

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



The League has had a busy fall, with our wonderful Celebrating Leadership Awards on October 19, which fundraised over \$46,000 to support our programs and activities. We also co-sponsored a very well-attended public forum on the Role of the District Attorney, organized by the Committee on Criminal Justice Reform. Before the end of year, the board of directors and League leaders look forward to seeing League members, current and prospective, at our holiday potluck party at the League office on Saturday, December 7.

We will start 2020, our centennial, by watching the Rose Parade. Keep your eyes peeled for the float celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage, the float which is partially sponsored by the local Leagues. Marching behind the float will be 100 women in white, honoring our suffragist foremothers.

We will also be holding candidate forums in February throughout the county for numerous political races, and hosting a film festival in March at the Hammer Museum. We are planning our activities for next year and will need support to help educate the public in regards to our new voting system, the Census, elections and the anniversary of women fighting for and winning the right to vote!

**November - December 2019**

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**League of Women Voters  
of Los Angeles**

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**LOCAL UNITS**

Valley

The League is on the March! Stay tuned-in, and please keep us in your thoughts as you do your End-of-Year giving. All and any donations are much needed and carefully spent. For those of you not yet active with our League, now is the time!

In League,



**Crissi Avila**, Co-President



**Mona Field**, Co-President



**OFFICE CLOSURES**

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The League office will be closed for the fall holidays starting Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29.

We will be closed again in December beginning Monday, December 24. We will reopen to our regular hours Thursday, January 2, 2019.



JOIN US FOR OUR

# Holiday Potluck Party

Saturday, December 7, 2019 | 11 am - 2 pm  
League Office | 3303 Wilshire Blvd. Ste 1200  
Los Angeles, 90010

Register Online [tinyurl.com/2019LeagueHolidayParty](http://tinyurl.com/2019LeagueHolidayParty)  
Call us at (213) 368-1616 for queries

# THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S ROLE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

An impressive public forum was held October 15 at the Pico Union Project by the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles, in partnership with the L.A. Coalition for D.A. Justice and Accountability. Moderator Dave Bryan of KCAL9 News and CBS2 News encouraged panelists to share their distinct perspectives on the issues of prosecutorial discretion, bail reform, and the impacts of mass incarceration, especially on low income families of color. The panelists were: Alicia Virani, Associate Director of the UCLA School of Law; Miriam Krinsky, of Fair & Just Prosecution; Jody Armour, Professor at the UCLA School of Law; Michael Saavedra, Legal Coordinator for the Youth Justice Coalition (YJC); and Ellie Virrueta, Youth Organizer with the YJC.



The Primary Election for L.A. District Attorney will take place in March of 2020. Far too many people's understanding of criminal justice is limited to the police, and too little is understood about the enormous impact of the D.A. The auditorium was filled with over 150 people (about 100 people tuned in to watch our livestream on Facebook).



The L.A. County District Attorney oversees all the prosecutors in our criminal justice system, and it is they who set the general policies for our court system. When a suspect is arraigned, it is within the power of the Prosecutor to decide what crime the defendant will be charged with, what amount of bail to seek, and what penalty to ask of the judge if they are convicted. The influence of "tough on crime" laws, mandatory sentencing, gang sentence enhancements, and the job ratings of prosecutors depending

upon "conviction numbers" have impacted the administration of criminal justice in our courts. Some 85-90% of guilty pleas are the result of "plea bargaining" to reduce charges set by prosecutors, and it is not proven by trial that defendants are guilty.

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The bail system is unfair, as it exponentially impacts poorer defendants. Jobs are lost; families go hungry. Once sentenced, incarceration terms are subject to gang or drug enhancements or other sentencing statutes. Incarceration destroys many lives -- those of the defendant, and those of his family. Employment, housing, voting rights, education are denied to ex-felons; they become the "throwaways" of our society.



So, the District Attorney election will be critical. There is a groundswell of reform effort going forth in America. Restorative justice, community service, drug and mental health treatment are being advocated in place of incarceration for non-violent offenses. It is important that L.A. County's D.A. candidates' positions on these issues be known and evaluated, so that voters will be able to make an informed decision at the ballot box.

**Jane Cook**

[Committee on Criminal Justice Reform](#)

## **CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

On October 19, 2019 we had a great time at our Celebrating Leadership Awards. In case you missed our event, here is a recap of the highlights. We honored three inspiring leaders and shared the empowering work of the League. We were graciously hosted in the private residence of one our dear League members, Ann Rushton, whose lovely backyard hosted about 130 guests. We had a great turnout and weather conditions were pleasant. The whole event was made possible by the Development Committee and brilliant interns who have been planning for months in advance, and the amazing volunteers who helped us in every way possible on the day of the event. There was a fresh taco bar, served with handmade tortillas by a local woman-owned caterer, Ines in the Kitchen, and there was a variety of refreshments from the open bar before the start of our program.

Dunia Elvir, news anchor for Telemundo 52, was our fantastic emcee for the event. Her level of professionalism was astounding, and she carried us through the program effortlessly. Our first honoree and League Legacy recipient, Carryl Carter, has a rich history of activism with League and in the city of Los Angeles. Her impact has been far and wide, as evident in the outstanding crowd of friends, colleagues, and family members who showed up for her. We had a surprise speech by our former intern, Chance Kavar, who shared with us his journey about volunteering with the League and the importance of civic engagement. Our Democracy Champion award was introduced by California State Senator Holly Mitchell, who represents the 30th Senate District. Democracy Champion, recipient Congresswoman Karen Bass, very generously took time out of her busy schedule to accept her award. Her acceptance speech was remarkable, eloquently emphasizing the importance of the League and how our activism is critical for the upcoming year.

Lastly, our Community Advocate award recognized Rosie Arroyo for her leadership and community service values that have empowered communities. These three honorees were so accomplished and diverse; their work is all encompassing and notable.

It was a delightful afternoon spent with guests and honorees, who charitably sponsored and supported our largest fundraising event. This event supports our programs and activities on a grand scale. We will continue to celebrate leadership in 2020 and we hope to see you there!

**Ely Valdivia**  
Administrative Assistant

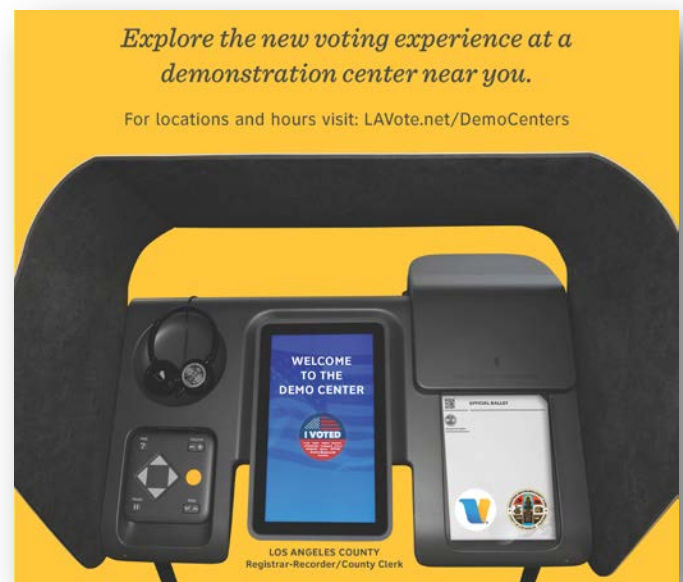
## DEMONSTRATION CENTERS

In an effort with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, we are promoting public awareness of the new voting system. If you missed the mock election in late September, you still have a chance to familiarize yourself with the new voting system before our next elections. You can currently visit Demonstration Centers throughout LA County.

Beginning with 2020 elections, traditional polling places will be replaced by 1,000 polling centers, which will allow LA County residents to vote at any one of the polling center locations over an 11-day voting period.

LA County will roll-out a custom-designed Voting Solutions for All People voting system, which combines the benefits of technology for an easy and accessible voting experience with the security a paper ballot. In the Demonstration Center participants will experience the new process by casting votes on non-political issues such as favorite parks, music, and animals for an entirely non-partisan election.

The new voting system will feature the Ballot Marking Device, a touch screen device which makes it easier for voters to customize the voting experience to fit their needs. Voters can access 13 languages, adjust the touch screen to a comfortable angle, change the display settings such as text size and contrast, or go through the ballot using the audio headset and a control pad. A paper ballot is required to use the Ballot Marking Device. Security remains a top priority for LA County, so devices are not connected to a network or to the internet. Easy-to-follow instructions can guide any voter through the voting process without the need for assistance. Staff members will be on-hand to answer questions at the Demonstration Centers. We hope you take a moment to explore the new voting experience; we would like to see pictures of our members trying 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

## Since the last VOTER

### **Civic Society**

Harriet and Richard Orkand

### **Contributions**

Paul Waller

### **New Members**

Berit Anderson  
Lois Andre-Bechely  
Amy Dunkleberger  
Sarah Crawford  
Marsha Niles

### **Sustaining Contributions**

Jodi Doane  
Marilu Guevara

### **Tributes**

Sandra Trutt, in honor of  
Catherine Eichhorn's marriage  
  
Nancy & Nita Martin, in honor  
of Lucy and Andrew's  
marriage

## JOIN THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION TASK FORCE



We invite any interested League member to participate in the Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force Meeting on Tuesday, November 12 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the League office: 3303 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, 90010.

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. Ultimately, the task force will develop an action plan to be implemented over the next few months to year(s).

At the meeting, we'll get oriented and review the survey results to inform ourselves about what members expressed they would like to see. We will also discuss what it might take to implement through the League and identify existing efforts in order to start to develop the action plan.

Should you have any questions about the meeting or Task Force, please contact Nancy Watson [secondvp@lwvlosangeles.org](mailto:secondvp@lwvlosangeles.org) or 310-591-9115. We hope you will join us in November for this important discussion!

**Nancy Watson**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President



## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Berit Anderson is a non-profit development professional based in Los Angeles, currently serving on the development team at Woodcraft Rangers. Born and raised in Seattle, Berit has lived in Los Angeles for ten years, studying cultural anthropology and sociology. She first became interested in politics as an enthusiastic middle-school NPR listener. Her hobbies include baking, comedy, photography, and thrifting.

# MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

*League of Women Voters of Los Angeles*

November 2019 - Volume 11, Issue 3

**Mon., November 4 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

## **Criminal Justice Reform Committee**

Join us as we work to educate and advocate for equity and justice. During our next meeting we will prioritize issues for our upcoming focus; for example, probation oversight, implementation of California's new use-of-force law, and alternatives to calling 911.

**Location:** [League Office](#)  
[3303 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 1200, Los Angeles, 90010](#)

**Sat., November 9 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

## **Hot Topics Lunch & Speaker: Campaign Finance Reform**

Join us for lunch and learn from our featured speaker. Our speaker is Rob Quan, who will speak to us about Campaign Finance Reform in Los Angeles and current legislation. You must register before event. Registration is \$23.

<https://hottopicslunch.eventbrite.com/>

**Location:** [Robin Hood British Pub](#)  
[13640 Burbank Boulevard, Sherman Oaks, CA 91401](#)

**Tue., November 12 | 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

## **Diversity, Equity, and 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 review the survey results and 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@lwvlosangeles.org](mailto:secondvp@lwvlosangeles.org) or 310-591-9115.

**Location:** [League Office](#)  
[3303 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 1200, Los Angeles, 90010](#)

**Thu., November 21 | 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

## **Valley Unit Meeting**

Everything you wanted to know about sanitation but were afraid to ask. Led by Daniel Tamm, who engages communities in the sustainability practices and services of LA Sanitation and Environment with the mission to protect public health and the environment of Los Angeles.

**Location:** [Platt Library](#)  
[23600 Victory Blvd, Woodland Hills, 91367](#)

**Mon., December 2 | 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

## **Communications Committee Meeting**

The Communications Committee will begin planning communications strategies for events in 2020 - the census, the elections, film festival, and the Annual Meeting. This is an exciting time and we welcome new members to the committee.

**Location:** [League Office](#)  
[3303 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 1200, Los Angeles, 90010](#)

**Sat., December 7 | 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

## **Holiday Potluck and Social**

Join us for our annual League Holiday Social hosted at our office. Bring a friend and a dish to share. We love to take this time of the year to connect with members, current and prospective.

Admission is free, but please let us know you're coming!

[Tinyurl.com/2019LeagueHolidayParty](https://tinyurl.com/2019LeagueHolidayParty)

**Location:** [League Office](#)  
[3303 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 1200, Los Angeles, 90010](#)



**Loyola Law School**  
Loyola Marymount University  
Los Angeles

# Decriminalizing mental illness

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY:  
POLICIES & PRACTICES

**Thursday, November 7, 2019**

5:30 – 9:00 pm

5:30 Doors Open • 6:00 Award Reception • 6:45 Program

Loyola Law School

Burns Lounge



Practitioners, advocates, and impacted community members will review the criminalization of mental illness in LA County, including its historical context, and discuss a roadmap for treatment-based alternatives to incarceration in Los Angeles. Speakers will answer: How did we come to rely on the criminal legal system to address mental illness? Why are such policies in need of change? How can we transform existing practices and move toward non-carceral solutions to a public health issue?



**Patrisse Cullors**  
Recipient of the  
**Juvenile Law and Policy  
Award for Public Service  
& Social Justice.**

[» Register](#)

RSVP online by Nov. 4, 2019

CO-SPONSORED BY:



**CURRENT SPEAKERS:**

**Verah Bradford** / Head Deputy, ODR/Mental Health Diversion,  
Law Office of the Public Defender

**Patrisse Cullors** / Organizer, Artist, Educator

**Nancy Eng** / Board of Managers Member, National Alliance on Mental Illness, San Gabriel Valley

**Joseph Iniguez** / Deputy District Attorney, Office of the Los Angeles District Attorney

**Sean Kennedy** / Professor, Loyola Law School

**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

**Alicia Virani** / Associate Director, Criminal Justice Program, UCLA Law

**Elizeth Virrueta** / Youth Organizer & STOP Coordinator, Youth Justice Coalition

**Gilbert Wright** / Head Deputy District Attorney, Mental Health Division, Office of Los Angeles District Attorney



League of Women Voters - Pasadena Area Public Forum

# ABUSES NOT OKAY

## Holding the L.A. County Sheriff's Department Accountable



- **Brian K. Williams**—Executive Director, LA Sheriff's Department Civilian Oversight Commission
- **R. Sam Paz**—Civil Rights Attorney, ACLU SoCal board member
- **Sharon Kyle, JD**—ACLU SoCal Board Member, LA Progressive publisher
- **Melina Abdullah, Ph.D**—Chair, Pan African Studies Dept., Cal State L.A., Black Lives Matter-LA founder

**Tuesday, November 12, 2019**  
**7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Altadena Public Library**  
**600 E. Mariposa Street**  
**Altadena, California**



**Limited seating: 90 Reservations at <https://my.lwv.org/california/pasadena>**

# Holding the L.A. Sheriff's Department Accountable for Abandoning Abuse Reforms

**What:** LWV-Pasadena Area Forum  
**Where:** Altadena Public Library, 600 E. Mariposa  
**When:** Tuesday, November 12th, 2019, 7-8:30 p.m.

Less than a decade after Under Sheriff Paul Tanaka and numerous Sheriff's Deputies were sentenced to prison—with former Sheriff Lee Baca currently appealing his prison sentence—for jail inmate abuse, dishonesty and obstruction of justice, LASD now claims deputies were unfairly fired for misconduct, and aims to reverse the reforms that followed.

The County Board of Supervisors, local press, government oversight organizations and a growing number of citizens who supported the reforms are now concerned that the Department is abandoning them with impunity. Many previously fired deputies are being rehired.

Internal investigations of deputies alleged to have committed misconduct have been halted, and other reforms reversed. For example, deputies' heavy metal flashlights, often used to abuse jail inmates, were forbidden and now have returned.

Speakers:

- **R. Samuel Paz**, civil rights attorney and Board Member of the ACLU of Southern California who helped initiate citizen oversight of LASD.
- **Brian K. Williams**, Executive Director of the L A Sheriff's Department's Citizen Oversight Commission, the official watchdog of the Sheriff's Department.
- **Melina Abdullah, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of the Pan African Studies Department of Los Angeles City College, and Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter LA who frequently appears before policing oversight bodies.
- **Sharon Kyle**—Moderator, ACLU SoCal Union Board, ACLU National Board Representative, Publisher, LA Progressive.
- **Elisa Arcidiacono**, Justice Deputy, Supervisor Barger's office, will address legal implications of the reforms being reversed.

**Co-sponsors** include The LWV-LA, The LA County LWV, the ACLU SoCal/Pasadena-Foothills Chapter, Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP), NDLO (National Day Laborers Organizing Network), Altadena Town Councilwoman Veronica Jones, The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Pasadena (IMA), Indivisible Pasadena/Altadena Chapter, Allen Edson, President, NAACP Pasadena, NBBA (Neighbors Building a Better Altadena), LA Progressive





## Women to the Polls: Suffrage Film Festival

Films and panels in honor of the  
100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote

MARCH 2020 | 1:00 PM TO 4:00PM | Admission is free!  
Billy Wilder Theater, Hammer Museum

### FILM SCREENING SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, March 8

##### *Women's Rights and American Citizenship*

**Introduction:** Co-President,  
Crissi Avila; and Virginia Wright Wexman

**Films:** Making an American Citizen,  
Alice Guy, 1912 (16m); The Shocking Miss  
Pilgrim, 20th Century Fox, 1947 (97m)

**Post-Film Panel Discussion:** Virginia Wright  
Wexman, moderator: Betsy Butler, Executive  
Director, California Women's Law Center;  
Michele Goodwin, Chancellor's Professor, UCI  
School of Law; Glenna Matthews, author, *The  
Rise of Public Woman: Women's Power and  
Women's Place in the United States 1630-1970*;  
Kathleen McHugh

#### Sunday, March 15

##### *Winning the Vote: Momentum and Division*

**Introduction:** Lois Banner

**Films:** The Bostonians,  
Merchant-Ivory, 1984 (122m)

**Post-Film Panel Discussion:** Lois Banner,  
moderator: Brenda Stevenson, Prof. of  
History, UCLA; Margaret Finnegan, author,  
*Selling Suffrage*; Karin Huebner, Associate  
Director of the USC Harman Academy for  
Polymathic Study

#### Sunday, March 22

##### *Suffrage*

**Introduction:** Renée Chanon (as  
Susan B. Anthony)

**Films:** Forward into Light,  
2016 (14m); One Woman, One Vote (106m)

**Post-Film Panel Discussion:** Renée  
Chanon, moderator: Martha Wheelock,  
director/writer/producer, *Inez Milholland*;  
*Forward into Light*; Ellen Carol DuBois,  
Professor of History, UCLA, author, *Suffrage*;  
*Women's Long Battle for the Vote*.

#### Sunday, March 29

##### *The Challenges Ahead*

**Introduction:** Virginia Wright Wexman

**Films:** Her First Flame, 1920  
(20m); Capturing the Flag, 2018 (76m)

**Post-Film Panel Discussion:** Mona Field,  
moderator: Belinda Robnett, Prof. of History,  
UCI; Katherine Marino, Asst. Prof. of History,  
UCLA; Chris Carson, President, LWVUS;  
Carmen Rios.