

**FROM THE CO-PRESIDENT'S DESK**



League is approaching our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with energy and an enormous amount of activity. Our first exciting moment will be January 1, 2020 when we watch the Women's Suffrage float roll down Colorado Boulevard in the Rose Parade. Please keep your eyes peeled for our float, which is in conjunction with a number of other women's organizations.

Then in February, we will join our sister Leagues all over the nation on Friday, February 14 in a Day of Action to commemorate our founding. Here in Los Angeles, we expect some official acknowledgment at City Hall, and we encourage League members to save the date and plan to Metro on down to City Hall, the exact time to be announced.

During January and February, our Speakers Bureau will be busy informing folks at churches, synagogues, community organizations, public libraries, our LGBTQ community and many more groups of people about the new voting system, the 3 ballot measures for March 3, and the importance of the Census. Let us know if you want to join our Speakers Bureau, we are a busy bunch! Speaking engagements bring revenue to the League so your volunteerism has a huge positive impact on our community education role and our budget.

**January - February 2020**

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## League of Women Voters of Los Angeles

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LOCAL UNITS  
Valley

During those same months, we are co-sponsoring a number of candidate forums, including the County District Attorney, County Supervisor race in District 2, and several City Council races. If you want to be a timekeeper, collect audience questions, or moderate, please let us know. We always need more help and we will train you for these simple, yet essential, tasks.

Finally, the primary election on March 3 and then we have our Film Festival at the Hammer Museum in Westwood throughout the month of March. Please go to [suffragefilmfestival.com](http://suffragefilmfestival.com) to get your free tickets, save your seat now, these film screenings will fill up fast!

After that, we gear up for our Annual Meeting in June and start planning our wonderful annual Celebrating Leadership Awards for the Fall.

It's great to be a League Busy Bee in this historic moment! If you have any ideas for participation, please contact Marilu or Ely at the office.

In League,

**Crissi Avila**, Co-President

**Mona Field**, Co-President

## A SUFFRAGE FILM FESTIVAL

Over four Sundays in March 2020, screenings that speak to the complex history of the suffrage movement will be followed by conversations with notable figures from the political and academic worlds. "Women to the Polls: A Suffrage Film Festival" also shines a light on the need for continued vigilance in the fight for universal suffrage at a time when voter suppression still exists in many parts of the country.

The festival will take place from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sundays, March 8, 15, 22, and 29 at the Hammer Museum in Westwood. Check out the new website dedicated to the festival at [suffragefilmfestival.com](http://suffragefilmfestival.com) and reserve your tickets now.



**Virginia Wexman**  
League Member

# RECAP OF DECRIMINALIZING MENTAL ILLNESS



As part of its *Policing Los Angeles Forum Series* Loyola Law School co-sponsored — along with The Justice Collaborative, The American Constitution Society, and The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles — a gathering of practitioners, advocates, and impacted community members on November 7, 2019, to discuss “Decriminalizing Mental Illness”. The panel on current state of affairs included: Joseph Iniguez, Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County Office of the District Attorney; Gilbert Wright, Head Deputy District Attorney, Mental Health Division, L.A. County Office of the District Attorney; Verah Bradford, Head Deputy, The Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) /Mental Health Diversion, Law Office of the Public Defender; Nancy Eng, Board of Managers Member, National Alliance on Mental Illness San Gabriel Valley.

In 1967, Governor Reagan signed into law the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, which abolished involuntary hospitalization. By this law, you are struggling with mental illness, you can get help if you ask for it. If you commit a crime and are deemed mentally ill, you may be given services.

Joseph Iniguez suggests that determination of whether or not someone should be diverted to a hospital or the community-based system of care should be at the point of filing, not at sentencing. Currently, when 911 is called, first responders are the ones who determine whether or not to deploy one of the 25 County Mental Evaluation Teams (MET) to come to the scene. In the case of Nancy Eng’s mentally ill sister, who was brandishing a knife, officers shot and killed Nancy’s sister. Jail often exacerbates or prolongs mental illness, according to Iniguez.

Gilbert Wright heads up the County’s year-old Mental Health Division. All mental health cases go through his office in order to provide consistency. They try to get as many people into the community-based system of care when determined to be appropriate; however, there are cases where individuals can harm themselves or others if they are not incarcerated.

Verah Bradford works with the County’s Alternative to Incarceration Working Group. She recognizes small steps in our criminal justice system, which is focused on punishment rather than rehabilitation. Mental illness is not a crime. There should be no jail for people who suffer from mental illness. She points out the dire need for more treatment centers and better officer training.

The panel on the Roadmap to Treatment-Based Alternatives to Incarceration, panelists included: Elizabeth Kim, Director of Clinical Programs, Office of Diversion & Reentry, Department of Health Services; Efty Sharony, Former Director, LA Mayor’s Office of Reentry; Reba Stevens, LA County Mental Health Commissioner; Elizeth Virrueta, Youth Organizer & STOP Coordinator, Youth Justice Coalition. They offered a perspective on the pervasive barrier of stigma for seeking mental health treatment. District Attorney’s and other decision makers need to be better trained in mental health issues, including the prioritization of diversion and treatment over punishment. Well trained mental health professionals, rather than law enforcement, are the appropriate responders to incidents involving the mentally ill.

**Carolina Goodman and Marianne Dozier**  
Committee on Criminal Justice Reform

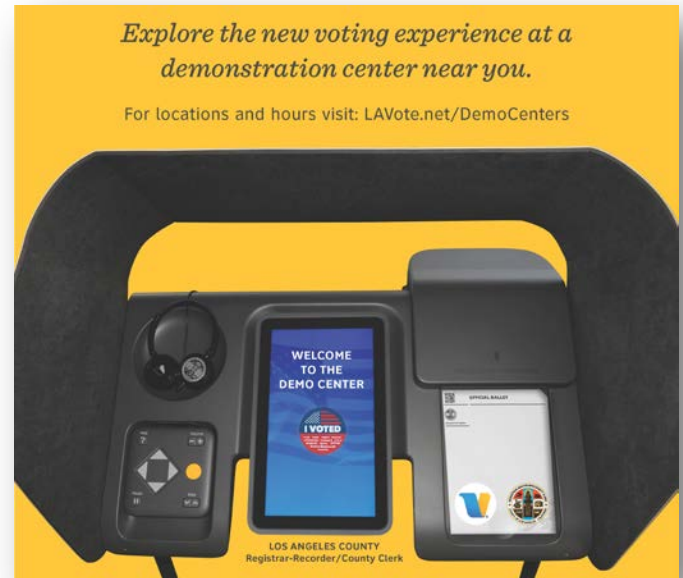
## VSAP DEMO CENTERS

If you still haven't had the chance to familiarize yourself with the new voting system before our next elections. You still can! The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk has new demonstration center locations set up in this New Year.

The way we vote is changing and we need to be aware and prepared. Want to save time at the polls? Voters will now have the option to prepare their ballots ahead of their visit via an official L.A. County smartphone app. The app will then produce a "poll pass," a unique QR code that voters will be able to scan at the bottom of the Ballot Marking Device. The system will then automatically print a copy of the voter's ballot.

Try out the new devices, and share with us your feedback. You can find the nearest Demonstration Center with dates and times by visiting: [LAVote.net/democenters](https://LAVote.net/democenters).

**Ely Valdivia**  
Administrative Assistant



## THE FIRST L.A. DISTRICT ATTORNEY DEBATE



The first candidate forum for the 2020 Los Angeles District Attorney race was held at the California African American Museum on December 11, 2019. Only two candidates appeared at the event: Former San Francisco DA George Gascon, and former federal and county Public Defender and former US Senate aide, Rachel Rossi. LA Deputy DA, Richard Ceballos, dropped out of the race the previous night, and Current District Attorney, Jackie Lacey did not appear.

Many of us are unaware of the tremendous impact that a D.A. has on mass incarceration and on March 3, Los Angeles County citizens will have the opportunity to vote for a district attorney.

Please mark your calendar for a candidate forum scheduled for **Thursday, February 13, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the National Council for Jewish Women, located 543 N. Fairfax Ave.** All three candidates, including the incumbent, have confirmed their participation. From the New York Times: The Los Angeles County D.A. race will be "one of the most widely watched local elections next year". Stay tuned in.

**Carolina Goodman and Marianne Dozier**  
Committee on Criminal Justice Reform

## Since the last VOTER

### Contributions

Carryl Carter  
Renee Chanon

### New Members

Sandra Contreras  
Tammy Jenkins  
Kathleen Juergens  
Janet Mendel  
Rob Quan  
Yasmine Ross

### Sustaining Contributions

Jo Ann Dawson  
Jodi Doane  
Marilu Guevara

### Tributes

Carryl Carter, in memory of  
Sandra Wolber

Deborah Laskey, in  
memory of Sandra Wolber

Nancy Martin, in honor of a  
recent marriage

### YEA

Jane Goichman  
Bertha Sutton  
Vera Wallach

## WHAT WOULD REPARATIONS LOOK LIKE?

The Hammer Museum had a forum on Tuesday, November 12 as part of the series '400 Years of Inequality' to hold a discussion about reparations to the heirs of enslaved Africans in America. UCLA history professor Brenda Stevenson moderated a panel with history and education professor V.P. Franklin and labor economist and author Julianne Malveaux—as they explored tangible proposals. Here are some important facts that were shared:

- HR40 is a bill in the House and the Senate that will form a study commission on Reparations. The 40 refers to the Homestead Act of 1863 where the government was going to give 40 acres and a mule to former slaves.
  - Slave holders were paid \$300 for each slave they owned.
  - President Lincoln said that he wanted to offer reparations.
  - To pay for Georgetown University, 272 slaves were sold to pay for the building. They were literally “sold down the river” to other owners.
  - In 1987, Japanese Americans applied for and received payments from the federal government for being interned.

In addition to compensating individuals fiscally, there is also the community reparations component.

- There is plenty of unused land that could be given to families of former slaves.
- Offer funding to mentor African American entrepreneurs.
- Build affordable housing
- Reform our criminal injustice system

**Sandra Trutt**  
League Member

## IN MEMORY OF SANDRA WOLBER

*Sandy was the steady, indomitable force behind one of the California League's foremost productions: our Pros and Cons. Her editing and research skills kept us from being slap dash and careless with the facts and process around the important issues being decided at the ballot box. - Lianne Campdonico*

*Sandy Wolber was a wonderful colleague to work with on Pros and Cons as well as review of other Voter service materials. She made my job as new Voter Service Co-Chair much easier - I so appreciated her dedication to accuracy and reader friendly language. I am saddened to hear of her passing. We have lost a League leader and treasure. - Mony Flores-Bauer*

*The League of Women Voters of California is proud to honor Sandy for her tireless work for her local League, as well as for her statewide voter service work. Her dedication and tenacity inspired us all. - Carol Moon Goldberg, President League of Women Voters of California*



# MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES

January 2020 - Volume 11, Issue 5

Happy New Year from the League. As always, thank you for your membership and support.

## Monday, January 6 | 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Criminal Justice Reform Committee**

Hear Inspector General Mark P. Smith discuss the review his office has conducted on how the LAPD is changing to conform to the nation's best practices. These are based on national studies and recommended by the Citizens Commission. Given that the LAPD, despite its reform posture, has killed so many unarmed civilians, it is critical to hear how the LAPD plans to implement the League-endorsed bill AB 392 (Weber) which changes the definition of lethal use of force from "reasonable" to "necessary. The law goes into effect on January 1, 2020. Bring your lunch for this meeting.

**Location:** League Office  
3303 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 1200, Los Angeles, 90010

## Saturday, January 11 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Hot Topics Lunch & Speaker: Sustainability in Los Angeles**

Join us for lunch and learn from our featured speaker. Our speaker is Daniel Tamm, he will cover recycling, the watershed, water, biodiversity and single use plastic among others. You must register before event. Registration is \$23 at:  
<https://sustainabilityla.eventbrite.com>

**Location:** Robin Hood British Pub  
13640 Burbank Boulevard Sherman Oaks, 91401

## Thursday, January 16 | 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Valley Unit Meeting**

What the LA City Ethics Commission Does for you. Come and learn about the ethics commission and how it affects your life.

**Location:** Platt Library  
23600 Victory Blvd, Woodland Hills, 91367

## Saturday, February 1 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Task Force**

The purpose of the Task Force is to identify top issues within each component of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that the membership-at-large voiced in the recent DEI Survey in order to develop an action plan to be implemented over the next few months to year(s). We invite any interested League member to participate as we discuss what it might take to implement through the League. Should you have any questions about the meeting or Task Force, please contact Nancy Watson:

[secondvp@lwwlosangeles.org](mailto:secondvp@lwwlosangeles.org)

**Location:** League Office  
3303 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 1200 Los Angeles 90010

## Monday, February 3 | 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **Communications Committee Meeting**

The Communications Committee will be implementing communications strategies for events in 2020 - the census, the elections, film festival, and any upcoming centennial events. What a great time to be a member of the Communications Committee! We welcome new members to the committee. If you can't join us in person, call in. Should you have any questions about the meeting contact Laurice Sommers:

[laurice.sommers@yahoo.com](mailto:laurice.sommers@yahoo.com)

**Location:** League Office  
3303 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 1200 Los Angeles 90010

## Thursday, February 13 | 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **District Attorney Candidate Forum**

The public forum, co-sponsored by the League, will provide the opportunity to learn more about the candidates running for the most powerful elected position in our local criminal legal system. All three candidates, including the incumbent, have confirmed their participation.

**Location:** National Council for Jewish Women  
543 N. Fairfax Ave. Los Angeles 90036



THE LEAGUE  
OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®  
of Los Angeles



# ETHICS

## WHAT THE LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION DOES FOR YOU

**Come and learn about the ethics commission  
and how it affects your life.**

**Open to the public.  
Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020**

**12:30 – 2:30 pm  
Platt Library  
23600 Victory Blvd.  
Woodland Hills CA 91367**

*Please bring nonperishable food items (no glass) to the meeting for donation to and distribution by the West Valley Food Pantry.*

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# WINTER LEAGUE DAY

**Saturday, January 25 - 9:30am to 2:00pm**

**PICKWICK GARDENS, 1001 W. RIVERSIDE DR. BURBANK, CA 91506  
\$35 REGISTRATION INCLUDES PLATED LUNCH**

## **WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS TO SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE?**

LA County League Vice President Fatima Malik will moderate a panel conversation on what we can expect in our region and around the world? How we can mitigate/minimize the negative effects both on a local level and globally? What are the most impactful policies we should advocate for now?

## **ENGAGING HARD-TO-COUNT COMMUNITIES IN 2020**

It is no secret that LA County is the hardest to count county in the Country. What can Leagues do to ensure that **EVERYONE** is counted? And, what are the consequences of an undercount? It will be a lively presentation that will shape your Census 2020 education and action plans!

**MAIL REGISTRATION OR REGISTER ONLINE AT  
[HTTP://LACILO.CA.LWVNET.ORG/](http://LACILO.CA.LWVNET.ORG/)**



**Please send registration form and check payable to LWV/LAC:**

**Mail to:** LWV/LAC Arrangements, Sandra Trutt  
1508 Greenfield Ave. #207  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

**League Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservations #** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$35.00**                      **Total Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meal Options:**      Grilled Chicken # \_\_\_\_\_                      Vegetarian Ravioli # \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions?** Call Sandra Trutt at 310-479-7482

