



November/December 2025 VOTER



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

President's Letter

League Leaders and Members:

No Kings Day Rallies

2025 is going by fast! With all the disturbing developments in our Federal Government. I am pleased to report that LWVDV had a robust presence at the October 18 No Kings Day rallies. We had around 50 members in our group at the Walnut Creek location. Estimates are that about 7,000 people attended that rally.

Board member Kathy Gallagher attended the Pleasant Hill rally. Kathy reported there was good attendance in Pleasant Hill.

Shawn Gilbert attended the East County rally, which started in Antioch and then spread to locations in Pittsburg, Oakley, Brentwood, and Antioch. Shawn reported about 400 people at the initial location in Antioch and 125 people at Brentwood where she and her husband Dennis were later.

We are getting the message out!

SUFFS, the Musical

LWVDV and other local League members attended SUFFS on Sunday, October 26. It was inspiring and entertaining. One of our members commented that it was the women's version of Hamilton! Elizabeth Howell and Diane Bianchi were dressed in clothing of the period and other League members wore sashes.



Social Committee

We are seeking volunteers for a Social Committee. There have been discussions of a monthly Saturday coffee at rotating locations to welcome new and long-time members.

We don't currently have a holiday gathering planned, but would consider a coffee in November or December or a potluck or other gathering in January. We are also looking at different restaurants for our monthly luncheon.



Let me know if you are interested in working with a Social Committee!

We welcome new members Roberta Whitman, Beatrix Agronow, Frances Balfour, Catherine Chamberlin, Jamie O'Toole, Faith Zapata, Andrea Gia Bevilacqua, Michelle Byrne, Anandha Ray, Kamryn Young, & Katherine Erickson!

Mary Schreiber, LWVDV President
Mary@lwvdv.org.



Your Ballot and the Postal System

Still haven't mailed your ballot? If you are using the postal service, check to be sure that mail from that location will be picked up **before 5 pm on Election Day**, to ensure that it will be postmarked on November 4th and counted.

On Election Day you can drop your ballot at a voting center or a ballot drop-off box before 8 pm.

<https://www.contracostavote.gov/elections/how-to-vote/voting-by-mail/>

FOR YOUR CALENDAR



Understanding Medical Misinformation Through a Scientific Lens



Sunday, November 9th
1:30–3:00 pm PT on Zoom

<https://www.mobilize.us/indivisibletrivalley/event/862452/>



Join our panel discussion to understand what medical misinformation is why it spreads so effectively, and what personal steps you can take to stem the flow.

This event is hosted by Indivisible Tri-Valley. LWVDV is sharing this event information as a courtesy to our membership.

An expert panel will discuss the problem's scope, its impact on trust and health, spotting credible sources, fact-checking, debunking, and how scientific guidance evolves.



Dr. Joseph Pierre, MD
Psychiatrist at UCSF,
author of recent book
FALSE



Dr. Jessie Seiler, PhD
Social Epidemiologist
with the Center for
Science in the Public
Interest



Dr. Louise McNitt, MD
State of California
Department of
Public Health



Dr. Marvelle Maloney, MD:
Ob/Gyn, practitioner from
the East Bay

Indivisible Tri-Valley is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization



Lunch with the League in November and December!

Join us for our monthly no-host lunch on **Wednesday, November 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

Our last 2025 lunch will be on **Wednesday, December 10th**, same time and place.

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

Member Orientations

Want to learn more about LWVDV? Join us at a new/prospective member orientation! See below for the November and December dates and links to RSVP.



November and December orientations are online only (Zoom), so please RSVP and we will send you the zoom link after registering:

November:

Tuesday 11/18 at 4 pm - Zoom only

[RSVP for Orientation](#)

Saturday 11/22 at 9 am - Zoom only

[RSVP for Orientation](#)

December:

Saturday 12/06 at 9 am - Zoom only

[RSVP for Orientation](#)

Tuesday 12/09 at 4 pm - Zoom only

[RSVP for Orientation](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -- IMMIGRANT SUPPORT

LWVDV is supporting a **food donation drive** sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County. St. Francis of Assisi Conference in Concord is seeking the following food items for needy families this fall. **This food pantry is a safe place for community members to access food assistance.**

Email action-advocacy@lwvdv.org for pick up or additional information if you'd like to donate.

Wish list items:

- **Cooking oil (24 oz. or 32 oz. bottles)**
- **Cereal**
- **Rice**



- Beans
- Spaghetti or any pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Canned tuna
- Canned mixed vegetables/canned corn
- Canned fruits
- Jam or jelly
- Peanut butter

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING

Out and About Celebrating Democracy!

Diablo Valley League members, young and older, were at the LUSH store in the Broadway Plaza on October 7th doing voter registering. While we did not register anyone that day, we had fun connecting and talking about the upcoming November 4th special election with people from the community and with those who were on vacation. There were quite a few questions about Prop 50 that we were happy to answer.



A big thank you to two members of the LWVDV Youth Council, Kamryn Young and Emma Sherman, in addition to Ana Pan and Nancy Petsuch, for connecting in the community.

Voter Services members were also at The Heritage Downtown in Walnut Creek to register new out-of-state people who had recently moved to Contra Costa. The League returned to Los Medanos College (LMC) and registered a number of students. In addition, members were at Connections House in Concord, at the Oakley Library for their How-La-La-Boo event for little people, and at Northgate High School.

Coming up on November 3rd from 11-1 is another fun day at LMC. If you have some time to be there in Pittsburg, be sure to reach out to shawn@lwvdv.org.

Remember to turn in your ballot for the **November 4th special election** on Proposition 50. The county Elections Office revealed this week that only 17% of

ballots mailed out to registered voters have been returned. Let's boost that percent!!!

If you need **solid, unbiased information** aside from your County Voter Guide, be sure to go online to the League's [Easy Voter Guide](#).

Also, if you have not already signed up for “**Where’s My Ballot?**” it is a great tool. You will receive notification about when your ballot is mailed to you, and when it is received and counted after you vote and return your mail-in ballot. Here is the link: <https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/voter-info/track-your-ballot.htm>



We will honor all of our nation’s veterans on November 11th. Thank you! [Living Memorial Sculpture Garden – Weed, California. Dedicated to all Veterans.](#)

Hava a safe and healthy holiday season!

Shawn Gilbert, Voter Services Co-Chair

Pros & Cons Reach Voters



Our "Pros & Cons of Prop 50" program was well received, with 12 presentations throughout the county. With a significant amount of mis- and disinformation around the proposition, it was important to deliver a thorough, nonpartisan review of the issue, and to provide background on redistricting in California and in other states across the country.

Janet Hoy, Pros & Cons Co-Chair

Unite & Rise Gains Momentum



Unite & Rise 8.5 is going strong at LWVDV! We had two very strong League showings at the last two No Kings Day rallies with 40-50 joining us on October 18th. We had a kazoo band, lots of chants and singing and great enthusiasm.

I am very happy to report that there is **growing interest from nonmembers in joining U&R**. Our goal is to grow the

movement and help reach the 8.5 million goal nationwide. LWVUS just rolled out the next phase of the U&R initiative -- Power Playbook 3 -- with a focus on leveraging our growth through organizational partnerships. We are looking forward to continuing to expand our visibility and impact through strategic connections.

Our next educating activity will kick off in January with **a program on the risks to our electoral system**. (Details coming soon!)

Janet Hoy, U&R Team Leader

League Defends Voter Privacy in Court

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) has filed a [motion in federal court](#) to intervene in *USA v. Weber*, a US Department of Justice (DOJ) case against the California Secretary of State, to **protect the data of all California voters** and prevent misuse of that data, which could harm California communities.

In July, the DOJ sent a letter to California Secretary of State Shirley Weber requesting the state's complete and unredacted voter file, including voters' addresses, dates of birth, driver's license numbers, and the last four digits of their Social Security numbers. Secretary Weber declined to turn over the unredacted voter files, citing state law that prohibits the sharing of voters' sensitive data. Instead, Secretary Weber offered a redacted version of the voter file available for inspection at her offices.

In September, the DOJ filed a lawsuit against Secretary Weber. The DOJ has also sued six other states in their attempt to create a national voter roll.



The DOJ has repeatedly attempted to intrude upon states' authority to manage elections by demanding extensive voter information from at least 38 states! LWV strives to defend democracy by protecting sensitive voter information and ensuring safe and secure elections.

In a related case, the [LWVUS is a lead plaintiff in a class action lawsuit](#) "challenging the Trump-Vance administration's **unlawful creation of massive government databases** consolidating sensitive and legally protected personal information on millions of people in America to unlawfully open investigations and purge voter rolls.

"The lawsuit, filed in the US District Court for the District of Columbia, details how the so-called "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE), the US

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Social Security Administration (SSA), and other agencies have secretly merged personal data from across the federal government into centralized “Interagency Databases” in direct violation of the Privacy Act of 1974 and the US Constitution.”

A Musical Synopsis and What it Means for Us

From the blog of Gail Murray, LWVDV member

“Let Mother Vote.” That’s the opening song of **“SUFFS”, the musical** I attended Sunday, October 26th, in San Francisco. The all-female cast of SUFFS brings to life the history of suffragists, the American women who fought tirelessly for the right to vote.

Carrie Chapman Catt, on stage in a long white dress typical of those worn by women in the late 19th century, recounts in song how women birthed, dressed, fed and nurtured the boys and men in their lives. Surely, she sings, mothers are deserving of the right to vote. Her lament begins the musical history of 72 long years of passionate work by three generations of women to win the vote for women.



I’d been eager to see SUFFS because **suffragists formed the precursors to the League of Women Voters**, a merger of the women’s groups who had been working for the right to vote. I’ve been a member of the LWV for decades, whose stated mission-- to empower voting and defend democracy -- I fervently support. With me at the musical was a sizable group of other women who are members of my local League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley.

Many of us had attended a [webinar](#) put on by the Diablo Valley League, featuring SUFFS lead producer Rachel Sussman and Dianna Wynn, President of the US League of Women Voters. Sussman started her exploration of women’s right to vote in middle school, when **her textbook had only two paragraphs about the fight for the Nineteenth Amendment**. Through her research, she ultimately convinced Shaina Taub, the presenter and lyricist, to develop the musical. SUFFS has since won a Tony Award and, after its Broadway production, is now touring the country. The company has offered the SUFFS license to public schools and will be aired on PBS next spring.

For more of Gail's description of SUFFS and the relevance to today's world, [read the rest of her blog post here](#).

From the Treasurer: Financial Report Certification

The [certification](#) and financial report for 2024-2025, as outlined in the bylaws, is now available. The statements in this link were prepared without audit from the books and records of the corporation.

The budget line-item overages, highlighted in yellow and orange, will be acknowledged and ratified by the Board at the November board meeting.



Effective February 2023, Per Member Payment (*dues to LWVUS and LWVC*) is a liability on the balance sheet instead of an expense in future year statements. For any questions, please contact me at treasurer@lwvdv.org.

The financial records for fiscal year 2024-2025 have been reviewed, not audited, by the Financial Review committee. LWVDV members Leslie Winslow and Kim Homes were appointed by the Board to this committee. A report will be presented at the November board meeting.

Paul Derksen, LWVDV Treasurer

Board Briefs for October 2025

At its October 9th meeting, the Board took the following actions:

- Approved three members to evaluate upgrading the bulk email program for greater outreach.
- Approved extending gift memberships to students and recent graduates when appropriate.
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Immigrant Action Network to support the new SAFE Center with information and advocacy.



The Board also

- Continued the search for an off-board Nominating Committee chair.
 - Scheduled a follow-up Board Retreat for November 1st.
 - Discussed plans for participation in No Kings Day, October 18th.
 - Began planning a fundraising appeal letter.
 - Reviewed the Study Guide and timeline for the LWV Bay Area update study on Regional Governance and Regional Planning.
 - Received reports on Action-Advocacy, Civic Engagement, Communications, Unite & Rise 8.5, and Voter Services.
-

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members Roberta Whitman, Beatrix Agronow, Frances Balfour, Catherine Chamberlin, Jamie O'Toole, Faith Zapata, Andrea Gia Bevilacqua, Michelle Byrne, Anandha Ray, Kamryn Young, and Katherine Erickson!

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 (*preferred*), or send a check made out to LWVUS to the LWVDV address at the end of this Voter (*only if you have no other option*). **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!

Want to learn more about LWVDV? Join us at a new/prospective member Orientation! See below for the November and December dates and links to RSVP! November and December orientations are online only (Zoom) so please RSVP and we will send you the zoom link after registering:

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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: Opening photos, all LWVDV except SUFFS, courtesy of production; woman at SUFFS, LWVDV (Schreiber); coffee, Rumman Amin on Unsplash; ballot drop box, Contra Costa County Elections; Bar Camino, website; orientation, Tim Gouw on Unsplash; food and LUSH, LWVDV (Pan); Veterans Memorial, LWVDV (Gilbert); gavel and flag, Bermix Studio on Unsplash; Pros & Cons, Canva; protest, LWVDV; theater party, LWVDV (Derksen); calculator, Morguefile; online meeting, Vertical Response

CALENDAR of MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Wednesday, Nov 12, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Thursday, Nov 20, 10:00 am	Board Meeting
Monday, Nov 17, 3 pm	Action-Advocacy
Wednesday, Dec 10, 11:30 am	Luncheon
No December Meeting	Board Meeting
Monday, Dec 15, 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 2026):

- [Mary Schreiber](#), President
- [Kathy Gallagher](#), Vice President/Observer Corps
- [Karen Dolder](#), Secretary, Office Manager
- [Paul Derksen](#), Treasurer
- [Diane Bianchi](#), Community Conversations Co-Chair
- [Anna Honda](#), Action-Advocacy Co-Chair
- [Audra Ruthruff](#), Membership Chair
- [Shawn Gilbert](#), Voter Services and Community Conversations Co-Chair
- [Ana Pan](#), Voter Services Co-Chair
- [Janet Hoy](#), Civic Engagement Chair
- [Kathryn Wilder](#), At-Large Board Member
- [Anne Granlund](#), At-Large Board Member
- [Brooke Schwartz](#), At-Large Board Member

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The LWVDV *VOTER*

Monthly except July and December

Editor: Leslie Stewart