

# The Voter

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

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## March 2024

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

International Women's Day 2024 will be observed on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. This global day celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, while also serving as a call to action for accelerating women's equality. The theme for International Women's Day 2024 is "Inspire Inclusion". Let's collectively work towards a world that values and celebrates diversity, where bias and discrimination have no place, and where women's achievements are recognized and

celebrated!

On a different note, happy birthday to us! The League enjoyed another birthday in February. That's 104 years of empowering voters and defending democracy. *Reminder:* Be sure to cast your ballot on or before Tuesday, March 5th.

Voter Registration in high schools got underway and expanded into new areas. Congratulations and *thank you* to our many wonderful volunteers.

We held three candidate forums, two on Zoom and one in-person. The in-person forum for County Supervisor, District 3, was well received and had standing room only. Thank you to the candidates and everyone who participated and made it a success.

March is Women's History Month. The City Council of Oxnard will present us with a proclamation



commemorating it on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. If you can attend, please wear your League shirt, and take pictures.

Warm regards,

*Pat Butler*

President

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, **March 6<sup>th</sup>**, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm – **Happy Hour**, *IN PERSON* at Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S California Street, Ventura, CA 93001. RSVP to [Kathy Morgan](#). Members and guests are welcome.

Thursday, **March 14<sup>th</sup>**, 11:30 am – **Board meeting** in person at 4475 Market Street, Ventura, CA 93003

Wednesday, **March 20<sup>th</sup>**, 5:30 pm – **Happy Hour** on Zoom (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#). Members and guests are welcome.



Thursday, **March 21<sup>st</sup>**, 4:00 pm – **Race and Social Justice Committee** on Zoom (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#).

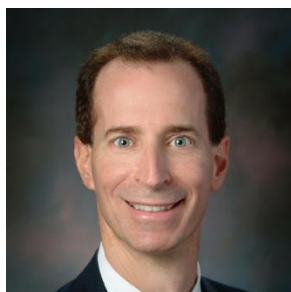
Thursday, **March 28<sup>th</sup>**, 3:00 pm – **Climate Change Committee** on Zoom (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month). Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, **March 4<sup>th</sup>**, 6pm - Proclamation from Oxnard City Council to the League. Council chambers, 305 West Third Street. Wear your League tee shirt if you have.



Friday, **March 8<sup>th</sup>**, 11:50 am - Celebrate our Election Workers. We will be delivering lunch to the 75 election workers at the Government Center Elections Office to thank them for their diligence in making sure every eligible vote is counted. Meet in front of the Administration Building. Wear a League tee shirt, if possible.



## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Ventura County Leadership Academy Awards Luncheon

April 25, 2024

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Serra Center, 5205 Upland Road, Camarillo, CA 93012

The Ventura County Leadership Academy Journey to Leadership Awards luncheon is the premier Ventura County event, recognizing leaders in the business, education, non-profit, and public sectors who have made an exceptional impact in our community. Our own David Maron is being recognized as Non-Profit Leader of the Year for VC Civic Alliance. Congratulations David! Those wishing to attend, please let [Pat Butler](#) know. Tickets are \$75.00. Register here: <https://vcleader-ship.org/event/jtl2024/>.



## Planned Parenthood Power of Love Event

Ventura County

Sunday, March 10, 2024

11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Spanish Hills Club in Camarillo

For those of you who wish to support Planned Parenthood's luncheon on March 10<sup>th</sup>, please let us know and we will try to arrange a table for our League members. The event will feature Alexis McGill Johnson, President & CEO Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and Planned Parenthood Action Fund. Tickets are \$200.

Register here: [Tickets and Sponsorships – Power of Love \(ppcentralcoast.org\)](https://ppcentralcoast.org)

## 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

**LWVC Google and Facebook Groups** - The LWVC has several different interest groups. They include Advocacy, Communications, Voter Service, Climate Change, Criminal Justice Reform, Healthcare, Homelessness, Immigration, Money in Politics, Program Planning, Redistricting, Schools and Communities First, and Water. Join by signing in at: [Join an Online Discussion Group](#). Work with other leagues, LWV California staff and LWV US staff.

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## Climate Change Committee

4<sup>TH</sup> Thursday of the month, 3pm on Zoom

Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

The year 2024 will be a good year for climate action; the IRA rebates will become available! Residents can take advantage of rebates when replacing appliances with efficient ones, like a heat pump water heater that uses about three times less energy than conventional gas or electric water heaters. And now, there are 120V heat pump water heaters that can plug into a standard electrical outlet, so consider a hybrid water heater when your old gas water heater needs replacing. Fun fact: Did you know that water heaters consume the most energy of home appliances in Ventura County?

The Climate Change Committee focuses on climate advocacy, policy, mitigation, and adaptation and meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 3:00pm on Zoom. For more info, contact Wayne Morgan at [waynemorgan1@yahoo.com](mailto:waynemorgan1@yahoo.com)

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## Budget Committee

Cheryl Collart, Chairperson, [cheryl.collart@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.collart@gmail.com)



There is a need for one or two general members to step up and serve on the League's Budget Committee. The committee meets only a few times each year in the Spring months with the primary purpose of reviewing annual expenses and preparing the organization's budget for the new program year. The committee is composed of the Treasurer, one additional Board member and up to three general members; a general member must serve as the chair of the committee.

If you have some experience with budgets and would like to help as a member of the Budget Committee, please contact Cheryl Collart ([cheryl.collart@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.collart@gmail.com)), Chairperson of the Budget Committee.

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## Nominations Committee



The Nominations Committee is actively contacting the membership to determine who is interested and can lend support to the coming 2024-2025 program year. We will be busy with the Fall election cycle, which gives members an opportunity to be more actively involved in a committee or on the Board of Directors. Please contact Cheryl Collart ([cheryl.collart@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.collart@gmail.com)) before March 10th if you want more detail.

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## Observer Report

Ventura County Board of Supervisors  
Submitted by Karen Savitt

February 6, 2024, Ventura County Board of Supervisor's meeting.

Item 32- Food delivery expenditures of eligible individuals in conjunction with area restaurants. This program will be overseen by a dietician. Budget for this program was passed.

Item 35 - There was a request for a variance to a floodplain management ordinance. To allow the issuance of building permits before map completion. Passed

Item 34- Arts grant. Speakers from different disciplines spoke supporting the need for an increase in the grant program. Passed

Item 40 - Rates for parks and recreation. Report given on available facilities and accomplishments. 6.4-million-dollar budget. There will be camping fee increase in 14 of the 117 locations. Motion for increase passed.

Item 42 - Investment report. There has been a record increase in investment returns.

Item 43 - Registrar of Voters presentation. The fourth and last in the series of an educational program. Available online.

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## Become an Observer

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

Contact: [Carol Lindberg](#)

The LWVVC invites all members to participate in democracy by being an Observer at any government meeting in Ventura County pertaining to relevant issues affecting the public. Contact [Carol Lindberg](#) if you'd like an agenda

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prior to the meetings.

Choose your own time and topic to observe and bring a friend to the meeting! Please submit a brief report of your observations to [lwvvc.info@gmail.com](mailto:lwvvc.info@gmail.com). Dates for upcoming 2024 meetings of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors are: March 12<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

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## Scholarship Committee

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#)

Application time has arrived at all the colleges for our LWVVC scholarships. I am hoping for many applicants!

If you have questions or would like to join our committee, please contact Kay Armstrong. We are always happy to receive contributions to our scholarship funds! If anyone has questions for us about our meeting or would like to join us, please contact [Kay Armstrong](#).

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## DEI/Race & Social Justice Committee

3rd Thursday of the month, 4:00pm on Zoom

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

If anyone would be interested in joining us, please contact either Kay Armstrong or Laura Hernandez. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 4:00 -5:00 pm. We are continuing in our exploration of pretext stops. Our last meeting consisted of discussing the RIPA report for Ventura County. It was an engaging conversation covering many topics.

Ventura County's Public Safety Race Equity Advisory Group will be discussing the topic at their next meeting March 7th.

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## Voter Services Committee Report

Contacts: [Kathy Morgan](#) or [Pat Essick](#)

Our California Primary is coming up very soon – March 5<sup>th</sup> to be exact. Voter Services kept busy in February hosting candidate forums for VC Supervisor District #3 as well as for VC Superior Court Judge Office #4. If you missed the forums, be sure to check out the recordings on our website.

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We were also fortunate to have our VC County Clerk Recorder, Registrar of Voters, Michelle Ascension, speak with us at "Lunch and Learn with the League" on February 7th. She provided lots of interesting and valuable information about the workings of the Ventura County Elections Office, explained the Voters Choice Act and discussed various aspects of the Primary Election. Missed it? A recording of this session can also be found on our website.

Coming up on April 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a "Lunch and Learn" with members of the Ventura County Grand Jury to learn more about the Grand Jury's purpose and activities. Keep an eye out for more information on that!

Lastly, but most important - don't forget to vote! You can return your ballot via US mail, official drop box or go to one of the 52 Vote Centers around the County. Check your County Voter Information Guide for the locations and hours that the Vote Centers are open as well as for the locations of the drop boxes. Remember to sign the back of the return envelope before turning it in! Our democracy depends on active, engaged, and informed voters!



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

Contact: Betsy Patterson, Co-Chair [lwvc.info@gmail.com](mailto:lwvc.info@gmail.com)  
or leave a message at (805) 303-1476

We have completed our volunteer training classes for this Spring and will restart again in Aug-Sep. We are still visiting high school classrooms to register new voters. If you'd like to help us (even without the training), please contact Pat Belt ([pat.belt94@gmail.com](mailto:pat.belt94@gmail.com)) for Ventura schools, Carmen Hurd ([cgsh22@yahoo.com](mailto:cgsh22@yahoo.com)) for Oxnard/Camarillo/Port Hueneme schools, and Kathy Morgan ([1book-wormkathy@gmail.com](mailto:1book-wormkathy@gmail.com)) for Conejo Valley schools.



Dear California Voter,

The March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary is just around the corner! Have you decided how you're going to return your ballot? Starting today you have options.

**Vote centers are now open in Voter's Choice Act counties.** You can return your vote-by-mail ballot in person at a vote center in the following counties: Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Kings, Los Angeles,

Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Merced, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Ventura, and Yolo.

**You can vote in person anywhere in the county.** Please visit: [caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov](https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov) to locate a vote center or ballot drop box in your county. Of course, you still have the option to return your ballot by mail.

**You can register to vote and vote the same day at vote centers!** Vote centers also offer replacement ballots, accessible voting machines, & language assistance.

**Track your ballot!** Sign up at [WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](https://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov) to receive updates on your ballot via text, email, or voice call.

**Remember to sign your ballot envelope** before returning your ballot!

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## Ventura County Election Education Series



**Michelle Ascencion, VC Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters**, presented the Election Education Series at Ventura County Board of Supervisors meetings. The series included election topics of interest to the Ventura County voting and candidate community. Watch all videos online:

**[Get more information](#)**



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## Membership

Please welcome our newest members: Bonnie Eaton of Port Hueneme and Cynthia Perry of Westlake Village.

**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 and towards the scholarship fund.

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**To join or renew** your membership: find our membership form and online payment option [here](#), or send a check to P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006.

Your support is critical!



## Happy Hour – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday @ 5:30pm, IN PERSON

Aloha Steakhouse

364 S California Street, Ventura, CA 93001. Please RSVP to [Matty Park](#).

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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## Ventura County Information

For all relevant news about the County of Ventura: <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 \(lww.org\)](https://lww.org)

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**The dues rates for 2023-2024 are:**

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



Join: <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 \(lwv.org\)](#)

Tax deductible donations may be made to:

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

Please send checks to LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006, or donate online [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 our public functions.

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL. Donation of \$20.00 or more requested.

To purchase blue or black T-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: LWVC, 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/>



Vote411: [VOTE411](https://www.vote411.org)

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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