



March 2024 VOTER



Our second Community Conversation on Immigration -- see more below.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Leaders' Letter](#)
- [Monthly Lunch](#), **March 13**
- [Deportation Court](#) (Community Conversation), **March 21**
- [Bay Area League Day on Health](#), **March 9**
- [Intimate Partner Violence Panel](#), **March 13**
- [Volunteer for Budget Committee!](#)
- [Volunteer for Fall Pros & Cons Team!](#)
- [Board Briefs](#) from February 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!

We had our **Program Planning/General Membership** meeting on Saturday, February 10th. It was a lively meeting with both in-person and Zoom attendees. We developed possible local League priorities, which include:

- Continuing to emphasize our Making Democracy Work initiatives, with Candidate Forums, Roundtables, voter education, and registration events
- Mis/Disinformation activities including Spanish translation of our brochure, presentations to local groups, and social media outreach
- Gun Safety, coordinating with other organizations

Other ideas generated included educating the community on healthcare inequities, monitoring the county Climate Action Plan, and more youth involvement in our activities. We will vote on these and other ideas from our members at our Annual Meeting on June 1st. We also talked about our need for volunteers for all our activities this year. **Please consider helping, even if it is just one time – we need you!**



With **the upcoming election on March 5th**, we participated in presentations on Proposition 1, the only statewide proposition in this election. The state League's position is "No" – more information can be found at <https://lwvc.org/ballot-measure/prop-1-2024/no-on-prop-1/>. We were invited to present the LWVC position at a Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission meeting in February, and we conducted a Pros & Cons online presentation on February 15th. We also presented a Community Conversation webinar on Measure X on that date. These two February 15 online presentations are available on our [LWVDV YouTube channel](#).

Our next monthly no-host LWVDV luncheon is at 11:30 a.m. on March 13th at Bar Camino in Walnut Creek. These lunches are informal, a lot of fun, and a wonderful

opportunity to meet other League members. We want to get to know you better!



March is Women's History Month. Other Important March dates include:

- **5:** Election Day – **remember to vote!**
- **7:** Anniversary of Bloody Sunday
 - Blog: [Selma and Current Threats to the Voting Rights Act](#)
- **7:** State of the Union Address
- **8:** International Women's Day
- **31:** International Transgender Day of Visibility

As always, thank you for your support!

Anne Granlund, President
Kathy Gallagher, Vice President



Join us for our monthly no-host lunch on **Wednesday, March 13th, 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. We're looking forward to seeing everyone!

New East Bay Deportation Court - Local Challenges and Opportunities for Promoting Human Rights at Home

A large new Deportation Court recently opened in Concord, nearly doubling the deportation capacity of the Bay Area. What is a Deportation Court? What does this mean for our immigrant neighbors and what opportunities and challenges exist to protect and promote human rights?

There are a number of ways to support our immigrant neighbors as they journey through the process. Community members are needed to be court observers. Learn about “accompaniment” and how the community can participate. In addition, attorneys are needed to help immigrants understand the legal process involved.



Join us at **4:00 pm on Thursday, March 21st**, for an informative and in-depth discussion between moderator/panelist Ali Saidi, Contra Costa County Public Defender and founder of Stand Together Contra Costa, and panelist Reverend Deborah Lee, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. This is a

follow-up to our September 2023 event, [What Is the Reality of Immigration?](#)

[Register for this event here.](#)

After registration, 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 the Zoom chat.

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 and ASL 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.

Bay Area League Day 2024



League Day 2024 focuses on creating healthy communities and the inter-connections of health and policy. Experts will define the interrelationship of social, economic, education, and healthy living, and discuss solutions to Bay Area health equity and inequities. Speakers will discuss the right to a clean and healthy environment where communities can live, work, learn, play, and thrive. They will explore the impact of housing affordability and stability on health,

and the environmental impact on health, exposure to toxins, and location exposure impacting communities of color. They will examine the learning environment -- the physical and mental health and well-being of students, from cyber bullying and suicide to counselors.

Guest speakers include State Senator Aisha Wahab (District 10), state Chair of Public Safety and Health Committees. She will be joined by Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, and representatives from housing, health, and environment problem-solvers.

[Register here for the March 9th webinar](#)

A Panel Discussion on Intimate Partner Violence



- 3 in 10 women and 1 in 10 men in the US have experienced intimate partner violence including physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, digital, financial and controlling abuse.
- And 1 in 12 high school students in the US experience physical or sexual dating violence, with women and LGBTQ+ people at greater risk.

The APAPA Tri-Valley is hosting this Conversation with the Chiefs event on March 13, from 6-7 pm at a West Danville or central San Ramon location. To register and receive an email with the location, scan the QR code or [click this link](#).

The [LWVUS](#) supports violence prevention programs in all communities.

Chances are . . . you know someone.

Celebrate Democracy: Exercise Your Power...VOTE!

March 5th is Near . . .

- Be sure to check out the rebroadcasting of Candidate Roundtables [on CCTV](#) and on [LWVDV's YouTube channel](#) if you want to hear candidates share their ideas.
- **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/>

It has been a busy couple of weeks for Leaguers, doing voter registration at LMC recently and also giving a presentation about voting at Mt. Diablo High where twenty young people pre-registered and registered to vote. Several of them will be able to cast their first ballots in the November General Election. A cause to celebrate!! (*seated on right, Paul Derksen, standing on left, Shawn Gilbert*)



Upcoming Voter Registration Opportunities:

- March 11, Los Medanos College, Pittsburg, 12:30 to 2:30
- April 18, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, 11:30 to 1:30
- May 11, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, 11:30 to 1:30

Additionally, the Contra Costa Library has once again invited LWVDV to participate in its Exploration Stations program for elementary students in June. They wrote, "We have set our schedule for four events and we really hope that you may be available to participate in any or all of them. We loved your interaction with the kids around voting and community involvement and they learned a lot."

Last year, Leaguers planned a voting experience opportunity for very young people based on the library's environment theme. There's more to learn about what this year's theme will be, but if this sounds interesting and you think you would like to participate here is the schedule with dates and library locations. Please contact voter.services@lwvdv.org

Location	Date	Time	Address
Oakley Library	Saturday, June 1	11:00- 1:00	1050 Neroly Road, Oakley, CA 94561
Brentwood Library	Wednesday, June 12	11:00-1:00	104 Oak Street, Brentwood, CA 94513
Pleasant Hill Library	Tuesday, June 18	11:00- 1:00	2 Monticello Avenue, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
El Sobrante Library	Thursday, June 20	11:00- 1:00	4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante, CA 94803

Volunteer Opportunities -- Now and Later

Eye On the Money

It's time to put together a new budget for LWVDV and your help is needed! **Sign up now for the budget committee** to guide the finances for the coming year. Contact Treasurer Paul Derkson if you are interested or have questions. Please respond by Wednesday, March 13th – the committee will be approved at the board meeting on March 14th.



Pros & Cons Volunteers Needed!

Yes, we are just coming to the end of our March election activities, and we are already thinking about November!

Organizations in the community are beginning to ask to be scheduled for Pros and Cons presentations in September and October. We don't yet know what propositions will be on the ballot, but we know we will be prepared to inform voters about what the propositions are, who will be supporting and opposing them, and why.



Janet Hoy and Sue Brandy will be organizing the schedule for the presentations, developing a slide show if needed, and offering talking points. But they can't do it alone! **We need a team of people to fill all of the requests for presentations.** Some presentations will be in person, some by Zoom. Typically, there are two presenters. It's fun, interesting, and rewarding – we're offering the community a method to educate themselves and make choices about each proposition.

If you have never done this before, we will give you all the resources you will need. If you have done it, perhaps you can pair up with a newcomer to mentor. **Join us! Or ask your questions: contact Sue Brandy or Janet Hoy at pros.cons@lwvdv.org.**

Board Briefs for February 2024

At its meeting on February 8, the Board took the following action:

- Accepted the Review of the Books for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

The Board also

- Reviewed the LWV policy on involving non-member volunteers.



- Heard that LWVDV President Anne Granlund spoke to the Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission on Proposition 1.
- Heard that Shawn Gilbert would be presenting a talk on Black and women's history to an AP History class at Mt. Diablo High School.
- Received a membership report stating that the annual membership update for LWVUS had been completed on January 31, and that 11 members attended the recent orientation.
- Learned that the Community Outreach team has been merged into the Action-Advocacy Team.
- Received notes of the Action-Advocacy meeting reporting on legislative interviews, hazardous materials concerns in the county, land use planning, rent control issues in Concord, and lobbying local legislators on bills supported by LWVC.
- Received a Communications report noting that website use was up, due to the upcoming election.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members Sumaira Amir, Marion Morris, Kim Vidosh, and Leslie Winslow!

If you have a March 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 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.)

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CALENDAR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

All Action-Advocacy meetings are on Zoom*. Board meetings are at the LWVDV office with Zoom option. Luncheons are at Bar Camino in Walnut Creek.

Wednesday, March 13, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Thursday, March 14, 10:30 am	Board Meeting
Saturday, March 16, 10:00 – noon	Action/Advocacy Committee
Wednesday, April 10, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Thursday, April 11, 10:30 am	Board Meeting
Saturday, April 20, 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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Our Mission: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.
LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in
principle and in practice.