



# The Voter



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Serving the cities of Brea, Buena Park, Cypress, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma, Placentia, Yorba Linda

## President’s Message: On Fixing Democracy by Kristina Fruneaux

I was listening to an interview with Terrence Woodbury, who is a “younger” Democratic strategist and pollster. The interview was really interesting, and thought provoking.

“Why,” he asked, “should young voters feel inspired to “Save Democracy” when the current Democratic system is not working for them?” When I heard this question, a light went on in my head. We are asking voters to care about, and save, a system they feel is leaving them sidelined.

Now, more than any other time in the past thirty years, younger voters feel economically downtrodden, unable to afford the high costs of housing plus all the other expenses that come with being an independent adult in our society. Young, two income families who do manage to afford their rent, or buy their own home, still feel super-squeezed by the high prices for groceries, utilities, gas, and childcare. We all know wages have not kept up with inflation, and this is a real problem for the majority of young voters today. My own adult kids have great jobs, they all own their own homes, but they all say they feel they are living paycheck to paycheck. How disheartening for them!

Now, more than any time in history, social media allows us to share information at lightening fast speeds. We are universally connected, and yet, many of us, and especially the younger voters, feel more lonely and isolated than ever before. And worse, they can see that all across our country, they are not the only ones. Whole segments of our voters feel like their voices do not matter and will not be heard. It’s not just apathy that is affecting these voters. It’s the sense that the system is so broken that it has nothing to offer anymore. So why bother?

Of course, we, as League members, KNOW that all is not lost! Our votes DO matter, and we CAN and MUST ensure that democracy continues. But maybe not as we know it right now. There is plenty that can be done to make our country better for everyone, and we need the right representatives in government to make it happen.

So what can we do? Terrence Woodbury has a simple, easy-to-understand suggestion that I think is actually very powerful in its message. Rather than saying “SAVE Democracy,” we should urge potential voters to “FIX Democracy.” I can’t help but think that messaging to young voters the recognition that things aren’t working as well as they should be would go a long way towards meeting them where they are right now. By saying, “FIX Democracy! Vote!” we could encourage a meaningful segment of the younger voters to actually VOTE in November if they believe their vote will mean a step towards real change.

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# Lunch with League



Lee K. Fink is Chair of the Business Litigation Department for the Brower Law Group. In addition to his experience as a business, employment, and probate litigator, Lee has extensive experience in political law and campaigns and law. He was staff on both Obama Presidential campaigns as a statewide deputy and later voter protection director, a senior advisor for the Hillary Campaign, and a consultant for Stacey Abrams Fair Fight in 2020. Lee served as outside counsel for several Democratic campaigns in 2022. Lee was also the Press Liaison for John Garamendi for Insurance Commissioner in 2002, worked at the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC), and has been a volunteer and volunteer leader on numerous campaigns dating back to 1988.

Lee served in the Obama Administration during both terms, and lastly as Principal Deputy Counsel at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He is the Vice Chair of the Democratic Foundation of Orange County and the Lead Counsel for the Democratic Lawyers of Orange County. Lee is a member of the California Democratic State Central Committee (1995-1996; 2003-2016; 2019-Present) and a member of the California Democratic Party Executive Board (2019-Present). Lee ran for Tustin City Council in 2020, finishing fourth (top-3 elected), just 0.65% behind the third-place winner.

Lee received his Juris Doctorate from the New York University School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from UC Berkeley. He also clerked for the Honorable David O. Carter of the US District Court, Central District.

**“CITIES ON TRIAL:  
HUNTINGTON BEACH, MISSION VIEJO,  
AND ELECTION LAW”  
ATTORNEY LEE FINK**

**THURSDAY  
MAY 23, 2024  
10:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.  
COYOTE HILLS GOLF  
FULLERTON**



Attorney Lee Fink will discuss his lawsuits against the cities of Mission Viejo and Huntington Beach.

## WANT AD

Looking for relationship with person(s) interested in events at the County level of the Board of Education. Once/month meeting on Wed. evening at 5 pm in Costa Mesa. Can view online during or after the meeting. The League would love to read your report(s).

**Contact:**

[karen.bender063@gmail.com](mailto:karen.bender063@gmail.com)

**LWVNOC Observer Corps**

# Get out to vote

## **Voter Services: Report on Program Goals**

by Linda Lockwood, Voter Services Director

In the past fiscal year, under the leadership of Jan Urban, Voter Services was restructured to include a team approach to presenting effective Candidate Forums. Four teams were established: two teams to contact cities and school districts to schedule site visits and two teams to contact candidates and provide them with Forum dates and times as well as necessary information for participation. Documents were updated and stored in a Google doc library for easy access by team members. With technical support, a Google Sheets flow chart is in process to include venues, dates and times of important events, volunteer recruitment, and assignments. One team member will see to creating posters and on-line postings for publicity.

The processes and procedures were tried and found true when a Candidate Forum was held for the Orange County Board of Education on February 13, 2024. It was trial under fire, but it successfully facilitated the three district challengers to be heard and voters informed.

Going forward, before the '24 election season, there will be a promotion to encourage members to participate in some aspect of Forum preparation and implementation. Dates, times, and locations of trainings for moderators, questions sorters, greeters, timers, and set-up volunteers will be posted in early summer.

In addition, a Get-Out-To-Vote campaign will begin sometime in July or August. A call will go out for volunteers to participate in getting the WORD out.

## **Get-Out-To-Vote Campaign** by Linda Lockwood, Voter Services Director

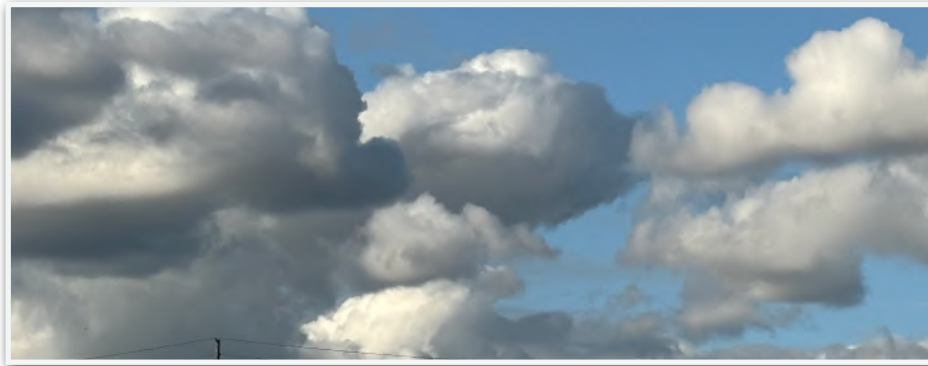
One of our greatest challenges this voting season is getting people out to vote. The most precious gift of democracy has been thwarted by misinformation, hate, fear, and rage. Eligible voters express apathy, confusion, and distrust of the process. Democracy is in peril.

Voter Services is launching a Get-Out-To-Vote campaign by posting eye-catching, encouraging, and thought-provoking flyers on social media. Kristina was able to locate a list of slogans tailored to resonate with savvy young adults. Those were shared with Jodi Balma with a challenge to her students to design a flyer to be posted on our website and others. A \$50.00 reward was offered to entice their participation. The result of that endeavor will be shared with the membership.

That same opportunity to design a flyer for a more seasoned audience is available to members knowing that the joy of creative expression and contribution are the significant motivators. When you are ready, send them to me at ([lindaflockwood@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaflockwood@yahoo.com)) by May 15, 2024.

If you know other ways to get the people out to vote, we are always open to suggestions. It is such an important task!

Date and Time	Event	Details
Tuesday, May 7 at 1:30 pm	Read with League	On Zoom. Our book is <b>The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas are Setting Up a Generation for Failure</b> by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt.
Thursday, May 23 at 10:30 am	Lunch with League and biennial meeting	At Coyote Hills Golf Club in Fullerton



**Advocacy** by Richard Larsen

In April, there were only a few items that required Advocacy action. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, we received an email from LWVC stating that the Pasadena Area LWV is planning a Day of Action on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month starting in April to encourage passage of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Their goal is to have all Local Leagues join in this effort. This description and action link was distributed to our members interested in Advocacy. Reminder notices will be sent out before the 15<sup>th</sup> to keep this action going.

On the 18<sup>th</sup>, California Common Cause sent a Money in Politics petition request against SB1243. SB1243 would gut the anti-pay-to-play bill SB1439 which passed in 2022 and says that local elected officials can't take a vote on any business related to a special interest entity that has donated more than \$250 to them.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, California Common Cause requested a petition for on two bills, AB3211 (Wicks) and AB2655 (Berman) which would reduce fake AI created video, images, and audio used during election time. An example was the fake Joe Biden robocall that told New Hampshire Democrats to NOT vote in the 2024 primary.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> (Earth Day), LWVUS sent out a petition to contact our members of Congress to ask them to protect our climate. "There is a legislative opportunity to protect our planet before Congress: the *Children's Fundamental Rights and Climate Recovery Resolution*. This resolution recognizes the disproportionate impact of the climate crisis on the health, economic opportunities, and fundamental rights of children and acknowledges the need for a national, science-based, and just climate recovery plan.

The League has endorsed this resolution, but we need YOUR help in demanding that Congress acts now to address the climate crisis and protect our youth.



## Request from your Membership Co-Chair, Marcy Fry

Please help us continue to build our membership. Consider sharing your league experience with friends and acquaintances. We all know people who are very concerned about saving our democracy. Having like-minded friends with a variety of ways to take actions is a comfort we members have. I often talk about the League at social gatherings and have asked many people to join me at Lunch with League, some of them I just met. The response has been great. People are grateful for the invitation and sometimes they share that they felt alone and weren't sure how to make a difference. Quite a few guests are now members, and I'm grateful for their contributions.

Reflecting on why you enjoy the League is a good way to start the process in your mind. Once you clarify your thoughts about the League, it's easy to share that with others spontaneously at social events, through an email or phone call.

Personally, I love the League. I love what we do, and how we're united with one voice that speaks to our state and nation. When the League takes a stand, people listen; and we can have a big impact. Our members have many different interests and volunteer in ways that are meaningful to them. From national issues to local voter services, the environment, school boards, city politics, and Read with League, there's something for everyone. **I especially love the League people who truly care about making a difference.** I find it doesn't matter whom I sit by at Lunch with League; every person is inclusive, interesting and engaging. I leave the meetings inspired and uplifted to know there are so many wonderful local people with depth, heart, intellect, and an upbeat, positive attitude. I knew very few of you before joining the League. I had no idea there were so many incredible people that lived nearby. *I am very grateful to Jeanne Blum for inviting me; had she not reached out to me, I probably would have never thought to join League of Women Voters.*

**Please think about the impact you can make on another person, and share the League with them.** Share the League informally in group settings or with individuals. Send friends an email with our website link, invite them to Lunch with League or to a forum. Help them find their way to us. We all need each other during these difficult times. There's so much to do; our League needs to grow our membership to keep up the amazing work we're doing. As my mother used to say, "Many hands make great work."

If you have someone you'd like me to reach out to, send me their name and email address and a little about them, so I can create an appropriate email. Mail to [fry.marcy@gmail.com](mailto:fry.marcy@gmail.com) and please label the email: **Potential League Member** so it doesn't get lost in my emails. Thanks for all you do to make the league so wonderful.

On another note, I have missed seeing some of you at our monthly speaker meetings, which have been FANTASTIC (thank you Jodi Balma for setting up such wonderful speakers)! If you've been missing them, please consider coming back, and know you've been missed.

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# April Climate Change Committee Report

by Geraldine McNenny

The Climate Change Committee is committed to informing LWVNOC members about efforts made by elected officials within northern Orange County and in California to address climate change. Climate Change Committee (CCC) members monitor the activities of city councils in the cities within our area that impact climate change and mitigation. These include Brea, Buena Park, Cypress, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma, Placentia, and Yorba Linda. Members have recently reported on the following:

At the Feb. 20th **Brea city council** meeting, there was an update on Brea's plan to extend the "Tracks at Brea" walking path between Berry St. and the Brea Canyon Flood Control Channel, utilizing funds from a \$225,000 grant made available to provide assistance with city improvement projects throughout Southern California from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. The City of Brea is working to purchase the land from Union Pacific which is interested in selling the entire width of the segment. Brea may partner with the city of La Habra in the "next step" of the project. Currently 4 miles long, the plan, in process, is to extend it westward.

Relevant to developments within the city of **Brea**, in November 2023, the [Orange County Supervisors approved a truck storage project in a wildlife habitat area with no environmental review.](#) The Orange County Planning Commission approved a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for an industrial truck storage facility on leased land in unincorporated Brea Canyon. The site lies within the **City of Brea's** sphere of influence, and the city has expressed concerns about the project. Despite the fact that natural lands surround the site, the County approved the Project with no environmental review. Hills For Everyone (HFE), founders of Chino Hills State Park and advocates for the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor, filed an appeal to the O.C. Board of Supervisors. The appeal was rejected by Supervisor Chaffee. Thus, the appeal was denied on a 3-2 vote. During the discussion, Chaffee stated he hoped that the truck storage facility's use of this site would forestall any housing development on the site so that the land could eventually be saved. However, the County of Orange currently lists the site as an "opportunity site" for its 2023 Housing Element Update. The County has allocated 1,857 housing units there.

On January 16, 2024, the **Fullerton** city council unanimously approved an updated concept for the [Union Pacific Trail Phase Two project](#). The plan envisions the transformation of the former Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way into a trail and bike path, connecting various neighborhoods. It includes a Class 1 bike lane, a dedicated pedestrian walkway, lighting, and landscaping, with at least 176 new trees, adding to greater environmental sustainability in the area.

In **La Habra**, the March 4th City council meeting had one item on the agenda of interest to CCC, and that was to approve a resolution authorizing submittal of applications for all Calrecycle grants for which the city of La Habra is eligible.

The CCC is also working on inviting speakers from the [Climate Action Team \(CAT\)](#) to share CAT's progress in addressing and mitigating climate change in California. These include the National Chair of the National LWVUS-SIG Climate Action, Kathy Berlin, who lives in Pasadena, Katrina Foley, Supervisor, OC Board of Supervisors, and June Sekera—expert on messaging about carbon capture and sequestration and the efforts of oil companies to promote and profit from CCS while increasing emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>.

CCC members will also be sharing their research on areas of interest regarding climate change and mitigation.

Karen Bender reported that at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the Board voted to support:

- 1) AB2266 (Petrie-Norris): California Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project: vehicle eligibility.
- 2) AB 2626 (Dixon): Advanced Clean Fleets regulations: local governments.
- 3) AB2815 (Petrie-Norris): Clean Transportation Program: electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

In April, Sue Fisher will be reporting on the rise and viability of solar panels and the electrification of the grid. In May, Karen Bender will be sharing the League's National Climate Change Committee report on *Rewiring America*. In May, Gerri McNenny will be sharing developments from within the Carbon Capture Systems (CCS) Plenary Group, a national advocacy group devoted to unmasking the myths surrounding CCS.



## LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

### **Officers**

President	Kristina Fruneaux	Special Events	Jennifer Trafford
Vice-President	Deborah Vagts		Jan Urban
Secretary	Bey-Ling Sha	Nominating Comm.	Pearl Mann
Treasurer	Karen Bender		Marcy Fry
			Karen Bender

### **Directors**

Action/Advocacy	Richard Larsen
Lunch w/ League	Betty Hammond
	Jennifer Trafford
Co-Membership	Marcy Fry
	Maggie Lee
Co-Voter Service	Linda Lockwood
	Jan Urban
Speaker Committee	Kristine Dennehy
	Jodi Balma
E-mail Blasts	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
Climate Change Comm.	Gerri McNenny
Observer Corps	Karen Bender

**MEMBER INFORMATION FOR 2024-2025**

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/<br>Homelessness     |
| Observers               | Action & Advocacy | Voter Services | Help with Technology/<br>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

