



EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.



LWVUS 54th BIENNIAL VIRTUAL CONVENTION

On Friday, our League delegates elected Dr. Deborah Ann Turner as the 20th board president of the League of Women Voters of the United States for our 2020-2022 biennium. Deborah has an impressive resume as a doctor, an attorney, and a long-time League member. Congratulations Deborah! View her remarks:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_X3bmBTwE&feature=youtu.be

A moving and personal speech about the need to continue our move towards diversity and inclusiveness and to rethink our definition of “non-partisan” was given by Virginia Kase, LWV CEO. See her speak here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5epVnbqUpY>

Norah O’Donnell, CBS Evening News anchor and managing editor, delivered the Keynote Address: “Women Power the Vote for 100 years”:

<https://youtu.be/w5Ua1M5RWg0>

Adopted Proposals

1. The League of Women Voters of Oregon proposed a resolution that the League of Women Voters reaffirm our commitment to immigration reform. Further, supporting laws that provide efficient and expeditious systems for immigrants to enter the United States.
2. The League of Women Voters of Arapahoe and Douglas Counties proposed a resolution that calls for an immediate, wide-scale, mobilization by the United States that restores, protects, and funds an ecologically sustainable environment and climate, based on an interrelated approach that is

environmentally sound, science-based, just and equitable, dedicated to appropriately addressing the speed and scale of the global climate change emergency.

3. The League of Women Voters of Missouri, in conjunction with 20 state Leagues and 27 local Leagues, proposed an emergency resolution that the League of Women Voters advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism, and the harm that it causes. We resolve second, that the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC) deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all".

Reports from Convention

Several our members attended the various convention sessions, caucuses, and workshops. They have graciously prepared summaries of the events. A big *thank you* to Kathy Morgan for these two reports. Over the next months we will publish a series of convention reports.

#1. VOTER REPRESENTATION/ELECTORAL SYSTEMS CONCURRENCE CAUCUS

This concurrence strives to support state election laws to provide the broadest voter representation possible and that are expressive of voter choices. The League supports electoral methods that:



- 1) Encourages voter participation and engagement
- 2) Encourages those with minority opinions to participate – including underrepresented communities
- 3) Is verifiable and auditable
- 4) Promotes access to voting
- 5) Maximizes effective votes/minimizes wasted votes
- 6) Promotes sincere voting over strategic voting
- 7) Implements alternatives to plurality voting
- 8) Compatible with acceptable ballot casting methods including vote-by-mail

Ruth Greenwood, an attorney who works in voting rights, also spoke on behalf of this concurrence and her focus was on ending partisan gerrymandering and promoting minority representation.

This concurrence does not support any specific electoral method believing that should be left to local control. The concurrence was accepted and is now a LWVUS Position.

#2. REBUILDING TRUST TO SAVE OUR CIVIL SOCIETY



Featured Speaker: Carolyn Lukensmeyer

Her main points were that to have social change there must be:

- 1) Systemic/Structural Change such as integrity of the vote, housing policy, employment policy
- 2) Cultural/Behavioral Change

What skill is most important in upholding democracy?

The capacity to listen with an open mind and heart and the understanding that if you feel morally superior to someone with an opposing position you are not capable of truly listening and trying to understand why someone holds the position they do

LWV Role in Building Public Trust:

- 1) Working to ensure voter access
- 2) Assure that vote by mail is safe and a good choice
 - a) Focus on debunking myths about vote by mail
 - b) Educate people about the ways to vote by mail
 - c) Give factual information about voting by mail
- 3) Hold open sessions in our communities allowing people to have conversations about their concerns regarding the integrity of the vote-by-mail
- 4) Work with local board of elections – for example - how many polling places will be open?

Carolyn is also a member of the American Association of Arts and Sciences and spoke briefly about some of their recommendations including increasing the size of the House of Representatives by 50 seats, limiting Supreme Court Tenure to 18 years and that no President can appoint more than two judges to the Supreme Court.

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**CENSUS 2020** Have you completed the short survey online? It is not too late. The 2020Census is happening now. You can complete your questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail. Go to: <https://2020census.gov>. It is VITAL for all residents of Ventura County to have everyone counted because SO many services depend on it. Over ten years, \$20,000 in services is lost for every

person not counted. Programs to support and restore wildlife, to prepare for wildfires, police, courts, fire fighters, education, roads, hospitals, and more.

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HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



As we celebrate the anniversary of our independence and advancement towards a more perfect Union, the League continues to Empower Voters, Defend Democracy and Make Democracy Work. We are fighting in court for the ERA to become a Constitutional Amendment, ensure EVERY registered voter can cast a ballot, remove big money from politics, support the 2020 Census, and much, much more. Thank you for joining us in these efforts. Please have a safe and happy holiday.

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## COMING EVENTS

**Movie Mondays** – Have you joined Movie Mondays yet? Our president,



Betsy Patterson, has been hosting a virtual film discussion group focused on suggested viewings of topical films, YouTube videos, and TV shows on **Mondays at 4:00pm**. There are also references and resources for you to use as you desire. You do not need to see all of the films to participate. You may pick and choose, or just observe. To

get your ticket (receive an invitation to Zoom) and the movie list, please email Betsy [bpatter123@gmail.com](mailto:bpatter123@gmail.com).

**Board Meeting** - Until further notice, board meetings will be held by **video conference** on the **second Thursday of the month** at **4:00pm**. If you wish to join us, please email Betsy Patterson at [bpatter123@gmail.com](mailto:bpatter123@gmail.com) to be invited to the meeting on Zoom.



BOARD MEETING

**Meet the Members (MTM)** is virtual using Zoom. Your host will send an invitation soon. Look for it in your inbox. *Please note:* MTM Ventura will be **dark this month**.

## Membership Renewal

“Heads Up” everybody! Everyone’s membership in the LWVVC **expires August 31<sup>st</sup>** except those who joined us after May 1<sup>st</sup> this year. We ask that you complete the membership form you will receive and return it with your payment. It is a great time to make an additional contribution to the General Fund or the Scholarship Fund too. Both are tax deductible.

Completing the back of the form signs you put for various committees

## **WE THANK OUR SUPPORTERS**

**NEW MEMBERS:** We warmly welcome our newest members: Jeanne LaRocco (Ventura), Bea Lutterbeck (Camarillo), Susan Blake (Ojai), Mary Newman (Ventura), and Mona Pastor (Westlake Village).



**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 LWVC.

**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 committee chairs 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.

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RAISE AWARENESS OF THE LEAGUE

LWVC Face Mask – Stay safe *and* encourage people to VOTE. Get your mask here. Three-layer washable t-shirt material. Text: “Use Your Voice... VOTE!” Reserve yours now. Donation \$10.00 each.



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

For masks or shirts please contact info@lwvventuracounty.org.

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## **OUR CHANGING WORLD**

For the **CDC’s recommendations** for stemming to spread of COVID19 go to <https://www.cdc.gov/>. Check for updates frequently.

What is the status of precautions in **California**? Visit the California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Information at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>, or <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/#top>

For updates on **Ventura County Coronavirus** information, you can go to <https://www.vcemergency.com/>. There is a breakdown of cases by city.

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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 Supervisors agenda, documents, broadcasts, and videos. Connect with County services.

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**Making Democracy Work...**

**Contact us for detailed information.**

League of Women Voters of Ventura County  
P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006

**Please join us!**

**Membership Form Available online:**

<https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county>

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

Find Candidate funding and Proposition information on: <https://votersedge.org/ca>

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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.