



November/December 2024 VOTER



The election isn't all we do . . . be a part of what comes next!

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

President's Letter

League Leaders and Members:

We are closing in on Election Day, the last day of voting. Many of us have already cast our ballots and received confirmation that they were received and counted.

As we head into the uncertainty of the next couple of weeks or so, I am glad LWV US is there to help guide us through this time. I hope that cooler heads will prevail, but we will have to see what develops. Our [December 12th Community Conversation](#) will address post-election concerns.

REMINDER:

ELECTION NIGHT IS
NOT RESULTS NIGHT

LWV

We will have some downtime over the holidays with no Voter or Board meeting in December -- but we will keep you informed via emails during that time, and we have several activities and projects coming up after the first of the year that you won't want to miss.

First, **Legislative Interviews** will have a different format this year. LWVC will not be providing detailed topics for us to ask our State Assemblymembers and Senators. Instead, we will be asking them about their Legislative priorities and the local issues that concern us. These interviews are conducted in January and early February with reports due to LWVC in late February. Many members enjoy participating in these interviews. More details [here](#). To volunteer, email me at president@lwvdv.org.



We will also hold our **Membership Meeting** in February to discuss our **Program Priorities** for the 2025-2026 year. The meeting is a chance for members to give input and discuss what LWVDV with focus on during the upcoming year. Read more about [LWVDV Priorities](#) here, and start thinking about where you think our time and energy are needed in our communities during non-election times.

Yours in League,

Mary Schreiber
LWVDV President

PS - For a look at what LWV was doing in the 1924 election season, [see Chris Carson's article below](#).

Community Conversation: After Election Day

After two back-to-back pre-election webinars -- one that informed voters about the extensive election preparations by our County's Elections Office has prepared for this election and our Vote411.org resource, and the second one devoted entirely to Pros & Cons on the California ballot propositions -- our team is planning **one more webinar to close out the year**.



Shawn Gilbert has engaged Professor Akhil Reed Amar, Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University, to inform our community about the law and the U.S. Constitution as we may be heading for another contentious post-election period. Professor Amar's presentation is scheduled for **December 12th**. *We are in the process of developing this webinar, so stay tuned.*

Lunch with the League, November 13!

Join us for our monthly no-host lunch on **Wednesday, November 13th, 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 as we unwind from our busy election season!

Healthcare: Looking at Nursing Homes

You are invited to an informative presentation about the state of the US nursing home industry, on Tuesday, November 19, at 7 pm. The speaker is Charlene Harrington, PhD, RN, and she will present

- an overview of US **nursing home quality and nurse staffing**;
- the latest research on the **impact of for-profit ownership, private equity investors, and real estate trusts on quality and staffing**;
- **policy proposals** to set ownership criteria and to oversee poorly performing facilities;
- **practical advice** on how individuals can protect and advocate for loved ones; and
- **names of advocacy groups** trying to bring about change.



This program is cosponsored by the LWVC Health Care Interest Group, Health Care for All-California, and Public Health Nurse Practitioners Bay Area. **Join us on Tuesday, November 19, at 7 pm, [on Zoom](#).**

Celebrating Democracy All Across the County in Every Way Possible!

The LWV Diablo Valley members have had two very busy months serving voters -- new and seasoned, all around the county, from San Ramon, Orinda, Martinez, to Pittsburg, Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley. A key goal for this election cycle was to distribute the League's work more evenly across the county. With the many hours that League volunteers committed to the election this year...we succeeded!

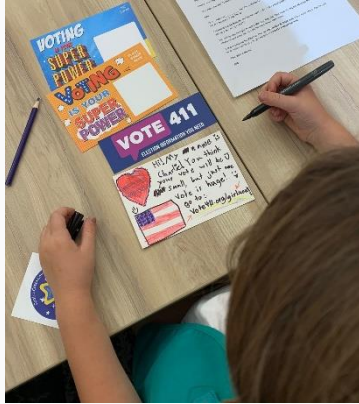
- **10** Candidate Roundtables at the CCTV Studios in Martinez. All are on our YouTube channel.
- **8** Candidate Forums with the much-appreciated outreach from numerous partners: Industrial Association, East Bay Leadership Council, Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs, Tri-Valley PTA, Orinda Association, APAPA, AAUWs, and Clayton Library Foundation.
- **30+** Pros & Cons presentations all across the county.
- **14** Mis/Dis Information presentations at community colleges and high schools, including five at Acalanes High School.
- **2** Community Conversations webinars: Roadmap to Voting 2024 and Pros & Cons. These are also on our YouTube channel.
- **5** Girl Scout and Brownies presentations: Concord, Walnut Creek, and Danville troops.
- **12+** tabling events from Festival Latino, Pittsburg Seafood Festival, and Antioch Council of Teens Trunk-o-Treat to St. Mary's College, several high schools, three Hope Solutions Apartment days, Loaves and Fishes, Connections House, and Loma Vista Adult Center.
- **2** livestreamed Instagram Youth Town Halls geared to young voters, thanks to the work of our St. Mary's intern and our partnership with the County Elections Office...so fun to do!

THANK YOU to all our League volunteers for making this an amazingly positive election cycle! Incredible.

One note of disappointment. As we all know, the Antioch community has been going through a lot of upsetting issues. Genesis Church and the NAACP reached out to the League to partner with them for an Antioch City Mayor Candidate Forum. The forum was set to go on October 25th, even though one of the three candidates was most likely not going to be able to attend due to a schedule conflict. The evening before the forum, a second candidate decided not to participate, thus leaving just one candidate, forcing cancellation of the event. For voters in the Antioch community, many of whom had planned to be

at the forum and had delayed casting their ballot until hearing from the candidates, this was truly a disappointment.

Shawn Gilbert and Ana Pan, Voter Services Co-Chairs



Girl Scout making VOTE411 postcard



Sign of the season!



Thanks, Kim Buck, for this neat icon!

Pros and Cons

For the past two months, a team of 13 League members was very busy, working in pairs to educate the community about the ballot measures to be decided in the November election. They made more than thirty presentations, both in person and on Zoom, offering the Pros and Cons of the 10 statewide ballot measures. These presentations were attended by more than 1,500 people, plus more than a thousand people who have accessed the LWVDV YouTube recording of the Pros and Cons Zoom presentation.



The presentations have been to a wide range of organizations: churches and temples, senior centers and parent groups, Rotary Clubs, men's groups and women's groups, teachers and students. It has been an honor to provide this vast array of community members with information to make informed voting decisions.

Sue Brandy and Janet Hoy, Pros & Cons Team Leaders

Thank You to LWVDV's Vote411 Volunteers!

Thank you to everyone who helped with contacting candidates to ask them to post their candidacy on Vote411.org (Patti Bittenbender, Ashia Derksen, Karen Dolder, Ana Pan, Nancy Bocanegra). I was the County Coordinator for Contra Costa, including areas usually covered by West Contra Costa LWV. **We had 154 candidates and 12 local measures to cover.**

First, we tracked down the phone numbers and email addresses of the candidates who did not submit that information when they filed for candidacy. Then we emailed invitations using the Vote411 software "back end", and texted or phoned to notify the candidates to look for their invitation (which might have gone to spam). A few candidates needed US mail invitations. Many needed several reminders before they posted! A few needed nudging to edit their posts to meet our guideline of not mentioning their opponents.



Thank you to Paul Derksen for devising a Google Sheet that both the Vote411 and Voter Services teams could use to record the best email addresses and phone numbers and to track our work. **Thank you to Shawn** for her colorful PowerPoint presentation to candidates, **and to Tiffany Martin and all the other volunteers** who passed out Vote411 bookmarks or provided other "advertising" to the public.

Ashley Coates, VOTE411 Contra Costa County Coordinator



Some LWVDV Communications Statistics for the 2024 Election:

- 101 Facebook posts and shares of other LWV posts in September and October
- Almost 2,300 TikTok views in October
- Almost 2,500 Instagram views in October
- 2,300 website views between early September and early October, and 9,700 views in the final three weeks!



Election 1924 and the League of Women Voters

It's worth looking back – a week before the 2024 election -- to reflect on what the newly formed League of Women Voters was engaged in.

Voter education – LLs were working on Voter Guides, LLs were seriously concerned about the fact that some candidates were refusing to attend candidate forums, and teams were creating templates for developing questions for forums. There was a good deal of stress around the fact that questions needed to be nonpartisan in content, concise, and non-judgmental.

GOTV – the turnout in the 1922 election, especially among women and young people, had been dismal. Leagues across the country were focusing on women voters, particularly in urban areas where large numbers of working women needed to be engaged. League research had shown that young people were uncertain about the mechanics of voting and whether they could make a difference.

Barriers to voting – Leagues were tabling to engage citizens and help them navigate the voter registration process. Literacy tests, poll taxes, party pressure to register with the 'right' party were all challenges that members were prepared to assist hopeful voters in dealing with.

Navigating polling places – vast numbers of polling places were in saloons and bars. In 1924, a lot of women were concerned about just walking into a totally male, probably hostile, environment to stand in line and vote. A concerted move to find alternative polling places was underway.

Nonpartisanship – just major angst at all levels about how the League needed to be 'nonpartisan' and what kinds of language and behavior were – or were not – nonpartisan.

Move forward to 2024 and we can see that the challenges haven't gone away. The specifics may have changed but the underlying problems remain. Through it all – a hundred years of facing those challenges – we have endured and succeeded. We're resilient and we're still here.

Chris Carson, President, LWV California

Is the end of the year donation time for you? Want to remember the League?
Watch for our holiday email, or [go to our website now!](#)

Board Briefs for October 2024



At its meeting on October 10, the Board took the following actions:

- Approved two budget adjustments related to funding Voter Services.
- Re-nominated Marielle Boortz as LWVDV representative to the county Hazardous Materials Commission.
- Formed an ad-hoc committee of Kathy Gallagher, Paul Derksen, and Anne Granlund to determine key considerations for handling the bequest from Lee Lawrence, including financial options.
- Set a requirement that volunteers distributing voter registration forms must be members, to meet requirements of the county contract for this activity.
- Agreed to move the annual fundraising effort to February 2025, and to send a holiday-timed email for those members wishing to donate before the year's end.

The Board also

- Heard an update on the successful production and distribution of Spanish-language voter information postcards.
- Received a report on the excellent work of the social media intern.
- Discussed plans for volunteer appreciation efforts following a very busy election season.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members Roger Barrow, Kim Buck, Kristin Kessler, Lisa McConnell, Kirsten Niemeyer, Candace Rao, and Sarah Saenz!

If you have a November or December 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@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.)

Image credits: Election Day, LWVUS; speech balloons, Geralt on Pixabay; US Supreme Court, Mark Thomas on Pixabay; Bar Camino from website; Voter Services images, Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV; Pros & Cons, Canva; Thank You, clipart; girl on phone, Aram Dato on Unsplash; historical photo, LWVUS; computer monitor, 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, Nov. 13, 11:30 am

Thursday, Nov. 14, 10:00 am

No December Meetings

Luncheon

Board Meeting

Holidays

*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*

[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*

[Anna Honda](#), *At-Large Board Member*

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley *Voter*

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