

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The Voter

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

August 2024

In This Issue:

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



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Last month the LWVUS National Convention was held in Washington, DC from June 27-30th. It welcomed 1,754 attendees from all 50 states, D.C., and the Virgin Islands, both in-person and online. Pat Butler, Matty Park, and Susan Roth attended as LWVVC delegates to the Convention. Delegates discussed and voted on policy and business items, and elected Dianna Wynn to serve as the 22nd President of the organization on June 28th. Prior to the Convention, we met with our CA Senators and Representatives in Congress who supported the John L. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. We enjoyed meeting with them and let them know that the League appreciates their support for this important legislation.

This is a busy time for members of the LWVVC. Meetings have been organized to invite and train volunteers who wish to participate in voter registration activities across the county, thanks to Betsy Patterson. Volunteers are also being trained to provide nonpartisan presentations about the Pros & Cons of State propositions appearing on the November ballot. Other activities related to Community Engagement and DEI events will be taking place. The LWVVC Board approved a new Housing and Homelessness Committee, chaired by Sharon Crane. Other reports and upcoming events are included in this newsletter.

We welcome all new members and encourage everyone to engage with the League's important agenda to educate voters, support our Ventura County elections office, counteract disinformation about elections, and defend democracy in what could be a historic Presidential election. Please feel free to reach out to Kathy or me if you have any questions or suggestions. We look forward to hearing from you and always welcome new ideas!

Warm regards,

*Kathy Morgan and Susan King Roth
Co-Presidents*

VOTER SERVICES

The motto for the LWV is “Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy”. Providing information to the public through our candidate forums as well as pros and cons presentations on the ballot measures is one way of doing so. Hopefully, the information they receive allows them to make informed choices when they cast their ballots. If you are interested in volunteering to help with these activities and haven’t already reached out to us, please let us know and we will add you to our list and notify you when volunteer opportunities for these activities arise. You can email us at: lwvvc.info@gmail.com to indicate your interest in volunteering.

It is important to recognize that most voters may not pay as much attention to the political news as active league members do. In an effort to build a powerful community of voters committed to learning how to engage in meaningful public discourse the LWV Orange Coast and Big Tent prepared talking points to help you prepare for difficult conversations on a variety of topics from the economy, the climate, Reproductive Freedom and more. Check it out at: <https://search.app/8BvYYGezPYXi6noq6> or use this QR code.



You can make a difference by reaching out and talking to others. **Remember, when you speak out on the issues you speak as an individual, not as a representative of the League.**

In conclusion, here is a quote from our new national League President, Dianna Wynn, from a speech given at the National Convention in June 2024:

"The League must also BOLDLY combat threats to our democracy. We cannot defend democratic principles from the sidelines. We must be on the front lines in the fight for democracy. That means not shying away from the right fight. We can stand on our foundation of non-partisanship while also courageously calling out authoritarianism. To do this we build a more powerful league."

Committee Chairs – Kathy Morgan or Pat Essick.

FROM LWVUS



Nation Poll Worker Recruitment Day Thursday, August 1, 2024

There are over 5,000 local election jurisdictions in the US – and today is Poll Worker Recruitment Day! Working at the polls is one of the most effective ways to support democracy.

It's never too early to help democracy!

By signing up to be a poll worker, you can ensure that all voters—including voters with disabilities, voters who need language assistance, and voters who want to cast their ballot in person—have a positive experience at the polls. The number of poll workers signed up to work the polls can determine how many polling places to open on Election Day. To find out more information contact @powerthepolls by visiting www.powerthepolls.org/LWV.

Have any friends and family who want to get involved in our democracy? Share the importance of poll working with them and encourage them to join you and power the polls.



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/> or use this QR code.



FROM LWVC / VOTER EDUCATION

What are “Pros & Cons”? The League is committed to providing voters with the information they need to make informed decisions. One tool produced by the League of Women Voters of California is “**Pros & Cons**” which complements the State’s *Voter Information Guide* on statewide ballot propositions. This important tool provides concise and unbiased summaries of ballot measures for every election. Locally, LWVVC presents the “**Pros & Cons**” at various events starting in the fall. Contact [Susan Roth](#) or [Pat Essick](#) if you are interested in volunteering with this team.

LWVC Among Most Effective Advocacy Organizations in CA

A June [CalMatters analysis](https://calmatters.org/politics/2024/06/california-lobbying-rankings/) (<https://calmatters.org/politics/2024/06/california-lobbying-rankings/>) identified the League of Women Voters of California as the third most effective advocacy organization in the state, achieving 85% of our desired policy outcomes during this legislative session so far. The League rises to the top in effectiveness because we are grassroots, and we stand firmly in advancing equity for all people. Each day, we fight for equity across voting rights, government transparency, affordable housing, racial justice, climate, environmental justice, and criminal justice reform (and much more!). In total, the LWVC has taken a position on 101 bills this legislative session.

FROM LWVVC



On July 20th, 45 potential volunteers met to learn about ways they can get involved with the League during this fall election season. We had representatives from Camarillo, Newbury Park, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Thousand Oaks, Ventura and Westlake Village.

We heard presentations on Candidate Forums, Pros & Cons on Ballot Measures, Observation Corps, Voter Registration, Food to Election Workers, Election Observers, Community Outreach and information on becoming a temporary Election Assistant with the Ventura County Election Division. During a picnic lunch with yummy Urbane Cafe sandwiches, homemade desserts and freshly made iced tea and lemonade, attendees were able to speak with other volunteers as well as the presenters to learn more and then sign up for the areas of interest to them.



If you are interested in participating in any of these areas, please email us at: lwwvc.info@gmail.com and we will connect you with the appropriate coordinator.

Here are other 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>



Women's Equality Day – August 26th



During the July 15th Board of Harbor Commissioners, the Oxnard Harbor District honored Women's Equality Day and presented this framed resolution to the League of Women Voters Ventura County.

Women's Equality Day is celebrated in the United States on August 26th to commemorate the struggles of women to be heard, as fierce advocates who gained the statutory right to vote in 1920 through the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the

United States Constitution, which explicitly prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of gender.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, **August 7th**, 5:30pm – **Happy Hour** at Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S. California Street, Ventura, CA 93001

Wednesday, **August 14th**, 5:30pm - **Happy Hour** on Zoom

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, Classroom 7 (1605 E Burnley St, Camarillo 93010)

Saturday, **August 24th**, 5:00pm - 10:00pm - **Tabling Wild and Scenic Film Festival**, Ventura County Credit Union, 2575 Vista Del Mar Drive, Ventura

Saturday, **August 24th**, 10:30am - Voter Registration Training, Chalice UU Fellowship Hall, 3331 Old Conejo Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320

Saturday, **August 24th**, 1:30pm - Voter Registration Training, Ventura EP Foster Library, 651 E Main St., Ventura, CA 93001

Saturday, September 7th, 10:30am - Voter Registration Training, Camarillo Community Center, Classroom 7 (1605 E Burnley St, Camarillo 93010)

Saturday, September 21st, Save the Date – Time and Place TBD – **Fall Meeting** – Discussion Pros & Cons.

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.



Voter Services Committee Report

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

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.

See full report above.



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

Voter Registration Training Sessions: If you are interested in helping with our high school voter registration project, please sign up to attend one of the following training sessions. Even if you attended a training in the past year, we have updates for everyone. Below are the dates/times for the voter registration trainings, each session will be approximate two hours:

Saturday, August 17th at 10:30am – noon, Camarillo Community Center, Classroom 7, 1605 E Burnley St, Camarillo, CA 93010

Saturday, August 24th at 10:30am – noon, Chalice UU Fellowship Hall, 3331 Old Conejo Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320

Saturday August 24th at 1:30pm – 3:30pm, EP Foster Library, 651 E Main St., Ventura, CA 93001

Saturday, September 7th at 10:30am – noon, at Camarillo Community Center, Classroom 7, 1605 E Burnley St, Camarillo, CA 93010

Sign Up Genius link for all sessions: <https://bit.ly/3zLsjwD> or by using this QR code.



Questions? Contact Betsy Patterson at lwwvc.info@gmail.com

Community Outreach Committee (Tabling)

Contact: Pat Butler



This was our first time participating in the Ventura July 4th Street Fair. We distributed Vote411 bookmarks, pins, and literature to passersby. All were well received. Thank you to our volunteers who staffed the booth: Cathy Travino, Lillian Zelinski, Matty Park, Terry Garman, and Cheryl Coltart.

Our next tabling events will be Saturday, August 17th, at the Ventura County Pride Festival organized by the Ventura County Diversity Collective. Following that will be the Wild & Scenic Film Festival Saturday, August 24th, organized by the Ventura Land Trust.



Watch for volunteer opportunities with SignUpGenius coming soon.



Observer Report

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

Many thanks to members who joined the LWVVC Observer Corps at our Volunteer Recruitment Picnic on July 20th. We will continue to observe county and city meetings of governing boards and councils. Please reach out to [Carol Lindberg](#) if you are interested in becoming a part of the Observer Corps. You can participate as your time permits and will be providing a great service to the other League members.

Report - Board of Supervisors Meeting - Tuesday, July 23, 2024

On Tuesday, July 23rd, several League members attended the Board of Supervisors meeting to support of the Voter's Choice Act and our Ventura County Elections office. Susan Roth, co-president of our League, spoke in support of the CA Voter's Choice Act which our county adopted to increase accessibility to voting by registered voters.

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: September 10th and 24th.



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).



Scholarship Committee

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#)

We will soon begin working with local colleges on the 2025 scholarships. Scholarship donations, of any size, are very much appreciated!! If anyone

has questions for us about our meeting or would like to join us, please contact [Kay Armstrong](#).



Climate Change Committee

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

Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

The Climate Change Committee focuses on climate advocacy, policy, mitigation, and adaptation. Next month we will be discussing LWV positions on climate change and the environment.

The Climate Change Committee 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 August 22nd. For more info, contact Wayne Morgan at waynemorgan1@yahoo.com.



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.

On July 18th our local league collaborated with Buen Vecino and Future Leaders of America to present an educational zoom meeting to inform prospective candidates of the nuts and bolts of running for public office. I'm happy to report that the Grassroots Guide video is now up on Youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrrxJdz8nBQ> or via this QR code.



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 on the 3rd Thursday of the month 4:00pm - 5:00pm.



Housing & Homelessness Committee Report

4th Sunday of the month, 4:00pm on Zoom

Contact: [Sharon Crane](#)

The League of Women Voters of California supports equal opportunity in housing. From meeting basic human needs to land use and transportation to climate change, this is an issue that affects all parts of the state and a large number of our positions. Needs are different in different areas.

A group of us interested in the issues of Housing and Homelessness in Ventura County have been meeting and discussing the issues, and the local, state and federal efforts to combat the issues. If you would like to join us in this discussion, please contact [Sharon Crane](#).



Membership

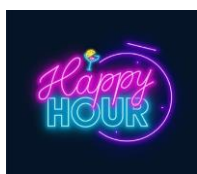
We welcome the following new members:
Deborah Fagen, Joanne Abing, Linda England, Adele Fergusson, Delia Gorey and Shane Meserve of Ventura, Doug Blois, and Julie Monro of Camarillo, Kathryn Ambrose of Oxnard, Victoria Matthews of Ojai, and Janice Talley of Newbury Park.

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.