



## League of Women Voters Statement on Delaney Hall Hunger Strike and Immigration Detention Conditions

Press Release / Last Updated: May 28, 2026

WASHINGTON and TRENTON, NJ — The League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of New Jersey today issued the following statement in response to a mass hunger and labor strike at Delaney Hall immigration detention center in Newark, NJ:

“The unacceptable conditions at Delaney Hall are horrifying. More than 300 people detained inside the facility are now on a hunger and labor strike after enduring inadequate medical care, unsafe and unsanitary conditions, spoiled food, and inhumane treatment. The League of Women Voters stands in solidarity with the strikers and echoes calls for the immediate closure of Delaney Hall and the release of the detainees. No person should be subjected to these conditions, and no democracy committed to human rights should tolerate them.

“We are deeply alarmed by ICE’s escalating use of force against peaceful protesters, community members, and members of Congress standing in solidarity outside the facility. This disturbing pattern of force against people exercising their constitutional rights is unacceptable, and the League demands accountability for these continued abuses of power.

“This administration’s mass deportation agenda has failed our communities, our country, and our humanity. It has fueled violence and militarization in neighborhoods across the country, undermined due process, and contributed to an unprecedented number of deaths and suicides among people being held in deplorable detention conditions. This must end.

“Delaney Hall represents the dangerous consequences of a detention system that prioritizes incarceration and profit over human dignity and due process. The League of Women Voters implores members of Congress from multiple states to continue visiting Delaney Hall and to use their federal oversight powers. At a moment when communities across the country are demanding transparency, safety, and humanity, [Congress must reject](#) efforts to expand funding for ICE and CBP.

“The League strongly condemns continued blank checks for detention and for deportation systems that harm families and communities. Our immigration system must be rooted in dignity, fairness, accountability, and respect for human rights, and we remain committed to advocating for policies that protect civil liberties, uphold due process, and recognize the humanity of every person.”

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# Observer Corps Reports

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

The **Orange County Board of Supervisors** is supporting the following bills:

- **AB 736** (Wicks) and **SB 417** (Cabaldon), both Affordable Housing Bond Acts for \$10 billion if these bills are amended to include \$500 million statewide funding eligibility in the Housing Bond for the Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF) and the California Housing Accelerator program.
- **AB 2002** (Solache) establishing the Regional Early Action Planning Fund for the purpose of providing councils of governments, regional entities, and jurisdictions with one-time funding for planning activities to meet the 7<sup>th</sup> and subsequent cycles of the regional housing need assessment.
- **SB 1167** (Blakespear) regarding electric bicycles.

On **May 5<sup>th</sup>**, Supervisor Foley registered her opposition to increasing the daily tonnage accepted at Prima Deshecha Landfill. Chair Chaffee and Supervisor Sarmiento recognized “National Nurses Week,” noting an 18% shortage of RNs. Since the national Education Department has decided not to include nursing in funded professional degree programs, there are fewer students entering that field. OC is stepping in to fill the loss of federal support.

At the end of the **May 19<sup>th</sup>** meeting, during Board Comments, Supervisor Nguyen registered complaints about Supervisor Foley. When Nguyen and Wagner did not respond to attempts by Chair Chaffee to end their remarks, Chaffee stated that their comments were “politically motivated” and Chaffee called a short recess. Chair Chaffee was the only member who returned to the meeting, sharing his own Comments about the Project Rebound Program at Cal State University, which the county has helped fund. This program empowers formerly incarcerated individuals to successfully integrate into society through higher education. Eligible students can receive academic counseling, tutoring assistance, legal services, housing, direct pathways from regional jails, prisons, and community colleges, along with access to food security initiatives, transportation help, and tech/laptop lending. Chair Chaffee then adjourned the meeting.

At the **April 21<sup>st</sup>** meeting of the **Fullerton City Council** an ordinance was introduced for first reading, prohibiting the unlawful sale or distribution of the drug Kratom in Fullerton, given recent cases of its appearance in the city.

The **May 5<sup>th</sup>** meeting has been described in a local news source as “contentious,” with “heated debate” and chaotic decision-making.” At issue was a “Builder’s Remedy” application for a 32-unit complex at 111 Hermosa Drive. Since the city did not meet the deadline for the city plan housing element to include appropriate zoning and support for 13,200 new housing units, the city is now open to development applications with a waiver of several review elements and limited reasons for denial of building permits: mainly that evidence of un-mitigable safety or health hazards exist. The Planning Commission denied this particular application and ultimately the city council sustained that denial (Dunlap, Jung, Valencia-YES; Charles, Zahra-NO). A Public Hearing on the appeal was scheduled for May 19, but was then canceled, Dunlap, Jung, and Valencia saying they were unavailable for the Hearing.

Also discussed at the **5/9** meeting was the State of the City Address, an event planned for June 11 at the Summit House. The focus for consideration was the ethics and transparency of the current structure of the event, sponsored by city vendors and Fullerton College and California State University, Fullerton. Tickets are \$65, though the city has promised to provide a free livestream link on the day of the event. A motion to establish sponsorship standards, require council review of the Mayor’s State of the City address, move to a public venue, and meet Brown Act requirements so all council members could participate failed with Charles and Zahra voting “Yes”; Dunlap, Jung and Valencia, “No.” A motion to move forward with year’s event as currently planned while directing staff to return with proposed guidelines for future events passed as Dunlap, Jung and Valencia voted “Yes”; Charles and Zahra, “No”.

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## Observer Corps Reports [Continued from previous page]

On **May 12<sup>th</sup>**, at the **Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District** (PYLUSD) meeting, Superintendent LeBlanc-Esparza reported that safety and security issues “keep her up at night.” Other issues she’s focused on are “building a culture of belonging,” meeting mental health challenges, and addressing the achievement gaps among students.

The District is working on a Facilities Master Plan (not done in the last 25 years.) This will allow the District to apply for State Bond Funds earmarked for school facilities maintenance. Estimated completion of the PYLUSD plan is 2027.

The District has adopted a policy permitting animals on campus for specific purposes and settings. Therapy dogs have been ordered by Esperanza High School.

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## League Continues to Defend the Right to Vote

Update on US v. Weber, with League of Women Voters of California and NAACP as interveners  
by Susan Guilford

LWVC moved to intervene to defend voter privacy after the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) sued California Secretary of State Shirley Weber, demanding the state hand over the un-redacted voter file, which includes registered voters’ full names, residential addresses, driver’s license numbers, and last four digits of their Social Security number. The DOJ claimed it had the right to access this data under its powers granted by the Civil Rights Act of 1960, the Help America Vote Act, and the National Voter Registration Act.

Our motion to intervene was granted. LWVC then filed a motion to dismiss the case, which was granted. That decision was appealed to the 9th circuit and oral arguments took place before a 3-judge panel on May 19, 2026.

You can find information about all legal cases involving League of Women Voters at [LWV.org](https://www.lwv.org) — go to “Library” (at the top of the page) and then “Legal Center”. Filters on the left side of the page allow you to sort by issue, date, location.

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## Hello - - - Goodbye by Jim Hill

Beginning with the upcoming July issue, **The Voter** will have a brand new editor, Erica Hartsough. Welcome Erica. I have been editing our newsletter since July of 2012, a tenure of fourteen years. I’m proud of the work I’ve done. It’s been both a pleasure and a challenge, but now I plan to spend more time with (choose one): a) my family b) my TV c) my gin d) my thoughts. Okay, I choose all four.





## **Advocacy** by Richard Larsen

Our Advocacy activities are:

- 1) Responding to Advocacy requests from LWVC and LWVUS and other organizations (as long as the requests are in accordance with LWV positions) to petition our State and Federal Legislators. I forward these requests to a group of our members who have indicated an interest in our Advocacy activities.
- 2) Each year LWVC and LWVUS requests that we interview our Legislators with special questions and submit a report. About three to five volunteers participate in each interview.
- 3) Participation in demonstrations approved by LWV, such as No Kings.

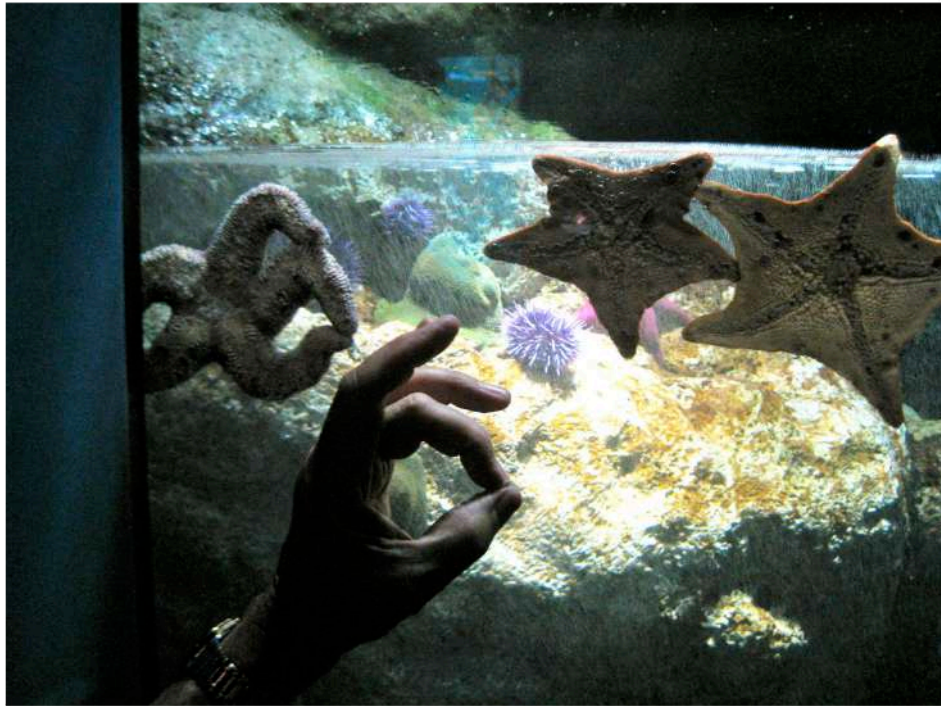
Petitions and other information sent out to our Advocacy list this last month;

On May 11 an invitation from the LWV Deerfield/Lincolnshire, IL was sent out for a May 15 ZOOM meeting by LWVDL Electoral College Committee. The speaker from Marquette University was, Jordan Marsh, who specializes in political representation. LWVDL has been working on eliminating the Electoral College for some time.

On May 12, a petition from Jessica Jones Capparell, Director, Government Affairs LWVUS was sent out that demands Congress stop funding attacks on historically marginalized communities, and reject more funding for ICE and CBP.

On May 18, Jessica repeated the May 12 request because Congress is voting on a fast-track budget that would allocate more than \$70 billion to scale up ICE and CBP activities for the next three years.

On May 21, a petition from Savannah Jorgensen LWV California to write our State Senators to tell them to vote YES on SB 1105, The Protect California Rights Act, which responds to harms being perpetrated by the Trump Administration and DHS agents by prohibiting state and local law enforcement agencies from entering into task forces or agreements that assist racial or identity profiling, criminalization of speech, or use of unauthorized weapons of war.



Don't worry.  
Everything's gonna be  
all right.  
The starfish told me so.  
Would a starfish lie?  
[Jim Hill at the Monterey  
Aquarium]

## **Contending with Contention** by Jim Hill

Summer is here, and vacations and family gatherings are right around the corner. These days it's rare that family and friends don't feel the necessity to skate around certain hot-button subjects they know hold the potential for unpleasantness. We steer around obstacles that loom up before us in the hope of reaching happy places of caring and contentment. Yet at the same time we long to resolve our differences, too; and sitting around a sumptuous table of holiday food can feel like an invitation to take a chance.

Here are three keys to non-violent communication: listen, acknowledge, and empathize. As you listen, keep an ear out for the speaker's observations, feelings, and needs. You can ask questions, but only for clarification, not in an attempt to challenge anything. At the core of all anger is a need that is not being fulfilled. If you can learn what that need is and acknowledge it in words, you may find yourself honestly empathetic even if not in agreement. It's not a good idea to offer analytical arguments, advice, or moralistic frameworks unless you are asked to. Wait for an invitation even if it never comes.

You may be wondering now, if I do all these things, how do I ever get around to changing the speaker's mind? You don't. The only mind anyone can change is their own. It's okay if you go first because once reciprocity is established, it can begin to run both ways.



## 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
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Co-Membership	Marcy Fry Maggie Lee
Voter Services	Sue Guilford
Speakers Committee	Gerri McNenny
E-mail Blasts	Maggie Lee
<i>Voter</i> Editor	Jim Hill

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Ed Smith

Special Events

Maggie Lee  
Gerri McNenny

Nominating Comm.

Barbara Dunsheath  
Betty Hammond  
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### **Off-Board Directors**

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

### **2025-2026 Focus Committee Heads**

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