

March 2025 VOTER



Immigration is a key issue for the LWVDV this year! To join the team working on this, send email to programs@lwvdv.org.

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

President's Letter

League Leaders and Members:

2025 continues to be eventful. LWVDV held our annual Program Planning meeting on February 8. The meeting was well attended and lively. The priorities we suggested for LWVC are:

- **IMMIGRATION**
 - Advocate for protections for immigrants in California. Provide resources local Leagues can use for advocacy.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Counter Mis- and Disinformation and the decline in civics education in California.
 - Explore ways to improve outreach to youth.
 - Use all forms of communication, including social media, email, and newsletters, to communicate League positions and guidance.
- **MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK**
 - Continue to advocate for government transparency and public participation.

The issue area priorities we agreed on for LWVDV are:

- **Immigration**
- **Youth Engagement/Involvement**
- **Making Democracy Work**



The Board will use the input from the meeting to add more details, and our members will vote for the final version at the Annual Meeting in late May or June.

Thanks to all for your participation!

LWVUS has been busy sending email updates with information about how they are advocating for our rights and good government. These updates are posted on our [website](#). You can sign up for emails from LWVUS here:

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action>

Mary Schreiber, LWVDV President

There is no March Community Conversations event. We are suggesting this event from our frequent partner, St. Mary's College.

Presidential Power and the Constitution: Can the President Really Do That?

Thursday, March 6, 2025, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saint Mary's College [map](#)

Soda Activity Center: Claeys Lounge

1928 St. Mary's Road

Moraga, CA 94575



Please join SMC Politics Professors Corey Cook, Steve Woolpert, and Cesar (CJ) Baldelomar for this important discussion forum.

Refreshments will be served!

For more information [see the flyer here](#).

Taking Action in This Moment

LWVUS and LWVC are encouraging local Leagues to take part in a number of fast-forming protests, marches, and other actions. **If you are unsure whether you can indicate your League membership when attending an event** (with a button, LWV logo on a sign, etc.) **please check** with President [Mary Schreiber](#), or Anna Honda and Joanne Supersad, [Action-Advocacy](#) chairs.

The **March 4 Light for Our Democracy** protests timed for the State of the Union address are League-approved for participation, as long as you avoid those that are organized by obviously partisan groups. League members are attending other protests, such as the weekly rallies outside the Tesla dealership in Walnut Creek, as individuals.



You can check our [Facebook page](#), [website](#), and emails for updated information. We now have a [new webpage featuring the messages which LWVUS has been sending](#) about issues arising from new administration policies and actions – take a look! These statements are strongly worded and make us all proud!

Don't forget our Action-Advocacy Committee meeting on Monday, March 17!

Orientations for New (or Newly Active) Members

Two dates/times are scheduled in early March for you to meet in-person or online with Membership Chair Ashley Coates and a Board member.

- Learn the processes we use to accomplish our mission. See the many sources of nonpartisan information available to you. Hear from other new members.
- If you have some time to volunteer in 2025, the orientation will show many options you have for getting involved.



Orientation Dates/Times (*choose one*):

- Thursday 3/6 from 3:30-5 pm. Zoom only
- Friday 3/7 from 9:30-11 am. Zoom or in-person at the LWVDV office.

I will send an eVite to new members, but if you don't see it, you can email or call me!

Ashley Coates, membership@lwvdv.org, 925-283-2235 (*I'll get the message*)



Regional Government: How Does It Affect You?

Saturday, March 8, 2025

From: 10:00 am -1:00 pm, Zoom

[League Day 2025](#), LWVBA's annual issue education forum, will focus on the inner workings of regional governance. [Register here.](#)

Lunch with the League!

Serious socializing! Join us for our monthly no-host lunch on **Wednesday, March 12th, 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!

Federal Judiciary Study

Saturday, March 15 -- Consensus Meeting Part I.

Saturday, March 29 -- Consensus Meeting Part II.

Both meetings will be from 10 - 11:30 am on Zoom -- watch for the study update emails or check the [LWVDV website](#) for the links!

Local Power, National Impact

An online event from LWV California

Sunday, March 30, 4:00 – 5:30 pm on Zoom

With attacks on democracy making daily headlines, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But real change is happening—right in our own communities. Across California, local leaders are stepping up to defend democracy, protect rights, and drive policy that ripples across the nation.



We're proud that some of our very own League members have recently been elected to serve their cities—and we want you to meet them.

Join us on March 30 for an inspiring conversation with three newly elected League members who are making a difference:

- **Adena Ishii** – Mayor, City of Berkeley
- **Lorrel Plimier** – Councilmember, City of Piedmont
- **Natalya Zernitskaya** – Councilmember, City of Santa Monica

They'll share why local government is more important than ever, how they're strengthening democracy in their communities, and what we can all do to make an impact. [Tickets are just \\$10](#)—additional donations are strongly encouraged

to support the League's critical advocacy efforts in Sacramento and throughout California.

Please, please, pay your League dues by ACH/eCheck!

When you pay your dues through the Member Portal, the payment is processed through ChapterSpot and Stripe. You have the option to pay by credit card or by ACH/eCheck.

After nearly a month with the new membership system, the true cost is starting to surface. And it's staggering. Your \$75 dues payment gives 20% to our Local League, or \$15. When you pay by credit or debit card, we pay \$1.39, or **9.27%**, in (membership and payment) processing fees to receive that payment. On a \$50 dues payment, we receive \$10, and pay \$1.19, or **11.9%**, in processing fees. LWVUS and LWVC pay similar amounts for their portions. Even if you included a donation, this payment method still costs us a lot more to process than almost any separate donation through our Donate button.

Please consider paying your dues electronically from your bank account, also known as ACH or eCheck. You will need your bank's routing number as well as your account number. **It's easy and secure**, and saves the League a lot in processing fees. On \$15, the ACH fees are \$0.77, or 5.1%. On \$10, the ACH fees are \$0.68, or 6.8%. This is nearly half of what we pay for processing credit or debit cards. If you're considering donations, we are working on getting those processed at significantly lower costs, even less than PayPal.



Checks are highly discouraged for paying dues with the introduction of the new membership system. Donations by check or Zelle are still very much appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our treasurer, Paul Derksen, at treasurer@lwvdv.org.

Celebrating Democracy

Women's History Month

Enjoy a cup of coffee and peruse this year's recently released [National Women's History Alliance magazine](#). It is full of women from all walks of life inspiring others with their compassion and talents. Just turn the pages on your screen like a hard copy magazine.

The Constitution and Citizenship

Two panels of amazing people including historian Martha Jones and attorney Sherrilynn Ifill offer history and thoughtful analysis in this two-hour program. The panels shine light on the importance of the 14th Amendment and its history pertaining to citizenship. The discussion is rich in its focus on the foundation history of the amendment during the Reconstruction Era and full of passion for the real people of the time. [Reconstruction and the Constitution: A Historical Perspective - Town Hall Video | Constitution Center](#)



A key take-away is learning that the original version of the 14th Amendment included a voter protection component, Section 2, which is referred to as the lost 110 words. Central to that section is the last sentence which says, “States that deny their citizens the right to vote will have reduced representation in the House of Representatives.” Unfortunately, that version of the amendment did not make it into the final version. If you want to go down the rabbit hole and learn more, including what some contemporary scholars think, check this link: [The Lost 110 Words of Our Constitution - POLITICO](#)

Shawn Gilbert, Voter Services Co-Chair

In Memoriam



Cathleen Kirk, one of our members who served on the Board as Membership Chair, died February 3, 2025. Cathleen had been ill but we were hoping for her recovery. There will be a Celebration of Life for Cathleen on April 13 at 1:00 PM at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center.

LWVDV was important to Cathleen and she contributed a great deal as Membership Chair and as part of the Communications team. She worked on numerous other projects and ad hoc committees. We will miss her.

Board Briefs for February 2025

At its meeting on February 13, the Board took the following actions:



- Appointed Ashley Coates as Membership Chair, replacing Cathleen Kirk. A co-chair is needed.
- Approved the Investment Policy Statement for the Lee Lawrence bequest.
- Adopted a bylaws change to conform with new LWVUS membership policies.
- Approved the Program Planning recommendations to be submitted to LWVC.
- Approved the program priorities to be placed before the delegates at the LWVDV Annual Meeting.

The Board also

- Heard a report on the progress of the Federal Judiciary Study Committee and set consensus meetings: 10–11:30, March 15 and March 29 on Zoom.
- Received reports from teams: Community Conversations, Communications, Membership, Voter Services.
- Scheduled discussion of the Women’s Suffrage National Monument for the March 13 Board meeting.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members: **Brittany Ashlock, Sarah Butler, Bonnie Brown Cali, Charla Gabert, Sheri Grosjean, Carla Ingmire, McKenna Ingram, Ann Lordeman, Anne Mueller, Charles Etta Richardson, Lisa Sanders, Laura Wittenberg, Debbie Yoshii.**

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!

We have a new process for membership. Sign up online by going to our [website](#) and using the new Join page, or send a check made out to LWVUS to the address at the end of this Voter. **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!**

***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 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.)

Image credits: immigration protest, Nitish Mina, Unsplash; woman at whiteboard, This Is Engineering, Pixabay; White House, Michael Schofield, Unsplash; Action, Canva; orientation, LWVDV; Bar Camino, website; council chambers, Unsplash; computer keyboard, Morguefile; Constitution, National Constitution Center website; Cathleen Kirk, LWVDV; online meeting, Vertical Response.

CALENDAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Wednesday, Mar. 12, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Thursday, Mar. 13, 10:00 am	Board Meeting
Monday, Mar. 17, 3 pm	Action-Advocacy
Wednesday, April 9, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Thursday, April 10, 10:00 am	Board Meeting
Monday, April 21, 3 pm	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*

[Ashley Coates](#), *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*

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