

SUMMER 2022

Coming Events:

September 17 and 24: Voter Education Tabling at Woodland Farmers Market

September 20: National Voter Registration Day

September 21: Members Mixer/Presentation on Mental Health Study

October: Forum(s) for Woodland Unified School District Board of Trustees

November 8: Midterm Election

December: Holiday Party



Board Meetings:

September 13, 1:30pm

October 11, 1:30pm

November 8, 1:30pm

December 13, 1:30pm

All Board meetings are via Zoom until further notice. Please contact President Karen Urbano at woodlandleague2021@gmail.com if you would like to attend an upcoming Board meeting. We encourage members to attend Board meetings and hope you will not only attend from time to time but also provide feedback about meeting times.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our League News

- President's Message
- September 21: Members, Cookies & More!
- Meet Your Board
- Voter Services Update
- Busy Summer
- Better Know Your Ballot
- Generous Donors
- Membership – New & Renew

Our League History

- Family History and Women's Right to Vote
- Still Fighting
- Our Thanks to Those Who Serve

State/National League and Community News

- State News
- National News

Stay in Touch

- Woodland League Website - Members Only Access
- Woodland League Board



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Karen Urbano

We have a great year planned and you will want to be part of it.

The midterm election will happen on November 8 and you will want to take part in voter forums to help you choose who you will vote for in contested races.

Additionally, there will be several propositions/initiatives on the ballot. Below is an article about upcoming voter services activities/resources as well as one about how you can access information online to help in your decisions. Most important is that you vote and encourage your fellow citizens to vote.



As our League starts our new year of activity, I want to express my thanks to your fantastic board. We got off to a great start with an in-person retreat in July facilitated by Lorna Carriveau to outline all of the ideas and tasks that we hope to tackle in the next year, from voter services to hosting events attended by many members. How do you want to get involved? Assist with tabling at an event? Register new voters? Attend one of our Zoom board meetings to get the inside scoop?

Norma DeLiberty has joined our board to direct voter services and has great plans. In an election year it is so important that we encourage voter turnout and help to register more voters. Carla Cox will continue to keep our spending on track and has been coaching Norma on voter services resources and activities. Judy Wohlfrom is Vice President in charge of membership and has plans on new ways to welcome new members. If your membership is due for renewal, you will find a downloadable renewal form to fill out and send out along with your check at this link: **2022-2023 Annual Membership Form**. Or go to our website by clicking on this link - <https://my.lwv.org/california/woodland> - and join using PayPal. Doing double duty, Judy also will be coordinating our public events, making sure our displays are eye-catching and informative. See below for information about our upcoming all-members meeting in September. Lorna Carriveau continues to put together our issues of THE VOTER newsletter and serve as Secretary. In addition, she will be writing press releases informing the community of our many activities and is creating a new Facebook page for our league. Talk about double duty! And Janet Ruggiero will be heading up our new study on mental health. You'll learn more below about the special members meeting in September discussing this new study.

So where do you want to contribute your time? Register voters? Become an observer to local government? Join the mental health study? I hope you will step up. The first step is to provide your phone and email information on your membership renewal. We need you!



SEPTEMBER 21: MEMBERS, COOKIES & MORE

Our league is hosting its first Members Mixer of the year in Woodland on Wednesday, September 21, from 5:30 to 8:00pm. This is a great opportunity for league members and their guests to meet and better get to know each other as well as chat with board members about upcoming activities. In addition, Studies/Positions Director Janet Ruggiero will be presenting on our new mental health study.

Janet Ruggiero and Elizabeth Kemper received the Grace Hefner award in 2021 for their outstanding work conducting a study on the needs of unhoused people in the Woodland area and developing our league position. You can review the results of their work at this link: [Woodland League Housing Position](#).

A light dinner of salads, non-alcoholic beverages and *cookies!* will be available during the mixer. Attendance is limited to no more than 40 guests, so you must RSVP no later than **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**, via email to woodlandleagueneeds@gmail.com or by calling Events Director Judy Wohlfrom at (707) 315-1229. You will be notified then about the location and any other updated information.

Again, please RSVP soon since attendance is limited; parking also is limited so carpooling is encouraged. We look forward to seeing you!

MEET YOUR BOARD

Our thanks to returning and new Board of Director members. Here's a bit of information about each:

Karen Urbano (President): I joined the League of Women Voters of Woodland around ten years ago and first became involved in the water study, as environmental issues were highest on my radar then. I was so impressed with this group of women that I stayed, becoming ever more aware of the importance of keeping our fingers on the pulse of government as well as encouraging others

to do the same. What is the best way to do this? By being sure to vote in every election – local, state or national – and encouraging others to do the same. Our democracy depends on it.

Judy Wohlfrom (Vice President/Events Director): After retiring, moving back to Woodland and finishing my tenure with the Yolo County Grand Jury, I started looking for something to further my renewed acquaintance with the Woodland community. I saw an article in the newspaper announcing the annual dinner and thought I'd explore the dinner as an opportunity possibly join. Relatively speaking I am a newbie to the Woodland League but after researching the position studies and speaking with some of the members, I JOINED. It has been a lot of work, but I hope I am contributing in a positive way to further the LWV goals and to reassure the public in our democracy.

Carla Cox (Treasurer/Communications-Website Director): I'm a retired teacher and small business owner who enjoys gardening, reading, volunteering with Yolo Basin Foundation, and trips to the coast whenever possible! Several years ago, LWV Woodland member Laura Caruso-Kofoed invited me to attend a State of the Community Luncheon and join the league. In 2020, I was encouraged to get involved in voter services activities by then-president Pat Butler and that experience hooked me! I am now enjoying my role as Treasurer, but will continue assisting in voter services and other league activities going forward. This is a wonderful organization and I'm delighted to be part of it!



Carla Cox, Karen Urbano, and Judy Wohlfrom (l-r) staffing our league table at the Senior Resources Fair in May 2022.

Lorna Carriveau (Secretary / Communications-THE VOTER/Publicity/Social Media Director): I'm enjoying full retirement from over 40 years working in human resource management and administration. I now split my time between fly fishing, fencing, cooking, the Restorative Justice Partnership, Yolo County Grand Jury, and visits to grandchildren in Oregon and Idaho. I wanted to extend my ties to Woodland after moving here 30 years ago, so I joined the League in 2019 after attending a State of the Community luncheon. My love of writing and communication fits well with my roles on the board.





Norma DeLiberty (Voter Services Director) : Norma is a wife, grandmother and chair of the Voter Services committee. She has 40 years of experience in nonprofit management/fundraising in education, health and social service organizations. She values our democracy and the power of civic involvement.

Janet Ruggiero (Studies/Positions Director) : Janet is a founding member of the Woodland League, serving as president from 1976-1977 and more recently as well as in various board positions as needed. She has been a member of several professional organizations related to city planning, served as Board member of the League of California Cities, Mercy Housing California and Friends of the Mission, has trained school board members in eight states through the De La Salle Institute in Napa, and is helping Holy Rosary Parish to plan and build its new church. Janet worked for many years in city planning and community development in Yolo County, the cities of Woodland and Citrus Heights and was recognized as a Woman of the Year by State Senator Bill Dodd in 2020. Janet and Elizabeth Kemper most recently completed the housing study and position for our league and received the league's Grace Hefner award in 2021 for their efforts.



VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

By Norma DeLiberty

The League of Women Voters' core belief is that the freedom to vote is a nonpartisan issue. Voter Services is central to our work to empower voters and defend democracy.

In preparation for the midterm election on November 8, 2022, we are holding several voter registration and education events. One was held at Freeman Elementary on July 13. Two are scheduled for the Woodland Farmers Market at the corner of Court and First Streets from 9am to 12pm on Saturdays, September 17 and 24. In addition, we are planning Forums for Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustee candidates during the first two weeks of October. Stay tuned for more information about the dates, times and venues.

All these efforts rely on league members to serve as volunteers to organize the events, register voters and share election information. Roles or tasks range from developing forum questions to sitting at event tables. You can ensure the success of these outreach activities by contacting Norma at norma@deliberty.net to identify the right role or task for you and obtain resources that will help prepare you for it.

In the last census, California lost a Congressional District, still leaving the state with the largest U.S. Congressional Delegation (52 members). Our new districts were approved by California's Independent Citizen Redistricting Commission in December 2021. Website FiveThirtyEight shows the district changes and discusses their implications at this link: [FiveThirtyEight Redistricting](#).

The midterm election ballot for November 8, which you will receive after October 10, will include federal and state offices vividly shown on the Voters Edge website at this link: <https://votersedge.org/ca>. LWV Woodland is also purchasing 500 print copies of the Easy Voter Guide, in English and some in Spanish, to distribute at our Farmer's Market and other venues.

Locally, the Woodland Joint Unified School District will have several Governing Board Member Trustees on the ballot. They will be the focus of our October Forum(s):

- Area 2: Jake Whitaker, Incumbent, vs Emily MacDonald;
- Area 6: Morgan Childers, Incumbent, vs Garret Wright; and
- Area 7: Rogelio Villagrana, Incumbent, vs Catherine Saeturn.

Area 1 held by Deborah Bautista Zavala is uncontested.

Most other local races are uncontested, including the Yolo County Board of Education's Governing Board Members:

- Trustee Area 1 held by Elizabeth Esquive;
- Trustee Area 2 held by Melissa Moreno;
- Trustee Area 4 held by Shelton B. Yip; and
- Trustee Area 5 held by Armando Salud-Ambriz. (Long-time league member Carol Souza Cole is stepping down from service as the Trustee for Area 5.)

Jesse Ortiz, Yuba Community College Governing Board Member, Area 5, is also running uncontested.

Woodland City Council has two uncontested races:

- District 1 held by Rich Lansburgh; and
- District 3 held by Tania Garcia-Cadena.

We hope you find this information useful and that you'll contact Norma soon to help with our registration. Democracy needs all hands-on board.



By Judy Wohlfrom

Our League has been busy over the summer reminding individuals to register to vote. Like last spring when we were set up at the Woodland Farmers' Market, in front of the City Library, reminding everyone to register to vote for the primary election. We will be [wo]manning (pun intended) the same spot September 17

and 24, encouraging passers-by to vote in the Midterm Election. Norma DeLiberty, Voter Services Director, may be calling on you to help promote this goal.

In addition to the Farmers' Market, the League had tables at the Senior Center's Resource Fair and at the United Way's Yolo County Family Festival over the past few months. These were great opportunities to speak to individuals of all ages about their concerns regarding voting integrity, prerequisites to vote, citizenship, as well as registering to vote. The Family Festival particularly brought a lot of younger adults to our table interested in voting. The free toys and snacks for their children or grandchildren - as seen in the photo - could have been another factor in our popularity.

These events not only are a great way to promote our League, but also to hear others' stories about the importance of voting to their lives. For example, adults who have just achieved citizenship and are excited about being able to vote for the first time, or those who, while they may not yet to eligible to vote, are committed to ensuring their children can vote.

Many thanks to all our volunteers, ready with loads of answers and friendly smiles to encourage the public to stop by and speak with us about the League and voting. Good Work, everyone!

BETTER KNOW YOUR BALLOT

As you know, the November election is right around the corner. Many of us are looking forward to receiving our ballots, then turning to various resources, such as newspapers and other media outlets, state information pamphlets, friends and colleagues, to better understand the candidates and ballot measures before voting.



Get the facts before you vote.

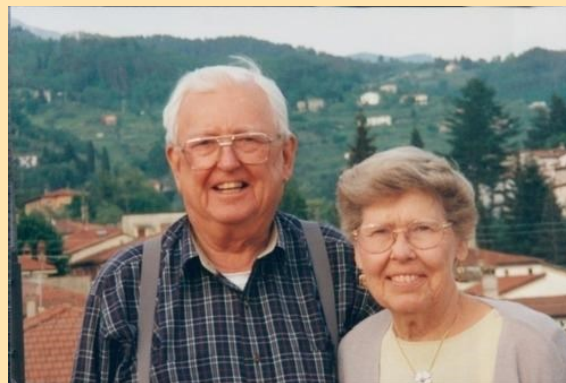
Two resources you might consider sharing with family and friends are easily

available online. The first is the Secretary of State's web page (link: <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>) which provides information and links so someone can register to vote, pre-register or check their registration status – in 10 different languages. Sharing this link with a friend, colleague, cousin, or grandchild who is or shortly will be eligible to vote in this or the next election might be just the encouragement they need.

The second resource is Voter's Edge, which you can access either at its website (link: <https://votersedge.org/ca>) or through our State league's website. As noted in State News below, information about candidates and ballot measures for your district and California will be available starting September 5 and updated thereafter. After inputting your zip code, you will get a personalized list of candidates with useful information, such as their biographies, top priorities and supporters, as well as descriptions of each California ballot measure and who is spending money for and against each measure. The website also allows you to check where, when and how to vote, keep track of your choices, and track your ballot to see when it was mailed, received or counted.

Our league also is purchasing a limited number of Easy Voter Guides, published by the National League, for distribution at upcoming voter registration tabling events as well as making them available at high traffic sites around our community before the November 8 election. You can access the Easy Voter Guides yourself at this link - **Easy Voter Guide** - on or after September 4. The Guide is available in several languages.

A properly functioning democracy depends on an informed electorate. — Thomas Jefferson



GENEROUS DONORS

By Carla Cox

The League of Women Voters of Woodland recently received a generous bequest to our Education Fund from the estate of William (Bill) and Lois Linford. The board of directors would like to express our appreciation for the Linford's generosity, and their support of our work and the mission of the League of Women Voters. We also wish to thank their daughters who have been gracious and helpful in facilitating the transfer of the funds to our League.

Lois and Bill moved to Woodland following World War II. They were members of LWV Woodland for many years until they moved to the Santa Cruz area in 1999. Their daughter Ruth wrote:

“My parents were great believers in the democratic process, in the power of each individual's vote, and in their responsibility to work toward justice in whatever way they could. Community involvement was very important to both of them, and they were intensely interested in politics and government. Mom loved her work for the LWV in Woodland, and through it established close friendships over the years. Both their professional careers were in education, so it fits that they would want to support some type of educational endeavor.”

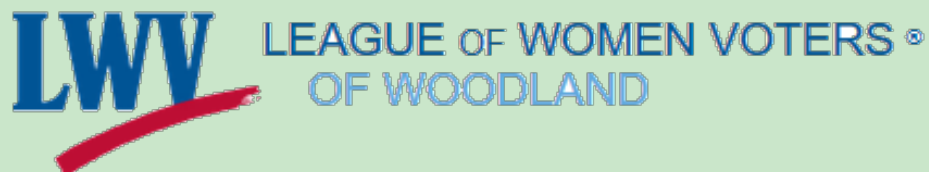
MEMBERSHIP: NEW & RENEW

September is when our league membership starts each year, so please join now or renew your membership. Our members give us the strength to continue our work to empower our citizens to make our communities better for all.

To join or renew, you can either complete the form available at this link – **Membership Form** – and mail the completed form with your check (payable to LWV Woodland) to LWV Woodland, P.O. Box 2463, Woodland, CA 95776. Or you can apply and pay online via PayPal at this link: **LWVW Join Form**.

Want to do more than just join? We encourage all of our members to help us in any way they wish – large and small – such as sitting at a tabling event, checking in with members, participating in a study, observing local government meetings, distributing voter registration materials, etc. Individuals can also donate directly to our Education Fund, a tax-deductible 501(c)3 fund, that allows us to support activities such as purchasing voter registration materials, conducting candidate forums, and maintaining our website. You can learn more about our Education Fund at this link - **LWVW Education Fund** - or by reviewing the information on the back of the application form.

Thanks for your ongoing support on behalf of our community!



OUR LEAGUE HISTORY



FAMILY HISTORY AND WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

By Lorna Carriveau (and Gil Walker)

Former member and friend of the Woodland League, Gil Walker, recently forwarded the image of a 1915 poster he had uncovered among his family belongings. Gil's grandparents moved from New Zealand to England in 1912 and became involved in social movements, such as women's right to vote. The poster was published by the Oakland Suffrage Amendment League at 314 Union Savings Bank Building, Oakland, California, and entitled "Votes for Women? The Woman's Reason." After each of the reasons noted below was the refrain "They should vote equally with men."

BECAUSE women must obey and laws just as men do;
BECAUSE women pay taxes just as men do;
BECAUSE women suffer from bad government just as men do;
BECAUSE mothers want to make their children's surroundings better;
BECAUSE over 5,000,000 women in the United States are wage workers and their health and that of our future citizens are often endangered by evil working conditions that can only be remedied by legislation;
BECAUSE women of leisure who attempt to serve the public welfare should be able to support their advice by their votes;
BECAUSE busy housemothers and professional women cannot give such public service, and can only serve the state by the same means used by the busy man – namely, by casting a ballot;
BECAUSE women need to be trained to a higher sense of social and civic responsibility, and such sense develops by use;
BECAUSE women are consumers, and consumers need fuller representation in politics;
BECAUSE women are citizens of a government of the people, by the people and for the people, and women are people.

The poster ends with:

"Equal Suffrage for Men and Women:

WOMEN need it.

MEN need it.

The STATE needs it.

WHY?

Women Ought to GIVE Their Help.

Men Ought to HAVE Their Help.

The State Ought to USE Their Help.”

Our thanks to Gil’s grandparents and all the men and women who have supported and continue to support women’s rights and our democracy.

On a personal note, Gil also shared that his grandfather wrote the temperance laws for both New Zealand and Australia in the early 1900’s, then emigrated to America so his young sons would not be drafted by the Crown to fight on behalf of the British. Gil’s father and uncle were too young to serve in World War I, then were employed in critical industry during World War II.

STILL FIGHTING

By Lorna Carriveau

Long-time member Laura Caruso-Kofoid has shared an article from Letters from an American discussing the 102nd anniversary on August 18, 2022, of the Tennessee Legislature’s narrow (50-49) ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution allowing women the right to vote and beyond. The article, which can be read in full at this link - [Heather Cox Richardson Article](#) - provides excellent information about the challenges all women faced in their fight for their right to vote and are still fighting to this day.



OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

Karen Urbano and Judy Wohlfrom went through some of the boxes in our storage unit some time ago to find helpful items and hidden treasures. One hidden treasure was a list of Woodland League's past presidents from 1974 to 1997, as follows:

1976-1977 Janet Ruggiero
1977-1979 Grace Hefner
1979-1980 Pauly Van Muyden

1974-1976 Cleo Gibson

1980-1982	Judy Simas
1982-1984	Meg Stallard
1984-1985	Gloria Halm
1985-1987	BJ Ford
1987-1989	Lois Linford/Nancy Rice
1989-1990	Eileen Racki
1990-1992	Nadine Noelting
1991-1994	Mary Lynne Ishikawa
1994-1995	Marie Bryan
1995-1996	Marie Bryan/Pat Murray
1996-1997	Pat Murray/BJ Ford

Another treasure was a poster commemorating our league's first president, Cleo Gibson, as follows:

CLEO GIBSON COMMENDATION

Resolution of the First Board of Directors
Woodland League of Women Voters
Commending Cleo Gibson
President 1975-1976

WHEREAS, Cleo Gibson was one of the principal leaders in organizing a LWV branch in Woodland, California, and
WHEREAS, Cleo Gibson was elected president of the embryonic provisional league because of her demonstrated presidential leadership qualities, and
WHEREAS, Cleo Gibson has clearly articulated the goals, policies and practices of LWV to the membership and the general public, and
WHEREAS, Cleo Gibson has selflessly spent her time and energy to establish the League in Woodland and through her diligence and direction the local branch achieved League status in record time, and
WHEREAS, Cleo Gibson's untiring efforts on behalf of the League have led to a new community awareness; now therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors does herewith commend Cleo Gibson and does further express their appreciation for her outstanding community service.

Approved this 6th Day of May, 1976.

Our Board would like to thank all past and present Board members as well as members at large who have informed and inspired voters and community members on a wide range of important topics. Some have passed on, as have Grace Hefner, Lois and Bill Linford and, most recently, Ardith Allread. Others have moved away or dropped their membership for various reasons. And many, such as past presidents Janet Ruggiero, Judy Simas and Meg Stallard, continue to support our efforts. Thank you!



STATE NEWS

November 8 Election: The League of Women Voters of California will publish its Voter's Edge, designed to explore key information about ballot initiatives, candidates' priorities, and other information, for the November 8 election starting September 5. More information will be added as available thereafter. When you receive your ballot in the mail, please consider clicking on this link – **Voter's Edge** – where you can type in your zip code, then access the most current ballot and other information. Helpful resource!

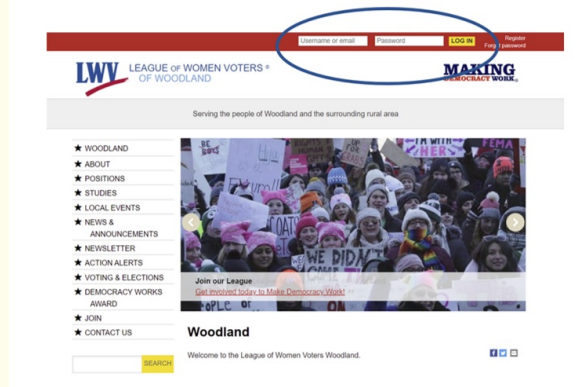
NATIONAL NEWS

National Convention: The national convention for the League of Women Voters took place in Denver, CO, from June 23 to 26. One of the highlights of the convention was a panel discussing the current state of democracy and women's role in advancing it. Click here - **Women Powering Democracy** - to read more about key points the panel members made as well as access reports relevant to those points.

Easy Voter Guides: If you or someone you know would like to review the League of Women Voters' "Easy Voter Guides," another resource in addition to the Voter's Edge published by the State league, click on this link: **Easy Voter Guides**. The guides for the November 8 election will be available starting September 4 and are designed to provide nonpartisan information to Californians about why we vote, how to vote and what will be on the mid-term election ballot.

Redistricting Update: As you know, California was one of only five states to involve communities in redistricting efforts in 2020/2021. The League of Women Voters' People Powered Fair Maps (PPFM) program has released its impact report highlighting the important of everyone's involvement in redistricting. Click on this link - **People Powered Fair Maps Report** - to read the 11-page report.

STAY IN TOUCH



WOODLAND LEAGUE WEBSITE – MEMBERS’ ONLY ACCESS

Below are instructions for league members to set up their “Members Only” site on our league website: <https://my.lwv.org/california/city-woodland>.

NOTE: Before starting this process, if you have more than one email account, be sure that you use the one you gave the league when you became a member.

Use this link - <https://my.lwv.org/user/password> - to reach the page that allows you to request a password. You will enter your own email address in the box as directed. As directed, “answer” the robot, then click in the yellow box at the bottom that says “e-mail new password”.

You will be sent an email message from My League Online. So, go to your own email In Box and follow the link/instructions from the email message there which will include further instructions, including:

- Click on the link;
- Fill out your new password as prompted. Your password must be at least 10 characters long and should combine both lower- and upper-case letters and characters;
- Fill in as much information in your profile as you would like on the profile;
- “Answer” the robot;
- Click SAVE.

This process has now logged you onto the league website; another name for the website you may occasionally see or read is MyLO. Make sure that you remember/store your password to the website. You will now have access to the “Members Only” section of our website. Click on the Members Only name in the upper right-hand corner of our home page, and you will be able to access the league’s Membership Roster, current By-Laws and other useful information.

WOODLAND LEAGUE BOARD

OFFICERS

- President: Karen Urbano

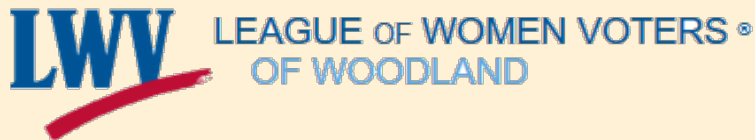
- Vice President: Judy Wohlfrom
- Secretary: Lorna Carriveau
- Treasurer: Carla Cox

DIRECTORS

- Voter Services/Registration: Norma DeLiberty
- Communications - THE VOTER/Publicity/Social Media: Lorna Carriveau
- Communications - Website Management,: Carla Cox
- Event Administration/Volunteer Coordinator: Judy Wohlfrom
- Studies/Positions: Janet Ruggiero
- Y.E.S. Liaison: **Vacant**

COMMITTEES

- Nomination Committee: Lucinda Talkington, Chair
- Budget/Finance: Judy Simas, Chair



**P.O. Box 2463
Woodland, CA 95776**

League of Women Voters of Woodland | P.O. Box 2463, Woodland, CA 95776

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