



The Voter



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

President's Message

by Gerri McNenny, LWVNOC President

Welcome to the start of our 2025-2026 year of activities here at the League of Women Voters of North Orange County (LWVNOC). While there is an overwhelming amount of turmoil and upheaval at the national level, there is much we can do locally to inform and educate residents of the cities we serve. The LWVNOC definitely makes a difference within our communities, and we encourage you to participate to the degree that fits your comfort level.

Voter Services, directed by Sue Guilford, will be gearing up for the primary in June and for the November 4 special election. Voter Services is one of the key areas where the League makes a difference. Through presentations of pros and cons and candidate forums, you can become involved in so many ways. To find out more, look for the sign-up sheet that Sue will be passing around at our Kickoff on September 27th.

Our Observer Corps, directed by Karen Bender, is a prime example of community engagement at the grassroots level. Our observers' reports are featured on our website and in *The Voter* each month. Observers are on the front lines of community government, reporting on city council meetings, the Board of Supervisors, and other local boards. Becoming an Observer is a great way to contribute to the League's commitment to serving the community.

Our Advocacy and Action initiatives, directed by Richard Larsen, are an important part of the League's efforts to take action on critical issues as they emerge in real time. Opportunities for letter writing and engagement with our elected officials, including legislator interviews, are sent to all those who sign up for Advocacy alerts. And we know that responding to those alerts in a timely fashion, through phone calls and emails to elected representatives, makes a difference. So sign up if you can make the time to respond.

Of course, there are other ways to become involved in the League. Our Special Events Committee, directed by Virginia Luzi and Gerri McNenny, offers the opportunity to help plan and participate in the various celebrations we hold throughout the year. Lunch with League is another area where help is appreciated. For more on that, contact Betty Hammond.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our annual Kickoff and Silent Auction on Saturday, September 27th at Coyote Hills Golf Club at 10:30am. There you'll learn more about all these opportunities and how you can join in to make a difference. See you there!



The road ahead

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League of Women Voters of California Announces Neutral Position on Proposition 50

August 27, 2025

The League of Women Voters of California will not take a position on Proposition 50. We will remain neutral.

[This statement](#) explains our neutral position, provides context for that position, and shifts the focus to empowering California voters.

Early in the process, before the ballot language was written, we, along with several other good government groups, issued independent statements opposing mid-cycle redistricting. **This was consistent with the League's long-standing positions at both the state and national level.** Since then, and on the heels of Texas' decision, California Governor Newsom and the legislature moved forward to do mid-cycle redistricting. Now, the ballot measure language has been finalized. While the process for the redistricting in California differs from what is happening in Texas, the California League recognizes the importance of staying aligned with our national League and with state and local Leagues, such as in Texas, that are, or may soon be, in court challenging unfair maps.

With all of these factors in mind, we have decided not to take a position on Proposition 50.

On the proposed maps themselves, our policy is clear: **the people most affected by district maps, especially communities of color who are often underrepresented, should be the ones to decide if those maps are fair.** Many of our partners in Latino, AAPI, and Black communities are still reviewing the California map and forming their positions. We will defer to them to share their conclusions.

The League of Women Voters of California is a nonpartisan organization. **Every day we fight in the courts and in the legislature to protect Californians from President Trump's authoritarian actions that threaten the rights and freedoms of all Americans.** Our record on this is public and clear.

The League of Women Voters of California has always spoken truth, fought voter suppression, and stood as allies for racial justice and democracy. We are a scrappy, grassroots, fire-fueled movement that will not allow democracy to be stolen. **Donald Trump is using common tactics of an aspiring dictator: divide opposition, pit people against each other, and sow distrust.** A well-worn tactic in that playbook is scapegoating, often by fueling anger and violence toward women. In recent weeks, the LWVC has received thousands of misogynistic, hate-filled emails. The League was forged in struggle, and we will not allow ourselves to be used as a scapegoat.

Authoritarianism is the enemy, not the League of Women Voters of California.

Now it is time for the voters to decide. Special elections often see low and unrepresentative turnout. The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund will work to ensure that the full diversity of California voters participate in the November 4, 2025 election, and that every voter has access to the non-partisan, in-language, and factual information they need to cast an informed vote.

Do not let partisan politics divide us. Now more than ever, we must stand together. And now more than ever, California voters need the League.



Erosion of Democracy

by Celina Stewart, CEO of LWVUS August 26, 2025

Today is commonly known as Women's Equality Day. But we're still far from equal. The recently passed "One Big Beautiful Bill" will deprive millions of women of health care, particularly reproductive care. The SAVE Act, which is currently before the US Senate, threatens to make it harder for women who've changed their names to cast their ballots. Attacks on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion threaten to erase the fight for equal rights from our schools and museums. Let that sink in.

Unfortunately, the attacks on women don't stop there. The erosion of democracy under the current administration has put our country into a constitutional crisis — and their antidemocratic actions make equality impossible.

But we're not sitting back and letting it happen. Like the women and allies who founded the League 105 years ago, we're fighting back. Because our voices matter. And equality is worth fighting for. This year, as every year since the repeal of our reproductive rights in 2022, we're recognizing today as Women's Inequality Day. But we're not just taking the day to mourn; we're uniting for action.

We launched Unite and Rise 8.5 to fight back against authoritarianism. Our democracy, and equality, depend on it. Take today as inspiration to fight for equality. [Sign our commitment form](#) and become a part of the movement to push back against inequality. Women have always been the backbone of political movements. Now, with our allies, we are being called to lead. Let's show the world just what we can do.



LWVNOC 2025 Kickoff, Award Honorees, & Silent Auction

by Gerri McNenny

Please join us on **Saturday, Sept. 27th**, for the **League of Women Voters of North Orange County's annual Kickoff & Silent Auction**, to be held at Coyote Hills Golf Club, located at 1440 E Bastanchury Rd. in Fullerton.

The cost for the luncheon will be \$35. Here is the [LINK](#) to pay for the lunch ahead of time. You can also pay at the door. Please RSVP to Betty Hammond at [Lunch With League](#).

Our focus will be on **"Immigration, Civil Rights, and Community Action."** Our speakers will be **Dr. Jody Agius Vallejo, Ph.D.**, Professor of Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity at USC and **Bethany Anderson**, DOJ-accredited immigration representative and the Director of Camino Immigration Services

Immigration is currently the litmus test for our democracy. Mass raids, racial profiling, detentions—of both immigrants and U.S. citizens—without due process are not isolated events; they are part of a broader erosion of constitutional protections and civil rights. This talk draws on policy analysis, national data, and on-the-ground legal observations in Orange County, to examine how federal immigration policies are reshaping civil liberties—and what the response in Orange County tells us about the stakes for us all.

About Our Speakers

Bethany Anderson is a DOJ-accredited immigration representative and the Director of Camino Immigration Services, where she leads efforts to provide free legal counsel and connect immigrant families with vital resources. A longtime immigrant rights advocate in North Orange County, Bethany has been at the forefront of community-based efforts to support, defend, and empower immigrant communities.

Jody Agius Vallejo is Professor of Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity at USC, where she also serves as Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Director of the USC Equity Research Institute. She is the author of *Barrios to Burbs: The Making of the Mexican American Middle Class* and the forthcoming *Latino Elites: Why Giving Back Isn't the Answer to Inequality* with research focused on immigration, integration, and inequality.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS***
OF NORTH ORANGE COUNTY

**Immigration, Civil Rights, &
Community Action**
Bethany Anderson & Jody Vallejo, PhD



**Find out how federal immigration policies are
reshaping civil liberties—and what the response in
Orange County tells us about the stakes for us all.**

**LWVNOC's Kickoff
& Silent Auction**
Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025
10:30 AM
Coyote Hills Golf, 1440 E. Bastanchury, Fullerton
RSVP by 9/13 to LUNCHWITHLEAGUE@LWVNOC.ORG

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Our Honorees

In an era flooded with information, the significance of local news has never been more pronounced. Research indicates that when local news is readily accessible, residents are more actively engaged in civic activities. A recent report from the Knight Foundation underscores the concept of a “virtuous circle,” in which informed citizens lead to positive community outcomes.

However, the landscape is shifting. Political scientists Danny Hayes and Jennifer Lawless warn that the decline of local news often leads to diminished civic engagement, as vital information regarding elected officials becomes increasingly challenging to obtain. The repercussions of vanishing local news outlets extend beyond community participation; they also threaten government accountability and corporate oversight.

Despite facing myriad challenges, including dwindling revenues and shifting reader habits, local newspapers are more vital than ever. They often stand as the only institutions committed to covering public affairs at the regional level.

For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of North Orange County has chosen to honor four women involved in the founding and sustenance of *The Fullerton Observer*, Fullerton’s own locally owned and published newspaper. Our honorees include the following people:

- **Barbara Johnson**, co-founder of the *Fullerton Observer* (1978) and of the Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Service, now known as Pathways of Hope;
- **Irene Kobayashi**, co-founder of the *Fullerton Observer* (1978) and community contributor of 47 years of dedicated volunteerism to the Fullerton community;
- **Sharon Kennedy**, Editor and Chief of the *Fullerton Observer* from 1998-2020; and
- **Saskia Kennedy**, Editor and Chief of the *Fullerton Observer* since 2020.

The contributions of these women cannot be overstated. By upholding and fostering the delivery of local journalism, they have modeled what it means to have an alert and dedicated team of local journalists watching out for everyday citizens.

As local journalism faces unprecedented challenges, its importance in fostering informed and engaged communities remains undeniable. The future of local news hinges on the commitment of both consumers and communities to support these essential institutions. Through their continued support, these women have made and continue to make an impact that serves us all.

Getting Ready for the Next Election

by Sue Guilford, LWV NOC Voter Services

The Orange County Registrar of Voters recently hosted a series of workshops around the county in preparation for updating the Election Administration Plan (EAP) as required by the 2016 Voters Choice Act. This act allowed Orange County to approve running elections with a modern model that offers greater flexibility and convenience for voters, while operating efficiently and securely. Foreign language sessions were offered Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese and Chinese, and interpreters were available at other sessions. LWVNOC was represented at a General Workshop and at a Language and Accessibility Workshop.

There will be a public hearing on September 25, 2025, where the final EAP will be presented. **Will you join me?** It’s on my calendar. You can learn more about the EAP at <https://ocvote.gov/election-administration-plan#eap>. You can also submit comments.

I am personally concerned about those who question the security of our election system because they can cause others to question the safety of our vote. The current system uses a number of security measures, not all of which are made public, that help ensure that our votes are secure.

Good Trouble Lives On by Sharon O'Hara

Members of the LWV North Orange County participated in the “Good Trouble Lives On” rally in Brea on July 17th, 2025. As you may know, the LWVUS supported a national day of action-“Good Trouble Lives On”. The LWVUS emphasized its commitment to nonviolent action across the country to advocate for voting rights and defend democracy. One of the main organizers of “Good Trouble” was Indivisible. In North Orange County, we have Indivisible CA 45 (CA Congressional District 45)

This is a brief overview of **Indivisible:**

Indivisible is a progressive movement and organization initiated in 2016. The movement's organizational leadership includes the **Indivisible Project**, **Indivisible Civics**, and **Indivisible Action**. The movement began with the online publication of a handbook written by Congressional staffers with suggestions for peacefully but effectively resisting the move to the right.

The purpose of the guide was to encourage resistance by targeting Republican elected members of Congress by attending town halls, calling congressional officials, visiting their offices, and showing up at public events.

Since January 2025, the Indivisible organization has continued its activities and declared that the democracy of the republic is under threat and that the organization will not yield to fascism, pledging to stand together to fight in defense of rights, communities, and values.

They post their organized efforts to protest, and the Indivisible co-founders Leah Greenberg and Ezra Levin hold a weekly conversation regarding the news of the week, to answer questions, and to inform about calls to action.

Indivisible encourages these advocacy tactics and key opportunities that can have great effect

- Town hall attendance,
- district office visits,
- and coordinated calls and letters to decision makers' offices.

Indivisible groups in California focus on issues like voting rights, healthcare, environmental protection, and other areas where they see the need to resist the current federal administration's policies. They collaborate with other progressive groups and organizations to amplify their impact and build a strong, unified movement with campaigns to protect democracy.

Beyond political action, Indivisible groups in California foster a sense of community among their members, providing a space for like-minded individuals to connect, organize, and support each other.

“Protest is an act of love, not one of anger.” John Lewis 1940-2020

Help Wanted by Jim Hill

I've been editing the LWVNOC Newsletter since July 2012. My current term of office ends in June 2026, and I intend to resign my position at that time with the June 2026 issue. Never mind the subtraction, if you count the years, they add up to fifteen. I wouldn't have stayed so long if it weren't fun, but now I have decided it's time for someone else to step in. All you need is a working knowledge of your word processor and good grammar.

I'll make myself available to help out whomever takes over if any difficulties arise. Basically an editor does nothing at all until near the end of the month. Then the articles come in, you edit and format them for the newsletter, and then you send a draft to the LWVNOC President for final approval or amendment. After that you attach the newsletter to an email to membership, send it out, and wait for the applause.

If you think you'd be happy with that assignment, contact me at jandkhill@mac.com. If there are competing applicants, a vote by membership will determine who will be our next editor.

Voter Services of the Orange Coast LWV recommend this webinar:

The Challenges to Voting Rights Then and Now

Join the producer of SUFFS, the Tony Award-winning musical about the women who fought to win the vote, at an upcoming webinar on September 18. Rachel Sussman, lead producer, will talk about how the women's suffrage movement inspired SUFFS. **She will be joined by Dianna Wynn, President of the League of Women Voters of the U.S.** Senator Alex Padilla has also been invited to participate.

The webinar, which will be held from **1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**, will focus on the challenges to voting rights, then and now. Panelists will describe the history and obstacles the suffragists faced in passing the 19th Amendment, the founding of the League of Women Voters, and the League's commitment to ensure the right to vote. Sussman will explain the driving force and commitment of the SUFFS production to bring to life on stage the passionate American women who fought tirelessly for the right to vote. They will also explain the SAVE Act, what it is and how its passage would threaten the right to vote for many Americans, especially women. Alison Peters, Contra Costa County librarian, will moderate the discussion.

Register for the webinar [here](#):

Information on how to access the Zoom webinar will be sent to your email address 24 hours before the program. Audience questions will be collected and answered through the Zoom chat.

Sponsors of the webinar include the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, the League of Women Voters of West Contra Costa County, the Contra Costa County Library and Contra Costa TV.

The Contra Costa Library will provide simultaneous Spanish translation for this event. The program will be recorded and posted on the following sites after the meeting:

[Contra Costa County Library YouTube channel](#)

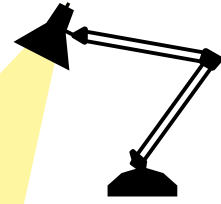
<https://www.youtube.com/c/LeagueofWomenVotersofDiabloValley>.

Contact programs@lwvdv.org for more information



Observer Reports

by Sherlan Neblett, Pamela Berg, Ruth Zemke,
Dee Steedman, and Karen Bender



At the **August 5th** meeting of the **Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District** (PYLUSD), there was lengthy discussion about the 6/27/2025 Mahmoud vs. Taylor Supreme Court decision. The Court ruled 6-3 that parents have the right to opt their children out of certain LGBTQ+-inclusive storybooks used in public school curricula. The decision centered on the lack of an opt-out option, rather than the storybooks used. PYLUSD plans to send out a notice in advance of the curriculum material and provide parent with an opt-out option. PYLUSD will present their newly chosen Superintendent at the 9/9 School Board meeting.

At the **August 12th Orange County Board of Supervisors** meeting, some Supervisors expressed outrage at the low level (\$) of Andrew Do's restitution ordered by the court. Supervisor Sarmiento was underwhelmed with the updated County Code of Ethics and Commitment to Public Service.

On **August 26th**, Supervisors Wagner and Nguyen brought forth a motion to compel the Registrar of Voters to turn over voter information to the U.S. Department of Justice. Supervisor Wagner even threatened Mr. Page's position. Mr. Page explained that he hadn't relinquished voter information (which includes, Driver's License number, Social Security number, and a copy of the voter's signature) on the advice of Orange County Counsel. The motion was defeated 3-2. Supervisor Wagner also stated he would be supporting voter ID legislation in 2026.

On **August 19th**, one hundred fifty citizens attended the closed session of the **Fullerton City Council**. Fifty people spoke on the motion to join an amicus brief filed by the ACLU opposing illegal ICE raids. The Council voted to file the brief and to coordinate with other OC cities (Santa Ana, Anaheim, Costa Mesa and Irvine) in doing so.

The **Orange County Board of Education** (BOE) report is shared with us by the **League of Women Voters Coast League**. At the **August 6th** meeting of the Board of Education, Board member Valdez introduced a motion adding a paragraph to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and each of its charter schools that would provide "guideline" for disallowing the teaching of Critical Race Theory (and possibly gender identity or DEI concerns). Though concern was expressed about the legality of this motion, the motion passed 5-0. (At no time was the one paragraph content of the memo read aloud or otherwise presented.)

On **July 24th**, Friends of the Fullerton Public Library announced a 2-day Book sale on September 26 and 27th. The sale will be conducted in the Conference Center east of the main Library. Hours are 11am-4pm. If you become a member of Friends of the Library, you can begin your book buying at 10am on Friday, the 26th. On Saturday, beginning at 2 pm, right after the League's KickOff, for \$3 you can fill a grocery bag with books, or 2 bags for \$5. The **Library Board of Trustees** expressed their gratitude to Library Director Judy Booth for her service with the Library and the community. Director Booth retires in September.

For the complete Observer Reports, see our website: lwvnoc.org Click on "Observer Corps," then "LWVNOG Observer Reports," then "Report-City," "Report-School District," or "Report-County."

The Coast League report can be found by scrolling to the bottom of the Observer Corps page and clicking on "Observer reports – County Janette Dye."

August was not an exciting month for Advocacy, we only received five requests for petitions. This was probably the result of Legislators being off and home for their local constituents. One petition request was from Common Cause about Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth's opinion that women should not have a right to vote. Two were on specific ballot measures, SB42 about Public Financing Campaigns, and AB736 and SB417 about Affordable Housing. We received one from Common Cause about Public Broadcasting, and one from Common Cause about Militia doing Police work, which is a violation of the Constitution as noted below.

We also received four notices of events that members might be interested in, so they were distributed also. On August 13 we received a notice from Common Cause for a National Day of Action on August 16 to fight Trump's power overreach. On August 15 we received a notice from OC Office of Care Coordination for a homelessness meeting on August 20. Then we received a notice from LWVC announcing a meeting in Sacramento to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. On August 12 the LWV Climate Action Plan team sent an invitation to a Power Talk about electrification on September 16 at 10 am PT. You can register in advance for this meeting on <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ioxJfqNQSp2mrH41LSjg-g> For additional information contact Richard Larsen rkajdane5@gmail.com.

On April 17, LWV CEO Celina Stewart and President Dianna Wynn released a statement declaring that the country is in a Constitutional Crisis and announced the Unite & Rise 8.5 program. The 8.5 is to get 8.5 million voters registered. This is very important because in a presidential election typically 40% of eligible voters don't vote, and in mid-term elections like 2026 typically 60% of eligible voters don't vote. Below are some examples of the current Constitutional Crisis.

DEFYING THE CONSTITUTION

Article I Section 4 “The Times, Places and Manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof;”

Trump pledged to end mail-in voting with an executive order because Putin said so.

Article I Section 8 Congress shall have the power “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations” Trump, without input from Congress, has added, paused, and changed tariffs and getting benefits from it, i.e. the Vietnamese government approved a \$1.5 billion Trump golf complex and the Trump skyscraper in Ho Chi Minh City.

Article I, Section 8 Congress shall have the power “To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union. “

Trump has called out the Militia in L.A. and Washington DC to perform domestic police work.

Article I Section 9 “No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State” Trump has made a deal with Nvidia for a 15% tax on AI products exported to China from the U.S..

Article II Section 2 The President shall have the power to “with the Advice and Consent of the Senate shall appoint public Ministers and Consuls . . .” Trump is appointing U.S. Attorneys without the approval of the Senate by designating them as Interim.

[Continued on the next page]

DEFYING THE LAW

Alien Enemies Act of 1798

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that whenever there shall be any invasion or predatory incursion perpetrated against the territory of the United States, by any foreign nation or government, and the President of the United States shall make public proclamation of the event, all natives, citizens, denizens, or subjects of the hostile nation or government who shall be within the United States, and not actually naturalized, shall be liable to be apprehended, restrained, secured and removed, as alien enemies.

President Trump has ICE apprehending undocumented aliens with and without criminal records and claiming they commit violent crimes using the Alien Enemies Act. Has their incursion been perpetrated by any hostile foreign nation or government? Are we identifying the HOSTILE NATIONS OR GOVERNMENTS the immigrants are from as being HOSTILE like Germany, Japan, and Italy during WW2?



Marguerite Lyon passed away on July 20, 2025, at 95 years old. Marguerite was a long-time resident of Rossmoor, and a dedicated educator and community member. She spent most her life working as a teacher for the Los Alamitos School District and ended her career as a Special Education Consultant for the Orange County Department of Education. After retirement, Marguerite served her community through numerous local organizations, including the Assistance League of Long Beach, the Fine Arts Affiliates for California State University of Long Beach, and the League of Women Voters, North Orange County. As a member of LWVNOC, Marguerite was a frequent board member and past president. She was keenly interested in politics and loved supporting the educational mission of the League of Women Voters.

Her family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the League of Women Voters, North Orange County.





LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

Officers

President	Gerri McNenny
Vice-President	Sharon O'Hara
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 Services	Sue Guilford
Speakers Committee	Joanne Fawley
	Alison Grimes
E-mail Blasts	Maggie Lee
<i>Voter</i> Editor	Jim Hill

Web Host

Ed Smith

Special Events

Maggie Lee
Gerri McNenny
Jenny Luzi

Nominating Comm.

Barbara Dunsheath
Betty Hammond
Karen Bender

Off-Board Directors

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