



The VOTER

January 2026



OUR LEAGUE NEWS

President's Message

Hello Yolo County League Members,

Welcome to 2026!

Our new VOTER design is here with the information you need to make the most of your membership and help us energize our county-wide outreach to all Yolo communities.

Starting now, we begin a fresh theme each month. For January, we offer:

**Election 2026: EMPOWERING VOTERS—League
Members Lead the Way.**



2026 offers 2 big voting opportunities: **June 2nd** - local County Official and statewide Primary Elections, and **November 3rd** - Congressional elections and the Governor's race.

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

Where do you come in? Voter education, policy engagement and election participation are our greatest organizational and member strengths. This is how we serve.

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

Turn Out! Turn Out! Turn Out! Inspired by our nonpartisan, grassroots work to protect and expand voter rights, knowledge, confidence and commitment, we build the voter power needed to drive policies that truly represent and support our communities.

The League's commitment - "EMPOWER VOTERS & DEFEND DEMOCRACY- is not just a slogan. It is the driving force needed to strengthen our county, our state and our country.

Are you an advocate who can contact local, state and national legislators to ensure they know where you and the League stand on voting rights, public good and civic engagement? Can you help League Voter Guide developers gather factual candidate policy messages to help voters know where they stand on the important issues? Are you a "Get Out the Vote" mentor who can help register new, lapsed and relocated voters? Can you help plan civic engagement forums and events that lift up the League's vision and defend representative democracy?

Welcome to 2026. Welcome to a new League year of active engagement. Find the role that complements your skills and interests.

Show up, speak up and inspire Democracy.

Onward!

Warm regards,
Michelle Famula, President
LWV Yolo County

Volunteer Program 2026

Democracy Needs Champions Like You



Voter Services Committee volunteers: 2026 is your year!

The VS committee will meet over **Zoom, Tuesday, January 20, 2-3 pm**, to discuss the many voter education and public event tabling options available in the coming months. 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 voterservices@lwvyolo.org to be added to the Zoom invite list and **SAVE THE DATE**.

Special Voting Year Volunteer Opportunities

VOTE 411 Volunteer

Volunteer during pre-election months to be the *Yolo County Coordinator* for VOTE 411. **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 to respond to League questions on the VOTE411 website. You may also be helping to educate communities on the value and necessity of VOTE 411. There is value to elected officials to participate, and value to voters to use this resource.

Staff from the State League and former VOTE 411 Yolo County Coordinator **Carla Cox** will train and support you all the way! Email us at info@lwvyolo.org to learn more.

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 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! Contact us at info@lwvyolo.org to learn more.

Upcoming Events

State of the Community Luncheon



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.

Voter Education & Film Screening

Free Movie & Learn About Democracy!

Free Pizza and Drinks too!

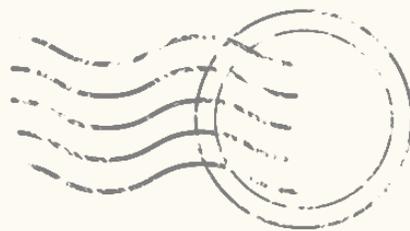
Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 5-8. pm

LWVYC is partnering with staff at **Woodland Community College** and **Indivisible Yolo** to present a student-focused Democracy Engagement Event on **February 17, 2026, from 5 to 8 pm.**

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

Are you a Voter Service democracy advocate? Volunteer to help lead student discussions, teach new voters to register and gain familiarity with 2026 Election access ballot education resources. Contact **Judy Higerson** by **February 7th to sign up.**

Important News!



The **U.S. Postal Service (USPS)** has implemented new procedures for dating mail. As of Dec. 24, 2025, letters and packages are no longer being postmarked with the date they are dropped off in a mailbox or local office but will be postmarked with the date they are processed at a postal facility.

This change could affect how time-sensitive mail is considered "on time" and is especially important for "mail-in" voting ballot returns. NOTE: this change will not affect the timing of ballot receipts at official "Drop Box" and in-person voting ballot drop-off locations. **Valid 'ballot box' return requires ballots be placed in official drop boxes by 8:00 pm on Election Day.**

2026 League voter services outreach will be educating voters on best practices for optimum "mail-in" ballot return for the 2026 June and November elections, as we learn the official recommendations we will get from our county Elections Office and the California Secretary of State.

According to AARP, the USPS says the change is aimed at "meeting strategic goals to cut costs and streamline mail processing by concentrating it in a smaller number of facilities".

Board / Member Activities

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 14 - 1-3 pm via Zoom. Contact **Michelle Famula** at president@lwvyolo.org to request a Zoom link.

Voter Services Committee Update: All prospective Voter Service volunteers are asked to join us for a 2026 Committee organizing **Zoom, Tuesday, January 20, 2-3 pm**, to learn more about outreach and training activities anticipated this election year.

We have already received tabling invites for multiple events all around the county and will also need League members to staff our own forums. We're hoping for a large group of volunteers to join in and kick things off this month.

Please contact **Judy Higgerson** voterservices@lwvyolo.org, to be added to the Zoom invite list.

Housing Committee Update: The Housing Committee is planning a forum for March in collaboration with several community partners to highlight affordable and high-density housing options.

The event will be held at Woodland Senior Center, **Thursday, March 12, 6:30-8:30**. SAVE the DATE.

Healthcare Committee Update: The Committee continues its review of county healthcare services with a continuing emphasis on behavioral health resources and indigent care advocacy.

County healthcare leaders have been invited to address the committee with updates on the BHSA state financing changes to mental health resources and impacts of the Federal HR1 budget changes on county health financing for indigent care.

The Healthcare Committee meets on Zoom the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Join us **Tuesday, Jan 20, 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: We thank everyone who donated in support of our Yolo County 2026 Outreach campaign to provide sufficient funds to expand our voter education and registration efforts.

Unfortunately, we have not yet reached our \$5,000 goal, so a follow-up email has been sent to members and League friends. We are also focusing on increasing sponsorships for the 2026 State of the Community event.

Local Issue Position (Advocacy) Work group update: 2026 is a year to increase your League involvement. Are you looking to become a more active member? Are you an outreach educator? Are you an issue advocate? Do you wish to craft letters to representatives or local news media?

We have opportunities, if you have interest. Contact one of our directors or committee chairs to learn where your talents and skills fit in.

The Voter is Now Monthly

In 2025, "The President's Message" was distributed to LWVYC members in the months between our quarterly "VOTER" publication. The VOTER format was a quarterly recap of LWVYC events mailed to both members and community partners.

In 2026, we shift to a monthly "VOTER", a single format to both members and community partners, highlighting recent past and upcoming events to provide both follow-up and "Save the Date" opportunities for highly anticipated activities.

Our communications team is working on our new format and appearance to highlight the events most valued by our members and partners. Please let us know if there is information you need that is not currently included, or items that are not bringing added value to your League participation.

State and National Advocacy items

State and National Advocacy are in the planning stages for 2026. Check out this section of The Voter in the coming months to see new opportunities for League engagement.

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

[Register to Vote](#)

[Easy Voter Guide](#)

[VOTE 411](#)

[Yolo County Elections Office](#)

[Local Elections](#)

Communications: Jessica Smith
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

Fundraising: Lorna Carriveau,
Kathleen Stack, Christine Golden



lwvyolo.org



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!