



**May—June 2023** <https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which neither supports nor opposes candidates or political parties. We encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and action.

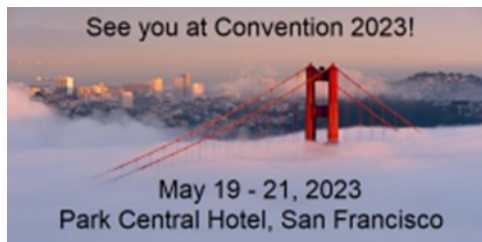
## LWV SOLANO COUNTY CALENDAR

Please watch for updates to these events, as things change from time to time. Many LWV Solano meetings take place on Zoom unless otherwise noted.

**Benicia-Vallejo AAUW Event *Closing the Gap* How to recruit viable candidates for winnable districts.**

Wednesday, May 3rd, 7 pm, Dona Benicia Room – Benicia Public Library – 150 East L Street, Benicia, CA 94510. See details below.

**Great Decisions 2023.** The formal GD series is over but our own local Extension starts in June, details below and on our website. For information about Great Decisions Extension, please email: [lwvsolano@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsolano@gmail.com) Att: Great Decisions



**League of Women Voters of California Convention 2023.** San Francisco, Friday, May 19, 2023 - 10:00 am to Sunday, May 21, 2023 - 12:45 pm. For information visit: <https://lwc.wordpress.com/>

### **LWV Solano Annual Meeting - Board Election and Democracy Matters-Solano Youth Coalition**

**Presentation.** Thursday, June 1st, 5:30-7:30 pm Hybrid in person and via Zoom and at the Solano Health Hub, upper level, Solano Town Center, 1350 Travis Boulevard, Fairfield. Information packet is available on our website at: <https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/event/lwv-solano-county-annual-meeting-board-elections-and-special-presentation>

This is our most important meeting of the year where LWVSC Members vote to elect the new Board of Directors, approve the 2023-2024 budget, and confirm our local League's positions and programs.

**We must have a quorum** in order to conduct business, so **your attendance is crucial!**

**Bay Area League Events.** <https://my.lwv.org/california/bay-area/calendar>

## Note from our President

Carole Paterson

Yikes! Another year almost finished for our League...in **early May you will be receiving our Annual Meeting materials** with the agenda, committee reports and our slate of officers and directors for our 2023-24 program year.



A year goes by so quickly and **we sometimes forget all that has been done in that space of time as we continue to move forward month by month.**

This year we **saw our membership climb to 73** members and believe me, as we approach the 2024 election cycle, we will need as many members as possible to join in preparing for and participating in the variety of voter education events and candidate forums which will be planned for across our county.

**Your assistance is necessary to be able to accomplish everything needed to support our voter education plans.**

We are **on the cusp of becoming a 501c3 non-profit organization.** This identification provides us the freedom to seek donations and grants and does not jeopardize our ability to advocate for those issues we have established as our program priorities. **Many thanks to Judy Potter, Treasurer, for completing the application for this designation of our League.**

**Membership increase** is a goal for our organization which I hope can also be each member's goal. There are many people in our county that are looking for ways to get involved in their community—all they need is an invitation from members to become a vital member of our team.

Plus, we have **program priorities** that may be just what they are concerned about and have not found a way to have their voice heard.



## We Thank You

A special "thank you" to **Sandy Coury**, who is stepping off the board at the end of this program year. Her years of service on the board leading the Communications committee has resulted in terrific media coverage for our League. Sandy will continue to be part of the Communications team.

And another "thank you" to **Kathy Savage**, who has been our diligent secretary even though she loathed

Zoom—you will be missed!

Lastly, a shout out to our current **Board of Directors**. What a great group of leaders they have been and so great to work with during this past year. Thanks to all!

## REFLECTIONS FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

Rami Muth



“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much” Helen Keller

We are living in very challenging times. Each day I read about a new mass shooting, or someone being shot for ringing the wrong doorbell or driving into the wrong driveway. My heart aches for these seemingly endless acts of violence. My great nephews are students at Covenant School in Nashville where a recent mass shooting took place. I watched that event unfold in real time as my family’s text chain kept us informed about what was happening at the school. I shudder to think about what those children were forced to endure while hiding in a storage closet with their classmates and teachers. I can only imagine the horror of fleeing the building while listening to the sounds of the

AR15 around them.

This is not a philosophical conversation for me. This is real. I share this story with you because this is my WHY. This is one of many issues that guides me to this work. Today’s article is a Call to Action. It is my hope that we can continually engage our membership in the powerful work of the league so that each person can identify their WHY.

While common sense gun legislation or criminal justice may not be issues that resonate with you, perhaps one of the other priorities we have identified will. The following are the key priorities that the Solano chapter of the League of Women Voters have identified for 2023-2024.

**Priority #1- Racial Inclusiveness/Justice/Equity**

**Priority #2 – Making Democracy Work - Voter Rights/Education**

**Priority #3 - Climate Change with a focus on water**

**Priority #4 - Criminal Justice**

Each of us has our own story about why we chose to spend our time and our resources in the way that we do. My **WHY** guides me to be part of this organization, the League of Women Voters, so that collectively we can help make democracy work for all people. I hope you will join us in this important work.

**WHEN** We will hold our Annual Meeting on Thursday June 1st from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. The meeting will be held in person, but you may also join via zoom if you prefer. Alice Wilson-Fried and members of the Solano Youth Coalition will be sharing information about our Youth Outreach Program, which is designed to encourage a new generation of civic-minded citizens to collaborate and advocate for safe and healthy choices that impact them and their communities.

**WHERE** The meeting is being held in-person at the Solano Community Health Hub located in the northeast corner of the Fairfield Mall, 2<sup>nd</sup> level at 1451 Gateway Blvd. in Fairfield.

If you prefer, feel free to join us on Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4537073149>

Meeting ID: 453 707 314

The Annual Meeting information packet is available on our website at:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/event/lwv-solano-county-annual-meeting-board-elections-and-special-presentation>

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” Malala Yousafzai

# Closing the Gap -

## For Women in Solano County

### **Benicia-Vallejo AAUW Event**

***How to recruit viable candidates for winnable districts***

**7 pm Wednesday, May 3**

**Dona Benicia Room – Benicia Public Library – 150 East L Street, Benicia, CA 94510**

Speaker:



***Susannah Delano*** joined Closing the Gap CA as Executive Director in January 2018. She has worked for over 15 years to promote the good health and empowerment of women and challenged communities throughout California. She is grounded in a commitment to move the needle on issues of racial justice, gender equity, and larger inclusivity.

Close the Gap California is a statewide campaign to achieve gender balance in the California Legislature by recruiting progressive women to run. The organization recruits accomplished women in targeted districts and prepares them to launch competitive campaigns. Recruits are pro-choice, pro-public school funding and support paths out of poverty.

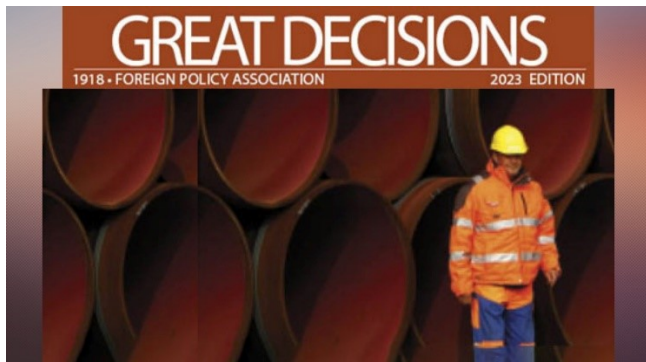
The program will describe how Close the Gap applies strategic targeting of legislative districts. The effort starts with a detailed analysis of legislative districts to determine open or winnable seats. Close the Gap develops district profiles based on demographic information, voting data and legislative priorities. Then the search starts for progressive women leaders that best fit the district.

**FREE – Open to all**

**For more information: [bvaauw@gmail.com](mailto:bvaauw@gmail.com) - <https://beniciavallejo-ca.aauw.net/>**



## GREAT DECISIONS 2023 EXTENSION (GDE)



Planned for June through October 2023

Great Decisions Extension (GDE), our monthly current events program, is in the planning stages. **We are soliciting input from anyone who is interested in participating** in our discussion series.

GDE is an informal discussion group made up of participants of the LWV Solano County's Great Decisions program, who wish to continue to meet and discuss current topics of interest. All are welcome. No need to have previously participated in Great Decisions.

Members of the group make suggestions about possible topics, books, articles, videos or podcasts we might wish to explore. We take a poll and select the topics that generate the most interest. Topics suggested to date include reading the book *Authoritarian Moment* by Ben Shapiro. It is a look from a very conservative view, possibly very interesting to learn about. Another suggestion is to discuss Matthew Desmond's 3/23 book, *Poverty, by America*. Desmond's 2017 book *Evicted* won the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction. Desmond is a Princeton sociologist who explores why poverty remains at a higher level in the U.S. than other peer countries. There are a number of 30 – 60-minute YouTube interviews of Desmond available online to view to learn about the book.

We anticipate meeting monthly, probably 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays which is when we meet last year. If that works for most participants, we will continue that schedule, June through October, 7:00 PM. We plan to meet via Zoom.

We are soliciting input from anyone who is interested in participating in our discussion series. We will finalize the meeting schedule, Zoom vs. in person, and our topics as we receive input from interested potential members.

**If you are interested in joining our group please email [lwvsolano@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsolano@gmail.com), attention Niles Medders, to be added to our contact list and receive information about meetings, topics and the Zoom link for meetings.**

**Hear what our members say about Great Decisions at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qm6ZuRoLmfQ>**

### TEST YOUR LEAGUE KNOWLEDGE

*When did the League vote to allow men as members?*

**Answer on page 8.**





## VOTER SERVICES AND ELECTIONS

The Voter Services team is gearing up for 2024 election activities and is seeking additional members for this most important League committee. All are invited to our monthly meetings. For more information, contact Carole Paterson, LWVS President at [mvjocarole@yahoo.com](mailto:mvjocarole@yahoo.com).



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE —Volunteers needed!

Chaired by our VP, Rami Muth, the Membership Committee connects with members, opens doors for our League and for our other committees. We continue to work to engage diverse communities throughout Solano County, raising awareness of the League and all we have to offer.

The committee is also focusing on improving our new and renewing membership tracking and onboarding process to provide members with engaging messaging and volunteer opportunities.

The committee meets monthly and we invite you to join us. For more information email [lwvsolano@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsolano@gmail.com) Att: Rami.

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Please welcome –

**Our new Communications Committee Chair, KC Nash!** KC will be taking over the chair from Sandy in June, Sandy will continue to be an active part of the committee.

**Our new committee members, Dave and Karen Avery.** Dave and Avery have already been active helping with videography and interviews for our Democracy Matters program.

Current team members are Alice Fried (Co-Chair), KC Nash (Chair starting in June and PR), and Linda Stewart (Social Media), Dave and Karen Avery, Sandy Coury (website and newsletters). Our team is responsible for our League's press releases, emails, newsletters, social media, our website, blogs, and more. We're always looking for new members and welcome your participation, feedback, and suggestions, please email us at [lwvsolano@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsolano@gmail.com) Att: Communications.



### GET INVOLVED

Many important Volunteer activities are available to suit your skills and time – from just an hour or two a month or more. **To volunteer, please email [lwvsolano@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsolano@gmail.com) Att: Rami.**

## DEMOCRACY MATTERS CIVICS PROGRAM



Forum panelists: Dr. Damon Wright, Superintendent, Benicia USD; Brian Dolan, Superintendent, Dixon USD; David Bowen III, School Board President, Dixon USD, Dr. Valerie Garrett, Director of Educational Options, Solano County Office of Education

On Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, the **Solano Youth Coalition (SYC)** held the **first Student-Led Education Forum** using League principles and training provided by the LWV Solano Democracy Matters program.

This extraordinary forum was a collaboration between SYC and the Solano County League of Women Voters. All forum activities were led and implemented by SYC students and was attended by Solano residents and government officials, members of the Vacaville PALS program, and many SYC parents. The forum was sponsored by the Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) grant.



We'll have more details for you on this forum in an upcoming newsletter. In the meantime, you can get a quick peek from this video on the LWV Solano YouTube Channel at <https://youtube.com/shorts/7JpZ2mVydal>

**GET THE LATEST ON THE LWV SOLANO COUNTY FACEBOOK PAGE AND BE SURE TO "LIKE" US AND "SHARE"!**



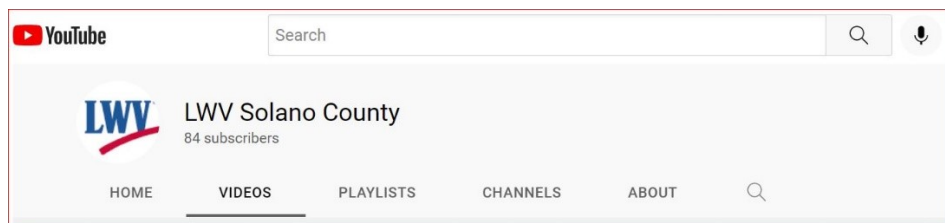
No need for an account or login, just click here or visit our homepage:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/article/visit-lwv-solano-facebook-page-right-here>

## Discover the LWV Solano YouTube Channel Video Library and Subscribe!

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If you missed one of our events, want to watch it again, or share a recording with friends and community, be sure to visit. Here is a sampling of the videos you'll find:



### TEST YOUR LEAGUE KNOWLEDGE

**May 8, 1974** — League of Women Voters agreed, by 969 to 433 vote, to end its long-standing policy of barring full membership to men.



## LWV BAY AREA BOARD BRIEFS & MONITOR

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Sherry Smith, President, League of Women Voters of the Bay Area invites all League members to attend LWVBA Board meetings and subscribe to the Bay Area Monitor newsletter. LWVBA website <https://my.lwv.org/california/bay-area-league> Access the Bay Area Monitor Notes at [bayareamonitor.org](http://bayareamonitor.org)



## OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEES

To contact our Officers, Board, and Committee Coordinators please email: [lwvsolano@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsolano@gmail.com).

### Officers

President, Carole Paterson  
Vice President, Rami Muth  
Treasurer, Judy Potter  
Secretary, Kathleen Savage

### Board Directors and Committee Chairs

Janice Adams, Board & Fundraising Chair  
Sarah Chapman, Board Member-at-Large  
Sandy Coury, Board & Communications Chair  
Alice Fried, Board & Civics Program  
Barbara King, Board Member-at-Large  
Rami Muth, Membership Chair  
Craig Paterson, Board & Program Planning Co-Chair  
Margo McGlone, LWV Bay Area Representative for LWVSC

## FOLLOW US AND LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

### LWV SOLANO ONLINE

Our website: [lwvsolanocounty.org](http://lwvsolanocounty.org)

**YouTube** [Subscribe to our LWV Solano County Channel](#) **Be sure to Subscribe!**

Email us at: [lwvsolano@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsolano@gmail.com)

**Get the Latest News on the**  
[LWV Solano County Facebook Page](#)  
**Be sure to 'Like', 'Follow', and Share**

**And be sure to visit the LWV Solano County pages on**  
[LinkedIn](#)

## Voter Newsletter

Leslie Lessenger, Sandy Coury, Alice Fried

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS GUIDELINES

Due by the 23rd of the month

Email submissions to Sandy Coury,  
[sandycoury@gmail.com](mailto:sandycoury@gmail.com)

### Content must be League Business Only

Include What, Where, When, and Why in first paragraph.

Length should be 200 words or less.

Please use WORD; Calibri 12 pt. is preferred.

Simple formatting only.



**Board, General, and Committee meetings** are being held via Zoom at this time. Members are always welcome. Email [LwvSolano@gmail.com](mailto:LwvSolano@gmail.com) for Zoom information.