



The League of Women Voters of North Orange County

The Voter



July 2025

LWVNOC
P.O. Box 3073
Fullerton, CA 92834
www.lwvnoc.org

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




LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CALIFORNIA

"THIS IS AUTHORITARIANISM IN ACTION

But we are not powerless.
We are the counterweight.
We are the resistance. We are the League
of Women Voters of California - and we
will not be intimidated." - Dora Rose



Dora Rose
Deputy Director



STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY
IN CALIFORNIA
CONVENTION 2025

When Democracy is Under Attack, California Must Lead

by Helen Hutchison, Interim Executive Director, LWVC

Last weekend, the League of Women Voters of California gathered for our Biennial State Convention. It was an energizing, empowering, and urgent time. **A single moment brought the (virtual) room to a standstill and sparked what may have been the first-ever Zoom standing ovation.**

Dora Rose, LWVC Deputy Director and Chief Lobbyist, delivered one of the most powerful speeches we have ever heard from the League. She laid out what we are up against:

"The foundations of American democracy are under attack. Not in the abstract. Not someday. But now. Today. With military force deployed against civilians in our own backyard. We are witnessing a full-scale effort to erode the very principles that have guided this country for over two centuries. One person, one vote. Equal justice under law. Government by and for the people."

She continued, calling out a particularly egregious example of violent suppression of free speech:

"And just last week, we saw how far this administration will go. Senator Alex Padilla, California's first Latino senator, a man who has dedicated his life to public service, was forced to his knees, thrown to the ground, and handcuffed by federal agents. All for asking a question about immigration enforcement affecting his constituents. At a press conference. In a federal building where he had every right to be."

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When Democracy is Under Attack [Continued from previous page]

“As Senator Padilla pointed out, if they’ll do this to a U.S. Senator, in broad daylight, on camera, in front of reporters, what are they doing to farm workers, to cooks, to day laborers when no one is watching?”

Just hours after Dora’s speech, the United States launched military strikes overseas. The escalation of global conflict has only deepened the anxiety and grief so many of us are already carrying. It is natural to feel afraid in times like these. We all are.

But moments like this also remind us of our history, and of our responsibility for California to lead. **More than a hundred years ago, when the United States entered World War I, suffragists were told to step back. To wait. To pause their demands for democracy until the crisis had passed.**

They refused.

They stood outside the White House with banners that asked, *“Mr. President, how long must women wait for liberty?”* **They were arrested, assaulted, and vilified. Still, they kept going.**

This is the legacy we inherit. And it is the same legacy we carry forward in California today.

And, this is why our work in California is so critical. In a time when democracy is being threatened across the world, California is both a target and a beacon. The attacks here are real, and so is the opportunity to lead. At the state League, we are not just defending against rollbacks. We are advancing a vision of inclusive, transparent, and equitable democracy. One where every voice counts and every vote is protected. And the nation is looking at us to lead. Dora says it best:

“Here in California, we’ve seen bills straight from the Project 2025 playbook meant to roll back our progress. Bills to end universal vote-by-mail, repeal the Voter’s Choice Act, require strict voter ID, demand documentary proof of citizenship, and reject ballots not received by Election Day, even if mailed on time. And we have worked to kill every one of them.”

Dora’s words reminded us that this moment demands more than resilience. It demands resolve.

California must lead. And the League of Women Voters of California is leading. We are defending the rights of millions. We are expanding access, advancing equity, and building a democracy that serves all of us.

But, we need your help to keep going. **We’re less than \$10,000 away from reaching our \$50,000 goal for the LWVC Action Fund. Every dollar counts before June 30.** If you have already donated, thank you. If you haven’t yet, and are in a position to give, we hope you will consider supporting this critical work today

[Click below to donate.](#)

<https://secure.everyaction.com/2IOpwBufT0Wb67KsSx4G-A2>



The Moment We Are In

by Sharon O'Hara, LWVNOC Vice President

On June 23, LWVUS held a Community Field call about **Unite and Rise 8.5**, an Initiative that is part of Women Defend Democracy. Here are some of the highlights:

RESPONDING TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

Since the beginning of the Trump administration, we have witnessed a flood of constitutionally questionable Executive Orders, a Congress that refuses to exercise its Constitutional authority, Federal District Courts struggling to hold the line, politicization of Federal workers and a nation living with divided realities.

UNDERMINING THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Congressional legislation that undermines access to the ballot, makes it harder for judges to exercise their authority, takes away resources from the most vulnerable, and redistributes resources to the rich and powerful.

DIMINISHED JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS AGENCIES

We have watched agencies of justice and civil rights lose their independence. With their personnel depleted, their enforcement of civil rights law has been weakened, and dubious legal charges have been raised against elected officials.

STATES MIMICKING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Twenty states are considering DPOC (Documentary Proof of Citizenship) laws and attacks on DEI, and on educational institutions.

These are some of the key LWVUS National Actions in May 2025:

- LWVUS CEO Celina Stewart testified on threats to voting and elections including the SAVE Act at a Senate hearing.
- Issued a joint statement on the arrest of Newark NJ Mayor at an ICE facility
- Sent letters to Congress opposing Medicaid cuts and issued an Action Alert urging the House to stop proposed Medicaid cuts
- Joined a statement against tax status threats to nonprofits, produced and education series on social media and joined as partners on the State of the People tour.

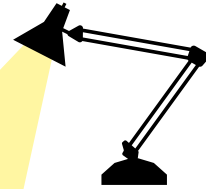
The project **Unite and Rise 8.5** goal is to reach the 8.5 million voters who represent 3.5% of our population because studies have shown that a movement of that size is highly likely to achieve its goals. Historically, such successful non-violent movements have won significant societal changes.

We can all be part of **Unite and Rise 8.5** this summer by calling our political representatives by using the 5 Calls app. Also share the action alerts from League with five other people you know, and encourage them to join the movement.

**** Sign up for the "League in Action" app on your smart phone. We're all in this together!**

Observer Reports

By Ruth Zemke, Sherlan Neblett, Denise Steedman, and Karen Bender



The **June 3rd** meeting of the **Fullerton City Council** was an eventful one. The council voted to move forward in **drafting a City Charter** to be first presented at Public Hearings on May 5, 2026, and June 16, 2026. The plan is to place this on the Fullerton ballot in November 2026. The City Council plans to draft the charter with an Ad Hoc Advisory committee: each Council member will appoint one Fullerton resident committee member.

The Council also approved the development of two **sales tax initiatives**: 0.5% specifically for infrastructure and 0.5% for public safety/roads. Each of these two initiatives would require a 2/3 positive vote to pass. To increase available housing (CA Title 15 zoning), the City commission on housing recommended approving the state regulations regarding ADU's. This recommendation was adopted 4-1 in favor. The Council also voted to add \$200k to the budget to allow the **Main Library** to be open 1-5 on Sunday. The **June 17th** meeting hosted the annual discussion about the use of illegal fireworks. Since a police officer must observe the actual act, charges may be limited. There was lengthy discussion about a consent calendar item proposing the lease of city property at the Transportation Center. Since the proposed lessee has donated to some council members' campaign funds, there were requests for recusal on this issue. This item was continued to the July 15th meeting.

At the **June 3rd** meeting of the **Placentia-Yorba Linda School District**, there was lengthy discussion about changes needed to the **Orange County School of Computer Science (OCSCS)** charter school program due to budget shortfall. Material revisions were made to the (OCSCS) charter at the **June 17th** meeting and another charter school program, the **Universal Sports Institute** was approved with a \$562,355 budget. Each program ended their first year with a budget deficit of over \$800,000. The school district is faced with decreased enrollment, as well as less State and Federal funding.

On **June 10**, the **Orange County Board of Supervisors** officially presented their annual budget, to be voted on June 24th. The presentation was quite rapid and not designed to elicit much public comment. The County is looking at decreased State and Federal funding. Occasions for public discussion and input were well advertised and preceded this date. The area most affected by budget shortfall will be \$18 million in the public health area. Brea and Stanton have new libraries opening. A future library opening is planned in La Habra. In a move noted by the **Voice of OC**, on **June 24**, the **OC Supervisors quietly gave themselves a 25% raise**, bringing their salaries to at least \$244,000 yearly, beginning later this year before benefits. County Supervisors work full time. Supervisor Sarmiento showed a video of an ICE detention and beating. The man in question has a gardening business and three sons that have all been U.S. Marines.

The **Orange County Board of Education** met on **May 7**, and again in a special meeting on **May 14**, that consisted of mostly a closed session. The Board of Education meetings have recently been described as short and uneventful, since all five Board members are generally in concurrence.

To read the complete Observer reports, please see our website. The Board of Education reports are shared with us by the LWV Coast League and can be found by scrolling to the bottom of the Observer Corps page and clicking on "Observer Reports – County."

LWVNOC Observers at "Fullerton State of the City" Address

by Karen Bender

On a beautiful Thursday afternoon, June 26, 2025, with live music and light food and drink on the hilltop patio event area of the Summit Restaurant, the city of Fullerton (in co-sponsorship with CSU Fullerton and others) shared the Mayor's address on the year's state of the city. An opening reception provided time for representatives of city departments and city council members to meet and greet several hundred representatives of business and non-profit organizations from throughout the city. LWVNOC members Denise Steedman and Ruth and Wayne Zemke were recognized and greeted by Mayor Fred Jung and Council member Jamie Valencia as well as by Fullerton City Librarian Judith Booth, for their regular Observation Corp attendance and reports of Fullerton City Council and Library Board of Trustees meetings. "The work of the League is well recognized in Fullerton and nationally," said Mayor Fred Jung.

After convening inside, keynote presenters at the event were Joe Hurley of Sprouts who shared the many reasons their new distribution center is in Fullerton, and David Kim, co-Founder and Managing Partner of The Bascom Group, multifamily and commercial realtors, who acknowledged the many strong points of A+ rated Fullerton. Kayla's Cakes was recognized as a local business making an impact on the community with the 2025 Community Hero Award. The female co-CEO's dedication to empowering their local community women and mothers through employment and entrepreneurship contributes to both the local economy and well-being of residents.

Advocacy by Richard Larsen

June was a fairly busy month for NOC Advocacy. There were thirteen petition requests, nine from Common Cause, two from LWV, and two from ACLU. Four were about ICE, two each on supporting Public Radio, State Bill SB42, and controlling AI. All were distributed to NOC Advocacy members for action.

If someone has a nonpartisan issue that one of the petitions did not address or even if they did, another way to contact your State or Federal representative is by e-mail thru his/her website. All you have to do is go to [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), [assembly.ca.gov](https://www.assembly.ca.gov), or [senate.ca.gov](https://www.senate.ca.gov), find your Representative and click CONTACT. Then fill out the information requested. The reason they ask for all that information is to make sure you are one of their constituents. In the last block, you can type or paste your comment. I did one to my three federal representatives and just copied my issue in the space provided. Here's an example:

WHERE IS CONGRESS, WHAT ARE THEY DOING??

Our President is setting tariffs – Our Constitution says Congress has the power “To regulate commerce with foreign nations,”

Our President discharged a military operation to Iran and destroyed property and people (WAR)- Our Constitution says Congress has the power to “To declare War,”

Our President ordered the military to California to uphold laws- Our Constitution says Congress has the power “To Provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union.”

You can make a difference

by Susan Guilford

While we were in the Denver airport on our way to visit our son and daughter-in-law, I made a political phone call. Shortly after we left the plane in Sioux Falls SD, a man who overheard my call complimented me; “You were so articulate” he said. I showed him my secret: the 5 Calls app.

Here’s how you can make effective calls to your representatives. Remember, those calls make a difference because our elected representatives keep a daily tally of calls. Download the app and enter your information, including your phone number and your home location. Open it up, and you’ll see a list of subjects. I counted 53, but the list changes. Note that each subject lists who will be called, usually House representative and/or senators, but sometimes state representatives or your governor is on the list. (See photo #1)



Tap on a subject to see page of explanations, a handy reference. Scroll down to see who you will be calling and tap the words “See your script.” (See photos #2 and #3)

Here is your script for the first call! (See photo #4) Lightly touch the phone number . . . and you can make that call right in the app. (See photo #5) I start by saying my name is _____, I live in (city/state) and my zip code is _____, then I paraphrase the script. Tap the appropriate blue button at the bottom and go to the next call. Just for fun, you can check how many calls were made on that subject and how many for all subjects. (See photo #6)

I also suggest that you have both senators and your congressional representative in your cell phone with their DC number and all in-state numbers. Sometimes I have had to call more than one office in order to leave a message. UPDATE: Sometimes the voicemail boxes are full, so I send an email.

Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3

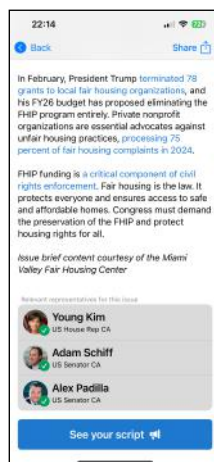


Photo #4

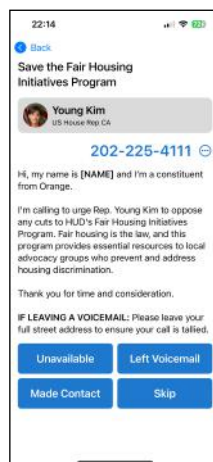
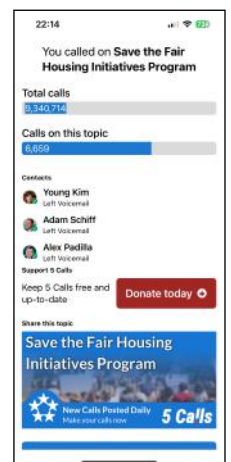


Photo #5



Photo #6



From the LWVUS

Come Join the League on July 17 for “Good Trouble Lives On”—A National Day of Nonviolent Action

“Never, ever, be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.” – Congressman John Lewis

On July 17, the fifth anniversary of Congressman John Lewis’s passing, the League of Women Voters US will join with others across the nation to respond to the attacks on our human rights and to remind the nation that in America, the **power lies with the people**.

Coined by civil rights leader Congressman John Lewis, "Good Trouble" is the act of coming together to take **peaceful, non-violent action to challenge injustice and create meaningful change**. Good Trouble consists of marches, protests, service work – any action where communities come together, take a stand against wrongdoings, and speak truth to power. The civil rights leaders of the past have shown us the power of collective action. That’s why on **July 17**, five years since the passing of Congressman John Lewis, the League of Women Voters, along with other organizations, is calling on Americans across the country to **Make Good Trouble Together**.

Come Make Good Trouble with Us

John Lewis didn’t wait for permission to demand change as an activist or congressman — and neither will we. He taught us that **nonviolent direct action is a moral force**, and that we must confront injustice wherever it lives — whether in the halls of power, in the courts, or on our own streets.

On July 17, we’re sending a clear message:

- In the United States, the power lies in the hands of the people. We demand an end to:
 1. The extreme crackdown on our civil rights – from our right to vote to our right to protest and speak freely.
 2. The targeting of Black and Brown Americans, immigrants, trans people, and others with hateful, dangerous policies.
 3. The slashing of programs that working people rely on – including Medicaid, SNAP, and Social Security.
- Together, we March in Peace and Act in Power.

How We Make Good Trouble Together

This will be a **nationwide day of peaceful, nonviolent action and organizing**, rooted in the tradition of the civil rights movement — but built for today’s challenges. On July 17th, communities across the country will come together in the streets, at courthouses, and in community spaces to raise our voices, stand together, and carry forward his mission for justice, voting rights, and dignity for all. These may include:

- **Rallies and marches** in towns, cities, and rural communities
- **Moral assemblies** at statehouses and federal buildings
- **Service Work**, such as food drives and community events
- **Direct action trainings**, teach-ins, and movement-building events
- **Mass mobilizations** such as voter registrations, petitions, and other civic engagement tactics to expose the billionaire power grab and stop the rollback of our rights

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From the LWVUS [Continued from the previous page]

This is not a day of quiet reflection—it is a day of **courage and collective action**, just as John Lewis modeled throughout his life.

Join Us

The same spirit that fueled Selma, Montgomery, and the March on Washington lives on in our unified action. **This is our moment to carry the torch, continue the legacy of John Lewis, and pass it forward to future generations.** We are not spectators to history. We are the makers of it. **Together, we can push back and realize a democracy that works for us.**

With People. With Power. With Good Trouble.

The LWNOC will send out more information on opportunities to participate in this nationwide day of peaceful, nonviolent action and organizing. Check your email for updates.

Adapted from [“Good Trouble Lives On: March in Peace. Act in Power.”](#) from the LWVUS.



GrassRoots

LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

Officers

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| President | Gerri McNenny |
| Vice-President | Sharon O'Hara |
| Secretary | Ruth Zemke |
| Treasurer | Karen Bender |

Special Events

Gerri McNenny

Nominating Comm.

Jenny Luzi
Barbara Dunsheath
Betty Hammond
Karen Bender

Directors

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Action/Advocacy | Richard Larsen |
| Lunch w/ League | Betty Hammon |
| | Jennifer Trafford |
| | Maggie Lee |
| Co-Membership | Marcy Fry |
| | Maggie Lee |
| Voter Services | Sue Guilford |
| Speaker Committee | Jodi Balma |
| E-mail Blasts | Maggie Lee |
| Voter Editor | Jim Hill |
| Web Host | Ed Smith |
| | Maggie Lee |

Off-Board Directors

| | |
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| Read with League | Love Adu |
| Student Outreach | Jodi Balma |
| Facebook | Jodi Balma |
| Observer Corps | Karen Bender |

2025-2026 Focus Committee Heads

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Federal Judiciary | Ruth Zemke |
| Climate Sustainability | Sharon O'Hara |
| Education | Marcy Fry |