

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: July 2025



Hello LWVYC members,

Despite the slow days of summer, our league has been very active. I write to share what's happening at the *League of Women Voters of Yolo County*.

Since our Spring VOTER was last sent out, our **Annual meeting**, held on June 21, brought a number of member-approved decisions to guide us into the 2025-26 year. The board has begun working on some of these already and will be considering others at our upcoming Board Retreat planning in early August.

Our new Membership Chair, Kathleen Stack, advises that we have welcomed FIVE new LWVYC members since May: Darlene Coppersmith (Davis), Amybeth Chapelle (Woodland), Don Saylor (Davis), Ann Russell (Davis), and Cindy Norris (Davis). Welcome newcomers! We look forward to learning more about your interests soon!

Though the Board is taking a brief break this month to process the **Program Plan** decisions approved at our Annual meeting, several board members have advanced a few priorities.

Thanks to new Communications Co-Director Christine, our **website** has a new look, new links, and new resources. Streamlined procedures for posting events, adding calendar features, and securing information uploads will enable faster access to the information most requested by members and the public. We are on our way to keeping our site up to date and user-friendly this year. (Check us out at lwvyolo.org)

In follow-up to our LWVYC County **Mental Health Position** approval, the Mental Health Study committee met on July 8th to plan next steps to transition responsibility for county mental health service advocacy to our **Healthcare Committee**. The committee says it welcomes new members who are interested in advancing our new Mental Health position objectives.

On July 20, the **Membership committee** hosted its **New Member Tea**, welcoming and orienting five recently joined League members from Davis, Knights Landing, and Woodland.

In mid-July, Treasurer Carla helped us to secure a **new storage unit** for our growing outreach and event resource materials.

And on July 22, Board members Michelle and Lorna formally introduced our new county League to the **Yolo County Board of Supervisors**. To check out their presentation, you can

view the recorded BOS meeting [HERE](#).

While there are no Board or member meetings scheduled for August, the Board is still busy preparing for their Annual Board retreat on August 6th, where we'll be planning our LWVYC calendar of activities for the 2025-26 year.

This year's events will include annual community civic awareness events like our **Democracy Works Award** and our **State of the Community** luncheon, along with some new member engagement activities.

Our [Democracy Works Award](#) subcommittee **requests nominations** for our 2025 Award **be submitted from now through September 1, 2025**. Please read further in this newsletter to learn more about how to submit nominations for this year's Award.

Previewing September events, Voter Services Director Judy Higgerson is sharing plans for two upcoming outreach opportunities. As we partner with the Office of Elections, League members will have the opportunity to support our Yolo County **Youth Empowerment Summit** (Y.E.S.) on **September 25th**, encouraging youth civic engagement.

Joining YOLO NAMI for their **NAMI Walks** event on **September 27th**, our members can help provide voter education while promoting the importance of mental health resources in our community.

If either of these events interests you, stay tuned, there will be more information in next month's newsletter and on our website.

Thank you again to all who helped to make our June 2025 Annual meeting such a successful and enjoyable event. Hope to see you all at our next gathering.

Until our next monthly update, enjoy your travels and time in the sun as we anticipate all of the opportunities our League will offer in the fall and beyond.

Warm Regards,

Michelle Famula, President
LWV of Yolo County
LWVYolo@gmail.com

Advocacy News

League Challenges to Voter Suppression Continue

LWVYC encourages members to continue to answer LWVUS calls to support national advocacy through local action.

When LWVUS notifies our board of opportunities for member action at the state or federal level, we will be promoting those opportunities on our LWVYC Website [Advocacy page](#) "Action Alerts" section.

Check our site periodically throughout the summer to see if there are new opportunities to partner with the League to stand up to voter suppression, support civil rights, and advocate for state and federal legislation that promotes the well-being of our communities.

Membership Activities

Exploring Activity Ideas from our Annual Meeting

The board will be reviewing member-submitted ideas for member engagement at in-

person meetings and social events. Our thanks go to all who attended the Annual Meeting for inspiring our Membership committee to explore new opportunities to develop our LWVYC community. Look for new activities to be included in upcoming member meetings.

Upcoming Events (Save the Date)

Community Partnerships: Y.E.S. Youth Engagement and NAMI Walks

September 25: Our Voter Services Committee members will be able to partner with the Yolo County Office of Elections to reach out to High School Seniors across the county to inspire civic engagement at the annual **Youth Empowerment Summit** (Y.E.S.).

Do you want to contribute to an excellent program welcoming new youth voters of Yolo County looking to lift their voice and cast their vote in 2026 and beyond? To learn more, visit the Y.E.S website [HERE](#). To volunteer to help with preparation and event presentations, contact Judy Higgerson at LWVYolo@gmail.com.

September 27: Join our League at the **NAMIWalks Yolo County** event. League members will provide voter education materials and promote our new **Mental Health Position** to advocate for access to information and services to help Yolo County individuals and families in need.

Are you interested in spreading the word on the importance of County mental health resources? Do you want to walk for a good cause and join our League's walking team? To learn more, visit the NAMI WALKS website [HERE](#). To volunteer with tabling and event participation, contact Judy Higgerson or Faye Smith-Gee at LWVYolo@gmail.com.

Watch for more details in next month's newsletter.

Call for Nominations

2025 Democracy Works Award

Since 2006, the League of Women Voters of Woodland has presented its annual Democracy Works Award to an individual and/or organization working to empower voters and defend democracy. We seek nominees from throughout Yolo County whose actions support our citizens and our democratic processes for this year's 2025 award.

Nominations are now open. The deadline for submittals is **September 1, 2025**, and the Awards Ceremony will be held in October. Do you know an organization or individual the award committee should consider? Please let us know today.

LWVYC welcomes nominations for individuals and/or organizations whose actions include

- encouraging equal representation,
- promoting free and fair elections,
- expanding voter education and rights,
- advocating legislation that promotes democracy in our communities,
- or taking grassroots political action.

To learn more or to submit an online nomination, go to our [Democracy Works page](#) to complete a nomination form. You may also download and complete the form and mail it to: LWV of Yolo County, Democracy Works Award, P.O. Box 2463, Woodland, CA 95776.

Look for winner announcements in September.

Updates

Update: Taking our Mental Health (MH) Position to Advocacy

At our LWVYC June Annual Meeting, attendees adopted our Mental Health Position, clearing the path for countywide Mental Health service advocacy.

Our LWVYC Healthcare committee will soon be inviting members of Yolo NAMI, the Yolo County Mental Health Board, County Department of Health and Human Services, Yolo 211, and others to help us identify the best ways to move forward with advocacy to improve service awareness and access in our county.

If the issue of mental health and wellness is important to you, or if you seek to learn more about League policy and advocacy, consider joining our LWVYC Healthcare Committee to help our League in efforts to support these essential community resources for individuals and families in need.

To volunteer to help with committee activities, contact Healthcare committee chair Michelle Famula at LWVYolo@gmail.com.

Update: Housing, Transportation, and Support Services

Housing throughout Yolo County is an important concern for League members. The City of Woodland is in the process of developing a five-year strategy to target federal grant money to areas of greatest need. Draft reports of the proposed plan were due to be sent to the Woodland City Council in late June.

Davis is likely to revisit several housing projects and General Planning again this year, and voters may wish to attend community educational forums to better understand the impacts.

If housing and other community services in Davis, Woodland and other Yolo County communities are important to you, please contact our LWVYC Housing Committee Chair, Mary Jo Bryan at LWVYolo@gmail.com to learn more.

JOIN!

DONATE!

Click on LWVYolo.org for more information about our new League!

League of Women Voters of Yolo County | P.O. Box 2463 | Woodland, CA 95776 US

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