



The VOTER

May 2026



OUR LEAGUE NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2, 9, 16, 23: FARMERS MARKET VOTER REGISTRATION/
BALLOT RETURN EDUCATION (9:00 am-12:00 noon) Davis Central
Park

May 17: STUDENT VOTER EMPOWERMENT DESIGN CONTEST
AWARD CEREMONY (4:30 pm - 6:30 pm) Mary L. Stephens Library,
315 E 14th St. Davis

May 28: SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR: VOTER EDUCATION (9:00 am-12:00 noon) Woodland Community and Senior Center

****June 20: ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING BRUNCH (10:00 am-12:30) Woodland (MEMBERS and Guests ONLY)****

President's Message



Hello Yolo County League Members,

May action: Time to Vote!!

With mail ballots out on May 4th, it's time for registered California voters to move from talk to action. Voters still have until May 18 to update their registration information at **Register to Vote** and ensure a vote-by-mail ballot receipt. Those already registered should receive their mail ballot by May 11. Same-day registration remains

available at all in-person vote centers through June 2, Election Day.

The League Inspires Voting! There's still time to reach out and help register a voter today as we shift into promoting the importance of ballot return.

Our April 30th League candidate forums and our promotion of the Yolo County Elections Office Logic and Accuracy Testing public workshops show our commitment to voter education and high election turnout.

Primaries Matter!! Good candidate choices in general elections require high voter engagement in the primaries. Our League messages promote the importance of local County office candidates and ballot measures to ensure that our county community voices are heard.

Vote Early!! Encourage the use of Drop Box returns and early voting by mail or at in-person vote centers to help voters stay engaged, avoid lines and USPS delays, and to make sure their vote is counted.

In-person League member opportunities to promote voter registration through May 18, and ballot return options continue through May at the Saturday morning Davis Farmers market and at the Woodland Senior Center on Thursday, May 28th.

Are family, friends or neighbors asking about our League resources? Online voter registration, candidate information and ballot return resources can be accessed through **our website**, and, for those who missed it, our recordings of the **Yolo County Judge Candidate**

forum or **District 3 Supervisor Candidate forum** can be easily accessed online.

While we hosted local forums, several Leagues around the state joined to offer forums for Statewide candidates for **California Insurance Commissioner** and **State Superintendent of Public Instruction**. The Insurance Commissioner forum took place on **April 29**. The recording is available online **HERE**. The Superintendent of Public Instruction forum will be on **May 7**. Members can register to view the forum livestream **HERE**.

On the State and National levels, LWVUS and LWVC both actively oppose voter suppression legislation and actively support public financing of elections.

League members have opportunities to hear more about a November California ballot proposition and pending Federal legislation that restricts the exercise of our voting rights in future elections.

You can also learn more about a League-supported November ballot initiative to change California campaign finance law. Check out our Advocacy Opportunities below to get involved.

Voting starts with registration and getting your mail-in ballot, but voters need to better understand

- candidate positions,
- ballot measure impacts,
- and the importance of primary and local election participation.

The League is in our communities and on our campuses, supporting our county elections officials and bringing our message of the importance of civic education to our youth.

Now.....it's time to VOTE!

Thank you to all of our members and supporters who bring life to our work.

Warm regards,
Michelle Famula, President
LWV Yolo County

Upcoming Events

**STUDENT VOTER EMPOWERMENT DESIGN CONTEST
AWARD CEREMONY**



**League of Women Voters of Yolo County,
Yolo County Library Services
& Woodland Public Library**

ANNOUNCES

Student Voter Empowerment Design Contest

Sunday, May 17

4:30 - 6:30 PM

Mary L. Stephens Library

315 E 14th St., Davis

Come help us celebrate our inaugural 2026 Student Art Contest winners! This free public recognition honors the artistic talents and civic commitment of our High School artists from around the county who submitted 35 entries for blind judging. Several categories received multiple recognitions.

Artists, their families, teachers, contest sponsors and League supporters are welcome to join in the celebration. Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP HERE

SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR: VOTER EDUCATION



**Thursday, May 28
9:00 am-12:00 noon
Woodland Community and Senior Center
2001 East St., Woodland CA**

This is our final Woodland outreach event before the June 2nd, Election Day. This is a great opportunity to remind folks they can still register and/or return their mail-in ballot at early in-person Vote Centers and on Election Day.

The fair hours are 9-12, and **more volunteers are welcome for the 10:30-12:00 shift** to help staff the table. Members wishing to learn more about outreach are encouraged to come see our materials and learn our outreach messaging. Contact Faye Smith-Gee at lwvyolofsgee@gmail.com.

ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING BRUNCH



****Saturday, June 20, 2026****

MEMBERS and their guests ONLY

10:00 am-12:30 pm

At the home of members Carol Souza Cole and Glenn Cole

The address in Woodland will be sent upon RSVP

Faye is looking for members who enjoy event planning to help with the event. Please contact Faye at lwvyolofsgee@gmail.com if you are interested. The planning committee will meet in mid-May at Carol's home in Woodland.

A potluck brunch will be served. **Please bring a dish to share:**

- Last names A–P: Main dish
- Last names Q–Z: Dessert or sweets

This is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends you may not have seen in a while, socialize with fellow members and guests, and enjoy time together. We'll also review the work we've accomplished over the past year and share plans for the year ahead.

Scroll down to "LWVYC Annual Meeting Update" for more details.

RSVP for Annual Members Meeting

Recent Events

UCD 112th PICNIC DAY PARADE



League members met on the UC Davis campus on April 18 to walk the Parade route and represent our county League. We were joined by 4 members of our **LWV-UCD Student Club** to inspire our supportive voting community lining the streets on campus and in downtown Davis. We led the crowd in chants of "Vote, Vote" and gave out lots of stickers to kids and UCD students.

CANDIDATE FORUMS: JUNE 2026 - SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE AND COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 3



Our candidate forums remain one of the most requested League voter education outreach community services. **Carla Cox, Judy Higgerson** and their forum team delivered an evening of candidate participation and voter awareness to a full house on April 30.

It was clear from the enthusiastic attendance and excellent audience questions that voters are very appreciative of these in-person events. A special thanks to **Faye Smith-Gee** and new League member **Zachariah Oquenda**, who served as forum moderators.

This was truly a team production. Thank you to the many league members who contributed to the event and to Woodland TV, which continues to host the event recordings on their YouTube Channel. If you were unable to attend the forums, you can watch the recordings using links on **our website** or go directly to the Yolo County Judge Candidate forum and District 3 Supervisory Candidate forum, available at the **Woodland TV YouTube channel** until the June 2 election.

LWVYC Annual Meeting Update

The Annual Meeting will include a 2025-26 year wrap-up and updates on the 2026-27 league calendar.

Member votes are scheduled for

- Board Elections,
- Conversion to 501(c)(3) tax status,
- Bylaws Updates,
- 2026-27 Budget approval,
- League Local Issue Positions Updates,
- and 26-27 Program Plan approval.

Please SAVE THE DATE to ensure our quorum of 30 members is reached.

Nominations Committee Chair, Leslie Hunter, reminds members that **nominations** for Officer and Director positions must be submitted **by May 10** to be approved by the committee and Board and sent out to the membership before June 20th. Members are encouraged to self-nominate and are reminded that nominations can come from the floor on the day of the vote.

If you would like to serve on the Yolo County League Board, please contact Leslie at leslie_q_hunter@hotmail.com or committee members Judy Wohlfrom at jlwohlfrom49@yahoo.com or Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt at sdegraffhunt@gmail.com. **The Board Candidate Slate will go out to all members later this month.**

The 2026-27 Annual Budget information and Bylaws updates will also go out by email to all members later this month, along with proposed updates to the LWVYC Local Issue Positions.

Thanks to all members who replied to the 2026-27 Program Plan Survey that went out in March. Member feedback is used for the final 26-27 Program plan, presented for approval at the Annual meeting.

RSVP for Annual Members Meeting

Service Opportunities / Committee News

Voter Service

To volunteer for a **Saturday Morning Farmers Market** voter education table in May, contact Kathleen Curry at kcurry652@gmail.com.

To volunteer for Thursday, May 28, 10:00-12:00 **Woodland Senior Center tabling**, contact Faye Smith-Gee at lwvyolofsgee@gmail.com.

Events

Help plan and host LWVYC's **2nd Annual Members' Meeting**, Saturday, June 20, from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

We hope to confirm a small group of volunteers by May 15.

The first planning meeting will be held on either Wednesday, May 20 or Wednesday, May 27, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. At that meeting, we'll review what needs to be done and assign tasks to ensure a well-organized and successful event.

Volunteering is a great way to connect with other League members and spend some time together.

We are looking for a member who can lend a canopy tent for the event. We currently have two and would like to secure one more.

Healthcare

LWVYC sponsored members **Marilu Carter** and **Mary Jo Bryan** to represent our League at the NAMI Yolo annual **Celebration of Hope and Resilience** event, where former Committee member, Millie Braunstein, was remembered, in memoriam, as a 2025 Mental Health Star.

The committee meets on Zoom on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3:00-4:00 pm. We continue to look at local County healthcare issues. To join the committee, contact **Michelle Famula** msfamula@gmail.com

Membership

Members continue to inquire about the "Household Membership" dues option. **Membership Director Kathleen Stack** advises:

There is no longer a "Household Membership". However, a member may sign up for more than one person by checking the "Second Person" box on the join/renew form. Additional fields will appear in the portal to fill out information for the second person. You will then be required to pay dues for each member. The dues amount must be the same for each member.

If you select the recommended amount of \$75/member, you will pay \$150 for 2 members. However, if you wish to pay the same amount for 2 members as the former "Household Membership" rate, you may enter \$55 in the box marked "choose your own amount", and you will still pay \$110 for both household members.

Payment in excess of the dues fee is divided between all three levels of the League. If you would like to make a donation that goes just to your local LWVYC League, you can do that on the second page of the join process. **Donations made to local, state or national League through the portal are not tax-deductible.**

If you wish to make a **tax-deductible donation** to our League, you can make a donation to our **Education Fund** through **our website**.

Board Activities

Board meetings are available via Zoom to members and the public. Please send an email to 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

- May 13, 2026
- June 10, 2026

Members are encouraged to attend!

State and National Advocacy items

LWV California (LWVC)

LWVC interest groups follow California Legislative efforts impacting California voting rights. If you wish to stay up to date on State League advocacy, sign up for an interest group to learn more:
<https://my.lwv.org/california/join-online-interest-group>

LWVC is leading the way to promote the **California Fair Elections Act**, a measure that will appear on the November 3 ballot. The measure would remove the ban on public financing of campaigns in non-charter cities. We can all work together with the State League to PASS this initiative! Learn more here: <https://lwvc.org/launch-campaign-california-fair-elections-act/>

LWVC is also leading the way to oppose a voter suppression November 3 ballot measure, the **California Voter Identification, Citizenship Verification, and Registered Voter List Administration Initiative**. This proposition seeks to amend the California Constitution. It adds several requirements beyond simple Voter ID and jeopardizes voter privacy for mail-in ballots, complicates continuous voter eligibility for both in-person and mail-in ballot return and makes it harder for millions of eligible Californians to register and vote. Learn more here: <https://lwvc.org/voting-rights-groups-vow-defeat-measure-restricting-ballot-access/>

****SPECIAL LWVC Voting Rights Webinar****

Voting Rights: What Constitutes Free and Fair Elections? League of Women Voters of California and the Mechanics' Institute

Register here.

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

As midterm elections approach, and the U.S. Supreme Court considers multiple election law cases, what can voters expect when they cast their ballots - and how may that change in the near future? Experts in election ethics law, election administration, and voting rights education and activism will address these and other questions.

LWVC Voter Education Forums this month: Several Leagues around the state joined to offer forums for statewide candidates for **California Insurance Commissioner** and **State Superintendent of Public Instruction**. The Insurance Commissioner forum took place on **April 29**. The recording is available online **HERE**. The Superintendent of

Public Instruction forum will be on **May 7**. Members can register to view the forum livestream **HERE**.

National League of Women Voters (LWVUS)

LWVUS is stepping up to **empower voters** and **defend democracy** nationally.

LWVUS Joins Voting Rights Coalition Challenging Executive Order on Mail-In Ballots.

A coalition of voting rights organizations has filed a lawsuit challenging President Trump's March 31 executive order on mail-in voting. The suit was filed by the League of Women Voters, the Association of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO), US Vote Foundation, Asian Pacific American Advocates (OCA), and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

They are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Brennan Center for Justice, Legal Defense Fund (LDF), Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC), and Latino-Justice PRLDEF. See the full press release and the statement from the plaintiffs and their counsel **HERE**.

League of Women Voters and SPLC Move to Defend Fair Representation in Census Lawsuit

The League of Women Voters, represented by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), has filed a motion to intervene in Louisiana v. U.S. Department of Commerce. The League is intervening to ensure that all residents – not just citizens – are counted to ensure fair representation and equitable distribution of federal resources, as required by the Constitution and federal law.

If the plaintiffs are successful, states with large immigrant populations would be penalized, stripped of congressional seats, electoral votes, and any federal funding tied to population. See the full statement here.

Action Alert: Tell Congress the Census Must Count All People

Urge your Members of Congress to **protect the census**.

LWVUS Joins Letter to Congress Supporting Free Public Education for Children Regardless of Immigration Status

The letter reiterates the League's support for the US Supreme Court's 1982 decision in *Plyler v. Doe*, which ruled that children cannot be denied access to a free public education on the basis of their immigration status. See the text of the letter **HERE**.

LWVUS Condemns Supreme Court Louisiana v. Callais Ruling

LWVUS President Dianna Wynn and CEO Celina Steward issued a joint statement in response to the US Supreme Court's 6-3 decision in Louisiana v. Callais, concerning the constitutionality of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"The US Supreme Court has consistently upheld Section 2 to challenge racial discrimination in redistricting...[this ruling] effectively eliminates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act by rewriting the rules."

You can read the full statement [HERE](#).

LWVUS Continues Challenge to Birthright Citizenship Executive Order

LWVUS joins other national civil rights groups challenging the Executive Order to narrowly restrict citizenship. Birthright citizenship is a constitutional guarantee of civil rights and protections clearly stated in the 14th Amendment. Read LWVUS Birthright Citizenship Press Release [HERE](#).

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, Kathleen Stack and Richard DeLiberty, Chair

Nomination: Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt, Judy Wohlfrom, Leslie Hunter, Chair

[Register to Vote](#)

[Easy Voter Guide](#)

[VOTE 411](#)

[Yolo County Elections Office](#)

[Local Elections](#)

[LWVC Communications Signup](#)

[LWVUS Take Action page](#)

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

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