



EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN NOV 2020 ELECTION

Several LWVVC members met with Mark Lunn, VC Registrar, and his Elections Office staff on July 10, 2020 to find out what to expect for the November election. Here are some highlights of our discussion:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which most likely will not abate before Election Day, in-person voting puts both voters and the people staffing the polls at a higher risk for infection. So, for this election, all California voters will become vote-by-mail voters.



Every registered voter in California will receive their *official* ballot in the mail. The Elections Office will start sending them out on **Oct 5** and they recommend that if you have not received yours **by Oct 15**, you call them at **805-654-2664** to request a replacement. The ballot will arrive in a well-marked envelope. Inside you will find your ballot, instructions on how to complete and return the ballot, the postage-paid return envelope and your "I Voted By Mail" sticker. Before you send the ballot back, be sure you **sign** the back of the envelope. Your signature is the way the Elections Office determines that this is your ballot.

There are 3 options for returning your ballot:

- **Mail** it back through the US Postal Service
- Drop it off in any of 31 **Ballot Drop boxes** around the county
- Go **in-person** to any of the 47 **Vote Centers** located around the county

Mail your ballot early - at least a week before Election Day although the safest bet is to mail it in by **Oct 20**. Ballots post-marked on or before Nov 3 will be counted as long as they arrive before Nov 20 (17 days after Election Day). But don't wait - mail early.

There are currently 13 permanent Ballot Drop boxes located at city halls (or the library in Fillmore) and the Government Center in Ventura and the satellite Government Center in Thousand Oaks. In addition, there will be 18 temporary drop boxes in various locations open during business hours. Ballots are collected by two Elections Office workers daily Monday - Friday.

Vote Centers will replace polling places. Instead of 200 neighborhood polling places, there will be 47 Vote Centers, open 10 am-6 pm on **Sat., Oct 31, Sun.**

Nov.1, and Mon. Nov 2 and from 7am to 8 pm on **Election Day (Nov 3).**

You may drop off your ballot, get a replacement ballot if you spoiled your official ballot, do same-day registration and voting, get special assistance if hearing- or vision-impaired, get language assistance and any other assistance you may need.

You should sign up to **track your ballot** - from the time it is mailed to you through the time it is received and processed by the Election Office. You can also see when the USPS delivers it and when they deliver it to the Elections Office. Sign up online for

“Where’s my ballot? tracking by BallotTrax at Sign up at:

WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov

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## **WHAT EXACTLY DOES IT MEAN TO DEFUND THE POLICE?**



“Defunding the police does not necessarily mean getting rid of the police altogether. Rather, it would mean reducing police budgets and reallocating those funds to crucial and oft-neglected areas like education, public health, housing, and youth services. (Some activists want to abolish the police altogether; defunding is a separate but connected cause.) It’s predicated on the belief that investing in communities would act as a better deterrent to crime by directly addressing societal problems like poverty, mental illness, and homelessness — issues that advocates say police are poorly equipped to handle, and yet are often tasked with. According to some estimates, law enforcement spends 21 percent of its time responding to and transporting people with mental illnesses. Police are also frequently dispatched to deal with people experiencing homelessness, causing them to be incarcerated at a disproportionate rate.”

“Advocates argue this could be avoided by replacing some police officers with trained social workers or specialized response teams. “Municipalities can begin by changing policies or statutes so police officers never respond to certain kinds of emergencies, including ones that involve substance abuse, domestic violence, homelessness or mental health,” Philip V. McHarris and Thenjiwe McHarris argue in an op-ed for the New York Times. “So, if someone calls 911 to report a drug overdose, health care teams rush to the scene; the police wouldn’t get involved. If a person calls 911 to complain about people who are homeless, rapid response social workers would provide them with housing

support and other resources. Conflict interrupters and restorative justice teams could mediate situations where no one's safety is being threatened."

Excerpts from an article by Amanda Arnold@aMandolinz, Updated June 12, 2020. **For the complete article, please go to** <https://www.thecut.com/2020/06/what-does-defund-the-police-mean-the-phrase-explained.html>.

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PROP 15: SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES FIRST

The LWV of California has asked that we submit Letters to the Editor in support of the Schools and Communities First proposition. The Letter to the Editor tool is here: <https://www.yes15.org/write-to-your-local-paper>.



The letters provided have been updated, so if you sent one earlier that didn't get published, you could try again. Or write your own!

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## **LWV CALIFORNIA LINKS**

Links to Group Discussions and LWVC information/tools for the Elections & Candidate Forums, Evaluating Propositions, Program Planning, California Water Resources, Criminal Justice Reform, and much more are listed on the new "Members Only" site: <https://my.lwv.org/california/lwvc-members-only>. Click on the "Communications" link for a list of discussion groups. Select the ones you want to join.

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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 Marquita Flemming (marquita.flemming@gmail.com).
Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89580304194?pwd=Z244L1V5b3pFRnJNYm0rZTIQVlpIQT09>

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 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.

Membership Renewal

Everyone's membership in the LWVVC **expires August 31st** except those who joined us after May 31st this year and Lifetime Members. We ask that you complete the membership form you will receive in the mail 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 up for various committees.

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**WE THANK OUR SUPPORTERS**

**NEW MEMBERS:** We warmly welcome our newest members: Roanna Prell (Ventura) and Cindy Garcia (Ventura).

**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.



**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.

**NEW! LWVVC YOUTUBE VIDEO!**

See president Betsy Patterson introduce new people to the LWVVC, explain our mission and offer information about the new



voting process. Visit [https://youtu.be/4\\_AqA9GClr8](https://youtu.be/4_AqA9GClr8). Additional videos will be forthcoming.

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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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### **RAISE AWARENESS OF THE LEAGUE**

**LWVVC 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 **LWVVC 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@lwvventura.org](mailto:info@lwvventura.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...

Please join us!

Membership Form Available online:

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

Contact us for detailed information.

Email: info@lwvventuracounty.org

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

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

League of Women Voters of Ventura County

P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006

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.