



LWVUS Response to Video Urging Troops not to Obey Illegal Orders



[Editor's Note: A half-dozen congressional Democrats who are also military veterans recently released a video urging members of the military [not to obey unlawful orders](#) that Trump might issue. The President then responded by issuing a series of social media posts suggesting these members of Congress had committed sedition and possibly even deserved to die.]

WASHINGTON, DC— “The President’s suggestion that lawmakers should face death for upholding the rule of law is not political rhetoric — it’s an authoritarian threat that shatters every democratic norm. No leader in a functioning democracy invokes death as punishment for dissent. Doing so endangers our institutions, our public servants, and the foundations of democratic governance.

"At a moment when Americans need real solutions to the growing crises impacting their lives, the President is choosing violent intimidation over governing.

"While he escalates chaos, the League of Women Voters is doing the work he refuses to do: strengthening democracy. We are winning in the courts — from challenging unlawful federal overreach in *LWVEF v. Trump* to protecting Arkansans’ right to direct democracy in *LWVAR v. Thurston*. We are registering voters, defending voting rights, and fighting disinformation in every community.

"He chooses division. We choose the American people—our safety, our freedom, and our future. We will keep choosing unity, dignity, and shared promise of a democracy that protects us all. And we will stand up, speak out, and keep fighting to protect it.”

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LWVUS and COP30, 2025-Climate Action

by Sharon O'Hara

Reviewing online sources, I've pulled together several pertinent statements to set the stage for the LWV's recent action on Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

The 2025 COP30 Climate Summit has just concluded in Belem, Brazil. COP30 will acknowledge that the world has missed its earlier target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. According to climate science experts, the world is on course to be 2.8°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100. This will have catastrophic implications for billions of people and ecosystems.

The U.S. is the world's largest economy and second-largest polluter, and actions taken by the Trump administration have significantly hampered the country's efforts to reduce emissions.

Here is an overview of the League's latest action in response to the **elimination** of an EPA Program on Greenhouse Gas Reporting:

The LWVUS submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) opposing their proposal to eliminate the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) on Nov. 3, 2025.

Re: Reconsideration of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program Docket Number: EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0186

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

We strongly oppose the proposed rule. Simply abandoning measurement of greenhouse gases won't make climate change go away. It will not save money. Rather it will leave Americans less informed and less able to efficiently adapt to climate change and have far-reaching negative economic consequences.

- 1. EPA overestimates the economic benefit of eliminating the GHGRP.**
- 2. The economic loss of eliminating the GHGRP far exceeds any economic gain and worsens national security concerns.**
- 3. Elimination of reporting data undermines the bipartisan American Innovation and Manufacturing Act (AIM).**
- 4. By eliminating the GHGRP, EPA is defying a congressional directive and depriving American communities of vital information.**

Conclusion

Glaringly absent from EPA's proposal to end the GHGRP is the cost of not collecting GHG emissions data. Without this valuable data, the US will be less able and ready to respond to climate-related disasters, develop necessary infrastructure for increased heating and cooling needs, assist farmers in securing America's food supply, and more.

Eliminating the GHGRP will not save Americans money as EPA claims, but rather, will result in the loss of billions of dollars in economic investment, tens of thousands of jobs, and America's place as a leader in innovation, leaving Americans wholly unprepared to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

You can read the entire statement by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.lwv.org/environment/lwvus-submits-comments-epa-opposing-elimination-greenhouse-gas-reporting-program>

Observer Corps Reports

by Ruth Zemke, Pamela Berg, Sherlan Neblett, Deborah Vagts and Karen Bender

At the **October 28th** Orange County **Board of Supervisors** meeting Supervisors Sarmiento and Foley expressed concern at the government shut-down related delay in payments to the SNAP/CalFresh programs. Needy families receive approximately \$433 per family for a total OC budget of \$62 million/month. On **November 4th** was the first reading of an ordinance brought by Supervisors Foley and Wagner regarding “Illegal Encampments and Camping on public and OC Flood Control District property.” The ordinance prohibits camping and encampments on public and OC Flood Control District property unless authorized by permit or other applicable law. Violations are punishable as a misdemeanor and can be initiated without enforcement officers providing a warning or prior notice to an individual suspected of violating the ordinance. The ordinance did not mention policies for shelter and services, that could ensure that people experiencing homelessness and their belongings are treated with respect. The item passed 4-1, Sarmiento – No.

The **November 4th** meeting of the **Fullerton City Council** witnessed extensive public support (60 people) for a resolution affirming city values regarding immigration enforcement and establishment of legal defense and basic needs assistance funds to provide immigration assistance programs. Mayor Fred Jung submitted a “superseding motion” tabling the item (3-2: YES: Jung, Dunlap, and Valencia; NO: Zahra, Charles.) **Our League sent a letter to each city council member** asking that this item be removed from tabling and placed on the agenda for action at the 11/18 meeting. This did not happen, effectively “killing” the original resolution without council members publicly stating their positions on the resolution.

On the agenda for the **October 28th** meeting of the **Anaheim City Council** was a resolution proposing a 3% Tourism (Gate) Tax be imposed on entertainment/sporting venues in Anaheim and on venues with over 20,000 people. An additional resolution on the agenda proposed a 10% tax on patrons who park in parking facilities with a capacity of over 15,000. If passed, these resolutions would be voted on during the 11/3/2026 election. These two resolutions were continued to the December 9 Council meeting. On **November 18th**, the city council voted 7-0 for a change to Anaheim Tourism Improvement District (ATID) funding, requiring 9% of ATID funding be spent on affordable housing for hospitality workers in the resort area. This action will require a second vote on Dec. 9th.

The **Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District** is not alone in facing the consequences of a declining international birthrate. Because funding is tied to student enrollment, the district will have a general fund balance deficit this year and is projected to have greater budget deficits in coming years. At the **Nov. 18th** meeting, the Board members were asked to prioritize as the school district moves to create a Budget reduction list.

The Board heard the first reading of a new Board Policy: **Exemptions from Required Instruction**. The policy states that “A student may be exempt from participation in a specific school subject or activity if a student’s or parents’/guardian’s deeply held personal beliefs are contrary to the content of that instruction or activity. To receive such an exemption, the parent/guardian must submit a written request to the school principal clearly stating the specific instructional content or activity involved and the nature of the conflict.” For details about this exemption and reasons for denial, see full report on our website: Click “Observer Corps,” “LWVNOC Observer Reports,” and “Reports – School Districts”

Our sister League in Orange County, **Orange Coast** has added an Observer to the **OC Campaign Finance and Ethics Committee**. To access the Orange Coast League’s reports in full on our website, click on “Observer Corps.” Scroll down to the bottom of the page. Under “The following display is for demonstration,” Click on “Observer Reports – County.”

Advocacy

by Richard Larsen

The following items were sent out to the NOC Advocacy group in November. The two items below that are a request for help on Legislator interviews and a request from LWVC on a new LWVC ADVOCACY INTEREST GROUP.

- * A LWV request for a petition to Congress to end the Government shutdown.
- * A request from LWVC for volunteers to help the general organization.
- * The LWVC ADVOCACY WRAP-UP report for November.

LEGISLATOR INTERVIEWS

The LWVC has sent out a request for local leagues to interview their State Legislators and file a report by February 23, 2026. There will be a possibility of six interviews based on our number of members in each district. There are basically four Assembly districts and five Senatorial districts in our general area. These are noted below along with our membership in each one.

Assembly: D59 (73), D64 (4), D67 (11), D68 (20)

Senate: D30 (4), D32 (12), D34 (34), D36 (5), D37 (56) Based on these numbers and the probability we would not do more than four interviews our targets would be D59 Phillip Chen, D68 Avelino Valencia, D37 Steven Choi, and D34 Tom Umberg. We need a list of members interested in working on setting up and performing these interviews. We require more names than we actually need in case someone cannot attend the interview since the time and date is set up by the Legislator. For more information or to sign on contact Richard Larsen rkajdane5@gmail.com or (562) 652-3211.

A NEW ADVOCACY INTEREST GROUP BY LWVC

The following is from the information sent out by LWVC, anyone interested contact Richard Larsen rkajdane5@gmail.com for the full information from LWVC.

We are excited to announce the formation of a new [LWVC Advocacy Interest Group](#): The Reparations Advocacy Interest Group (RAIG). The formation of a statewide interest group will create a space for League members across California to come together to learn, discuss, and explore advocacy opportunities related to reparations efforts at both the state and local levels. **If you're interested in being involved, please [sign up here for RAIG's introductory online meet and greet on Sunday, December 7 from 3:30-5 PM](#).**

WHY REPARATIONS? WHY NOW?

In 2023, the California's Reparations Task Force released a [groundbreaking report](#) documenting the economic, social, and political harms inflicted on Black Californians across generations - from slavery to redlining, racially motivated eminent domain, and systemic discrimination in housing, education, and healthcare. The report emphasizes that repair is not just about monetary compensation, but also about systemic reforms, investment in communities, and acknowledging historical injustices.

Membership Renewal Instructions

This year, the process for Membership Renewals has changed. Each member will get an automated email from the LWV Membership Portal 60 days before their membership expires with a link to login and renew. A second reminder will be sent at 30 days, if the dues have not yet been paid. If you want to check to see when your membership expires (or if you need to renew), **please follow these steps:**

1. Go here

https://portal.lwv.org/membership?state=CA&league=0012E00001usOB3QAM&referral_source=League%20Website

2. Enter your email address

3. Click "Continue with email" button

4. Go to your email box; open the email with subject line "Login confirmation"

5. Click the "Sign in to LWV Member Portal" button

6. Follow the directions on the screen

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Maggie Lee, Membership Co-Chair, at leemh123@gmail.com



Read with League is BACK!!

Hello all,

Join fellow League members at Barb Dunsheath's house at 4193 Paseo de Plata, Cypress, on Tuesday, Dec. 9th at 1:30 pm to map out our schedule for 2026. All are welcome. Bring your calendar and ideas about books you'd like to read and discuss. Refreshments will be served (Yes, that includes sangria!!)

Barbara Dunsheath, Host Charlene Brotman, Chair

RSVP to Barbara Dunsheath at b_dunsheath@yahoo.com (714-745-2623) or to Charlene Brotman at cdbrotman@hotmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you there!



LWVNOC is on FACEBOOK

Do you use Facebook to keep in touch with some friends or relatives? If so, join/follow the League of Women Voters of North Orange County site to stay current on LWVUS releases and postings from your local League friends!

ROV Bob Page Needs our Support

by Sue Guilford

Bob Page, Orange County Registrar of Voters, was subjected to 2 hours of grilling at a recent Huntington Beach City Council meeting where he fielded accusations of voter and ballot fraud. You can read about it here: <https://voiceofoc.org/2025/11/surf-city-tees-up-tough-talk-on-ballot-security-with-county-elections-chief/>

We need to make our voices heard because our elected leaders in the county, the Board of Supervisors, and others are hearing too many messages from those who insist that our voting and elections systems are not safe. There simply is no evidence of widespread voter fraud but those who have bought into those lies are making a lot of noise that can't be ignored. You can write a message of support to the Orange County Registrar of Voters at ocwebmaster@ocvote.gov



Bob Page, Orange County Registrar of Voters

President's Message by Gerri McNenny

LWVC Granted Intervener Status in *USA v. Weber*

Happy holidays, everyone! I just wanted to update you on the *USA v. Page* lawsuit that the LWVNOC joined on November 15, 2025. On November 17, the LWVUS sent out the following press release:

"[On Friday, November 15], the League of Women Voters of California, League of Women Voters Orange Coast, and League of Women Voters of North Orange County (together, "the League") filed a motion to intervene on behalf of voters in *USA v. Page*. The case was filed by the US Department of Justice against Orange County's Registrar of Voters, and the League is seeking to join the case to protect the confidential data of all California voters and prevent its misuse.

In early June, the Department of Justice sent a request to the Orange County Registrar of Voters, seeking data and information on voter registrations that were canceled for failing to satisfy citizenship requirements for voting. The Registrar provided this information but redacted California driver's license and identification card numbers, social security numbers, California Secretary of State-assigned voter identification numbers, language preferences, and images of registrants' signatures, citing the need to follow state law. The Department of Justice responded by insisting on receiving all of this sensitive personal information unredacted. After the Registrar refused, the Department filed a federal lawsuit on June 25, 2025.

This lawsuit is one of several filed around the country by the Department demanding confidential voter information, including a related case against California, *USA v. Weber*. Although this case is narrower in scope, it similarly threatens the disclosure of sensitive voter data.

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President's Message [Continued from previous page]

“The League of Women Voters is proud to be standing up against these unlawful data requests by the US Department of Justice across the country,” said Marica Johnson, chief counsel for the League of Women Voters of the United States. “This is more than protecting voter privacy, it’s about protecting the fundamental right to vote by ensuring voters can register without the fear that their sensitive data will be jeopardized by federal overreach. The League will always stand up for voters.”

“The DOJ’s demand for sensitive voter data not only threatens California voters’ privacy, it is a blatant attempt to stifle democratic participation in California and nationwide,” said Grayce Zelphin, senior attorney for the ACLU of Northern California.

“Californians deserve to know that their government is keeping their private information confidential when they register to vote,” said Jenny Farrell, executive director of the League of Women Voters of California. “The Department of Justice wants to put voter information at risk to target and prosecute people, and the League is determined not to let it happen.”

“We are proud to fight for the privacy of our members and voters in Orange County, California,” said Anne Stone, president of the League of Women Voters Orange Coast. “When voters register, they have the expectation that their private data, including license numbers and social security numbers, will be protected by state law. We are intervening to stand with the Registrar of Voters and defend the privacy of every voter in our county.”

“While this case is centered right here in our community, its ramifications are clear: it threatens every voter in California,” said Gerri McNenny, president of the League of Women Voters of North Orange County. “The League will not stand by and allow a dangerous federal overreach that will harm voters and threaten our democracy. We are eager to fight this case.”

The League of Women Voters of California, the League of Women Voters of Orange Coast, and the League of Women Voters of North Orange County are represented by the ACLU and the ACLU Foundations of Northern California and Southern California.” (taken from [LWVUS](#))

UPDATE: On Wednesday, Nov. 19, Judge Carter placed a stay (a permanent pause) on the *USA v. Page* lawsuit and granted the ACLU and the League of Women Voters of California intervener status in the *USA v. Weber* lawsuit, along with the NAACP. This means that the LWVNOG and the LWVOC per se will not be a part of the *USA v. Weber* case. On **Thursday, Dec. 4**, Judge Carter will rule on the *USA v. Weber* case. The hearing will take place at 7:30 am at the Federal Courthouse in Los Angeles, located at 350 W. First Street. In the hearing on Nov. 19, Judge Carter noted that he expects *USA v. Weber* to be appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and that it will eventually be heard by the Supreme Court.

Overall, it was thrilling to witness our judicial system in action, with both the LWVC’s counsel and the representative for the NAACP speaking eloquently on behalf of voters’ rights to privacy. This just goes to show that our nonpartisan advocacy efforts for voters’ rights are extremely important and stand as an important record for the need to monitor and make accountable the actions of our locally elected officials in defending the laws that protect voters from the federal government’s unlawful access to voter data.





LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

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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
	Gerri McNenny
E-mail Blasts	Maggie Lee
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Special Events

Maggie Lee
Gerri McNenny

Nominating Comm.

Barbara Dunsheath
Betty Hammond
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Student Outreach

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Jodi Balma
Ruth Zemke
Karen Bender

2025-2026 Focus Committee Heads

Federal Judiciary

Climate Sustainability

Education

Ruth Zemke
Sharon O'Hara
Marcy Fry