



September 2023 VOTER

What is the Reality of Immigration?

Thursday, September 21 | 4 p.m.

Online Program Presented by:



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF DIABLO VALLEY
http://lwdv.org



Community Conversations is back! See below.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- [President's Letter](#)
- [League Lunch](#), **September 13**
- [LWVDV in National Webinar on Civil Discourse](#), **September 19**
- [Community Conversations: Immigration](#), **September 21**
- [Constitution Day Celebration](#), **September 18**
- [August Voter Services, NVRD](#) **September 19**
- [Tribute to Pat Snyder](#)
- [Board Briefs](#) from August Meeting
- [Membership Updates and Information](#)

- [List of Monthly Board, Social, and Action-Advocacy Meetings](#)
- [LWVDV Board List](#)

The PDF of this issue is available on the [website](#).

President's Letter

Dear League Leaders and Members:

Summer's over, school is back in session, and we are busy with LWV Diablo Valley activities. We have a lot planned for the next few months.

Check out the [item below](#) about a national Zoom call on September 19th. This event, organized in part by Melanie Speir and other Bay Area League members, features two panel discussions suggesting ways to build trust and participation in our democracy leading up to the 2024 elections. **A teaser for January** – we will have a Community Conversation on Mis- and Disinformation, a real concern leading up to the primaries. Watch for more information on this webinar later in the year.



One of the League's most important activities is advocacy for initiatives that Make Democracy Work. We have an active Community Outreach committee working to forge stronger relationships with ally partner organizations. We track environmental and climate issues, housing and homelessness, and health care just to name a few. *If you are interested in any of these issues*, please contact the committee chair by email through our website lwvdv.org.



At the state level, we have an [every-member Action Alert](#) from LWVC on Governor Newsom's call to add California to the states aiming to alter the U.S.

Constitution through a Constitutional Convention, a move that comes without a clear structure or guidelines, with the goal of adding a constitutional amendment on firearms. The LWV California **opposes** this move **but supports** targeted and focused policy action to address gun violence. LWVC believes that a constitutional convention is not the right approach to solving this issue, as it puts every right and civil liberty at risk, without limits or guardrails. Locally, one of Diablo Valley League's priorities is Gun Safety legislation to get guns off the streets in our communities. We have a [newly formed group](#) to address this issue.

September is Voter Registration Month, including a focus on Disability Voting Rights and High School Voter Registration. In addition to Labor Day on the 4th, National Hispanic Heritage Month begins on the 15th, [Constitution Day](#) is on September 18th, and [National Voter Registration Day](#) is on the 19th. See below for more on how to get involved. We register voters year-round but are already starting to focus on more voter services and activities for 2024.

Our first no-host [League luncheon](#), open to all members and friends, is on Wednesday, September 13th at the Back Forty Texas BBQ in Pleasant Hill. See below for more information.

Thank you, as always, for your support!

Anne Granlund, President

Kathy Gallagher, Vice President

Image credits: web, Microsoft Office; Action Alert, LWVC

More Action Alerts

Support D.C. Statehood and Full Representation -- [contact your state legislators](#) and urge them to support CA SJR-8.

Protect and Retain the Majority Vote – [contact your state legislators](#) and urge them to support ACA 13 (Ward).



YUM -- Lunch With the League!

Meet and chat with your League friends in-person at our first social event of the year, a no-host lunch on **Wednesday, September 13, 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! We'd love to have you join us! **RSVP to Janet Hoy** at janet@lwvdv.org.

Disagreement, debate, dialogue -- are you ready for 2024 ...and beyond?

Are you concerned about political apathy and polarization in our country as we approach the 2024 election? Would you like to learn how to reignite respectful debate and discussion in your community?



The LWVDV Civic Engagement team is partnering with the National Institute for Civil Discourse in a national webinar to discuss these questions and to suggest creative solutions. Our own Janet Hoy is a panelist, along with other Bay Area Leaguers with years of experience on this issue. Listen, share, and leave with new tools.

Please join us on **Tuesday, Sept. 19th** from

12:00 - 1:30 pm (Pacific) for the LWV/NICD Network event: [Are you ready for 2024 ...and beyond?](#) How do we build trust and participation in our democracy? How do we get beyond where we are now? What innovations are having success?

This webinar features Matt Leighninger, Director of the Center for Democracy Innovation at the National Civic League; Tommy Gong, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder for Contra Costa County; and members of various California Bay Area Leagues: Melanie Speir, Janet Hoy, Marieann Shovlin, and Bob Barrett. Preparing for the year ahead, we're conducting a democracy stress test, looking at the challenges ahead nationally and sharing solutions available locally with an outstanding panel who will provide insight and tools for engaging community members. We'll follow our panel discussions with small group interactive discussions to provide an opportunity to meet Leaguers from across the country to share ideas and create collaborative relationships.

Click [here to register](#) for this free event and receive the Zoom link via e-mail. We look forward to seeing you!

Image credit: Loren Kerns, MorgueFile.com

What is the Reality of Immigration?

Over a quarter of Contra Costa residents are immigrants who come from all over the world. On **September 21, from 4:00 - 5:30 pm**, the first of two Community Conversation webinars on immigration will take place; the second is scheduled for March 2024.

These webinars will not only offer information about national, state, and local immigration laws, but they will focus on demystifying myths that contribute to

misunderstanding and false information about immigrants. The challenges they face with courage and resilience will be highlighted by distinguished immigration experts.

Immigration is a timely topic locally because a large, new immigration court is coming to the heart of Contra Costa County in the near future.

Moderator/panelist Ali Saidi, Contra Costa County Public Defender, and founder of Stand Together Contra Costa, will lead a lively discussion with panelists Reverend Deborah Lee, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity; Sandy Valenciano, Urban Peace Movement; and Yoel Haile, ACLU Director of N. California Criminal Program. Join us for this important conversation about immigration.



LWVDV is underwriting simultaneous Spanish translation for this webinar and others in this year's series.

[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](#).

Image credit: neonbrand on UnSplash.com

Celebrate the Signing of our U.S. Constitution!!



The cacophony of the current times can often muddle our minds and keep us from clearly understanding the rights our founders, through contentious grappling at times, set forth in our U.S. Constitution. Ah, the messiness of democracy. Foremost among the ten amendments listed as the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution is the First Amendment,

which describes five protected rights of the people: Freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly and Petition.

As we approach National Constitution Day on September 18th, I invite you to check out and register for the National Constitution Center's (NCC) [Constitution Day Celebration](#) (it's free!) In celebration of the 236th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution, NCC is opening its newest exhibit gallery, devoted completely to the First Amendment, on September 6th. On the NCC site, you can look at some key primary source documents reflecting First Amendment rights throughout the nation's history.

Additionally, throughout the day on September 18th, the NCC will be presenting a variety of live Constitution Day programs that “We the People” can register to attend virtually. The day will open at 9:30 am (Eastern) with a reading of the Preamble and will follow with a live Naturalization Ceremony, a panel of U.S. Court judges talking about the federal court system, a reenactment of historic figures including a suffragist and more, ending at 5:00 pm. *Just remember there is a three-hour time difference between Philadelphia and California!*

Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV Voter Services Co-Chair

Image credit: Inscription at the NCC, Creative Commons

A Busy August for Voter Services



August 1st was National Night Out. Many neighborhoods across the nation celebrated the importance of community. LWVDV members, including Shawn Gilbert and Debbie Hicks, did also. It was a fun night to meet new people and to register voters.

On August 15th, LWV Solano County held a wonderful event at Solano Community College. Our sister League invited surrounding Leagues to attend. I was the one LWVDV member fortunate enough to make it. The guest speaker was Secretary of State Shirley Webber, who talked about the importance of voting and encouraging young people to engage in our democracy. Following her exchange with the audience, a panel of young people, in the model of a candidate forum, took turns answering the student moderator’s questions about what they have learned as student observers. The students are part of the Solano County Youth Coalition, and they reflected a lot of wisdom in their responses about being engaged.

Later in the month, LWVDV members Susan Johnson and Shawn Gilbert partnered with the County Office of Elections team for two fun days of talking with students at the LMC Pittsburg Campus and the Brentwood Campus. These were two super days of meeting many awesome young people.



Tuesday, September 19th, is National Voter Registration Day! If you are interested in joining Voter Services for a few hours of registering, please contact voter.services@lwvdv.org

Images: Top, Antioch Mayor Pro-Tem Tamisha Torres-Walker and Shawn Gilbert, National Night Out; bottom, Susan Johnson and Shawn Gilbert at Los Medanos, credit for both, Shawn Gilbert.

A Tribute to Pat Snyder

Long-time League member Pat Snyder used her intelligence, compassion, and concern for others to work for social and economic justice throughout her life. Sadly, she passed away on August 10, 2023.

The oldest of five children, Pat Snyder was born in Pittsburgh, PA, 86 years ago. Her family has been a richly important part of her life. She and her husband of 62 years, Don, had four children. The family suffered the devastating loss of the youngest, an adopted Samoan daughter, to leukemia at a young age.



Pat was a psychiatric nurse, and received a PhD in Nursing Administration at George Mason University. She served as Director of all support services, including nursing, at an orthopedic hospital in Baltimore, MD. After learning to swim at age 55, Pat became a dedicated swimmer for the rest of her life.

Pat was a passionate advocate for healthcare for all Californians, and believed that a single-payer system would be the most equitable, efficient, and economical way to provide that care. After moving to California, Pat served for many years as a LWV California legislative analyst, providing in-depth analysis of healthcare bills, and recommending League action on those bills. Pat also represented LWVC in several statewide single-payer coalitions.

Pat founded the Contra Costa County chapter of Healthcare for All - California (HCA), and served in leadership roles in HCA and single-payer coalitions for 20 years. Pat was a highly-regarded speaker on health care issues, and educated League and community members in Contra Costa County, and throughout California.

Although many of us thought of Pat as primarily an advocate for health care reform, she was also actively involved in the Multi-Faith Social Justice Alliance and the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. When LWVC supported Proposition 15, the 2020 effort to reform 1978's Proposition 13, Pat was asked to help educate the faith community. Pat made sure that the community understood the issues and implications of the proposition and how it would help all Californians. Pat's personal integrity and analytical mind engendered confidence and trust as she carefully explained and answered questions. Her efforts helped Contra Costa County bring this reform effort closer to passage than pundits predicted.

Pat Snyder has left a rich legacy, both personally and professionally. She was honest, articulate, sharply intelligent, and generous with her time and knowledge. Pat inspired others to become empathetic and committed leaders. Her sense of fun and humor were infectious. She mentored many of us, and will be greatly missed.

Marian Shostrom, Janet Thomas, and other LWVDV members



Board Briefs for August 2023

At the meeting on August 10, the Board took the following actions:

- Appointed the new Executive Committee to consider urgent items between Board meetings: Anne Granlund, Shawn Gilbert, Kathy Gallagher, Paul Derksen, and Janet Hoy.
- Appointed Marielle Boortz and Anna Honda to the Financial Review committee.
- Approved an action letter to the Board of Supervisors commending Supervisor Andersen for recommending creation of a regulation requiring the safe storage of guns in unincorporated parts of the county.

The Board also

- Heard that the Positions Review committee members will be Cathleen Kirk, Anne Granlund and Mary Schreiber, with Leslie Stewart in an advisory capacity.
- Planned to review the non-partisanship policy of LWVDV as recommended by LWVC.
- Opened a discussion of moving the fundraising drive from November to February.
- Discussed how LWVDV is monitoring responses to the Civil Grand Jury Report on the Concord Naval Weapons Station.
- Heard plans for the Points of View programs which will kick off on October 26.
- Received reports from teams: Action-Advocacy, Communications, Community Conversations, and Voter Services.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new member Laura Nakamura!

If you have a September 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.

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.

\$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.)

CALENDAR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

All meetings are virtual at this time, usually on Zoom*, except for luncheons and happy hours, which are in-person while the weather is good.

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 11:30 am – 1 pm	Luncheon
Thursday, Sept. 14, 7:00 pm	Board Meeting
Saturday, Sept. 23, 10:00 – noon	Action/Advocacy Committee
Wednesday, Oct. 11, 5:30 – 7:00 pm	Happy Hour
Thursday, Oct. 12, 7:00 pm	Board Meeting
Saturday, Oct. 28, 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.

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*

[Eileen Hinds](#), *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

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

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