

WINTER 2025

Coming Events:

- March 18:** Members Meeting/Program Planning Focus (via Zoom)
- March 22:** Local League Coaching Workshop (Board Members Only)
- March 31:** Cesar Chavez Day
- April 10:** Members Meeting/Mental Health Position (in-person)
- April 12:** Picnic Day
- May 22:** Senior Resource Fair, Woodland Community and Senior Center
- June:** Annual Members Meeting (date TBD)

Board Meetings:

- March 12:** 4:00pm
- April 9:** 4:00pm
- May 14:** 4:00pm
- June 11:** 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



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

By Michelle Famula and Lorna Carriveau

Welcome to the first quarterly VOTER newsletter of our new Yolo County League. This has been an eventful Winter. We have been merging our activities and communications to expand our reach across the county. For those of you new to the League or the quarterly VOTER, here's a brief recap of some of our League's activities since December.

New Membership Process: Our national League organization required us to initiate our 2025 online Membership "ChapterSpot" process in January. We have adopted the LWWUS standard in our practices and updated bylaws and sent notices to all members about their future renewals through the online portal. We are already receiving new LWVYC memberships online in this first month. Now that ChapterSpot has been fully implemented, our Membership Committee is developing a "new member welcome" program to engage and orient members new to our chapter.

New Projects: We are now hard at work on two major projects: unifying and upgrading our LWVYC Website and bringing our County Mental Health Study to consensus. Keep your eye on our website – LWVYolo.org – to learn more as our new site pages come online, and discover new opportunities for service and engagement.

Also, join us at our Virtual Member Meeting on *March 18, 6:30-8:00pm*, when we will hear from our County Mental Health Study committee how we can work toward a position of advocacy for the clients, families and care providers in our community.

Board Meetings: On the heels of the January membership meeting, the newly elected interim board has already met three times and established a regular leadership workflow process. We've set our monthly Board Zoom meeting schedule for the *2nd Wednesday of each month, 4:00-5:30pm*, and created a

regular communication flow for board members and committee chairs.

President's Messages: In February, we emailed our first Presidents' Message newsletter to all LWVYC members. We continue to refine our outreach messaging and hope that the decision to have a monthly email message and a quarterly VOTER newsletter issue will meet the needs of our members and community partners.

State of the Community Luncheon: We have also honored tradition and seized upon the opportunity for an in-person community gathering. Once again, our events team delighted us all with a highly successful State of the Community Luncheon. Community support and the much-appreciated countywide attendance exceeded our expectations and gives us every sign that our Yolo County scope of League service is off to an impressive start.

Outreach: As promised, we are reaching out and connecting with a growing number of County and City community partners. These connections will extend our reach and make our voter education and policy advocacy work more impactful.

Action: Concurrently, dramatic activity at the federal government level compels us to keep up with national and state League "Call to Action" opportunities: to stand up for voting rights and civil liberties and to support the principles of our constitutional representative democracy. One recent example was opposing the proposed Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act in the House and Senate, which would require citizenship documentation to register to vote even though voters in every state are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering.

With so much going on, we deeply appreciate our member support and patience. We are working hard to earn your confidence in our organization and increase the value of your service.

Thank you for your membership. Thank you for your service.

Warm wishes to you for a sunny, joyful spring.

UPCOMING MEMBERS MEETINGS

March Virtual Member Meeting

Tuesday, March 18 · 6:30 - 8pm

Topic: LWV Study Process: From League Study to League Position

Please join our League on Tuesday, *March 18th at 6:30PM* for a virtual meeting on the League of Women Voters Study Process. This will be a two-part meeting where the first hour will be an informative presentation on the League's study process. Both members and the general community are welcome to attend.

Following, at *7:30pm*, League members will have a members-only discussion on consensus, as part of the County Mental Health study process. Additional information is available at our [Eventbrite site](#).

Members must sign up for the meeting on the [Eventbrite site](#) to receive the Zoom Link.

League of Women Voters advocacy is based on member study and agreement on selected issues through consensus, leading to our League position. This enables us to support specific public policy proposals consistent with our positions. Our current Study: County Mental Health is approaching its consensus process. Come be a part of the process and prepare for our County Mental Health Position decision making. Member input is critical to developing a robust consensus. See you there.

April In-Person Member Meeting

Thursday, April 10 - 6:00-7:30pm - Location to be determined

Topic: LWVYC Mental Health Position

This meeting will focus on developing consensus for the Mental Health position, which will be voted on by members during the Annual Members Meeting in June. There also will be discussion about the proposed LWVYC Program for 2025-2026. Attendance is limited to LWVYC members, and more information will be sent soon.



“Last Christmas” as the LWV Woodland

This past December, the League of Women Voters Woodland gathered to celebrate its last Christmas as a City League, and got ready to start the new year as a combined Yolo County League with Davis. Members came together to discuss what had happened over the previous year, swap stories about life and travels, and enjoy appetizers and drinks. We look forward to keeping the tradition alive in 2025 and beyond, with new League members joining us.

Why We Oppose the SAVE Act

As mentioned in the President's message at its February Board meeting our Board unanimously approved a proposal to send a letter to local and regional newspapers in support of the LWVUS position in opposition to the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (S.A.V.E) Act (HR22; S128). Co-President Michelle Famula drafted a letter to the editor for the San Francisco Chronicle and the Sacramento Bee stating our League's support for the LWVUS opposition position. She also sent a constituent letter to Congressman Mike Thompson who has pledged to oppose this legislation.

In the Congressman's words, "I opposed this bill in the 118th Congress and I oppose it now because of the significant burden it would place on Americans, including military servicemembers stationed overseas, seeking to vote. This bill would make it extremely difficult for Americans, specifically women who take their husband's name, from registering to vote using just their driver's license, requiring them to bring a passport or birth certificate to the polls."

To learn more about The S.A.V.E. Act and understand the reasons for LWVUS opposition, you can read the league position [HERE](#).



Local Leaders Hold Town Hall

Congressman Mike Thompson, state Senator Christopher Cabaldon and Assemblywoman Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, all Democrats, fired up more than 400 people at the Woodland Community and Senior Center, urging them to take a stand against perceived injustices and inequities.

"I know a lot of you are here tonight because of fear and uncertainty and what will happen to you, our friends and our neighbors who are being targeted by the Trump administration," Cecilia Aguiar-Curry said. "I am committed to legislation that will help with the state budget and strengthen our communities. Whether it's championing reproductive rights, a safe workplace, affordable housing, clean air and water, providing opportunities for our next generation or supporting communities affected by unconstitutional federal actions, we will not stand down."

Cabaldon concluded by saying while it can seem like "it's everything, everywhere,

all at once” and that California itself is in the crosshairs, people shouldn’t give up hope.

He said people should be prepared to get off the sidelines and take a stand. “And be prepared to act immediately to stop illegal actions. It requires showing up. We have to be ready to show up when it’s necessary.”

If you’d like to watch the Town Hall yourself, Woodland TV recorded the event [at this link](#).

A longer summary of the event can be found [at this link](#).



Supervisor Frerichs Speaks at the State of the Community

Almost 150 people from throughout Yolo County attended the 31st State of the Community Luncheon hosted by the League of Women Voters of Yolo County to hear from county Supervisor Lucas Frerichs. Lorna Carriveau, co-president of the Yolo County League, welcomed representatives from three of the county’s four city governments, area school districts, state officials and student representatives from UC Davis and Woodland Community College. She also thanked 15 local people and groups for sponsoring the event held at the Heidrick Ag History Center in Woodland.

As a Yolo County Supervisor, Frerichs said he is committed to advancing policies that promote the ability of families, in all their forms, to have their basic needs met in safe, connected communities. But he said threats of federal funding cutbacks will mean local cuts as well, explaining that \$80 million of the \$750 million eyed for the County’s 2025-2026 budget comes from the federal government.

Yolo County League Co-President Michelle Famula concluded the program by asking all in attendance to thank our county elected officials and public service

employees for their dedication and the work they do for our community. She expressed appreciation for the inclusive community in attendance and the work we all do to bring Yolo County together.

You can read a longer article about this event [at this link](#).

Save the Date for Picnic Day

The LWV Yolo County will be participating in Picnic Day! This is the 111th UC Davis Picnic Day Parade, and we urge our members to come and march with us. We'd love to see members from areas outside of Davis represent our newly merged League. The Parade will be on Saturday, *April 12, 9:00AM to Noon*, on the UC Davis Campus.

LWVYC members wishing to walk with our group must notify us of their intent to participate no later than Friday, April 4. More information will be sent out to interested members regarding time and location for meet-up on the day we march. Participants will be asked to sign our group waiver when they arrive.

Please contact: Michelle Famula: msfamula@gmail.com or Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt: sdegraffhunt@gmail.com if you wish to participate.

Welcome to Our New Website...

With our new merger comes a new website: <https://lwvyolo.org/>. You can find all our upcoming events, current policies and action plans, as well as ways to get involved with the League and with voting access and information. As always, we provide guides to your rights and explainers about how to register to vote and voting access in Yolo County. We'll keep updating and expanding the information we provide there, so be sure to check it out!

...And Our New Member Portal!

We also have a new way to access the Member Portal, as outlined by Membership Director Faye Smith-Gee:

The screenshot displays the 'LWV Membership' portal. On the left, a progress indicator shows four steps: 1. Login or Sign Up (active), 2. Join or Renew Your Membership, 3. Additional Membership Contribution, and 4. Checkout. A message box on the right thanks the user for their interest and provides instructions on how to get started, including a link to lwv.org/lwv-membership and a contact email membership@lwv.org. The main form area is titled 'Log in or Sign up to continue' and features an email address input field with the placeholder 'you@example.com' and a 'Continue with email' button. Below this is a checkbox for 'We'll email you a code for a seamless sign in.' An 'OR' separator is followed by a password input field with a 'Continue with password' button.

In the coming months, many of you will begin using ChapterSpot, our new membership portal located at <https://portal.lwv.org/membership?state=CA&league=0012E00001usOBMQA2>.

Your login is linked to the email you provided when you joined the League. If you didn't provide one, you can still renew manually as before.

Membership renewals now follow a rolling schedule, meaning you will be asked to renew one year after your most recent renewal. Automated reminder emails will be sent 60 and 30 days before, and 45 days after your expiration date. Your local League will also reach out via mail or phone in the final 30-day window. You can opt for automatic annual renewals or update your contact details anytime through the portal. If you prefer, you can still renew by mailing a check.

The recommended membership amount is \$75, but you can contribute between \$20 and \$75. Any amount above the minimum helps keep dues accessible and supports the League's work. Your dues are distributed as follows: 20% stays locally, 47% supports the state organization and 33% is directed to the national organization. To directly support local efforts, we encourage separate donations rather than increasing dues.

We encourage you to explore the new portal, designed to simplify membership management and support our volunteers. This transition strengthens our League, expands our impact, and makes it easier to support our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

STATE/NATIONAL LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

STATE NEWS

League Urges Congress to Act

On February 14, the State and National League organizations sent a [letter to Congress](#) outlining measures that should be taken to stop actions being implemented by President Trump's Executive Orders, and the Department of Government Efficiency's continued chaotic approach to data management.

The statement, addressed to both the Senate and House of Representatives, puts forth the legal argument that the President's Executive Orders to end birthright citizenship for all persons born in the United States, dismantle federal agencies such as the U.S. Agency for International Development ("USAID") and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ("CFPB"), and allow private citizens, who have neither been elected or complied with the advice and consent requirement of the Senate, to access sensitive government systems, among other orders, are unlawful and Congress must use its power to step in and check the Executive branch as it was designed to do.

The National League will continue to monitor the actions of the Executive branch and the Department of Government Efficiency and create guidance regarding their actions.

NATIONAL NEWS

National League CEO Talks About DEI

National League CEO Celina Stewart wrote a blog post recently, explaining what exactly DEI is, and why the response to recent presidential executive orders has been so hectic. Despite it making its way into everyone's vocabulary recently, it's not a new concept, and is linked to past affirmative action measures. But these measures meant to even an uneven playing field are under attack.



In 2023, the Supreme Court struck down affirmative action programs. Upon entering his second term, President Trump released an Executive Order stopping DEI programs across the government. Government-funded nonprofits have been asked to remove DEI-related materials from their websites and trainings, even when those materials are pertinent to the nonprofits' work. As a result, several companies have scaled back their DEI efforts.

Read the blog post [here](#), and the follow-up [here](#). You can also read the LWV Yolo County's DEI policy [here](#).

WOODLAND LEAGUE BOARD

OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

- Voter Services: Judy Higgerson
- Co-Communications: Komal Hak, Jessica Smith
- 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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