



**League of Women Voters Solano County
Annual Membership Meeting**

June 6, 2024
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**This is a hybrid event. You can join us in-person at the
Solano Community Health Hub
1451 Gateway Blvd in Fairfield**

The entrance is located at the northeast corner of the Fairfield Mall
Near H and M

For those who cannot join us in-person the zoom link is provided below

LWVSolano Host is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4537073149>
Meeting ID: 453 707 3149**

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Adjourn General Meeting

[Short Break]

Introduction of Guest Speaker John Gardner, Assistant Registrar of Voters – Rami Muth

Mr. Gardner will discuss voter integrity and the processes used to provide safe and secure elections in Solano County.

Annual General Membership Meeting Agenda

June 6, 2024

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions – Carole Paterson

Parliamentarian — Dr. Sarah Chapman

Rules of the Day – Carole Paterson

- Voting: Voting is limited to members in good standing of the League of Women Voters Solano County.
 - A 'Yes/No' poll format will be used frequently on items only requiring the approval of majority of voting members.
 - Some polls may include multiple choices... specific instructions will be shared, as needed.
 - All reported Zoom polls are anonymous.
- Quorum: 15% of members in good standing shall constitute a quorum.
- Participation: League members and community members may ask questions and add comments.
 - 'Raise Your Hand' if you wish to get the Moderator's attention.
 - You may ask questions or make comments in the Chat window. A Chat Moderator will synthesize and relay chats to the moderator during the meeting, as needed. Chats can be addressed to 'Everyone' or to specific individuals.

Agenda – Carole Paterson

1. Report of Nominating Committee – Janice Adams

The Board of Directors consists of four officers and six directors who are elected by 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. To facilitate a remote Zoom meeting, nominations must be submitted to LWVSolano@gmail.com with "Nominations" in the subject line by midnight on June 2, 2024.

League of Women Voters
Proposed Slate of Candidates for 2024
Highlighted Names are Proposed Candidates for 2024
Nominations from the floor received by June 2, 2024

Position	Candidate Term	
President	Rami Muth	2024-2025
Vice President	Janice Adams	2024-2026
Secretary	Leslie Lessenger	2023-2025
Treasurer	Char Hummel	2024-2026
Director	Craig Paterson	2023-2025
Director	Sarah Chapman	2023-2025
Director	Kathy Pratt	2024 -2026
Director	Barbara King	2023-2025
Director	Carole Paterson	2024-2026
Director	Alice Fried	2024-2026

Nominating Committee Chair 2024-2025

Carole Paterson

- 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 2024-2025

2. Presentation of Proposed Budget – Judy Potter, Treasurer (Appendix pages 6-8)

- a. Review Proposed 2024-2025 Budget
- b. Discussion and Adoption of 2024-2025 Budget

3. Program Recommendations for 2024-2025 – Janice Adams

- a. Proposed Program Priorities... Continued from 2021-2022
 - i. Priority #1- Racial Inclusiveness/Justice/Equity
 - ii. Priority #2 – Making Democracy Work - Voter Rights/Education
 - iii. Priority #3 - Climate Change
 - iv. Priority #4 – Criminal Justice
- b. Discussion and Approval of 2024-2025 Program Priorities

4. Discussion and Adoption of the Amended Bylaws – Rami Muth

Status of the League – Carole Paterson

Our League is a collection of small committees and individuals who work together to accomplish great things. Written summaries of their work are attached in the appendix.

Committees:

Voter Services –Craig Paterson	(Appendix page 9)
Communications – KC Nash	(Appendix page 9-10)
Membership – Rami Muth	(Appendix page 10-11)
Youth Outreach... Democracy Matters – Alice Fried	(Appendix page 11-12)
Program Planning and Events – Janice Adams	(Appendix page 12-13)
Great Decisions – Judy Potter	(Appendix page 13-14)

Closing Announcements – Carole Paterson

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

Adjourn General Meeting – Carole Paterson

[Short Break]

Introduction of Guest Speaker... John Gardner, Assistant Registrar of Voters – Rami Muth

Appendix
2023-2024 Board of Directors

Consisting of 4 officers and 4 Directors who are elected, and up to 3 appointed Directors

	Term Expiration
Carole Paterson, President	2026
Rami Muth, Vice President	2024
Judy Potter, Treasurer	2024
Leslie Lessenger, Secretary	2026
KC Nash	2024
Alice Fried	2024
Craig Paterson	2025
Barbara King	2025
Sarah Chapman	2025
Janice Adams	2026
Char Hummel (appointed)	2024

Standing Committees

- Executive Committee: (Meets as needed, LWVS Officers, open to board members and committee chairs, others by invitation)
- Budget Committee
- Membership (folded into the work of all committees)
- Voter Service
- Program Planning and Events
- Fundraising
- Youth Outreach
- Communication

LWV Solano County Budget Proposal 2024-25

Submitted by Budget Committee (Judy Potter and Sue Sumner-Moore)

This 2024-2025 budget proposal was developed with input from the LWV Solano County committee chairs and board of directors.

INCOME: We anticipate income will be slightly higher than our current year income (\$650.00):

- The Crocker & Community Foundation asked us to administer board elections in 2024-25, which will bring in \$500 to \$1,000 depending on how much work we do.
- We anticipate slightly more fundraising income thanks to some new ideas and events planned by our fundraising committee.
- We expect membership to stay approximately the same. While we often have an uptick in membership during an election year, we budgeted conservatively and kept the same figure for dues income.
- Beginning January 2025, the LWV US will be changing the way membership dues are collected and distributed. The details are not yet finalized. Our income from dues and expenses for PMPs will both change. We planned the 2024-2025 budgeted based on current procedures. We cannot be sure of timing for receiving funds from the national League after January 1, 2025, so we will have to be mindful of that early in the year.
- We anticipate a slight decrease in income from Great Decisions. We have had a successful year, but our participant numbers have not yet returned to pre-pandemic numbers.

EXPENSES: We budgeted expenses in most areas at levels like those of the 2023-2024 budget, with total expenses estimated to be \$1,140 less than during the current year. Among the changes in both versions of the budget:

- We removed the budget item of \$600 for the IRS fee to file the 501(c)(3) conversion papers. The 1023 form was filed in April 2024 and the fee was paid then.
- We propose reducing the fundraising expense budget from \$700 to \$300. To date, we have spent none of the money allocated for this during our current year.
- We allocated \$250 to the new category of Advocacy. As a 501 (c)(3) our lobbying (and advocacy) activities cannot constitute a "substantial part" of our overall activities. Setting our budget at \$250 will help us stay well within a less than substantial portion of our budgeted activities but is more than we have budgeted in the past.
- Voter Outreach, PMPs, Conferences, Programs, and Great Decisions remain essentially at the same levels as the current year's budget.

Budget categories consolidation

The proposed budget includes the budget as adopted for 2023-24, which has many more categories than the proposed 2024-25 budget. The budget committee and the board have

adopted a consolation of budget categories to make reporting simpler. The proposed budget for 2024-2025 is presented with the consolation of budget categories.

Education Fund: Our Education Fund has received donations this year of \$552.00.

Our beginning balance 07.01.23	\$596.00
Donations to date	\$552.00
LWVCA per member payments	\$-451.50
Current balance	\$696.50

We will use much if not all of the remaining Ed Fund for our remaining PMP payment to the national League. If our 501 (c)(3) conversion is successful, our Local League Education Fund administered by the LWV CA Education Fund will be closed and any remaining funds will be forwarded to us.

LWV Solano County 2024-25 budget proposal

		2023-24		2024-25
		Approved	thru 03.31.24	Proposed
INCOME				
	Balance forward (operating and savings accounts)	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 10,493.95	\$ 8,000.00
	Dues	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 2,694.00	\$ 3,850.00
	Fundraising	\$ 500.00	\$ 428.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Donations and grants in 2023-24; Donations only in 2024-25	\$ 500.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 750.00
	Grant (new category for 2023-24; will add more info once awarded)	\$ -		\$ 500.00
	Great Decisions books	\$ 750.00	\$ 628.00	\$ 650.00
	Ed Fund for PMP	\$ 500.00	\$ 451.50	n/a
	Miscellaneous	\$ 300.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 300.00
	Total income:	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 4,441.50	\$ 7,050.00
	Total income with balance forward:	\$ 16,900.00	\$ 14,935.45	\$ 15,050.00
EXPENSES				
<i>Administrative</i>				
	Insurance	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.12	\$ 40.00
	Post Office box rental	\$ 200.00	\$ 176.00	\$ 200.00
	Taxes, licenses, permits	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ 25.00
	Fees to convert to 501c3	\$ 600.00	\$ -	n/a
	Web site	\$ 450.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 400.00
	Storage locker	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 556.80	\$ 1,200.00
	PayPal fees	\$ 100.00	\$ 34.69	n/a
	Online services fees (Zoom, Google, etc.)	\$ 450.00	\$ 309.84	\$ 550.00
	Misc and supplies	\$ 50.00	\$ 87.00	\$ 250.00
	Publications	\$ 100.00	\$ -	n/a
<i>Per Member Payments*</i>				
	National	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 976.00	\$ 1,760.00
	National from Ed Fund	\$ 400.00	\$ -	n/a
	National Sponsored	\$ 160.00	\$ 56.00	n/a
	California	\$ 1,355.00	\$ 1,281.00	\$ 1,540.00
	California from Ed Fund	\$ 100.00	\$ -	n/a
	California Sponsored	\$ 140.00	\$ 73.50	n/a
	Bay Area	\$ 180.00	\$ 187.50	\$ 165.00
	Bay Area Sponsored		\$ 6.00	n/a
<i>Programs</i>				
	Room rental	\$500.00	\$ 50.00	n/a
	Program expenses (added in 2024-25)	n/a	n/a	\$ 1,750.00
	Study materials/supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
	Great Decisions	\$ 875.00	\$ 887.10	\$ 900.00
	Meet Your Officials	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 515.46	n/a
	Other	\$ 700.00	\$ 41.97	n/a
	<i>Conferences & Conventions</i>	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
<i>Voter Services</i>				
	Election forums	\$500.00		n/a
	Voter reg/promotion	\$750.00		n/a
	High school voter reg	\$750.00		n/a
	Printed materials	\$500.00	\$ 231.93	n/a
	<i>Grants (each grant to have own line)</i>	n/a	n/a	\$ 500.00
	<i>Youth Outreach</i>	\$ 750.00	\$ 292.17	\$ 750.00
	<i>Membership</i>	\$ 600.00	\$ 601.90	\$ -
	<i>Fundraising</i>	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00
	<i>Advocacy</i>	n/a	n/a	\$ 250.00
	Total all expenses:	\$ 15,470.00	\$ 6,774.98	\$ 14,330.00
	Reserve (remaining funds)	\$ 1,430.00	\$ 8,160.47	\$ 720.00
	Total of expenses + reserve fund	\$ 16,900.00	\$ 14,935.45	\$ 15,050.00

Status of the League 2024

Voter Services

Contact Information: Craig Paterson, craig_paterson@yahoo.com

Responsibilities of the committee:

The Voter Services Committee's main responsibilities are to register citizens to vote, to help people understand their rights as a citizen, and to encourage eligible students in high school and college to register. This committee is present in the community at events and activities where people gather to be able to promote the work of the League in Solano County. The committee is also interested in developing partnerships with other organizations who share a common passion for registering and informing citizens of their opportunities and rights as citizens.

Committee Members: Chair, Craig Paterson, members: Janice Adams, Sarah Chapman, Alice Fried, Barbara King, Leslie Lessenger, Rami Muth, Carole Paterson, and Kathy Pratt.

Highlights from the year:

- Committee members Craig Paterson and Leslie Lessenger worked with the state League Vote411 team to populate the Solano County Vote411 site with candidates who were running for elected office. The committee saw a 75% success rate for securing information to input into Vote411 from candidates in the Primary election.
- Committee members Barbara King, Kathy Pratt, Rami Muth, Janice Adams, and Carole Paterson conducted voter education programs and registered students in Benicia, Vallejo, and Travis high schools as well as the Vallejo Adult school and the Benicia Liberty Alternative School, and the Children's Network Parent Learning and Training program. A partnership with the NAACP/Theta Delta Theta Sorority was helpful in conducting registering teens to vote in the three Vallejo High Schools and the Adult School. Over 300 students registered to vote.
- A State Senate Candidates Forum was organized by Craig Paterson and conducted by Alice Fried and Sarah Chapman at the Paradise Valley Estates. Over 40 participants attended the forum.
- In partnership with the Communications Committee news releases were submitted to local news outlets sharing information about registering to vote and League related to voting activities.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Contact Information: KC Nash

Responsibilities:

The Communications Committee --

- Supports and works with the Solano League Board and committees to get the word out about activities, initiatives, news, events, and programs.

- To fulfill these responsibilities, the Communications Committee relies on the Board and committee leaders to provide us with timely, clear, and accurate information the committee can then provide to members, friends, local organizations, and the media.
- We encourage feedback from all our members.

We make use of a full range of marketing tools and technologies including our website MyLO platform, and applications such as Eventbrite, MailChimp, and Zoom to make sure the flow of information is smooth, standardized, easy-to-access, and follows League guidelines. We review applications data to understand audience engagement and improve application use.

Organization

The Committee meets as groups monthly to assess needs, measure effectiveness of communications, set editorial goals, and build plans to continuously improve across all areas. Focused subcommittees, such as the Website and Technologies team meet as needed to research and discuss improved use of current and new tools. We are always looking for new members to help with the increasing communications needs of our growing league.

Members:

Website and Technologies, Newsletters

- KC Nash, Chair Publicity

Articles, Blog, and Editing

- Alice Fried

Social Media and local calendar posts, Images

- Linda Stewart

Voter Newsletter Graphics

- Leslie Lessenger

Event Placement in Local Media and Organization Calendars is done by the whole team by locality.

Standard Monthly Schedule

- Voter Newsletter every other month
- 2-3 MailChimp Monthly E-blast Updates
- 1 Main Press Release and 1-2 additional releases as needed
- Event placement as needed
- Weekly Website updates, more frequent if needed
- Frequent social media and local calendar posts (Weekly or more)

Membership Committee

Rami Muth – Chairperson

Contact Information: Rami Muth ramilmuth@gmail.com

Members include Rami Muth, Sharon Tucker, Alice Fried, Frances McCullough, Margo McGlone, Andrea Slater, Belinda Smith, Leslie Lessenger, Sarah Chapman, Nancy Gray, and Christina Palmer.

Responsibilities/Goals:

- Actively recruit new members that represent the demographics of Solano County. The goal is to diversify our membership in terms of age, race, and ethnicity.
- Continue to implement and expand our youth outreach efforts with the Solano Youth Coalition and cultivate other partnerships.
- Actively engage our members by encouraging committee participation and volunteer work to support the efforts of the league.
- Actively seek out partnerships with aligned groups that want to support the efforts of the LWV

We have formed partnerships with other groups in Solano County as a mechanism to extend our reach and forge meaningful alliances that support our common goals.

Our members are passionate activists who support the work of providing unbiased information to the residents of Solano County thereby allowing them to become better informed and empowered to participate in the voting process. Membership has become a focus of each of our events and is promoted throughout the year.

We hold periodic events to support and engage our members. On October 29, 2023, we held a membership event called Each One Reach One, at the Rock Creek Vineyard in Fairfield. We had over 40 people in attendance and were able to successfully add several new members to our chapter. Mitch Mashburn was our guest speaker and he presented information about the Flannery Project (California Forever) and helped facilitate a lively discussion among members and guests.

Meetings: This committee was folded into the work of all committees and events. We do not have specific meeting times.

LWVSC Youth Outreach Report (2024-2025)

Contact Information: alicefired89@gmail.com

LWV Call to Action: to increase youth engagement in the political process. In addition to responding the League's direct call to action, the LWVSC's Youth Outreach goals are to 1) use League programs, activities and resources to prepare students to enter adulthood and society as responsible citizens respectful of humanity, individual dignity and with a community mindset; and 2) to provide groundwork or frame-of-reference for ongoing political engagement; 3) increase league membership with knowledge about its resources used to protect our fragile democracy.

LWVSC's Action Response: Created Democracy Matters: LWVSC Civics Education Program (DM) and entered a partnership with Solano Youth Coalition (SYC); Travis Education Center (TEC); Mare Island Technical School (MIT); Golden Hills Alternative School; Parent Training Learning Institute (PTLI) and ARC Solano, to provide Solano students/citizens hands-on, project-based, civics learning activities that inform how democracy works by demonstrating what citizens must do to make it work in the local government setting.

The training and project-based learning activities of three hallmark league programs offered to students are:

1) Observer Corps Training (OCT)

Demonstrates how to attend, observe, and participate in local governing boards and agency meetings. The OCT hands-on activity in 2024 is the mock city council meeting.

2) Forum Training

Emphasizes the importance of an informed citizens and demonstrates how to plan and conduct a forum not only to encourage students to attend candidate and issue/policy information forums, but how to organize and present their own forums using the rules of engagement and civility practices used by the historic League of Women Voters.

3) Voter Training

Shows participants not only how to register to vote, but how to cast an informed vote, i.e. how to access all voter related information such as ballot drop off posts, in-person voting venues, biographies and voting records of candidates, information on propositions, etc. Also, in this training, DM collaborator—Office of the Registrar of Voters—supplies voting equipment and technology to enhance the impact of a hands-on experience of this civics-learning activity.

These activities are designed to give students a better understanding of how government systems work; to get students involved in community issues; and to provide useful league tools and resources on how to participate in the process of debating, electing, governing and consensus building.

The Value of Collaboration

In addition to partnerships with the aforementioned learning institutions, collaborative partners include:

- a) Local elected officials who provide personal and practical insights on the role they play as well as information on procedures and processes required to instigate issue solutions and policies that impact collective thereby individual day-to-day life experiences in our communities.
- b) Voter Registrar – provide students/citizens hands-on training on how to register voters, how to vote and how to access official voting information and services. Training includes how to use voting technology and equipment; viewing of how votes are counted; as well as training and the opportunity to be a poll worker.
- c) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority – adopts a poll and engages DM youth trainees as poll workers during elections.

2024-2025 LWVSC Youth Outreach Activities and Upcoming Projects:

So far, in 2024, DM has delivered OCT training to MIT, ARC and TEC student participants with mock council meetings in Fairfield, Suisun City and Vallejo. Upcoming projects include Voter Training at MIT, ARC, TEC and PLTI.

In partnership with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, DM civics curriculum will be offered to incarcerated students at the Evergreen Academy.

A desired consequence of our Democracy Matters Civics Education program is its expansion capability to other leagues. The first of which is the Youth Empowerment Summit scheduled for April 20, 2024, in Ukiah, CA. This event is the result of our (LWVSC) collaboration with the Mendocino League and the recently organized Northern California Youth Coalition, a 60-member group of high-school leaders from 30 counties.

Respectfully submitted by
Alice Fried

Program Planning and Events Committee:

Responsibilities: The Program Planning and Events Committee (PP&E) plans and implements a wide range of activities at monthly meetings that reflect the program priorities established by the league locally and on a state and national level.

Members Included: Janice Adams, Craig Paterson, Alice Fried, Carole Paterson, Rami Muth, Sarah Chapman, Charlene Hummel, KC Nash

Contact Information: Janice Adams janiceadams1775@yahoo.com

Highlights from the year:

- The guest speaker for our General Meeting in June was our own Alice Fried, creator and leader of our award-winning *Democracy Matters* program along with administrators of the Solano Youth Coalition (SYC), Rebecca Floyd and Johanna Nowak-Palmer, and SYC students. They discussed the SYC, Democracy Matters and the impact this program has had on their lives. The Democracy Matters program actively engages youth in local government.
- Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber was our guest speaker at an event held at the Solano Community College along with Alice Fried and a panel of young people from Democracy Matters. The forum was focused on increasing civic engagement of today's youth and ways to increase youth voting.
- Mitch Mashburn was the guest speaker at the member gathering in the vineyard at Rock Creek Vineyard in October. He discussed the Flannery/California Forever Project and its potential impact on Solano County. This was an informational meeting and offered a time for audience interaction.
- Craig Paterson led a three-part series on Banned Books. The focus was on Ali Velshi's Banned Book podcast. Participants discussed a total of twelve banned books, the reasons for their being banned and ideas for promoting the right to read.

GREAT DECISIONS 2023 -2024

Niles Medders and Judy Potter Co-Chairs Contact information: greatdecisions.bpl@gmail.com

GREAT DECISIONS AND GREAT DECISIONS EXTENSION are programs cosponsored by the League of Women Voters Solano County and the Benicia Public Library. The League of Women Voters Benicia first sponsored the Great Decisions program in 2010. The Benicia Public Library joined us as cosponsors in 2015. We have provided this program to the membership and the public for 14 years and jointly with the Benicia Public Library for the last nine of those years. The program consists of two parts. GREAT DECISIONS occurs February through early April. We meet weekly on Monday evenings to view the Great Decisions Master Class DVD provided by the Foreign Policy Association. We purchase a classroom set of Great Decisions Briefing books which contain chapters on each of the 8 timely global issues which are also covered in the Master Class DVD. We encourage participants to purchase a briefing book and read the chapter weekly. We provide a weekly email with suggested books, articles, and or videos relevant to the week's topic. We then watch the Master Class presentation as a group and have an informal discussion following the DVD presentation. The material we read, view, and discuss helps us to become more informed citizens. Topics covered this year were: Mideast realignment, Climate technology, Science across borders, U.S. – China trade rivalry, NATO's Future, Understanding Indonesia, High Seas treaty, and Pandemic preparedness. We had 47 people sign our attendance roster which means each of those people attended at least one meeting. We had an average attendance of 19.5 participants at the library with a high of 25 and a low of 15. In addition, we provided a zoom link where we had an average 9 participants, a high of 11 and a low of 6. We averaged approximately 28 people per meeting when Zoom and in Library figures were added together. We had a group of 26 people who attended four or more of our meetings. Of the people on our attendance roster 10 were current League members. The second part of our program is GREAT DECISIONS EXTENSION. It meets monthly June

through October on the 3rd Mondays of the month. It was developed out of the interest of people in the Great Decisions group to continue meeting, learning, and discussing topics of interest. This group does not limit itself to topics of global interest but will consider anything of general interest to the group. Usually, we focus on current events. We are scheduled to begin our first meeting of 2024 at the Benicia Public Library on June 17th at 7:00 pm. We solicit topics from our current members and ask people to rank their interest in different topics. We have received some very interesting suggestions for June but have not yet selected the topic. Last year (2023) Artificial Intelligence, and the Flannery Project were two of the topics we covered.

