



November/December 2023 VOTER

After Incarceration:

Reimagining Re-Entry Into the Community
Thursday, November 16 | 4 p.m.



More details on our November Community Conversation below.

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Leaders' Letter

Dear League Leaders and Members:

Autumn is fully upon us and with it, shorter and cooler days. Our October Community Conversations program, focused on Income Inequality and Guaranteed Income, was highly informative and well attended. **Community Conversations are recorded** and available on [their own webpage](#) on our website, lwvdv.org.

This presentation was followed on October 29th by our first-ever **Points of View (POV)** event on the same subject, bringing together attendees to share their thoughts and opinions. We had a lively discussion and are planning more POV opportunities to talk with each other about the issues of the day.



Your board and leadership have undertaken **two important efforts** – an updating of our Nonpartisan Policy leading up to the 2024 election cycle and a review of our local Positions, which are [on our website](#) along with positions from other levels of League. We want to identify any that may be out of date in some way, prior to our Program Planning meeting in the spring. Several LWVDV positions are city or area specific. We invite you to be part of the review, particularly of a position pertaining to your community. If you would like to participate, please contact me at anne@lwvdv.org.

We are preparing for our fundraising drive, which will take place in November/December. This drive helps fund our various programs, especially going into an election year – candidate forums, roundtables, Pros & Cons, and other activities. Watch your mailboxes for our letter.

November is Native American Heritage Month. Other important dates during the month are:

- 7: Election Day (*not in Contra Costa County*)
- 11: Veteran's Day
- 23: Thanksgiving
- 24: Native American Heritage Day
- 28: Giving Tuesday



Our next luncheon is at 11:30 a.m. on November 8th at Back Forty Texas BBQ in Pleasant Hill. Hope you can join us.

Happy Thanksgiving and thank you, as always, for your support!

Anne Granlund, President

Kathy Gallagher, Vice President



Let's Do It Again -- Lunch With the League!

Meet and chat with your League friends in-person at our no-host luncheon on **Wednesday, November 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the Back Forty Texas BBQ in Pleasant Hill (just off the freeway!)

Reconnect and get caught up with current Leaguers as well as meet new friends! Our September lunch was very successful, so we're looking forward to a repeat. We'd love to have you join us!

RSVP to Janet Hoy at janet@lwvdv.org or drop her a voicemail at 925-283-2235.

After Incarceration: Reimagining Re-Entry Into the Community

Formerly incarcerated persons, both adults and youth, face many challenges when they are released from incarceration and re-enter society. The stigma of incarceration follows them and makes their transition difficult. Many are not allowed to vote, find it challenging to secure a job, return to the school environment, or reintegrate into their families, and they can be ineligible for housing, public benefits, or student loans.

Join us online on Thursday, November 16, from 4:00-5:30 pm, as we learn about the challenges these members of our communities encounter and the groups advocating and providing support services for them. The Library will provide closed captioning for this event, and LWVDV and the Library are underwriting simultaneous Spanish translation.



This webinar will be moderated by Ashley Raveche, Deputy Area Director of Social Policy for LWVC.

Panelists include:

- Diana Becton, Contra Costa County District Attorney;
- Rachel Kinnon, Manager, Jail and Reentry Services, San Francisco Library;
- Daniel Halpern, Roots & Rebound, Senior Paralegal;
- Stephanie Thibodeaux Medley, Director of Youth Justice, RYSE Youth Center

[Register for the Zoom webinar here.](#)

Information on how to access the Zoom webinar will be sent to your email address 24 hours before the program.

Audience questions will be collected and answered through the Zoom chat.

Community Conversations are 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. This program will be recorded and uploaded to the LWVDV and Contra Costa Library's YouTube channels after the event.

Contact programs@lwvdv.org for more information.

Always Celebrating Democracy!!!



LWV Diablo Valley, the County Office of Elections, and DVC's Student Activities Director and several faculty members closed the month of October with a collaborative planning session designed to improve student civic engagement on the campus. Each year this valuable, collaborative partnership builds upon the work the team has done over the past few years. *(The photo shows Cathleen Kirk, Shawn Gilbert and*

Joanne Supersad at a DVC event in September 2021.)

DVC continues to maintain its two DIY Voter Registration Centers in the Student Affairs Computer Center and in the library, offering students an opportunity every day to participate in democracy.

This year's team discussion centered on how to develop more direct student participation in registering voters during various celebrations like National Constitution Day, National Voter Registration Day, and special events on campus, in addition to times leading up to elections.

Coming up, on November 4th, Emily Hopkins and Ana Pan, one of our newest members, will be partnering to do voter registering at St. Anna's Episcopalian Church in Antioch. Thank you both for giving your generous gift of time to help engage more of our community in our democracy.

As we look to the upcoming elections in 2024, a National Constitution Center program, [*"Live from the Museum: Voting Rights"*](#), offers a good historical review of how democracy has expanded over time since the nation's founding.

Democracy is fragile, however. A [recent Sacramento Bee article](#) provides some information about how -- even in California -- there are communities where election laws are being challenged.

Remember, If you are not sure of something about elections and voting, the best place to go for answers is the Secretary of State's web page: [Elections and Voter Information :: California Secretary of State](#).

*Shawn Gilbert, Co-Chair, Voter Services
Photo credit: Shawn Gilbert*



Money, money, money . . .

Check out LWVDV's annual [Financial Report to Members](#) to see how we handled the finances last year.

Send feedback to Treasurer Paul Derksen.

Board Briefs for October 2023

At its meeting on October 12, the Board took the following actions:



- Approved Karen Dolder and Mary Schreiber as the Board members serving on the Nominating Committee.
- Approved two donations: \$30 to support a webinar by the LWVC Healthcare Interest Group, and \$70 to support the NAACP Scholarship Fund.

The Board also:

- Received a status report on reviewing LWVDV positions prior to Program Planning in early 2024.
- Discussed fundraising plans for the remaining months of this fiscal year.
- Discussed Community Outreach relationship-building with Women's March Contra Costa and AAUW around shared issues.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new member Samantha Francois!

If you have a November 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 ability to pay. To request dues assistance, please email membership@lwvdv.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 the Membership Chair 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.)

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CALENDAR of MONTHLY MEETINGS

Evening Board and all Action-Advocacy meetings are on Zoom*. Daytime Board meetings are at the LWVDV office. Social hours and luncheons are at various locations -- watch announcements.

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 11:30 am

League Lunch

Thursday, Nov. 9, 11:00 am

Board Meeting

Saturday, Nov. 18, 10:00 – noon

Action/Advocacy Committee

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 5:30 pm

Happy Hour

Thursday, December 14, 7:00 pm

Board Meeting

No December Action/Advocacy Committee

*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):

[Anne Granlund](#), President

[Kathy Gallagher](#), Vice President/Observer Corps

[Karen Dolder](#), Secretary, Office Manager

[Paul Derksen](#), Treasurer

[Mary Schreiber](#), Action/Advocacy Chair

[Diane Bianchi](#), Community Conversations Co-Chair

[Cathleen Kirk](#), Membership Chair

[Shawn Gilbert](#), Voter Service Co-Chair

[Melanie Speir](#), Civic Engagement Chair

[Janet Hoy](#), At Large Board Member

**The League of Women Voters
of Diablo Valley**

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Current/past issues are posted on our [website](#).

Our Mission: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.
LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in
principle and in practice.