



From LWVUS:

Federal Court Dismisses DOJ Lawsuit Seeking California Voter Data



SANTA ANA, CA — A federal judge dismissed the US Department of Justice's (DOJ) lawsuit against the State of California in United States v. Weber, in which the DOJ sought to compel the state to turn over its full, unredacted statewide voter registration list—including voters' sensitive personal data—to the federal government. The lawsuit was part of a broader series of actions by the DOJ seeking similar information from jurisdictions across the country.

The dismissal comes after the League of Women Voters of California ("LWVC"), represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU Foundation of Northern California, and the ACLU Foundation of Southern California, intervened on behalf of voters to defend voter privacy and the integrity of the democratic process. The groups maintained that state law and federal privacy protections prohibit the disclosure of highly sensitive voter information.

In response to the ruling, the organizations released the following statement:

"The court has recognized the fundamental importance of protecting voters' sensitive personal information and dismissed this illegal federal overreach. Voters should never have to choose between their privacy and their fundamental right to vote. States must retain authority to manage elections in ways that safeguard sensitive information, and federal agencies must respect the limits on their power. Today's ruling affirms that the federal government is not entitled to unfettered access to private voter data."

In September 2025, the DOJ sued California Secretary of State Shirley Weber, seeking to compel disclosure of the statewide voter file that includes registered voters' full names, residential addresses, dates of birth, driver's license numbers, and the last four digits of Social Security numbers. California declined to provide this data, citing state privacy laws and offering redacted versions instead. LWVC and the ACLU moved to intervene to defend voter privacy and challenge the DOJ's legal claims, which raised serious concerns about federal authority over state-managed election data and the potential misuse of sensitive information.

Inside This Issue

Observer Reports	2
Read with League	2
Advocacy	2
Trusted Resources	3
Help Wanted	3
Book Recommendations	4
Say What?	5
Lunch with League	5
VoteRiders	6
Groaners	6
Officers and Directors	7

Observer Reports

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

Due to an early **Voter** deadline, this month's "Observer Reports" will be briefer than usual. The missed reports will be added to next month's "Observer Reports."

On January 13th, Anaheim City Council approved a Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Agreement with Taller San Jose Hope Builders (TSJHB) in an amount not to exceed \$555,987 to assist local disadvantaged youth to prepare for joining the workforce for a term beginning July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027. TSJHB is a Santa Ana non-profit that empowers disadvantaged young adults (ages 18-28) in Orange County with job skills training, life skills, and mentorship to achieve self-sufficiency.

At the January 13th meeting of the OC Board of Supervisors, Doug Chaffee and Katrina Foley were reelected to their respective positions, Chair and Vice Chair. The Board voted to approve a contract with Covenant House California for emergency shelter operations and services for transitional aged youth. The Supervisors also voted to increase budget for the United Way of Orange County to continue the pilot program for homelessness prevention and stabilization.

Visit our website, to see the full reports.

Advocacy

by Richard Larsen

There were no Advocacy petitions requested in January and only two notices of information sent out. One was for a State Budget Webinar and the other was Orange County Phase 2 Climate Action Plan from the Orange County Office of Sustainability.

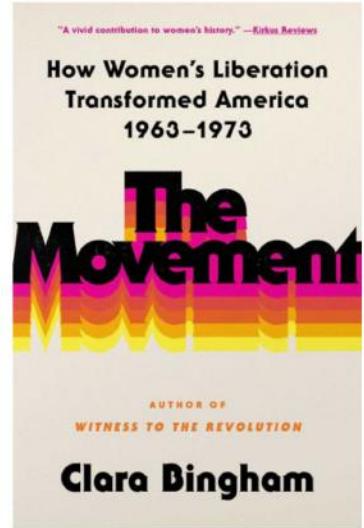
ORANGE COUNTY LEGISLATOR INTERVIEWS

The interview process involves four Legislators in our area: D34 Tom Umberg, D37 Steven Choi, D59 Phillip Chen, and D68 Avelino Valencia. There are other Districts in our area, but these four have the most members in them. The initial request for a meeting was sent to all four in mid-December. A follow up request was mailed or emailed in early January. The only response from any of them to date is D34 Tom Umberg, who agreed to an interview appointment on February 9, and D37 Steven Choi, who is not available before our reporting date requirement of February 23. Because there has always been a problem getting D59 Phillip Chen to talk to us, I requested all our members living in D59 to go to Philip's web site to ask him to meet with LWVNOC.



You're invited to
Read with League
Join us on Feb. 10, 2026 @ 1:30pm

**At Marcy Fry's
house.
For more
information,
RSVP to
Charlene at
cdbrotman@hotmail.com
by 2/8/26**





Trusted Resources for the Primary Election on June 2, 2026

by Susan Guilford

League members should be trusted resources. Here are tools to help you be that resource for the upcoming Primary Election:

The Orange County Registrar of Voters publishes two documents about each upcoming election that I like to keep handy, [**Condensed Calendar**](#) and [**Contests up for election**](#). I keep a pdf copy of both on my computer and in my cell phone for easy reference and sharing. The condensed calendar includes a limited number of critical dates for the upcoming election, including candidate filing dates, when ballots will be available, opening dates for Vote Centers, and final certification date for the election. Contests up for Election includes all but city and school board contests and superior court contests. Click on the links to see the pages.

There's one more thing you need to understand: How Prop 50 affects voters. Some California voters will be in a different Congressional District for the 2026, 2028, and 2030 elections. After the 2030 Census, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission will again draw new boundaries for representative districts. Orange County, CA voters can find a complete list of all elected representatives, from President to Water District [**here**](#). Note that the Congressional District on this list is for the 2026 elections.

To find your current Congressional District and representative, enter your address [**here**](#). That individual and that Congressional District will be in effect for you until January 2027, when the new House members are sworn in.



Help 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.

Book Recommendations by Sharon O'Hara

Timothy Snyder is an American historian specializing in the history of Central and Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and the Holocaust. He is a public intellectual on both continents. From 2017 to 2025 he was the Richard C. Levin Professor of History at Yale University. He is a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, serves on the Committee on Conscience of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Among his bestselling books are **On Tyranny**, **On Freedom**, **The Road to Unfreedom**, and **Bloodlands**. His work inspires art and music and is read at protests around the world. (Substack: Thinking About)

In interviews with *The Guardian* Snyder described history as follows: "a constant, exciting discovery of things that actually happened, which weren't anticipated and which were probably considered wildly improbable at the time. (...) And once you know that, then you can have the intuition that, well, maybe in this moment right now there's something happening which people aren't seeing." (Wikipedia)

In 2017, he published *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*, a short book about how to prevent a democracy from becoming a tyranny. This book focused on modern United States politics and on what he called "America's turn towards authoritarianism". It is a stirring call to arms and a guide to resistance, with invaluable ideas for how we can preserve our freedoms in the uncertain years to come. (timothysnyder.org)

In his 2024 book **On Freedom** Snyder writes that we have lost sight of what freedom means—and this is leading us into crisis. Too many of us look at freedom as the absence of state power: We think we're free if we can do and say as we please and protect ourselves from government overreach. But true freedom isn't so much "freedom from" as "freedom to" — the freedom to thrive, to take risks for futures we choose by working together.

You can watch Timothy Snyder on YouTube. Each lesson from **On Tyranny** is explained. Additionally, he's in conversation with podcasters such as Bill Kristol and Stacey Abrams. His Substack is "Thinking About."

I highly recommend both **On Tyranny** (also in a graphic version and audiobook) and **On Freedom**. There are posters and card size versions of the lessons from **On Tyranny** at timothysnyder.org.

Say What?

by Jim Hill

We are all so adept at extracting meaning from the sounds of language that the processes of speaking and listening seem almost telepathic. Sometimes, though, language sounds call so much attention to themselves that the meaning gets muddled. For example, my brother Ed and I wrote a song together. Actually, I wrote most of it, and Ed edited it. Ed-Edda-dit-dit. Sounds like Morse code, doesn't it?

President Obama nominated three people to the Supreme Court, but his third choice never got a hearing. Merrick Garland was the Obama nominee that year. The obamananee.

I asked my wife how she spent her morning, and she said, "I did a little load of laundry." I diddle-liddle-loadell-Andre. You what?

On a TV comedy show, Anita threatened to shoot her boss saying, "I'm gonna shoot you!"

He laughed and said, "Your accent made that sound like 'I'm gonna choo-choo.' It sounded crazy." She said, "So you think I have a loco motive?"

Misheard song lyrics comprise a category of language failure all their own.

- "Excuse me while I kiss this guy". Correct lyric: "Excuse me while I kiss the sky" from Jimi Hendrix's 'Purple Haze'.
- "Sweet dreams are made of cheese". Correct lyric: "Sweet dreams are made of these" from The Eurythmics' 'Sweet Dreams (are made of this)'.
- "I can see clearly now, Lorraine is gone". Correct lyric: "I can see clearly now, the rain is gone" from Johnny Nash's 'I can see clearly now'.
- "Then I saw her face, now I'm gonna leave her" Correct lyric: "Then I saw her face, now I'm a believer" from The Monkees' 'I'm a Believer'.
- "Hold me closer, Tony Danza". Correct lyric: "Hold me closer, tiny dancer" from Elton John's 'Tiny Dancer'.
- "You're the wobbly one". Correct lyric: "You're the one that I want" from John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John's 'One that I want'.
- "There's a bathroom on the right." Correct lyric: "There's a bad moon on the rise." from Creedence Clearwater's "Bad Moon Rising."
- "One-ton tomato. I eat a one-ton tomato." Correct lyric: "Guantanamera, guajira guantanamera



"The Foundation of Justice: Why Housing Rights Are Essential to Gender, Racial, and Economic Equity"



**Dr. Eve
Garrow**

Senior Policy Analyst &
Advocate,
Dignity for All Project
ACLU of Southern California

Join Us for Lunch with League!

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026 at 11 AM

**Coyote Hills Golf Club, 1440 E. Bastanchury, Fullerton
RSVP by 2/22 to LUNCHWITHLEAGUE@LWVNOC.ORG**

The LWV and VoteRiders

by Sue Guilford



VoterRiders, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization, was founded to help voters get voter ID, including paying for required documents. Currently, thirty-eight states have voter ID laws that often make it difficult for many individuals to register to vote. The cost, about \$50 per document, is often a barrier. Remember, the purpose of voter ID laws is to suppress the vote.

There are a number of ways we can help VoteRiders, and not just with money. An ongoing program is to write personal notes on letters to eligible voters in the states where VR has a physical presence — Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin. Note that VoteRiders will help eligible voters anywhere in the country.

Other volunteer opportunities include periodic text banking or phone banking. They also need volunteers to assist eligible voters to get their ID — training is provided and it's all done by phone.

If you'd like to help with letter writing, please contact me at 714-585-0984 for details about our next event. You can learn more about VoteRiders [here](#).

Groaners

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
A rubber band gun was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, "You stay here; I'll go on ahead.
I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.



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	Gerri McNenny
E-mail Blasts	Maggie Lee
<i>Voter Editor</i>	Jim Hill

Web Host

Ed Smith
Maggie Lee
Gerri McNenny

Special Events

Barbara Dunsheath
Betty Hammond
Karen Bender

Nominating Comm.

Off-Board Directors

Read with League	Jodi Balma
Student Outreach	Ruth Zemke
Facebook	Karen Bender
Observer Corps	

2025-2026 Focus Committee Heads

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