

The Voter

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

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October 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The days are getting shorter. Evenings are cooler. We are starting to bundle up. And Voter Registration has been in full swing. Our team, led by Carmen Hurd and Betsy Patterson, has done a phenomenal job. They have been welcomed in four school districts, dozens of schools, and have introduced the importance of voting to nearly 2,000 students. That's how the League makes a difference! That's how *YOU* make a difference. Thank you to all who participated.

We have some important events coming up. If you haven't registered to attend, please do so soon.

- First is the Annual Fall General Membership Meeting on Saturday, October 7th from 1:00pm-4:00pm where our guest speaker will be Paul Copley of the CA Coalition for RCV, who will explain and demonstrate Ranked Choice Voting.
- Second is the return of our "Lunch and Learn with the League" series on Wednesday, October 11th at Noon featuring Vanessa Bechtel, President and CEO of the Ventura County Community Foundation. Both will be interesting and enlightening.

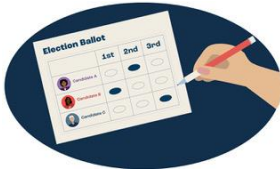
The third event on the horizon is the Holiday Party at Ottavio's restaurant, 1620 Ventura Blvd in Camarillo on Saturday, December 2nd. This is a fun event for all members. There is no business meeting, just holiday cheer for all. Please join us.

I'm looking forward to seeing you soon. Warm regards,

Pat Butler

President

SAVE THE DATE



Get Ready to **RUMBLE** at the Fall General Meeting!

The Fall General Meeting for the League will take place on **Saturday, October 7 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm** in the Cañada Larga Room at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura, CA 93003. Our guest speaker will be Paul Copley of the CA Coalition for RCV, who will explain and demonstrate Ranked Choice Voting. We will have fun games with prizes to test your knowledge of League members, voting, civics, state and local government, and more. Food Affairs by Stacy will provide savory and sweet hors d'oeuvres with iced tea and lemonade.

Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased online through this link: <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county/donate>. Or mail your check to LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006 **by October 2**. For more information, call (805) 303-1476 or email us at lwvvc.info@gmail.com.

Image from <https://fairvote.org/ranked-choice-voting/>

This year the **LWVVC Holiday Party** will once again take place at Ottavio's restaurant, 1620 Ventura Blvd in Camarillo 93010 on **Saturday, December 2**. Join the League in celebrating and socializing while enjoying great food! More information to come.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, **October 4th**, 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.](#)

Wednesday, **October 11th** at Noon, **Lunch & Learn with the League**. We will be meeting with Vanessa Bechtel, President and CEO of the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) via Zoom to learn more about our Community Foundation – what it is, and why it is an important asset for our county! In 2023, Bechtel was honored as Woman of the Year by the Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce. ** Register and get more information [HERE](#) **

Thursday, **October 12th**, 11:00 am - 1 pm. Board Meeting in person at Ventura College, 4475 Market St., Ventura, CA 93003

Wednesday, **October 18th**, 5:30 pm – **Happy Hour** on Zoom (3rd Wednesday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#). [Members and guests are welcome.](#)

Thursday, **October 19th**, 4:00 pm – Race and Social Justice Committee (3rd Thursday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#).

Thursday, **October 26th**, 3:00 pm – Climate Change Committee (4th Thursday of the month). Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

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 Committee

4TH Thursday of the month

3pm on Zoom

Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

The climate change committee is focusing on climate policy, mitigation, and adaptation. Among other things we are discussing incentives and rebates included in the IRA. If you are thinking of taking advantage of the incentives to reduce your carbon footprint, plan on dropping in on a meeting and find out the many resources to not only identify incentives and rebates, but also get tips on planning your projects.

To find out the latest about local events and climate news, plan on attending a climate committee meeting. The Climate Change Committee meets at 3pm on the 4th Thursdays of the month.



Observer Report

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

Contact: [Carol Lindberg](#)

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 if you'd like an agenda prior to the meetings. Choose your own time and topic to observe and bring a friend. Please submit a brief report of your observations to lwwvc.info@gmail.com.

The dates for 2023 meetings of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors are:

- October 10th and 17th
- November 7th and 28th
- December 5th and 19th



DEI/Race & Social Justice Committee

3rd Thursday of the month

4:00pm on Zoom

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#) or [Laura Hernandez](#)

We had our last meeting on September 21st. Though only a small group of us were available we have put together findings regarding other city and state's changes to traffic stops.

We are excited about our October 19th meeting and hope some of you will join us to hear our two guest speakers. Our committee has been looking at pretrial detention and traffic stops and our two speakers, Bob Bland and Damon Jenkins from our county's Public Safety Race Equity Advisory Group, will be addressing the topic. Please join us by contacting either [Kay Armstrong](#) or [Laura Hernandez](#).



Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee met in September to discuss three issues. The first issue was how much to award scholarship amounts to each of our three community colleges. The consensus was to award \$ 2,500.00 to each school. In September this was proposed to the LWVVC Board and was approved.

The second issue was to decide if we needed to change our scholarship criteria. The consensus was no. And the third was to decide which committee members would be the

liaison to which school. Carol Lindberg will liaison with Oxnard College, Kay Armstrong will liaison with Moorpark college, and Sharon Bushman will liaison with Ventura college. If anyone has questions for us about our meeting or would like to join us, please contact [Kay Armstrong](#).



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.



Betsy Patterson, Jaxton Wright, and Kathy Morgan trained nine students in voter education & registration at Oxnard High School in prep for student-led voter registration drive on Sept 21st in Government and US History classes.



Matty Park and Carmen Hurd shared methods for engaging HS independent study students at Condor HS with all coach liaisons from all Oxnard high schools on September 15th.

During High School Voter Education Weeks in September, our volunteers visited 9 schools, encountered over 1,000 students and registered 221 students. We shared information about the history of voting in the US, talked with them about why voting might be important to them, a bit about the process of voting, and helped them register to vote if they wanted. Feedback from the students was positive at all schools and they offered some good ideas for ways we could improve our presentation.

We are still visiting schools and scheduling more events in the next few weeks, so we are always looking for more volunteers. Please consider signing up, even if you have never done this before - we will always have a trained League member there with you and we need help passing out voter registration forms, blue or black pens, or answering questions from the students. In the coming weeks we will visit Newbury Park High School (10/3/23) and we will be scheduling Rio Mesa HS and Channel Islands HS.

Contact Betsy Patterson or Carmen Hurd at lwwvc.info@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the list of possible volunteers for high school voter registration. Join us - it is fun!



Voter Services Committee Report

Contacts: Kathy Morgan or Pat Essick.

Please put October 11th at Noon on your calendar to attend "Lunch & Learn with the League." We will be meeting with Vanessa Bechtel, President and CEO of the Ventura County Community Foundation via Zoom to learn more about our Community Foundation – what it is, and why it is an important asset for our county!

Learn about the work they are doing and how it benefits the community.

Hope to "see" you there! [REGISTER HERE](#)

If you have any ideas for future Lunch & Learn with the League topics or Speakers, please reach out to [Kathy Morgan](#) or [Pat Essick](#).



CA Legislative Action

Referendum Reform in California – SUCCESS!

Assembly Bill 421 was approved by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Newsom in September. The legislation is intended to reduce confusion about the outcome of voting "yes" or "no" on a referendum.

A referendum is a measure placed on the ballot with the intention of overturning a state law. The ballot title will no longer ask voters to choose between a "yes" or "no" vote but ask them whether California should "keep the law," or "overturn the law." The summary that follows will include the "purposes and points of the law proposed to be overturned."

Also, as of January 1, 2025, the title and summary will be followed by a listing of the names of supporters and opponents in the ballot arguments printed in the State Voter Information Guide.

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

The League of Women Voters of Ventura County has 126 members, with three new members – Carol Mack of Port Hueneme, Jill Teehan of Newbury Park, and Coleen McBride 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, see:

<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 a [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)



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



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



Find candidate funding and proposition information on:
<https://votersedge.org/ca>

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.
