



The VOTER

July 2026

OUR LEAGUE NEWS

UPCOMING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

July 17, 2026: *Good Trouble Lives On*

No August Board Meeting

August 22, 2026: LWVYC's Annual Board Retreat.

September 1, 2026: Annual Democracy Works Nominations due

September 26, 2026: NAMI WALKS!

October 8, 2026: California House of Representatives District 4
Candidate Forum

Scroll down to **Upcoming Events** for more details.



President's Message



Dear Yolo County League Member,

It's July: **Start of a New League Year!**

As we conclude an amazing 2025-2026, we are gearing up for the challenges of the 2026-27 year. We have so many opportunities and so many new ideas.

I begin with a BIG thank you to our 2026 Annual Meeting hosts **Carol Souza Cole** and **Glenn Cole** for a perfect summer morning brunch to end our year in the spectacular garden setting of their home.

Gratitude as well for the enthusiastic member attendance that celebrated our 2025-26 achievements and then set goals for the coming year.

While we shared time with League friends and neighbors, our member actions met all League business needs.

The membership approved our new Board and our 26-27 Program Plan and Budget. We approved important updates to our LWVYC Bylaws and endorsed our exciting transition to 501(c)(3) status.

Members also approved the updates to our local League positions, as recommended by the Position Review Committee. These updates, along with the commitment to explore creation of a LWVYC Observer Corps, gives us the tools we need in 26-27 to expand our countywide reach and civic impact.

As this new 2026-27 year begins, we give thanks to **Lorna Carriveau** and **Jessica Smith** as they leave their Board positions, while we welcome new Board members **Matt Schneider** and **Zacharia Oquendo**. We also acknowledge the work of **Leslie Hunter**, stepping off the Nominations Committee, while thanking **Judy Wohlfrom** and **Mary Jo Bryan** for stepping up.

Executive Committee members, **Michelle Famula** (President); **Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt** (V.P.); **Kathleen Stack** (Secretary) and **Carla Cox** (Treasurer) are now working with Board members **Faye Smith-Gee** (Events Director), **Judy Higginson** (Voter Services Director), **Matthew Schneider** (Membership Director) and **Zacharia Oquendo** (Advocacy Director) to create the LWVYC annual Board Retreat agenda for August. Check the **September VOTER** to learn how we will set our calendar for the year ahead.

While our **2026-27 LWVYC Program Plan** identifies this year's goals, the Board continues to look for new and inviting ways to grow our impact. I thank members for their thoughts on future opportunities and past activities that most inspired them. The Board will use survey feedback and member ideas to strengthen voting rights, grow election participation and support our diverse communities, while we look to improve member experiences.

I hope you will continue to keep an eye out for our monthly **VOTER** newsletters and reminder emails to find League service opportunities that are a good fit for you.

As always, remember to check out lwvyolo.org to see new event announcements and post-event recordings and photos. Please share this newsletter with friends and family to keep them updated and to grow their interest in election participation as well. If you have photos to share from events or ideas for better ways to publicize our events and activities, let us know at info@lwvyolo.org.

The success of our 2025-26 year is just the start of our expanded county outreach in support of democracy and good local, state and national governance. We hope you are all excited to see how this year's 2026-27 LWVYC Program Plan creates even more opportunities and achievements.

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

Warm regards,
Michelle Famula, President
LWV Yolo County

Upcoming Events

Good Trouble Lives On - HONORING JOHN LEWIS



Date: Friday, July 17, 2026

Time: 6:30 to 8 pm

Location: Mary L. Stephens Davis Public Library ([map](#))

Sign up at **Yolo Indivisible EVENT**

Honoring John Lewis - We join LWVC and our local civic partners with nationwide support for a WEEKEND OF ACTION (July 17-19) to honor the late Congressman John Lewis and his legacy of protecting voting rights.

Indivisible Yolo hosts this free, public screening of the 2024 Documentary, *VIGILANTES INC: American Voter Suppression*, on July 17. Community members are encouraged to attend and learn more about the growing need to address voter suppression efforts and promote voting rights protections.

Attendees will learn how to uphold the tradition of civic engagement rooted in the Civil Rights Movement.

Stay after the film to discuss what voter protection means today and learn more about Indivisible Yolo's voter protection efforts.

**NOMINATIONS DUE: ANNUAL LWVYC
DEMOCRACY WORKS AWARD**

2026

DEMOCRACY WORKS AWARD

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



lwvyolo.org



DEADLINE: September 1, 2026

Nomination Forms: **Available online or in print format**

REMINDER: We're still seeking nominations for this year's annual **Democracy Works Award** for 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 that include

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

Democracy Works Award recipient(s) will be announced in September and recognized this fall.

2026 LWVYC NAMI WALKS! TEAM



Date: Saturday, September 26, 2026

Time: 9:30 am - 12 noon

Location: Woodland Community College

Signup: August - **SAVE THE DATE**

LWVYC will again sponsor our own Yolo County NAMI WALKS! Team with opportunities for promotion of our **2025 Mental Health advocacy position**.

The LWVYC Health Care Committee will coordinate our walk team of members, family and friends wishing to share their public support for County Mental Health resources and programs.

See photos from last year's 2025 walk **[HERE](#)**.

CA HOUSE DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATE FORUM

SAVE THE DATE

LWV LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
OF YOLO COUNTY

CANDIDATE FORUM California's 4th U.S. Congressional District



Eric Jones

Thursday, October 8

6:30-8:00 PM

Woodland Community and
Senior Center
2001 East St. Woodland



Mike Thompson

Broadcast, Livestream and Recording by Woodland TV Channel 21

Date: Thursday, October 8, 2026

Time: 6:30 to 8:00 pm, doors open 6:10 pm

Location: Woodland Community & Senior Center (map)

Signup: Coming soon - SAVE THE DATE

The League of Women Voters of Yolo County (LWVYC) will hold a public, nonpartisan CA D4 Candidate Forum. 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.

The forum will use the League's standard candidate format and include an opportunity for audience Q&A.

The Forum Planning committee seeks member input now for questions and promotion ideas. Do you want to be a part of our public information and voter education efforts? Small and large service opportunities are available in advance as well as during the event. Interested members should contact **Judy Higginson** voterservices@lwvyolo.org or **Carla Cox** ccox.lwv@gmail.com today to learn more.

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 questions or suggestions that the Forum committee should consider.

Announcements

STUDENT VOTER EMPOWERMENT DESIGN STICKERS



Stickers displaying our contest-winning **Student Voter Empowerment Designs** have been ordered for distribution at voter education events and tabling this fall. All designs were created by local area High School Students in Yolo County seeking to encourage youth civic engagement.

Judy Wohlfrom advises that League members who provide voter registration resources, ballot return information, and League election education materials will have stickers available to distribute while tabling. These stickers are designed to remind voters to make a plan to vote this November 3rd and encourage others by displaying and sharing our students' civic message designs.

VENUE RECOMMENDATIONS NEEDED

LWVYC is updating our list of venues for future League meetings and public events. Faye would love to get more member suggestions.

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.

Service Opportunities

Voter Service Tabling and Forums

Now is the time to sign up to join our **tabling teams**! To volunteer for voter outreach during the November Mid-Term election season, please contact our Voter Services Director and Candidate Forum Coordinator.

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 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 Voter Education Tabling or Forums 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.

<https://www.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 needs members to be 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 will begin during the summer to get volunteers ready for action by September.

Contact Carla at ccox.lwv@gmail.com for more information.

Help Plan our Member Meetings and Public Events

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 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? All jobs are important. Reach out to Faye at lwvyolofsgee@gmail.com to receive information for upcoming LWVYC event service opportunities.

Committee News

Healthcare

The healthcare committee will host a **LWVYC Walk Team** again this fall at the **Yolo NAMI WALKS! event**. Members are invited to join us for a short walk on **Saturday, September 26 (9:30 am-12 noon)** at **Woodland Community College** to raise funds and show our support for community mental health. **Save the Date:** LWVYC will register our team in August.

LWVYC Healthcare committee members will also provide information advocating for our 2025 LWVYC County Mental Health Issue Position to support local mental health resources.

Housing

Committee Chair **Kate Curry** is looking for more committee members to continue to learn more about affordable housing and homelessness issues. Please contact us if you are interested in learning more about the LWVYC Housing Committee at info@lwvyolo.org.

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.

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.

August: NO BOARD MEETING

August 22: Board Retreat - following the August retreat, the new board will identify a monthly schedule of Pre-board Executive Team meetings and monthly Board meetings. The new schedule will accommodate the availability of new board members. **The new meeting schedule will be shared in the September newsletter.**

LWV STATE & NATIONAL NEWS

2026 National Convention UPDATE

The 2026 National Convention was held in Columbus, Ohio June 25-28. The quorum exceeded 1,000 registered members. A new LWVUS Board and Nominations Committee were elected. Both budget and 26-28 Program were adopted, along with six LWV state resolutions and a Colorado State Concurrence on Religious Freedom.

ADOPTED: 2026-28 National Program - Defending Democracy Under Siege:

- 1. Voting Rights:** Ensuring every eligible voter has equitable access to register, vote, and have their ballot counted fairly and accurately.
- 2. Protecting Elections:** Protecting and empowering voters to ensure elections are fair, accessible, and representative of all Americans.
- 3. Redistricting:** Ensuring fair and equitable representation for all residents through transparent and accountable redistricting processes and protecting the US Census.
- 4. Immigration:** Advocating for a fair immigration process and path to citizenship. Standing up for immigrant communities to receive fair treatment under the law; encouraging new citizens to participate in our democracy.
- 5. Individual Rights:** Protecting and defending the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and preventing attacks that undermine those fundamental freedoms.
- 6. The Presidency:** Working to guarantee that presidential power is exercised within the constitutional framework of a dynamic balance between the three branches of government (checks and balances). Supporting the Abolition of the Electoral College, including support for the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

ADOPTED: LWVUS Resolutions:

- League affirms its commitment to **nonpartisan public (civil) service**. (LWV NOLA)
- League strongly supports legislation that will establish **statehood for the people of DC**. (LWV DC)
- League reaffirms its declaration of a **constitutional crisis** to hold congress accountable for protecting the rule of law, defending the constitution and ending executive overreach.(LWV Illinois +)
- League supports **National Popular Vote** compact and **Electoral College abolishment** to facilitate direct election of the President (one person one vote) (LWV Illinois, Wisconsin, Oregon+:)
- League reaffirms support for **privacy, oversight, transparency and accountability of surveillance technologies**. (LWV Colorado)
- League reaffirms support for **educating voters about anti Human trafficking** in educating marginalized voters.(LWV Michigan)

ADOPTED: COLORADO Concurrence: (language to be added to *Impact on Issues 2026* update)

Religious Freedom Position (Colorado): Support for Church- State separation. Freedom of and from any religious faith.

LWVC News & 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: <https://my.lwv.org/california/join-online-interest-group>

Those who may be considering participating in our LWVYC developing Observer Corps, may wish to sign up for the July 22 virtual training listed here with other LWVC July Educational Programs.

July Educational Programs

Jul 14 12:30PM PT

Democracy Integrity Briefing. Join LWV and the National Conference on Citizenship Algorithmic Transparency Institute for our monthly briefing to identify and address the latest national, statewide, and local trends in mis-and-disinformation

Jul 15 12:00PM PT

Teaming with Solutions: LWV and Library Collaborations to Empower Voters and Protect Democracy Join the American Library Association and the League of Women Voters to hear about what's at stake in the 2026 midterm elections, and how libraries and Leagues can partner to help voters make their voices heard.

Jul 22 12:00PM PT

Observer Corp. This training will share best practices for League's to build their Observer Corps network.

November Ballot Measures

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

Proposition 39: Voter ID: OPPOSE

What it does: This constitutional amendment would require voters to present government-issued ID when voting in person or the last four digits of their ID number when voting by mail.

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 & Opportunities

LWV and SPLC Defend Fair Representation in Census Lawsuit

The League of Women Voters, represented by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), 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 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 continues to oppose the federal S.A.V.E. Act 2.0.

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

In February, the House of Representatives voted to advance this legislation that would fundamentally change how eligible Americans register to vote by adding identification documents and procedures many citizens, who are legal 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 SAVE Act, move forward.

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

Contact California Senators: **Alex Padilla & Adam Schiff**

House Representatives: **Find your California House Representative**

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: Zacharia Oquendo

COMMITTEES

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

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

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



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

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