

The Voter

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

February 2024

In This Issue:

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January was a busy month. There were tabling events for MLK Day and for the Women's March. Tables were provided for MLK Day, which was nice. And even though it was a misty day, volunteers set up our booth, including the pop-up, for the rally and Women's March. We had a perfect spot, so we had lots of traffic. Thanks to all the volunteers who participated. Plus, there were committee meetings for Race and Social Justice and for Climate Change; and of course, we had Happy Hour at Aloha Steakhouse and online.



Voter registration training got underway for the Spring. There is still time to register for training, so be sure to read the Voter Registration section of the *Voter*. LOTS of volunteers will be needed to cover the number of classrooms where we register high school students. So, sign up now for training.

Warm regards,

Pat Butler

President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Wednesday, **February 7th, 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, **February 8th, 4:00 pm – LWVVC Board meeting** on Zoom

Thursday, **February 15th, 4:00 pm – Race and Social Justice Committee** on Zoom (3rd Thursday of the month) hosted by Kay Armstrong.

Wednesday, **February 21st, 5:30 pm – Happy Hour** on Zoom (3rd Wednesday of the month) hosted by Kay Armstrong. Members and guests are welcome.

Thursday, **February 22nd, 3:00 pm – Climate Change Committee** on Zoom (4th Thursday of the month). Contact: Wayne Morgan

Candidate Forums

Monday, **February 5th, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**: Candidate Forum for Supervisor District #3 - Virtual online via Zoom webinar to focus on Santa Paula/Fillmore issues. Pre-registration required (See link below to register)

Friday, **February 9th, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**: Candidate Forum for Judge of the Superior Court Office #4 - Virtual online via Zoom webinar. Pre-registration required (See link below to register)

Tuesday, **February 13th, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**: Candidate Forum for VC Supervisor #3, In Person at Oxnard Union High School District Board Room, 1800 Solar Drive, Oxnard - **No** pre-registration required

To register for online forums please go to:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county/candidate-forums-primary-2024>

You may submit questions to the candidates when you register for the forum.

More information about candidate forums is provided in the Voter Services section of the newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS



21st Annual Ventura County Leadership Academy Awards Luncheon

April 25, 2024

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Serra Center, 5205 Upland Road, Camarillo, CA 93012

The Ventura County Leadership Academy Journey to Leadership Awards luncheon is the premier Ventura County event, recognizing leaders in the business, education, non-profit, and public sectors who have made an exceptional impact in our community. Our own David Maron is being recognized as Non-Profit Leader of the Year for VC Civic Alliance. Congratulations David!

Those wishing to attend, please let [Pat Butler](#) know. Tickets are \$75.00.

Register here: <https://vcleadership.org/event/jtl2024/>



Planned Parenthood Power of Love Event

Ventura County

Sunday, March 10, 2024

11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Spanish Hills Club in Camarillo

For those of you who wish to support Planned Parenthood's luncheon on March 10th, please let us know and we will try to arrange a table for our League members. The event will feature Alexis McGill Johnson, President & CEO Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and Planned Parenthood Action Fund. Tickets are \$200.

Register here: [Tickets and Sponsorships – Power of Love \(ppcentralcoast.org\)](https://ppcentralcoast.org/tickets-and-sponsorships)

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; the 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

Budget Committee

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

There is a need for one or two general members to step up and serve on the League's Budget Committee. The 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), Chairperson of the Budget Committee.



Observer Report

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

Contact: [Carol Lindberg](#)

Board of Supervisors Observer Report – Submitted by Karen Savitt

January 9th meeting

Kelly Long was appointed Chair of the Board of Supervisors for 2024.

Issue: Ventura Ranch Housing Project

Residents objected to the building of low income housing in their area. Housing has been earmarked for farmworkers. Residents believe the planned buildings will block their view. They also stated they believed this would increase the fire hazard.

Issue: Havana Syndrome

Anonymous health symptoms targeting military and civilian population by tech mechanisms. Suggestion to establish a Havana System Center in Ventura.

Issue: 2020 repeal of Death Tax, Proposition 19

Have been instructions to stop the property from going through reassessment.

Issue: Ventura County requested disaster relief for the impact of storm flooding.

January 23rd meeting

Issue: Disaster relief

Speaker present information on where disaster relief could be obtained. South Oxnard Branch Library. Also SBA.gov/disaster loan assistance portal:

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

Issue: item # 46

Calleguas Municipal Water District price increase of 6%. All other districts need to increase fees so as not to deplete cash reserves. 7.5% increase for commodity and fixed rates. Lake Sherwood Community Service District will be increasing the fee by 6% for 2024. Rates effective February 1.

Presentation

Item #53 – Michelle Ascencion, Election Education Series

The VC Recorder/Registrar of Voters Informed attendees and those on Zoom about the procedures for administering the March Primary and upcoming elections. She imparted information on the safety of the voting process. Information is available on video recordings of the BOS meeting and is posted on the Ventura County Recorder/Registrar of Voters website.

Michelle has provided three presentations in the series and will be presenting two more at the Board of Supervisor meetings in February. Her office is open for all questions.

Become an Observer

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 2024 meetings of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors are: February 6th and 27th.



Scholarship Committee

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#)

Applications for our scholarships are open at our three community colleges. Each scholarship has been funded thanks to the generosity of our donors. Many thanks for your contributions!

If you have questions or would like to join our committee, please contact Kay Armstrong. 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](#)

Our committee met on 1/18/24.

Our focus has been to explore the issue of pretextual stops.

To further study the issue we will be reaching out to other LWV county leagues who are or have also been studying this issue and doing our own background searches. If anyone would be interested in joining us, please contact either Kay Armstrong or Laura Hernandez. We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month from 4:00 -5:00 pm.



Voter Services Committee Report

Contacts:

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

With the March 5th Primary quickly approaching we have several upcoming events. On Monday February 5th from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm we will be co-hosting, along with the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce, a Candidate Forum for candidates running for Ventura County Supervisor District 3. This online forum will focus on Santa Paula and Fillmore issues and will be offered online via Zoom webinar.

An in-person forum for the same race will be held on Tuesday, February 13th from 7pm -8:30 pm at the Oxnard Union High School District Board Room located at 1800 Solar Drive, Oxnard. There is also a county-wide judicial race for Judge of the Superior Court Office #4, with four candidates running. This forum will be held on Friday, February 9th from 7:00 pm- 8:30 pm and will also be held online via Zoom webinar.

To register for online forums please go to:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county/candidate-forums-primary-2024>

You may submit questions to the candidates when you register for the forum.

When you register you will receive your confirmation email with a unique link to use the night of the forum to join the webinar. This link is good for one device only. Spanish translation will be available on Zoom webinars. For the in-person forum (Tuesday, February 13th in Oxnard), we will be looking for volunteers to help.

We will need at least two greeters to welcome people and give them pencils and cards for their questions, two people to organize questions, and a person or two to

run the membership and brochure table. Please contact [Kathy Morgan](#) or [Pat Essick](#) if you are interested.

On Wednesday, February 7th at Noon we will have a Lunch & Learn with the League interview featuring our Ventura County Clerk-Recorder, Registrar of Voters, Michelle Ascencion, to discuss the upcoming Primary and the election process in Ventura County, a Voter's Choice Act county. Please register for this informative session at this link: <https://bit.ly/3TfVQGt>



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

Volunteer training for voter registration has been active in January. New volunteers: 17, Refreshed volunteers: 9, High school students from Oxnard: 7 (under the mentorship of Danny Carrillo, Social Justice Fund). New volunteers include 6 from Chalice Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Newbury Park who may be able to help with Conejo Valley high schools.

The last volunteer training will take place on **February 9th, 1:30 - 3:30 pm** in the Topping Room at the E.P. Foster Library in Ventura. Sign up [here](#): or contact [Betsy Patterson](#).

Thousand Oaks High School Government teacher Ms. Hurst has invited us to her classes on February 13th and 14th. If you would like to help in the classroom, sign up [here](#): or contact [Betsy Patterson](#). Mary Bergen will be leading a class at Legacy High School in Ojai on March 1st. Contact us if you would like to help in Ojai (lwwvc.info@gmail.com).

There are many reasons to register to vote and participate in elections. Some of the responses we received to "Why Do You Vote?," a survey conducted with LWWVC members, are listed below:

"I strive to be a good citizen, which includes taking responsibility for selecting competent individuals who will manage the complicated workings of our government. Failure to participate can lead to catastrophic results..." (Jerry Schrum)

"Voting is your power. If you don't vote, you give your rights and your power away... and you don't get to complain." (Laura Ziff)

"Voting is important to me because, as many raindrops together become sizable puddles and floods, many votes together become approved or rejected candidates, political parties, and laws. Puddles and floods cannot happen without individual

raindrops, and effective policy, through specific politicians, political parties, and laws, cannot come to be without individual votes..." (Spencer Riche).

"Taylor Swift says so." (Lou Vigorita)

For a complete list of responses, see: [Google Doc: Why I Vote](#)

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](#)**

Upcoming meetings in February:

- **February 6, 2024** Election Technology, Security, and Observation
 - **February 27, 2024** Canvass/Certification, Recounts, and Fraud Prevention
-



Membership

We have 138 members.

Please welcome Lacy Moes of Ventura, Jennifer Moeller of Thousand Oaks, and Nanette Meister and Ann Millican of Oxnard.

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!



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.

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.lwv.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 \(lwv.org\)](#)

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.

To purchase blue or black T-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](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.