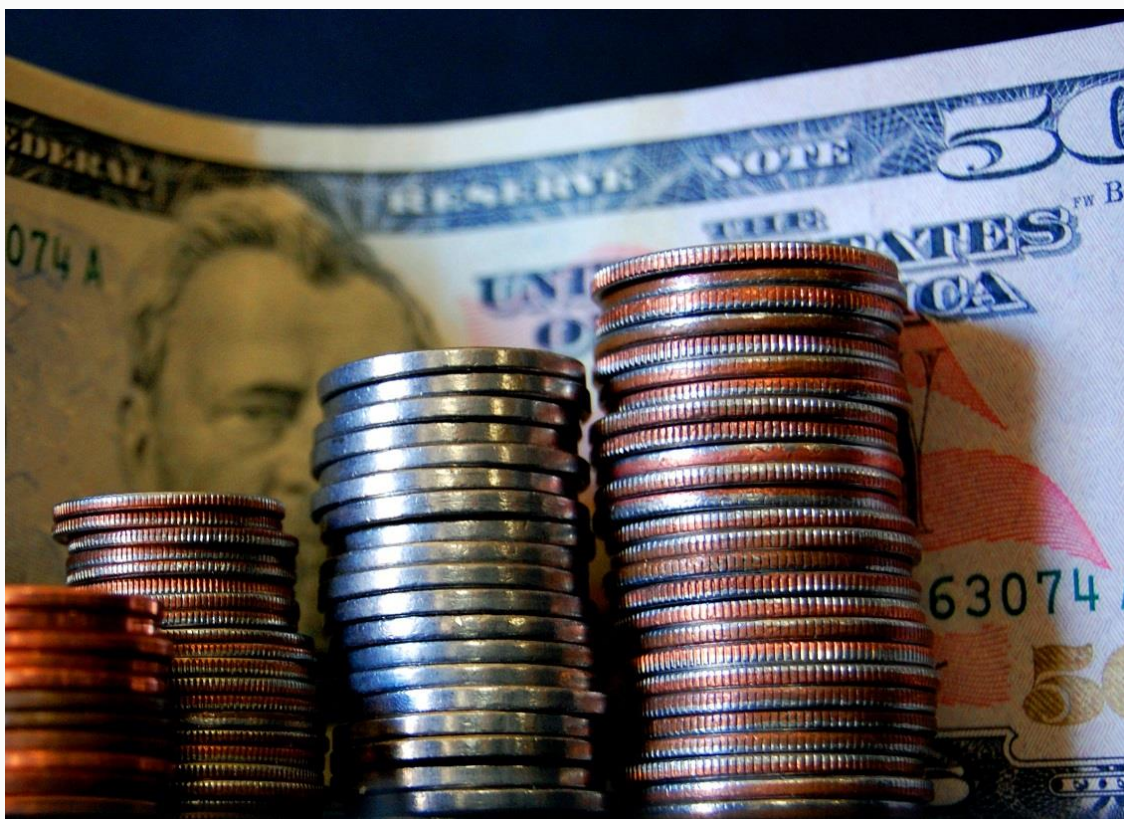


October 2023 VOTER



Income and Wealth Inequality will be discussed at the October 19th Community Conversation --- [details below.](#)

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- [Income & Wealth Inequality](#) - Community Conversation, **Oct. 19**
- [Guaranteed Income](#) - Points of View discussion, **Oct. 29**
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- [Action: Gun Safety Report](#)
- [Action: Local Lobbying on Sentencing Reform](#)

- [Voter Services](#): Community Days, Preamble to the Constitution
- [Civic Engagement](#): Catch Up on LWV/NCID Webinar
- LWV Bay Area Webinar: [Public Health Awareness](#), **Oct. 10**
- LWV Bay Area Webinar: [Observing Regional Agencies](#), **Oct. 19**
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The PDF of this issue is available on the [website](#).

Leaders' Letter

League Leaders and Members:

Dear League Leaders and Members,
September was another busy month for your League. We were part of the planning group for a [well-attended national Zoom webinar](#) suggesting ways to build trust and participation in our democracy prior to the 2024 elections. One of our own board members was a panelist, sharing information on the programs our local League has developed to involve people in the democratic process.

Aligned with our [Gun Safety](#) priority, we sent a letter to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, partnering with Diablo Moms Demand Action, to support adoption of a Gun Safety Ordinance for the unincorporated areas of the county (it passed!)

Our first **League luncheon**, open to all members and friends, was a big success and we plan to continue them every other month. Even months we will have no-host [Happy Hour](#), with our next one on October 11th.

Also in September, we co-sponsored an online Community Conversations presentation on **Immigration**. Because this is such a complicated issue, there will be a follow-up presentation in March – watch for it in emails and the March *Voter*.



Our [October Community Conversations](#) program will focus on Income Inequality, followed on October 29th by our **first-ever** [Points of View](#) **event** on the related topic of Guaranteed Income – details for both events are below. Points of View is an in-person opportunity

to discuss current issues in a facilitated environment. We hope to see you there!

LWVDV has an **Observer Corps** of members who attend governmental meetings, note what happens at the meeting, and report back to the League. LWV Observer programs promote government transparency and accountability, and ensure that citizens are aware of the decisions that impact their communities. We are working on establishing a **Youth Observer Corps** to increase youth engagement in our democracy, and LWV Bay Area is also creating an [Observer Corps for regional agencies](#). Stay tuned!

October is **Voter Education Month**. Important dates include:

- 2–6 – National Voter Education Week and High School Voter Registration Week
- 9 – Indigenous People’s Day
- 24 – United Nations Day
- 26 – Vote Early Day, a nonpartisan movement of media companies, businesses, nonprofits, election administrators, and creatives, working to ensure all Americans have the tools to vote early

Thank you, as always, for your support!

Anne Granlund, President

Kathy Gallagher, Vice President

INCOME & WEALTH INEQUALITY: Pathways to Balancing the Scales

October Community Conversation
Thursday, October 19th, 4-5:30 pm

“As long as there is poverty in this world, no man can be totally rich even if he has a billion dollars.” - Dr. King, “The American Dream” speech, 1961.



Income disparities are now so pronounced that the average income of America’s richest 1 percent of households was more than 84 times the average income of the bottom 20 percent in 2019, according to the [Congressional Budget Office](#).

Disparities in tax policy, challenges to families endeavoring to live on minimum wage jobs, and increasing costs of living are some of the factors contributing to wealth inequality in our nation.

Two approaches to addressing this inequality will be featured in our

October 19 webinar, including the Guaranteed Income Program employed by some cities and in Contra Costa County, and the Patriotic Millionaires, who focus on tax policy, increasing the minimum wage, and their hope to pass the Oligarch Act.

Ann Flynn, past LWVDV president, will moderate. The panel will include:

- Julia Quintero, Elevate Concord Project Manager, Monument Impact
- Emily McCloskey, Deputy Communications Director, Patriotic Millionaires
- Kathrine Kagat, Mayors for Guaranteed Income
- Local elected official TBA

LWVDV is underwriting simultaneous Spanish translation for this webinar and others in this year's series. Community Conversations webinars are co-sponsored by LWV Diablo Valley, LWV West Contra Costa County, the Contra Costa Library, and Contra Costa TV.

[Click here to register.](#) You will receive an email with the Zoom link. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the YouTube sites for the Contra Costa Library and [LWVDV](#).



Join the Conversation with the League's new Points of View program.

- When: **Sunday, October 29th from 3:00-5:00pm.**
- Where: **Walnut Creek Public Library, Oak View room, second floor.**
- Topic: **Guaranteed Income Projects in Contra Costa County and the Bay Area**, a continuation of the October [Community Conversation on Income Inequality and Guaranteed Income.](#)

Join with other League members to learn about how income inequality affects our communities and learn how local guaranteed income programs work. Then tell us what you think!!

We will begin with an overview of the topic and then break out into smaller groups for facilitated conversation and discussion. We'd love to get your

point of view!

RSVP to Janet Hoy at janet@lwvdv.org. Attendance is limited to **25 attendees** so sign up soon!



LWVDV Happy Hour is Back!

Join us on Wednesday, October 11, from
5:30-7:00 pm at Bar Camino, 1470
Broadway, Walnut Creek.

The League Takes Action!

Gun Safety Report

This month LWVDV partnered with Diablo Moms Demand Action to support adoption of a Gun Safety Ordinance which requires gun safes or locks for the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County. LWVDV President Anne



Granlund signed a letter of support that was sent from the League to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors in advance of their meeting on Tuesday, September 19. The Board also sent an all-member Action Alert encouraging members to contact their supervisors asking them to support this ordinance.

Moms Demand Action will be an important partner in our work to promote Gun Safety. I am also working to connect with the Rossmoor Gun Safety Club and the Contra Costa County Violence Prevention Coalition.

The **Gun Safety Interest Group is continuing to seek members** who are interested in working in this area. As an interested person, you could assist the team and the League in being informed of important events and information regarding gun safety. While it would be nice to have a committee that meets, a person may only be interested in being a set of eyes and ears for the group.

Interested members can contact me, Sue Brandy, at sue.b@lwvdv.org.

Local Lobbying for SB 94

LWVDV received a [request from LWVC Criminal Justice interest groups](#) to do targeted in-district lobbying for SB 94 Sentencing Reform, which allows judges to review certain life-without-parole sentences.

Sue Brandy, Diane Bianchi and I met with Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, and Marian Shostrom and I met with Michael Sponsler, District Office Manager for Assemblymember Tim Grayson.

To prepare for the meetings, we were given a SB 94 Fact Sheet and guidelines for lobbying meetings, and we met with Gloria Chun Hoo and Carolina Goodman from LWVC and Natasha Minsker from the California Anti-Death Penalty Coalition.

At our meeting with Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan (*pictured*), she asked questions we were not able to answer about how SB 94 is different from other sentencing reform bills already passed. Sue Brandy then contacted Gloria Chun Hoo. Natasha and a colleague provided further information for Sue's follow-up email to the assemblymember.

Marian and I were able to use this information when we met with Michael Sponsler. During that meeting, Marian emphasized that the people eligible for this review are mostly women and people of color, as well as youthful offenders. The support from many members of the faith community was also important. The response to our visit was positive.



One lesson that I learned from this experience is the importance of working with a legislator's staff in the lobbying process. It can actually be more effective to meet with staff, who are often more knowledgeable about bills, and very difficult to get a meeting with the legislator. I would definitely recommend getting the first available meeting with a staff member for lobbying.

Both Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan and Michael Sponsler said that they have high regard for LWVDV and our support for a bill is meaningful.

Unfortunately, SB 94 did not make it to a vote in the Assembly. It is now a two-year bill, currently inactive, and may be brought up again in 2024.

Mary Schreiber, LWVDV Action-Advocacy Chair

Celebrating Democracy, October 2023

LWV Diablo Valley was out in the community on September 12th, 18th, and 19th for Pittsburg High Back to School College Night, National Constitution Day and National Voter Registration Day celebrations.

The **Back-to-School College Night** was a fun time as we met and chatted with a lot of parents and students. On **National Constitution Day**, we joined with students at LMC in Pittsburg and with the County Elections Office to do voter registering and share about Voter's Edge. It was an amazing fall day talking with a lot of students.



September 19th was **National Voter Registration Day** and, like many organizations across the nation, LWVDV was out at four different County Library sites -- Antioch, Clayton, Danville, and Pittsburg -- chatting with community members about the importance of voting, checking their voting status, registering those who were interested, and sharing about Voter's Edge.



A giant **Thank You** to our awesome team of members: Deborah Hicks, Martha Goralka, Emily Hopkins, Shelly Maramonte, Karen Dolder, Susan Johnson, Cathleen Kirk, and Shawn Gilbert for sharing their time to be in the community and promote the key to democracy...voting.

As I try to navigate the odd times we live in when so many fellow Americans seem to want to dismantle our democracy, I find going back to original text from our founding helps me get grounded. So, as we leave the month of our Constitution's birth, I invite you to reread **The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution:**

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

And perhaps, take another moment to read the "[Common Interpretations](#)" of the Preamble offered by two highly respected scholars. We know The Preamble is the introduction to the Constitution, but what does it mean? If you want to delve a bit deeper into The Preamble of the Constitution and its history, scroll

down on that webpage to the heading, “Explore more About The Preamble,” for even more great information.

Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV Voter Services Co-Chair

Photo credits: top, Shawn Gilbert and Deborah Hicks (standing) at Pittsburg High; bottom, Deborah Hicks and Martha Goralka at Antioch Library for NVRD. Both photos courtesy of Shawn Gilbert.

LWVDV Stars on National Civic Engagement Webinar

Are you ready for 2024...and beyond? How can we restore public trust in our elections? How can we sing beyond the choir to engage community members in our democracy? How do we move forward in an environment of polarization and disinformation? What innovations are having success?

These questions were explored in detail on Sept. 19th at the LWV/NICD Network's latest national Zoom event by a panel of five innovators in the field of Civic Engagement.



It was an honor to have our Community Conversations, Civil Discourse, Mis/Disinformation program, and soon-to-be-launched Points of View program spotlighted nationally by our own Janet Hoy (*pictured*). Our entire League deserves congratulations for the material developed, tested, and beautifully presented by Janet.

Couldn't make it? You can listen to [the video recording](#) and access the accompanying [resource handouts](#) on these links. This material is cutting edge, research backed, and successful in practice.

Highlights of the event: Past methods of involving people in the democratic process are no longer very effective. New approaches that incorporate social media and new technologies, reassure people that the voting process is safe and understandable, and involve people in both large and small group interactions are more effective. Don't miss:

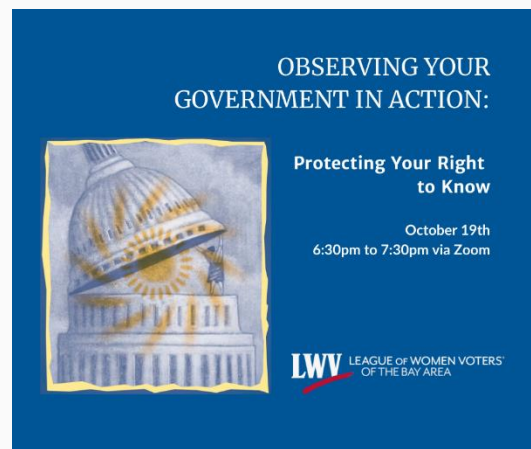
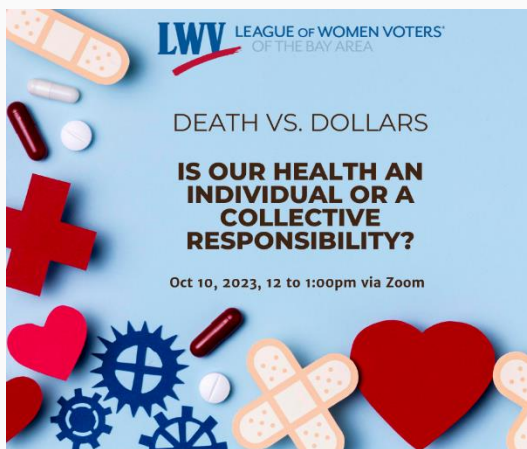
- The link that Tommy Gong provided for us from the Contra Costa County website – [Building Public Trust in Elections](#). It's full of factual information that you will find useful and it's a valuable reference to combat mis/disinformation.

- The article by Matt Leighninger, [What do people need to feel heard?](#) This provides research backed innovative ideas for creating effective and successful civic discussions.

Other publications from Matt include [Citizens Building Communities: The ABCs of Public Dialogue](#), the LWV publication he authored in 2005, and [Infogagement-Citizenship and Democracy in the Age of Connection](#), where he goes into detail about “thick” and “thin” engagement.

Melanie Speir, LWVDV Civic Engagement Team

Two LWV Bay Area Webinars for October



Death vs. Dollars – is Our Health an Individual or a Collective Responsibility?

Join us Oct. 10, 2023, 12 -1:00 PM via Zoom

LWVBA is launching a **new webinar series on Public Health Awareness**. This initial event covers the history, role and scope of public health in the United States, where it is, and where it should be. The discussion will include a definition of public health, its goals and purpose, its role in the community, a brief history in the US, and how it is applied in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties.

This presentation will also address the changing role of public health over time, how different health departments have adapted to the changing policy environment, and what is seen as the future role of public health in the community, and any potential changes.

Expert speakers include:

1. Dr. Sarah Rudman, Deputy Health Officer and Infectious Disease and Response Branch Director, Santa Clara County Public Health Department
2. Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Public Health Director, Alameda County

[Register here](#) to join us for the first in the six-part series.

Observing Your Government in Action: Preserving Your Right to Know

Join us Oct. 19, 6:30 - 7:30 pm via Zoom

We are formally establishing a **Regional Observer Corps** to help monitor regional policy making entities and impact accordingly. LWVBA Director Jean Perry is hosting a special Zoom meeting to discuss who, what, when, and where we will observe. [Join us on October 19th by registering here.](#) You are invited to be part of this special and lively team. We look forward to seeing you.

Board Briefs for September 2023

At its September 14 meeting, the Board took the following actions:

- Approved a revised Records Retention and Destruction policy for LWVDV.

The Board also:

- Discussed adding automatic membership renewal.
- Formed a committee of Shawn Gilbert, Kathy Gallagher, Cathleen Kirk, and Karen Dolder to review the nonpartisanship policy.
- Began the search process for a Pros and Cons leader for the 2024 election season.
- Opened the discussion of a February fundraising event
- Heard updates on lobbying activities, the first League luncheon, office cleanup, and potential alternative office space.
- Received team reports from Action-Advocacy, Communications, Community Conversations, and Voter Services.



Image credits: Leaders' Letter and Points of View: Geralt on Pixabay.com; Happy Hour: Daria Yakovleva on Pixabay.com; Gun Safety, Morguefile; Lobbying, official website for Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan; Civic Engagement, LWV/NICD YouTube video screenshot.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members Joyce Duxbury and Ana Pan!

If you have an October 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) to upgrade your status!*

Membership: Join Us or Renew!

Sign up [online](#) or send a check to the address at the end of this Voter.

\$80 Individual Membership

\$120 Family Membership (2 members)

\$40 Additional Family Membership

\$10 Student Membership

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.

(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.)

CALENDAR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 5:30 pm

Happy Hour

Thursday, Oct. 12, 7:00 pm

Board Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 21, 10:00 - noon

Action/Advocacy Committee

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 11:30 am

League Luncheon

Thursday, Nov. 9, 11:00 am

Board Meeting

Saturday, Nov. 18, 10:00 - noon

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.**

LWV of Diablo Valley
500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-2235 lwvdv@lwvdv.org

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 Voter**

Published monthly except July and December
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Current/past issues are posted on our [website](#).