



Why Voting Rights Matter

The right to vote is one of the most basic promises of our democracy. In a democratic government, every person is considered equal and is empowered to both participate in their government and speak on the issues that impact their daily lives. Through our votes, we're able to express our values around concerns like health care, climate change, criminal justice, taxes, and so much more.

And yet our voting rights are under attack. Bills that make voting harder for women and Black and brown Americans, wealthy special interest groups that influence elections, and district maps that don't reflect our communities – these obstacles threaten our democracy. That's where the League's work comes in.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

19TH AMENDMENT TO THE US CONSTITUTION

What We're Doing

For more than 100 years, the League has fought to protect the rights of voters and expand access for those who've been left out of our democratic process. We do so through a combination of advocacy, litigation, education, partnerships, and grassroots efforts.



[See **Voting Rights Matter** on the next page]

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VOTE411

Our free, digital election resource provides state-by-state voter guides, registration information, candidate positions on issues, and more in both English and Spanish. In 2020, over 6 million people used [VOTE411](#) to find information on over 22,000 different races.

Voter Registration

Hundreds of Leagues across the country work within their communities to register voters, particularly those who've been historically disempowered in our democracy. At a national level, we've partnered with nonprofits like the American Library Association and companies like Target and Nando's to raise awareness around voting rules and resources.

Litigation

We're at the forefront of some of our nation's most consequential voting rights legal cases. In the courts, we work to secure and protect the right to early and mail-in voting, fight for fair representation in district maps, and push back against discriminatory laws and practices. In 2020, we protected over 25 million voters through litigation alone.

Advocacy

LWV supports grassroots efforts to empower voters across the country. From expanding voter education to passing pro-voter laws, we raise our voices and use our influence to strengthen the freedom to vote and build a fairer democracy.

**In 2020, we protected
25 million+ voters
through litigation**

**In 2020,
6 million+ people
used VOTE411**

Expanding Voter Access

We fight to increase voters' access to the polls, including expanding early voting and automatic and online voter registration.

[See **Voting Rights Matter** on the next page]



Voting Rights Matter (Continued from the previous page)

Redistricting

Redistricting, or community districting, is the process of creating representational district maps for states and local communities. By determining which neighborhoods are included in each mapped boundary, redistricting impacts how our communities are represented in the US and local government and determines how resources are distributed.



Money in Politics

We work to ensure that our government serves the people, not wealthy special interests, by promoting transparency, limiting SuperPACs, and eliminating dark money.



Fighting Voter Suppression

We protect every American's right to vote, challenging those who seek to restrict Black, brown, female, disabled, and other Americans from making their voices heard in our democracy.



President's Message

by Kristina Fruneaux, LWVNOC President

Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone! Just kidding, it's "only" March, but, of course, it's ALREADY March! This year is flying by, and our League has already seen a lot of action! Hopefully, most of you saw the SurveyMonkey that was sent out to our membership, asking for input on Focus Areas for the upcoming year. Climate Stability, Observer Corps, and Voter Services/ Making Democracy Work, were our three proposed Focus areas on the survey. All three proposed Focus Areas were approved by those who responded to the survey (Climate- 98% with 2 skips, Observer Corps- 100% with 4 skips, Voter Services- 100% with 1 skip). An open discussion was invited to take place at our Lunch With League meeting; there wasn't much discussion, and apparently no comments or concerns, because our proposed Focus Areas were given final approval with unanimous agreement.

Here is a small detail you may have noticed: While Voter Services has ALWAYS been a main aspect of our League, in the past, it was chaired by one person, who was responsible for setting up, coordinating, organizing volunteers, and running everything having to do with Voter Education (Candidate Forums, Pros and Cons, etc). Last Year, our past Chair, Linda Lockwood, coordinated with our current Chair, Jan Urban to create a functioning committee with several members, each taking responsibility for different parts of the whole job. It's a HUGE undertaking, and with this new organizational system in place, the sky is the limit on what our League can do! This year, we have collectively decided that Voting Rights, Voter Education, and all things Voter Services need to be elevated even higher and should be a main Focus Area, with all hands on deck. The upcoming election season in November is simply too important not to allocate as many resources (human and funds) as we possibly can to encourage and foster Democracy at the local level. You have probably heard Jan Urban share the updates as the Voter Services Committee has progressed over the past year. I can hardly wait to see all the great work that will be done in the next several months!

I would also like to take a moment to thank and congratulate Fullerton College and Jodi Balma for hosting and moderating the Orange County Board of Education Candidate Forum, initially at the request of the 4th District PTA. You may have heard that LWVNOC was planning on co-hosting this Forum with the 4th District PTA. Our Voter Services Committee sent out invitations to all six candidates (three incumbents, and three candidates running against the incumbents, one for each open seat). As the RSVP responses came in, it became clear that since the three incumbents declined to participate in person, leaving an "empty chair" for each seat, LWVNOC would not be able to host the Candidate Forum, due to conflicting guidance (at the local level) on the 501(c)3 non-profit rules which are mandated at the Federal level by the IRS for non-profit organizations for *Federal Elections*. The six candidates were therefore notified that Fullerton College would be hosting the *non-partisan* Candidate Forum instead, and Jodi Balma agreed to moderate. The three incumbents each submitted a statement which was read in the two minute timeframe allotted to all candidates to introduce themselves to the audience. The remaining three candidates participated in an interesting and dynamic Forum, each providing responses to questions put to them by the audience (and collected before the event). In my view, the Candidate Forum was a resounding success, and it is my true hope that in the future, all candidates will always want to be present for discussions with the electorate. Democracy works best when EVERYONE participates! If you missed it, the link to watch the recording of the Candidate Forum is HERE: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/k97_Z8vWXj_JZDG5G0gkYo40W08NX_4WprD9XOFFVVFXa-X7FVhOZCVuqWWvEDXg.w2cYzB3qFfOYd3kC

On one final note, our League is still looking for that special person who loves organizing events for a good cause. Our current Special Events Chairs, Jan Urban and Jennifer Trafford, are migrating (have migrated!) to Voter Services. If you think you would love helping to organize our annual fundraiser, the illustrious "Kickoff" event/ silent auction held in September, please reach out to either me or any one of our board members, or to Marcy Fry or Karen Bender (Nominating Committee). We would love to provide you with more information and details about what this position entails.

Have a beautiful, Lucky March and a Happy Saint Patrick's Day! Be sure to check out the rest of our newsletter for details on upcoming events and more!

Advocacy by Richard Larsen

The LWV Orange Coast is participating in this year's 36th annual Great American Write-in sponsored by WOMEN FOR: ORANGE COUNTY. If you are interested in attending, it is on March 9, 2024, at the Delhi Center at 505 E. Central Avenue in Santa Ana. Participating organizations have desks and information where you can write to the decision-makers who can make a difference in health, the environment, peace, human civil rights, and education. More detailed information and location about the event is contained in the [FLYER](#).



The Delhi Center in Santa Ana

Legislator Interviews

The effort to interview has finished without any interviews. The two legislators we tried to contact are Dave Min of District 37 and Phillip Chen of District 59. Senator Min's office responded positively to our request, but stated he could not do an interview that is not focused on the March 5 election until April or May.

Neither Assemblyman Chen nor his office responded to our letter, email, or phone call (indicating he had no interest in speaking with the LWV). Part of the problem in accomplishing the January/February interview task requested by LWVC is that at this time most legislators are preparing for the March 5 election.



Dave Min (D)
CA Assembly District 37



Phillip Chen (R)
CA Assembly District 59



Date and Time	Event	Details
Tuesday, March 12 at 1:30 pm	Read with League Zoom Meeting	Our book is Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism by Rachel Maddox. The reviewer is Marcy Fry.
Thursday, March 28 at 11:00 am	Lunch with League	Located at 1440 E. Bastanchury Road in Fullerton. Our speaker is Harriet Bouldin, Development Manager for the Fullerton Arboretum. Email to lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org for reservations by Sunday, March 24. The cost is \$28 per person.
Tuesday, April 9 at 1:30 pm	Read with League Zoom Meeting	Our book is Democracy Awakening by Heather Cox Richardson. The reviewer is Barbara Dunsheath.

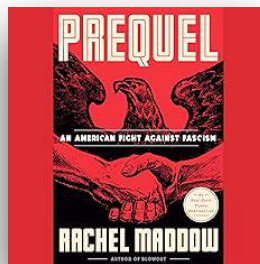
THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
HARRIET BOULDIN
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
FULLERTON ARBORETUM

THURSDAY
MARCH 28
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
COYOTE HILLS GOLF
FULLERTON

Harriet Bouldin serves as the Development Manager for Fullerton Arboretum with primary responsibilities of cultivating ongoing support for the Arboretum, strategic initiatives and increasing academic engagement. She works closely with volunteers to advance the Arboretum’s mission of environmental education in the community with a focus on K-12 education. Harriet has been a member of the Arboretum staff for 18 years and believes she has the best job in Southern California!

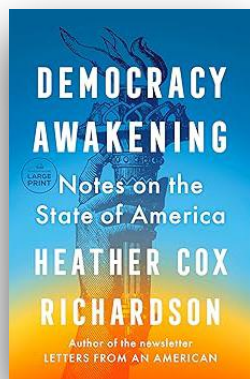
Read with League

March 12 We will review **Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism** by Rachel Maddox. Reviewer is Marcy Fry.



A historical account of how a network of far-right plotters tried to overthrow the U.S. government and align with the Nazis during World War II. The book reveals the role of elected officials, journalists, and activists who exposed and challenged the fascist threat.

April 9. We will read **Democracy Awakening** by Heather Cox Richardson. Reviewer is Barbara Dunsheath



In Democracy Awakening, Richardson crafts a compelling and original narrative, explaining how, over the decades, a small group of wealthy people have made war on American ideals. By weaponizing language and promoting false history they have led us into authoritarianism -- creating a disaffected population and then promising to recreate an imagined past where those people could feel important again.



LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

Officers

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

Special Events	Jennifer Trafford
	Jan Urban
Nominating Comm.	Pearl Mann
	Marcy Fry
	Karen Bender

Directors

Action/Advocacy	Richard Larsen
Lunch w/ League	Betty Hammond
	Jennifer Trafford
Co-Membership	Marcy Fry
	Barbara Dunsheath
Co-Voter Service	Linda Lockwood
	Jan Urban
Speaker Committee	Kristine Dennehy
	Jodi Balma
Marketing/Publicity	Maggie Lee
<i>Voter</i> Editor	Jim Hill
Web Host	Ed Smith
	Maggie Lee

Off-Board Directors

Read with League	Patricia Larsen
Past President	Pearl Mann
League Phone	
League Mail Box	Karen Bender
Student Outreach	Jodi Balma
Facebook	Jodi Balma
	Kristina Fruneaux
	Betty Hammond

Observer Corps

Director	Karen Bender
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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
- (Must be separate check made out to LWVCEF)

PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Check enclosed (payable to LWVNOC)
- Credit card

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

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---|
| 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

