

The Voter

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

June 2024

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As this League Year comes to a close, I am humbled and grateful to all of you who have made this year a success. It has been my honor to serve as your president.

You showed up and spoke numerous times at Board of Supervisor meetings. Sometimes you were "only" Observers and reported back what transpired.

You registered nearly 3,000 high school students to vote. You held candidate forums for the March primary election. You attended the Constitution Day Conference at the Reagan Library. You presented several meaningful and informative Lunch & Learn with the League opportunities. You attended the Ventura College Diversity Day. You did all this and more! You made a difference in your community. You empowered voters and defended democracy.

To those behind the scenes who did deep dives to research special topics and wrestled with their meanings and what is appropriate for the League, your efforts did not go unnoticed. You helped keep us on the right path.

But it wasn't all "work". You played and had fun at the Ice Cream Social. You came out to Happy Hour with the League, both in person and virtually month after month. And the numerous committee meetings were great learning experiences and opportunities to get acquainted with other members. For all this and more, I respectfully thank you.

As we look forward to the coming elections season, the voter registration season, and the other events on the horizon, I encourage any of you who have been reticent about joining in the activities to take the plunge. It's invigorating to know you helped make a difference.

Warm regards,

Pat Butler

President

FROM LWVUS



Be part of the movement to end the Electoral College!

The Electoral College is a racist relic designed to take power from the people. It's time to abolish the Electoral College and move towards an electoral system by the people and for the people.

Be part of the movement! Signup here: [One Person One Vote | League of Women Voters \(lwv.org\)](https://www.lwv.org)

Your Membership Expires June 30th! Renew Now

It's easy to renew your membership on our website [HERE](#). Individual membership is \$75 annually, and household membership is \$125. Membership scholarships are available upon request and with approval of our board. (Note: if you joined the League after April 1, 2024, your membership does not expire until June 30, 2025.)



The League of Women Voters of Ventura County is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization. Accordingly, your dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, **June 1st**, 10:30-2:00 – **Annual Meeting**, Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road, Ventura, CA 93003. Keynote speaker: Professor Kathleen Bruhn, PhD; author of “Democratic Backsliding and How to Fight It.”

Wednesday, **June 5th**, 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!

Saturday, **June 15th**, 10:00am-5:00pm - **Juneteenth in Oxnard, Tabling** Plaza Park, 500 South C Street, Oxnard.

Wednesday, **June 19th**, 5:30 pm – **Happy Hour** on Zoom (3rd Wednesday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#). Members and guests are welcome.

Thursday, **June 20th**, 3:00 pm – **Climate Change Committee** on Zoom (For June only we will meet on the third Thursday of the month.) Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

Thursday, **June 20th**, 4:00 pm – **Race and Social Justice Committee** on Zoom (3rd Thursday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#).

Saturday, **June 29th**, 11:00am-5:00pm - **Tabling Oxnard’s Pride Festival**, Plaza Park, 500 South C Street, Oxnard.

Saturday, **July 4th**, 10:00am-3:00pm - **Tabling Ventura July 4th Street Festival** – Booth # 520 on Main Street.

Thursday, **July 13th**, 10:30 am – **In & Out Board Meeting** at Terry Garman’s home – for incoming and outgoing board members.

Saturday, **July 20th**, 11:00 am -1:30 pm - **Volunteer Recruitment Picnic**, Camarillo Community Center, 1605 E Burnley St, Camarillo, CA 93010.

Saturday, **August 17th**, 11:00am-6:00pm ? - **Tabling Ventura Pride Festival**, Plaza Park, 651 E Thompson Blvd, Ventura, Ca 93001

Saturday, **August 24th**, 3:00-9:00pm - **Tabling Wild and Scenic Film Festival**, Ventura County Credit Union, 2575 Vista Del Mar Drive, Ventura

Sunday, **October 20th**, 9:00am-4:00pm - **Tabling Thousand Oaks Rotary Street Fair** - Moorpark Road (between Hillcrest & Wilbur).

UPCOMING EVENTS



Calling All Volunteers!

Saturday, July 20th, 11:00 am -1:30 pm

Camarillo Community Center

1605 E Burnley St, Camarillo, CA 93010.

Come to the Volunteer Recruitment Picnic (lunch will be provided), learn how you can help with Candidate Forums, Pros & Cons presentations, Voter Registration, Food to Election Workers, Election site Observers, Observer Corps, Election Workers (temporary employment by Ventura County in the Vote Centers or the Election Office). If you would like more information or if you plan to join us, email us at lvvvc.info@gmail.com or leave a voice message at (805) 303-1476.



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 is the many breakout sessions 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. If you attend virtually, please submit receipts to Karen Savitt for reimbursement.

Sign up for virtual Breakout Session here:

<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>

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](#)

Last month the climate committee looked at issues surrounding plastic. This month we will be reviewing the book, "Total Garbage" that looks at things ordinary people have done to help reduce waste.

The LWV National Convention is this month and the League's Climate Interest Group (CIG) will be presenting a number of papers and videos on climate issues from the ten climate teams. In our meeting this month we will be looking at some of those presentations and materials. Two papers that we will be looking at in depth are "Ten Actions that cities can take to reduce their GHGs" and "Power Talk" which is a primer on the US electrical power system so that one can understand and participate in decisions affecting our energy future. Come join in the discussions!

The Climate Change Committee focuses on climate advocacy, policy, mitigation, and adaptation. **For June only we will meet on the third Thursday of the month, June 20th at 3 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 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).



Observer Report

Ventura County Board of Supervisors
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: June 4th and 18th.



Community Outreach Committee (Tabling)

Contact: Pat Butler

What's more fun than a day in the park? Won't you please join me? The Community Outreach Committee is a new committee formed to raise awareness of the League by having a presence at as many public gatherings as we can.

Some people are aware of the League, but don't know what we do or what we offer to the community. With your help, we can inform those around us about our high school voter registration program, local candidate forums, voter education including Lunch & Learn with the League, Pros & Cons presentations, and more.

To this end, we will have several tabling events in the near future. Look for them in "Upcoming Events". Here are a few: Juneteenth in Oxnard on June 15th, Oxnard Pride Festival on June 29th, Ventura July 4th Street Festival, Ventura Pride Festival August 17th, 11:00am-6:00pm, and the Wild and Scenic Film Festival August 24th in Ventura. We will need volunteers to staff our table at each of these events. Watch for your chance to make a difference in the near future!



Scholarship Committee

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#)

Our scholarship committee met on May 4th and we discussed our current requirements for scholarship applicants and how we will plan funding for the three college scholarships. We have retained our current requirements and will decide on funding as the scholarships open in the fall.

We have our recipients and hope to meet several of them at our Annual Meeting on June 1st. More information to follow. Keep in mind how this scholarship program helps foster interest in government and related fields of study. Donations are very much appreciated!

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](#).



DEI/Race & Social Justice Committee

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

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

We have been studying low level traffic stops to ascertain the relationship between who is stopped and the impact on crime. Much of the evidence suggests that these stops prevent police from stopping more serious crimes and impacts the relationship between police and those stopped in a negative way. We are in process and there is much to study!

Last meeting Laura Hernandez, who is also chairperson of the State DEI Committee, brought to our attention the LWVC DEI Guidebook and how we as a group might utilize it in our recruitment efforts. She also discussed a People First Language workshop. What is "people first" language?

People first language emphasizes personhood and views other social identities that one may hold as secondary. Defining a group by its condition - such as housing status, disability, and past or present involvement in the criminal justice system - places an undue focus on the condition. By emphasizing that people with disabilities, people who are experiencing homelessness, people who are formerly

incarcerated, and so forth are people first and foremost, we can minimize generalizations and stereotypes about these communities. If you would like more information on "People First" Language, the LWVC People First Guide can be found at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WF0ByrpP60LExx7Cqg1oesfHO-uJ4dIG3w1GXH-SHNI/edit>

If anyone would be interested in 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](#)

If you didn't get to attend the May Lunch and Learn with the League on the topic of City Government and the role of the City Manager, go to our website to view a recording of this interesting and informative session: <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county> You won't regret it!

We will not be hosting any Lunch & Learn with the League sessions over the summer months. We plan to resume in September so keep an eye out for information to come. If you have any ideas for future topics, please reach out to Kathy Morgan or Pat Essick.

Voter Services will be busy during the election season with Candidate Forums and Pros & Cons Presentations around the county. We could use your help volunteering at these events. If you would like to know more about what volunteering for these events entails, please plan to attend the Volunteer Recruitment event planned for July 20th. More information about that event can be found under "Mark Your Calendar" in this edition of The Voter.



Voter Registration Committee

High School, College & Community Events

Contact: Betsy Patterson, Co-Chair lwvvc.info@gmail.com

or leave a message at (805) 303-1476

Summary for the 2023-24 year: We presented at 15 high schools in four school districts, in 120 classrooms, seeing a total of 2,875 students. Of those, 212 were already registered and we added 957 new registered students. We did this with 20 volunteers in the Fall and 25 volunteers in the Spring. We welcome new volunteers. We will be training in late August-early September. – Betsy Patterson

A late request came last month from Channel Islands High School to do a voter

registration for their Econ & Government classes as soon as possible. The earliest possible date we could do it was May 2, 2024. Thanks to the expertise of Cathy Trevino & Mary Teran, we collected about 42 completed registration forms on May 2nd, and another four, three days later. – Carmen Hurd

Learn more about how you can help at the Volunteer Recruitment Picnic on July 20th at the Camarillo Community Center from 11:00 am -1:30 pm.
See "Mark Your Calendar" in this edition of the newsletter.



Membership

We welcome our new member, Marie Chodkowski of Thousand Oaks.

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 the 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, 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.