





September 2024 VOTER

LIVE
on Instagram



YOUNG VOTERS!

Discussion will be led by



THIS LIVESTREAM IS FOR YOU!

young voters like yourself!

Understanding the Elections Process & How To Vote Your Ballot

Thursday August 29, 2024 and Thursday September 19, 2024 6PM - 6:45PM



Contra Costa County Elections Office &
League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley



The second Youth Voting Town Hall is coming up, hosted by our LWVDV intern McKenna Ingram from St. Mary's College! Pass the word!

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President's Letter

LWV Diablo Valley Does More Than Voter Registration

Did you know that the percentage of eligible voters who are registered in Contra Costa County is around 90%? [County records](#) show that the percentage of eligible voters who voted in the 2020 election was 84.

Voter Services participates in voter registration events, but we also focus on voter education and Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts to prepare people to be confident casting their votes.



Our teams are busy scheduling Pros and Cons ballot measure presentations and [candidate forums](#) for local elections. My first volunteer experience with LWVDV was being a timer for candidate forums in 2018. It was a great way to see how things work and learn about the candidates, and it was fun!

There will be a [Pros and Cons presentation](#) at the

Pleasant Hill Community Center on September 30 that is open to LWVDV members and the public.

We have many events coming up for our members to participate in as volunteers – here's a sample:

- [National Voter Registration Day](#) is Tuesday, September 17th, and LWVDV will be at Diablo Valley College and Los Medanos College.
- We [table at community events](#) where we talk to people about Vote411 and answer any questions they may have about voting.
- We also have social media outreach on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok, thanks to our wonderful student volunteers, and need members to share these posts.

More information on volunteer opportunities is posted [below](#) and on our [website](#).

Mary Schreiber
President, LWVDV

Lunch with the League!

Join us for our monthly no-host lunch on **Wednesday, September 11th, at 11:30 am** at Bar Camino, 1470 North Broadway, Walnut Creek. There's easy and affordable parking across the street at the library parking lot.

Please let Janet Hoy know you're coming -- you can email her at janet@lwvdv.org.

We're all getting busy, so take time for some fun with old and new friends. We're looking forward to seeing everyone!





TWO September Community Conversations: "Your Roadmap to Voting" and "Pros & Cons"

With simultaneous Spanish translation

“Your Roadmap to Voting 2024” Thursday, September 19, 4:00 p.m.

Your Roadmap to Voting 2024 will introduce voters to important information about preparing themselves for the November 5, 2024 election. The Contra Costa County Elections Office will showcase the security measures they have employed to improve election integrity and increase community outreach. Tools like the League’s VOTE411.org will be introduced to help voters become more informed about candidates and issues. In addition, the panelists will explain the responsibilities of elected officials and how their offices, especially local ones, impact us.

Representatives from the Elections Office and Sharon Stone from VOTE411.org will bring their expertise on voting to this webinar. Martha Goralka, LWVDV, will be our moderator.

[Register HERE for this event.](#)

“Get the Lowdown on the 2024 California Propositions” Thursday, September 26th, 4:00 p.m.

Confused about the California ballot propositions? Want to quickly learn about them in depth, and through a nonpartisan lens? Every election cycle, the League of Women Voters presents research-based Pros and Cons about the propositions, as well as information about major funding sources supporting or opposing them.

Janet Hoy and Sue Brandy, LWVDV, will moderate this important webinar and will answer your questions about the ballot propositions.

[Register HERE for this event.](#)

After registration, the Zoom webinar information will be emailed 24 hours before the program. Audience questions will be collected and answered through the Zoom chat.

Community Conversations are co-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.

The Library will provide closed captioning for this event and the Library and LWVDV are underwriting simultaneous Spanish translation. This program will be recorded and uploaded to the [Library](#) and [LWVDV YouTube](#) channels.

Contact programs@lwvdv.org for more information.



Pros & Cons In-Person Presentation

DATE: Monday, September 30th

TIME: 7:00-8:30 pm

LOCATION: Pleasant Hill Community Center
320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill CA

[REGISTER on Eventbrite](#)

Candidate Forums (*as of press time*) Volunteers Needed!

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, District 5 - Tuesday, Sept. 10, 4:30-5:30 pm, IBEW Union Hall, Martinez

State Senate District 9 - Sunday, Sept. 15, 2:00-3:00 pm, Danville Women's Club, Alamo

San Ramon Valley School Board, District 2 & 3 - Tuesday, October 1, 10:00-11:30 am, San Ramon Community Terrace Room

Clayton City Council - Wednesday, October 2, 7:00-8:00 pm, Clayton Library, Hoyer Hall (Note: Pros & Cons presentation follows this forum)

Orinda City Council - Monday, October 7, 6:00-7:00 pm, Orinda Library Auditorium, 2nd Fl.

San Ramon Valley School Board, District 2 & 3 - Wednesday, October 16, 6:30-8:00 pm, Iron Horse Middle School, Auditorium

Acalanes Union High School District - Thursday, October 17, 7:00-8:30 pm, Walnut Creek Library, Oak View Rm.

Volunteers Wanted: Meet the Community!

Festival Latino on Sunday, 9/15 at Todos Los Santos Plaza, Concord

- 11:30am-1:30pm; 1:30pm-3:30pm; 3:30pm-5:00pm

Diablo Valley College,

- **9/17**, Pleasant Hill, 11:00 am - 12:45 pm, 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm
- **10/1**, San Ramon, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Los Medanos College, Pittsburg

- **9/17**, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **9/24**, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Loma Vista Adult Center, 9/28, Concord, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm



Library Literacy Voting Event, 10/1, Concord, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Oakley Library Book Sale

- 10/4, 5:00pm-8:00pm
- 10/5, 9:00am-1:00pm

Trunk-a-Treat, 10/19, tabling (...more like “trunking”!) at Antioch Water Park, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Contact Ana Pan at voter.services@lwvdv.org to volunteer to help with forums or tabling.

Vote411 Volunteers Are Busy; Rough Timeline for Candidates and Public

Starting in 2024, Vote411.org is the tool that LWV provides for voters to look up information about the candidates on their ballot. Anyone can log on to Vote411 now, to see general information about voting.

Several members have already volunteered to contact candidates asking them to participate in Vote411.org. We plan to send invitation emails to candidates around September 4. They will be given a deadline of early October for posting their information.



Volunteers will follow up with candidates during September and October to increase the participation rate. The goal is to have candidate information complete by the time ballots are mailed to voters on October 7th!

Ashley Coates, VOTE411 County Coordinator

Help your friends! Remind them that Voter's Edge is now VOTE411!

Two Events of Interest from Our Allies:

Nobody's Fool: Why We Get Taken In and What We Can Do About It (webinar)

Thursday, Sept. 19th from 9:00pm - 10:00pm (Pacific)

(LWV Illinois, Mis/Disinformation Task Force)

We're all susceptible to misinformation, often spreading it unknowingly. While stopping it entirely is impossible, we can learn how deception works, recognize the signs, and empower ourselves. Join this virtual talk with Professor Dan Simons, co-author of *Nobody's Fool: Why We Get Taken In and What We Can Do About It*.

[Register Here](#)

2024 Contra Costa County Home Electrification Fair

Saturday, Sept. 14th from 12 - 4 pm

Calicraft Brewery, 2700 Mitchell Dr., Walnut Creek

(350 Contra Costa, Citizens Climate Lobby, City of Walnut Creek and others)

With a whirlwind of info on electrifying homes, new appliances hitting the market, and heaps of tax credits and rebates up for grabs, it's easy to feel lost in the shuffle. Solve that by attending this event!

Dive into informative presentations or chat up our vendors, manned by electrification gurus, switched-on locals who have already taken the first few steps, and advocacy pros from nonprofits and government agencies. From novices to pros, we've got the juice you need!

And hey, it's not all business! Treat your taste buds to food truck feasts, keep the kiddos entertained, and sip on brews from Calicraft brewery right onsite.

[Register for this free event!](#)





Voter Services Out and About in the Community!

Los Medanos College celebrated its 50th Anniversary on August 28th. The League was on campus with Perry Peregrine, our friendly puppet, to join in the fun and music. We talked to a lot of students, registered five of them to vote,

and shared about VOTE411.org.

Celebrating Democracy! September 17th...Get Ready to Vote!

National Constitution Day, and National Voter Registration Day both land on September 17th.

As we honor the U.S. Constitution, it's a good opportunity to remember that the U.S. Constitution, when it was written, did not expressly state that citizens had the right to vote. Nor did the Bill of Rights.

So how did this notion of the right to vote become one of the fundamental tenets of our society? How did we come to believe voting is a basic right? Take a few moments to explore these questions by reading about [the twists and turns of the 14th and the 15th Amendments.](#)

Here's another [fun article](#) in recognition of ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment...a nice read, to lift the spirits 😊 [Really You? \(pennycolman.com\)](http://ReallyYou?.pennycolman.com)

Shawn Gilbert, Voter Services Co-Chair

Do you have a Donor-Advised Fund?

A donor-advised fund - or DAF - is a charitable account with a sponsoring organization that allows donors to combine favorable tax benefits with the flexibility to support your favorite causes. After establishing a donor advised fund, the donor may recommend grants to qualified public charities. They may also advise the sponsoring organization on the investment strategy for the charitable assets.

As an IRS-qualified 501(c)(3) organization, the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley is grateful for the opportunity to receive grants awarded by donor advised funds.

You can grant money to our League that will go toward programs, including Community Conversations, Voter Education, and Voter Services. You can even grant money to the League to pay your membership dues. All of these are permitted purposes under the grant terms of your DAF.

Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, and BNY Mellon, make it easy to jumpstart a grant recommendation to a nonprofit through donor advised funds. Just use the

[DAF Direct tool](#) to initiate your gift. If you have a DAF with Vanguard Charitable, [click here](#).

If you have questions about recommending a DAF grant to the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, please contact:

Paul Derksen, Treasurer

Email: treasurer@lwvdv.org

Phone: 925-283-2235 ext. 4

Board Briefs for August 2024

At its meeting on August 8th, the Board took the following action:



- Affirmed the Executive Committee’s approval of a letter to the City of Concord regarding the Ashbury Affordable Housing Project.
- Endorsed the City of Lafayette’s sales tax ballot measure on the November ballot.
- Agreed to order Easy Voter Guides to be distributed to public libraries along with VOTE411 bookmarks.
- Agreed to offer a contract to the St. Mary’s College intern to continue her work through October.

The Board also:

- Discussed a possible post-election Volunteer Appreciation event.
- Reviewed voter outreach efforts in East County.
- Provided input on the letter to be read at Lee Lawrence’s memorial service and made plans to manage her bequest to LWVDV.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome **back Cathleen Crane and Laurie and Dan Senter!**

Welcome new members **Alys Briggs, Karen Hershenson, Angie Kangas, Elizabeth MacPherson, Meg Stone, and Kathryn Wilder!**

If you have a September 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 the 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 Membership Chair Cathleen Kirk (membership@lwvdv.org) 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.)

Image credits: President's Letter, clipart from MS Word; Lunch, Google listing photo; Community Conversations, Contra Costa Library; Pros & Cons, Canva; VOTE411, LWVUS; light bulb, PIRO on Pixabay; computer monitor, Vertical Response

CALENDAR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Board meetings are hybrid meetings at the LWVDV office or via Zoom*. Luncheons are at Bar Camino in Walnut Creek.

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Thursday, Sept 12, 10:30 am	Board Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 9, 11:30 am	Luncheon
Thursday, Oct. 10, 10:30 am	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 (through June 2025):

[Mary Schreiber](#), *President*

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

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

[Paul Derksen](#), *Treasurer*

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

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

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

[Ana Pan](#), *Voter Services Co-Chair*

[Melanie Speir](#), *Civic Engagement Chair*

[Anne Granlund](#), *At-Large Board Member*

[Anna Honda](#), *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](#).

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