



The VOTER

February 2026



OUR LEAGUE NEWS

President's Message

Hello League Members & Supporters,



February is here, and after a chilly, foggy January, we are ready to swing into civic action.

Our **February** action theme is:

Reaching Our Communities Across Yolo County: Youth and New Voter Connections

February is a very busy League month. Our wide array of events has us partnering with fellow local civic organizations to bring democracy engagement to Woodland Community College, joining local libraries to create a county-wide Voter Empowerment High School student art contest, training UCD-LWV student club members on voter registration, and bringing our county together to hear from our District 3 State Senator, Christopher Cabaldon.

As we kick off the **2026 election year**, leading to the June 2nd (Primary) and November 3rd (General) elections, we're excited to have so many League members volunteering with these events and outreach opportunities.

Now is the time for all Yolo County League members to serve all Yolo voters and communities.

There is still time to connect with Voter Services Director Judy Higerson at voterservice@lwvyolo.org if you would like to help with our first offering of the month: "**Movie and Pizza Democracy Engagement**" event at Woodland Community College on February 17th.

Teams of Yolo County League, Indivisible Yolo and AAUW members will be facilitating post-screening, student group discussions while enjoying pizza and snacks. [We can still use more folks at our voter registration/election education table for this event and other upcoming events as well.](#)

When we all show up, our League impact goes forward.

NEW for 2026: We are excited to announce our LWVYC High School Student **Voter Empowerment Art Design Contest**. In partnership with Yolo County Libraries and Woodland Public Library, the contest will be promoted through the schools and libraries and runs from **February 13 to March 27**.

Entry is open to all [Yolo County High School students](#). Winners will receive a cash prize and have their artwork displayed around the county. Sponsoring partners include the Yolo County Office of Education and the Yolo County Assessor-Clerk and Election (ACE) Office.

Do you know a talented High School artist who would be excited to have their work on posters county-wide to promote voter registration and election participation? Spread the word! More promotional information on our website and in the community is coming soon.

UCD's new **LWV-UCD Student League Club** has scheduled its campus outreach events for February. League members have trained the students on our registration procedures and materials. The club is determined to ensure voter registration is up to date for campus students to receive their mail-in ballots as soon as available. The club's three-month voter registration campaign should ensure the campus is all ready for ballot receipt in May and early return for the June 2, 2026, Primary.

Would you like to meet the UCD-LWV club leadership team? Their five-member board will be joining LWVYC as our guests at our **State of the Community (SOC) Luncheon on Friday, February 27th, 12:00-1:30 pm**.

Speaking of our annual **SOC** event, it's exciting to close out this month with our annual luncheon fundraiser. LWVYC Event Director, Faye Smith-Gee, and her committee have identified a great site for our tasty lunch with guest speaker **Christopher Cabaldon, District 3 State Senator**.

Tickets are selling fast! Be sure to get yours by February 16, 2026. Here's a link to [Buy Tickets](#).

Faye still welcomes volunteers for event day (see below). Reach out to her at info@lwvyolo.org to offer your help and receive a list of volunteer task opportunities.

So much is happening this election year in the California Legislature. With the lead-up to November's Congressional and California Governor's election, we'd love to see a sellout crowd to hear Senator Cabaldon share his perspectives on what Yolo County and California will be facing in 2026. His perspectives will help us to know how League advocacy, voter education and our election participation promotion can be most impactful in our community.

Finally, I would be negligent if I did not acknowledge the distress and sadness, as well as the social trauma, many of our League members and our larger community are experiencing related to the news out of Minneapolis this past month. The brutality and lethal assault of peaceful protesters directly undermine America's commitment to our constitutionally protected civil rights.

LWVUS and LWV of Minnesota issued this joint statement:

<https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/league-women-voters-condemns-unwarranted-federal-presence-and-military>

The League's commitment to DEFEND DEMOCRACY isn't just a slogan; our resolve strengthens our state and our country.

LWV California and our National League support calls for League members to contact our federal and state representatives to make this position clear. You can use the League's website: **Tell Congress Your Concerns with Current Federal Immigration Enforcement** to quickly register your concerns and personal constituent opinions.

Show up, speak up; defend and inspire Democracy.

Take care of yourselves and your communities. We are all in this together, and only by standing together can we stay strong and support each other.

Warm regards,
Michelle Famula, President
LWV Yolo County

A Note of Remembrance

We recently learned of the passing of Audrey Doehne, long-time League member and past president of the League of Women Voters of Woodland.

According to friend and colleague Janet Ruggiero, Audrey was very involved in establishing the Woodland League in 1974, often hosting the League's annual meetings in her backyard among flowering almond trees. She volunteered to work on studies, offered her home for board meetings, stuffed envelopes for seeking sponsorships for the State of the Community luncheon, etc.



In 2008, Audrey Doehne received the League's Democracy Works Award. She was honored because five years earlier, when there was talk of war with Iraq, she organized a small group of people to stand in front of the Yolo County Courthouse holding a "PEACE" banner. Woodlanders may recall seeing them and even giving a "high five," "thumbs up," or car honk, typically on the fourth Saturday of every month.

Audrey was dedicated to helping ensure that people are informed about democracy and their rights. She is missed, but her work continues.

Volunteer Program 2026

Democracy Needs Champions Like You



You have skills and interests that can help our League and the county. We need members who can make phone calls, develop nonpartisan questions for forums, assist at events, or help with planning. Every little bit helps!

Voter Services (VS) Committee volunteers: 2026 is your year!

The VS Committee meets monthly over Zoom to discuss the many voter education and public event tabling options available this year. All 2026 voter outreach volunteers will be trained to assure the most effective use of the League's voter "toolbox" outreach materials.

Please contact **Judy Higerson** at voterservice@lwvyolo.org to be added to the Zoom invite list and SAVE THE DATE for the next meeting, **February 24, 2-3 pm**.

Special Voting Year Volunteer Opportunities

Vote 411 Volunteer

Volunteer during pre-election months to be the *Yolo County Coordinator for VOTE411*. VOTE 411 provides accurate, unbiased information every voter needs to better understand their personal ballot.

This position involves contacting local candidates by email and telephone to invite them to post their campaign information and respond to League questions on the VOTE411 website. The state League provides you with a dedicated email address to protect your privacy and also has email templates for you to use.

It is important that our Yolo County candidates be represented on the VOTE411 website to increase its value to our local voters.

Staff from the State League and former VOTE 411 Yolo County Coordinator **Carla Cox** will train and support you all the way! Training videos and Zoom training sessions begin soon. Contact Carla at treasurer@lwvyolo.org for more information.

Legislature Interview Team

Work with a team of League volunteers from LWV chapters within our State Senate district or State Assembly district to interview the appropriate Senator or Assemblymember, asking questions developed by LWV California and the Legislative Interview team.

This position typically involves two or three Zoom meetings with the Legislative Interview team, plus the interview itself (one hour or less). Naturally, we will train and support you all the way!

Membership Chair Kathleen Stack is taking the lead on this. Please contact **Kathleen Stack** at membership@lwvyolo.org if you would like to participate in these interviews coming up in mid-February.

Our in-person interview with Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry is scheduled for February 20.

Free Movie & Learn About Democracy!

Free Pizza and Drinks too!

Woodland Community College

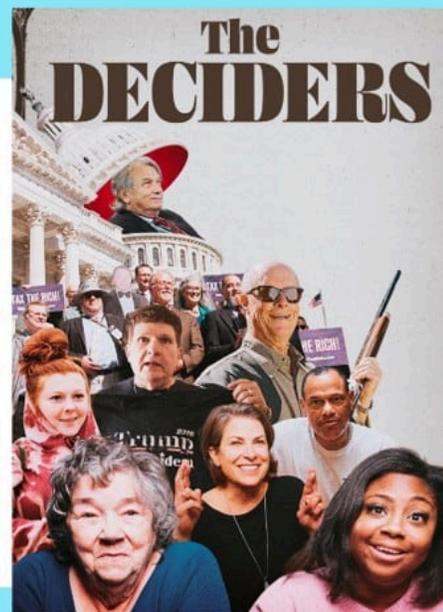
800 Community Room

Feb. 17th, 2026 | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Watch the movie *The Deciders!*

Discover how working class people build solidarity for a living wage.

Free pizza and drinks with an after discussion. **WCC & high school students get registration priority!**



Sponsored By:



<http://bit.ly/49sOy8L>



Scan the QR Code or go to the link to sign up and guarantee your seat!

LWVYC is partnering with Indivisible Yolo (IY) and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to present a student-focused Democracy Engagement Event.

Community College and local High School Students are invited to a free "Pizza and Movie" film event. Post-film discussion led by League and IY members will focus on active democracy, voter registration and election participation.

The event is open to the public. Enjoy the documentary screening, the post-viewing pizza, and follow up discussion inspiring democracy engagement and voter participation. Please be sure to register to attend at bit.ly/49sOy8L.

Register for Movie, Pizza & Democracy

February 27: State of the Community Luncheon



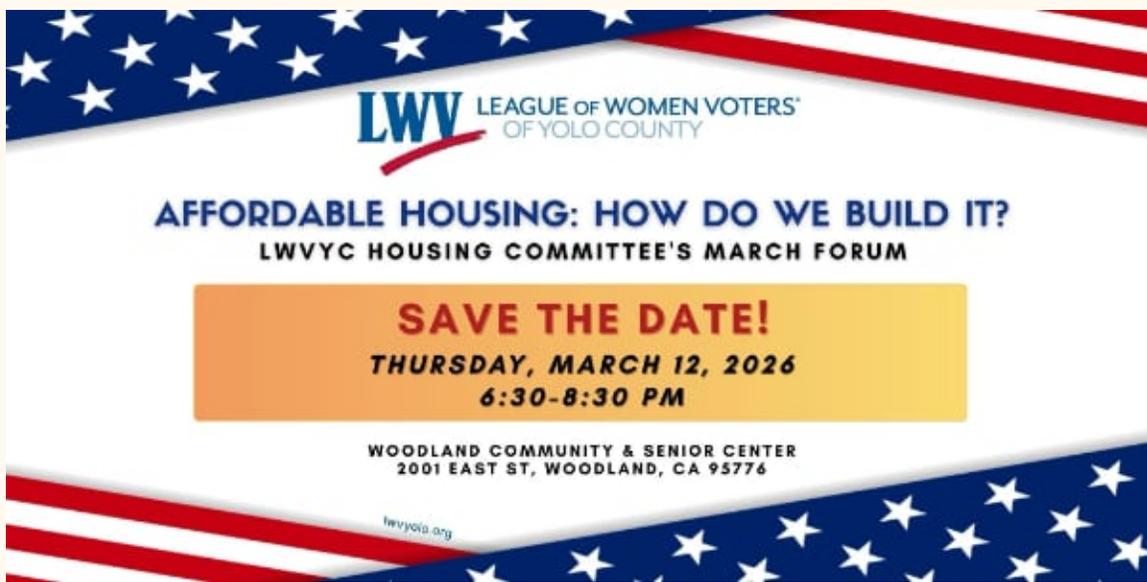
The *State of the Community (SOC) Luncheon 2026* is here this month. This event was founded in 1994, making this our 32nd year. Our featured speaker will be **State Senator Chris Cabaldon**. Our annual State of the Community luncheon is our biggest fundraiser of the year.

This event is filling up fast! Sign up for tickets and sponsorships now available through our LWVYC website, lwvyolo.org. **Reservations must be received by February 16, 2026.**

SOC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: LWVYC Volunteers are still needed to help with set-up, registration and take-down for the event. Please contact **Faye Smith Gee** at info@lwvyolo.org to volunteer.

Buy Tickets to SOC 2026

Upcoming Events in March



Affordable Housing: How Do We Build It? Our LWVYC Housing Committee's March Forum, highlighting affordable and high-density housing options in Yolo County, will be held at the **Woodland Community and Senior Center**, Thursday, **March 12, 6:30-8:30 pm**. Community housing advocates and experienced local community planning panel members will discuss policy and logistical issues impacting the development of affordable housing in our county. Audience Q&A will follow the panel presentation. **SAVE THE DATE!**



LWVYC MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Election 2026: Gearing up for the November 2 Primary will be held on Wednesday, **March 25, 6:00- 7:30 pm** in Davis at the Mary L. Stevens Library, Blanchard Room. Come hear from League board members and **Yolo County Elections Officials** about efforts to grow the Yolo County June Primary Election participation rate through outreach to well-prepared and informed voters. **SAVE THE DATE!**

Important News - NEW this Year!

LWVYC Student Voter Empowerment Art Contest



LWVYC, in partnership with **Yolo County Libraries, Woodland Public Library, Yolo County Assessor-Clerk and Elections (ACE) Office** and the **Yolo County Office of Education**, is sponsoring an ALL-NEW county-wide Student Art Poster Design Contest **supporting Youth Voter Registration and Voting**. Winning entries will receive cash awards and be displayed county-wide as posters, stickers, and promotional materials at League events and in Libraries.

Applications can be obtained by contacting the LWVYC League at jwohlfrom49@yahoo.com or by clicking the button below. The contest, which runs from **February 13 through March 27**, will be promoted through the schools and libraries and is open to all Yolo County High School students. Look for promotional information on our website, press releases and in our community coming soon.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Board / Member Activities

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 from 1-3 pm via Zoom. Contact **Michelle Famula** at president@lwvyolo.org to request a Zoom link.

Voter Service Committee Update: All prospective Voter Service volunteers for tabling events and election forums are asked to participate in voter outreach training this election year. We're looking for a large group of volunteers!

The committee meets monthly on Zoom. **Next meeting, February 24, 2-3 pm.** Please contact Judy Higgerson at voterservice@lwvyolo.org now to be added to the Zoom invite list.

Housing Committee Update: The Housing Committee still needs volunteers to assist with their **March Forum** on affordable and high-density housing options in Yolo County. The event will be held at the **Woodland Community and Senior Center, Thursday, March 12, 6:30-8:30 pm.**

To volunteer, please contact committee leads **Kate Curry**, kcurry652@gmail.com or **Mary Jo Bryan**, mjbryan6642@gmail.com, **by February 21st.**

Healthcare Committee Update: The Committee continues its review of county healthcare services with an emphasis on behavioral health resources and indigent care advocacy. County healthcare leaders will address the committee with updates on the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) state financing changes to mental health resources and impacts from the Federal HR1 budget changes on county health financing.

LWVYC Healthcare Committee meets on Zoom on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. **Join us Tuesday, Feb 17, 3-4 pm for our next meeting.** Please contact Michelle Famula, president@lwvyolo.org, to be added to the Zoom invite list.

Fundraising Committee Update: Invitations to the upcoming **State of the Community Luncheon** have gone out via email to all members, and the Fundraising Committee has mailed letters to potential sponsors in the hope of increasing sponsorships for this event. **SOC** is the primary fundraising opportunity for our League, so we can continue our outreach county-wide to further support voter education and election participation.

Local Issue Position (Advocacy) Work group update: Our League Positions provide the basis for our advocacy on local issues. The **Positions Review Committee** will start meeting soon to review all of our current LWV Woodland positions, some of which were developed decades ago.

The committee will be considering whether each position is relevant to the various communities in Yolo County today and whether that position should be reaffirmed, discarded, or recommended for additional study.

Members who are interested in topics such as housing, climate, local services and social justice may want to contribute their ideas to this effort. Please email **Janet Ruggiero** at info@lwvyolo.org if you are interested in being part of this committee.

State and National Advocacy items

LWVUS encourages all League members to get involved in advocacy to protect voting rights and defend democracy. For more information, go to www.lwv.org/take-action

Tell Congress Federal Immigration Enforcement Has Gone Too Far

Communities across the country have lived in terror as federal immigration enforcement agents have patrolled, surveilled, detained, disappeared, injured, and killed civilians, as well as denied people's constitutional rights by attacking and arresting peaceful protestors. Yet Congress—our elected officials—has played a pivotal role in funding and enabling this government-manufactured crisis, and they must act to stop these attacks.

Speak up now.

Tell Congress the Census Must Count All People

Last year, the House and Senate introduced the *Equal Representation Act (H.R.151 and S.2205)* to add a citizenship question to the 2030 Census and exclude noncitizens from the apportionment process, which determines the number of members each US state sends to the House of Representatives.

Tell your Members of Congress the Census must count all people!

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.

Tell your Senators to oppose the SAVE Act.

RESOURCES

Yolo County LWV Board & Committee Members

OFFICERS

President: Michelle Famula

Vice President: Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt

Treasurer: Carla Cox

Secretary: Lorna Carriveau

DIRECTORS

Voter Services: Judy Higgerson

Communications: Jessica Smith

Membership: Kathleen Stack

Events: Faye Smith-Gee

COMMITTEES

Finance: Pat McDonald, Leila Stone Crist, Richard DeLiberty and Kathleen Stack

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

Fundraising: Christine Golden, Kathleen Stack, Lorna Carriveau, Chair

LWVYolo.org

[Register to Vote](#)

[Easy Voter Guide](#)

[VOTE 411](#)

[Yolo County Elections Office](#)

[Local Elections](#)



lwvyolo.org



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

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