

President's Message by Sharon O'hara

Let's hear it for BOB PAGE!

I'm really looking forward to Bob Page as our Kickoff speaker on Saturday, September 19th! He's a hero! Back in June, 2025, our League and LWV Orange Coast were told of the Department of Justice lawsuit against our Orange County's Registrar of Voters- Bob Page. The LWVC and our two Leagues filed a motion to intervene on behalf of voters in *USA v. Page*.

The suit alleged that Page violated the National Voter Registration Act and Help America Vote Act by refusing to provide records related to non-citizen voter removals and failing to maintain accurate voter registration lists.

The request for all the voter records was about possibly 17 people who might have improperly voted after their names showed up on rolls, despite not being eligible to vote.

Bob Page's office refused to turn over all the data, citing California privacy laws that protect sensitive voter information including driver's license numbers, social security numbers, and signature images.

"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."

The hearings were held in the L.A. Federal Court House. LWVNOC President Gerri McNenny (who was a signatory on the suit), Voter Services Director Sue Guilford and member Gret Milligan represented LWVNOC along with members from LWV Orange Coast and LWVC Executive Director Jenny Farrell. ACLU attorneys represented the Leagues.

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In the end, Judge David O. Carter granted a motion to dismiss the suits against the CA Secretary of State Shirley Weber and the Orange County lawsuit. In his ruling, Judge Carter said he was unpersuaded by the DOJ's attempts to use provisions of the Help America Vote Act and the Civil Rights Act to force the state to share entire unredacted voter rolls containing the sensitive personal information of millions of residents. Carter said the DOJ's attempt to use Title III of the Civil Rights Act, which was passed in the Jim Crow era in response to efforts to suppress Black Americans from voting, "lacked depth" and was "contrived."

And as Marica Johnson, chief counsel for the LWVUS, said, "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."

Which brings us right back to today--the SAVE Act in Congress and our CA ballot Proposition 39 on the Nov. 3rd ballot. Let's find out what Bob has to say about his continuing efforts to keep our voter rolls secure as Prop.39 tries to import federal-level election lies into California. I will be eager to see you all there and to welcome Bob Page!

Lest we forget:

Voter suppression is any attempt to prevent or discourage certain Americans from registering to vote or casting their ballot. These measures often target specific groups based on race, ethnicity, political affiliation, age, or other aspects of voters' identities.

The most widely used forms of voter suppression include **discriminatory voter ID and proof-of-citizenship restrictions**, reduced polling place hours in communities of color, the elimination of early voting opportunities, and illegal purges of voters from the rolls.

Many of these voter suppression strategies remained in place until the 1965 passage of the ***Voting Rights Act***.

In 2013, the US Supreme Court removed key protections of the *Voting Rights Act* in the decision of ***Shelby v. Holder***. And with *Louisiana v. Callais* (2026), the Supreme Court ruled that the VRA does not require Louisiana to use race in redistricting, eliminating a major part of the law which has protected against racial discrimination. With the *SAVE Act* in Congress and now *Prop. 39* on our ballot in November, we are once again engaged in a fight to ensure everyone eligible can vote!

Observer Reports

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

We're pleased to report that the Coast League has a new observer at the Orange City Council meetings. An occasional item from the Orange Council meeting may be included here since we are close neighbors.

At the **August 11th** meeting of the **Orange County Board of Supervisors**, the Board voted unanimously to add more transparency to meetings between Supervisors and lobbyists.

All Supervisors except K. Foley voted to delay the 66-year contract for harbor redevelopment in Dana Point. Concerns were expressed about employees getting laid off and having nothing clearly in writing to assure they would get some assistance with finding new jobs.

At the **Aug. 25th** meeting, the Board failed to pass (deadlocked 2-2, with one abstention) a proposed restructuring aimed at helping finance two long-planned hotels at Dana Point Harbor.

The County is planning to take legal action against GKM Aerospace for the hazardous materials event that occurred over the Memorial Day weekend in Garden Grove and Stanton. Fifty thousand people were evacuated when an explosion seemed possible.

On **July 8th** the **Orange County Board of Education** voted unanimously to revoke the charter of Explore Academy in Orange. The California School Dashboard stated that standards were not met for the Basics: Teachers, Instructional Materials, and Facilities. Nor were standards met for "Implementation of Academic Standards."

Fullerton City Council, on **Aug. 18th** discussed the role of local government in meeting housing needs. City staff, using the Housing element of the City plan, obtained a grant to examine several potential city-owned and church-owned housing sites. The methods used provide a road map for moving forward. A motion to prioritize 118 W. Santa Fe Ave. and advance the 3 city-owned sites to developer solicitation passed (4-1, Dunlap No).

Further, Tax Exempt Bonds were approved (4-1, Dunlap No) in support of maintaining non-profit housing group control of the affordable mobile home housing for 48 families at Magnolia Ridge.

The City Operating Budget for 2026-27, which preserved the \$15 million reserve fund but cut library funds and services, graffiti removal, and froze 22 positions affecting timely response to citizen services, passed 3-2 (Charles, Zahra No).

At the **August 4th** meeting of the **Placentia-Yorba Linda School District**, Trustee Blades expressed the concern that a contractor included in the “Consent Calendar” item has “DEI messaging.” Specifically, a contract to train pre-school educators to help students build their own resilience was included. She stated that her concern was about the content of the training. The agenda item was approved.

For complete Observer reports, go to [our local League website](#) and click on Observer reports. Coast League reports can be accessed by Clicking on Observer reports and scrolling to the bottom of the page.



August Advocacy

By Richard Larsen

In the month of August we had five action requests, all from LWVC. They were:

- SB423 The Detention Facility Transparency Act would require public agencies to release more records showing what happens inside California's privately operated immigration detention facilities. A petition to our Assemblymember to vote YES.
- AB2599 Will require California companies to publicly disclose prior slavery involvement. A petition to our State Senator to vote YES.
- SB1164 & SB1360 The California Voting Rights Act of 2026 to help protect against voting discrimination. A petition to our Assemblymember to vote YES on both.
- SB1414 Establish an independent redistricting commission for the San Bernadino County's supervisorial districts. Currently the supervisors have the final say. A petition to our Assemblymember to vote YES.
- Proposition 39 Voter ID. A request for each of us to submit a short video on what our vote means to us and why we are voting NO on Prop 39 for the purpose of supporting the LWVC drive.

In addition to the action requests sent out to Advocacy members, other information and webinar invites were also distributed that may be of interest.

- An ACLU California Voter Guide with their position on particular propositions: YES on 1, 3, and 4, and NO on 39, 41, 42, and 43.
- A LWVC ZOOM on Proposition 4 Public Campaign Financing, Proposition 5 Recall Election Process Reform, and Proposition 39 New Identification for Voters on September 1, 12:00pm.
- A LWVC and California Common Cause webinar on Primary Election Reform on September 2, 6:60 pm-8:00 pm.

Read With the League – *Regime Change*

Our Read With the League selection for September is ***Regime Change*** by Pulitzer Prize winner Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan, both of whom also write for the *New York Times*. It was just recently released this past June and immediately qualified as a #1 New York Times Bestseller. It covers the first 14 months of Trump's second presidency and is based on hundreds of interviews conducted by the two reporters who have arguably covered Trump more than any others over the past decade. Additionally, Haberman has been reporting on Trump since the late 1990's in New York City.

Our book club meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 8, from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM and will be a pot luck!

Below are links for a few interviews with one or both of the authors:

*This is an interview at the bookstore Politics & Prose in Washington DC with authors Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan interviewed by journalist Tim Alberta of *The Atlantic* (70 minutes):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upquoioK4oQ&list=PLtcRwLEGcGJLZ_LaYWN8jUCgDJbjW49x&index=17&t=2568s

*This is an interview from a couple of months ago that Katie Couric did remotely with Maggie Haberman, discussing the book, Trump's relationship with White House aide Natalie Harper, and how his 2nd presidency differs significantly from his 1st one (37 minutes):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLwXXp6XEW0&list=PLtcRwLEGcGJLZ_LaYWN8jUCgDJbjW49x&index=19&t=444s

*In this interview Jon Stewart interviews Haberman and Swan in person on *The Daily Show* (29 minutes):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdmdGTrJ2nl&list=PLtcRwLEGcGJLZ_LaYWN8jUCgDJbjW49x&index=20&t=1520s

*Award winning journalist Amy Goodman interviews Maggie Haberman here on Goodman's news program *Democracy Now* (29 minutes):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJNo7FQ2xmk&list=PLtcRwLEGcGJLZ_LaYWN8jUCgDJbjW49x&index=16

No One Can Do Everything, But Everyone Can Do Something!

Get Involved Helping with the General Election in November!

Did you know that you can do your part for democracy this November by serving during the election in a Vote Center or maybe at the OC Registrar of Voters offices or warehouse?

Working at a Vote Center is a very rewarding way to help people in your own neighborhood area vote.

Consider applying if you can:

- Be able to commit to this position for approximately 10 days spread over a two-month period.
- In addition to multiple days of remote and in-person training, be able to work the following schedule:

4-Day Vote Center

Set up day: TBD (Will be scheduled one of the following): Wednesday, 10/28/2026, Thursday 10/29/2026 or Friday 10/30/2026

All Voting days: Saturday, 10/31/2026 – Tuesday, 11/03/2026

Takedown day: Wednesday, 11/04/2026

- Must be able to work overtime, including evenings and weekends to meet the needs of the department.

For more information go to: <https://ocvote.gov/careers>. If this opportunity is not a good fit for you, please pass it on to friends or family members who may be interested in serving.

For questions about these positions contact the Orange County Registrar of Voters at Recruitment@ocvote.gov or (714) 567-5079.

You Can Observe the OC Registrar of Voters Operations During the Election

You can also observe the OC Registrar of Voters election operations either in person at their facility in Santa Ana or remotely in the comfort of your home via livestreaming. For more information of election observation go to: ocvote.gov/observe. Feel free to pass this information along to anyone who is interested in observing the election process in November.

Proposition 4

The **Proposition 4 Campaign** is led by the **California Clean Money Action Fund, California Common Cause**, and the **League of Women Voters of California**, the co-chairs of the ballot measure committee Yes on 4, Californians for Fair Elections, sponsored by Government Reform Advocates.

Prop 4 is also backed by a broad coalition including the **California Nurses Association, ACLU California Action, California Alliance for Retired Americans, California Democratic Party, California Environmental Voters, California Labor Federation, California National Organization for Women, California Working Families Party, Californians for Disability Rights, Consumer Watchdog, Courage California, CSEA, Democracy for America, Fix Democracy First, Indivisible California: Statestrong, La Defensa, Money Out Voters In, SEIU California, Sierra Club California, Social Security Works, Stand Up America, Voters Right to Know**, and many more state, local, and national organizations.

Proposition 4 Changes the Way We Finance Election Campaigns

Proposition 4 repeals 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.
- **Triple the maximum fines for illegal foreign campaign contributions and expenditures**, strengthening penalties for those who attempt to interfere in California's elections.

More details can be found in the [Proposition 4 two-pager](#).

*****The Orange County campaign kick-off for Prop 4 is Saturday, September 19th from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Anaheim. The address is 511 S. Harbor Blvd., 92805. Our Kickoff and Silent Auction is earlier that day. If you're able to drop by this event, I'm sure the organizers will appreciate the support!**

Things We Can Do to Protect the Vote

There are several things you can do to help protect the vote. Here are just a few:

Volunteer to protect the vote with Indivisible at <https://indivisible.org/campaigns/our-vote/> and as part of the ACLU's effort at <https://www.aclu.org/campaigns-initiatives/election-safeguarding> .

Donate to the legal team protecting the vote at <https://democracyforward.org> .

You can volunteer or donate to folks fighting voter suppression in the South at <https://www.fairfight.com> .

To **stay informed about the latest attacks on voting**, you can go to <https://www.democracymocket.com> .

For daily Get Out the Vote and voter protection opportunities, go to https://chopwoodcarrywaterdailyactions.substack.com/?utm_id=97760_v0_s00_e0_tv4

And to **volunteer to be a poll worker**, go to <https://www.powerthepolls.org/creator-jesscraven101>. It pays, and it's the #1 thing election protectors say we need people to do.

How about watching what's going on this election season?

As LWVNOC members we have received an invitation to observe as the Orange County Registrar of Voters conducts the November 3, 2026, General Election.

The start dates for significant election activities can be found on the highlighted link. Daily election activities will also be posted and updated on an observation calendar on the Registrar of Voters website – ocvote.gov/observe.

You may also want to visit the ROV [website](#), where you can view our [Election Observation page](#). This page contains important information regarding election observation, including our observation schedule and observer handbook, and short videos about observable election processes.

Observers are welcome at the Vote Centers, also.



Protecting Our Elections: How to Prepare for Attacks on the Right to Vote

As we head into the November elections, many are concerned about threats to voting rights. Join us to hear from voting rights experts from the Center for Justice and Common Cause California on Tuesday, September 22, 5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. (PST) via zoom. The speakers will discuss current voting rights nationally and in California, efforts to safeguard our rights, and can take. [Please register for the program](#)



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Speakers



Justin Lam serves as counsel in the Brennan Center’s Voting Rights and Elections Program. Before joining the center, he clerked for Judge John P. Howard III of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Judge Nina R. Morrison of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. He also worked to advance children’s rights in education and juvenile justice as a public interest fellow at the National Center for Youth Law. Lam earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his master of public policy and law degree from the University of California, Berkeley.



Brittany Stonesifer is the Senior Program Manager for Voting Rights and Redistricting at Common Cause California, where she leads statewide advocacy and education to ensure that all voters have fair access to the ballot. Brittany previously served as Senior Staff Attorney in the Democracy and Civic Engagement Program at ACLU of Northern California and Staff Attorney with Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. Brittany holds her J.D. from University of California Law, San Francisco, her B.A. from The Evergreen State College, and studied international human rights law at the University of London.

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2026-2028

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