



What We're Up Against

Excerpted from LWVUS article



Because of Supreme Court decisions like *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, corporations can spend unlimited funds promoting individual candidates and political parties. As a result, elections are becoming increasingly expensive; the 2020 presidential election was the priciest to date, with costs estimated at over \$10 billion and small donors (those who spend less than \$200) accounting for a mere 22 percent of contributions. This puts big-money donors at a major advantage, as politicians look to gain and keep their financial support by promoting policies that meet their needs.

Further, *Citizens United* paved the way for the creation of **super PACs**: outside groups that can accept unlimited contributions from donors as long as they create their own independent advertisements and materials promoting certain candidates. For example, a super PAC can create a billion-dollar ad campaign promoting a certain candidate or issue, so long as they don't give that money to the candidate themselves.

Super PACs must technically disclose their donors, but those donors often include **dark money groups**. Dark money refers to money intended to influence election results from undisclosed sources. By having dark money donors, super PACs circumvent financial disclosure requirements. This allows a network of secret organizations to influence our elections without our knowledge.

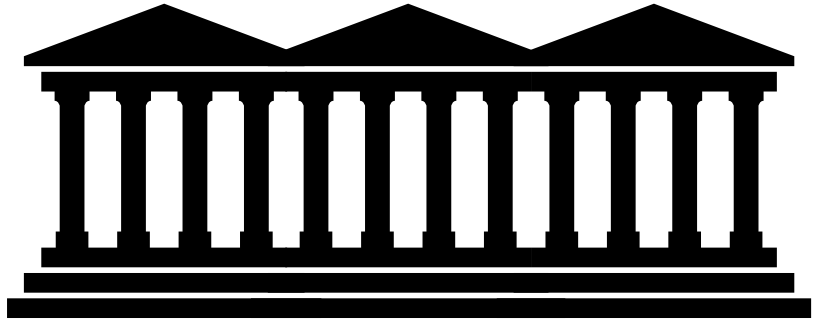
Despite *Citizens United*, every American should be able to see which corporations are spending money on which candidates, how that money is being spent, and how politicians are influenced by it. When we understand who is trying to influence our votes and how, elections operate with increased transparency and we have more information to inform our decisions. Eliminating dark money is an uphill battle, and we're using all of our resources to ensure that the people come out on top.

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Advocacy

by Richard Larsen



CONSTITUTION ARTICLE V

Article V is a call for a U.S. Constitutional Convention

A favorable vote of two-thirds of the States is required to call a convention; currently only about six more are needed. Each state gets only one vote on a constitution change no matter the population. Thereafter, a favorable vote of three-fourths of the states is required to pass a Constitution change.

A constitutional convention has never been called before, and there are no rules on how convention delegates are to be selected. Also, there are no rules on how the convention is to be run. Moreover, once a constitutional convention is convened, the entire U.S. Constitution is opened to changes. [See the Alert from LWVC on the next page.]

In August, both the LWVC and Common Cause California sent us requests for petitions against the use of Article V by Governor Newsom for a Gun Control addition to the constitution. Article V is a call for a Constitutional convention, allowing Constitutional amendments by Legislators; the voters have no input. These requests were distributed to our Advocacy Group Aug 24 for action. We apparently did not have an impact. On Sept 19, the LA Times published an article saying our lawmakers endorsed Newsom's request.

Then on Sept 22, we received a Common Cause Notice about a presentation on Sept 26, on the "Dangers of an Article V Convention" that was distributed to our Advocacy Group to sign up for if they were interested.

REDISTRICTING 2030

The LWVUS sent out a webinar notice entitled "Redistricting 2030: Laying the Groundwork Now" urging League members to join the LWVUS advocacy team and state redistricting leaders as we discuss ways to begin preparing for action and advocacy to insure a more transparent and fair redistricting cycle in 2030. Anyone who did not receive the notice and would like one, contact Richard Larsen rkajdane5@gmail.com.

ACTION REQUESTS IN SEPTEMBER DISTRIBUTED TO OUR ADVOCACY GROUP

AB764 & AB1248

We received a support Action Request from LWVC for AB764 and AB1248, bills about local redistricting to be voted on by our state legislators. They passed them both, and we received another Action Request urging our Governor to sign them into law.

ACA13

This measure would require ballot measures proposing to increase the number of votes needed to pass a measure, to also pass by the same increased number.

HR14

The House must pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.



LWVC Opposes Call for Constitutional Convention

by Kristy Oriol, LWVC

“Opening a Constitutional Convention puts every right, civil liberty, and underlying value of our country at risk. There are no limits or guardrails to what can be changed during a Constitutional Convention and it opens the door to well-funded special interests buying access to change the Constitution to serve their purposes” said Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters of California.

The uncertainty surrounding the nature of a Constitutional Convention cannot be understated. Former Chief Justice Warren Burger once expressed concerns about the ambiguity and danger, noting, “[T]here is no way to effectively limit or muzzle the actions of a Constitutional Convention. The Convention could make its own rules and set its own agenda. Congress might try to limit the Convention to one amendment or one issue, but there is no way to assure that the Convention would obey. After a Convention is convened, it will be too late to stop the Convention if we don’t like its agenda.”

Key concerns articulated by the LWVC include:

- **Threat to National Stability:** Advocating for a Constitutional Convention plunges the nation into an era of unparalleled tension, uncertainty, and protracted legal battles that might irreversibly alter America's trajectory.
- **Shift of Power from the People:** An Article V Convention would elevate the voices of politicians and special interests above those of ordinary people. Such a development could result in an unprecedented opportunity for the few to reshape the core principles of the country for the many.
- **Unbridled Convention Agendas:** Historical precedents caution that a Constitutional Convention might not restrict itself to its original mandate and every right that we have as Californians and Americans would be placed at risk.



Solar-Powered Houses with Net Zero Energy Use

by Gerri McNenny

The [Orange County Sustainability Decathlon](#), a competition among fourteen university teams to design and build solar-powered net zero energy houses, will take place at the Costa Mesa Fairgrounds on **Oct. 5-8 and Oct. 12-15**. The Orange County Sustainability Decathlon is an exciting new competition that promises to motivate and empower California's best and brightest to lead the state's transition to 100% renewable energy.

The OCSD challenges university teams to design and build model solar-powered homes that address climate change and California's housing needs. OCSD teams will showcase innovative, market-ready model homes to display in a sustainable village which will be open to the public. In addition, this event is a vehicle for K-12 students and the broader community to learn about the challenges that climate change poses.

Key information:

Location:

[Bus Routes to Orange County Fairgrounds](#)

Routes 47,55,71 and 178

OC Fair & Event Center
88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Entrance: The Main Mall
Building: OC Promenade & Lot I

Apropos of Nothing

There was an ascetic spiritual leader who followed a practice of extreme self-denial. For instance, he never wore shoes. He walked barefoot everywhere he went, no matter what. Also, he kept a very strict diet; he ate so little that he was actually weak from lack of food, and his breath was bad because of it. He came to be known as the super-calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

Lunch with League

Meet our guest speaker: **Elvia Susana Bubalcava**

Museum as Text: From Classroom to Gallery

Elvia Susana Rubalcava is a writer, filmmaker, teaching artist, and the executive director at the Fullerton Museum Center (FMC). Rubalcava has made significant contributions to arts leadership in Orange County and Los Angeles. In her tenure at FMC that began in July 2021, Rubalcava has received the Warrior Award from The Women's Club of Fullerton and was named Woman of the Year for District 5 by the City of Fullerton for her work in reviving FMC and creating diverse programs. This past spring, FMC was awarded Non-Profit of the Year by State Senator Josh Newman along with significant state funding to support FMC's future. Elvia holds a BA in Legal Studies with an emphasis in Peace Studies and Political Science from Chapman University.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NORTH ORANGE COUNTY

*MUSEUM AS TEXT:
FROM CLASSROOM TO GALLERY*

**ELVIA S. RUBALCAVA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FULLERTON MUSEUM CENTER**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
COYOTE HILLS GOLF
FULLERTON**



LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

Officers

President	Kristina Fruneaux
Vice-President	Deborah Vagts
Secretary	Bey-Ling Sha
Treasurer	Karen Bender

Special Events

Jennifer Trafford

Nominating Comm.

Jan Urban

Pearl Mann

Marcy Fry

Position Open

Directors

Action/Advocacy	Richard Larsen
Lunch w/ League	Betty Hammond
	Jennifer Trafford

Co-Membership	Marcy Fry
	Barbara Dunsheath

Co-Voter Service	Linda Lockwood
	Deborah Vagts

Speaker Committee	Kristine Dennehy
	Jodi Balma

Marketing/Publicity	Maggie Lee
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Voter Editor	Jim Hill
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Web Host	Ed Smith
	Maggie Lee

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Read with League

Past President

League Phone

League Mail Box

Student Outreach

Facebook

Pearl Mann

Karen Bender

Jodi Balma

Jodi Balma

Kristina Fruneaux

Betty Hammond

Observer Corps

Director

Fullerton

Vacant

Eileen Moore

MEMBER INFORMATION FOR 2022-2023

First Name	Last Name
Email Address	
Street Address	
City	Zip
Phone Number	Cell Number

MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DONATIONS

- Individual Membership @ \$85
- Two in a household @ \$120
- Free Student Membership
- Donation to the LWVNOC \$_____
- Renewal
- Renewal
- Renewal
- Donation to LWVC Education Fund \$_____
- New Member
- New Member
- New Member

PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Check enclosed (payable to LWVNOC)
- Credit card

Name on Credit Card	
Billing Address	City, Zip
Credit Card Number	
Expiration Date	Security Code

Please circle areas of interest for you and/or add a special interest to you:

Read with League	Education	Climate Change	Affordable Housing/ Homelessness
Observers	Action & Advocacy	Voter Services	Help with Technology/ Communications
Special Events Planning	Fund Raising	Field Trips	

Do you have any skills or background that would support any of these areas?

Yes No

Please send this completed form to:

League of Women Voters of North Orange County (LWVNOC)
PO Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834

