



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 by Kristina Fruneaux

Dear League members and friends, it's hard to believe that my time as President of LWVNOC has come to a close. Looking back, I do believe that these past three years have flown by! On the other hand, it seems that so much has happened, and we have had so many changes, that the beginning of my term as President also seems like a very long time ago. They say time is an illusion! There's also the saying that advises, "Never stay too long at the fair," so this is my farewell as President missive. I am so proud of what we, collectively, have accomplished over the past three years, and I am really looking forward to watching our League continue to positively grow. Let's persist in our efforts to work on and promote our stated areas of focus, and let's cultivate an even broader community outreach within the communities we serve. We've come a long way, and we have so much farther to go!

It's been an honor and a privilege and a deep learning experience to serve as your President. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your support, encouragement, and participation for the past three years. Thanks to YOU, we have a vibrant, dynamic League that has a true positive impact within our communities. Fortunately, our incoming executive board is top notch (aka STELLAR!), so passing on the torch is a true pleasure. I'll see you at Strategic Planning in August (date TBD), where our incoming Exec Board will be THE Exec Board, and I will get to take a proverbial back seat and bask in my more accustomed seat, admiring the brain power in the room from a different angle. Looking forward to 2024-2025! Have the very best summer! In League, as always, Kristina Fruneaux.



Kristina Fruneaux,
LWVNOC President

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Advocacy

 by Richard Larsen

The activities for advocacy this month were few, but very important. At the end of April after the Voter was inuned we received a petition from California Common Cause on a third bill related to the two processed earlier on AI and disinformation. Fake video, images, and audio -- so called “deepfakes” created by artificial intelligence (AI) -- are becoming a routine part of our information ecosystems. If AB 2839 becomes law, things like the fake Joe Biden robocall noted last month will be prohibited.

On May 15 we received another petition from California Common Cause on reducing Pay to Play activities. We passed SB 1439 in 2022 because of scandal after scandal in local governments in which city councils took votes to reward and serve massive campaign donors. The law 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. The reform is basic common sense. In 2023, special interests tried to challenge the law in court. We fought them back, and the lawsuit was thrown out. In 2024, they introduced a new bill, SB 1243, to roll back the ethics protections that they couldn't beat in court. SB 1243 would increase the allowed contribution amounts from special interests when their business is being considered by local officials, allow intermediaries to multiply their campaign funds, and make other changes to water down our critical ethics reforms. The petition tells our State Senator they must oppose the bill unless Common Cause amendments are taken.

On May 23 another petition was received from California Common Cause. More households in California than any other state speak a language other than English at home – and approximately 2.94 million eligible voters self-identify as limited-English speaking. That's more voters than some states have TOTAL!

And unfortunately, many in our state – including communities that speak Arabic, Farsi, Amharic, or Somali — fall through loopholes in federal voting laws entirely. This leaves thousands of Californians stranded with ballots they may not be able to read. California Common Cause's new bill, AB 884, can fix this problem by translating ballots and registration forms into more languages, expanding the federal Voting Rights Act protections to more Californians and giving them the level of access English-speaking voters already enjoy.

On May 23 California Common Cause held a Webinar: Local Dollars and Local Democracy. While we did not receive a notice of it from LWVC until the day before, Dora Rose LWVC sent out a recording and other information for anyone wishing to see the Webinar. This was sent out to the Advocacy list. This information is below for anyone else interested:

On Fri, May 24, 2024 at 9:28 AM 'Dora Rose' via LWV California Presidents <lwv-california-presidents@googlegroups.com> wrote:

- **You can find a recording of the event here:** <https://youtu.be/IrjVL2vNA-Y>
- **You can access the California Municipal Campaign Finance Index (MCFI) here:** www.commoncause.org/california/resource/cmcfi/

On May 23, the US Supreme Court issued a ruling in *Alexander v. South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP*. The Court's decision allows the state of South Carolina to continue using its congressional map that divides and reduces Black political voting power in the state, while increasing the burden on voters who challenge unconstitutional racial gerrymanders in federal court. On the same day the LWV issued a disagreement with the ruling which contained the following:

“Today's ruling is white fragility in action. The Court declares that it is more offensive for voters to claim racism than it is for legislators to racially discriminate. This heinous decision denies Black voters and voters of color the ability to seek justice against racial discrimination in redistricting, and it makes clear that this Court will continue using its power to further erode hard-fought legal protections against racial discrimination in voting.”

As guardians of voting rights, we were prepared for this outcome — and even as I write this, League members are mobilizing to respond. We will not stay silent while the Supreme Court allows racial gerrymandering to go unchecked.



Voter Services

PSSSSST! Have you heard? Voter Services is about what we do..... serve the voter by providing information about the candidates, the ballot initiatives, and about how and where to vote as well as WHY to vote.

How can you be an active participant in preserving our democracy?

Work a Candidate Forum. We need all sorts of help.

Moderators

Question Sorters

Timekeepers

Greeters

Presenters for Pros and Cons Forums

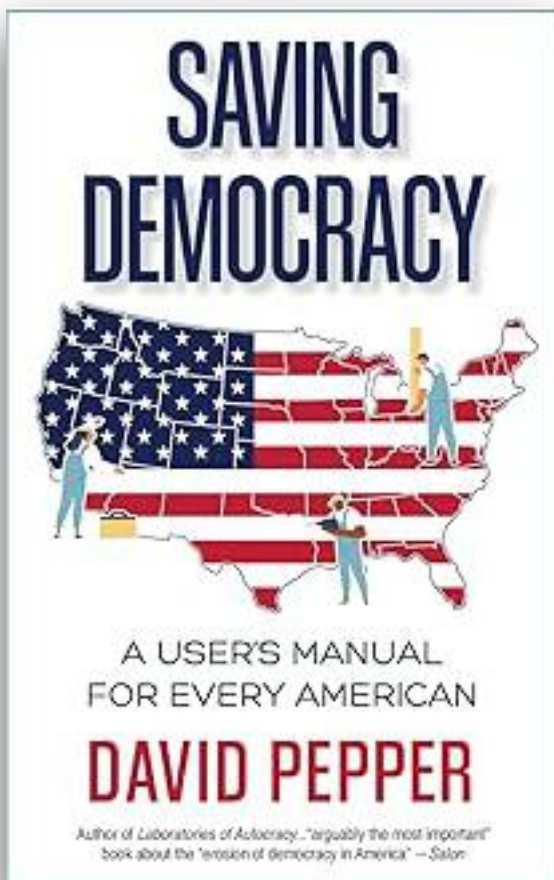
People to put up yard signs

Artists to create compelling posters for the website

People to attend city or school district candidate forums

If you would like to get involved, just email to lindaflockwood@yahoo.com.

Date and Time	Event	Details
Tuesday, June 11 at 1:30 pm	Read with League	Our book this month is Saving Democracy by David Pepper. We will meet on Zoom.
Wednesday, June 19 at 10:00 am	Board Meeting	On Zoom. Details will be sent to Board members later. Others wishing to attend should contact Kristina.



Saving Democracy is structured to challenge and guide each reader—no matter your role in your community or politics or where you work—on how you each can play a more active and effective role in lifting democracy than you might have imagined. Over the course of the book, you will construct your own personal plan to fight for democracy. And when you're finished, you'll be ready to get to work.

It's a user's manual, intended to spur action. Your action. After a quick review of the true battle for democracy we are engaged in, each chapter explains how YOU, the reader, can and must play the leading role in lifting democracy. It details the concrete steps individuals and groups can take where you live, lists resources that can help along the way, and offers case studies and best practices that have worked elsewhere.

From LWVUS: Supreme Court Opens the Door for Unchecked Racial Discrimination in Redistricting

Ruling overturns lower court decision declaring state map unconstitutional racial gerrymander. Court makes it more difficult to challenge racial gerrymandering in federal court.

Press Release / Last Updated: May 23, 2024

WASHINGTON — Today the Supreme Court of the United States overturned a lower court’s ruling that South Carolina’s congressional map was an unconstitutional racial gerrymander. The 6-3 decision in *Alexander v. South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP* allows the state of South Carolina to continue using its congressional map that divides and reduces Black political voting power in the state while increasing the burden on voters who challenge unconstitutional racial gerrymanders in federal court.

“Today’s ruling is white fragility in action,” said Celina Stewart, chief counsel at the League of Women Voters of the US. “The Court declares that it is more offensive for voters to claim racism than it is for legislators to racially discriminate. This heinous decision denies Black voters and voters of color the ability to seek justice against racial discrimination in redistricting, and it makes clear that this Court will continue using its power to further erode hard-fought legal protections against racial discrimination in voting.”

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“The League is deeply disappointed with today’s Supreme Court ruling that allows our state to move forward with discriminatory maps that divide the political power of Black communities in Charleston County,” said Lynn Teague, vice president of issues and action at the League of Women Voters of South Carolina. “We believe, without exception, that Black voters in South Carolina deserve justice for our state’s historical and continued efforts to disenfranchise them. The League of Women Voters will continue to fight for voters across South Carolina to be fairly represented.”

“We are disappointed that the League of Women Voters’ critical mission of promoting fair elections did not win the day,” said Wilson Daniel, attorney at Duffy & Young. “Fair elections are fundamental to the health of our democracy and the wellbeing of our citizenry. And to ensure that elections are fair, those who draw district lines must comport with the Constitution’s promises, including its guarantee of equal treatment under the law. Though the Supreme Court’s decision marks a loss for fair representation in South Carolina, its citizens can feel certain that LWVSC will continue to fight for the voices of South Carolina voters.”

With this decision, the Court’s conservative majority raises the bar for voters who seek to challenge unjust racist gerrymanders and places the interests of politicians over the very individuals they represent. The Court continues its attack on the ability of Black voters and other voters of color to challenge racial discrimination in voting and redistricting.

In an out-of-touch and dangerous concurrence, Justice Clarence Thomas calls on the Court to overturn decades of redistricting precedent, including a case that established the bedrock constitutional principle of “one person, one vote.”



LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

Officers

President	Gerri McNenny
Vice-President	Sherlan Neblett
Secretary	Ruth Zemke
Treasurer	Karen Bender

Directors

Action/Advocacy	Richard Larsen
Lunch w/ League	Betty Hammond Jennifer Trafford Maggie Lee
Co-Membership	Marcy Fry Maggie Lee
Co-Voter Service	Linda Lockwood Sherlan Neblett
Speaker Committee	Jodi Balma
E-mail Blasts	Maggie Lee
Voter Editor	Jim Hill
Web Host	Ed Smith Maggie Lee

Special Events	Vacant
Nominating Comm.	Vacant

Off-Board Directors

Read with League	Patricia Larsen
Past President	Kristina Fruneaux
League Phone	to be discontinued
League Mail Box	Karen Bender
Student Outreach	Jodi Balma
Facebook	Jodi Balma Kristina Fruneaux
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/ 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

