

**EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.**

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Members and Friends,

This is a big year for the LWV - 100 years of encouraging civic involvement, educating voters and "making democracy work" for us all. We celebrate our centennial as well as the passage of the 19th Amendment - and perhaps 2020 will mark ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. (Virginia, we are watching you.)



There are lots of activities for the League this year and we encourage you to join us wherever you can. Major activities include voter registration/get-out-the-vote and candidate forums before the March 3 primary election - more coming in the fall; celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the 19th amendment passage as well as the formation of the LWV; the 2020 Census needs volunteers to help make sure everyone gets counted; Climate Change Task Force focusing on the issues facing Ventura County; Housing and Homelessness committee finding ways to serve and help our unsheltered people; Voter Registration always looking for places to register new voters and encourage all registered voters to vote; Diversity/Equity/Inclusion committee reaching out to all communities, all ages, all political perspectives to bring us together to solve problems ... and more.

Come share in this important mission - Making Democracy Work - and meet some great new friends too.

Betsy Patterson, President

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## **HONOR THE PAST BY WORKING TO BETTER THE FUTURE**



From the beginning in 1920, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization. Today, across the country, the LWV fights for voting rights, "Making Democracy Work" for everyone. As we prepare for the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote, we will continue and expand our outreach to new voters in underserved communities. The League acknowledges that the suffrage movement did not include all women, excluding women and men of color. Our goal is to empower people, especially those who have not previously participated in the democratic process. The LWVVC is organizing a **Women Power the Vote National Day of Action** February 14, 2020. We will also observe the anniversary by collaborating with other organizations, registering, educating, and

encouraging people to vote in the March and November elections. Look for updates on our Second Annual Love the League Brunch coming February 15th.

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>>> **INTERACTIVE LWVVC CALENDAR** <<<<

To see coming activities, please visit our new interactive google calendar:

[https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=lwvvc.info%40gmail.com&ctz=America%2FLos\\_Angeles](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=lwvvc.info%40gmail.com&ctz=America%2FLos_Angeles)

Here are some highlights:

**HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE**

Learn what is happening to help resolve the homeless issue. Committee meeting, **Wednesday, January 08, 2020, 2 - 3pm, 8266 Solano Street, Ventura.** Contact Dorothy Williams

[info@lwvventuracounty.org](mailto:info@lwvventuracounty.org)

**LWVVC BOARD MEETING**

Board Meetings are open to all members. They take place the second Thursday of the month.

**Thursday, January 9, 2020, 11am – 1pm,** Ventura College of Law, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear), Classroom #1 located off the courtyard.

**34TH ANNUAL MLK DAY CELEBRATION** in Ventura County

LWVVC will have a table at this event on **Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**, 8:00am is the "Freedom March" from 5th and "C" Streets, Oxnard. Tabling will be at the PAL Gymnasium beginning at **9am-12pm, 350 S K St, Oxnard.** Please notify Betsy at [info@lwvventuracounty.org](mailto:info@lwvventuracounty.org) if you want to participate. Admission is \$8.00.

**VCRRN ROE VS WADE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

We will have a tabling at this event on **Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm,** Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Rd, Ventura, a panel of experts will explore the current politically-driven nationwide erosion of reproductive right, including abortion, and the impact on reproductive justice in the arenas of law, health care, education, politics, and the faith community. Individual membership is \$20.00.

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**CALIFORNIA CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE**



The League of Women Voters of California Climate Change Task Force is planning to hold a forum on climate emergency measures on Saturday, March 28, 10:00a to 3:00pm for League members from San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. The venue in Santa Barbara may possibly be UCSB.

This will be a great opportunity to learn what is happening across California, meet other League members from the Central Coast, and learn about key legislation and how we can collaborate. This will be the fourth Forum held for Leagues across California.

<https://lwvc.org/issues/climate-change>

So far, the planning team consists of Betsy Patterson from Ventura, Cindy Marie Absey from SLO, Linda Phillips and Sandy Grasso-Boyd\* from Santa Barbara. Because it is being planned for Santa Barbara, additional support team members are needed from our League.

Please contact Committee Chair Wayne Morgan [info@lwvventuracounty.org](mailto:info@lwvventuracounty.org) if you are willing to help with this important event.

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## ANNUAL HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

**When:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020.

**Why:** This effort helps to obtain a snapshot census of people experiencing homelessness in Ventura County on one night in January. The count includes people who, on the night of the count, are:

- Sheltered (living in emergency shelters or transitional housing) or
- Unsheltered (staying outdoors or places not meant for habitation including vehicles, streets, parks, etc.)



**What:** Volunteers canvass the community in pairs and collect survey data through interviewing homeless persons. Approximately 500 volunteers needed.

**Who:** Volunteers must be 18 years or older and have the ability to walk distances in designated locations. A smart phone/device will be needed to download the Counting Us app for the survey. More information will be shared during the training.

**Register for Training:** [At https://ventura.pointintime.info/](https://ventura.pointintime.info/). For more information, contact Jennifer Harkey at 805-658-4342, or Tara Carruth at 805-654-3838.

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## REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER - 2020 COMPLETE COUNT



The 2020 Complete Count Committee will need help staffing kiosks in local libraries and at other community locations during the second quarter of 2020. Joe DeLa Cerda is in charge of this activity for Ventura County and has requested

**volunteers register at**

<https://venturacountycensus.org/>.

This will put you on the master list to be notified of volunteer opportunities. All volunteers must be trained by a "Master Trainer". Training classes will be announced. If you have questions, please send them to Joe DeLa Cerda at [jdelacerda@venturacountycensus.org](mailto:jdelacerda@venturacountycensus.org).

Additional websites:

Federal Website - <https://2020census.gov/>

California Website - <https://californiacensus.org/>

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## SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST CAMPAIGN

We have petitions available and handouts to help briefly explain what the initiative is about. Please contact Pat Essick at [info@lwvventuracounty.org](mailto:info@lwvventuracounty.org)

California used to be in the top tier of education spending in the U.S., but now we're 41st in the nation! We've all dealt with the impacts of inadequately supported schools, underfunded local services and crumbling infrastructure. Today there is an unprecedented coalition of educators, community organizations, labor unions, small business owners, technology leaders, philanthropic foundations and elected officials working together to win this fight, but we need you! It's time to invest in California's future. Get your petitions today!



Look before you sign! We recently learned that some petitions are circulating that appear to be very similar to ours, but are very different. Please look for a gray silhouette of a school behind the signatures. Also you'll notice that our new improved version of the initiative is much longer than the first version. For more information, please see <https://lwvc.org/our-work/issues/government/schools-and-communities-first>.

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## LEARN ABOUT THE NEW VENTURA COUNTY ELECTION SYSTEM



Ventura County has adopted a brand new polling place voting system to aid the disabled. Each polling place will have one or two ICX machines which permit all voters, including the visually and hearing challenged, to use the touch method. The machines were purchased from Dominion, one of the three best companies in the country. The machines do not scan nor retain any information, and cannot be hacked. Only after the voter is certain that the ballot is correctly marked, will the machine print a completed ballot that the voter then places in a secured ballot box. All ballots are taken to the elections office by poll workers to be read by new machines. The paper ballots are archived for 22 months.

The time that results are announced publicly depends on how quickly poll workers can deliver completed ballots to the elections division after the polls close, and how quickly ballots can be counted by the machines. The timing of public updates of results is still being decided. If voters mail their VBM ballots prior to the last day, results can be more quickly reported after the polls close. There are now 455,714 registered voters in the county. The top three groups are Democrats: 185,000; No Party Preference: 108,000;

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Republican: 133,000 (rounded off).

Seventy percent of registered voters vote by mail now, but Ventura County will not consider joining the Voter Choice Act (becoming a total vote-by-mail county with Vote Centers open 11 days before Election Day) until 2022. There are pros and cons to consider regarding this issue. We may be interested in your research on this subject.

The names of voters remain on the master roster for 8 years if they do not exercise their right to vote. If a question arises, the voter votes on a provisional or a conditional ballot. Ballots must be verified to be counted. They will receive a letter asking to verify their signature. No voter is turned away from a polling place. Most voters will vote on paper by filling in a circle next to the candidate's name or ballot measure of their choice. If voters sign up at [www.ballottrax.com](http://www.ballottrax.com), they will receive notices about their ballot: if it has been accepted or rejected, when it has been counted, etc.

**Videos available for viewing:**

On our website: <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county> and on Youtube:

English - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yu7\\_v8ZQDxM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yu7_v8ZQDxM)

Spanish - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kp73ieqG8ig>

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## **WE THANK OUR SUPPORTERS**

**NEW MEMBERS:** We warmly welcome our newest members: Barbara Schulman (Oxnard), Nancy Deans (Newbury Park), Kathleen Diermier (Ventura), Adriene Coulter (Ventura). Connie & Chet Hood (Ventura).

**RENEWING MEMBERS:** Many thanks and gratitude to our members who have renewed their membership and also, to those who have made an additional contribution toward the expenses of operating the LWVVC.



**VOLUNTEERS:** To all those who have noted your areas of interest on your Volunteer Surveys, *thank you for volunteering* to help fulfill our mission to empower voters and defend democracy. Our leaders will contact you in the coming months as various League activities get underway.

To join or renew your support/membership, please send a check to P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006. Your support is critical! For questions or information, contact us using the below information.

**Pat Butler, Membership Director, [Pbutler10@msn.com](mailto:Pbutler10@msn.com), 714-318-0111**

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## LEARN ABOUT SINGLE PAYER HEALTH PLANS

Come and ask questions about single payer health plans - like Medicare for All - on **Saturday February 1st from 3-5 pm** at Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, 5654 Ralston St, Ventura, CA 93003. Presented by the Physicians for Progress Ventura County (aka Ventura Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Care Program (PNHP)).

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## MEET THE MEMBERS

Get to know the League of Women Voters members in your area. Join us for a casual get-together. Learn about the League. Talk over League activities. Catch up with friends. Make new friends. Starting in January, these are the normal meeting times for MTM.



- Ventura – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday @ 6:30; **Aloha Steakhouse**, 364 S. California Street, Ventura - Pat Butler, [pbutler10@msn.com](mailto:pbutler10@msn.com)
- Oxnard/Pt Hueneme – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday @ 5:30 pm; **Salt Waterside Bistro**, 4308 Tradewinds Drive, Oxnard – Kay Armstrong, [kayaarmstrong@gmail.com](mailto:kayaarmstrong@gmail.com)
- Ojai - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday @ 5:00 pm; **Agave Maria's**, 106 S. Montgomery Street – Jane Spiller, [janemspiller@gmail.com](mailto:janemspiller@gmail.com)
- Thousand Oaks (**New Venue coming!**) – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 5:30 pm - Pat Butler, [pbutler10@msn.com](mailto:pbutler10@msn.com)



Camarillo (**New Venue coming!**) – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday @ 6:00 pm - [info@lwvventuracounty.org](mailto:info@lwvventuracounty.org)

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## RAISE AWARENESS OF THE LEAGUE

Wear a LWV VC shirt to all our public functions. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL. Donation of \$20.00 or more requested.

**Karen Savitt, Treasurer**  
[ksavitt@aol.com](mailto:ksavitt@aol.com)  
**(818) 497-2631**

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The League of Women Voters is non-partisan. It does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. The League encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.