



League of Women Voters Solano County Annual Membership Meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Solano County Office of Education

5100 Business Center Dr.

Fairfield

Our guest speaker will be Solano County Superintendent of School Dr. Nicola Parr who will address the topic, "Navigating Change: The Future of Education in Solano County"

Given the significant and ongoing changes within the Department of Education Dr. Parr will share her perspective on how the recent and anticipated changes within the Department of Education will impact local school districts. Dr. Parr is a passionate advocate for mental health services and will discuss how changes in federal funding will affect program offerings and the students in Solano County.

Nonpartisan Policy League of Women Voters Solano County

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any political party. The League of Women Voters Solano County may take action on governmental measures and policies, in conformity with the principles of the LWVUS, but it shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. Board members' activities must be limited to preserve the League's nonpartisan status.

1. Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions – Rami Muth

Our Parliamentarian is Dr. Sarah Chapman

2. Rules of the Day – Janice Adams

- Voting: Voting is limited to members in good standing of the League of Women Voters Solano County.
- Quorum: 15% of members in good standing shall constitute a quorum.

3. Report of Nominating Committee – Carole Paterson

After careful study and research, with the approval of the membership, we are planning to implement a shared leadership model for 2026-2027 which includes three co-presidents. The goal is to utilize a collaborative, distributive model of leadership that utilizes the strengths of each candidate. The total number on the board does not change under this model. The current vice-president will become one of the three co-presidents and will have one year remaining on her term. The newly elected co-presidents will have a two year term. This creates a staggering of terms so at least one person will always have experience in the position of president. The Board of Directors consists of five officers and five directors who are elected at the annual meeting to staggered two-year terms. Additionally, not more than 3 directors may be appointed by the elected members of the Board. The appointed directors hold office until June 30 following the next annual meeting. Elected directors (and officers) take office July 1 following the annual meeting (For current Board, Appendix page 4).

Additional Nominations Before the Annual Meeting:

Nominations from the floor may be made by any member in good standing. Nominations in advance were to be submitted to LWVSolano@gmail.com with “Nominations” in the subject line **by midnight on May 31, 2026.**

4. Approval of Bylaws

5. Election of Slate of Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee

- Contingency action: If there are nominations from the floor, those positions will be separated from the slate for a vote to specifically choose one candidate among those who are nominated
- Introduction of new board and nominating committee for 2026-2027

Position	Current Position – highlight indicates the position will be vacant for the upcoming election in June of 2026	Current Term	Elected Term for this office
Co-Presidents	Rami Muth, Mary Cornaby (signatory for LWVSolano)	2024-2026	2026-2028
Vice President	Janice Adams co-president with one year term	2024-2025	2025-2027
Secretary	Leslie Lessenger	2023-2025	2025-2027
Treasurer	Char Hummel	2024-2026	2026-2028
Director	Craig Paterson	2023-2025	2025-2027
Director	Mary Cornaby – position now as co-president	2024-2026	2026-2028
Director	Margie Olson	2024-2026	2026-2028
Director	Marti Hardisty	2023-2025	2025-2027
Director	Sue Benzuly	2024-2026	2026-2028
Director	Sarah Chapman	2023-2025	2025-2027

Appointed Directors (3 maximum)

- Carole Paterson
- Fred Fraser
- Marlene Silva

Nominating Committee 2026

- Carole Paterson - Chair
- Kathy Pratt
- Jeann McDougal

6. Proposed Budget – Char Hummel (appendix pages 4-6)

- a. Review Proposed 2026-2027 Budget
- b. Discussion and Adoption of 2026-2027 Budget

7. Program Recommendations for 2025-2027 – Janice Adams

- a. Proposed Program Priorities
 - Priority #1 – Voter Education, Voter Access and Participation and Voter Registration
 - Priority #2- "The Fight for Facts: Navigating the Information Crisis."
 - Review and discussion of program priorities. No vote is required since the priorities were established for 2025-2027.

8. Status of the League – Rami Muth, Mary Cornaby and Janice Adams

Our League is a collection of small committees and individuals who work together to accomplish great things. The summary below highlights many of our accomplishments and challenges this year.

This year, the League of Women Voters of Solano County showed again what democracy looks like when ordinary people choose to do extraordinary civic work. In a time when trust in institutions is strained and the rule of law feels fragile, our League stepped forward with clarity, courage, and commitment. We did not retreat from complexity. We met it with facts, fairness, and a deep belief that an informed electorate is the strongest safeguard of democracy.

We invested in the next generation of voters.

Through youth voter registration efforts at county high schools and Solano Community College, we helped young people claim their voice and their power. One student, after registering for the first time, told a League volunteer, *"No one ever explained this to us before. I didn't realize how much my vote actually matters."* That moment—quiet, hopeful, and transformational—captures why this work matters.

We educated, not inflamed.

Our Town Hall – Shaping the Future of Solano County brought together elected officials from the national, state and local levels to authentically discuss issues of importance to the Solano community. We respectfully grappled with complex issues and were able to disagree without being disagreeable.

Our informational forums on Proposition 50 created space for thoughtful discussion, clear explanations, and respectful dialogue. At a moment when misinformation spreads faster than truth, the League stood as a trusted, nonpartisan source of facts.

The League of Women Voters of Solano County hosted a meeting to discuss the SAVE Act and voting rights, with Carol Moon Goldberg, Vice President of Advocacy and Programs for the League of Women Voters of California, as the guest speaker. This event emphasized the League's commitment to protecting voting access and providing unbiased voter education. The meeting focused on understanding the implications of the SAVE Act and other legislative changes on voting rights, with attendees encouraged to submit questions for discussion.

That commitment extended beyond our meeting rooms. **This year, we published a series of articles in local newspapers addressing misinformation and disinformation**, helping readers understand how false narratives take hold—and how to recognize credible sources. In a media environment crowded with noise, the League offered something rare and essential - clarity.

We lifted up urgent local realities.

Our presentations on housing insecurity reminded our community that democracy is not abstract—it is lived. When people lack stable housing, access to voting, civic participation, and basic dignity are all at risk. We connected policy to people, and data to lived experience right here in Solano County.

We showed up—peacefully and purposefully.

Through coordinated efforts to peacefully protest and inform, we demonstrated that civic engagement can be firm and principled without being divisive. We modeled what it means to stand up for democratic values while respecting the humanity of all.

Across the country, we face serious challenges:

- Violations of the rule of law that undermine public trust
- The erosion of due process and democratic norms
- The use of fear—particularly around immigration and ICE enforcement—to discourage civic participation and silence voices

These are not distant national issues. They affect families in Solano County. They affect who feels safe enough to engage, to speak, and to vote. And they test whether democracy truly works for everyone.

Our Call to Action

Now is not the time to step back.

It is the time to **lean in**.

We call on our members and our community to:

- **Seek truth and share it**, especially when misinformation takes hold
- **Defend the rule of law** and the principles of accountability and transparency
- **Protect and expand the right to vote**
- **Engage peacefully, persistently, and locally**
- **Support and strengthen the League**, so this work continues

Democracy is not self-sustaining. It requires participation. It requires courage. And it requires organizations like the League of Women Voters—steady, principled, and unwavering.

Together, we will continue to educate.

Together, we will continue to advocate.

Together, we will continue to stand up for a democracy that works for all.

Thank you for being part of this work. The League of Women Voters of Solano County is strong—and because of you, so is our democracy.

We stand together in solidarity.

9. Closing Comments – Mary Cornaby and Rami Muth

If you are interested in joining the League or would like to pay your dues by mail, please send your checks to LWVS, PO Box 83, Benicia, CA 94510 or use this link to join.

<https://portal.lwv.org/membership>

10. Adjourn Annual Meeting

11. Introduction of Guest Speaker(s) Janice Adams including time for Q and A – 6:50 – 8:00

Appendix
2026-2027 Board of Directors

Consisting of 5 officers and 5 Directors who are elected, and up to 3 appointed Directors

	Term Expiration
Rami Muth, Mary Cornaby Co-Presidents	2028
Janice Adams, Vice Co-President	2027
Char Hummel, Treasurer	2028
Leslie Lessenger, Secretary	2027
Sue Benzuly	2028
Margie Olson	2028
Craig Paterson	2027
Marti Hardisty	2027
Sarah Chapman	2027
Appointed Director Fred Fraser	2027
Appointed Director Carole Paterson	2027
Appointed Director Marlene Silva	2027

LWV Solano County Budget Proposal 2026-2027
Submitted by Treasurer (Charlene Hummel and Fred Fraser)

This 2026-2027 budget proposal was revised with input from the LWV Solano committee chairs and the Board of Directors. We anticipate a projected carryover of \$7,928.25 due to the fiscal uncertainty of the new membership process. Members are now able to use a sliding scale to determine how much they want to pay to be a member of the LWV ranging from \$20 to the recommended amount of \$75. Individuals can also choose to pay a higher amount or donate additional funds directly to our chapter. Since membership is a significant funding source we have chosen to budget conservatively until we complete a full cycle and the LWVUS fulfills its commitment to ‘make whole’ in the event the new system results in lower funding for local leagues.

INCOME includes funds on hand:

- Total projected budget income for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is estimated at 12,261.83 which includes the balance forward for checking and savings accounts. **Projected income is \$4,458.18** Projected carryover balance from checking and savings accounts = **\$7,928.75**. This **does** not reflect the additional spending between the time the budget is developed and enacted in June.
- **Membership:** This fiscal year continues the new approach for managing LWV membership with Stripe. LWVUS will receive all members’ dues via Chapter SPOT web-based application. Local chapters will receive a portion of the members’ dues for operating expenses. LWVUS suggested using an average of \$60 per renewal to calculate local budget 20% allocation. With **66** members (in accordance with Chapter SPOT records), LWV Solano should receive \$10.73/member or approximately **\$708.18** for the year. LWVUS distributions occur randomly throughout the year with each member’s renewal. The LWVUS has agreed to “make whole” if we experience a shortfall

in membership fees.

We are planning on a focused membership drive to increase membership which will also increase revenue. Our goal is to have a more diverse and engaged membership as we enter the new election cycle.

- **Donations:** We will maintain the same level of donations as in the past **\$500.00**
- **Fundraising:** We will have an additional fundraising event this year and are planning on raising **\$2,000** in funds for this category.
- **Grants:** We have maintained the same level of funding for grants although we may apply in different categories. Each year the type and amount of funding will vary. **\$1,250**

EXPENSES:

Total budget for expenses for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is estimated at **\$3,555.**

- **Administrative::** This category has expenses that include insurance, post office box rental, permits, web site, on-line services, and miscellaneous supplies. Total allocation for this element is estimated to be **\$1,615.**
- **Programs:** This category has expenses associated with communications ,youth outreach, program materials, room rentals, printing costs, Democracy Matters, and legislative action. Total allocation for this element is estimated to be **\$1,590.**
- **Other Services:** This category has expenses associated with conferences, voter services, and advocacy. Total allocation for this element is estimated to be **\$350.**

See budget on page 6

League of Women Voters Solano County Budget Proposal

Date: 4/8/26

Budget Fiscal Year [6/1/25 to 5/31/26]	2025-2026		2026-2027	
Balance Forward		\$ 11,459.30	\$ 7,928.75	This decrease in balance is a result of the one time membership payment to LWV CA and US.
	Approved	Actual	Proposed	Notes
INCOME				
Membership	\$ 880.00	\$ 1,696.02	\$ 708.18	based on 66 members (see roster)
Fundraising	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 181.00	\$ 2,000.00	
Donations	\$ 250.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 500.00	
Grants	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 1,250.00	
Total income:	\$ 4,380.00	\$ 2,212.02	\$ 4,458.18	
EXPENSES				
Administrative				\$1,615.00
Insurance	\$ 40.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 40.00	
Post Office box rental	\$ 200.00	\$ 194.00	\$ 200.00	
Taxes, licenses, permits	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00	
LWV-US	\$ 1,888.00	\$ 1,888.00	\$ -	
LWV-CA	\$ 1,652.00	\$ 619.50		Balance \$1032.50 due FY27-28
Web site	\$ 400.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 400.00	
Online services (Zoom & Mail Chimp)	\$ 250.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 450.00	
Misc. & Supplies	\$ 135.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00	Pending final analysis
Programs				\$1,590.00
Intern communication & outreach	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 710.00	\$ 540.00	Balance from the intern grant
Program expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 474.67	\$ 500.00	
Study materials/supplies	\$ 200.00	\$ 623.76	\$ 200.00	speaker, microphones
Democracy Matters	\$ 150.00		\$ 150.00	
Legislative Action	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00	
Other Services				\$350.00
Conferences & Conventions	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00	
Voter Services	\$ 150.00		\$ 150.00	
Advocacy	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00	
Total Expenses:	\$ 7,240.00	\$ 5,384.93	\$ 3,555.00	
Total (Revenue with Balance forward)	\$ 8,599.30	\$ 8,286.39	\$ 8,831.93	
BMO Checking [8312] Balance to Date		\$ 2,865.91		
BMO Savings [2366] Balance to Date		\$ 5,062.84		
Total Funds to Carried Over:		\$ 7,928.75		