



## October 2020 VOTER

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- [President's Letter](#) from Suzan
- ["2020: Roadmap to Voting"/"2020: su Guia para Votar"](#) Community Conversations - **Spanish version is October 2nd**
- [Pros & Cons](#) of Ballot Measures -- **see them October 10**
- [Voter's Edge](#) Update
- [Vote with the League](#)
- [Voter Services Update](#) and Opportunities
- [Census Update](#)
- [Board Briefs](#) from September
- [Membership Updates and Information](#)
- [List of Monthly Board and Action-Advocacy Meetings](#)
- [LWVDV Board List](#)

The PDF of this issue is available on the [website](#). To see the whole email in your Inbox, click on "View this email in your browser" above.

### LWVUS Action Alert

Tell Senators Feinstein and Harris: Don't Rush the SCOTUS Nomination! To send a message through LWVUS, use this [link](#)! For the full alert, see our [webpage](#).



## President's Letter

League Leaders, Members and Friends:

What a dangerous time this is. It's a fact, and a very deliberate one, that we all feel threatened and yet so determined—determined to do what we can to have a safe, timely and clearly decided election, an election that is not compromised by calculated schemes to challenge the validity of the vote. Many League members here and across the country are working to protect the election and hold elected officials accountable for doing so.

We have a County Elections Department to be proud of here in Contra Costa, in their effort to provide a safe voting process, cooperating in providing voter information and keep us all informed about mail-in ballots and drop boxes and polling places.

**The LWVDV work accomplished has been amazing**, especially the process of dealing with Zoom and participating in video-recorded public information presentations for voters. Multiple candidate forums have been recorded and more are in progress, with videos on our website, Voter's Edge, CCTV, and the County Library's websites as well. Our Pros & Cons videos, produced in partnership with St. Mary's College Associate Professor Jason Jakaitis and his student interns, have just been completed. They will be provided at a Saturday meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup> and posted on our website and Voter's Edge.

Working in conjunction with the County Elections Department and our County Library, our hard-working Public Program Team of Ann Flynn and Diane Bianchi planned, organized and delivered "2020: Your Roadmap to Voting", which was attended by more than 70 attendees and was well received. A first time Spanish language version will be [presented on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>](#). Kudos to Supervisor Candace Andersen for supporting the elections efforts and kicking off our informative program. Kudos to Eren Mendez, County Elections Office, for effectively providing voting process information and Cindy Mataraso for clearly delivering a

thorough view of Voter's Edge and its growing content on candidates, ballot measures and Pros & Cons, especially Proposition 15. All programs are recorded and will be posted on our website and Contra Costa County Library's website.

**So, now is the time for the final critical drive!** To motivate and inspire the strongest ever voter turnout. To make sure that our community is aware of all the information available to become informed voters. To use social media to share messaging about “#WhyIVote” through Instagram posting—or, if adventurous, even family and friend videos on YouTube. The state League is promoting Snap Chat messaging. **We do have street/yard signs with our “Your Vote Matters” and Voter’s Edge promotion.** Have a very visible sign location to offer, especially in East County? Call the office: 925-283-2235.

Want to help spread the knowledge, offer other community organizations a Zoom voting review, and motivate EARLY GET OUT THE VOTE activity? **Join our October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:00 pm training.** Your participation is always welcome!

One more very important month to go. WE CAN DO THIS!

Stay well and VOTE EARLY,  
Suzan

---



## **“2020: Roadmap to Voting”**

**Community Conversations**, a partnership of the League of Women Voters Diablo Valley and the Contra Costa Library, hosted **“2020: Roadmap to Voting”** on September 24th. Panelists included Supervisor Candace Andersen of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, Eren Mendez from the County Elections Office, and Cindy Mataraso from the League of Women Voters.

Ann Flynn, also from the League of Women Voters, moderated the event that presented participants with current information on voting in Contra Costa County. Eren Mendez shared current information on voting and demonstrated how to use the County Elections website <https://www.cocovote.us/> where voters can get voter registration information, request a ballot, find their polling place, track their ballot and much more. Cindy Mataraso explained how to use Voters Edge to help voters gain information on candidates and ballot measures. Supervisor Andersen shared her support and confidence in the County’s election system.

This panel discussion can be viewed on the League’s YouTube Channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJwoLJPz6NEUjy\\_4wiWaaYg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJwoLJPz6NEUjy_4wiWaaYg) and the Contra Costa County Library’s YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/theccclib>.

On **Friday, October 2nd at 3:00 pm** our **Community Conversation “2020: su Guia para Votar”** will take place in Spanish. It will be moderated by Elaisa Acosta Mendez of the League of Women Voters, and will include Eren Mendez from the County Elections Office and Patricia Sereno who will speak about Voters Edge.

To register for this event and receive a link to the Zoom meeting, please visit: <https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/5f6fad5f334dba240093a97f>



## ***"Pros & Cons" of Ballot Measures***

On **Saturday, October 10 at 3 p.m. *Community Conversations*** will host a presentation by the League of Women Voters of the Pros & Cons of the 2020 Ballot Initiatives. Janet Thomas and Kay James will make the presentation and then answer questions from the audience. A link to register for this event will be forthcoming. Check our website and your email!

The videos produced by St. Mary's College are being posted now on the [LWVDV YouTube channel](#). Kay and Janet did their first presentation on September 29th for the Solano-Contra Costa Food Bank on Zoom; the videos weren't quite ready but they used the PowerPoints that were created for the videos. Two more presentations were scheduled for October 1st, with more to come.

Pros & Cons is using three teams this year: Bette Felton and Carole Woods, Janet Hoy and Sue Brandy, and Kay and Janet. Diane, Ann and Shawn have offered to help with the Zoom meetings, as have two St. Mary's College students. All presentations requested have been scheduled. Janet reported that Kay has done an incredible job with scheduling and keeping folks informed as to progress.

We have promised some other Leagues access to the videos. Kay will let them know when they are available.

---





## Voter's Edge

If you have not looked at your ballot on Voter's Edge, now is the time to do so. Go to <https://votersedge.org/en/ca>, and enter your street address and zip code. **You will see all candidates and state and local measures that will appear on your ballot.**

If a candidate has not posted information on Voter's Edge, encourage that candidate to participate by clicking on the envelope icon to send an email. Tell the candidates that you like to save time by looking at candidate information in one place, instead of multiple websites, Facebook pages, etc. Remind them that voters will be marking ballots soon.

The Contra Costa County Voter's Edge Team has been working hard, and as of September 25<sup>th</sup>, had 58 % of 293 candidates participating—the highest of any county in the state.

*Marian Shostrom and Cindy Mataraso, County Coordinators*



The League doesn't endorse candidates or parties -- but it does take stands on ballot measures if members have studied the issue. We are not endorsing or opposing local measures in the November

election, but you can see our positions on state ballot measures (and our reasons for them) on the [LWV California website](#).

---

## There's still time to work on Voter Services!

We have a lot of events under our belts, and more on the way. The League partnered with CCTV, the Contra Costa Elections Department, the Contra Costa Library, and the League of Women Voters of West Contra Costa to produce candidate roundtables with professional broadcast moderators. Zoom taping was done on September 16th, 17th and 18th for broadcast and the videos are available on many YouTube channels, including the CCTV Election Preview channel, Voters Edge and our own [LWVDV YouTube channel](#). We added more forums than originally planned and recorded 20 races covering as many communities.

LWV Diablo Valley is doing some additional school board races with CCTV and the Libraries, as well as with the San Ramon Valley High School and Los Lomas High School PTSAs. We have also partnered with Clayton's AAUW, Pittsburg Kiwanis Club, and the Orinda Association for other Zoom forums. For a full listing, check our [website Calendar](#) (current and past events). Video links will be added to the events listings as they become available.

***There is something for every volunteer with these forums and roundtables.*** We need technical coordinators (Zoom managers to let candidates into the "waiting room" and to handle the forum logistics); timers (hold up green,

yellow, or red signs to your camera as each candidate's time for speaking runs out); and moderators to ask the questions and graciously remind candidates when their time has expired.

If you want to help, let me know! My LWVDV email address is [voter.services@lwvdv.org](mailto:voter.services@lwvdv.org).

*Martha Goralka, Voter Services Co-Chair*

---



### **CENSUS 2020: Update 9/26/20**

The good news is that Contra Costa county is doing better than the state and national average with the self-response rate of 76.4% compared to 72.1% in 2010.

Census workers continue to reach out to Hard to Count populations. People living outdoors were counted September 23-24 as had long been planned.

A federal judge ordered on September 24 that Census 2020 continue counting operations until at least October 31. The Trump administration plans to appeal.

<https://www.npr.org/2020/09/24/912071784/court-orders-census-counting-to-continue-through-oct-31-appeal-expected>

*Mary Schreiber, Action-Advocacy Co-Chair*





## **Board Briefs, September 2020**

At its September Board meeting, the Board welcomed 16 LWVDV members who observed the meeting. Some were off-Board members with specific assignments, but many were new members interested in how LWVDV works. What a great group!

The Board agreed to call a special membership meeting to approve revised Articles of Incorporation wording for the Board of Equalization tax exemption application.

Additional Board business included:

- The Action-Advocacy Committee reported that it was not recommending any "support" or "oppose" positions on local ballot measures for this election.
- The Communications Team reported an ongoing need for Social Media help.
- Membership reported that 28 new members joined in August.
- Voter Services reported on many activities, including roundtables, candidate forums, presentations on voting and suffrage, and preparation of Pros & Cons.

Suzan announced that LWVDV will have yard signs and masks with the League logo and "Vote" on them. Donation is \$10/sign, \$12/mask. These will be available starting October 5.

---

## Membership Updates and Information

**Welcome new members** Aimee and Bill Abbett, Marilyn Cachola Lucey, Katie Clifford, Gerald and Laura Anne Ferree, Patt Perlow, Bob and Joan Stevenson, Jan Tomsic, Karen and Mallory Van Dyke, and Philip Van Tassell! And **welcome back** Iris Tessler!

**If you have an October or November membership anniversary, watch for your renewal reminder. We need you, so please 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 Chair Cathleen Kirk ([membership@lwvdv.org](mailto:membership@lwvdv.org)) to upgrade your status!***

### **Membership: Join Us or Renew!**

*Membership is not based on ability to pay. To request dues assistance, please contact the League office: (925) 283-2235.*

- \$80 Individual Membership
- \$115 Family Membership (2 members)
- \$35 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.)*

### CALENDAR

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS

(All are Zoom meetings\*)

**Saturday, Oct. 3, 10:00 - noon - Action Committee**

**Thursday, Oct. 8, 6:30 - 8:30 pm - Board Meeting**

**Saturday, Nov. 7, 10:00 - noon - Action Committee**

**Thursday, Nov. 12, 10:00 - noon - Board Meeting**

**\*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:**

[Suzan Requa](#), *President, Voter Registration*

[Shawn Gilbert](#), *First Vice President*

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

[Paul Derksen](#), *Treasurer*

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

[Ann Flynn](#), *Meetings Co-Chair*

[Diane Bianchi](#), *Meetings Co-Chair*

[Cathleen Kirk](#), *Membership Chair*

[Martha Goralka](#), *Voter Service Co-Chair*

[Elaisa Acosta-Mendez](#), *Communications*

[Sue Brandy](#), *At-Large Director*

[Janet Hoy](#), *At-Large Director*

---

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

***Voter***

LWV of Diablo Valley

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

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

Published monthly except July and December

Editor: Leslie Stewart

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