



# The VOTER

## Fall 2025

### OUR LEAGUE NEWS

#### President's Message



LWVYC certainly hit the ground running this fall...

**September** was spent planning for our Fall calendar of events, which included several opportunities for members to gather and promote our democratic priorities while encouraging robust voter participation in the November Special Election.

Here are a few of the Fall events we hope you were able to enjoy...

LWVYC members joined the *Yolo County Elections Office and Office of Education* to deliver the annual day-long [Youth Empowerment Summit \(Y.E.S\)](#) to community High School Students across Yolo County. This year, 137 students from eight high schools heard from local elections officials promoting civic responsibility and leadership.



Students visited our voter education table, where members shared the online tools needed to complete early voter registration, improve their understanding of ballot issues and learn more about the importance of election participation. Students were able to experience simulated in-person voting stations as well.



Our **Healthcare Committee** worked with our board to support local Mental Health preventive services by participating in the [Yolo County NAMI WALKS!](#) event in late September. League members provided the new [LWVYC Mental Health Issue Position](#) information at our table, and our walk team raised over \$800 dollars for NAMI's local community mental health services.

**October** was all about voter empowerment and defending democracy. On October 9, our LWVYC members' meeting welcomed 40 League members and community guests to celebrate our [2025 Democracy Works Award](#) recipients,

Drs. Lizzette Navarette and Shannon Reed, both of Woodland Community College.



Our recipients were recognized for their outstanding efforts to promote youth voter engagement on campus. Both Dr. Navarette and Dr. Reed spoke to the importance of youth voter participation and increasing election awareness and ballot access.

After the Award presentation, members heard from [County Registrar of Voters Jesse Salinas](#), who shared county voter participation data, highlighting the growing participation of youth voters, especially on our college and university campuses. Mr. Salinas also shared the rapid response efforts adopted by the county Elections Office to ensure that voters had multiple in-person vote centers fully staffed and ready to go for early voting in the 2025 Special Election.

The following week, in keeping with our League voter education priorities, LWVYC presented an informational forum: [“Understanding the Proposition 50 Special Election: Nonpartisan Voter Information for Yolo County”](#).



Seven league members worked quickly to create a panel presentation reviewing a history of the California ballot measures that created the Citizens Redistricting Commission and explained the events leading up to the 2025 Proposition 50 measure.

An overview of the current and proposed California congressional district maps clarified how a vote approving the proposition would impact county representation for 2026, 2028 and 2030 federal elections.

LWVYC closed out the month by joining community partner civic groups in defense of democracy in the [October 18th "NO KINGS" event](#), held in central Davis. While some of our members marched, others provided voter registration and Special Election ballot information.



This was an important opportunity to advise community members of the critical need to update their information (especially addresses) at the [Secretary of State Voter Registration website](#) and to introduce all in our community to the **LWVC Easy Voter Guide**. League members also staffed Voter Education tables at the UCD campus and distributed the Easy Voter Guide to several countywide churches, libraries and community centers.

In **November**, a few of our members assisted at in-person early vote centers. Some served as election poll workers, and others were present as observers. Those in attendance saw a strikingly large number of participants for an "off-year"

election. And indeed, the Elections Office reported that 60.54% of registered voters in Yolo County turned out, which is about 10% higher than the state average.

Finally, as we wrap up this quarter, we were delighted to welcome our membership to join together for a [Winter Social](#) at Symposium Restaurant in Davis. It is always a pleasure to dine with League colleagues and learn about their activities and interests. While we share each other's company, we also learn about the critical public policy issues facing our community and identify new partners to join with us to expand voter engagement.



### **What is on the horizon for our Yolo County League this winter?**

We know that **2026 will be an especially busy year** for us with our California Primary elections on June 2, 2026, and our Governor and midterm Congressional races on November 3, 2026. It will be essential to start planning in early January for our 2026 voter services forums and outreach events. It will be more important than ever to remain vigilant in our efforts to ensure that all eligible voters in our community submit or update registration information in time to ensure mail ballot receipt or in-person participation.

In **January**, most of our work will be internal; reaching out to community partners, planning public events and preparing for election season. You can see what we're working on in the Board Activities section below.

In **February**, we will be hosting State Senator Chris Cabaldon for our LWVYC State of the Community Luncheon and League Fundraiser. With many changes anticipated at both the federal and state funding levels for our county programs, it will be important to learn from Senator Cabaldon what he sees as the most impactful opportunities for us in the coming year.

***This just in... our LWV UCD Student Voter Club was just approved for official registration as a campus club with the UCD Center for Student Involvement!*** This is GREAT NEWS for our county League and for the UCD campus, as we look forward to a partnership that will network directly to educate young adult voters in our community. Congratulations, LWV UCD Student Voter Club President, Shrawani Thapa!

Both the Housing and Healthcare committees are working to bring you programs for early spring. Voter Services is exploring new outreach opportunities to connect with community groups around the county, and by now, all of our members should have received our new Fundraising Committee's [2026 LWV of Yolo County Outreach Fundraising Campaign](#) letters.

As we close out our Fall quarter and head into the New Year, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season. May 2026 bring us all the comfort of family, friends

and community.

Warm regards,  
*Michelle Famula, President*  
LWV Yolo County

## Upcoming Events



The State of the Community Luncheon 2026 is coming up in February. This event was founded in 1994, making this our 32nd year. Our featured speaker will be State Senator Chris Cabaldon. Our Annual State of the Community luncheon is our biggest fundraiser of the year, so please consider a sponsorship once we have them ready to purchase. Keep an eye on [our event page](#) for updates.

## Board / Member Activities

### Board Meetings

**Board meetings** are available via Zoom to members and the public. Please send an email to [info@lwvyolo.org](mailto:info@lwvyolo.org) if you would like to attend an upcoming Board meeting.

The Board meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 1:00 pm. The following few dates are

- January 14, 2026
- February 11, 2026
- March 11, 2026

Members are encouraged to attend!

### Performing as Promised

The *League of Women Voters of Yolo County* is working hard on its current **5-point Program**, approved by members at the June 21, 2025, Annual Members Meeting.

**Below are summaries of the actions taken to date.**

### **Promote Democracy**

1. Expand outreach and collaboration to all Yolo County cities, rural communities and community groups serving underrepresented/served groups.
  - League representatives have met with the Board of Supervisors, the Chamber of Commerce of Davis, the City Council and Rotary of Winters to better inform their members of the League's value to their communities.
  - Membership now includes new members living in Knights Landing, Dunnigan, Winters, and West Sacramento.
  - Board members have met with local leaders in the Spanish-speaking community as part of outreach efforts..
  - Board members are meeting quarterly to welcome new members to help them better understand and support our League.
  
2. Increase voter registration and civic engagement in high schools and colleges countywide.
  - A youth art campaign focused on voter education is being developed in partnership with county libraries, elected officials and schools.
  - Our League is working in collaboration with a new UC Davis Student League club that will focus on campus youth voter education and registration efforts for 2026.
  - League members are working closely with Woodland Community College staff and faculty on student voter education and civic engagement opportunities.
  - The League again partnered with the Yolo County Elections Office, Office of Education, and all school districts for their annual Youth Empowerment Summit (YES!) to educate high school students throughout Yolo County about local government, the election process, and the importance of voting.
  
3. Act locally to protect voter rights and election integrity.
  - Our League presented a neutral, nonpartisan public education panel on Proposition 50 filmed by Woodland TV for virtual viewing.
  - Our Democracy Works award recognized Dr. Lizette Navarette, President, and Dr. Shannon Reed, Dean of Arts & Sciences, at Woodland Community College, for their efforts to promote voter education.
  - The League's October members meeting hosted Yolo County Elections Official Jesse Salinas for a public presentation regarding election integrity filmed by Davis Media Access for virtual viewing on our League website.

### **Educating on Local Issues**

4. Review existing LWVYC issue positions.
  - The board has created a committee to review existing LWVYC positions for relevance and referral to the appropriate committees to determine if the positions should be renewed, restudied, or deleted by vote of the membership at the 2026 annual member meeting.
  
5. Advocate for the Mental Health study position proposal as approved by the membership.
  - Health Committee members have met with the Sacramento and Yolo County 2-1-1 teams and are continuing their discussions with county

mental health leaders.

- The League sent a walk team to participate in the Yolo County NAMIWalks! event to support mental health services in Yolo County.

## STATE LWV NEWS

### Commute Every Death Sentence in California

The *League of Women Voters of California* opposes the death penalty and supports criminal justice policies that protect human rights and reduce injustice. We are urging Governor Newsom to use his executive authority now to commute every death sentence in California so that, although people would remain incarcerated, no one would be executed.

**Ask Gov Newsom to Commute All Death Sentences**

The following were state legislative actions supported by LWVC and League-member advocacy in 2025.

### Update on SB 42 (Umberg) – California Fair Elections Act

SB 42 removes existing prohibitions on public financing and lets voters/localities decide whether to implement such systems. Five California charter cities empower voters by providing public financing, matching funds, or democracy vouchers to help voters support qualified candidates. State law currently bans counties, districts, general law cities, and the State from offering public funds for campaigns.

The bill successfully went through the legislature, was signed, and was Chaptered by the Secretary of State. **It will be submitted to the voters for approval at the November 3, 2026, statewide general election.**

### SJR-1 (Wiener) – Rescinding previous applications for a federal constitutional convention.

The 2025-2026 Senate Joint Resolution rescinds all of California's prior calls for a Constitutional Convention, closing the door on a process that could have put the Constitution at risk.

**This bill has passed** and was chaptered by the Secretary of State on September 10, 2025. Calls for a Constitutional Convention have been withdrawn.

### AB 260 (Aguiar-Curry) – Sexual and reproductive health care.

Protects access to medication abortion, ensuring that patients, providers, and facilities can continue to provide safe, legal, and accessible reproductive healthcare.

**This bill passed** and was Chaptered by the Secretary of State on September 28. It is now law in California.

## **AB 1071 (Kaltra) – Criminal procedure: discrimination**

Revises and clarifies procedures for pursuing relief for violations of the Racial Justice Act (RJA) and provides judges more discretion in fashioning a remedy for a violation.

**This bill is now law**, having been signed by Governor Newsom and chaptered on October 13, 2025.

## **NATIONAL LWV NEWS**

### **Tell Congress to Stop Interfering in DC**

The people of the District of Columbia do not have a voice in Congress and thus cannot advocate for or against federal policies that affect their everyday lives. DC is home to more than 700,000 residents but is denied representation via voting members in the US Senate and House of Representatives.

#### **Urge your Members of Congress to oppose interference in DC!**

**Rep. Mike Thompson** (District 4)

**Rep. Doris Matsui** (District 7)

**Senator Alex Padilla**

**Senator Adam Schiff**

### **Reject Anti-Voter Policies**

The House of Representatives passed the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, 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.

The SAVE Act would create one more barrier to the voting process, as many eligible voters do not have easy access to the necessary documents.

**The SAVE Act is now under review in the Senate.** It was introduced in the Senate as S. 128 on January 16, 2025. It needs 60 votes to overcome a potential filibuster, a high bar. Efforts to pass it by unanimous consent have been blocked by senators who oppose the legislation

**See Senator Alex Padilla Object to the SAVE Act (YouTube).**

If you haven't already, learn more and use the League's form to tell your Senators to oppose the SAVE Act.

[Tell Your Senators to Oppose the SAVE Act](#)

## Tell Your Representatives to Protect Equal Voting Rights

The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2025 was introduced into the House in March 2025. This bill establishes **new criteria** for determining which states and political subdivisions must obtain preclearance before changes to voting practices may take effect.

Since the 2013 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* gutted the Voting Rights Act (VRA), at least 31 states have enacted 114 voting laws that make it harder to vote, with the burden falling hardest on Black voters and other voters of color.

We need a fully restored VRA to defend our democracy and protect the freedom to vote.

Use the National League's form to tell your members of Congress to support passage of the 2025 Voting Rights Act.

[Tell Congress to Guarantee the Right to Vote](#)

## Urge our members of Congress to stand up for our democracy!

Throughout the Fall, our League has been participating in national events and local forums defending Democracy. Leagues across the US are calling on Congress to act, as well.

Last month, Leagues from all 50 states and DC wrote to Congress demanding they take action. Congress must act now to restore the stability of our nation before it's too late. Congress's daily inaction threatens the rule of law and our Constitution and greenlights the executive branch's gross overreach.

Make your voice heard. Write to Congress demanding they take action. The National LWV provides a form and letter for you to do that.

[Urge Your Congress Members to Stand Up](#)

## RESOURCES

### Yolo County LWV Board & Committee Members

#### OFFICERS

**President:** Michelle Famula

[Register to Vote](#)

[Easy Voter Guide](#)

[VOTE 411](#)

**Vice President:** Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt

**Treasurer:** Carla Cox

**Secretary:** Lorna Carriveau

**DIRECTORS**

**Voter Services:** Judy Higerson

**Co-Communications:** Jessica Smith, Christine Golden

**Membership:** Kathleen Stack

**Events:** Faye Smith-Gee

**COMMITTEES**

**Finance:** Pat McDonald, Leila Stone Crist and Kathleen Stack

**Nomination:** Kathleen Stack, Judy Wohlfrom, Leslie Hunter, Chair

**Yolo County Elections Office**

**Local Elections**



[lwvyolo.org](http://lwvyolo.org)



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