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## Message from the LWV CEO Celina Stewart

*As we prepare for attacks on our democracy, we at the League of Women Voters of North Orange County can take comfort in the news that the LWVUS will not be silent in the face of these onslaughts. This message from the LWVUS CEO Celina Stewart is a call for action to us all. She writes, "Now is the time to lead with compassion, move in partnership, and stand in solidarity with those most directly impacted by the extreme and harmful actions taken this week. As our democracy continues to be tested, the League of Women Voters will remain steadfast in our fight to empower voters and defend democracy for all people."*

*Yours in League, Gerri McNenny, President, LWVNOC*



LWV CEO Celina Stewart

*On January 24, the League of Women Voters of the United States CEO **Celina Stewart** issued the following statement in response to actions taken by the new administration and the impact they will have on our democracy:*

“In the first week of President Trump’s second term, we’ve witnessed an undeniable assault on the foundation of our democracy.

“The League is deeply dismayed by the executive order eliminating federal voter access initiatives (*Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions*). This order removes federal support for voter access and registration initiatives. This is a direct attack on the progress made to ensure that all Americans can freely and fairly participate in our elections. Instead of dismantling efforts that expand voter access, our government must enact policies that eliminate barriers, modernize voter registration, and provide accurate election information to all Americans.

“By pardoning the January 6 perpetrators, the President sends a signal to extremists who seek to use violence to undermine the will of the voters. The actions that took place on January 6, 2021, must never happen again. Unfortunately, these pardons endorse the violence of that devastating event. We must work to safeguard our institutions, uphold the will of the people, and commit to a peaceful transfer of power.

"As an organization working towards a multi-racial representative democracy, the League is outraged about the new administration’s rollbacks to federal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility initiatives (*Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing*). Abandoning these values across our government proliferates intolerance of the freedom of expression and identity and is a hateful act used to target federal employees of color and of the LGBTQIA+ community.

“All of this week’s actions are distressing and dangerous for people of vulnerable populations who are already disadvantaged in society. This administration’s tactic is to exert control over the American people through chaos and fear. Now is the time to lead with compassion, move in partnership, and stand in solidarity with those most directly impacted by the extreme and harmful actions taken this week.

“As our democracy continues to be tested, the League of Women Voters will remain steadfast in our fight to empower voters and defend democracy for all people.”

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# LWVNOC and the IRS: Are We a 501(c)3 or 501(c)4 or both?

by Karen Bender

To answer the above question, let's explore **what is a 501(c)3**? A 501(c)3 is a corporation organized primarily or exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, or educational purposes. Such organizations are tax-exempt, may conduct research, and are limited in the amount of lobbying, advocacy, or political activity they are entitled to conduct. Donations are tax-deductible.

**What is a 501(c)4**? A non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote "the common good and general welfare of the community." A 501(c)4 can engage in lobbying, can advocate for causes and propositions. 501(c)4s are not tax deductible.

According to Sharon Stone, League of Women Voters of California, Membership and Technology Manager, the **League of Women Voters of North Orange County is a 501(c)4 and has never had 501(c)3 status**. Donations to LWVNOC are not tax-deductible.

Members who want their donations to go towards voter engagement activities can write checks to LWVCEF, the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, formerly called Local League (LWVNOC) Ed Fund. LWVCEF holds these donations in a dedicated classification called the Local (LWVNOC) Impact Fund. LWVNOC can use these funds for voter engagement and education activities. We must submit a request with receipts; sometimes we may need to have a program approved in advance. LWVC has tightened their requirements to assure compliance with IRS rules.

In the current Legislative Interview kit material, LWVC provides this description of the LWVCEF: "our sister 501(c)3 organization is fully focused on countering mis/disinformation, promoting community education and voter engagement, and closing the voter/civic participation gap in California." Note that LWVCEF is described as a separate organization.

The LWVC (a 501(c)4) is described as "a grassroots membership nonprofit working to build a more equitable California. . . we do not support or oppose candidates or political parties." However, we are a political organization, and we work to engage all Californians in acting on the issues that matter to them, to build political power and voice in communities historically underrepresented in the halls of government, to enact solutions to some of the biggest challenges facing our state, and to drive every eligible voter to cast their ballot."

We have a powerful member-based network of over sixty local, grassroots Leagues across the state who work on local issues, develop and train local civic leaders, and organize around critical policy and social issues. We use an integrated voter engagement model, which research shows is one of the best ways to increase voter turnout and civic participation. Integrated Voter Engagement means that we work on the ground in our communities year-round, not just during the lead up to elections, in order to more deeply engage people in issues and advocacy. But we do ramp up our efforts in election years to fully engage people to turn out, vote, and use their power."



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# Join the Discussion



by Karen Bender

Below is a list of list serves and other groups operated by the League of Women Voters California and its volunteers. For questions or issues joining a group, please reach out to [sjorgensen@lwvc.org](mailto:sjorgensen@lwvc.org).

**Advocacy Interest Group:** A forum for discussion of League Action. It's available for sharing action activities, both statewide and local, and asking for information or advice from other League members. Join by emailing [sjorgensen@lwvc.org](mailto:sjorgensen@lwvc.org)

**Voter Service Interest Group:** A forum for League voter service volunteers and leaders to share information, ideas, and resources. Join by emailing [sjorgensen@lwvc.org](mailto:sjorgensen@lwvc.org)

**Climate Change Interest Group:** A group for sharing ideas and discussion about local league activity around climate change and sharing relevant resources and articles about climate change topics. Join by emailing [climatechange@lwvc.org](mailto:climatechange@lwvc.org)

**Healthcare Interest Group:** Members of this list serv are getting up to speed on state healthcare issues and identifying possible areas for LWVC focus in the future. Join here (<https://groups.google.com/g/lwvc-healthcare>)

**Housing and Homelessness Interest Group:** Members of this group are tracking the state of housing and homelessness in California and identifying opportunities for education. (<https://groups.google.com/g/lwvchtf>)

**Immigration Interest Group:** A brand-new forum for Leagues to share their local efforts and to stay on top of statewide immigration policy. Join by emailing [sjorgensen@lwvc.org](mailto:sjorgensen@lwvc.org)

**Local Redistricting Interest Group:** Discussion group about redistricting in California --- only local redistricting. Join by emailing [sjorgensen@lwvc.org](mailto:sjorgensen@lwvc.org)

**Money in Politics Interest Group:** Also known as campaign finance reform in California. Join lwvc-MIP Google group by emailing [sjorgensen@lwvc.org](mailto:sjorgensen@lwvc.org)

**Open Government Interest Group:** Discussion about open government issues. Join by emailing [sjorgensen@lwvc.org](mailto:sjorgensen@lwvc.org)

**Program Planning Interest Group:** Discussion of potential program planning ideas with other League members. All League members are invited to join. It's a place to encourage others to join your cause, try out an idea, discuss various proposals, find help to refine a rough idea. Bring your ideas --- we'll have a great League discussion! Join the lwvc-program-planning Google group (<https://groups.google.com/d/forum/lwvc-program-planning>)

**Sheriff Oversight Interest Sub-Group:** (<https://groups.google.com/g/lwvc-sheriff-oversight-interest-subgroup/>)

**Water Interest Group:** Forum for California League members to discuss regional and inter-regional water issues. Join lwvc-water Google group (<https://groups.google.com/d/forum/lwvc-water>)

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## Observer Corps Report by Denise Steedman, Richard Larsen, and Karen Bender

Revvng our government engines for 2025, **Fullerton City Council** agreed to propose 2,921 **dwelling units to be built with 20% to be affordable housing**. Approval was delayed to bring the new council member Valencia up to speed. The Council will add an additional meeting to their schedule to meet the Department of Housing's 60-day timeline for review by all required agencies.

**La Habra City Council** continues with a short agenda. Over \$8 million in warrants/bills were approved. Information about the expenditures was available in advance of the meeting and in general. New council member Delwin Lampkin joins two other council members who also have a law-enforcement background.

**The OC Board of Supervisors (BOS)** spent an hour discussing the restructuring of the Human Relations Commission. Many representatives from the Sheriff's Office including OC Sheriff Barnes, the District Attorney's Office including OC DA Todd Spitzer, and Irvine's Chief of Police, Michael Kent were present.

Last June the BOS cancelled a contract with an outside nonprofit (now called Groundswell) and brought the function of addressing Hate Crimes and Incidents back to the County. The **county staff is one person**. Today (1/14/2025) the Board voted (3-2; Chaffee and Sarmiento – No) to remove five seats from the Commission, those five seats appointed by the City Selection Committee; to keep 5 seats, one appointed by each Supervisor; to keep a seat for the Sheriff's Department; and add an at-large appointed member from the DA's office. Thus the **HR Commission goes from 11 seats to 7**. The vote also included decreasing the number of HR Commission meetings/year and forbidding Commission members to make statements to the press.

The 2023 Human Relations Commission report has come out, but states that Hate Crime figures may be inaccurate due to a less than one-year period of reporting. Hate Incidents are not included in the report. The new report shows hate crimes decreasing for 2023, the first decrease since 2016.

Doug Chaffee was elected new Board Chair. Katrina Foley was elected Vice Chair.

*Our complete Observer reports can be read on our MyLO website. You can access the recorded agency meetings on their respective websites.*

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## Advocacy by Richard Larsen

This month there have been three petition requests, but the largest effort has been on the Interviews with our State Legislators. Here are the petitions distributed to our Advocacy team in January.

On January 8 we received a petition request from Common Cause to Mark Zuckerberg protesting his dismantling of the fact-checking programs on Facebook and Instagram.

On January 21 we received another petition request from Common Cause, this time to Congress, objecting to President Trump's attempt to end the constitutional right to birthright citizenship in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

On January 4 we received another petition request objecting to President Trump's new effort to change the census-taking rules; he tried the same thing in his first term, and the effort failed.

The status of our State Legislator interviews is that we have one interview set up with State Senator Umberg for January 29, and four members to perform the interview. There are four other Legislators, Steven Choi, Phillip Chen, Avelino Valencia, and Sharon Quirk-Silva who have been contacted with requests, but we have not yet received responses from them. LWV Orange Coast is going to try Senator Choi also. This contact effort will continue since the reports to LWVC are due by late February. This difficulty may be in part because of the current fires, and our Legislators are busy.

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# National Popular Vote Update

 by Richard Larsen

The National Popular Vote (NPV) movement has been going on for many years, and the LWV has been working on this since 1970. This is the LWV “One Person One Vote” campaign and does not require a change to the U.S. Constitution because states may constitutionally direct their electoral college members to vote for the presidential candidate who gets the most national votes. If enough states choose this method to total 270 votes, the electoral college would no longer distort the popular vote. The current legislative status shown below is from the book “Every Vote Equal”, available free as noted. The book has over 1200 pages.

As of January 19, 2025 the National Popular Vote has been enacted into law by 18 jurisdictions, including six small states (DC, DE, HI, ME, RI, VT), nine medium-sized states (CO, CT, MD, MA, MN, NJ, NM, OR, WA), and three big states (CA, IL, NY). These jurisdictions have 209 of the 270 electoral votes needed to activate the law, not yet enough to effect a change.

The bill has also passed one legislative chamber in seven states totaling 74 electoral votes (AR, AZ, MI, NC, NV, OK, VA), including the Republican-controlled Arizona House and Oklahoma Senate. It has passed both houses of the Nevada legislature at various times, and is endorsed by 3,800 state legislators.

### More Information

Visit [www.NationalPopularVote.com](http://www.NationalPopularVote.com). Our book **Every Vote Equal: A State-Based Plan for Electing the President by National Popular Vote** is downloadable for free. Also, I have a copy available; if you would like to view it; contact me at [rkajdane5@gmail.com](mailto:rkajdane5@gmail.com). Questions are answered at [www.NationalPopularVote.com/answering-myths](http://www.NationalPopularVote.com/answering-myths).

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Date and Time	Event	Details
Wednesday, February 19 at 2:00 pm	LWVNOC Board Meeting	At ROP located at Orange County ROP, 385 N. Muller Street in Anaheim. All welcome.
Thursday, February 27 at 11:00 am	Lunch with League	At Coyote Hills Golf Course at 1440 E. Bastanchury Blvd. in Fullerton



# Go Figure!

Here are twenty-two puzzles, and here is how they work. For example, “365 = D in a Y” means 365 days in a year. Here’s another one. “3 = S on a T” means 3 = sides on a triangle. Get it? The answers are shown upside down in the right-hand column. Ready, set, go!

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. 26 = L of the A.             | 22. squares on a checkerboard                |
| 2. 7 = D of the W               | 21. days in February on a leap year          |
| 3. 1001 = A.N.                  | 20. words that a picture is worth            |
| 4. 12 = S of the Z              | 19. players on a football team               |
| 5. 54 = C in the D (with the J) | 18. Heinz varieties                          |
| 6. 9 = D in a S.S.N.            | 17. digits in a zip code                     |
| 7. 88 = P.K.                    | 16. wheel on a unicycle                      |
| 8. 13 = S on the A.F.           | 15. hours in a day                           |
| 9. 32 = D.F. at which W.F.      | 14. quarts in a gallon                       |
| 10. 18 = H on a G.C.            | 13. sides on a stop sign                     |
| 11. 90 = D in a R.A.            | 12. dollars for passing Go in Monopoly       |
| 12. 200 = D for passing G in M  | 11. degrees in a right angle                 |
| 13. 8 = S on a S.S.             | 10. holes on a golf course                   |
| 14. 4 = Q in a G.               | 9. degrees Fahrenheit at which water freezes |
| 15. 24 = H in a D               | 8. stripes on the American flag              |
| 16. 1 = W on a U                | 7. piano keys                                |
| 17. 5 = D in a Z.C              | 6. digits in a social security number        |
| 18. 57 = H.V.                   | 5. cards in the deck with the jokers         |
| 19. 11 = P on a F.T.            | 4. signs of the zodiac                       |
| 20. 1000 = W that a P is W      | 3. Arabian Nights                            |
| 21. 29 = D in F in a L.P.       | 2. days of the week                          |
| 22. 64 = S on a C               | 1. letters of the alphabet                   |

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# LWV Federal Judiciary Study

by Gerri McNenny

Many people have expressed an interest in the LWV's Federal Judiciary Study. To find out more about the 2024-2025 Federal Judiciary Study, just go to this [LINK](#). This will take you to the League's web page on the "2024-2025 Federal Judiciary Study: Process, Committee, and Resources."

Also, we've received these directions from LWVUS:

## FEDERAL JUDICIARY STUDY: WHAT ALL LEAGUES SHOULD DO NOW

- Schedule a consensus meeting between Feb. 8 and April 14
- Designate who will be in charge of:
  - coordinating meeting announcements,
  - finding a discussion leader,
  - monitoring the LWV's Federal Judiciary Study website for updated info.

The information coming from the study committee will include some detailed ideas about how to structure your meeting. If you have a good discussion leader, you will be able to hold a lively and engaging meeting for your members. LWVNOC will be working to organize a consensus meeting between Feb. 8 and April 14.

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## LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

### Officers

President	Gerri McNenny	Special Events	Vacant
Vice-President	Sharon O'Hara	Nominating Comm.	Vacant
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
Voter Service	Sue Guilford
Speaker Committee	Jodi Balma
E-mail Blasts	Maggie Lee
Voter Editor	Jim Hill
Web Host	Ed Smith
	Maggie Lee

### Off-Board Directors

Read with League	Love Adu
League Mail Box	Karen Bender
Student Outreach	Jodi Balma
Facebook	Jodi Balma
Climate Change Comm.	Vacant
Observer Corps	Karen Bender



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