

## Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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# The Voter

*The official newsletter of the League of Women  
Voters of Ventura County.*

**March 2023**

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### What a busy month!

The "New Year, New Goals" team headed by Betsy Patterson and including Patty Chan, Terri Hargleroad, and Paul Burke worked hard planning and implementing our meeting to discuss and vote on our activities and focus for the upcoming year.

Also during the month of February our League, in conjunction with other nearby leagues, conducted Legislative Interviews. This effort was headed by Karen Savitt who was joined by Matty Park, Carol Lindberg and Susan King Roth.

The California League requests that all the local leagues in the state conduct these interviews with the purpose of learning more about the legislators and their priorities. This in turn helps the State League plan for their statewide advocacy and education efforts. It also gives the legislators a chance to interact with the League and to raise our visibility. Legislative interviews were all conducted via zoom.

The State League requests that we ask the same four questions of all the legislators as well as one question regarding a local concern. This year the State League directed us to ask questions regarding:

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1. Reducing the Voter Participation Gap through targeted voter outreach and education and funding for those efforts.
2. Changing the way the School Facilities Program is funded to reduce inequity.
3. How to transform management of California's water resources.
4. The Legislator's own personal priorities.

The local questions we asked varied depending on the other leagues we were collaborating with but were generally about the legislator's plans for addressing the need for more affordable housing, especially for low and medium income individuals, or about how to address the increase in natural gas bills in recent months.

The Legislators we met with were eager to talk with us about their views on the various questions asked. They also expressed gratitude to the LWV for the work we do. Furthermore, they all expressed the concern that the current budget deficit in California will make funding new projects difficult, no matter how deserving.



There is not room to summarize all that we learned from these interviews. I would like to highlight a few comments from our Legislators regarding what they were most proud of. Assembly member Steve Bennett stated that he is probably the leading advocate for water policy reform in California and he is proud to have introduced several bills on water this past year. In addition, this year he became the chair of the Budget Subcommittee #3 which covers Climate Crisis, Resource, Energy and Transportation. He is very happy about that.

Senator Monique Limon mentioned her work on SB1162 which is the Pay Transparency Act. She hopes it will lead to more pay equity. This act gained national and international recognition. Congressman Salud Carbajal is proud to have obtained about \$40 million for projects throughout the central coast of California.

Although time consuming, all the efforts from our local league as well as the state league and other leagues around us provide us with more information on which to base our goals and activities. I extend my most sincere thanks and appreciation for all of our members who worked so hard over the past month and continue to do so. Thank you!

*Kathy Morgan*, President

## COMING EVENTS



### Save the Date

LWVC Convention

Reservations: [LWVC Convention 2023 \(wordpress.com\)](https://lwwc2023.wordpress.com)

Online registration opens **March 1<sup>st</sup>**.

The LWVC Convention is back IN-person IN San Francisco, California! Join us from May 19-21, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Downtown SOMA Hotel.

The LWV California convention provides an opportunity to network with other leagues, gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the California League, and increase your knowledge about your passion through workshops and caucuses.

Full registration plus the Friday evening banquet is \$495.00. The hotel costs \$229-\$239 per night. The LWVVC will subsidize part of the expense of members attending. Receipts must be submitted to Karen Savitt by June 25th. Some members are planning to drive, so ride sharing is available.



### County Board of Supervisors

Tuesday, March 14th, 8:30am

Government Center, 800 S. Victoria,  
Hall of Administration.

Susan Roth will present a "Moment of Inspiration" to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. If you can, please attend the meeting, Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am. Wear your blue League shirts for pictures.



## Planned Parenthood Tours

Planned Parenthood of California Central Coast

Oxnard Health Center

2651 South C St., Suite 100

Oxnard, CA 93033

Register: [HERE](#)

March 22nd at 5:30pm or

March 23rd at 9:00am

Planned Parenthood is proud to announce the opening of our new health center in Oxnard! After years as a community partner in the city, providing education and information about keeping people and families healthy, we are excited to further meet patients where they are. LWVVC has been offered two opportunities to visit the Planned Parenthood facility for a guided tour. Both tours will be the same.



## Stop the Violence

Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

10:00am-2:30pm

New Progressive Christian Baptist Church

3101 South Rose Avenue,

Oxnard, 93033

This is a free community forum hosted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Alumni to bring awareness to domestic abuse, family violence, and gun violence. Speakers to be announced.

For updates and more information, please see [EVENTS | DST VCAC](#).



## Observer Report

Board of Directors of the Ventura Fairgrounds

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Observers: Kathy Morgan and Betsy Patterson

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ventura County Fairgrounds was attended by approximately 500 members of the public. The only agenda item was a presentation by Pacific Sports Group. It was for informational purposes only. It was about their proposal for a sports and entertainment venue at the Fairgrounds.

The group proposes to invest approximately \$318 million dollars in improvements and renovation to the fairgrounds as well as building a stadium (that could be used for minor league baseball as well as concerts), parking garages, a transit center, retail space and more. This development would be privately funded and phased in over six years. They are proposing a private/public partnership with the fairground staff controlling the site during the two weeks the fair is in session.

The presentation included remarks from the great-grandson of E.P. and Orpha Foster who donated the land and stipulated at the time that it should be used for public pleasure, recreation and entertainment in perpetuity. Additional remarks from Author and Historian Jeffrey Maulhardt were about the history of baseball in Ventura County; Jim Colborn, a former major league baseball player born in Santa Paula, describing the benefits of a baseball stadium at the fairgrounds; and more. Also represented were local contractors, architects, and labor groups indicating that the work would be done by local firms and with local labor.

During the public comment period many residents expressed concerns regarding the possible development of this project, including traffic and environmental concerns and also the fact that the existing, and popular racetrack is not included in the proposal and would be phased out. The Board Directors expressed concerns about the process and had questions about whether some of the proposed uses were permitted on state lands.



A few public members expressed support for the proposal due to the deteriorating conditions of the fairground facilities. This proposal was already rejected by the fairground board of directors in October 2022. It is unclear what the next steps will be. PSG is hoping to negotiate with the board. To vote again on the issue the item would have to be placed on the agenda at an upcoming meeting, possibly in March.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & COMING ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 5:30 pm - Happy Hour IN-PERSON, Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S. California Street, Ventura, CA 93001, hosted by [Matty Park](#). [Members and guests are welcome.](#) *Please note the new time.*

Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-2:30pm – Stop the Violence Forum, New Progressive Baptist Church, 3101 S Rose Avenue, Oxnard.

Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm – Board Meeting on Zoom. [Members and guests are welcome.](#) To join us, please email [Kathy Morgan](#) for the Zoom invitation.



Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am – LWVVC presents a Moment of Inspiration to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, Government Center, 800 S. Victoria, Hall of Administration.

Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm – Happy Hour on Zoom (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#)- [Members and guests are welcome.](#)

Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm – Race and Social Justice Committee (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#).

Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 3:00pm – Bylaws Committee Meeting on Zoom. Contact [Pat Butler](#)

Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm or Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00am - Planned Parenthood Tours, Oxnard Health Center, 2651 South C St., Suite 100, Oxnard, CA 93033

Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3:00pm – Climate Change Committee meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)



May 18-21, 2023 - LWVC Statewide Convention in San Francisco. The Convention will be in-person at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, Downtown Soma. (Soma means south of Market Street.) Mark your calendars! The LWVVC will subsidize the cost of attending the convention.

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## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### Be a Part of the Greater League

Participate in LWVUS and LWVC.

Sign up for Updates and League Groups

For All League Members

- **Updates from [LWVUS](#) and [LWVC](#).**
- **LWVC Google and Facebook Groups** - The LWVC has several different interest groups, they include: Advocacy, Communications, Voter Service, Climate Change, Criminal Justice Reform, Healthcare, Homeless, Immigration, Money in Politics, Program Planning, Redistricting, Schools and Communities First, and Water. For details see the [Join an Online Discussion Group](#).



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### New Year, New Goals!

LWVC Program Planning

Contact: [Betsy Patterson](#)

On February 21<sup>st</sup> we met via Zoom for a lively and insightful discussion of what our local priorities should be for the coming year and for the state for 2023-25. The full report is listed on our website

under ARTICLES. The video recording is on our You Tube site:

<https://youtu.be/fgviWvBYaI>.

In addition to Making Democracy Work in California, the top three priorities submitted to LWVC are:

- **Water Issues:** Balancing the use between agriculture and urban/suburban areas; policies for improving groundwater and surface water management. Member Volunteers: Betsy Patterson and Pat Butler
- **Criminal Justice Reform:** Education and enactment of the CA Racial Justice Reform Act; support proposal for Reimagining Youth Justice from LWVC Criminal Justice Interest Group and the Police in Schools Interest Group. Member Volunteers: Kay Armstrong and Laura Hernandez
- **Housing/Homelessness:** Statewide policies and state budget support for durable solutions to homelessness crisis; local control and solutions for developing affordable housing for local communities; farm worker housing. Member Volunteers: Judy Murphy, Sharon Crane, and Ellen Brokaw

Let us know where you want to help by contacting us at: [lwwvc.info@gmail.com](mailto:lwwvc.info@gmail.com).

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## Climate Committee

4<sup>TH</sup> Thursday of the month

3pm on Zoom

Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

What do you want to learn about Climate Change? Do you have information that would be worth spreading? What techniques can we use to communicate effectively? How can we reach out to the public with a vision for a sustainable planet? These are just some of the questions we explore in the climate change committee. Come join in.

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## Racial and Social Justice Committee and DEI Committee



3rd Thursday of the month

4:00pm on Zoom

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#) or [Laura Hernandez](#)

This is a great time to join our committee. We are in the process of deciding our program for the coming year. If you are interested in joining with us please contact either Kay Armstrong or Laura Hernandez.



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## Scholarship Committee

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#)

The application process for the LWVVC scholarship at our three local colleges is in full swing. We have also submitted our funding to them.

If you are interested in knowing more about our committee , please join us.

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## Government 101

Contact: [Patty Chan](#) or [Cheryl Collart](#)

**Guide to Public Meetings...helping members who are observing elected officials in action.**

The following weblinks are suggested reading for League members interested in understanding how local government meetings are managed in the state of California.

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The Ralph M. Brown Act is a California law that guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies. It was authored in 1953 by Assemblymember Ralph M. Brown as Assembly Bill 339. The adopted legislation is found in the California Government Code 54950 *et seq.*, and it has been updated over the years with additional legislation.

The Brown Act applies to “local agencies,” meaning a county, city, school district, municipal corporation, special district or any board, commission, or other local public agency. The comparable Bagley-Keene Act mandates open meetings for State government agencies.



PDF copies of the Brown Act and the Bagley-Keene Act are available for public review from the California State Attorney General’s Office website:

[The Brown Act: Open Meetings For Legislative Bodies \(2003\) \(ca.gov\)](#)  
[A Handy Guide to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, pdf](#)

County and City Clerks Offices also have copies of the updated versions of the Brown Act as adopted by local officials. These documents are available by contacting the individual clerk offices and/or visiting their website.

The Ventura County Resource Management Agency has a helpful one-page summary of the Brown Act available from its website: <https://vcrma.org/en/the-brown-act>.

Brown Act updates for 2023 are summarized by the League of California Cities and reported on their website: [Brown Act changes are coming to cities in 2023. Here is what to expect | Cal Cities](#)



## Voter Registration Committee - High School, College & Community Events

Contact: [info@lwwventuracounty.org](mailto:info@lwwventuracounty.org) or leave a message at (805) 303-1476.

The Voter Registration team is gearing up to begin high school voter registration events in Ojai, Oxnard, and Ventura. We would love your help in making contact with the Conejo Valley, Simi Valley, Moorpark, Santa Paula, and Fillmore school districts. If you have a contact or want to help, please let us know. Also, tell us if you would like to help in the classroom or would like to be trained to lead or help with voter registration. Voting is a right but also a responsibility. Let’s show the next generation why voting is important to them.

## Nominations Committee

Contact: [Cheryl Collart](#)



The Nominations Committee will meet in March to begin its search for members who are available to serve on our board. As a reminder to members, the board meets monthly and is the group of members most actively engaged in the leadership of our local chapter. If you have time and interest to be more involved with the League, this is an excellent way to lend your support. Please contact [Cheryl Collart](#), committee chairperson if you have questions about the process or have a desire to serve.

We are seeking a new **Membership Director** to start the position as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. The position requires a working knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Word (or Numbers and Words for Mac). Mentoring, Spreadsheets, detailed Work Instructions with when and how to do each task, form letters and formats are all available. You will not need to reinvent the wheel. For more information about this position, please contact [Pat Butler](#)

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## Budget Committee

Contact: [Cheryl Collart](#)



The Budget Committee is beginning to work on the 2023-2024 program budget year. Any member with a question about how the League's budget is organized and what plans are being made for the coming years should contact [Cheryl Collart](#), committee chairperson. The new budget will be presented to the full membership at the June Annual Meeting.

## Bylaws Committee

Contact: [Pat Butler](#)



The Bylaws Committee will meet March 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 on Zoom to review and update our bylaws. Few if any changes are anticipated. If you want to know about the inner workings of the League, this is the place for you. Anyone interested in serving on the Bylaws Committee, please contact [Pat Butler](#). We will also be reviewing Work Instructions and Policies and Procedures in the coming months.

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## Happy Hour



**1st Wednesday @ 5:30pm**, IN PERSON at Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S California Street, Ventura, CA 93001. *Please note the earlier time.* **Please RSVP to Matty Park.**

**3rd Wednesday @ 5:30pm**, hosted on Zoom. **Please RSVP to Kay Armstrong.**

Not just for new members – **everyone is welcome, including guests.** Join us for an informal conversation about all things LWVVC. Interested in becoming more involved in our mission of "Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy"? Come, learn about what we're doing and how you can help.



You don't have to be a League member to join. Come for five minutes, the whole hour or anywhere in between. We hope to see you there! **You are welcome to attend either or both Happy Hours.** Please register with the host in advance.

There are two opportunities to attend. Choose one or both. If you would like to have an in-person Meet the Members in your area, please let us know.

## Membership

**WELCOME NEWEST MEMBERS:** We warmly welcome our newest members, Sharon Crane of Oxnard, Cynthia L. Gonzalez of Ventura.



**ALL NEW MEMBERS:** Please contact any officer, board member, or committee chair to volunteer for the activities that spark your interest. You can be partnered with an experienced member if you like. We will help you learn what you need to know. And please sign up for whatever committees you would like to participate in by contacting the committee chair to be invited to meetings. Do as much or as little as you like. We look forward to your participation.

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

**To join or renew** your membership you can find our membership form and online payment option [here](#). Or you can send a check to P.O. Box 6786,

Ventura, CA 93006. Your support is critical!

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## Condolences

We extend our sincere condolences to member Elizabeth Zernik and her family on the recent loss of her son.

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## Ventura County Information

For all relevant news about Ventura County, go to:

<https://www.ventura.org/>. Find out how to view Board of Supervisor agendas, documents, broadcasts, and videos. Connect with County services.

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## LEAGUE INFORMATION

[Join or Renew Form | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura.county/join.league.or.renew.here)

### The dues rates for 2022-2023 are:

Individual Membership	\$75.00
Student Membership	\$25.00
Family Membership	\$125.00
Associate Membership	\$25.00



Join at: <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura.county/join.league.or.renew.here>  
OR make your check payable to LWVVC and send it to  
P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006

Membership Scholarships available with the approval of the Board of Directors.

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## Contributions Welcome

[Donate | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura.county/join.league.or.renew.here)

Tax deductible donations may be made to:

- General Fund
- Scholarship Fund
- Ann Gist Voter Education Fund
- Ann Gist Scholarship Fund

Please send checks to LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006, or donate online [here](https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura.county/join.league.or.renew.here). If you wish to donate in remembrance of someone, please include their name and a few lines about their life. Please specify the fund you want to support. Thank you.

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## Raise Awareness of the League

Wear a **LWVVC Shirt** to all our public functions. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL. Donation of \$20.00 or more requested. For shirts, please contact [Karen Savitt](#).



**Making Democracy Work...**

*Please join us!*

**Membership Form Available online.**

Website: [LwvVenturaCounty.org](http://LwvVenturaCounty.org)

Email: [info@lwvVenturaCounty.org](mailto:info@lwvVenturaCounty.org)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVVenturaCounty>

Mailing Address: LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006

Phone Number: (805) 303-1476



Facebook: [@lwvventuraco](https://www.facebook.com/lwvventuraco)



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LwvVentura>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lwvofventura/>



Find candidate funding and proposition information on:  
<https://votersedge.org/ca>

The League of Women Voters of Ventura County is a 501 (c) 3 organization.

**All contributions are tax deductible.**

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The League of Women Voters, a grassroots non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.

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