

The Voter

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

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January 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Holiday Party was a fun time for all. We met new members and connected with old friends. Now, it's time to welcome 2024!

We have a busy period ahead of us. There is Spring high school voter registration, various tabling events, letter writing, candidate forums, Get-Out-The-Vote activities, and election worker appreciation. We will need lots of volunteers.

The final numbers are in for the Fall High School Voter Registration Project. It is remarkable that 20 volunteers made presentations to 86 classes plus staffed three tabling events. In the process, they spoke to over 2,200 students, registering 692 (whose voter registration forms we collected). Hats off to Carmen, Betsy, and all the volunteers. GREAT job! You do make a difference!!

High school voter registration training for new volunteers and updates for prior volunteers will begin later this month. If you want to volunteer, **please plan to attend a training session.** This is a dynamic area with regards to practices and methods. Be up on the latest. Thank you for your contributions.

We have new "Vote" t-shirts to encourage everyone to vote. Please contact Karen Savitt to get yours.

Wishing each of you the happiest, most prosperous new year.
Warm regards,

Pat Butler

President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, **January 3rd**, 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.

Thursday, **January 11th**, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – **Board meeting** in person at the Law College, 4475 Market St., Ventura, CA 93003.



Monday, **January 15th**, 9:00 am – **MLK Day Observance**, Tabling at Oxnard Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way, Oxnard. For program information and tickets: [MLKevent.com](https://www.mlkevent.com)

Wednesday, **January 17th**, 5:30 pm – **Happy Hour** on Zoom (3rd Wednesday of the month) hosted by Kay Armstrong. Members and guests are welcome.

Thursday, **January 18th**, 4:00 pm – **Race and Social Justice Committee** on Zoom (3rd Thursday of the month) hosted by Kay Armstrong.

Saturday **January 20th**, 10:00am – 2:00pm – **Justice for All** rally and march, Tabling at Ventura Plaza Park. Contact Kay Armstrong.



Thursday, **January 25th**, 3:00 pm – **Climate Change Committee** on Zoom (4th Thursday of the month). Contact: Wayne Morgan

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunch & Learn with the League

Michelle Ascencion, Ventura County Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters, February 7th at Noon via Zoom. To register and to submit questions to Michelle, please go here: <https://bit.ly/3TfVQGt>



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](#)

The year 2024 will be a good year for climate action; IRA rebates will become available! Residents can take advantage of rebates when replacing appliances with efficient ones, like a heat pump water heater that uses about three times less energy than conventional gas or electric water heaters. And now, there are 120V heat pump water heaters that can plug into a standard electrical outlet, so consider a hybrid water heater when your old gas water heater needs replacing. Fun fact: Did you know that water heaters consume the most energy of home appliances in Ventura County?

The Climate Change Committee focuses on climate advocacy, policy, mitigation, and adaptation and meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 3 pm on Zoom. For more info, contact Wayne Morgan at waynemorgan1@yahoo.com



Observer Report

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

Contact: [Carol Lindberg](#)

Observer Report: Ventura County Board of Supervisors Meeting, 12/19/2023
Submitted by Karen Savitt.

Water rates: A rate increase of 6% was factored in to include cost increases of labor, electric and demand. When we have a wet year, the water revenue decreases. Without the rate increase the capital reserve would be compromised effecting repairs. *Moved and approved for a 7.5% commodity and meter rate increase.*

Coordinated agendas: The county has implemented a coordinated agenda for the county, state, and federal agendas. *Passed.*

Received and file a presentation from LeSar Development to prevent and end homelessness. Areas of prioritization reported. Some data included the issue of student homelessness. Coordinating agencies – county, cities, and services. *Passed.*

Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (AB 626, 377, 1325 SB 972): Food facility that is operated from home to serve consumers. Addressing low income and marginalized community. Striving for access to healthy foods. There are restrictions and standards that are applied. No catering is allowed. There is a limit on the number of meals that can be served and the amount of income. Must pass food accreditation testing zones and land use exemptions. Must comply with restaurant standards. Facility to be run by only family members plus one employee. Currently the County cities do not wish to adopt this concept. The Board chose to follow the recommendations of the cities. *Report was received and filed.*

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](#) 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 lwvvc.info@gmail.com. Dates for upcoming 2023 meetings of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors are December 5th and 19th.



Scholarship Committee

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#)

Each of our three schools will receive \$2,500.00 to give to our scholarship recipients. The three community colleges have or will soon be opening scholarship application portals.

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](#)

At our last meeting we formulated a plan to be presented to our board in January 2024. We are exploring pretextual stops and are wanting to do some further re-search and outreach to other community groups.



Voter Registration Committee

High School, College & Community Events

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

or leave a message at (805) 303-1476

In January we will begin our VOLUNTEER training & refresher sessions. **We would like all volunteers to attend** one of the sessions (all will be the same) so our classroom presentations will be standardized. Based on feedback from students and teachers last Fall, we will offer some NEW short modules to use in place of or in addition to topics we have used in the past.

Training dates will be:

January 18th, 10:00am – 1:00pm

January 24th, 2:00pm – 5:00pm

February 9th, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Training will all be held in the Topping Room at EP Foster Library, 651 E Main St, Ventura, CA 93001. Please let Betsy Patterson know which date you will attend by email at bpatter123@gmail.com or text/phone 805-798-4685.

If there is interest or need for training in Camarillo or Thousand Oaks, we will try to set them up. Contact Betsy Patterson if you are interested.

We have already been invited to the classes of Ms. Hurst at **Thousand Oaks High School** on Tuesday, **February 13**, 8:30 -10:10 and 10:25-12:00, and Wednesday, **February 14**, 8:30-10:10. If you would like to volunteer for any of those times, contact Betsy Patterson at bpatter123@gmail.com or 805-798-4685.

This is an ELECTION year, so we hope to surpass the past year's record of registering 692 new voters. Come join us - it is FUN !!



Voter Services Committee Report

Contacts: Kathy Morgan or Pat Essick

Kathy Morgan or Pat Essick

This year the Presidential Primary Election in California is on March 5th and the Voter Services team is getting ready for it. We are starting to organize **Candidate Forums** that we will be putting on prior to the Primary. If you are interested in helping with candidate forums, please contact [Kathy Morgan](#) or [Pat Essick](#). More information on candidate forums will be forthcoming, so keep an eye out!

To learn more about the Primary and other election-related matters, sign up for **Lunch & Learn with the League** to be held **via Zoom** at Noon on Wednesday, February 7th to hear from our Ventura County Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters, **Michelle Ascension**. To register and to submit questions to Michelle, please go here: <https://bit.ly/3TfVQGt>. If you have any ideas for future Lunch with the League topics please contact [Kathy Morgan](#) or [Pat Essick](#).

What is the Voter's Choice Act, and how is it Working for Ventura County?

Ventura County applied for the Voter's Choice Act in 2018 to make voting more flexible and accessible for voters. Ventura County's 4-year Election Administration Plan to adopt the Voter's Choice Act was reviewed and approved by the California Secretary of State's office in September of 2023.

All California active registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot in the mail about 28 days before Election Day, March 5, 2024. In Voter's Choice Act counties, voters have **3 ways to return** their completed ballot:

1. Mail it in the postage-paid envelope included with the ballot; vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by March 12, 2024.
2. Use a county Dropbox starting 28 days before Election Day.
3. Visit a Vote Center, beginning 10 days before Election Day. More Vote Centers will open three days before Election Day.

Most old neighborhood polling places will no longer be open. Instead, voters can **vote in person** at any Vote Center in the county.

At any Vote Center, voters can vote in person, drop off a completed ballot, get a replacement ballot, vote using an accessible voting machine, and get help and materials in other languages.

However, in Ventura County, some people are unhappy with changes that occurred with voting when it became a VCA county. They would like to go back to previous ways of voting, expressing concerns about fraud. Some proposed actions include eliminating voting machines, ballot drop boxes, vote-by-mail ballots, and regional Vote Centers. They would like to bring back neighborhood precinct polling places,

paper ballots, hand counting, and voter residential identification. They have been actively speaking at Board of Supervisor Meetings and plan to continue doing so. We would like to mobilize volunteers to speak out in favor of the VCA and provide factual information about the VCA, either by writing Letters to the Editor, writing to our supervisors, or making public comments at Board of Supervisor meetings.

If you are willing to speak out in favor of our county continuing to be a Voter's Choice Act County and to help counter the mis- and dis-information being presented please contact Kathy Morgan, Pat Essick, or Betsy Patterson for more information and tips.

Ventura County Election Education Series



Michelle Ascencion, VC Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters, is presenting a five-part Election Education Series at Ventura County Board of Supervisors meetings. Over the next few months, Ascencion will be covering election topics that are of interest to the Ventura County voting and candidate community. Attend or watch video online after the meeting. On November 7th she presented information about the upcoming March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election: **[Get more information](#)**

The Board of Supervisors' schedule for the Election Education Series is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| • October 17, 2023 | Candidates and Campaigns |
| • November 7, 2023 | Voter Registration and Primary Election Voting |
| • December 2023 | <i>(No presentation in December)</i> |
| • January 23, 2024 | Vote Centers and Vote By Mail |
| • February 6, 2024 | Election Technology, Security, and Observation |
| • February 27, 2024 | Canvass/Certification, Recounts, and Fraud Prevention |



Reminder: LWVVC will be using Vote411 as of January 1, 2024. Voter's Edge is no longer available.



Happy Hour – 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

1st Wednesday @ 5:30pm, IN PERSON at Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S California Street, Ventura, CA 93001.
Please RSVP to [Matty Park](#).

3rd Wednesday @ 5:30pm, hosted 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.



Membership

We are happy to welcome new members Alice Gibbs of Thousand Oaks and Teri A La Pata of 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.

To join or renew your membership: find our membership form and online payment option [here](#), or send a check to P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006. Your support is critical!

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 an LWVVC **Shirt** to our public functions. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL. Donation of \$20.00 or more requested.
For 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)



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.