



September 2026 VOTER



Shawn and Kimberly kicking off Election Season at Los Medanos College!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Presidents' Letter](#)
- [Election Activities Report, Past & Future](#)
- [Unite & Rise to Get Out the Vote!](#)
- [Busy Season for Pros & Cons](#)
- [And More Election Activities!](#)
- [About Those Mail Ballots](#)
- [Three Community Conversation Webinars!](#)

- [Learn with the League: Water Issues](#)
- [Help Fight Proposition 39!](#)
- [Board Briefs](#) from August Meeting
- [Membership Updates and Information](#)
- [List of Monthly Board and Social Meetings](#)
- [LWVDV Board List](#)

Presidents' Letter

League Leaders and Members:

There is so much going on right now that we are concerned about! The November election is a major focus with Pros & Cons presentations, candidate forums, and more (*see the articles below*).

As a member of the [Immigration Team](#), I am paying close attention to developments in this area. ICE has set goals to deport more people, using cruel and illegal tactics. The Federal Immigration Court in San Francisco has been closed, and those cases have been transferred to the Immigration Court in Concord at the Gateway office building.

Gateway is a privately owned office building; the Immigration Court is on the eighth, ninth, and tenth floors. There are other tenants in the building, including an Urgent Care Clinic on the first floor. Some of the people who work in the building are Dreamers with DACA status, which makes it stressful to work there.



Advocates and members of the public are keeping a presence outside the building to support immigrants going into the court and increase public awareness. Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (IM4HI) holds vigils supporting people going into court. Indivisible ReSisters Contra Costa and others also keep a presence in front of

the building. LWVDV [holds a vigil](#) on the third Tuesday of the month.

LWVDV is partnering with the Contra Costa Immigrant Rights Alliance to advocate for a Contra Costa County ICE Non-Cooperation Ordinance. Ana Pan has made public comments at Board of Supervisors meetings twice. **The ICE**

Non-Cooperation Ordinance will be discussed again at the Supervisors' September 8th meeting.

For more information see our [Immigration Team](#) page.

At the state level, LWVC has issued an Action Alert to end secrecy in for-profit immigration detention centers in California:

[Action Alert: Urge Your Representatives to Vote Yes on SB 423.](#)

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

Welcome new members Elisabeth Kersten, Sandra Patterson, Rosanna Radding, Ann Willoughby, Carol Willoughby, and Carol Wong!

November Get Out the Vote Efforts Build on June Primary's Successes

This month we launched our Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts for the November 3rd General Election. This effort builds on the strong momentum created by our June Primary GOTV initiatives -- which we believe contributed to this year's increase in voter registration and turnout for the Primary! Contra Costa County achieved 44.8% voter turnout during the 2026 Primary election, in contrast to 37.9% in 2024 and 35.1% in 2022. More than 327,000 ballots were cast in the Primary, and the county had approximately 21,000 more registered voters than in the 2024 Primary.

Our Primary GOTV efforts focused on making voting information more accessible to Contra Costa County voters. Our Voter Services team brought voter registration and education to the community through tabling at Los Medanos College and Diablo Valley College, events at St. Mary's College and Antioch High School, weekly appearances at local food banks, and support at other community gatherings. We connected with young and first-time voters, answered questions about the June Primary, and helped young people register to vote and find reliable election information. Voter Services facilitated candidate forums for Contra Costa County

Superintendent of Schools and Superior Court Judge, and the League used its Community Conversations series to help voters understand critical changes and developments affecting the election landscape in 2026.



We created a **Primary Election Webpage** to serve as a central hub for election dates and other critical voting information and resources. Voter Services developed an **Impartial Resources Guide** for election and ballot information to address the commonly asked question of “How do I know who to vote for?” We rolled out our **“Voting is Easy – Tell Your Friends!”** GOTV campaign through social media, posters and postcards (in English and Spanish, and cobranded with partner organizations), and slides aired by Contra Costa TV.

VOTE411 remained an important resource throughout the primaries, giving voters access to personalized candidate and ballot information. Leading up to June 2nd, the League’s social media accounts featured election reminders, countdowns, action alerts, voter information, and event promotion. To further connect with young voters, Voter Services and Communications collaborated to produce **a series of “Why I Vote” videos for social media**, which included interviews with college students and young community members. The project provided a personal, youth-focused approach to GOTV and encouraged audiences to reflect on their own reasons for voting. We also hosted a postcard-writing party to encourage young registered voters to make a plan to vote!

The League kicked off its November General Election GOTV efforts with the [National Unite & Rise for Voting Rights Day of Action](#) event on August 9th,



which we cohosted with two leading Black women’s organizations: the National Council of Negro Women, Alameda Section, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Omega Upsilon Omega Chapter. The event brought together more than 125 attendees and community partners; it showcased the energy and momentum already building around

the election and provided an energetic starting point for the League’s upcoming outreach.

As November 3rd approaches, **LWVDV will continue to make voting easier by providing easy-to-access voter information** through our [November 3rd election webpage](#) and GOTV campaigns. We are scheduling voter education events including candidate forums and [Pros & Cons](#) presentations. The [Community Conversations series](#) will provide opportunities to discuss the issues affecting voters, featuring topics such as “How Much Power Should the President Have?” The League will continue working with partner organizations on projects that aim to make voting more accessible across communities, including creation of short “How-To” videos explaining elements of the voting process in English and Spanish.

Join us in this effort! You can support our GOTV efforts simply by sharing League information, liking and sharing the League's posts on social media, and sending nonpartisan voting resources to friends, family, and neighbors. Every League member can help extend our reach by talking about the League's voter education work within their own communities. Have more time? Volunteer at voter registration events, postcard parties, candidate forums, community conversations, and other GOTV activities!

Kamryn Young, LWVDV Communications and Youth Engagement Fellow

Unite & Rise to Get Out the Vote!

- Our very successful August 9 Day of Action for Voting Rights brought together LWVDV, the National Council of Negro Women and Alpha Kappa Alpha. The most compelling part of the afternoon was the **testimonials** from a variety of citizens about the importance of voting and how it touches lives (*watch for these on our [LWVDV YouTube](#) channel*).
- We have teamed with the Elections Division to obtain names of 1,000 registered Contra Costa voters, ages 18-29, who either haven't voted or are intermittent voters. We will be doing a "three-fer"-- sending postcards, texting and phoning them to encourage them to GET OUT AND VOTE! We do not have a registration problem in Contra Costa with over 90% of eligible citizens registered; we have a **turnout problem** with fewer than 50% of registered voters actually voting in midterm elections. Join us in this effort!
- We will continue to participate in **rallies** with Indivisible ReSisters with a strong pro-voting message.



We have a very busy election season -- please step up and help us increase both community education and voter turnout! TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Busy Season for Pros & Cons!

Pros & Cons is a League signature program. At press time, we have over 18 presentations scheduled with more requests coming in every day. This is another opportunity to help educate our community about the statewide ballot propositions and the five-county Bay Area regional transit measure.

And More Election Information!

After a nice, relatively quiet July and August, the election season is back in swing. Currently, Voter Services is in various stages of planning numerous candidate forums with community partners.

The League's partnership with the Food Bank has started for this election cycle. Please consider helping with tabling at various distribution locations across Contra Costa County. [Check the schedule and sign up here.](#)

School is back in session and Voter Services has been out at both of Los Medanos College's campuses to register voters. More opportunities are coming up in September for both National Voter Registration Day and Constitution Day. Watch your weekly email!

Another tabling opportunity to partner with the Broadway Plaza Lush store is coming up in September. LWVDV's Youth Council will take the lead for this partnering. We appreciate Lush for its commitment to democracy and the right to vote.



Elections in the News:

As you are aware, there is a lot of brouhaha on the national level regarding the USPS and our mail-in ballots. Keep calm and carry on as we always do. Information to help with this work:

- First, this very clear article from the Brennan Center for Justice. [Noise and Confusion from the Supreme Court | Brennan Center for Justice](#)
- Second, this [August 27th statement from Kristin Connelly](#), our Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters.
- Third, updates from LWVUS, including [this response](#) to the Supreme Court action.

Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV Voter Services Co-Chair

THREE Upcoming Community Conversations!

"How Much Power Should the President Have?"

Thursday, September 17, 2026, 7:30 pm

St. Mary's College, Moraga and on Zoom

On September 17th, Constitution Day, two eminent US Constitutional scholars will engage in a moderated conversation on the challenges of maintaining

effective presidential leadership while preventing abuse of power. This timely conversation addresses the recent public debates that have renewed longstanding constitutional questions about the proper scope of executive power. Additional information is on our [LWVDV webpage](#). Attend in person or online. Register here for online access:

<https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/v2/events/6a848feabe14820029882727>

"Get the Nuts & Bolts About Voting Safety & Security"

Thursday, September 24, 2026, 1:00 pm

Virtual, on Zoom

How secure are our elections? Join Community Conversations for an informative webinar exploring the safeguards that protect our voting systems and ensure every eligible vote is counted accurately. Learn about election security, ballot protection, and the processes that help maintain public confidence in our democracy. Whether you're a new voter or a longtime election volunteer, you'll leave with a better understanding of how safe and secure our elections really are. Additional information is on our [LWVDV webpage](#). To register and receive login instructions, go to <https://tinyurl.com/lwv-nuts-bolts>



"Get The Lowdown on 2026 California Propositions"

Thursday, October 1, 2026, 1:00 pm

Virtual, on Zoom

Confused about the ballot propositions? Want to learn about them quickly, in depth, and through a nonpartisan lens? Every election cycle, the League of Women Voters presents research-based Pros & Cons arguments about the propositions including information about major funding sources supporting the both sides. Save the date -- the registration link will be available later this month in the weekly email.

Learn with the League

The LWVC Water Interest Group publishes a monthly Spotlight on water issues. This month the topic is **Restoring and Managing California's Watersheds**. Read this and previous articles using links [on our webpage here](#).

Help Defeat Proposition 39 (the California ID Act)!

The campaign to defeat Prop 39 is on. Please consider participating. You can sign up at bit.ly/LWVCNoOn39. **Want to do more? Make a video of why you are opposing Proposition 39 and [submit it here](#).** It takes only a minute. Record vertically on your phone, face a window, keep it under 30 seconds, and start with your first name and where you live in California.

Board Briefs for August 2026

At its meeting on August 13, the Board took the following actions:



- Established an Investment Committee of Anna Honda, Bill Speir, Paul Derksen, and Kathy Erickson.
- Accepted the resignation of Allison Picard from the Board to run for elective office.

The Board also:

- Enjoyed a report on the successful Day of Action event on August 9th in Walnut Creek.
- Reviewed information presented to the Action-Advocacy Committee on Proposition 45 and discussed a possible recommendation to LWVC to oppose the measure.
- Received updates on upcoming candidate forums and moderator training, and plans for membership tables at Voter Services events.
- Heard updates on immigration activities, including the proposed county non-cooperation ordinance.
- Discussed the activities of the Youth Engagement Committee, including GOTV and Pros & Cons projects.
- Noted that the LWVC Convention will be held in Anaheim on June 25-26, 2027.

Membership Updates and Information

Welcome new members Elisabeth Kersten, Sandra Patterson, Rosanna Radding, Ann Willoughby, Carol Willoughby, and Carol Wong!

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
- 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](#) 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](#) 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, you can 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. Tax ID number supplied on request -- call the LWVDV office at 925-283-2235.)

Image credits: Unite & Rise logo, LWVUS; online meeting, Vecteezydotcom; 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.

Tuesday, Sept 1, 5-6:30 pm	Membership Team
Thursday, Sept 3, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Wednesday, Sept 9, 11:30 am	Luncheon*
Wednesday, Sept 9, 7:00 pm	Unite & Rise Steering Committee
Thursday, Sept 10, 10:00 am	Board Meeting
Thursday, Sept 10, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Sunday, Sept 13, 4:00 pm	Youth Council
Thursday, Sept 17, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Monday, Sept 21, 3 pm	Action-Advocacy
Tuesday, Sept 22, 10:30 am	Communications Team
Wednesday, Sept 23, 7:00 pm	Unite & Rise Steering Committee
Thursday, Sept 24, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Saturday, Sept 26, 9:30 am	Coffee with the League*
Sunday, Sept 27, 4:00 pm	Youth Council
Thursday, Oct 1, 1:00 pm	Community Conversations Team
Sunday, Oct 4, 4:00 pm	Youth Council
Tuesday, Oct 6, 5-6:30 pm	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 with the League*
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

***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