

The VOTER

August 2026

UPCOMING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

September 1, 2026: Democracy Works Award- Nomination Deadline

September 24, 2026 (6:00 pm - 8:30 pm): Woodland City Council & WJUSD Candidate Forums at Woodland Senior and Community Center

September 26, 2026 (9:30 am-12 noon): LWVYC NAMI WALKS! Team at Woodland Community College

September 30, 2026 (TBD): SAVE THE DATE - LWVYC Prop 39 Pros and Cons Forum at Brunelle Hall, Davis High School

October 8, 2026 (6:30-8:00 pm): CA 4 House Candidate Forum at Woodland Senior and Community Center

October 9, 2026 (TBD): SAVE THE DATE - DJUSD Candidate Forum at Davis City Council Chambers



President's Message



Dear Yolo County League Member,

August is for **planning!**September is for **action!**

Our new 2026-27 Board is gearing up for the LWVYC Annual Board Retreat on August 22.

The Board, elected at the Annual Meeting in June, includes:

Executive Committee

Michelle Famula, President

Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt, V.P.

Kathleen Stack, Secretary

Carla Cox, Treasurer

Directors

Faye Smith-Gee, Events

Judy Higgerson, Voter Services

Matthew Schneider, Membership

Zachariah Oquenda, Advocacy

Why a retreat? When our League is guided by newly approved bylaws, issue positions and program developments, our board comes together to create and resource the implementation plans that "get the job done."

While each board member identifies the resource needs for their oversight areas, our team works together to develop the strategies for the identified programs and events.

What is the Yolo County League of Women Voters up to in 2026-27?

Check the **September VOTER 2026-27 Calendar** (also posted to our website following the retreat) to learn what our board has in store for training, projects, forums and communications in the year ahead.

November 3, 2026: Mid-Term Election Day is on the way!

Fall 2026 is our time to strengthen voting rights, increase election participation and grow the impact of representation of our diverse communities throughout Yolo County. We must all work together to protect participatory democracy and address the needs of our families, friends and neighbors.

In the words of our **Student Voter Empowerment** contest winner, **Sergio Santiago**, a former 12th grader from Esparto High School and new freshman at Woodland Community College this fall, our League message is clear: **"Your Vote, Your Choice, Your Voice."**

LWVYC was honored to receive the County Board of Education's resolution recognizing **High School Student Voter Education Weeks** (Sept 14-25) on August 11.

I joined Voter Service Director **Judy Higginson** to thank the Board for supporting the vision of League contest champion **Judy Wohlfrom** (unable to attend that evening) and to help us bring the civic messages of pre-registration and election participation to students.

September Action: Inspire Voting! Now is the time for all League members and our voting community to get involved and stay engaged. It is on all of us in the League to take this message to all in our community.

- Be sure you have a **plan to vote**.
- Be sure you are **registered**.
- Know **what's on the ballot** and know **what the issues mean** to you.
- Know **how to return your ballot** and how to **track your ballot**.
- Know why your participation is so important and why.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

It will never be more important than NOW to show up and VOTE!

As always, we remind members to check out lwvyolo.org to see new event announcements and post-event recordings and photos on our website.

Please share our online social posts with friends and family to keep them updated and to increase their interest in election participation.

If you have ideas for better ways to publicize our events and activities, let us know at info@lwvyolo.org.

The success of our 2026-27 year is in our hands. See how this year's League **2026-27 Program Plan** creates even more opportunity and achievement.

Thank you to all of our members, collaborators and supporters.

Warm regards,
Michelle Famula, President
LWV Yolo County

Upcoming Election 2026 Forums

SEPTEMBER 24: WCC & WJUSD CANDIDATE FORUMS



Join us for back-to-back candidate forums to host candidates for Woodland City Council and Woodland Joint Unified School District at the **Woodland Senior and Community Center (6:00 - 8:30 pm) Doors open at 5:45 pm.**

SEPTEMBER 30: LWVYC PROP 39 PROS & CONS FORUM



Join us to hear League members and election expert guest speakers present Proposition 39 information to help us all better understand current Voter Registration/ CA Voter ID laws and constitutional provisions, and how this proposition will change those if passed.

Brunelle Hall, Davis High School (7:00-8:30 pm) Doors open at 6:45 pm.

OCTOBER 8: CA 4 HOUSE CANDIDATE FORUM

A graphic for the LWVYC Candidate Forum. It features a blue header with white stars and the LWV logo. The text reads: "CANDIDATE FORUM", "California's 4th U.S. Congressional District", "Thursday, October 8", "6:30-8:00 PM", "Woodland Community and Senior Center", "2001 East St. Woodland", and "Broadcast, Livestream and Recording by Woodland TV Channel 21". There are two portraits of candidates: Eric Jones on the left and Mike Thompson on the right.

Eric Jones

Mike Thompson

Join us as our Yolo County League hosts a public, nonpartisan Candidate Forum for our D4 Congressional district. The top-two primary vote winners, **Eric Jones** and **Mike Thompson**, will join our League

moderator for a 90-minute discussion of district opportunities and challenges.

LWVYC will facilitate the event using the League's standard candidate forum format with support from fellow District 4 County Leagues (**Napa, Sonoma, Placer** and **Sacramento**). The event will be in-person and live-streamed with an opportunity for audience Q&A.

Woodland Senior and Community Center(6:30 to 8:00 pm) Doors open at 6:10 pm.

OCTOBER 9: DJUSD CANDIDATE FORUM



Join us for our LWVYC candidate forum, hosting candidates for Davis Joint Unified School District Areas 1, 3 & Area 4.

Davis City Council Chambers. Check out our website and email reminders for forum time. **Save the Date!**

LWVYC Announcements

**ANNUAL LWVYC DEMOCRACY WORKS AWARD
NOMINATION DEADLINE REMINDER**

2026

DEMOCRACY WORKS AWARD

RECOGNIZING PEOPLE AND/OR ORGANIZATIONS WHO WORK TO
EMPOWER VOTERS AND DEFEND DEMOCRACY IN YOLO COUNTY



lwvyolo.org



Nominations for this year's annual **Democracy Works Award** close on **SEPTEMBER 1**. The board encourages members to nominate persons from across Yolo County whose commitment to empowering voters and strengthening civic engagement has made an impact.

The award committee accepts nominations for **both individuals and groups**. We seek qualities such as:

- encouraging equal representation,
- promoting free and fair elections,
- expanding voter education and rights,
- advocating for legislation that benefits our communities,
- leading grassroots political efforts.

Please submit your nominations by September 1, using one of the **2026 Nomination Forms** on our website. Democracy Works Award recipient(s) will be announced in late September and recognized in mid-November.

MEMBER EVENT VENUE SUGGESTIONS WANTED!

LWVYC is updating our list of venues for future League meetings and public events. Events Director **Faye Smith-Gee** would love more member recommendations.

Faye notes, *"We are specifically looking for rental spaces in Yolo County—especially in Davis, Woodland, Winters and West Sacramento—with capacities ranging from 15 to about 160 for banquet-style seating. We are open to all sorts of spots: restaurants with private rooms, hotels, churches, clubs, community centers, or any other great meeting spaces you might know of."*

Members who have a recommendation in their community are asked to please contact Faye with the venue name, city, approximate capacity, and, if you have it, any contact info you might have at lwvyolofsgee@gmail.com.

League Service Opportunities

VOTER SERVICE

Tabling and Forums: sign up now to join our fall election information **tabling teams** or our **forums committee**!

The November Ballot will have several races for City, State and Federal offices, with lots of ways for our members to engage with voters in person during both community partner and League-sponsored events.

Staffing our tables with local resident members is both convenient for members and appreciated by the local community. Check out our LWVYC Voter Toolbox [HERE](#). You can contact our Voter Services Director and Forums Committee Chair through our website [HERE](#) if you want to be part of our fall 2026 voter education tabling or forum teams.

VOLUNTEER for VOTE 411 This NOVEMBER Election

What is VOTE 411? It's an online voter information website operated by the League of Women Voters throughout the United States.
vote411.org/california

What information does VOTE 411 provide? Voter registration access, important election dates, and *information about the candidates and ballot measures on voters' individual ballots...* All a voter needs to do is enter their home address.

Who posts the information about the candidates? Candidates post their own responses to League questions, as well as their photo, campaign website and other social media. *League volunteers contact every local candidate in their county to invite them to participate in VOTE 411.*

Our League welcomes members to be new VOTE 411 volunteers! A team of volunteers makes the job much easier, so don't hesitate. You *work from home using your own computer*, but you are provided with a dedicated Google account and email so your *VOTE 411 activity is separate from your private files and emails.*

LWV California provides training and support, and LWVYC member **Carla Cox** will also provide coaching to help you get started. Training videos are available to get volunteers ready for action by September. Contact Carla at ccox.lwv@gmail.com for more information.

Help Develop Candidate Forum Questions

We have several forums planned this fall for **local city and school board** elections, as well as a congressional candidate forum. The Forum Planning Committee is looking for member input on potential questions, promotion ideas, and volunteer opportunities.

There are both small and larger ways to help, whether in advance of the forums or during the events. Your participation helps support our public information and voter education efforts.

Judy Higerson and **Carla Cox** will coordinate your submitted questions and volunteer interest. They will direct Woodland-specific questions and needs to Faye and Davis-specific questions and needs to Kate.

Interested in helping? Please contact Judy at voterservices@lwvyolo.org or Carla at ccox.lwv@gmail.com to learn more.

NOTE: Even if you are not a member of the Forum Committee, your questions for our **CA D4 Congressional candidates** are important to us. Please contact Judy or Carla with question suggestions for the Forum Committee to consider.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Events Director **Faye Smith-Gee** seeks those interested in helping to plan our 2026-27 events, including our annual **State of the Community Luncheon**, historically our largest League fundraiser!

Event planning is a great way to connect with other League members and spend time together. We want to make sure all of our events in the coming year are as well organized and successful as the ones we had this past year.

Are you a member who wishes to get in on the early planning or just take on a small task to pitch in before, during or after the event? Want a little more social time with fellow league members? All jobs are important. Reach out to Faye at lwvyolofsgee@gmail.com to receive information for upcoming LWVYC event service opportunities.

Upcoming Community Events

SEPTEMBER 26: LWVYC NAMI WALKS! TEAM EVENT



The healthcare committee hosts the **LWVYC Walk Team** again this fall. Members are invited to join us for this short walk on **Saturday, September 26 (9:30 a.m.- 12 noon)** at **Woodland Community College** to raise funds and show our support for community mental health.

The Committee will also staff an information table to promote our **2025 Mental Health advocacy position** supporting local Yolo County mental health resources. See photos from last year's 2025 walk **[HERE](#)**.

Join our walk team of members, family and friends wishing to share their public support for County Mental Health resources and programs. Learn more about **NAMI WALKS! 2026**. Email WALK TEAM Leader **Stephanie deGraff Hunt** at **sdegraffhunt@gmail.com** to join our team.

LWVYC Committee News

Housing: Committee Chair **Kate Curry** is looking for more committee members to continue to learn more about affordable housing and homelessness issues. New event planning will begin this fall. Please

contact us at info@lwvyolo.org if you are interested in learning more about the LWVYC Housing Committee.

Membership: New Membership Director **Matthew Schneider** reminds members that LWVYC seeks to hold 3-4 **orientation teas** for new members each year. These events provide valuable information about the history, structure and activities of the league. They are also a great opportunity to get to know other league members. Please contact us at info@lwvyolo.org if you are interested in hosting or attending a new member orientation.

Healthcare: We continue to advance our 2025 LWVYC MH position to help communicate available professional services and community resources. This year we will monitor developments in the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) legislation and impacts to local housing and healthcare.

Healthcare is back in the national news as midterm candidates for Congress and Governor are once again talking about "single payer", Medicare, MediCal, Veterans' care and other federal and state healthcare programs. Come join our committee to help decide our next area of voter education and advocacy. Contact **Michelle Famula** msfamula@gmail.com to be added to the committee meeting contact list.

Board Activities

LWVYC Board Meetings

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.

August: NO BOARD MEETING

September: TBD: Following our August board retreat, we will identify a monthly schedule of Pre-board Executive Team meetings and monthly Board meetings. Look for the new meeting schedule in the September newsletter.

LWVC 2027 State Convention UPDATE

It's not too early to start thinking about the **2027 California State League Convention**. LWVC Convention 2027 will be held on **Friday, June 25, 9:00 AM - Saturday, June 26, 2027, 5:00 PM** at the Westin Anaheim Resort

In Anaheim, CA. It can be attended in person or virtually. Learn more at the **2027 California League Convention website**.

In the past, LWVYC has been able to send up to 4 voting delegates, but League members are also welcome to observe or attend virtual workshops. If you may be interested in attending or helping to plan convention events, contact **Michelle Famula** to learn more.

LWV State and National News

LWVC NEWS AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

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

August/September LWVC Educational Programs

(Click on Virtual Meeting Title to register for the event)

Aug 17

5:00 PM PT

Voter Engagement - LWVC is hosting sessions twice a month until Election Day. This is a chance for you to share "get out the vote" (GOVT) ideas and activities with each other. No registration is required. Click on Voter Engagement Hour

Aug 25

1:00 PM PT

Engaging Spanish-Speaking Voters with VOTE411 - Will provide practical tools, VOTE411 resources, and culturally relevant strategies to authentically engage Spanish-speaking voters and expand access to the League's trusted election information resource.

Aug 25

3:00 PM PT

Civics 101 for Healthcare Professionals -Vot-ER and League of Women Voters are hosting a Civics 101 webinar to help those in the healthcare industry understand how all levels of government impact their work

Aug 26

12:00 PM PT

Continuing the Conversation: Building Our DEI Transformation Pillars Learning Community - This interactive session will reflect on key themes from the DEI session at Convention, introduce the vision

and structure for our upcoming DEI webinar series, and gather your feedback on the DEI Pillars that will guide our capacity-building efforts.

Aug 27

1:00 PM PT

Relationship Building and Advocacy During the Election Season -

Will equip members to take action on election administration ahead of the November midterm election. There are a variety of options available to individuals who are interested in election engagement, from direct advocacy to observation roles.

Sep 3

1:00 PM PT

Know Your Rights: Voter Intimidation and the 2026 Election - Free Speech for People will join LWVUS in this webinar. We'll discuss various types of voter intimidation, legal protections, litigation around intimidation, the current landscape, and what to watch for as we get closer to midterm elections.

Sep 24

1:00 PM PT

Election 2026: Integrated Communications Strategies That Mobilize Voters -Leagues will learn how to develop an editorial approach to developing integrated communications strategies that move voters from awareness to action during the final months before the election.

Recent LWVC Recordings

Observer Corps Training Passcode: PkbR0g7!

Intro to Governance and Compliance at the League: A Transformation Webinar Passcode:r\$QX8B6H

GOTV: Moving People to Action Passcode: 6DQ+@@@yE

November 2026 Ballot Measures

LWVC has taken positions on three **November Statewide Ballot Measures** affecting Election Regulation and Voting Rights Measures: Prop 39, 4 & 5.

Proposition 39: Voter ID (Voter ID, Citizenship Verification, and Registered Voter List Administration Initiative): **OPPOSE**

What it does: This constitutional amendment would require voters to present government-issued ID [unspecified] when voting in person or

the last four digits of their ID number when voting by mail; documented proof of citizenship verification at voter registration.

Supporters: Reform California, Californians for Voter ID and Republican U.S. Rep. Ken Calvert

Opponents: *League of Women Voters of California*, ACLU California Action and California Donor Table

Proposition 4: Public Campaign Financing: SUPPORT

What it does: This measure would give California governments the authority to set up public financing systems for state and local political candidates. Public campaign financing has been banned in California since 1988. State lawmakers approved the measure last year to send it to voters this November.

Supporters: California Common Cause, California Clean Money Campaign, *League of Women Voters* and ACLU California Action

Opponents: California Taxpayers Association

Proposition 5: Recall Election Reform: SUPPORT

What it does: After a recall, this constitutional amendment would eliminate the election to pick a successor immediately, such as when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger replaced the recalled Gov. Gray Davis, instead leaving the post vacant until it's filled in a separate election. It would also allow the recalled official to run for the office again.

Supporters: League of Women Voters, California Common Cause and Secretary of State Shirley Weber

Opponents: Election Integrity Project California

LWVUS ADVOCACY NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

LWVUS continues to Oppose the federal "Equal Representation Act" and to protect the Census

- The 14th Amendment requires the apportionment of the seats in the House of Representatives to be based on "the whole number of persons in each State" regardless of citizenship. The League opposes the Equal Representation Act (H.R.151 and S.2205), introduced in 2025 to add a citizenship question to the 2030

Census and exclude noncitizens from the apportionment process. This violation of the 14th Amendment jeopardizes fair representation for district legal non-citizen residents also needing constituent service and deserving representation.

Action Alert: Tell Congress the Census Must Count All People.
Urge your Members of Congress to protect the census

LWVUS partners with Vote Riders to offer FREE Voter ID Handcards

- Leagues across the US are now partnering with Vote Riders, a group that helps people get their IDs in photo-ID-requiring states. Vote Riders print and ship free cards for organizations to hand out to help inform the public of ID requirements (English & Spanish). There is information for each of the 50 states plus DC.

LWVUS adds Opposition to the federal VOTER ID Act to its Opposition to the federal S.A.V.E. America Act.

- Current House and Senate S.A.V.E. Acts and the new House Voter ID Act bills may be taken up again when Congress returns from its summer recess or later in the fall, despite lacking adequate congressional support now in both the HOUSE and SENATE.

In July, the House of Representatives voted to advance the S.A.V.E. America Act legislation that would fundamentally change how eligible Americans register to vote by adding identification documents and procedures many citizens, who are legally eligible voters, would lack or find difficult to produce in time for the upcoming federal election.

Their voices would be silenced, and their votes left uncast in November 2026. This is voter suppression!...LWVUS asks its members to oppose these measures.

Together, we want our elections to be free, fair, and accessible for all eligible Americans, and we won't let efforts to create barriers that block citizens from fully participating in our democracy, like the S.A.V.E. America Act or the Voter ID Act move forward.

Action Alert: Tell our California Senators and your House Representative to continue their opposition to the S.A.V. E America Act and also the federal Voter ID Act this summer.

Senator Alex Padilla
Senator Adam Schiff

RESOURCES

Yolo County LWV Board & Committee Members

OFFICERS

President: Michelle Famula

Vice President: Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt

Treasurer: Carla Cox

Secretary: Kathleen Stack

DIRECTORS

Voter Services: Judy Higgerson

Membership: Matthew Schneider

Events: Faye Smith-Gee

Advocacy: Zachariah Oquendo

COMMITTEES

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

Nomination: Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt, Mary Jo Bryan, Judy Wohlfrom, Chair

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

[LWV Yolo County Website](#)

[LWV Yolo County Facebook](#)

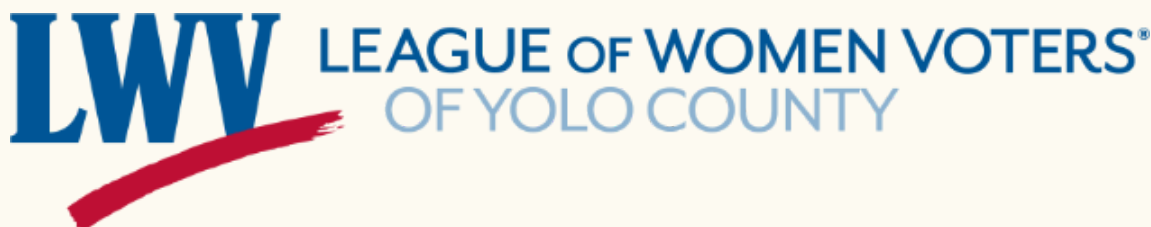
[Register to Vote](#)

[Easy Voter Guide](#)

[VOTE 411](#)

[Yolo County Elections Office](#)

[Local Elections](#)



lwvyolo.org





Try email marketing for free today!