

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / February 2025, Volume 97, Number 4

Wednesday, February 12th, 2025
"Civic Engagement"

Dr. Daisy Martin will be our speaker via Zoom for this timely and important topic. Civic engagement is the act of working to improve the quality of life in a community. It can involve political and non-political activities, such as volunteering, voting, or participating in public meetings. Dr. Martin is **Founding Director of The History and Civics Project at UC Santa Cruz**. She currently works with K-12 History and Civics teachers, and has extensive experience as a teacher in California public schools.



Dr. Martin recently helped **Jefferson Union School District** (northern San Mateo County) in implementing the **California State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE)** program. The **State Superintendent of Public Instruction** awards SSCE recognition to public school students in grades eleven or twelve who demonstrate excellence in civics education and participation, as well as an understanding of the US Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government.

Dr. Martin is a member of the **Monterey County Media Literacy Coalition** that organized the
(continued on next page)



How to Attend this Virtual Meeting
The free **February 12th, 2025 LWVMC** presentation described above will use the **Zoom Web Conferencing** platform and **Zoom Chat** for Questions & Answers.



11:45 am Zoom Check-In / 12 noon Meeting Begins.

All current LWVMryCo members will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting from lwmryco@gmail.com on the **Monday before the meeting** (e.g., on **Monday, February 10th** for this month) with instructions on how to join the meeting.

Not a member? Non-members can send a message to LWVMryCo@gmail.com requesting an invitation to receive the link and instructions. **You can also join by phone:** numbers for audio-only will be provided along with meeting numbers and codes.

Can't get into the meeting using link/instructions?
Call Tama Olver

“MisinfoDay California” Media Literacy Event for students from seven high schools to learn how to distinguish between fact and propaganda.

MisinfoDay is an annual media literacy educational event that brings together high school students, teachers and librarians on university campuses for a day to learn how to navigate complex information environments and make informed decisions about what to believe online.



organizers around the world to bring MisinfoDay to their classrooms and local communities (www.cip.uw.edu/misinfoday2024).

Dr. Martin has also led regional and state workshops on media literacy, and has expertise in historical reading.

She says that the League of Women Voters mission to educate voters and promote voting by every citizen clearly overlaps with Civics Education!

Extending its mission worldwide, the program now offers a variety of resources, toolkits, and sub-programs for passionate educators and

We look forward to learning from her and strengthening our own civics education.

Beverly Kreps

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FEBRUARY 2025

The elections are over. What's next? The headline on the national LWV website is clear: **Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

“Women Defend Democracy” is the national LWV program for the League in 2025. It's centered on people power and moving our country towards a stronger, multi-racial democracy. The program has five working areas:

- ★ Provide Democracy Education & Election Administration Support
- ★ Restore and Defend Voting Rights Protections
- ★ Abolish the Electoral College
- ★ Protect Democracy Organizations & Institutions
- ★ Fight for Reproductive Freedoms



Some priorities such as **“Abolish the Electoral College”** do not have a direct local component. At best we can act as informed citizens and donors to any advocacy campaigns.

As for defending voting rights protections, protecting democratic institutions, or fighting for reproductive freedoms, these areas fortunately are not crises in California and Monterey County.

But providing democracy education and election administration support is in the LWVMC's wheelhouse. We do a lot during the election seasons: **candidate forums, Pros & Cons, Vote411, and staffing polling places.** What more can we do? We need to take a deeper dive into understanding our own communities.

We should be able to name the ten Monterey County precincts with the **lowest percentage of eligible voters who cast ballots.** We should know the names of the **most effective groups registering voters.** We should have a list of all the **high school civics teachers** in the County and what they think should be done to get young people engaged.

I don't know the answers to these questions, but without elections in 2025, we have time to get answers and then take effective action based on that information.

So, if you have ideas you want to share, you're invited to a **voter service meeting in March at Susan and Dennis Mar's home** (*details page 3*). Snacks will be served!

Dennis Mar



VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12



There will be an **in-person Voter Service meeting** on **Wednesday, March 12th at 2pm**, in follow-up to this February's Zoom "**Civic Engagement**" presentation.



The meeting will be held at the home of **Dennis & Susan Mar, 771 Dry Creek Road, Monterey.**

We will brainstorm activities for **Voter Service** and **Youth Outreach for 2025**. Bring your ideas, or just

attend as an observer—during discussion, we usually generate ideas to emphasize and enhance our local mission, which is to: **protect and expand voting rights, build grassroots power in our communities, drive policy change on the biggest challenges facing our state, and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy.**

Bring a friend or just come by yourself. All (members and non-members) are welcome!

Arlene Guest



SYNOPSIS: BIG SUR LAND TRUST PRESENTATION



Land and preservation affects climate change, housing, and food sustainability—so it affects us all.



At our first Lunch & Learn session this January, **Jeannette Tuitele-Lewis, President and CEO of the Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT)**, gave an eye-opening presentation on the wide range and scope of the work of the Trust, including projects addressing land conservation, land stewardship, and community programs, which are spread throughout Monterey County, not just in Big Sur.

Highlights of the Trust's 47 years of projects include the **Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (CRFREE)**, **Carr Lake** (and the park opening soon in Salinas), the **Basin Ranch** near **Arroyo Seco**, **Tarpy Flats/Hiss** property along Highway 68, the **Ferrini Ranch**, and numerous others undertaken in collaboration with a wide range of community partners, including tribal groups.



As an example of this partnership, the park by Carr Lake has now been named **Ensen Community Park.**

"Ensen" is an Indigenous word which means "blackberry," a name suggested by **Louise J. Miranda Ramirez, Tribal Chairwoman of the Ohlone/**

Costanoan-Esselen Nation (OCEN) (www.ohlonecostanoanesselenation.org). Blackberries were an important food source for Indigenous peoples in the area now known as Carr Lake.

These beautiful BSLT preserves are accessible to hikers with reservations (available through the Trust's website). You can find out how to make reservations, about the many aspects of the work



of the Trust, and how you can get involved at: bigsurlandtrust.org.

If you missed this presentation, you can watch "**Big Sur Land Trust Projects and Process Presentation**"

online at our website, of course, <https://my.lwv.org/california/monterey-county/videos>.

Thank you to **Bev Bean** for organizing this event!

Sharon Miller



MASS DEPORTATIONS IN MONTEREY COUNTY?



The League of Women Voters position on immigration includes, among other things, 1) ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons and 2) meet US economic, business and employment needs (lwvc.org/position/position-immigration/). This is in line with the **Know Your Rights** campaign in Monterey County due to concerns about immigrant workers and their families facing mass deportation threats.



of the Monterey County Hospitality Association says, "We don't know what's going to happen."

These matters could affect a lot of people. Hopefully it turns out to be much ado about nothing. **Norm Groot** of the

Monterey County Farm Bureau estimates that **30-50% of the county's agricultural workforce is undocumented**. Mass deportation would devastate the county's biggest industry. Stay tuned as this plays out in the lives and livelihoods of Monterey County residents.

The **Monterey County Sheriff's Office** follows the **California Values Act** and the **TRUTH Act** which are supposed to ensure the rights and dignity of immigrants while promoting transparency.

The TRUTH Act is a California law prohibiting law enforcement from turning undocumented people over to **ICE** who were not arrested for a serious crime. **Monterey County Tina, Sheriff Nieto** has stressed that the role of law enforcement is not to enforce federal immigration laws, but to protect all residents and build trust regardless of immigration status. Schools will only comply with immigration officials if they have a judicial or court warrant.

Local employers are also concerned with the possibility of immigration raids. **Rick Aldinger**

Local resources for **information on immigrant rights locally** are: www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/departments-a-h/administrative-office/intergovernmental-and-legislative-affairs/know-your-rights; and **Informed Immigrant** (www.informedimmigrant.com/resources/detention-deportation/know-your-rights/). These, among other agencies, provide immigrant rights education using "**Know Your Rights**" cards. The 3.5 x 2 inch cards are available online to print in 16 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, English, Spanish, Tagalog, Tongan, Portuguese, Vietnamese, and others (www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas).
Sharon Miller

Know Your Rights Red Card, English version

You have constitutional rights:

DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR if an immigration agent is knocking on the door.

- **DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS** from an immigration agent if they try to talk to you. You have the right to remain silent.
- **DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING** without first speaking to a lawyer. You have the right to speak with a lawyer.
- If you are outside of your home, ask the agent if you are free to leave and if they say yes, leave calmly.
- **GIVE THIS CARD TO THE AGENT.** If you are inside of your home, show the card through the window or slide it under the door.

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.

I do not give you permission to search my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights. I choose to exercise my constitutional rights. These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike.

2025-2026 PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING FEBRUARY 3RD

Our 2025-2026 Program Planning Meeting will be held over Zoom on **Monday, February 3rd, 2025, from 10:30 to 11:30**, right before our **Board Meeting**.



We will be deciding our areas of emphasis for our League's upcoming year along with **suggestions for the LWV California Convention (to be held Tuesday June 17th to Sunday 22nd via Zoom & YouTube only)**.

Decisions will be printed in the **May Annual Meeting Program**. Execution will be decided at the summer board meeting.

Dennis Mar

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING FEBRUARY 13TH

The next Natural Resources Committee Meeting will meet via Zoom, **Thursday, February 13th at 12 noon**.



All are welcome, new and current members as well as non-members, to join us in review and discuss **upcoming general updates on local land use events**. This will include reviewing current and future developments, such as hotels, housing, etc., as well as addressing fire threats, impacts of climate change, and more as time permits.



George Riley



LWVUS & AMERICAN OVERSIGHT PRESENTATION: THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT



On **February 20, 2025 11:00am Pacific Time (US and Canada)** the **US League of Women Voters** partnering with **American Oversight** will be holding an online seminar on Zoom titled **"Cracking the Code: Making Public Records Work for Democracy."** Discussion will center around the **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**.



across the country to expose misconduct and hold government accountable.

This seminar will include: types of records requests, how to draft and submit records requests, how to engage with agencies, special issues related to records requests, and answer your questions as time allows.

The Freedom of Information Act is a federal law that gives the public the right to request records from federal agencies. The law was enacted in 1966 and is found in **section 552, Title 5 of the United States Code** ([justice.gov/oip/freedom-information-act-5-usc-552](https://www.justice.gov/oip/freedom-information-act-5-usc-552)).

Join the **LWVUS Litigation team** and their partners at **American Oversight** (americanoversight.org) to learn all about our right to request government records.

American Oversight is a team of lawyers, researchers, communicators, and others working

"Cracking the Code" promises to be a great tool for the League's State Presidents and Leaders, Board Members, Advocacy Chairs, Local Leaders, and all League Members interested in holding government officials accountable!

To register for this seminar, go to: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xgEc-6b2Qlih4elyyc2KtA#/registration.

There are also many online seminars on the Freedom of Information act online on **YouTube.com**.

Regina Doyle



Join the League of Women Voters of Monterey County



FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Students may join LWVMryCo via the website without paying membership fees.

New Members Welcome!

Any person age 16 or older may be a member.

Use the form below or contact:

LWVMC Membership Director

Mail to LWVMryCo PO Box 1995

Monterey, CA 93942

Checks payable to LWVMC or
online with credit card or PayPal

Membership Levels

- ☐ \$250+ Carrie Chapman Catt
- ☐ \$200 Sojourner Truth
- ☐ \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- ☐ \$100 Susan B. Anthony
- ☐ \$ 95 Household (2 persons, 1 address)
- ☐ \$ 65 Single membership
- ☐ (free) Student (16-24 years, enrolled in a diploma or degree program)

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

- ☐ Please do NOT publish my address, phone number or email in The Voter newsletter

Florence Curlee Scholarships

are available to pay household or single membership fees. Contact:
Janet Brennan

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMryCo are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund.

However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Local Impact Fund (LWVCLIF) (formerly LWVC Education Fund) are tax deductible, but please continue to make the donations payable to LWVCEF.

LWVMRYCO.ORG WEBSITE UPDATE

COMING SOON

New members will be able to join and existing members will be able to update their membership from the LWV website **portal.lwv.org**.



This feature is currently under development, but check back by **February 3rd**.

It has never been easier to join or maintain your LWV membership!

Please share the news.

★★★★★★★★★★

Debby Majors-Degnan

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of this point in our League's year, we now have 176 members.

~New Members Welcome!~



If you have friends or family who might benefit from joining our League, bring them along to a

Lunch & Learn presentation
(non-members are welcome),

or invite them to attend a
virtual Zoom meeting with you.

Show people where to view our **online videos**,
(see opposite page for suggestions)
or share your copies of **"The Voter"**
to show them what our League has been doing to promote non-partisan voting locally.

★★★★★★★★★★

Contact: Janet Brennan

DID YOU MISS A GENERAL MEETING?

Find them all online at tinyurl.com/LWVMCVideos



"Big Sur Land Trust: Projects and Progress"

Jeanette Tuitele-Lewis,
President/CEO BSLT
(1/8/25)



"Our Polarized Politics"

Steven W. Hughes, PhD
(11/13/24)



"Ranked Choice Voting"

Arash Sayadi & Steve Chessin
(4/10/24)



"The State of Our Local Media"

Sara Rubin
(9/11/24)



"The Equal Rights Amendment: The Heart of Alice Paul"

Zoe Nicholson (1/10/24)



"Monterey Civil Grand Jury"

Marilyn Maxner (5/8/24)



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★ LWVMryCo The VOTER ★

Published monthly except June/July/Aug/Dec

Send articles & updates to doyle_regina72814@aol.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



★ **LWVMryCo Calendar 2025** ★



FEBRUARY

2025-2026 Program Planning Zoom Meeting
Monday, February 3rd 10:30 - 11:30am
Board Zoom Meeting *11:30am*
contact: Dennis Mar

LWVMC Zoom General Meeting
Wednesday, February 12th, 12 noon
"Civic Engagement"
Guest Presenter: Dr. Daisy Martin,
Founding Director, History & Civics
Project, UC Santa Cruz
contact: Beverly Kreps
(for details see front page)

Natural Resources Zoom Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 13th, 12 noon
contact: George Riley
(for details see page 5)

★★★★★★★★★★

*We are a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights,
and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy.*

MARCH

Board Zoom Meeting
Monday, March 10th 11:30am
contact: Dennis Mar

LWVMC Zoom General Meeting
Wednesday, March 12th, 12 noon
Michael Gennaco, Law Enforcement
Reform Expert, Civilian Oversight of
Sheriff's Department and Jail

Voter Service Committee
In-Person Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2pm
(for details see page 3)

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 13th, 12 noon
contact: George Riley