

Spring 2025

Coming Events:

June 21: Annual Members Meeting 11:00 AM

July 22: Board of Supervisors Meeting



Board Meetings:

There are no Board Meetings Scheduled for July or August. Have a great summer!

September 10: 4:00pm

October 8: 4:00pm

All Board meetings are via Zoom. Please send an email to lwvyolo@gmail.com if you would like to attend an upcoming Board meeting. We encourage members to attend Board meetings.

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OUR LEAGUE NEWS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lorna Carriveau and Michelle Famula

We think you could say this has been a very busy year for our League. We began the fiscal year planning for forums – candidates and Pros and Cons – leading up to the fall 2024 elections, followed by other special events, including the Democracy Works award and a first-ever Meet the Candidates event at Woodland Community College.

In January, the Woodland and Davis Area Leagues joined together to form the League of Women Voters of Yolo County and brought in our new Board of Directors. Our County League hit the ground running as we rapidly implemented the changes required to meet the national League's new membership and dues processes.

Board members ensured our Membership Directors, Treasurer and Communications Directors had the proper tools to transition our Bylaws procedures and communicate the required changes.

In February, we hosted a wonderfully successful State of the Community event, with broad attendance from around the County, offering a highly informative overview of the state of our County.

In March, our Study Committee, joined by members of the Healthcare Committee, concluded its final information gathering from key county informants and directed its attention to developing and preparing a LWVYC County Mental Health Position. This position, arising from three years of studying how mental health is resourced and accessed in Yolo County, has achieved Board approval to come to the full membership for consensus at the annual meeting later this month.

This spring, we increased outreach to communities throughout Yolo County. We also wrote opinion editorials, attended rallies in support of National and State League positions protecting democracy and protesting unconstitutional actions threatening civil liberties, voting rights

and legislative authority. Responding to LWV “Action Alerts,” we wrote to Senate and Congress members in response to actual and potential legislation affecting our democratic processes. Most recently we hosted a “conversation” with Rep. Mike Thompson who answered League and attendee questions about current political challenges impacting our county.

When discussions began over two years ago about the possibility of creating a countywide League, the many tasks and obstacles involved occasionally seemed overwhelming. Yet members stood up every step of the way to establish a League that will have positive impacts throughout our county for years to come. Looking forward, our Board and Finance Committee have budget and program proposals for next year that will enable us to build on this strong foundation because of you, our members, and our new countywide partners. Thank you for a great year and a promising future!

We look forward to seeing League members at the Annual Meeting Potluck Brunch and Social.

REMINDER: Annual Membership Meeting this Week

We are following up with all of our members to ensure there is a quorum at the upcoming Membership Annual Meeting on June 21, 2025.

It is critical to have at least 36 members present for a voting quorum.

To ensure we will have a quorum, please click on this link - **Eventbrite** - or send an email to **lwvyolo@gmail.com**.

The Annual Meeting is our last member meeting of the 2024-25 year and will provide a wrap up of our chapter events and activities for the year ending June 30, 2025.

This member meeting is critical to conduct Yolo County League Chapter business, and we hope you are all planning to attend to approve our Study position, elect new Board members, and adopt the 2025-26 Budget and Program.

JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE

SAT, JUN 21

11:00AM - 1:30PM

IN PERSON MEETING

DAVIS VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
203 EAST 14TH STREET
DAVIS, CA 95616



Congratulations on the Strength in Change Award!

We are proud to announce that the LWV Yolo County has won the League of Women Voters California's Strength in Change Award for 2025. The award was given in recognition for "the successful merger of two local Leagues to form one County-wide League while retaining current resources and expanding the jurisdiction into previously underrepresented areas of the county".

Co-President Michelle Famula made the submission for the award, writing that, "Our goal of creating a single countywide league was achieved with a vote of each League approving merger in Spring 2024

with a new name and a unified interim board elected by Special member meeting in January 2025. The new Yolo County league has now been actively merging public communications and holding public events since January 2025. Our new league has been recognized by local media and our County Board of Supervisors, County Elections Office and County Board of Education.”

She went on to submit: “While working toward joining to become the League of Women Voters of Yolo County, both leagues continued their active League work and collaborated on several opportunities to inform citizens about candidates, ballot measures and the election process during the spring and fall elections.

Thanks to Michelle, and all our new and sustaining members for all your support for the merger and the continued work we do with the community!



Our Picnic Day Parade

On April 12, LWVYC members represented our new countywide League in the 111th Annual UCD Picnic Day Parade. This was our fourth League appearance and our first time walking as the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF YOLO COUNTY. Wearing our League T-shirts and carrying our signs in support of voter education and participation, we met families, college students and community members of all ages, reminding them about the importance of voting and civic engagement. It was perfect weather!

A big thanks to all who attended, including a few first-time walkers and new members. We are grateful to LWVYC Vice President, Stephanie

DeGraff-Hunt who coordinated our walkers and made sure all parade rules were followed. Looking forward to next year.

We also showed up for the Davis Community Cesar Chavez Celebration in Central Park. We were treated to Youth Mariachi and Ballet Folklorico performed by students from Davis and Woodland. The family-oriented event enabled us to share our voter registration and ballot education materials and provide visitors to our table with stickers and magnet voting reminders. We're looking forward to many more opportunities to show up for the community!



LWVYC Continues to Support League Positions

In this time of massive protest and constant political action, The LWVYC has been paying attention to both local, state, and national politics and positions being taken by the League at all levels. In a recent LWVYC example, our League learned of a California bill, AB 25, which was being proposed in the State Assembly whose sole purpose, according to the State League, is to restrict voting access in California. We sent a letter to Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry noting our opposition should this bill advance and enclosed the multi-page letter from the LWVYC detailing why the proposed bill was inappropriate and would negatively impact voting without solving any actual problems. The bill was subsequently tabled.

We also recently adapted an Op-Ed draft shared through California's League network to develop our own response to federal executive branch actions negatively impacting our county. Our Op-Ed went to the Davis Enterprise, Davis Vanguard, Woodland Daily Democrat, Winters Express, and West Sacramento News/Ledgers. It has been published in the Davis Vanguard, <https://davisvanguard.org/2025/04/democracy-threats-executive-orders/> and the Daily Democrat, <https://www.dailydemocrat.com/2025/05/02/opinion-the->

[league-works-for-democracy-and-you/](#) and other media outlets.

We will continue to look for ways we can support the League's calls to action, and stated policy positions to support both our county and California.

Our League at Local Demonstrations

As we support our local and State Leagues, we've been attending many demonstrations organized to protest policies we find harmful to our country. Our League members demonstrated at two recent protests, "Hands Off!" and "May Day." Some members may feel anxious about protesting given the League of Women Voters nonpartisan stance. However, attending demonstrations is not a partisan act as long as signs don't disparage one party in particular.



[Here's a link](#) to a recent article which extensively quoted one of our members, Faye Smith-Gee.

And [here's a link](#) written by the League of Women Voters on how to safely protest and what to know before you go.



GOING COUNTYWIDE

A primary focus of our new League is introducing ourselves and establishing stronger ties throughout Yolo County. This spring we have had opportunities to introduce our League to RISE Inc. in Capay Valley and its supporting organizations and to the Winters City Council and Winters Rotary. An introduction to the Board of Supervisors will take place on July 22, and introductions to the City Councils of Davis, West Sacramento and Woodland are in the works.

Voters Services Director Judy Higgerson has been very busy throughout our county on the League's behalf. Most recently, she attended the Yolo County Library Foundation dinner and sent thank-you's and congratulations to Sandra Clark, Executive Director of the Yolo County Library Foundation; Stacie Frerichs, President of NAMI Yolo; Monica Morales, newly appointed Director of the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency; Nicole Ann Cheuk, newly appointed "Farm to Fork" board president; and Assemblywoman Cecelia Aguilar-Curry, speaker at a Democracy Winters program.

New members are also joining our League from Knights Landing, West Sacramento and Winters. We welcome all of these opportunities to let everyone know of potential benefits to them and their communities in the form of:

- Hosting candidate and Pro's and Con's forums related to local, county and state elections;
- Conducting comprehensive studies into and taking positions on topics that impact Yolo County residents for educational and advocacy purposes;
- Supporting voter registration and education for youth and adults; and
- Hosting expert presentations on a wide range of topics impacting Yolo County residents and honoring local individuals or organizations that support democracy in our county.

Please send an email to lwvyolo@gmail.com if you know of a potential member or an organization to whom we might introduce our League.



Our Interview with Mike Thompson

The LWVYC recently held an interview event with Mike Thompson, attended by over 70 people. The League provided questions and took moderated questions from the audience as well. Thompson discussed what the current administration is likely to hold for the county soon. Topics included health care, agriculture, and the looming threat of a new budget.

Of specific cuts to health care, Thompson said rural health care clinics will feel the harshest effects with many closing or cutting services. The clinics affect 13.7 million people nationwide, who will lose health care coverage, he said.

“Rural health care areas will be the first to go and people will have to go farther and pay more for care,” he said.

Agriculture programs and research at UC Davis — which have previously been cut by the Department of Government Efficiency — will see additional reductions, as will renewable energy businesses, which he said, have provided 400,000 new jobs and \$4 billion worth of investments.

Cuts to the USDA programs that feed millions of the nation’s poor and school students have been suspended or eliminated, meaning farmers, including those in Yolo County, who sell their produce to the government are losing money.

The League will continue to work to host these town halls so voters and community members will know what’s going on in the government, and the positions their elected officials hold.

For a longer article on the interview, a link is [here](#).

STATE/NATIONAL LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

STATE NEWS

LWVC Asks for Support for SB 42:

League of Women Voters has joined the California Clean Money Campaign, California Common Cause to support SB 42. It was written out of concern for the amount of big donor money in campaign finance, as well as the amount of money a politician has to spend on campaigning. LWVC believes It will lift California's outdated ban on public financing of campaigns – but only if the Legislature passes it *and* voters approve it in 2026.

A similar bill was passed in 2016, but the courts decided that it must be approved by the voting public. Five California charter cities currently empower voters by providing public financing matching funds or democracy vouchers to help voters support qualified candidates, but state law currently bans counties, districts, general law cities, and the State from offering public funds for campaigns.

The League has fought for decades to curb big money's grip on politics and restore equity, transparency, and accountability.

LWVC has long taken the position that campaign finance should limit the amount of money big donors can give, and prioritize the voices of ordinary citizens and voters. The League is urging people to contact their Senators to support SB42. You can read more about SB 42 [here](#).

NATIONAL NEWS

LWVUS has issued a statement in support of peaceful protests:

“At the League of Women Voters, our goal is to ensure that every person can make their voices heard — in the streets and at the polls. We firmly believe that, like voting, peaceful protest is a constitutional right deeply rooted in American democracy. Both voting and protest are powerful tools for driving change.

“For over 100 years, the League has supported the First Amendment right of free speech. Even before the League was formally organized, brave women suffragists staged protests demanding something radical

at that time — the right to vote. We strive to model their dedication and advocacy through protests that preserve the dignity and respect of all.

“Protests are an effective tool for amplifying the voices of the people and inspiring action. When we use the act of protest together with the power of our vote, we can create meaningful and lasting change.”

Members who wish to independently investigate advocacy opportunities may go to <https://www.lwv.org/take-action>, to access contact forms for elected federal representatives. Currently, at this site, members can support the League’s opposition position by submitting forms to our Senators opposing the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act.

LWVUS Members looking for non-partisan challenges to anti-democratic federal actions, can also find the League’s toolkit: Unite and Rise 8.5 Power Playbook at [https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/Power Playbook 1 Final 5.01.25 %281%29.pdf](https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/Power%20Playbook%201%20Final%205.01.25%20%281%29.pdf)

STAY IN TOUCH

YOLO COUNTY LEAGUE BOARD

OFFICERS

- Co-President: Lorna Carriveau, Michelle Famula
- Vice President: Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt
- Treasurer: Carla Cox
- Secretary: Janice Ratner

DIRECTORS

- Voter Services: Judy Higgenson
- Co-Communications: Jessica Smith, Komal Hak
- Co-Membership: Faye Smith-Gee, Kathleen Stack
- Events: Judy Wohlfrom
- Advocacy/Positions: Janet Ruggiero

COMMITTEES

- Finance: Judy Simas, Chair
- Nomination: Leslie Hunter, Chair



P.O. Box 2463
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