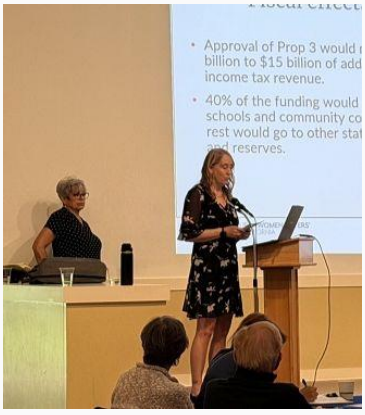
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF DIABLO VALLEY

November-December 2026 VOTER









IN THIS ISSUE:

- Presidents' Letter
- Get Out the Vote, with Our Youth and Our Partners
- Voter Services Wraps Up the Season
- Presentation Team Presents Outstanding Results!
- Thank You to VOTE411 Volunteers
- League in Action: Empowering Voters This November
- Getting the Word Out -- Communications
- Board Briefs from October 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.

Presidents' Letter

League Leaders and Members:
Voting may be over for this election cycle by the time you read this, but LWV will continue the fight for free and fair elections, voting rights, and fair representation. LWVUS and other advocacy groups will be watching to ensure all votes are counted.



LWVUS will continue fighting voter suppression in court. See information about active legal cases here. Expect the efforts to disenfranchise people to continue.

Another area of concern for LWV is the Census. Visit the LWVUS Census page here. Work has already started on the 2030 Census, and Trump is proposing major changes. Here is an excerpt from NPR: *"With preparations for the 2030 census already underway, President Trump said Thursday he has instructed his administration to start work on a 'new' census. According to a social media post by Trump, that census would exclude millions of people living in the country without legal status — an unprecedented change to how the country has conducted population tallies since the first U.S. census in 1790."*

Read the full NPR article by Hansi Lo Wong here: "Trump wants a new U.S. census to exclude people here illegally. It'd be unprecedented." Hansi Lo Wong also covered the 2020 Census.



I learned a lot about the Census in 2019 and 2020. It is intended to obtain as accurate a count as possible, and the information is used for many purposes, including determining how seats in the House of Representatives are drawn and allocating funding for states. Leaving out millions of people would have a drastic impact.

More information here: https://www.lwv.org/other-issues/census

By Mary Schreiber, LWVDV Co-President
Anne Granlund and Kathy Gallagher, LWVDV Co-Presidents

We welcome new members Julie Cabou, Cathy Dotterer, Sally Fischer, Susan Freeman, Nancy Jokerst, Sandra McGonigle, Robin Thiele, and Penny Whiting!

Getting Out the Vote with Our Youth and Our Partners

With the November 3rd General Election right around the corner, the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley has been hard at work on a variety of Get Out the Vote initiatives, with a focus on engaging young voters! Youth engagement remains one of LWVDV's top priorities this year, and these efforts have continued to expand throughout the election season.

High School and College Involvement

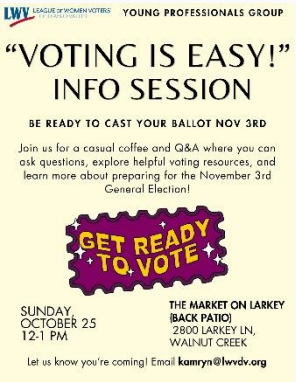


Our Voter Services team has been busy tabling at local college and high school campuses, encouraging students to register or pre-register to vote, answering their questions, and providing reliable, nonpartisan election information. Over the past several months, we have regularly held booths at events hosted by **Diablo Valley College** and **both Los Medanos College campuses**. We have also visited classrooms at **Liberty High School in Brentwood, Campolindo High School in Moraga,** and **California High School in San Ramon** to talk about voting and civic participation.

During our candidate forums in San Ramon, Clayton, and Walnut Creek, LWVDV members were joined by several **high school volunteers**, who helped out at our membership and information tables, with card management and distribution, and as timers. The San Ramon Valley USD Board of Education forum was also joined by four San Ramon Valley High School students interested in media, who supported the CCTV team with tech throughout the event.

The Youth Council has also been active at Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek, registering voters outside of **LUSH Cosmetics** as part of our national partnership with the company. During tabling events in September and October, Youth Council members encouraged shoppers to participate in our "LUSH Rush to Vote" campaign, shared nonpartisan election information, and reminded community members of important voting deadlines. Along the way, we had fun connecting with shoppers, meeting pets, and taking photos with our LWV photo frame! *(see photo at top of newsletter)*

Young Professionals



Meanwhile, our **Young Professionals Group** hosted coffee socials and other events designed to make civic engagement accessible to young adults balancing busy work and school schedules. These gatherings give attendees opportunities to connect with one another and engage in conversations with fellow coffeeshop patrons about the importance of voting and finding reliable, nonpartisan information when making decisions about their ballots.

Partnering on Outreach

Our youth engagement efforts have also extended beyond the League through a continued collaboration with local organizations who are also dedicated to getting out the vote in their communities, including the **SAFE Center, United Latino Voices,** and the **League of Women Voters West Contra Costa County**. In partnership with the SAFE Center, our youth members have been working on a series of short "How-To" Videos for social media, designed to engage young audiences and make different aspects of the voting process easier to understand. Centered around our GOTV message of *"Voting is Easy - Tell Your Friends!",* the videos provide practical information to help voters navigate the election process with confidence. The first episode, "Voter Registration," was released on September 15th, National Voter Registration Day, followed in mid-October by episodes two and three, "Finding Reliable Information" and "Mail-In Ballots". The fourth episode, "Ballot Drop Boxes," was released last week. You can find all four videos on our Instagram (@lwvdiablovalley), or check them out on our YouTube (@LWVDV)! We encourage everyone to like, comment on, and share these videos to help expand their reach and ensure that more voters have access to the information they need to participate confidently in the upcoming election.

League of Women Voters Diablo Valley has also been working with our partner organizations to expand our GOTV outreach through the creation and distribution of November 3rd General Election postcards in both English and Spanish. We distributed more than 4,000 postcards at voter education and community events, helping bring nonpartisan election information to voters across Contra Costa County. These postcards direct voters to the League's election webpage, where they can access a variety of reliable voting resources, election information, and tools to help them make informed decisions. LWVDV has been able to extend our reach into diverse communities through our partnerships with the **SAFE Center, United Latino Voices, the League of Women Voters West Contra Costa County, Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano, Hijas Del Campo,** and **Contra Costa County Libraries**.



To Sum Up . . .

As Election Day nears, the League of Women Voters Diablo Valley remains committed to providing our communities with reliable, nonpartisan resources that make voting easy and accessible for all. **You can support our efforts to Get Out the Vote** by following the League on social media, liking and sharing our posts, and encouraging your friends, family, and neighbors to register and vote early!

Kamryn Young, Communications and Civic Engagement Fellow

Voter Services Wraps Up the Season

'Tis the Season to be Thankful.

As you read this article, Early Voting sites have opened and Election Day is just two days away. I hope you have already voted and that you are looking forward to November 4th when we learn about the election results. Members of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley are incredible people. **YOU** have really given so much during this election cycle…an immense amount of time, talent and treasure in service to our county community. **YOU** have brought more light to the League. **YOU**, as League members have much to be proud of. **THANK YOU!!!**

Out and About in the Community

Thanks to the financial grant that LWVDV was awarded, the LWV West County, CCTV and LWVDV successfully completed a full day in the CCTV studios, with Bob Butler (formerly of KCBS radio) moderating five different panels of candidates and one panel speaking to the pros and cons of the Regional Transportation Measure. **Thank you** to the CCTV staff and to our West County League sisters for spinning on a dime to make that day happen. You can find the recordings on League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley's YouTube.



In celebration of Election Heroes Day on October 20, LWVDV delivered a bouquet of balloons, a cake, and a **Thank You** banner to the Elections Office to thank the elections staff and the more than 1,000 community members who volunteer, with sincere commitment, to assure a safe and secure election for Contra Costa voters. The elections staff were most appreciative.

During the last week of October, LWVDV Voter Services gave a presentation to **three combined troops of Girl Scouts** (about 50 scouts) on the history of women's suffrage, on the League and its mission, and on voting. It was a beautiful fall afternoon at the park in Orinda and a treat to be with so many 9- and 10-year-olds interested in learning about women's long fight to win the right to vote. As an aside, in

2024 the LWV partnered with the Girl Scouts of the US and LWV supports the Scouts in their “Promote the Vote” campaign via VOTE411.



This past Tuesday, the League concluded another successful election cycle in partnership with the **Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano**. **Thank you**, **Food Bank staff** for reaching out to the League to be your partner. League members shared voter information with community members about voting, VOTE411, and Official Drop Boxes, and handed out pocket US Constitutions in English and Spanish. **Thank you to all League members** who generously participated at the various Food Bank distribution locations this year. This was a new partnership for the League, and you were a key part of its success and in building more trust in communities that the League often can't access.

Happy Holidays to you all!

Shawn Gilbert, Voter Services Co-Chair

Presentation Team Presents Outstanding Results

We want to recognize the effort and results of the 2026 Presentations Team, who have worked all year making presentations on the changes in election processes, and then added Pros & Cons the past few months. Thanks to the diligence of our scheduler, we now can compare the scope and scale of our efforts across presentations and time periods. So here are the numbers:

2025 Pros & Cons (for comparison)	**12 groups with 276 attendees**
2026 Changing Election Landscapes	**13 groups with 562 attendees**
2026 Pros & Cons	**35 groups with 2095 attendees**

The 2026 Pros & Cons data may be a bit understated, as it may not include either the Community Conversation attendees (now at 340 views) nor the attendees from the final presentation on Tuesday at the Walnut Creek Rotary, so we may be well over 2,100 in total!

With 14 statewide propositions and one multi-county transit measure, this year's Pros & Cons was dense as well as complicated. Our team of presenters—**Kathryn Wilder, Audra Ruthruff, Ana Pan, Anna Honda, Bill Smith, Rhiannon Shires, Stephanie McFarland, Kate Riley, Patti Bittenbender, Valerie Ventre-Hutton, Sue Brandy,** and **Janet Hoy**—did an outstanding job of bringing this important information to our



community in an engaging and comprehensive manner. In addition, **Dawn Daily, Bill Smith,** and **Valerie Ventre-Hutton** served as Subject Matter Experts to help us all understand and articulate the more complex measures. **Kate Riley** served as our PowerPoint guru and helped update the presentation and create custom shows. And of course, **Marion Morris** (the lady behind the curtain) kept us all on track and showing up on time and prepared.

So . . a BIG thank you and acknowledgement to the team for a job well done!

Janet Hoy and Sue Brandy, Presentation Team Chairs

Thank You to VOTE411 Volunteers!

LWV's Online Voter Guide for the November election (VOTE411.org) featured all candidates and measures in our county. Voters could enter their address to view the races and measures on their ballot, with links to the candidates who participated.

LWVDV volunteers contacted all local candidates (often multiple times) to encourage them to participate. As of 10/25, we had a 64% response rate. (Many candidates create their own websites and don't post on VOTE411, even though it is a free service.)

Volunteers researching contact info and/or contacting candidates included **Patti Bittenbender, Ashia Derksen, Tiffany Martin, Anna Honda, Marion Morris,** and **Ashley Coates.**
Volunteers who posted "Your Vote Matters" and VOTE411 yard signs around the county included **Audra Ruthruff, Shawn Gilbert, Peggy Huston, Kathy Gallagher, Anne Granlund, Kimberly Mahoney,** and **Cathleen Crane.** Plus, many other LWVDV volunteers promoted VOTE411 along with our other Voter resources.

NOTE: VOTE411 work for the 2028 March Primary will start in November/ December 2027, with most work occurring January to mid-February 2028. **If you would like to learn more about volunteering on the VOTE411 team, email** VOTE411@lwvdv.org**.**

Ashley Coates, Contra Costa VOTE411 Coordinator, 2026

League in Action:
Empowering Voters This November

For the first time in recent memory, LWVC has recommendations on all 14 statewide propositions on the November ballot—a remarkable milestone that underscores the League's commitment to informed, principled participation in our democratic process. Each recommendation is rooted in League principles, not partisanship. They reflect decades of study, consensus, and advocacy for democracy, equity, and transparency. When evaluating ballot measures, League committees analyze how each proposal aligns with these values at every level—local, state, and national. Our mission remains steadfast: to empower voters and protect the integrity of our democratic process.



This fall, LWVDV members joined statewide efforts on additional advocacy work for:

- Yes on Prop 4 – California Fair Election Act
- No on Prop 39 – Voter ID

Throughout October, we participated in phone-banking and text-banking sessions to reach as many voters as possible—a powerful demonstration of the League's grassroots energy and dedication to fair elections. See all 14 ballot recommendations: Vote with the League Ballot Recommendations 2026 v.2

Local Endorsements

At the October monthly meeting, this committee welcomed proponents from:

- Measure W – Acalanes Union High School District Parcel Tax
- Measure U – Walnut Creek Senior Housing Rezoning Initiative

Committee members had the opportunity to learn about the measures in depth and ask questions. After rigorous evaluation and discussion, the committee **endorsed Measure W**, recognizing the League's long-standing support for public education and transparent, equitable funding. For **Measure U, the committee reached a neutral stance**, acknowledging the merit and validity of arguments on both sides.

LWVDV members and local campaign officials are encouraged to connect with this committee early in each election cycle to ensure thoughtful review and dialogue.

On November 3**, Vote with the League** to empower voters and protect democracy for all.

Anna Honda, Action/Advocacy Committee Chair

Getting the Word Out — Communications Had It Covered!

If a tree falls in the forest, will anyone on Instagram know? The LWVDV Communications team has been working behind the scenes in the past few months, making sure that members and the public knew what LWVDV was doing and how to participate. Special thanks go to the social media experts, **Annie Mueller** and **Kamryn Young**, for their constant stream of posts and videos on Instagram and Facebook (although Facebook encountered problems in mid-October).

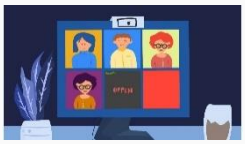


Kathi Bruce was kept scrambling, adding to our vital election resources webpage and keeping the lists of Pros & Coms and candidate forums on the website up-to-date. **Brooke Schwartz** and **Ann Lordeman** created multiple versions of GOTV materials, and got them printed and distributed to LWV teams and our partner organizations. Brooke also worked with **Leslie Stewart** to push out weekly emails of all of the activities, links to our website, and partner opportunities, as well as special election-related emails like Vote With the League. **Gail Murray's** press releases were picked up by news sources eager for election resources.

Many thanks also go to members of other teams who attend Communications Team meetings to coordinate and give input.

Brooke Schwartz and Leslie Stewart, Communications Co-Chairs

Board Briefs for October 2026



At its meeting on October 8, the Board took the following actions:

- Accepted a grant of $7,500 from the Contra Costa Elections Department;
- Approved the recommendation of the Action-Advocacy Committee to take a Neutral position on Walnut Creek Measure U on the November ballot.

The Board also:

- Announced that LWVDV would be receiving an award from the Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center;
- Discussed attendance at the November 14 Peace & Justice awards dinner;
- Made plans for a volunteer recognition/holiday celebration event;
- Heard about progress on the Youth Observer Corps and the Lawrence Youth Grant application process;
- Learned that LWVDV will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2027.

Membership Updates and Information

We welcome new members Julie Cabou, Cathy Dotterer, Sally Fischer, Susan Freeman, Nancy Jokerst, Sandra McGonigle, Robin Thiele, and Penny Whiting!

New/interested member orientations are held on the same days/times each month. To attend, please send an email to membership@lwvdv.org to RSVP and request a Zoom link. The days/times for orientations are as follows:

- 2nd Tuesday, 7-8 pm, via Zoom only
- 3rd Saturday, 9:30-10:30 am, hybrid (via Zoom & in-person at the Walnut Creek Library, Prologue Coffee & Tea)

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!
Sign up online by going to our website and using the 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,** you will receive an email reminder. **Please log in to portal.lwv.org to renew.**

If you have questions, check the Join page on the LWVDV website for instructions. If you chose auto-renew previously, you will not receive a reminder. Problems?
Contact Ashley@lwvdv.org.

Membership Portal Tips
1. To view or change any part of your membership information, log in to portal.lwv.org. Enter the email address that is in the record. If you are not sure, you can ask membership@lwvdv.org to tell you what email address is in your record.
2. Renewing Membership: Within 30 days of your membership expiration date, we will send you an email asking you to renew. You can renew your membership by logging in to portal.lwv.org. If you log in to portal.lwv.org with an email address the system doesn't recognize, it will prompt you to either sign up (if newly joining) or try logging in with another email.
3. Gifting Membership: Once you are logged in to portal.lwv.org, you should see a box next to your Membership that says *Grow Our Community*, and an option to purchase a gift membership. Follow the directions. Be sure to tell your friend that you have gifted them a membership!

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: census graphic, Census 2020; balloons, PNGtree.com; girl on phone, Airam Dato on Unsplash; online meeting, vecteezydotcom; all others, LWVUS or LWVDV

CALENDAR of MONTHLY MEETINGS

Team meetings are on Zoom. Board meetings are hybrid meetings at the LWVDV office or via Zoom. *Luncheons are at WiseGirl in Pleasant Hill; Coffee Socials are at Panera on Bancroft, Walnut Creek. **November and December meetings are subject to change *(italicized meetings have not been confirmed with team leaders)*.**

Tuesday, Nov 3, 5-6:30 pm	**Membership Team**
Thursday, Nov 5, 1:00 pm	**Community Conversations Team**
Sunday, Nov 8, 4:00 pm	***Youth Council***
Wednesday, Nov 11, 11:30 am	**Luncheon***
Thursday, Nov 12, 10:00 am	**Board Meeting**
Thursday, Nov 12, 1:00 pm	**Community Conversations Team**
Monday, Nov 16, 3 pm	**Action-Advocacy**
Thursday, Nov 19, 1:00 pm	**Community Conversations Team**
Sunday, Nov 22, 4:00 pm	***Youth Council***
Saturday, Nov 28, 9:30 am	***Coffee Social****
Tuesday, Dec 1, 5-6:30 pm	**Membership Team**
Thursday, Dec 3, 1:00 pm	**Community Conversations Team**
Wednesday, Dec 9, 11:30 am	**Luncheon***
Thursday, Dec 10, 10:00 am	**Board Meeting**
Thursday, Dec 10, 1:00 pm	**Community Conversations Team**
Sunday, Dec 12, 4:00 pm	***Youth Council***
Thursday, Dec 17, 1:00 pm	**Community Conversations Team**
Thursday, Dec 24, 1:00 pm	***Community Conversations Team***
Saturday, Dec 26, 9:30 am	***Coffee Social****
Sunday, Dec 27, 4:00 pm	***Youth Council***
Thursday, Dec 31, 1:00 pm	***Community Conversations Team***

***To participate in a Zoom meeting, contact us at lwvdv@lwvdv.org or call 925-283-2235 and leave your email address and the name of the meeting. We will send you the meeting link.**

LWVDV Board Members (through June 2027):

Mary Schreiber, Co-*President*
Kathy Gallagher, *Co-President*
Anne Granlund, *Co-President*
Karen Dolder, *Secretary, Office Manager*
Kathy Erickson, *Treasurer*
Diane Bianchi, *Community Conversations and Immigration Co-Chair*
Anna Honda, *Action-Advocacy Chair*
Audra Ruthruff, *Membership Chair*
Shawn Gilbert, *Voter Services and Community Conversations Co-Chair*
Ana Pan, *Voter Services and Immigration Co-Chair*
Janet Hoy, *Unite & Rise 8.5 Co-Chair*
Brooke Schwartz, *Communications Chair*
Kathryn Wilder, *At-Large Board Member*
Cheryl Thomas, *At-Large Board Member*

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