



President's Message by Gerri McNenny

Expanding Voter Access: Why It Matters

The League is a strong advocate for increasing voters' access to the polls. This includes expanding early voting and automatic and online voter registration. It also **explains [why the League is opposed to voter ID laws](#)**.

Why? Because voter ID laws seek to restrict access to voting. As the League of Women Voters website notes, "Increased accessibility to the electoral process is integral to ensuring that every American can exercise their right to vote. Leagues across the United States work year-round to promote pro-voter reforms that both preserve our existing rights and provide flexibility for casting ballots in order to be inclusive of historically underserved communities.

While we have made progress in expanding voter access, many people still face disproportionate challenges to participate in elections due to factors including health, age, race, and gender. Our democracy is strongest when every voice is heard, which is why we strongly advocate for measures to make voting more accessible.

[Voter accessibility measures supported by the LWVUS include the following:](#)

- Automatic voter registration
- Online voter registration
- Multilingual voting resources
- Extended polling hours
- Mail-in voting
- Early voting
- Eliminated ballot notary and witness signature requirements
- Extended registration deadlines
- Expanded polling locations
- Eliminated or relaxed ID requirements
- Added protections for in-person voting

Pro-voter reforms have transformed our democracy and led to unprecedented voter turnout in the 2020 Election. But they are too often threatened by politicians and special interests who prioritize their own needs over an equal and fair democracy. When it comes to opposing these anti-voter efforts, the League is on the frontlines, advocating in state houses and in Congress, fighting anti-voter laws in court, and organizing activists to make their voices heard.

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As we work to expand voter access, the League also empowers voters through [VOTE411](https://www.vote411.org), a nonpartisan, 'one-stop-shop' for all the election information you need to cast a ballot in every election – available in English and Spanish. From registration to voting rules and candidate guides, this award-winning website is your guide to making your voice heard in every election.”([LWV.org](https://www.lwv.org))

Thanks to all of you for all that you do in advancing voter access and education!

Protect Voting for All

by Susan Guilford



The administration has put proponents of false claims about voting in government jobs while dismantling systems for secure voting. We should all be worried about federal government efforts to seize authority over elections. The current work to redraw congressional districts is part of that plan.

What also worries me is that far too many reasonable people think that Voter ID is a good idea because we have to show our ID to get on a plane, for example. Here's what's wrong with that: getting on a plane is a privilege. Voting is a right that we need to make easily accessible to all citizens. You can learn more about voter ID at www.voteriders.org, an organization that helps all voters get the ID they need, even paying for such documents as birth certificates that many states require.

Here in California, when we register to vote, we swear under penalty of perjury that the information we provide, which includes an assertion of citizenship, is true. Perjury is a felony.

Despite claims of widespread voter fraud, including assertions that “illegals” are brought into the country to vote for certain candidates, **there is no widespread voter fraud.**

We need to remind each other and everyone we know that our voting systems are secure and that we do not need to change how citizens register to vote or how we vote. Orange County is one of 28 counties in California that has implemented the Voters Choice Act, which allows us to have in-person voting for 11 days (some Vote Centers opened on October 25 for the upcoming November 4 election, the rest will open on Saturday, November 1) along with many ballot drop boxes for those of us (around 85%) who prefer to vote by mail. I signed up for Ballot Tracking, available to all California voters, and received a message that my ballot “has been accepted for counting”.

So here's your assignment:

- Remind everyone of the safety and security of our vote and our voting system.
- Encourage everyone to have a plan to vote
- Ask California voters if they have signed up for Ballot Tracking



Where we stand on Immigration: Our League messaging

by Sharon O'Hara, LWVNOC Vice President

Immigrants are part of the fabric of our communities — they make our country strong. They are our neighbors, co-workers, and fellow community members, and they deserve due process and fair treatment. That means due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal, and right to humane treatment.

Diverse voices enhance our democracy. The League believes that a path to citizenship, or provisions for unauthorized immigrants already living in the US to earn legal status, will strengthen our nation.

The League does not support deporting undocumented immigrants who have no history of major and/or violent criminal activity. As a nonpartisan, pro-democracy organization, the League is deeply alarmed by the ongoing ICE detentions, which too often fly in the face of due process and other fundamental rights. These actions undermine the democratic values of fairness, equal treatment under the law, and government transparency and accountability. We can each learn more about immigration issues from some of the organizations which the League has identified as local and statewide organizations who lead on immigration issues.

Strong national partners representing and defending immigrants are the [ACLU](#) and [LULAC](#) and the [Orange County Rapid Response Network](#) – **Hotline: 714-881-1558** Another is the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of LA ([CHIRLA.org](#)). You can view the Vimeo videos below called [We Have Rights](#). This is a national immigrant empowerment campaign to inform people of what to do when interacting with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

- [English language video](#)
- [Spanish language video](#)

LWVC has produced a YouTube webinar entitled “California's Immigration Protections: Resistance & Resilience” [League of Women Voters of California](#)

As we pass out the “Red Cards,” those small, printed cards that outline everyone’s Constitutional rights and the right to remain silent, and as we inform ourselves about the issues, we will be able to educate our family and friends and pass on the League’s messages about democracy.

Statement of Position on the Federal Judiciary, as announced by the national board, June 2025

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) believes that all powers of the US government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of the balance of powers among the three branches of government. The League believes that, within the bounds of the US Constitution, the overarching principles of transparency, accountability, independence, and ethics are essential to an effective federal judiciary. These principles are not only essential for a strong democracy but foster public trust in the federal judiciary and adherence to the rule of law, the essence of our constitutional democracy.

For the federal judiciary, the League supports the essential principles of:

- **Transparency:** Federal court documents, proceedings, and rulings, including those in “shadow docket” cases, should be open and available to the public within the bounds of the law, recognizing the need for limited exceptions, such as legally protected sensitive information.
- **Accountability:** Federal judges and Justices should be held legally and ethically responsible for the integrity of their actions, with enforceable consequences for violations.
- **Independence:** Federal judges and Justices should act in accordance with the Constitution and statutory and case law, free from the influence of the other branches of government and free from shifting popular and political opinion.
- **Ethics:** Federal judges and Justices should adhere to ethical standards of conduct that apply universally at all levels of the federal courts. There should be a meaningful enforcement process with judges and Justices subject to penalties for failure to comply with the standards.

The League believes that standards of conduct for federal judges and Justices should include requirements to disclose non-judicial income; other financial benefits including, but not limited to, gifts and hospitality; and investment holdings. Federal judges, Justices, and their partners or spouses should be subject to penalties for failure to disclose accurately and in a timely manner.

The League believes that standards of conduct should include a process that requires a judge or Justice to recuse themselves upon evidence that a bias or reasonable perception of a bias exists for or against any party or issue raised in a case. A judge’s or Justice’s decision and rationale not to recuse, despite evidence raised in the court proceedings, should be disclosed in the court’s record.

The League believes that respect for precedent (*stare decisis*) under most circumstances contributes to a strong democracy and promotes predictability and stability of law. *Stare decisis* does not mean precedents cannot or should not be overruled, but that such instances should occur in exceptional circumstances.

The League believes that the elements of this position contribute to judicial integrity and are essential to a strong democracy. These elements exemplify what the League expects from the federal courts, building trust and buttressing the Courts’ legitimacy. Adherence to the principles of accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics ensures both a strong federal judiciary and a stronger democracy.

Observer Reports

by Sherlan Neblett, Ruth Zemke, Pam Berg, Deborah Vagts, Dee Steedman, and Karen Bender

The Observer Corps has a new member, Deborah Vagts, who is observing the Anaheim City Council and reporting to us, to Anaheim City Council, and to our public website. By League member, Anaheim has the second largest representation in our North Orange County League. If you are aware of a local government agency (council, board, school district) that would benefit from closer scrutiny, please let the Observer Corps know. And, if you are interested in the Observer Corps, contact Karen Bender, lwvnobc@gmail.com

At the **Oct 14** meeting of the **OC Board of Supervisors**, the board approved a contract with an audit firm to conduct a forensic audit of contracts funded by American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act, Mental Health Services Act and the General Fund from January 2019 to 2024. This is in response to the Andrew Do conviction.

A deputy agricultural commissioner made a short presentation about their two dogs trained to sniff out produce in unmarked packages. This is done to prevent foreign insects getting into the state, a potential risk to the agricultural industry.

On **Oct 7**, the **Fullerton City Council** paused the filing of their amicus brief in support of the ACLU lawsuit (Perdomo v. Noem) against illegal ICE raids until the federal government is open again to receive it. Doug Chaffee, Chair of OC Board of Supervisors, announced a gun buyback event November 8th in Garden Grove and also offered 3 free gun locks (if requested online) to those wishing to improve firearm safety.

At the **Oct 21** meeting, in response to recent federal immigration enforcement options, a motion passed (3-2) to set up two funds of \$100,000 each, one for legal assistance and one to cover daily living/basic needs for families negatively impacted. Lengthy discussion included allowing opportunities for donations, partnering with existing nonprofits, and continuing existing outreach and education efforts. Thirty per cent of Fullerton's population are immigrants.

Fullerton received one of 300 grants awarded in the US to address staffing needs from FEMA and Department of Homeland Security. This grant to the Fire Department would fund 12 firefighter positions for 3 years.

At the **Oct 14** meeting of **Anaheim City Council**, the City Manager reported that an outside firm is assessing the physical condition of Angel Stadium and expects to be finished by mid 2026.

A public commenter pointed out that Disney has received substantial subsidies from the city and is now increasing ticket, parking, souvenir, and food costs. The speaker felt the council should consider implementing a gate tax on Disney to help address the current Anaheim budget deficit; this might help fund new city projects, such as a new police facility and senior center.

Concern was expressed about the increased coyote population.

At the **Oct 21** meeting of the **Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District** the board discussed an additional revision of the Board policy: Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs. New superintendent Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza had proposed allowing parents to opt their student out of instruction based on "deeply held personal beliefs." Discussion suggested that extensive legal underpinnings support opt-out based on religious beliefs, but the same may not be said of "deeply held personal beliefs." The board tabled this action item, awaiting further discussion with legal counsel.

Prior to the regular meeting, a Study Session was held to present the District's capital improvement projects including funding and the Master Facility Plan. The Plan ensures that funding is allocated based on strategic priorities and not just ad hoc requests.



Help Still Wanted by Jim Hill, Editor

I have enjoyed the pleasure and privilege of editing **The Voter** since July 2012, and after my 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 working knowledge of a 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.

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