



National Guard to be Deployed to Portland Oregon

News from the LWVUS

PORTLAND AND WASHINGTON, DC — September 29, 2025. The League of Women Voters of Oregon and the League of Women Voters of the US issued the following joint statement in response to the deployment of the National Guard in Portland.



“Portland — a city recognized nationally for its civic activism, creativity, and commitment to democratic values — is now subject to an unjustified deployment of federal troops. This action undermines local authority and threatens the very freedoms our democracy is meant to protect.

“Neither the Governor of Oregon nor city leaders requested this intervention. No emergency exists in Portland that warrants federal deployment. Instead, this move represents yet another instance of political retaliation aimed at silencing diverse, engaged communities who exercise their right to free expression.

“The presence of the National Guard will not bring safety or stability to Portland. Instead, it escalates fear, erodes trust, and places communities — particularly Black, brown, immigrant, and Indigenous residents who have historically borne the brunt of state overreach — at greater risk.

“Portland has long been a city where people gather to speak out, advocate for justice, and demand accountability from their government. To answer civic participation with militarization is a dangerous misuse of federal power. What Portlanders need is investment in community safety, affordable housing, and public health — not troops in their streets.

“The League calls on the Oregon congressional delegation to condemn the weaponization of the federal military and stand up for the people of Portland. We commend Oregon government officials for taking legal action against this unjust occupation.”

“The League of Women Voters stands firmly with Portland — a city whose voices have long shaped our nation’s pursuit of justice and equality. We strongly condemn this deployment, and any use of federal troops in American cities without due cause.”

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LWVUS Joins in October 18 No Kings March

by Dianna Wynn, President of the League of Women Voters U.S.

{Editor's note: This is an excerpt from Dianna Wynn's September 18 League Update}

LWVUS is joining [No Kings 2](#) as a national partner on Saturday, October 18. LWVUS has decided to become an official partner for this day of mobilization to stand in solidarity with partners and stand up against hate and authoritarianism. I'll be attending a No Kings event in my own community. The League has consistently and boldly spoken up in the face of rising authoritarianism. This is an opportunity to put words into action and show up in defense of democracy and as an effective ally. We encourage Leagues to lean in locally and participate in activations with partners on the ground in a nonpartisan manner. We understand that we cannot control how other partners show up, and participating in any event comes with some risk. For Leagues who decide to mobilize for No Kings, please utilize our [protest safety guidance](#) and ["How to Organize a Rally in 8 Steps"](#) resource on the League Management Site. If representing the League or wearing LWV shirts (which we encourage), please use good judgment when creating signs and participating in nonpartisan chants. The national staff will have additional guidance in the weeks ahead.

Weekly Protests in O.C. by Marguerite Milligan.

Here is information on the weekly protests. I personally participate in the Sunday protest in Irvine most Sundays so I know first hand about the speakers and food/diaper/household supplies drives that take place at that one. I am going to give myself the assignment of attending each of the other weekly OC protests in the next few weeks so I can see what goes on at those events and report back on them for next month's newsletter if you think that would be helpful. In the meantime, for this month's newsletter, here is the info that I have:

Local Protests – There are protests going on in Orange County literally every day. Some are regular weekly actions and others, such as the “No Kings” and “Good Trouble” protests are special, one-time, nationwide (perhaps even worldwide) events which are supported by many organizations such as Indivisible, 50501, MoveOn, the ACLU, The American Federation of Teachers, Public Citizen, Third Act, Red, Wine & Blue, and many others. Feel free to come as you are. Some people make elaborate signage and others use torn off pizza box lids and sharpies. I usually go to the Irvine protest on Sundays and they even have a sign making station with art supplies as well as signs available to borrow. I’ve seen everyone from young children to seniors using walkers and everyone in between. All are welcome (and needed)! Right now, the weekly local protests, locations, and *organizing groups* are:

- a. **Monday** – Brea (Imperial Hwy & St. College), 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM, *Indivisible CA 45*
- b. **Tuesday** – Orange (Glassell & Chapman), 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM, *Indivisible CA 40*
- c. **Wednesday** – Mission Viejo (La Paz & Marguerite), 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, *SouthOC4Democracy*
- d. **Thursday** – Lake Forest (El Toro & Trabuco), 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM, *Indivisible CA 40*
- e. **Thursday** – La Habra (Imperial Hwy & South Beach Blvd), 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, *Indivisible La Habra*
- f. **Friday** – Villa Park (Villa Park Rd & North Wanda Rd), 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM, *Indivisible CA 40*
- g. **Saturday** – Aliso Viejo (26501 Aliso Creek Rd), 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, *Aliso Viejo Resistance*
- h. **Sunday** – Huntington Beach (Huntington Beach City Hall), 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM, *OC Huddle*
- i. **Sunday** – Irvine (Irvine City Hall), 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM, *50501OC & OC Indivisible*. At 2:30 PM they usually have speakers for about 30 minutes. Also, this location incorporates a food/diaper/household necessities drive with the items going to affected immigrant families in the area. Protesters are welcome (but not required) to bring donations of canned/boxed/shelf stable foods, diapers, baby wipes, household supplies like laundry detergent and toilet paper, etc. The local chapters of Indivisible, 50501, and some other local organizations typically have tables set up on the lawn in front of Irvine City Hall with representatives who are more than happy to answer questions and provide printed materials, stickers, etc. They also have free water and snacks available for participants. There are also a number of volunteers who act as safety monitors to assist participants with crosswalk safety and any other safety concerns as well as to answer questions.

NO KINGS 2 - October 18, 2025 - various times and locations:

Go to this website for updated information: <https://www.nokings.org/>

Right now these are the actions taking place in Orange County on October 18th for No Kings 2:

1. No Kings 2 - Orange County* - Centennial Park, 3000 West Edinger Avenue, Santa Ana 92704 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM
2. No Kings 2 - Huntington Beach Pier, Huntington Beach 92648 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM
3. No Kings 2 - Jamboree Road and Pacific Coast Highway, Newport Beach 92660 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
4. No Kings 2 - El Toro Road and Paseo de Valencia, Laguna Hills 92653 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
5. No Kings 2 - The Commons, Aliso Creek Road and Enterprise, Aliso Viejo 92656 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM
6. No Kings 2 - Selva Road and Pacific Coast Highway, Dana Point 92629 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

*The Centennial Park location, according to the website, will have DJs, musicians, speeches, sign making, and local organizations on site.

More locations may be added as we get closer to October 18th so keep checking on www.nokings.org for updated information.

Voters' Choice Act: A Call to action

You need to write to the OC Registrar of Voters at ocvote@ocvote.gov to express support for the Voters Choice Act in Orange County. Write about what you like — the convenience, the security, the many provisions that make voting easier and more accessible for all. Voting is the right of all citizens, and we need to make it easy for as many as possible to enjoy that right.

In addition, call and/or email your Supervisor on the Orange County Board of Supervisors that you support the Voters Choice Act (VCA) in Orange County, and that you support the leadership of OC Registrar of Voters Bob Page. Tell your friends and family to do the same. Do it now and do it often. If you can actually attend a BOS meeting in Santa Ana and speak, that's also helpful. Here's why.

On September 25, I attended a meeting hosted by the OC Registrar of Voters where citizens could comment on the draft of the Election Administration Plan (EAP) for 2026-2029 (more details at <https://ocvote.gov>). The VCA requires that the EAP be reviewed and updated every four years, a process that involves citizen input and comments. The EAP is due to be finalized in October, adopted in November and submitted to the California Secretary of State in December.

About 40 to 50 individuals attended the meeting, and about 25 spoke. Most of the speakers were highly critical of the VCA and vote-by-mail in general. A number demanded that Orange County revert to precinct-level in-person voting or a "hybrid" model similar to that used in San Bernardino. Some also want voter ID and at least one said that if you can't vote on Election Day, maybe you shouldn't vote at all.

I don't believe that those individuals are representative of our population, but they were there and speaking out. Many have been attending and making those same demands at BOS meetings. It is critical that our voices be heard, too. We need to make our voices heard, and we need our friends to do the same.

The public comment period for the EAP has ended, but you can still send comments to ocvote@ocvote.gov.

League of Women Voters North Orange County Honors Fullerton Observer for Community Impact

by Saskia Kennedy

[Reprinted with permission from the Fullerton Observer]



Front row: Current Fullerton Observer editor Saskia Kennedy with two of the newspapers founders, Irene Kobayashi and Barbara Johnson, and former editor Sharon Kennedy. Family members of the founders stand behind.

The League of Women Voters of North Orange County held a special recognition ceremony to honor the Fullerton Observer on September 27, 2025, for its exceptional contributions to the community over the years. The event featured Ron Kobayashi, son of the publication's founders, Roy and Irene Kobayashi, who presented awards to several key figures associated with the Observer.

Irene Kobayashi, one of the founders of the Fullerton Observer established in 1978, was recognized for her 47 years of dedicated volunteerism. The League applauded her unwavering commitment, highlighting her tireless efforts and passion that have left an indelible mark on the community. "Your work has inspired countless others to engage and contribute," the League stated in their tribute.

Barbara Johnson, also a founding member of the Observer, received accolades for her vision and leadership. Her impactful role in enhancing the Fullerton community through the Observer and her efforts with Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services, now known as Pathways of Hope, was celebrated. "Your dedication has truly inspired others to work towards a more supportive community," the recognition read.

Sharon Kennedy, who served as Editor-in-Chief from 1998 to 2020, was honored for her outstanding leadership and commitment to journalism. Over her 22 years at the helm, her work has significantly influenced public discourse and engagement within the community.

Current Editor-in-Chief, Saskia Kennedy, was also recognized for her continued dedication to quality journalism since taking the position in 2020. The League expressed appreciation for her service and its positive effects on the community.

The Fullerton Observer's legacy, rooted in its founders' ideals of community engagement and journalistic integrity, continues to resonate deeply within North Orange County, showcasing the power of local journalism to inspire and uplift.

Advocacy by Richard Larsen

Advocacy activity this month was primarily nine petition requests from LWVC, LWVUS, Common Cause CA, and Common Cause US. The requests were sent out to the 36 Advocacy Team members for action. The summary is as follows.

We received four ACTION Alerts from LWVC, two petitions to State Assembly to vote yes on SJR-1 which rescinds California's past request for Article V Constitutional Convention, and yes on SB 42 California Fair Elections Act (CFEA), and two petitions to Gov Newsom to sign SB 42 (CFEA) and AB 1071 Racial Justice Act.

LWVUS sent us a petition request to Congress to vote NO on the SAVE ACT which makes voting requirements more difficult.

Common Cause CA sent a petition request to Gov. Newsom to sign SB 42 (CFEA). Common Cause US requested three petitions to Congress to defund DOGE and keep them out of Social Security personal data, to stop Trump's military invasions of US cities, and to investigate Steven Miller's attacks on immigrants.

If anyone would like more information or to join the Advocacy team please contact Richard Larsen rkajdane5@gmail.com

Observer Reports

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

At the **Sept. 9th** meeting of the **Orange County Board of Supervisors**, Supervisors Wagner and Nguyen requested an emergency agenda item directing the Registrar of Voters to remove any non-humans from voter rolls. This after learning that a woman had registered her dog to vote in two elections. She has been charged with five felonies. It was also suggested that veterinary records be compared to the voter rolls to prevent this from happening in the future. Supervisors Foley, Sarmiento, and Chaffee voted against considering this an emergency. Thus, it was discussed at the **9/23** meeting. The item, including comparison between voter rolls and veterinary records, passed 3-1, Chaffee abstaining. Supervisors Wagner and Nguyen also proposed that the Board adopt a resolution opposing Proposition 50 on the November 2025 ballot. That resolution was defeated 3-2.

At the **Sept. 16th, Fullerton City Council** meeting, there was an extensive discussion about noise regulation that will be continued at the October 7th meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Shana Charles is holding a forum on Oct. 16 to discuss mental health needs and the trauma of recent ICE actions.

The new superintendent for the **Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District**, Dr. Kim LeBlanc-Esparza was enthusiastically approved by all five trustees at the **Sept. 9th** meeting. There was a lengthy discussion about a Revision of School Board Policy: Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs; this was the second reading. As stated by PYLUSD, "This board policy is being revised in response to Mahmoud v. Taylor, a Supreme Court decision about parents who wished to opt their children out of instruction involving LGBTQ-themed storybooks in the Maryland Public school system." The proposed new policy states "When required by law, the district shall notify parents/guardians that they may, via written request, opt their student out of instruction on the basis of their religious beliefs as specified in administrative regulations." . . . "Students whose parents/guardians opt them out of such instruction, may be offered an alternate activity of similar educational value. Additionally, a student shall not be subject to disciplinary action, academic penalty, or other sanction on the grounds that the student was opted out of such instruction." This reading met with approval from the entire school board.

A Reading recommendation

by Sharon O'Hara
Heather Cox Richardson's newsletter: *Letters from an American*



In Heather's words,

"Historians are fond of saying that the past doesn't repeat itself; it rhymes.
To understand the present, we have to understand how we got here.
I'm a history professor interested in the contrast between image and reality in American politics.
I believe in American democracy, despite its frequent failures."

That's where this newsletter comes in: **Letters from an American.** Find her daily "Letter" in these formats: YouTube, Facebook, on Substack Her most recent book is **Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America.**

Beginning in October, the cost of a Lunch with League reservation will increase to \$30 to cover our costs.

At the September 19 Board meeting, our Board approved the increase. Coyote Hills has raised their cost to us to \$29. The credit card company cost to us is \$1.20 per lunch. We all love having the convenience of registering online and speeding up our transaction on the day of the event.

Help Wanted by Jim Hill, Editor

I have enjoyed the pleasure and privilege of editing **The Voter** since July 2012, and after a surprisingly lengthy fifteen-year tenure, I plan to step down after the June 2026 issue. Consequently, the search is on for a new editor. The job requires a working knowledge of your word processing program and a willingness to work a few hours during the last week or so of each month. I will be happy to share my methodology with the next editor and be available as an advisor as needed. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please email me at jandkhill@mac.com to discuss the matter.



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