

The Voter

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

April 2024

In This Issue:

- [President's Message](#)
- [Mark Your Calendar](#)
- [Committee Activities](#)
- [Happy Hour](#)
- [LWVVC Information](#)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April is National Volunteer Month. We celebrate all those who give their time and resources to help others. We are especially delighted David Maron is being honored at the Ventura County Leadership Academy Journey to Leadership Awards on April 25th. Thank you, David, for all you do for the League and for our community.

Friday, March 8th, the Voter Services Committee delivered lunch to the 75-or-so members of the Ventura County Elections Office staff who make democracy work by securing, processing, curing, and counting ballots. They were most appreciative of the food *and* the positive recognition of their efforts. My thanks to the committee who made this happen.

The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) will hold oral arguments on **April 22 at 7 a.m. PDT** on the enforceability of state, county and local laws that prohibit camping on public property and whether or not those laws violate the Eighth Amendment's ban on "cruel and unusual punishment." The SCOTUS decision in *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson* will have an impact on how cities and counties can manage homeless encampments.

Several cities throughout Ventura County have recently passed ordinances which regulate how and where people experiencing homelessness can stay overnight on public property. These ordinances, which were adopted to comply with the guidance in *Grants Pass v. Johnson*, have been controversial and the subject of much public discussion. The court's ruling in this case could affect how other cities address their own epidemics of homelessness, including those throughout Ventura County. Look for the SCOTUS ruling that Monday.

I heartily encourage anyone who is interested to attend the 2024 LWV Biennial Convention being held June 27, 2024 - June 30, 2024, at the Washington D.C. Hilton. It's a chance to interact with League members from all over the country. Most, if not all of the cost will be reimbursed, so pack your bag and join the fun! More information is below.

I recently read an article about the history of the U.S. Constitution and how opinions about what it means are everchanging. There are those who wish to interpret it in light to today's cultural norms and those who want to interpret as they believe the founding fathers would have. However you think of the Constitution, the intent is and ever was to preserve the rights of *the people*. That's why we work to preserve the Constitution, defend democracy, and empower voters.

Lastly, I want to personally thank each of you for your part in the success of the LWVVC. Your participation is important. It has an impact. It makes our county a better place to live and work. Thank you, each and every one!

Warm regards,

Pat Butler

President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday April 3rd, "Lunch & Learn with the League" discussion about the Grand Jury on Zoom on at Noon. To register and receive your Zoom link for this event please use this link: <https://bit.ly/3Twyo7M>

Wednesday, **April 3rd**, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm – **Happy Hour, IN PERSON** at Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S California Street, Ventura, CA 93001. RSVP to [Matty Park](#) Members and guests are welcome.

Thursday, **April 11th**, 4:00-5:30 pm – **LWVVC Board Meeting** on Zoom.



Wednesday, **April 17th**, 5:30 pm – **Happy Hour** on Zoom (3rd Wednesday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#). Members and guests are welcome.

Thursday, **April 18th**, 4:00 pm – **Race and Social Justice Committee** on Zoom (3rd Thursday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#).

Thursday, **April 25th**, 3:00 pm– **Climate Change Committee** on Zoom (4th Thursday of the month). Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

21st 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://vcleadership.org/event/jtl2024/>.



2024 LWV Biennial Convention

June 27, 2024 - June 30, 2024

Washington Hilton
1919 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20009, US

The LWV National Convention is exciting and informative. There are plenary (general) sessions where the work of adopting a budget, updating the bylaws, and electing new officers takes place. There are also inspiring speakers. But the part that educates and informs us the most is the many caucuses and workshops where we learn how to do new things or how to improve things we have been doing. And we learn what leagues from all over the country are doing; what their problems are; what their successes are. And we bring back ideas to present to our members. It's a great experience! Make reservations now as rooms are filling up!

Hotel reservations: <https://book.pass-key.com/gt/219676054?gtid=dd6e2b0b3b787ad0ff4942c9e902fc3b>.

Convention reservations: <https://web.cvent.com/event/07627034-5f27-44a8-8363-5805fab4b0ef/regPage:fc9a5c5a-47d4-4ab8-826a-b4a1b6006aad?locale=en-US&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=69755415-fac8-45da-8bc7-5a81eb98d85e>

The LWVVC has budgeted \$10,000 to cover the costs for those attending. **Those attending on Zoom will have their cost of convention paid.** The remaining money will be divided between those attending in person up to the full amount spent, excluding food and beverages.

Convention costs are **\$775.00** per person and include:

Convention	\$550.00	
Lobby Day	\$ 50.00	
Saturday Reception & Dinner		\$175.00

League Rate for Hotel Room is \$239.00 + room taxes & fees. Total for two people sharing a room is approximately \$1,000, or **\$500** per person.

Airfares vary depending on the airline, class, and time of day. The approximate cost is **\$750** for round trip. The closest Airport to the hotel is Ronald Reagan Airport.

Based on total membership, the LWVVC is permitted to have **three voting delegates** at the convention. If you plan to attend and would like to be a delegate, please let [Pat Butler](#) know. Thank you.

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.



Climate Change Committee

4TH Thursday of the month, 3pm on Zoom

Contact: [Wayne Morgan](mailto:WayneMorgan)

Earth Day is coming April 22nd and this month is filled with Earth Day events:

April 6, 9am - 10am Santa Paula: Railroad Plaza Park. Tree planting and speakers.

April 20:

8am - Ventura: Compost giveaway, tour. Ventura County Government Center.

9am - 1pm Oxnard: Get info & devices to conserve. Farmers Market at Plaza Park.

9am - 12pm Santa Paula: Community clean-up day. Meet at the train depot.

10am - 1pm Camarillo: "Love your planet," with reptile display. Camarillo Grove Park Nature Center.

10am - 2pm Thousand Oaks: Arbor/Earth Day. Thousand Oaks Community Center.

11am - 4pm Ventura: MERITO Foundation is hosting an Earth Day celebration in collaboration with Ventura Environmental Sustainability Division. Plaza Park.

April 27:

10am - 1pm Fillmore: EVs, eco-friendly show. Fillmore City Hall.

11am - 7pm on **April 27** and 11am - 6pm on **April 28**: Santa Barbara Earth Day. EVs, eco-friendly products. Alameda Park.

April 28:

11 am - 4:30 pm: Ventura Ecofest. Activities for the family. Ventura Charter School.

The Climate Change Committee focuses on climate advocacy, policy, mitigation, and adaptation and meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 3:00 pm on Zoom. For more info, contact Wayne Morgan at waynemorgan1@yahoo.com.

Budget Committee

Cheryl Collart, Chairperson, cheryl.collart@gmail.com



There is a need for one or two general membership volunteers to 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), Chairperson of the Budget Committee.



Observer Reports Become an Observer

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](mailto:Carol.Lindberg@lwwvc.org) if you'd like an agenda 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 lwwvc.info@gmail.com. Dates for upcoming 2024 meetings of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors are: April 9th and 23rd.



Scholarship Committee

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](mailto:Kay.Armstrong@lwwvc.org)

We are awaiting the decisions from our three colleges on the scholarship awards.

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](mailto:Kay.Armstrong@lwwvc.org).



DEI/Race & Social Justice Committee

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

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

DEI Committee, Laura Hernandez, Chair

1. The LWVUS has adopted a new DEI Policy. The final policy is as follows:
"Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be accepted within the League, including but not limited to race, socio-economic status, age, ability status, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, or marital status. The League is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging for all people. The League is an organization that respects and values the richness of our community and our members. The collective sum of our individual differences and life experiences represents not only our culture but our reputation and the organization's mission and achievements as well."
2. What was the process for making changes to the policy?
A subcommittee of the LWVUS DEI committee researched DEI policies and practices of comparable organizations in addition to looking across disciplines to develop a draft policy. The subcommittee also made sure to consider LWVUS issues as input to help shape the League we want for the future. The draft policy was shared with the LWVUS DEI Committee and then the LWVUS Board for feedback and eventually, approval. The DEI committee is co-chaired by two national Board members and is comprised of a few additional national board members as well as League members from a variety of positions and capacities across the nation. A DEI sub-committee is focused on a project to understand which states currently have DEI committees or representatives. As we collect data on which Leagues have formal DEI committees or chairs, the goal will be to establish a DEI network and engage with them to fully develop and implement our continuing DEI work at the National level.
3. Meanwhile at the State Level, the LWVC DEI Committee will be focused on their 2024 Work plan, updating DEI Policies and Procedures, and scheduling "People First Language" seminars for staff and local Leagues. The seminars will be conducted by Dr. Taggart a member of the State DEI Committee.
4. On the local level, the LWVVC DEI Committee will be working on developing a member survey to assess DEI for the local membership. League members who would like to assist in the development of the survey may contact DEI Chair Laura Hernandez at (805) 844-1720 or ldhernan53@gmail.com

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Race & Social Justice Committee, Kay Armstrong, Chair

We are continuing our focus on low level stops and are outreaching to other leagues who are also addressing this issue. Recently the Pasadena League joined with the ACLU to present a program to their local area. We are gathering information!

[Kay Armstrong](#)

If anyone would be interested joining us, please contact either Kay Armstrong or Laura Hernandez. We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month from 4:00 -5:00 pm.



Voter Services Committee Report

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

Do you know what the Ventura County Grand Jury does?
What their mission is? How does one become a Grand Juror?
What responsibilities and duties do they have?

To learn about this important facet of our County Government please plan to attend our "Lunch & Learn with the League" presented via Zoom on Wednesday April 3rd at Noon. To register and receive your Zoom link for this event please use this link: <https://bit.ly/3Twyo7M>

As always, if you are unable to attend the zoom presentation, you can access the recording on our website approximately 48 hours after the event. The link to access that is: <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county>

Thank you to our County Elections Division

As an expression of our thanks and gratitude to all the work done by the Elections Office prior to and following the March 5th primary election, the LWVVC Board arranged to provide lunch to the election office workers.

On Friday March 8th league members Susan King Roth, Pat Essick, Cathy Trevino, Wayne and Kathy Morgan, as well as Richard Roth, delivered pizza, fruit, drinks and homemade brownies (courtesy of Pat Essick) to the approximately 75 workers in the elections office.



We were greeted and thanked by our Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters Michelle Ascencion; Christina Onias, Assistant Registrar of Voters; and Mayra

Enriquez, Elections Operations Manager. The Election workers appeared to be quite happy to be recognized for their work, and thankful that we provided them with lunch!



Voter Registration Committee

High School, College & Community Events

Contact: Betsy Patterson, Co-Chair lwwvc.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) for Ventura schools, Carmen Hurd (cgsh22@yahoo.com) for Oxnard/Camarillo/Port Hueneme schools, and Kathy Morgan (1book-wormkathy@gmail.com) for Conejo Valley schools.



Membership

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.

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 – 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

1st Wednesday @ 5:30pm, IN PERSON

Aloha Steakhouse

364 S California Street, Ventura, CA 93001.

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.

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.

LEAGUE INFORMATION

[Join or Renew Form | MyLO \(lww.org\)](#)

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.lww.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.

Contributions Welcome

[Donate | MyLO \(lww.org\)](#)

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.

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

Email: 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/>



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.

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.