



## GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2026-2027

### Annual Update –June 2026

#### *Action-Advocacy*

*Chair: Anna Honda*

##### **Strategic Goals:**

- **Campaign Finance Reform:** Continue advocacy for campaign finance reform in California. We are mobilizing support for the **California Fair Elections Act** on the November ballot, which would empower local governments to utilize public funding for elections and reduce the influence of billionaires and corporate interests in our democracy.
- **Protecting Voter Access:** Fight against the restrictive Voter ID initiative appearing on the November general election ballot to ensure equitable access for all voters.
- **Grow the Movement:** Enhance member engagement strategies to diversify, grow, and strengthen our community impact.

##### **Key Accomplishments:**

- **Built the Framework:** Formalized and implemented comprehensive guidelines and procedures for the endorsement process.
- **Showed Up:** Partnered with the *Unite and Rise Committee* and *Indivisible Resisters of Contra Costa* to organize high-impact public rallies.
- **Legislative Advocacy:** Successfully conducted legislative interviews with three local State Legislators to discuss key League priorities.
- **Consistent Engagement:** Maintained a robust monthly meeting attendance, consistently drawing 20+ active participants.

#### *Civic Engagement*

*Chair: Melanie Speir*

##### **Strategic Goals:**

- Continue working with the Civic Engagement Committee chartered by the Santa Clara Council and composed of members from several Peninsula Leagues with Civil Discourse programs.
- Make Fall 2026 presentation to the Lafayette Chapter of PEO (a philanthropic organization supporting women's education) about civil discourse.

##### **Key Accomplishment:**

- Organized and helped Santa Clara CD groups present civic engagement webinar February 24, 2026, with National Institute of Civil Discourse.

## ***Communications***

***Chairs: Leslie Stewart, Brooke Schwartz***

### **Strategic Goals:**

- Coordinate messaging with partner organizations, especially around the election and our priority issue of immigration.
- Continue to support Unite and Rise activities and Get Out the Vote efforts.
- Add a marketing component to our communications to improve awareness and involvement with LWVDV
- Continue outreach to youth and young professional audiences

### **Key Accomplishments:**

- Expanded Instagram and Facebook messaging in frequency and content type, including IG videos focused on younger voters
- Developed enhanced CA Primary Election web page that serves as one-stop for critical voter links
- Created Get Out the Vote posters and slides in English & Spanish for use by LWVDV and partners and for display on CCTV “bulletin board,” with QR code leading to LWVDV CA Primary webpage
- Started weekly email notifications of activities for members and interested allies
- Created new Youth webpage with Youth Council participation
- Created Young Professionals outreach effort to involve 22-30 year age group in LWVDV activities and civic engagement

## ***Community Conversations***    ***Chair: Diane Bianchi***

### **Strategic Goals:**

- Utilizing our social media tools, work with the Communications Committee on strategies to promote our webinars to a wider audience. Promote Community Conversations as a leading source of quality factual information on issues of importance to our community.
- Continue to produce programs that are timely and meet the fast-changing events impacting our community at the local, state and national level. The team found that we needed more time to produce our webinars and so beginning in 2026 we produced 3 webinars instead of 5 for the period Jan-June. During the mid-terms we will be producing one webinar on election security and protocols; one on pro/cons on the ballot measures and one on the transit issue facing voters. We are awaiting word from Professor Woolpert if he has secured funding for the September Constitution Day which would also take place in September and would be a hybrid event.
- Explore more opportunities to work with other community groups and our partners to highlight the work they do and the issues that are key to improve life in their communities.
- Transfer all Community Conversation recordings to the League’s YouTube Channel from the Library’s YouTube Channel. The Library will not be able to retain these webinar recordings due to requirements from the Federal Governments Disability criteria for visual adaptations.

### **Key Accomplishments:**

- From September 2025 to May 2026 we have had 721 people attend our webinars. We do not yet have the numbers for YouTube channel viewers.
- In partnership with St Mary's College, Community Conversations hosted its first hybrid event. Our featured speaker was Constitutional scholar, Akhil Amar. In person, public attendance at this event (which was held during inclement weather) filled Claeys room at the Soda Center. Zoom attendance was 111 people of the 193 who registered to attend.

### ***Fact vs Fiction Team***

***Chair: Janet Hoy***

- These presentations have been sidelined due to the Changing Voting Landscapes presentation through the Unite & Rise effort.

### ***Immigration Team***

***Chairs: Diane Bianchi, Ana Pan, Jonee Grassi***

#### **Strategic Goals:**

- In concert with our immigrant-focused partners, and in collaboration with Voter Services, develop GOTV information for the Midterms. Utilize social media tools that address the information and issues members of the immigrant community need to execute their vote including their First Amendment rights, voter rights and voter registration for qualifying individuals. We will also work with our partners to focus on outreach to the youth who can vote in our county in these communities.
- Safe Center – collaborate with the Center to provide educational programs developed by the League on voting rights and issues pertinent to the work of the Safe Center. Also, collaborate to develop presentations on the challenges immigrants face and the misinformation being reported.
- Provide information to LWVDV members and our partners about ongoing developments on immigration policy changes, the proposed detention center in Dublin, and the CCC Ordinance on ICE so that when appropriate we can take action.

### **Key Accomplishments:**

- Established monthly vigils at the Immigration Court in Concord. We have created posters that are in Spanish and English that greet those going to court that are positive and supportive in content.
- We presented a letter to the Equity Committee establishing our League's position on the Ordinance on ICE cooperation. We will continue to monitor the situation.
- Established a connection between our League's Communication/Social Media team and the United Latino Voice and SAFE Center to promote accurate voting information for the Primary and which also focuses on youth voters. From this connection, social media posters were developed in English by the LWVDV Communications team and our partners translated them into Spanish. These posters were then promoted on social media channels on our site, those of our partners and aired on CCTV.
- We submitted an article to The Voter about the work at the Immigration Court and the need for volunteers. Jonee Grassi has received inquiries from interested persons who want to volunteer at the court. She has taken them to the court where they have shadowed her for the day to see what a Welcome Navigator does to determine if they want to volunteer. She has even received a query from a woman in the UK who will be

visiting this summer and is considering volunteering as well as a Los Medanos student who expressed interest in working at the court.

- We have collected food donations from our League members and delivered them to a food pantry in Concord where they were warmly received. We hope to continue this effort by collecting food and/or cash donations at the monthly lunch gatherings which we will deliver to the food pantries.

## ***Membership***

***Chair: Audra Ruthruff***

### **Strategic Goals:**

- Grow membership enrollment by being part of a team that recruits & welcomes new members; and retains current/expiring members.
- Work towards a broader demographic reach for membership enrollment & involvement.
- Increase engagement of members by discussing with them their interests, skills, & availability; and connecting them, if applicable, to related committees & volunteer activities.
- Thank members for their membership as they approach their expiration date and encourage them to renew. Encourage renewing members to fill out our interest survey and attend an upcoming event.
- Assist nominating committee by sharing who has responded to our interest surveys and/or regularly attended lunches, coffees, or is involved in other membership activities.

### **Key Accomplishments:**

- Redesigned New/prospective member orientations.
- Hosted 7 New Member Orientations.
- Planned and hosted 4 new Saturday Coffee Socials.
- Helped design and implement purchase of membership promotional items and tabling supplies to use at future membership events.
- Successfully engaged new members to join our committees/teams & volunteer activities.

## ***Voter Services***

***Chair: Shawn Gilbert***

### **Strategic Goals:**

- Gear up for 2026 Primary and Mid-Term elections: candidate roundtables (Funding for candidate roundtables has been cut. Consequently, there were no roundtables for the Primary Election. The hope is to find other funding sources before the November Mid-Term Election) Candidate Forums, Voter Registration Events and Presentations. Engaging more youth is a goal overall.
- Continue to be out in the community registering voters and informing and educating on voter access and voters rights. Partner with community groups such as the Food Bank, libraries, high schools, colleges, et.al.
- Continue our close partnership with the County Elections Office.
- Create more short social media Instagram reels geared to younger voters in collaboration with our youth council.

### **Key Accomplishments:**

- Numerous tabling events were held evenly throughout the county.
- Formed a strong partnership with the Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank
- Helped coordinate League Pros & Cons presentations on Prop. 50.

## ***Vote 411***

***Chair: Ashley Coates***

### **Strategic Goals:**

- Strive to invite 100% of local candidates in the county to participate in VOTE 411.
- Coordinate with County Elections Office to get full contact info for each candidate.
- Advertise VOTE 411 to voters through distributing VOTE 411 bookmarks to local libraries, and social media.

### **Key Accomplishments:**

- All 49 state and local candidates for the June election that the Contra Costa Vote411 team were responsible for were invited to participate via email (except for one candidate who did not provide an email address). We made text/phone/email follow-ups to encourage participation. We had a very high 63% participation rate.

## ***Youth Engagement***

***Chairs: Anne Granlund, Kathy Gallagher***

### **Strategic Goals:**

- Implement the Lee Lawrence Youth Grant Program.
- Support and promote the Youth Council as a self-governing and self-directed group within our League.
- Advocate for improved and expanded civics education in local schools.

### **Key Accomplishments:**

- Formed a Steering Committee to coordinate and oversee youth involvement in our League.
- Completed the consolidation of LWVDV Youth Engagement Policies as approved by the Board.
- The Youth Council received a grant of \$750 from the LWVUS Education Fund to promote voter access in local schools.
- Under youth leadership, formed a Young Professionals group.

## ***Unite & Rise Team***

***Chairs: Janet Hoy; Sue Brandy***

LWV National launched the Unite and Rise 8.5 initiative on May 1 which aims to mobilize at least 8.5 million voters to combat the dangers facing our democracy. This is being driven through a multi-faceted approach of legal and policy advocacy; public mobilization and coalition building; civic education and engagement; democracy resilience by building a lasting infrastructure.

### **Strategic Goals:**

- Continue developing an array of activities for League members to engage in to 'Meet the Moment', including GOTV campaigns for both the primary and general elections, educational outreach programs focused on voting challenges and the VRA, postcard outreach to low engagement voters, and participation in rallies
- Continue to conduct educational sessions for the community on timely

local issues related to voting, voting suppression and the VRA

- In conjunction with the County Elections Department, implement a GOTV postcard outreach for the general election.
- Develop and launch August 8 event with support from Voter Services and communications
- Continue convening the statewide U&R Interest Group.

**Key Accomplishment:**

- Continued a robust Steering Committee governance structure resulting in the roll out of new initiatives and the continuation of ongoing programs and community activities including rallies, postcard parties, GOTV campaigns, educational outreach programs, and community building.