



October 2026 VOTER



GOTV!! Postcard writing with pastries at Panera!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Presidents' Letter](#)
- [Easy Ways YOU Can Promote VOTE411!](#)
- [Voter Services September Highlights](#)
- [Constitution Day at St. Mary's College with LWVDV](#)
- [Vote With the League -- Why It's Important](#)
- News: [California Voting Rights Act Signed](#)
- News: [LWVC Advocacy Webinar](#)
- News: [Poll Watcher Training](#)

- News: [Water Spotlight on Flooding](#)
- [Board Briefs](#) from September 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:

In addition to all the work the League is doing to educate voters and get out the vote, **LWVC and LWVUS continue to work in the courts** to secure voting rights and protect our elections. As members of LWVDV, our dues help support this legal work.



On September 14, LWVUS sent out a statement on the US Supreme Court action on mail ballot restrictions:

“In a major win for voting rights, election integrity, and democracy, the US Supreme Court today left in place a preliminary injunction that blocks the US Postal Service (USPS) from enforcing key parts of a new rule that would have significantly restricted mail voting and disenfranchised voters who rely on mail ballots. The preliminary injunction will remain in place through the November 3 election.

“With the injunction in place, USPS cannot refuse to deliver mail ballots for the November election. Nor can it require states to upload personal voter information into its new and untested online portal.”

The complete statement is here:

[US Supreme Court Blocks Postal Service from Limiting Mail Ballots](#)

LWVC CEO Jenny Farrell sent the following update on the California Supreme Court decision on seizure of ballots in Riverside County:

On September 24, the California Supreme Court unanimously ordered Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco to return the hundreds of thousands of voted ballots his department unlawfully seized earlier this year.

This is an important victory for voters, election integrity, and the rule of law. The League of Women Voters of California joined Common Cause in filing an amicus brief in support of Riverside County voters challenging the seizure.

Our message to the Court was simple: voted ballots must remain secure, protected, and subject to the safeguards California law has established for their custody and handling. No individual official should be able to disregard those protections.

The California Supreme Court agreed that the seizure was unlawful and ordered the ballots returned to the Registrar of Voters.

We are proud that the League was able to lend our voice and expertise to this important case - and deeply grateful to the Riverside County voters who stood up to defend our elections.

[Read LWVC'S full statement on this victory.](#)

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

Welcome new members Terry Byrnes, Deepa Mani, Ariana Rickard, and Stephanie Silen!

Easy Ways YOU Can Promote VOTE411!

I am responsible for contacting **almost all** candidates in the county to invite them to participate in VOTE411.org. (Team members include Tiffany Martin, Ashia Derksen, Anna Honda, Patti Bittenbender, and Marion Morris).

Here are two ways **YOU** can help VOTE411 be effective:

1) Sign up to place a **yard sign at a busy intersection** in one or more of these communities that still need volunteers:

- Brentwood
- Antioch
- Pittsburg/ Bay Point
- Concord
- Martinez
- Pleasant Hill
- Danville
- San Ramon



2) If you see on VOTE411 that **a candidate has not responded, please contact them** and ask them to participate in VOTE411 (they can get info from acoates@cavote411.org)

Contact ashley@lwvdv.org for more information and to help!

Voter Services September Highlights

Happy Fall to everyone!! As this Voter is published, **Election Day is just 32 days away!** November 3rd seemed a long way off, but with all that Voter Services team members have been doing to engage, inspire and inform neighbors over the past few months, time has flown by. Here are a few highlights and photos to enjoy!

Out and About in the Community

Over the past month, League members and partners from the Omega Upsilon Omega Sorority have collaborated several times to do voter registration and education on both the Diablo Valley College and Los Medanos College (Pittsburg and Brentwood Center) campuses. They celebrated both National Voter Registration Day and Constitution Day and succeeded in registering more than 20 new young voters. The League has also been at Antioch High School and St. Mary's College. *(Photo: Shawn and OOU member Brenda).*



The Youth Council had another fun Get Out the Vote day at the Walnut Creek Broadway Plaza LUSH store. Our young League members talked to many shoppers and shared VOTE411 information and the new League postcards with a QR code to the League's election webpage. *(Photo: Shawn, LWVDV youth and LUSH staff).*



Four of the nine scheduled League candidate forums took place last week, two in Pittsburg and two in Antioch. The East County Branch of the NAACP co-hosted with LWVDV. All four of the forums went very well according to anecdotal comments from attendees and candidates. A **big thank you** to the NAACP and the amazing work it did to



coordinate four forums in two evenings. Both communities were grateful. Videos of these are on our YouTube channel. *(Photo: Moderator Paul Derksen and Pittsburg Council candidates.)*

Another **big thank you** goes out to all the League members who volunteered for the forums. You are amazing!

Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV Voter Services Co-Chair

How Much Power Should the President Have?

The League of Women Voters Diablo Valley partnered with St. Mary's College to present this hybrid Community Conversations event on Constitution Day, September 17th, on the campus of the college. Interest in this discussion with Professors Vikram Amar, Constitutional law authority at UC Davis, and Dan Farber, Professor of Law at UC Berkeley, drew over 100 people to the campus and 59 online. Moderated by Professor Barbara McGraw of St. Mary's College, the discussion offered insightful analysis by the professors and challenging questions from the audience.



Nary a person entered the room without knowing our League was there to encourage and support voters this midterm. League members Ana Pan and Audra Ruthruff greeted attendees at the door, offering voter information for the upcoming midterms while also answering questions and handing out materials designed by our League

for voters. It was a successful event, and we hope to continue the partnership with St. Mary's College.

Diane Bianchi, Community Conversations Co-Chair

Vote with the League!

Do you know how propositions get on the ballot? California's ballot measures come from two sources: Legislature-referred and citizen initiatives.

Feature	Legislature-Referred Proposition	Citizen Initiative
Who Puts It on the Ballot	The California Legislature , through a two-thirds vote in both houses.	Citizens , by collecting a required number of valid voter signatures statewide.

Purpose	Often used to amend the state constitution or approve bonds.	Allows voters to create or change laws directly, bypassing the Legislature.
Examples	School bond measures, constitutional amendments proposed by lawmakers.	Propositions 40, 41, and 42 — all citizen initiatives.

Understanding Propositions 40, 41, and 42

This November, California voters face three closely related measures — **Propositions 40, 41, and 42** — all **citizen initiatives** intentionally drafted to compete with one another. Each includes a *competing measure provision*, meaning that if more than one passes and there is a conflict between measures, **only the measure with the highest number of “yes” votes may become law.**

- **Prop 40** cannot coexist with either Prop 41 or Prop 42, according to the wording of Props 41 and 42.
- Courts could determine that **Prop 41 or 42** conflict with Prop 40, which is why Prop 40 can only stand alone if it wins the vote-count competition.
- **Props 41 and 42** can coexist, meaning both could become law if they pass and neither is outvoted by the conflicting Prop 40.



What the Money Tells Us

Nearly **\$150 million** has been raised to **oppose Prop 40 and support Props 41 and 42**, largely through the nonprofit *Building a Better California* and its PAC. Major donors include many of California’s billionaires.

What This Means for League Members

The League’s positions are based on careful study, consensus, and our commitment to protecting democracy and empowering voters. When multiple measures interact — as these do — **your vote carries even more weight.**

As you prepare your ballot, we encourage you to **Vote with the League:** [Click for Ballot Recommendations](#)

- Review the League’s positions.
- Understand how these propositions affect one another.
- Share this information with friends, neighbors, and community groups.
- And most importantly — vote.

Your informed vote strengthens democracy and ensures that our values guide the future of our state.

Anna Honda, LWVDV Action Chair

News Roundup from Around the League

Governor Signs the California Voting Rights Act of 2026

Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 1164 and SB 1360 (Cervantes), the California Voting Rights Act of 2026, into law, updating our state's more than two decades-old landmark Voting Rights Act and ensuring more, not fewer, voters have access to the ballot box this November. LWVC was a member of the California Democracy Partnership which worked to pass these bills. For more, see the LWVC press release [here](#).



Advocacy Webinar on Key State Propositions

In early September, LWVC presented a members-only webinar on the **three state ballot measures that are the focus of advocacy efforts by the League** this fall. Here are the links to the webinar and the relevant campaigns:

- [Webinar recording](#) (members-only)
- NO on Prop 39 Campaign [website](#). Sign up at bit.ly/LWVCNoOn39 to get more information and take action!
- YES on Prop 4 Campaign [website](#)
- YES on Prop 5 Campaign [website](#)

Poll Watcher Training -- Sign Up Now

Looking for a way to help voters on Election Day? The League's partners at Asian Law Caucus and Common Cause California are once again running poll monitoring to provide election protection.



[Learn more](#) and then [SIGN UP HERE](#) by **October 13th**. Volunteers must attend one of their offered **90-minute trainings in early October**.

The California Election Protection Alliance ensures that every voter can make their voices heard, even when anti-voter rules or actors try to get in the way. This November,

we will mobilize trained volunteers to help our fellow Californians navigate the voting process and cast their votes without obstruction, confusion, or intimidation. Join us!



LWVC Monthly Water Article: Flooding

El Niño is on the way. The LWVC Water Spotlight article addresses the issues of flooding, mudflows and mudslides. Use the link on our [LWVDV webpage](#) to read this important and timely overview.

Board Briefs for September 2026

At its September 10th meeting, the Board took the following actions:

- Extended the Communications/Youth Engagement Fellowship until after the election, accepted a restricted donation to support the fellowship, and approved necessary budget changes.
- Adopted updated Board and Financial Policies.
- Accepted a restricted bequest from the estate of Cathleen Kirk.
- Set dates for membership meetings in 2027 – Program Planning, February 20, and Annual Meeting, May 22.



The Board also

- Heard updates on Unite & Rise activities and the plans for Pros & Cons presentations
 - Discussed proposed endorsements for the November ballot for Walnut Creek Measure U and Acalanes Unified High School District Measure W.
 - Received updates on plans for Get Out the Vote messaging, candidate forums, and moderator training.
 - Learned that the Board of Supervisors approved a county policy regarding interactions with ICE.
 - Heard plans to reestablish the Youth Observer Corps and to develop presentations for youth on voting and registration.
-

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members Terry Byrnes, Deepa Mani, Ariana Rickard, and Stephanie Silen!

New/interested member orientations will be held on the same days/times each month moving forward. 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 (October change: Oct. 20, same time)
- 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](https://www.lwvdv.org) 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](https://portal.lwv.org) 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, 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. To request tax ID number, call the LWVDV office at 925-283-2235.)

Image credits: Winner symbol, Pete Linforth on Pixabay; all others, 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.

Thursday, Oct 1, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Sunday, Oct 4, 4:00 pm	Youth Council
Tuesday, Oct 6, 5-6:30 pm CANCELLED	Membership Team
Wednesday, Oct 7, 7:00 pm	Unite & Rise Steering Committee
Thursday, Oct 8, 10:00 am	Board Meeting
Thursday, Oct 8, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Wednesday, Oct 14, 11:30 am	Luncheon*
Thursday, Oct 15, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Monday, Oct 19, 3:00 pm	Action-Advocacy
Wednesday, Oct 21, 7:00 pm	Unite & Rise Steering Committee
Thursday, Oct 22, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Saturday, Oct 24, 9:30 am	Coffee Social*
Sunday, Oct 25, 4:00 pm	Youth Council
Tuesday, Oct 27, 10:30 am	Communications Team
Thursday, Oct 29, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
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*
Wednesday, Nov 11, 7:00 pm	Unite & Rise Steering Committee
Thursday, Nov 12, 10:00 am	Board Meeting
Thursday, Nov 12, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Monday, Nov 16, 3 pm	Action-Advocacy
Wednesday, Nov 18, 7:00 pm	Unite & Rise Steering Committee
Thursday, Nov 19, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Sunday, Nov 22, 4:00 pm	Youth Council
Tuesday, Nov 24, 10:30 am	Communications Team
Thursday, Nov 26, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Saturday, Nov 28, 9:30 am	Coffee Social*

*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

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

Published monthly except

July and December

Editor: Leslie Stewart

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

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