



## May 2025 VOTER



### IN THIS ISSUE:

- [President's Letter](#)
- [Drag for Democracy](#) (LWVC Action), May 10
- [League Lunch](#), May 14
- [Orientation to League](#), May 17
- [Community Conversation: What Is DEI?](#) May 15
- [Kickoff SB 42 Campaign](#), May 18

- [Court Blocks Anti-Voting Executive Order](#)
- [Plan to Participate in LWVC Convention](#)
- [Sign up for Summer Library Fun](#) (with Puppets!)
- [Find Your Perfect Spot in the League](#)
- [Join Our LWVDV Social Media Group](#)
- [Board Briefs](#) from April 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:

We are living in a challenging and stressful time for our country. LWVUS continues to represent our concerns. LWVUS issued a press release on April 17 declaring [“The United States is in a Constitutional Crisis”](#).

There was also a press release on April 25: [“LWV Response to Arrest of Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge”](#). I am glad LWV is speaking out.

LWVDV members continue to participate in **local protests**, including the Hands Off! event on April 5. About a dozen of us met and walked to

the event at Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek together.

Six of us gathered at the LWVDV office at the Lafayette Community Center to watch the [Rise for Freedom training webinar](#) sponsored by a coalition including LWVUS. I found it helpful to be there with other members; there were several opportunities to have short discussions during the two-hour webinar. There are trainings scheduled for Thursdays, 5-7 pm, through June 5, except May 1 which is a nationwide protest day. **We will continue to gather at the LWVDV office to watch as a group.**



**Please plan to attend our Annual Meeting on May 31.** This will be a hybrid meeting. Watch your email for more information about the location and agenda. In addition to voting on our Program Priorities for the upcoming year, the Board of Directors slate and Annual Budget as required by our bylaws, we will be hearing from our committees and teams about activities and plans. We need your input and enthusiasm **(and we also need a quorum!)**

I hope to see you at one of our activities!

Mary Schreiber  
President, LWV Diablo Valley

**ON OUR CALENDAR**



### **Saturday, May 10, 4:30 - 5:30 pm online**

At a time when inclusion and democracy are under attack by efforts to dismantle DEI and LGBTQIA protections under the Trump administration, we need to stand with the communities that make our democracy stronger. LWVC is hosting [Drag for Democracy - Virtual Bingo Extravaganza](#), a joyful one-hour virtual bingo celebrating the power of an inclusive democracy where every voice matters.

Drag for Democracy takes place on Mother's Day weekend, Saturday, May 10, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Whether you're celebrating with moms, chosen family, or carving out a little me time, this is **the perfect way to lift your spirits and show your support**, so grab your bingo cards, pour your favorite beverage, and get ready to cheer, laugh, and maybe even win some fabulous prizes.

[Get your tickets now](#), only \$35.

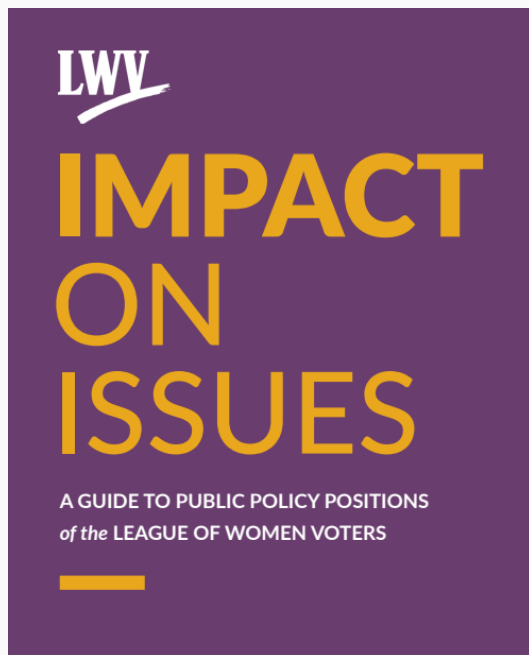
Can't make the event? [Donate and support the LWVC Action Fund!](#)

---

## League Lunch, May 14th!

Join us for our monthly no-host lunch on **Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, 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](mailto:janet@lwvdv.org). We're looking forward to seeing everyone!



## Orientation to LWVDV for Members and Prospective Members

If you want to learn about LWV Diablo Valley and how to become involved, join our next Orientation on Saturday May 17 (9:30 to 10:45 am).

This orientation will take place on Zoom.

Email me to sign up and participate. I will send the Zoom link a few days prior to the event.

Ashley Coates  
[membership@lwvdv.org](mailto:membership@lwvdv.org)





## What is DEI and why is it being dismantled?

Thursday, May 15 | 4:00 p.m.

Online Program  
Presented by:



Over the last 40 years, the goal of **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** has been to address inequities in all aspects of our society. Why was it created? What are its benefits and challenges? Why do some people support it and others perceive it as threatening? What is its future in our country?

**Panelists** include Contra Costa Board Supervisor Shanelle Scales Preston; Michael Urbina, Executive Recruiter for DEI at Pure Storage; and Peter Kim, Co-Director, Racial Equity and Social Justice Contra Costa, who will also be the moderator.

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

---

### **SB 42 "California Fair Elections Act" Campaign Kickoff**

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

1924 Cedar St, Berkeley, CA 94709

**Sunday, May 18, 3:30pm-**

**5pm. Grassroots Trainings 5pm-**

**6pm.**



**Helen Hutchison**, League of Women Voters of California, Cosponsor of SB 42, will be among the speakers.

SB 42, by Senators Tom Umberg, Ben Allen, and Sabrina Cervantes, and Assemblymember Alex Lee, will put the California Fair Elections Act on the ballot to allow public funding of election campaigns to empower voters in any jurisdiction in California.

SB 42 is sponsored by California Clean Money Campaign, California Common Cause, and League of Women Voters of California.

**Interested in attending?** Email [action-advocacy@lwvdv.org](mailto:action-advocacy@lwvdv.org)

**LEAGUE NEWS**

## Federal Court Blocks Proof of Citizenship Requirement in Executive Order

The League of Women Voters Education Fund, LWV Arizona, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the Democratic Party, and others [challenged](#) the President's recent anti-voting Executive Order in court. On April 24, a **US judge blocked federal agencies** from carrying out parts of the order.

According to [Democracy Docket](#), "[Judge] Kollar-Kotelly said EAC commissioners and other senior commission officials are barred from taking steps to add a proof of citizenship requirement to the form. She said **plaintiffs are likely to prevail** on their claim that the citizenship requirement is unconstitutional."



Although the judge did not block sections related to mail ballots and ballots counted after election day, Democratic attorneys general in 19 states have filed their own lawsuit against the mail voting provisions

in Trump's order.

"**The League of Women Voters is heartened by this ruling**, which is a major victory for voters across the country," said Marcia Johnson, chief counsel of the League of Women Voters of the United States. "While the fight is far from over, we're glad the court agreed that a President cannot 'short-circuit' Congress and unilaterally use an illegal executive order to obliterate the rights of millions of voters."

*Stay up to date with what LWWUS is saying about our fight to defend democracy -- read their [press releases!](#)*

---

### LWV State Convention in June Could Include You!

**When:** Saturday, June 21 - Sunday, June 22, 2025. The general sessions on those days begin at 9:00 AM and are scheduled to end at 4:00 PM. **Workshops and special events** are scheduled from Tuesday, June 17 through Friday, June 20, 2025.



**Where:** Virtual teleconference meetings, using Zoom.

**Who:** Attendance at Convention is open to everyone; **we encourage all members to attend** and are eager for the public to come learn about the League. We ask that you extend invitations to your friends and contacts.

**Why:** LWVC meets every other year to conduct business as outlined by the bylaws. But just as important, the purpose of Convention is to inspire and empower Californians to increase their active and informed participation in civic life. Come meet passionate people from across the state who are making democracy work!



Read about the schedule, workshops, special activities, and more on the LWVC website: <https://lwvc.org/convention>. **This site is updated as plans take shape, so please check this site frequently.**

**Registration** is now open! Please visit <https://lwvc.org/conv25-schedule-registration/> to register and view the schedule.

**Registration rate for delegates** is \$75 per person. This gives you participation and voting access during the general sessions and access to workshops and other events throughout the week. If you are interested in attending as a LWVDV delegate, please contact Mary Schreiber, [president@lwwdv.org](mailto:president@lwwdv.org).

**Nonvoting attendees** are welcome to observe the general sessions, and participate in workshops and other events at a flat-fee registration rate of \$30 per person.

## HELPING THE LEAGUE

### Join the Summer Fun!

The Contra Costa County Library is once again inviting LWV Diablo Valley to participate in the **Summer Exploration Stations Program**. Our puppet friends are so excited to be getting out into the community again in order to talk to children and their families about voting.

The Youth Librarian, Amy Mockoski, says the League is a big hit with everyone and she guarantees that the League will have designated locations inside each



library. **All programs run from 11 am - 1 pm. Dates and locations are:** Dougherty Station, Friday June 6; Walnut Creek, Wednesday, June 11; Brentwood, Wednesday, June 18; Hercules, Wednesday, June 25.

If you would like to be a part of this summer fun time, please contact [Shawn@lwvdv.org](mailto:Shawn@lwvdv.org).

## Making Democracy Work Takes Teamwork

We have much work to do this year. It is exciting that we have many engaged volunteers, but there are a few critical areas where we need members to step up. If you are a new member or a member who wants to get engaged, please check out the opportunities below.

- **Membership** - We hope to identify co-chairs to manage this critical program. There is something for both introverts and extroverts in this portfolio!
- **Community Conversation webinars** - Join the planning group and understudy the current leaders to keep this valuable activity running smoothly.
- **Civic Engagement** - Assist the Civil Discourse group to make contacts and help local elected boards dealing with meeting disruptions. Melanie Spier, our current chair, is hoping to find an engaged co-chair who can collaborate to provide effective models for civil conversations in our communities.



There are many other opportunities as well. We will match your passion with an impactful League activity.

Interested? Contact the Nominating Committee, [nc@lwvdv.org](mailto:nc@lwvdv.org), or start by exploring our website and re-reading some Voters to see what we do and then contact us. Be a cog or a bigger wheel – it's all teamwork!

---



## You, Social Media, and the League

Are you interested in how social media can expand the reach and impact of the League? Sign up to be part of our occasional meetings of the Social Media Group, as we explore old and new platforms and learn their ins and outs.

Contact [communications.director@lwvdv.org](mailto:communications.director@lwvdv.org).

## ABOUT LWVDV

### Board Briefs for April 2025

At its meeting on April 10, the Board took the following action:



- Established a permanent Youth Grant Program Committee to oversee the Lee Lawrence Youth Grant Program. The program will begin with a one-year pilot, offering grants to young adults 18 and over. The committee will include Board and non-Board members.
- Confirmed the Budget Committee of Anna Honda, Mary Schreiber, and Paul Derksen.

The Board also

- Began discussions of a proposal to engage and educate members through in-person presentations on timely topics.
- Heard from the co-presidents of LWV Bay Area about the potential for sharing and networking with LWVBA and other local Leagues.
- Accepted the Treasurer's Report and 2024 Financial Review, and thanked Anna Honda and Leslie Winslow for assisting with the Financial Review.
- Began plans for the Annual Meeting on May 31, 2025, at the Willow Pass Community Center.

---

## Membership Updates and Information

**Welcome new members Aryanna Abouzari, Saundra Ekridge, and Debra Portello!**

**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 LWVDV 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](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.)*

---

*Image credits: protest signs, LWVUS; Hands Off! poster, LWVND on Canva; Bar Camino, website; polling booths, Morguefile; gavel and flag, Bermix Studio on Unsplash; women talking, Giulia May on Unsplash; puppets, Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV; We Need You, Canva; girl on phone, Airam Dato on Unsplash; Board Briefs, 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. Action-Advocacy meetings are on Zoom\*.

**Thursday, May 8, 10:00 am**  
**Wednesday, May 14, 11:30 am**  
**Monday, May 19, 3 pm**  
**Wednesday, June 11, 11:30 am**  
**Thursday, June 12, 10:00 am**  
**Monday, June 16, 3 pm**

**Board Meeting**  
**Luncheon**  
**Action-Advocacy**  
**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*  
[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*

---

### **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](#).

LWV of Diablo Valley

500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA 94549

925-283-2235 [lwvdv@lwvdv.org](mailto:lwvdv@lwvdv.org)