



The League of Women Voters of North Orange County

The Voter



July 2026
LWVNOC
P.O Box 3073
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www.lwvnoc.org

President's Message by Sharon O'Hara

A new League year begins!

Your Board of Directors and I invite you to join us as we look forward to our League's active and energetic participation in this important midterm election year. You are a vital part of all we do. Please note the **Save the Date** flyer in this issue and mark your calendars for **Tues., August 11th for our Members' Planning Workshop**. Thanks to your input at the May 28th Lunch with League, we have a good starting point, but your in-person brainstorming and contributions will be essential. (Please look over the 2026 Program Planning Preferences in this issue.)

The 57th Biennial National Convention "Women Unite & Rise" will have been held in Columbus, Ohio, when you read this. Our delegates in person were Vice President Gerri McNenny, and I, while our Secretary Ruth Zemke was a virtual attendee. In April 2025 the LWVUS declared, "Our country is in a constitutional crisis." They then launched "Unite and Rise 8.5," a program to focus on mobilizing at least 8.5 million people committed to protecting and preserving our democracy.

As our League year progresses, you'll hear all about the resolutions, bylaws, programs, and action plans we learned about in plenary sessions and breakout group trainings.

We are the League, "Women Defending Democracy," acting as ambassadors for voting rights when we tell others about what's happening to the Voting Rights Act amid the campaign of voter suppression clearly underway.

What part will you play in Voter Services, Observation Corps, LWVNOC leadership? All of us have much to offer. Even if you may have served in many roles in the past or are unsure of your place in LWVNOC, please step up in this unprecedented era.

Team LWVNOC--Together let's commit to finding meaningful ways to get involved, raise our voices, and work collectively. By combining our resources, energy, and determination, we will be women and men defending democracy--one action, one conversation, and one step at a time!

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SAVE THESE DATES! HERE ARE THE LUNCH WITH LEAGUE DATES FOR 2026-2027

4th Thursdays at the Coyote Hills Golf Club, Fullerton

October 22; January 28, 2027; February 25; March 25; April 22 and May 27.

Note: October 2026 and April 2027 have **5** Thursdays

Voter ID on the Ballot in November

by Sue Guilford

There will be 14 statewide measures on the November 3, 2026, ballot. But there is one that every one of us must help to defeat: Voter ID. The League of Women Voters of California, along with a coalition of other groups, started working on this issue months ago.

This measure would require all voters to show government-issued ID every time they vote. It would also require showing proof of citizenship when registering to vote. Implementation would cost millions; Bob Page, Orange County Registrar of Voters, estimated that it would cost Orange County \$6 million. The measure includes no provision for covering those costs. Even worse, the measure would disenfranchise millions, which is exactly the point. According to a study published on [VoterRiders.org](https://voteriders.org) that was produced by University of Maryland Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement, over 3 million California citizens who are eligible to vote lack a document proving their citizenship. Young people, people of color, and the poor are most likely to lack the required document(s). Some people would need more than one document. For example, married women who changed their name would need both a birth certificate and a marriage certificate. These documents can cost about \$50 each, which is a barrier for some.

The incidence of noncitizens voting is vanishingly small. After the 2016 election, The Brennan Center for Justice, which advocates for voting rights, surveyed local election officials in 42 jurisdictions with high immigrant populations and found 30 cases of suspected noncitizens voting out of 23.5 million votes cast, or 0.0001%. North Carolina, which wasn't included in the study, found 41 cases of green card holders out of 4.8 million votes, or 0.0000085%; Georgia found 20 possible cases of noncitizen voting out of 8.2 million voters, or 0.00024%. Some of these cases appear to have been people who thought they had been told they could vote.

When you registered to vote in California, you signed a statement swearing under penalty of perjury that all of your information is correct — and that included a statement that you are a citizen. The penalty for noncitizen voting is severe and includes deportation.

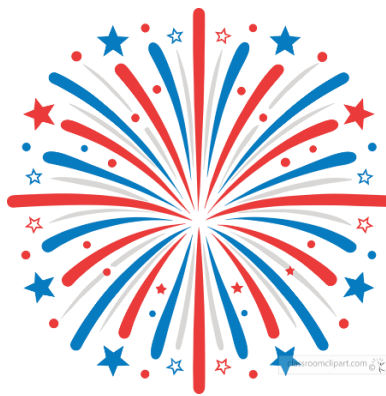
References:

Fact sheet from League of Women Voters California

<https://lwvc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Voter-ID-Fast-Facts-1.pdf>

Study cited on voteriders.org

<https://voteriders.org/article/california-id-research/>



Observer Corps Reports

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

June 9th and 10th were set aside by the **Orange County Board of Supervisors** for the presentation of the County's Budget. The final vote to approve will be on June 23. One hundred fifty people signed up for Public Comment; thus, they were limited to one minute per speaker. Most of the commenters were asking that the \$3.7 million dollars recovered from the Andrew Do scandal be returned to District 1, the originally intended recipient for relief during Covid. A few commenters requested that the Gang Reduction Intervention Project and the Black Infant Project be spared from budget cuts.

The county fell short of a self-balancing budget by \$75 million. One-time funds were accessed to help the county pay bills. This is the fourth year in a row that the county has used "one-time funds" to balance the budget:

\$15 million 2023-2024

\$44 million 2024-2025

\$53 million 2025-2026

Staff noted the expenses were coming from the rising cost of doing business and a series of lawsuit settlements, the largest of which is the county's airport fire. A hiring freeze in 2025 has resulted in no layoffs. County departments were asked to make a 10% reduction in their budgets; final reductions were closer to 5%. The sheriff's department saw its costs increase by \$25 million this year.

Ruth Zemke addressed the **Fullerton City Council** on **June 2** about three resolutions implementing Brown Act updates adopted in SB 707. She stated that LWVNOC supports the resolutions as they encourage informed and active participation by citizens. All three passed.

The city Budget has been delayed awaiting finalization of the audit. It will be completed in July with one public study session scheduled.

The city is giving a one-year notice of intent to withdraw from the ICRMA (Independent Cities Risk Management Authority). Previously there were 35 member agencies, now there are 12.

The year allows time to assess options.

At the last meeting for this 2025-2026 school year, **June 16th**, the **Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District** adopted several major programs: The Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), the individual school plans for Student Achievement, the 2026-2027 Budget, and agreements with teachers (APLE) and managers (PLUM) for pay increases for the coming years. An LCAP and Budget were also presented for the charter school, Orange County School of Computer Science at Bernard Yorba.

To access our complete reports, go to our LWVNOC website and click "Observer Reports," then choose your reports: "City," "County," or "School District."

2026 Program Planning Preferences

Compiled by Gerri McNenny

Thanks to all who participated in the survey of Program Planning Preferences at our May 28, 2026, Lunch with League. Here is a breakdown of the choices made by LWVNOC members at that time using the current list of LWV programs. **35 attendees responded.** Scores were calculated by adding up the rankings, with 5 as the highest ranking, and dividing them by the number of participants. The most highly ranked programs are highlighted in **BLUE**.

Potential Program Topics for 2026-28

Which of the following topics would you be interested in participating in for local action?

Rank Program (# of respondents)

- .14 LWVUS Program: Defending a Democracy Under Siege (1 respondent)
- 2.285 Voting Rights (23 resp.)**
- 2.257 Protecting Elections (21 resp.)**
- .857 Gerrymandering (11 resp.)
- 1.4 Immigration: Protecting the Rights of Immigrants (18 resp.)**
- .6 Individual Rights (8 respondents)
- 1.3 The Presidency—Electing with Popular Vote (14 resp.)**
- .4 Constitutional Abolition of the Electoral College (5 resp.)
- .6 National Vote Compact:
18 States pledged their Electoral College vote to the winner of the national popular vote (5)
- 1.2 The Presidency: Presidential Powers, Check & Balances (11 resp.)
- .9 Affordable Housing/Homelessness (10 resp.)
- 2.1 Civic Education (20 resp.)**
- 1.8 Voter Participation and Education (16 resp.)**
- .8 Climate Change (11 resp.)

Other: (Write-in)

- **Keeping education separate from religion/Separation of Church and State/No religion in public education/Keeping religion out of the classroom/Democracy without religion (10 entries)**
- Convincing 18-year-olds that their votes count – CSUF / FCC
- Ranked choice voting education
- Move divorce from courthouse to a family service model with triage for high conflict cases
- City Council
- Education and upholding the constitution (Separation of church and state)
- Lunch with League ideas: Love climate change, immigration & housing, but for action? We should be focused on voting & elections.
- Proportional voting and ranked-choice voting
- I love boosters! Movie on fashion industry.
- Defend/restore democracy
- I love boosters!
- Changing voting systems to ranked-choice voting of candidates
- Voter apathy—California has the same “did not vote” percentage as states with voting restrictions.
- State local level hazardous substance control.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our amazing, exciting Annual **KICKOFF** and **SILENT AUCTION** will be held on **SATURDAY, September 19th, 2026.**

The online auction fundraiser **AND** guest speaker, Orange County's Registrar of Voters, Robert Page, are why you **must** circle this date on your calendar and watch for the updates on how to register for the auction and reserve your lunch.

Our speaker, Robert Page, was the first choice of the Speakers Committee. How incredible it will be to hear from him as the League asks us to fight for voting rights, mail-in balloting, and so much more.

Bob Page is dedicated to the core principles of our democracy: accessibility, accuracy, and fairness. He oversees election services for over 1.8 million registered citizens. Bob grew up right here in Orange County and has dedicated his extensive career in public service to keeping our local election process transparent and secure. He will also be the recipient of our **Community Impact Award**.



Gerri McNenny was honored for her two invaluable years as our President. The text of the curved glass award states, "With appreciation for your leadership 2024-2026"

Advocacy by Richard Larsen

LWVNOC Advocacy is about petitions and other requests that are sent out to the members on the LWVNOC Advocacy list to take action on. These also include our requests to interview our state and federal legislatures that we receive from LWVC and LWVUS. The requests also indicate how to perform them. If you do not receive these requests for action and would like to be on the list, please contact Richard Larsen (rkajdane5@gmail.com). Below is a list of action requests distributed in the month of June.

June 4- A petition from LWVUS, No More Money for ICE and CBP. Congress returned this week with one big thing: Passing billions of dollars to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. We have one more chance to tell them not to add funds that seek to harm and divide our communities. Contact Congress now.

June 4- An invitation from AMERICANS UNITED for separation of church and state for a ZOOM film *Bad Faith*, a documentary on the rise of Christian nationalism and how it ended up at the 2020 election riots.

June 13- One of our members found an item on Facebook to take action on **How to submit a public comment on the USPS mail ballot rule** in response to “The Trump administration wants USPS to reject mail ballots from states that don't hand over voter data to the federal government”. This was sent out to our Advocacy members.

June 14- An action request from the ACLU for comments to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) because President Trump is proposing a massive rule change that would result in widespread discrimination against transgender and intersex people who need to access domestic violence shelters and homeless shelters. HUD is required by law to accept and read public comments.

June 19- A request from LWVUS to comment to the USPS about the proposed President Trump USPS rule that would erect barriers to mail-in voting. This was the same as the June 1 action, but the more made the better.

June 24- A petition request from ACLU to tell our elected officials to hold strong against President Trumps extreme abuse of power in refusing to sign the housing affordability bill unless Congress approves the SAVE Act.



LWVUS Convention 2026

UNITE & RISE!



At our 2026 National LWVUS Convention, Sharon O'Hara and Gerri McNenny share a moment with LWVC Executive Director Jenny Farrell at the First Plenary session.

SAVE THE DATE!

Be a part of our
MEMBERS' PLANNING WORKSHOP

Tuesday, August 11th, 2026
10 AM-2PM

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO GUIDE OUR LEAGUE YEAR WITH YOUR IDEAS!

Which League programs most interest you?

*Which of your talents and ideas will you share with our League's interest groups,
programs, speakers?*

How should we commemorate the 250th anniversary of our country?

Where? ROP Anaheim Conference Room, 385 Muller St., Anaheim 92801

When? 10 am to 2 pm

Sandwich purchase options will be sent out to all our members. You can also bring your own lunch.

Beverages and snacks will be provided.

DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN JULY. Email SHARON with comments, suggestions & questions.
(oharashar10@gmail.com)



Current Officers & Directors

2026-2028

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President: Sharon O'Hara
Vice President: Gerri McNenny
Secretary: Ruth Zemke
Treasurer: Jenny Luzi
Equal Opportunity Officer: Ruth Zemke

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Observer Corps: Karen Bender
Read with League: Vacant
Student Outreach: Vacant

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Speakers Committee: Gerri McNenny
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Web Host: Ed Smith
Special Events: Gerri McNenny
Voter Editor: Erica Hartsough
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Betty Hammond
Maggie Lee

