

The Voter

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

July 2024

In This Issue:

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



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

As the new League year begins on July 1st, we would like to offer heartfelt thanks to outgoing President Pat Butler for a job well done. Pat was a calm and steady leader whose creativity inspired many positive changes. We appreciate all that she has done for our local league over the past year and look forward to continuing to work with her as she continues on the Board of Directors. She will be serving

as chair of our new Community Outreach Committee. This position will help us to expand our reach and get the word out about the league and our activities to a wider audience.

The LWVVC Annual meeting was held at the Poinsettia Pavilion on June 1st. It was a wonderful event, providing time to meet with officers, league and community members and special guests including Michelle Ascencion, County Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters, Claudia Bautista, County Public Defender and Joe Schroeder, Mayor of Ventura. An excellent presentation was delivered by guest speaker Kathleen Bruhn, PhD., Chair of Political Science at UC Santa Barbara. She explained how some countries are moving away from democracy and towards autocracy, with a focus on Mexico, which was undergoing a Presidential election the very next day. We thank all the members of the committee who organized and helped to put on the Annual Meeting. Thank you to Karen Savitt, Betsy Patterson, Doris Simmelink, Pat Butler, Pat Belt, Kay Armstrong, Matty Park and Cheryl Collart.

As Co-Presidents, we encourage you to read *The Voter* each month in its entirety! Our *Voter* newsletter, distributed monthly to members and others online, provides information about the work being done by the various committees offering opportunities to learn more and get involved, the informal "Happy Hours" where you can meet new friends and socialize, upcoming events, and more. Please feel free to reach out to either, or both of us, with any questions, suggestions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you and always welcome new ideas.

Warm regards,

Kathy Morgan and Susan King Roth
Co-Presidents

FROM LWVUS



The future of our families, our communities, and our country are at stake. No matter what zip code we live in or the color of our skin, our voices are equal at the ballot box, and we could all use some help making sure our voices are heard. VOTE411.org is the League's one-stop-shop where you can find all the information you need to cast your ballot. It's

virtual, nonpartisan, and available in both English and Spanish. Whether it's local, state or federal, every election is important to ensuring our laws and policies reflect the values and beliefs of our communities. Discover all your voting options, from early voting to absentee and mail-in voting, to voting on Election Day, and make an election plan that fits your life. For more information checkout the website at: <https://www.vote411.org/>

FROM LWVVC



Picnic

Get involved and make a difference in our community! Your voice matters, and we offer numerous ways to participate in local democracy. Whether you're passionate about voter education, interested in candidate forums, or want to help with voter registration, we have opportunities for every skill set and schedule. By volunteering, you'll help ensure fair elections, promote civic engagement, and strengthen our democratic process. Join us at the **Volunteer Recruitment Picnic**

(lunch will be provided) to learn more about current initiatives and how you can contribute to positive change right here in our County.

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

Where: Camarillo Community Center, 1605 E Burnley St, Camarillo, CA 93010

RSVP: lwvvc.info@gmail.com or (805) 303-1476 by July 13th

Can't join us for the picnic, here are some of the ways you can make a difference this year:

Call to Action - Election 2024

Speak Out: Write letters to editor, talk to friends & family; correct mis-/dis-information; know the facts

Register Voters: High Schools, Community events

Educate Voters: Candidate Forums, Pros & Cons presentations

Get Out The Vote: Canvass, phone-bank, send postcards

Work the Election: Election Assistant at Vote Center or at the Election Office; be an Observer

Thank the Election Workers: Food to the Vote Centers

Do Something!



✓ See Committee Activities below for additional information

✓ There is also more information at: <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county>



Annual Meeting Report

The Bylaws were updated to comply with LWVUS changes in membership process starting 2025. The 2024-2025 budget was approved. New officers were elected for 2024-2025. Please welcome and support your new officers and directors.

New Officers

Co-Presidents – Kathy Morgan/Susan Roth
Vice President – Terry Garman
Secretary – Judy Murphy
Treasurer – Karen Savitt



Directors

Kay Armstrong, Pat Butler, Barbara Doyle, Pat Essick, Terri Hargleroad, Carol Lindberg, Matty Park, Betsy Patterson, and Jane Spiller

Nominating Committee

Chair Cheryl Collart (member), Pat Butler (board member), Matty Park (board member), Doris Simmelink (member), Elizabeth Zernik (member).

If you missed the Annual Meeting, you missed a good time and an outstanding presentation. Our guest speaker, Professor Kathleen Bruhn, UC Santa Barbara, Professor of Political Science and Department Chair, spoke about “Democratic Backsliding and How to Fight It.”



She provided several examples of democracies in South America becoming autocracies. She spoke about the changes that took place slowly over time to put autocrats in office. Here are some thoughts and quotes from her presentation:

The populist seeks to create a political divide between himself/his party and his opposition. Polarization is an autocratic tactic common to all backsliding processes. Autocratic leaders need to justify the denial of rights to the opposition groups and fear the formation of a broad opposition coalition.

“Once in power, the populist/autocrat attempts to discredit and capture or control state institutions, especially:

- Courts
- Law enforcement agencies and the military
- Oversight agencies, including national and local electoral authorities
- Regulatory agencies, such as tax authorities
- Public media
- Sources of rents, especially oil and gas”

“Here’s what we need to do to resist backsliding:

- DO engage in elections; do NOT boycott them
- DO engage in litigation; do NOT engage in radical extra-institutional protest, especially involving violence
- Do lobby, or engage in moderate, peaceful protest”

LWVVC Members Making a Difference

LWVVC member Merrill Berge, CFROG (Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas) Board Chair, attended (June 18th) the CalGEM abandoned well capping meeting in Saticoy. CFROG coordinated questions with CAUSE, MICOP and the Sierra Club. Leading a coalition of partners, CFROG is why CalGEM visited Ventura County on a "Toxic Tour" this spring and why the agency is returning to properly plug, in this first phase, 49 abandoned wells in Ventura County.

If it wasn't for CFROG raising awareness and holding the Board of Supervisors accountable, 39 of those oil and gas wells, operated by Peak in the Oxnard Plain ag fields, could have been approved for a fracking-style cyclic steam extraction process. Left abandoned by the operator, CFROG's advocacy efforts are ensuring these wells, adjacent to Ventura County's critical Fox Canyon aquifer, have been prioritized by CalGEM for plugging and capping. More information about CFROG can be found at: <https://cfrog.org/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, **July 3rd**, 5:30pm – **Happy Hour** at Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S. California Street, Ventura, CA 93001

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

Saturday, **July 13th**, 10:30am – **In & Out Board Meeting** in Ventura – for incoming and outgoing board members

Saturday, **July 13th**, RSVP deadline for the **Volunteer Recruitment Picnic**

Wednesday, **July 17th**, 5:30pm - **Happy Hour** on Zoom

Thursday, **July 18th**, 7:00pm – 8:30pm - **How to Run for Political Office**, Joint event with Buen Vecino - Registration details forth coming

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

Saturday, **August 17th**, 10:30am - Voter Registration Training, Camarillo Community Center (1605 E Burnley St, Camarillo)

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

Saturday, **August 24th**, 10:30am - Voter Registration Training, Thousand Oaks (location tbd)

Saturday, **August 24th**, 1:30pm - Voter Registration Training, Ventura EP Foster Library, downtown Ventura

Saturday, September 7th, 10:30am - Voter Registration Training, Camarillo Community Center, 1605 E Burnley St, Camarillo

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

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](#) and work with other leagues, LWV California staff and LWV US staff.



Climate Change Committee

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

Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

This month we discussed the book "Total Garbage" by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Edward Humes. The book identifies steps that we can take to reduce waste in our daily lives and highlights individuals who have had significant impacts in reducing waste, including recycling of typically non-recyclable items, micro-gardens, induction cooktops and transportation choices. We also reviewed the status of some climate bills being considered this legislative term.

The LWVUS Climate Interest Group released a document titled "Power Talk: Electrical Energy Basics And Vocabulary For Understanding Electric Power And Climate Change." This was presented at the LWV National Convention. It can be found here: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:4f474b6a-3ab0-4385-a671-ae2435d33575>.

Some climate change focused events of interest this month include:

- 4th of July Street Fair and Pushem-Pullem Parade 10:00am to 4:00pm, in downtown Ventura. There will be an EV car show, as well as the LWV booth.
- July 23rd, 5:30pm to 7:00pm, "The Ask Sean Show". Award winning Sean Armstrong will analyze a home for improving efficiency and reducing carbon footprint. Register here to attend: <https://bit.ly/askseanjuly2024>
- July 27th, 10:00am to 2:30pm, "Electrify Your Home and Business" event at the UU Church of Ventura, 5664 Ralston. Speakers will address how to electrify

your home and business, there will be many booths staffed by organizations, contractors and businesses that are experts in home systems. There will be an EV car show with about 20 different models and their owners will be on hand to share their EV experience and answer questions. Registration requested. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2pjehb8j>

The Climate Change Committee focuses on climate advocacy, policy, mitigation, and adaptation and meets at 3:00pm on the 4th Thursday of the month unless it is a holiday, then meets on the 3rd Thursday. The next meeting is July 25th. For more info, contact Wayne Morgan at waynemorgan1@yahoo.com.



Budget Committee

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

There is no report this month.

As a reminder, this 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).



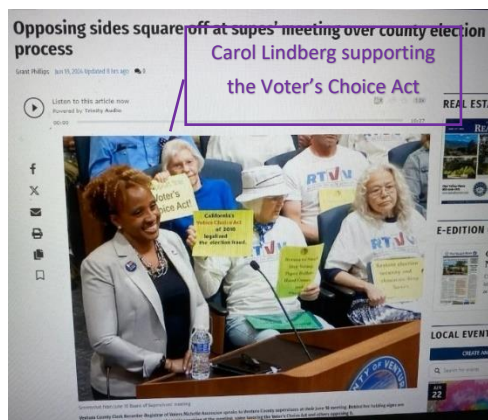
Observer Report

Become an Observer - Ventura County Government Meetings – including the Board of Supervisors

For those not familiar with the Observer Corps, let me introduce you. It is a means to 1) hold county supervisors, city council members, school boards, and waterboards accountable; and 2) inform our members of what is happening at various government levels across the county. We usually wear our "Observer" button and our blue league shirt. When we wear these, we are **strictly observers**, we **do not** participate in public comments. Only the LWVVC president can speak for the League. Others may speak as private citizens and in "civilian" clothes. Choose the meeting(s) that fit your schedule. Attend as often as you like. Many meetings can be observed on-line, or you could introduce a friend to LWVVC by bringing them to a public meeting! Please submit a brief report of your observations to lwwvc.info@gmail.com.

As the new League year begins on July 1st, it's time to take a step back and look at where you might want to spend your time in relation to League activities. Your interests and/or your circumstances may have changed. We ask you to reach out to [Carol Lindberg](#) if you are interested in becoming a part of the Observer Corps. You

can participate one or two times per month and provide a great service to the other League members.



About a dozen LWVVC members attended the Board of Supervisors (BoS) meeting on Tuesday, June 18th. Several members, as private citizens, spoke in support of the Voter's Choice Act and the County Elections Office (see picture of Carol Lindberg) while county clerk-recorder, Michelle Ascension, answered questions from the BoS. The members of "Restore the Vote" want to return to in-person, election-day-only voting and are asking for a full hand count. LWVVC fully supports the Voter's Choice Act as it makes voting possible for the largest number of citizens over several days, and hand counting ballots has repeatedly been shown to be inaccurate.

The following link to the California Secretary of State website provides additional information about the Voter's Choice Act. <https://www.sos.ca.gov/voters-choice-act>

Dates for upcoming 2024 BoS meetings are: July 23rd, September 10th, and 24th.



Community Outreach Committee (Tabling)

Contact: Pat Butler

In June we had tabling events at the Juneteenth celebration in Oxnard and at Oxnard's Pride Festival. A big "thank you" to all our volunteers who made these events a success.

The 47th Annual 4th of July Street Fair in Ventura is just around the corner!

Here are the details:

- Date:** Thursday, July 4th, 2024
- Time:** 10:00am to 4:00pm
- Location:** Ventura's Downtown District (Main Street from Fir Street to Ventura Avenue, as well as side streets Chestnut, Oak, and California)



This will be our first time participating in Ventura's July 4th Street Festival. The festival is visited by thousands of people from all over Southern California. We have been assigned **booth number 520**. We will need four people to set up and take down, plus volunteers during the day. A SignUpGenius invitation for this event was sent out on June 14th. There are still a few slots open - please join us for this important and fun day. We're looking forward to seeing you there.



Scholarship Committee

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#)

Our scholarship committee wrapped up the year with five scholarship awardees. We were fortunate to have three recipients join us at the annual meeting. It was great to introduce them and celebrate their achievements. The recipients were Erika Gutierrez from Ventura College and Marietta Davis and Brayon Lopez Santos from Oxnard College. Tracy Huang and Chanel Brown were not able to join us. Keep in mind how this scholarship program helps foster interest in government and related fields of study.

We have retained our current scholarship requirements and will decide on funding as the scholarships open in the fall. Scholarship donations, of any size, are very much appreciated!!

We will begin to work with local colleges in the fall on 2025 scholarships. 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 focusing on addressing low level traffic stops and their impact in certain communities. We are still doing research and reaching out to other LWV groups who are also interested in this issue. Heading into August, committee members will be working with the Community Outreach Committee tabling event to be held at the Diversity Pride Festival in Ventura.

We are happy to report that we are joining Buen Vecino in an educational zoom meeting to inform prospective candidates of the nuts and bolts of running for public office. This is a great outreach to different communities to hopefully inspire people to run for office. We would also like to encourage anyone interested in our County's Public Safety Racial Equity Advisory Group (PSREAG) to attend their meeting (1st Thursday of the month at 5:30pm) either in person or online. You can obtain additional information about this group at their website: <https://www.ventura.org/county-executive-office/dei/psreag/>.

Please join us if you are interested in finding out more! We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month 4:00pm - 5:00pm.



Voter Services Committee Report

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

Election Season is rapidly approaching, and we will need volunteers! Want to know how you can help with Pros and Cons, Candidate Forums, Food to the Polls, Voter Registration and more? Attend the Volunteer Recruitment Picnic on July 20th to find out how you can get involved.

Considering a run for public office, or know someone who is? Our local league, in collaboration with Buen Vecino, another local nonpartisan organization, will present a webinar on this topic. It will be held on **Thursday July 18th** from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. We will hear from a panel of local elected officials about their experiences running for office and from the Thousand Oaks City Clerk about the requirements, paperwork, filing dates and so on. Registration details will be forthcoming.

As a reminder, 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 Registration Committee

High School, College & Community Events

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

Before the fall election registration kicks-off, we want all our voter registration volunteers trained so we are all working from the same playbook. Even if you did the training last year, we want to update everyone annually. Below are the dates/times for the voter registration trainings, each session will be approximate two hours:

Saturday, August 17th at 10:30am at Camarillo Community Center, 1605 E Burnley St, Camarillo

Saturday, August 24th at 10:30am in Thousand Oaks (location tbd) and 1:30pm at EP Foster Library in Ventura

Saturday, September 7th at 10:30am at Camarillo Community Center, 1605 E Burnley St, Camarillo

An email will be sent closer to the dates for you to sign up through Sign Up Genius.

We will also be supporting students who want to run their own peer-to-peer registration drive. We have already trained three upcoming seniors from Foothill Tech HS and hope to train more.

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



Membership

We welcome the following new members:

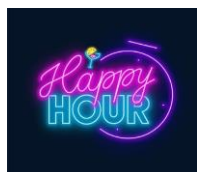
Elizabeth (Betsy) Bachman from Ojai,
Adrian Conway from Thousand Oaks,
Marietha Davis from Santa Paula,
Clare D. Tindall from Oxnard,
Rosa Castro from Camarillo,
Deb Baber from Port Hueneme,
Jo Ann Stark from Ventura, and
Mike Johnson and Aimée Brecht-Doscher from Ventura.

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](#).

Happy hour events are 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 us for happy hour. 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. 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 2024-2025 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: [KarenSavitt](#).



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](#)



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



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



Vote411: [VOTE411](#)

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.
