



LWV on YouTube by Sharon O'Hara

What's new on YouTube? Glad you asked! Have you visited the League of Women Voter's YouTube channel? I really encourage all to watch and engage with the many individual and series of informative and entertaining videos from CEO Celina Stewart and the LWV staff and guests.

I've watched the "Democracy in Your Hands" series and am working through the important "UNITE AND RISE 8.5" set which lets viewers have a more in-depth view of the way our League is working across a wide range of grassroots organizations to encourage an educated and enthusiastic voter base for the 2026 November 3rd midterm elections.

Other selections are "Understanding Media Literacy" and "Cultivating Champions for Democracy" featuring CA Senator Padilla.

"The League of Women Voters and Partners Demand ICE Accountability" is another good choice. You may be pleasantly surprised to learn of the community partners joining League to educate and speak out about ICE overreach.

A very recent selection is "2026 State of the League" with President Dianna Wynn. Your views, comments, and engagement help extend the League's impact beyond our local meetings. By watching and sharing our videos, you help amplify trusted, nonpartisan information in our community.

And, as an added bonus, (Gret has noted this at Read with League) there are some videos connected to the books currently on our reading list.

So, let your fingers do the walking on whatever device you like to use, and make the YouTube League of Women Voters channel one of your faves!

LWV North Orange County is granted 501(c)(3) status by IRS

It's official! We are now a 501(c)(3) based on the information provided by us in a 20-page application as well as answering some additional questions. Our status is retroactive to 8/25/25, the date we submitted our application. The main effect for us is that donations made to LWVNOC are now tax deductible, as long as no service or goods are received by the donor for that donation. We need not change our activities in any way as a result of receiving this new IRS designation.

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WASHINGTON, DC
— The League of Women Voters of the United States issued the following statement in response to the continued escalation of federal military activity in Minnesota from federal immigration officials:



“The League of Women Voters condemns the escalating actions by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that put people at risk, deny individuals their constitutional rights, and undermine the democratic values meant to protect us all.

“We are horrified by federal immigration enforcement operations that deliberately infringe upon First Amendment rights to assemble and dissent. The use of intimidation, surveillance, and deadly force against lawful protestors is not public safety—it is repression. The use of lethal force against people exercising their constitutional rights is unacceptable and must be fully investigated. These fatalities, followed by false narratives designed to obscure the truth and impede oversight, represent a historic abuse of power we’ve never seen as a country. Democracy cannot endure when its government uses violence to silence dissent and evade accountability.

“The League of Women Voters will continue to organize, speak out, and act to ensure no agency is above the law. We call on Congress to investigate these actions and require accountability measures on the Department of Homeland Security. ICE

and other federal immigration officials must cooperate with the appropriate level of law enforcement when civilians are hurt or killed and face accountability when they fail to comply. The League will continue to mount a unified response that defends constitutional rights, protects civic participation, and demands accountability for abuses of power.

“We will [continue our partnership](#) with LULAC, Common Cause, and additional partners to hold ICE accountable and amplify our concerns on its lack of transparency, accountability, and constitutional compliance.

“The League of Women Voters reaffirms that the rights outlined in the Constitution belong to all people, without exception. We will not accept policies or practices that suppress civic participation, weaponize enforcement, or undermine fundamental rights and human dignity.”

Voter Services Random Thoughts by Susan Guilford

During the month of May, we will again partner with Lush Cosmetics at the Brea Mall. This is a terrific opportunity to connect with voters, and promote the League and [Vote411.org](#).

Are you familiar with <https://calmatters.org/>? Lots of good information, including “Track Your Legislator” where you can sign up to receive a weekly report about what your California legislators have been doing.

Vote by Mail. I vote absentee but always put my ballot into a secure ballot drop box, plus I signed up for Ballot Tracking so that I receive a notification when my ballot is sent to me, when it is collected and when it has been approved for counting AND I can verify on the website the drop box from which it was collected.

Recently a piece of mail took ten days to travel from Orange to Modesto. Please warn all your friends to use ballot drop boxes and not the US Mail.

CALIFORNIA *Fair* ELECTIONS ACT

Allow Public Funding of Campaigns So Elections Are Won, Not Bought
On the November 3, 2026 Ballot!

The California Fair Elections Act will provide voters the opportunity to remove the current prohibition on public financing of campaigns in California while establishing basic requirements that public financing systems and candidates using public funding must follow to protect taxpayers and maximize the benefit to voters.

Why California Needs the California Fair Elections Act

- **The amount of money in politics is outrageous and is corrupting the system. Since 2020, over \$1 billion dollars has been spent on California state candidates alone.** This massive fundraising buys access for special interests but shuts out the rest of us. We need to change the way we finance election campaigns so politicians can focus on the job we sent them to accomplish.
- **81% of California voters** believe Big Money campaign contributors have too much influence over elected officials.*
- **Five California charter cities have public funding of campaigns** to amplify the voices of everyday voters so they can compete with Big Money: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and Long Beach.
- **Yet public funding of campaigns is banned everywhere in California but charter cities.** General law cities, counties, districts, and the state currently don't have the same right to pass public funding that charter cities have.

The California Fair Elections Act will:

- **Repeal the current ban on public funding of campaigns** so any city, county, district, and the state itself can pass public funding systems as long as the systems meet specific requirements, including that they:
- Require that **public funding candidates must abide by expenditure limits and meet strict criteria to qualify.**
- **Prohibit the use of public funds to pay for legal defense or fines.**
- **Prohibit candidates that receive public funds from repaying personal loans** with public funds, or repaying personal loans with private donations after the campaign ends.
- **Prohibit public funding from discriminating** based on party or against challengers in favor of incumbents.

California Fair Elections Act Sponsors and Supporters

Put on the ballot by SB 42 (Umberg-Allen-Cervantes-Lee) which was sponsored by **California Clean Money Campaign, California Common Cause, and League of Women Voters of California.** It is supported by **ACLU, AFSCME, Asian Law Caucus, Bay Rising Action, California Environmental Voters, California Nurses Association, California Labor Federation, Courage California, Dolores Huerta Foundation, Indivisible, La Defensa,** and many more state, local, and national organizations.

VOTER ID FAST FACTS

Problems with California's Proposed [Voter ID Constitutional Amendment](#)
As of March, 2026 Awaiting Qualification for the November 2026 Ballot

From: League of Women Voters of CA, CA Common Cause, Disability Rights CA, ACLU Northern CA & ACLU Southern CA

California's elections are secure. The proposed initiative would require voters to show government-issued ID every time they vote - creating privacy risks, barriers for eligible voters, ballot rejections, and targeting communities that already face obstacles to voting. Mandatory citizenship checks using flawed databases would lead to purges of eligible voters from the rolls. All this to solve a problem that doesn't exist. Public trust in elections is built by making elections accessible and rules clear and stable - not by adding new hoops for eligible voters.

CALIFORNIA'S CURRENT SAFEGUARDS

- **Registration:** Voters certify eligibility under penalty of perjury; officials verify voters' identities
- **In-Person:** Voters state name/address and sign the roster
- **Vote-By-Mail:** Signature verification confirms identity
- **Criminal Penalties:** Illegal voting is a felony and noncitizens face deportation risk

WHO THIS INITIATIVE HURTS

- All Vote-by-Mail voters risk identity theft and rejected ballots due to ID matching problems
- All In-Person Voters - ID checks slow check-in, creating longer lines, delays, and more mistakes that can wrongly lead to rejected ballots
- Communities where fewer people have IDs including communities of color, seniors, students, low-income voters, and people with disabilities
- People navigating name changes
- Anyone who has moved
- People experiencing housing instability
- Naturalized citizens (false "noncitizen" flags)

PROBLEMS THE INITIATIVE CREATES

- **Privacy/identity-theft risk** from putting ID numbers on mailed ballot envelopes
- **More rejected ballots** from data-entry errors
- **Hidden costs for voters** (time off work, travel, document fees to obtain ID)
- **False citizenship flags** from flawed database matching
- **Slower vote count** from more flagged ballots

WHO LACKS VALID ID (National Data)

Eligible voters without a current driver's license:

- Black voters: 28%
- Hispanic voters: 27%
- Asian/Pacific Islander voters: 21%
- Ages 18-24: 41%; Ages 25-29: 38%
- Black voters 18-29: 47%
- Voters with disabilities: 9%

Eligible voters without a driver's license:

- Black voters: 18%
- Hispanic voters: 15%,
- Asian/Pacific Islander voters: 13%,
- Black voters ages 18-29: 30%
- Voters with disabilities: 20%

MYTH	FACT
"It's just showing ID."	Not everyone has an ID, and complex rules get misapplied - blocking eligible voters and increasing ballot rejections, especially for vote-by-mail.
"We need citizenship checks to stop fraud."	California already has processes in place to ensure that only eligible citizens can vote. Non-citizen voting is extremely rare (only 77 cases nationwide in over 20 years). Checks rely on flawed data and wrongfully flag eligible citizens.
"There's a free ID, so it's fair."	Hidden costs include time off work, travel, childcare, and fees for birth certificates or other documents to get ID - a modern-day poll tax.

The Real Issue: California's challenge isn't voter fraud, it's voter participation. Our focus should be on bringing more voices into the process, not erecting new obstacles. Multiple studies, from the [Brennan Center](#) to the [Cato Institute](#), confirm voter impersonation and non-citizen voting are exceedingly rare.

The Observer Corps Report

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

On **Feb. 24th**, the **Orange County Board of Supervisors** adopted a Climate Action Plan following a lengthy discussion. The plan imposes no mandates but is designed to “build momentum for voluntary decarbonization through a combination of technical support, community engagement, and financial incentives.” Supervisors Nguyen and Wagner voiced their concerns about the negative effects on the building and housing industry. (YES: Chaffee, Foley, and Sarmiento. NO: Nguyen. Abstain: Wagner.)

On **March 10** a Grand Jury Report titled, “A Breach of Public Trust in Orange County” was filed, critical of the handling of the Supervisors raises last year. The raises for the Board were more than County employees received because the Board’s salaries were tied to judicial salaries. Sarmiento stated he regrets voting for the raise, since the budget situation has gotten much worse this year.

A lengthy discussion of the first phase of the Internal Audit Report regarding County contracts associated with Andrew Do occurred on **March 24**. The Audit, ordered by the Board following discovery of mishandling of federal funds, focused on one hundred forty-five county contracts that might be at risk for non-compliance with county policy. Thirty-five of the one hundred forty-five contracts revealed **additional questionable practices by former Supervisor Do**. There are more phases to the audit, including more contracts to review. The auditing firm provided suggestions for county policy changes, many of which have already been adopted.

An annual public hearing regarding the TRUTH Act (Transparent Review of Unjust Transfers and Holds) revealed that the Orange County Sheriff’s Department notifications to immigration authorities resulted in 323 newly released prisoners being picked up right outside the county jails. Los Angeles county does not notify ICE. Supervisor Sarmiento and representatives of the Harvard Institute stated that declining to notify ICE has not increased crime in those communities. The Orange County Sheriff transfers more prisoners to ICE than any other county.

At the **Feb. 17th** meeting of the **Fullerton City Council**, Doug Chaffee presented information about the Fullerton Police Department Behavioral Health Unit, which he had been active in developing and supporting as a Fullerton City Council member. This unit adds licensed social workers to the FPD to engage in calls involving behavioral health issues. The social workers interact at the scene and also provide referrals and information regarding resources.

Due to fiscal constraints, a phased modification of the Senior Mobility Program (offering free transportation for elderly persons) was recommended by staff, while preserving access to essential services such as health care and food shopping.

On **March 17th** a heated discussion occurred concerning the city staff’s second quarter financial report. The staff acknowledged “mis-categorizing” 2.7 million dollars. Thus, “unassigned funds,” became funds allocated for specific programs (thereby decreasing reserve funds). The city issued a press release on 3/21 to assure Fullerton citizens that “no money was lost, missing, or improperly spent.”

Progress on Fullerton’s Housing Element is slow per the Annual Progress Report. Public comments reminded the council that Fullerton may be subject to SB25 and SB79 allowing the state to take over decisions on development.

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Observer Corps Report [Continued from previous page]

The **March 3rd Anaheim City Council** meeting approved 447 multiple-family units located in the Festival shopping area (South of Santa Ana Canyon Road between Festival Drive and Roosevelt Road). (Approved: 4 YES: Rubalcava, Kurtz, Leon, Balius and 3 NO: Aitken, Meeks, and Maahs. Public concern was expressed about a high fire danger area with limited roads for evacuation.

The **March 10th Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District** meeting noted that the district is facing diminishing enrollment due to a birth rate decrease. In addition, funding sources may be less dependable.

New Superintendent LeBlanc-Esparza presented a study pinpointing the areas where teaching and learning could improve in the district. Interviews and focus groups were conducted with teachers, principals, and central office academic leaders. Data was collected and analyzed, and classroom observations were performed across a sampling of elementary, middle, and high schools.

To see Orange Coast League reports, go to our website, click on “Observer Corps,” scroll to the bottom of the page, click on “Observer reports – County.” You may then choose “OC Board of Education” or “OC Board of Supervisors.”



Read with the League by Marguerite Milligan

Our **April** selection for the Book Club is **Giving Up Is Unforgivable** by Joyce Vance. You can read all about Joyce on her website here: <https://www.joycevance.com/about> (Apparently, she’s quite the knitter!)

Joyce has a very lively and informative podcast about legal issues with three other women attorneys - Jill Wine-Banks, who was a Watergate prosecutor, Barbara Mc Quade, a U.S. Attorney appointed by Barack Obama, and Kimberly Atkins Stohr, a legal journalist for The Boston Globe and MS Now contributor. Press the link for more information. <https://www.politicon.com/podcasts/sisters-in-law/>

Joyce has a second insightful legal podcast with the very highly regarded Preet Bharara, another U.S. Attorney appointed by Barack Obama. Press the link for more information.

<https://cafe.com/cafe-insider-podcast/>

Here is Joyce’s Vance’s Substack with a recent article honoring the late Robert Mueller as well as another one discussing the contents of the Mueller Report and the misinformation surrounding it:

<https://joycevance.substack.com/>

Here are a few YouTube and MS Now videos of Joyce discussing **Giving Up Is Unforgivable**:

From October 20, 2025, a short clip from Joyce’s appearance on MS Now’s **Morning Joe**:
<https://www.ms.now/morning-joe/watch/joyce-vance-power-in-a-democracy-actually-belongs-to-us-250233925620>

From October 29, 2025, with Heather Cox Richardson:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juxS6qgVNuc&t=30s>

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Read with League [Continued from previous page]

From October 30, 2025 at the Commonwealth Club World Affairs of California:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrJWUwe_iUQ&list=PLtcRewLEGcGJLZ_LaYWN8jUCgDJbjW49x&index=7

In **May** with Read with League - **Nazis of Copley Square** by Charles R. Gallagher. Before we break for summer, we have a challenging selection for May entitled **The Nazis of Copley Square**. This book is a deep dive, based on previously classified FBI documents, into the little-known history of the Christian Front of the American far right in the years leading up to and during World War II. As this is fairly heavy reading, I'm getting started on it now.

Much of this material is introduced by Rachel Maddow in the first season of her podcast, *Ultra*.

<https://www.ms.now/rachel-maddow-presents-ultra-an-msnbc-original-podcast>

Page down past Season Two to Season One:

Click on the Episode Title on the left of the screen to listen to the podcast episode.

Click on the "From the Archives" link to the right of the title to access the archival information.

Click on the "Transcript" link in blue below the episode title for the episode transcript.

I found the transcript for "Episode Two: Brooklyn Boys" to be a good place to start as it contains a lot of interview material with the book author, Charles Gallagher, and explains this story and how he became interested in it.

Season One, Episode Two: "Brooklyn Boys" features Gallagher and then again in the last episode there is a bit more reference to him. Listening to at least these two presentations can greatly help in understanding the book.

Charles R. Gallagher is an interesting guy. He discovered the "tip of the iceberg" of this story as a college sophomore doing research for a school assignment. He also worked as a police officer during those years, so he recognized the firepower of the weapons being brandished by the Christian Front members in the photo he came across during his school research. Although he was discouraged from pursuing research of the story of the Christian Front by his professors at the time, he never really lost interest, to the point of requesting that the FBI declassify documents related to the story, which they eventually did. Those documents were the basis for **Nazis of Copley Square**.

In his 30's he pivoted to enter the seminary and become a Roman Catholic Jesuit priest and is now a priest as well as a professor of history at Boston College. Gallagher holds a Bachelor of Divinity from the University of London, A Masters Degree in History from Binghamton University, and a Ph.D in History from Marquette University.

Here is a presentation by Charles Gallagher where he discusses **Nazis of Copley Square** at Northeastern University:

[Charles Gallagher, Nazis of Copley Square, Morton Lecture Series, March 21, 2022](#)

Here is another presentation by Father Gallagher on **Nazis of Copley Square** for the Massachusetts Historical Society:

[\(17580\) Webinar: The Nazis of Copley Square: The Forgotten Story of the Christian Front - YouTube](#)



LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

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