, emergency response, safety net services, early childhood development, and other essential services that support underserved populations. The Board of Supervisors established the Measure X Community Advisory Board (MXCAB) to identify unmet community needs and recommend spending priorities. BJC fully supported the MXCAB's recommendations for the \$28 million in one-time Measure X funding. This included:



- \$2.5M for a new Family Justice Center in South County
- \$5M for a Contra Costa Guaranteed Income Pilot contingent upon the Employment and Human Services Department and Guaranteed Income Collaborative report to the Board in July
- \$1.9M towards the Contra Costa Library
- \$1M for community-based services for seniors/disabled residents, including food security
- \$1.5M towards the Fire Department and vegetation management
- \$7.5M towards an African American holistic wellness hub
- \$72,000 towards the Elections Department
- \$1M toward the food security program through the Employment and Human Services Department
- \$2M into the Innovation Fund
- \$30k for the Measure X Community Advisory Board (over 3 years)

Observer reports from the Measure X Citizens Advisory Board are on our [website](#).

Next steps for BJC

In addition to advocating for ARPA funds to be distributed equitably, BJC will be focused on the implementation of a potential new budget equity tool in Contra Costa, working closely with the new Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice to support their leadership.

To get involved, go to budgetjusticecc.org/contact

Board Briefs for May 2024

At its May 9th Board meeting, the Board

- Approved the proposed budget to be presented to delegates at the June 1 Annual Meeting.



The Board also

- Reviewed delegates to the June 14 LWV Bay Area Convention.
- Reviewed delegates to the June 27-30 LWVUS Convention.
- Accepted the report from the Nominating Committee to be presented to members at the June 1 Annual Meeting.
- Discussed the need for a new Chair for Action-Advocacy.
- Received team reports, including a report from Civic Engagement about interviews with local elected officials on problems at public meetings, and a report from Communications that the student-produced videos from Saint Mary's College encouraging youth participation in voting have been completed.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members Rhiannon Shires and Meredith Wakeman!

If you have a **June or July** membership anniversary, watch for your renewal reminder. We need you, so please renew!

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@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!***

\$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: Anniversary cake, Elections Dept. trailer, St Mary's event, moderator training: Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV; gavel, Pixabay; table setting, Richcity on Pixabay; classroom, CDC on Unsplash; news wordsphere, licensed to Contra Costa Library for Community Conversations; Pros & Cons, Canva; food pantry, Ismael Paramo on Unsplash; Board briefs, Pixabay

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, June 12, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Thursday, June 13, 10:30 am	Board Meeting
No June Meeting	Action/Advocacy Committee
Wednesday, July 10, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Thursday, July 11, 10:30 am	Board Meeting (<i>may be changed</i>)
Watch for email updates	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 (beginning July 1):

[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*
Carolyn Bowden, *At Large Board Member*
Anna Honda, *At Large Board Member*
[vacant] *Action/Advocacy Chair*

LWV of Diablo Valley
500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-2235 lwvdv@lwvdv.org

Voter

Published monthly except
July and December
Editor: Leslie Stewart

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