



# The Voter

January 2025

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

## League Transformation —

### What it means for Our League and Our Members

**A**t the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) 2016 Convention, a consensus was reached to consolidate the membership and dues process for all Leagues in the U.S. This article describes how that change will affect us.

The new system for membership and dues is called ChapterSpot and will launch February 1, 2025. **Members will now join or renew their membership through one national online system**, which can be accessed on our local League web site after launch.

In February 2025, each member will *receive an email* to log in to the ChapterSpot website but **you will not be asked to renew again until a year after your most recent renewal**. Our LWV of San Joaquin County (LWVSJC) members will not need to renew their membership until **July 2026**.

Our LWVSJC Transformation Team has already loaded information about our members, including name and email address, into ChapterSpot. What we individually need to do in February is to visit the ChapterSpot website and ensure that our information is accurate. Your login name at ChapterSpot will be your email

address.

Because your email is your username, you won't be able to have the same one as someone else. If you currently share an email with another League member, you might consider setting up a second email address that can forward messages to the one you primarily use. If you are interested in pursuing this option, send a message to [lwvsjc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsjc@gmail.com) and a member of our Transformation Team can assist with this option.

Our Transformation Team will test this process and send you emails as we learn more information.

The League adopted this Structure Transformation Plan as a way to strengthen the League's ability to fulfill our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy and to open Leagues to a more diverse, inclusive membership. This has led to the changes outlined here. In the next several months, we will let you know about changes in recommended dues level (it's less), payment options (credit card, directly from a checking account, or by check) and other membership-related changes.

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**JOIN US**  
for a  
Discussion of  
League Transformation  
Issues

February 8, 2025  
10:00 a.m.  
Chavez Library  
605 N. El Dorado  
Stockton

League of Women Voters of  
San Joaquin County  
P.O. Box 4548  
Stockton, CA 95204

Email: [LWVSJC@gmail.com](mailto:LWVSJC@gmail.com)  
<http://www.sjc.ca.lwvnet.org>

## LWVSJC CALENDAR 2024-2025

### Membership Meetings

Transforming the League	February 8
Susan B. Anthony Dinner	February 15
Stockton Women's Collaborative/ Women's History Lunch	February 22
Homelessness Resources Fair	March 15
Warehousing Panel	April 12
Bylaws revision	May 17
Annual Meeting	June 21

### Board Meetings

January 21	(instead of 1/20 — MLK Day)
February 18	(instead of 2/17 — Presidents' Day)
March 17	
April 21	
May 19	Board/ Ed Fund Board Meeting
June 16	

Board meetings are the 3rd Monday of the month, except as noted above. They are held at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Members are invited to attend Board meetings. If you wish to attend Board meetings, please contact Jane Wagner-Tyack at [lwvsjc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsjc@gmail.com) for the Zoom link to the meetings.



**February 11 2024**

**Speaker**

**Joelle Gomez, CEO**

**Children's Home of Stockton**

**Papapavlo's**  
Lincoln Center  
11:30-1:00

### **Future Lunch and Learns:**

- ⇒ **March 19:** Krista Fiser, CEO PREVAIL, formerly Women's Center—Youth & Family Services
- ⇒ **April 1:** TBA
- ⇒ **May 13:** TBA

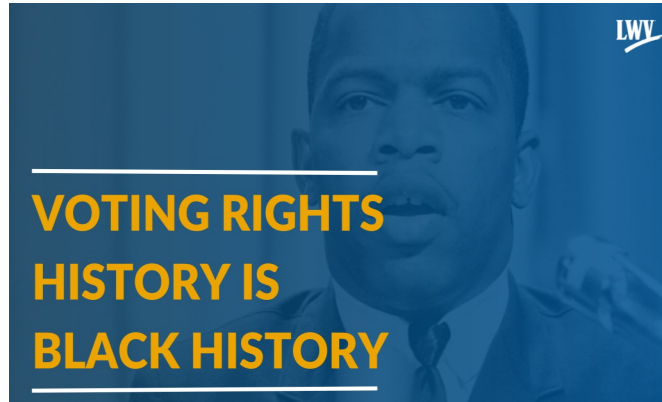


**URGENT! URGENT! URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!**

**What lies ahead** for our rights, our voices, and our democracy?

It's clear the stakes are high — especially for issues that affect women and our allies disproportionately, around important issues like health care access, reproductive rights, economic security and fair representation. We are not disillusioned about the fight ahead. And we recognize that being hopeful can feel damn tough right now. In moments like this I lean on the poignant words of Mariame Kaba who said, *"hope is a discipline toward freedom."* Join us as we practice hope.

— Celina Stewart, Esq./ CEO  
League of Women Voters of the United States



Celebrating voting rights history and Black history go hand in hand. As we commemorate the great leaders and moments — both the known and the unsung — we must remember that the struggle to protect voting rights continues. We must continue to fight to ensure that we are not adding another chapter of discrimination and Jim Crow-era politics.

**T**he right to vote for Americans has been hard-fought (and won) by different communities since the founding of our nation. In 1776, white male property owners were given the right to vote. Following the Civil War, the 15th Amendment was adopted in 1870 to break down the racial divide in voting, but states continued to set restrictions and deny the right to vote to Black Americans. Finally, in 1920, white women were given the right to vote. But it wasn't until the 1960s and the passage of the *Voting Rights Act* (VRA) that Black men and women had a clear path to the voting booth.

On a Sunday in March of 1965, peaceful protestors were met on the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma with violent attacks by Alabama State Police. This created a tipping point around the need for federal protections in the absence of action by state and local officials to protect their citizens. Congress was forced to enact federal voting rights protections, creating the *Voting Rights Act of 1965* (VRA), which banned racial discrimination in the voting process.

No piece of legislation has had such a large impact on the voting lives of Black Americans. It wasn't until the adoption of the *Voting Rights Act* that it was possible to stop discriminatory voting laws from going into effect immediately and causing damage to the ability of Black voters to participate. Later, as the bill was reauthorized by Congress, the legislation also helped to end discriminatory voting tactics used against other communities of color.

### **Racism and Voter Discrimination Today**

Discrimination should not exist regarding the freedom to vote, yet our fight is far from over. Year after year, anti-voter legislation passes in legislatures around the country.

The 2020 election had a historic turnout, helped by the expanded ways people were able to vote during the pandemic. But since the Supreme Court gutted the VRA's protections in *Shelby County v. Holder*, state legislatures across the country have done everything in their power to create barriers to voting. With voter discrimination still occurring, the need for the *Voting Rights Act* still exists.

Congress had before it a bipartisan piece of legislation, the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*, which would fully restore and modernize the VRA and ensure that discriminatory voting policies are stopped in their tracks. Attempts to pass this bill have failed to move it forward past the 60-vote Senate filibuster.

Our fight is not over. We will not give up. Just like John Lewis, the League, our partners, and the civil rights community, we will not give up on the promise of voting rights. We must restore the *Voting Rights Act*. We must end discrimination in voting in every state, county, parish, or municipality across the country. We must protect the freedom to vote.

— LWVUS Website

# Black Women Who Define(d) The Voting Rights Movement

## Historical Icons

The voting rights advocates of today stand on the shoulders of those who came before them.



Born into slavery, **Ida B. Wells** was one of the early leaders of the civil rights movement. As a journalist, she led an anti-lynching crusade and fought

for women's rights. She also fought tirelessly for the right to vote, all while facing discrimination within the suffragist movement. In 1913, Wells co-founded the Alpha Suffrage Club, the first Black women's suffrage group in the state of Illinois. To this day, Wells is honored as an advocate for women's equality and racial equality.

We can't talk about voting rights without mentioning **Fannie Lou Hamer**. Born in 1917, Hamer became a prominent voice in the civil rights and voting rights movements. As a Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) organizer, Hamer led voter registration movements across the country and co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in 1964. In that year, Hamer helped organize Freedom Summer, a mobilizing effort that brought college students together to help with Black voter registration in the South.

These are just two of the countless Black women who've influenced voting rights throughout our history.

## Present-Day Leaders

Fast forward to the present-day:

Black women have been a leading force in the voting rights movement. **LaTosha Brown**, a co-founder of Black Voters Matter, has been successful in mobilizing the people's power on voting rights issues and other social justice issues that impact the Black community. Brown led movements that have increased Black voter turnout in Alabama and ultimately played a significant role in the 2017 Alabama Senate race.

Founder of National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, **Melanie Campbell** remains active in the civil rights and voting rights movements. Awarded the National Urban League's "Women of Power Award," Campbell has been successful in civic engagement and issue-based organizing teams for underserved communities.

At the League, our work is guided by the experience and creativity of women like our Chief Strategy Officer **Ayo Atterberry**, Chief Counsel **Celina Stewart**, and Board President **Dr. Deborah Ann Turner** who died suddenly last January. Their impact on the League cannot be understated; we are who we are today because of them.

## National Archivist Declines to Publish the ERA

In a blow to those advocating for the publishing of the Equal Rights Amendment, the Archivist of the United States, Dr. Colleen Shogan, and her Deputy William J. Bosanko declined to publish—and thereby recognize—the Equal Rights Amendment.

They issued a joint statement on 12/17/24 stating their reasons: “As Archivist and Deputy Archivist of the United States, it is our responsibility to uphold the integrity of the constitutional amendment process and ensure that changes to the Constitution are carried out in accordance with the law. At this time, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) cannot be certified as part of the Constitution due to established legal, judicial, and procedural decisions.

“In 2020 and again in 2022, the Office of Legal Counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice affirmed that the ratification deadline established by Congress for the ERA is valid and enforceable. The OLC concluded that extending or removing the deadline requires new action by Congress or the courts. ... As the leaders of the National Archives, we will abide by these legal precedents and support the constitutional framework in which we operate.”

The reaction of ERA supporters was critical and swift:

*continued on Page 5*

*ERA—continued from Page 4*

“The National Archivist has a legal and moral obligation to follow the Constitution and publish amendments as directed by the states. In hiding behind bad-faith and non-binding time limits imposed on the ERA by a long-expired Congress, the archivist does what every American institution has done to women throughout our history: serves as an instrument of our oppression. We are incredibly disappointed in this decision,” said Alyssa Milano, Chair - ERA Coalition Board of Directors.

The ERA Coalition expressed its strong disappointment in an email dated the same day as the Archivist’s decision was released: “Equal Rights Amendment was passed by Congress in 1972, and by 2020, it met the constitutional requirement of ratification by 38 states. It is ready for publication as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Yet opponents of equality continue to cling to outdated technicalities, including a time limit placed in the preamble. History proves them wrong: the 27th Amendment, governing congressional pay, was ratified after more than 200 years.

“The battle for equality is far from over. ... The ERA has met all constitutional requirements, ... we will persist until the ERA is recognized.”

The League of Women Voters supported efforts to recognize the ERA with calls to League members to urge President Biden to direct the publishing of the 28th amendment. “We will not stop fighting until every person’s equal rights are guaranteed.”

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF CALIFORNIA



The League of Women Voters of California was sorry to lose Executive Director Stephanie Doute at the end of last year but we are fortunate to have former LWVC President Helen Hutchison step in a interim Executive Director.

Hutchison shared her thoughts as she takes the helm: “As I step into the role of Interim Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California, I am aware of how the landscape has shifted. As a lifelong League member, former Board Member, and someone who’s held this position before, this work is second nature to me. But the world we face today is profoundly different, and the challenges—misogyny and threats to democracy—are on a scale we haven’t seen in decades. **But we have seen this before, and no one is in a better place to stand against it than the League.** Democracy is rooted in our lived experiences and stories.

When the Supreme Court issued the Dobbs decision, I [carried the sign above]. ... As your Interim Executive Director, I vow to carry that same determination—we’ve taken on these challenges before, and we will rise to them again.

## Bea Lingenfelter to be recognized as Woman of Achievement



At the Susan B. Anthony dinner on February 15th, the San Joaquin Commission on the Status of Women will recognize Bea Lingenfelter as a

Susan B. Anthony Woman of Achievement. LWVSCJ nominated Bea in the category of community service.

Bea’s work with the League has been long, varied, and important. She has served on the League Board in several positions, focusing her work on voter service and voter education. She secured a grant to register hundreds of new voters in county high schools. She spearheaded our Pros and Cons presentations for many years and participated in numerous candidate forums. She serves as County Coordinator for the national League’s online voter guide VOTE411, which is designed to improve voters’ knowledge about candidates’ background, life experiences, and positions on issues.

Bea is also active in the San Joaquin General Hospital Auxiliary as a Baby Cuddler in the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit and has served on the Auxiliary’s Board for several years. She has worked through her church with Family Promise of San Joaquin, a comprehensive assistance program for local families facing the lack of stable housing.

Bea is indeed a woman of achievement. **Congratulations, Bea.**

## Calling all League Members

Thank you to the LWVSJC Board of 2024-2025 for the dynamic leadership you have provided this year. But now the LWVSJC Nominating Committee is looking to our next League year.

Nominating Committee members will be reaching out to members in the next few months asking you to take an active role in leading our League. The Board is composed of the president, first and second vice presidents, secretary, and treasurer, as well as six directors. Our bylaws, which are on our website, lists duties of each office:

(<http://www.sjc.ca.lwvnet.org>)

This year, we will elect a president (one year term), 1st vice president (1 year, completing a 2-year term), and two-year terms for 2nd vice president, treasurer, and three directors. Terms run from July 1-June 30.

At the Annual Meeting, we also elect three members of next year's Nominating Committee; members serve for one year. We also nominate three members to serve on the 2025-2026 Helen Pearson Award committee, which recognizes one of our members for outstanding contribu-

tions to our League.

Sometimes, it's hard to take that first step. It may all seem overwhelming, but the Board works collaboratively and it's a good way to get involved in the valuable services the League offers the community. If you'd like to get a glimpse of the Board at work before making a commitment, think about attending a monthly Board meeting or talk with a boardmember. Contact [lwvsjc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsjc@gmail.com) to request the Zoom link if you'd like to attend a meeting.

— Margo Praus, Nominating Committee Chair

### LWVSJC Board of Directors 2024-2025

#### Officers

Mary Kenefick, President  
Suzy Daveluy, Vice President  
Colleen Foster, Secretary  
Yvette Remlinger, Treasurer

***Voter Editor:*** Colleen Foster

#### Directors

Mary Ann Cox-Martin  
Christeen Ferree  
Ruby Hennessey  
Samantha Johnson  
Daphne Shaw  
Sarah Tygert

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.