



The VOTER

June 2026



OUR LEAGUE NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

President's Message



Dear Yolo County League Member,

It's June. **Time to Celebrate** an Amazing 2025-2026 year!

With primary ballots returned in California, we all deserve a little summer recess to reflect and celebrate before we gear up for the next civic challenges of the year ahead.

In June, we express our gratitude to this year's board members moving off and Committee Chairs for their energy in achieving this year's innovations while upholding several of our most impactful local League traditions. Looking ahead, we'll welcome a new board, ready to implement our 2026-27 program.

Let us inspire all members to engage (and share their talents) to advance our League's mission. What role most inspires you to advance voting rights and responsibilities, grow election participation and champion good governance?

Looking back on this year, we've accomplished so much. Last June, members voted to pursue an ambitious **Program Plan** to expand our countywide impact, support youth civic engagement, act locally to protect voting rights and election integrity, reaffirm our local issue positions and advocate for our first LWVYC issue position on County Mental Healthcare.

We hope to see all of our members join together at this year's 2026 **Annual Member Meeting** to share in the celebration of our 2025-26 achievements and set our 2026-27 year in motion.

YES!: The League Inspires Voting ... but we do so much more!

2025-26 was a wonderful example of how we are strengthening our League and extending our reach countywide in support of democracy and good local, state and national governance.

Join in this year's lovely garden gathering as we conclude the League year and the month of June with our Annual Meeting. Help us set the stage for our 2026-27 year as we elect our new Board, update our Bylaws and business documents and create a 2026-27 Program Plan and Budget worthy of our amazing League and our great community.

All voting members should have now received all LWVYC business documents by USPS or email. For any questions about any of the documents you would like to ask before the meeting, please email us at **info@lwvyolo.org**.

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

Warm regards,
Michelle Famula, President
LWV Yolo County

Upcoming Events

JUNE 20 ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING BRUNCH (MEMBERS and their guests ONLY)



****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

This is our all-important, End-of-the-Year business meeting where we will take several important member votes:

- Electing a new Board,
- Adopting our 2026-27 Bylaws, Budget, and Program Plan, and
- Updating our LWVYC Positions.

All votes require a quorum of 20% of the membership (30 members). Members **MUST** be present to vote (no proxy voting).

Brunch will be served. Please bring a Potluck dish to share:

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

Don't miss this opportunity to socialize with fellow League members and guests and catch up with friends you may not have seen in a while. Enjoy our famous tasty member-provided potluck brunch items in an inviting garden setting while we review the work we've accomplished over the past year and share plans for the year ahead.

RSVP for Annual Members Meeting

SEPTEMBER 26 LWVYC NAMI WALKS! TEAM



SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, September 26, 2026, when, again this year, LWVYC will sponsor our own Yolo County NAMI WALKS! Team with opportunities for promotion of our 2025 Mental Health advocacy position.

Like last year, the LWVYC Health Care Committee will coordinate our walk team of League members, family and friends who want to join us in sharing our public support for County Mental Health resources and programs.

See photos from last year's 2025 walk [HERE](#). Learn more about **NAMI WALKS! 2026**. Sign-ups will be available later this summer, but save the date now!

LWVYC ANNUAL DEMOCRACY WORKS AWARD



Each year, LWVYC reflects on the work of our talented community to find individuals and organizations that truly embody and promote the principles of participatory Democracy. **We present our annual *Democracy Works Award* to those committed to empowering voters and strengthening civic engagement.**

Honorees whose actions support our communities and our democratic processes are selected from across Yolo County. We seek nominees whose actions 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.

Last year, Dr. Lizette Navarette, President, and Dr. Shannon Reed, Dean of Arts & Sciences, both of Woodland Community College (WCC), were recognized for their outstanding contributions in promoting Community College voter participation.

Nominations are now open for our 2026 LWVYC Democracy Works recognition. Please submit your nominations by September 1, using one of our **2026 NOMINATION FORMS**. Democracy Works Award recipient(s) will be announced in September and recognized this fall.

STUDENT VOTER EMPOWERMENT DESIGN CONTEST AWARD CEREMONY



On May 1, LWVYC contest chair **Judy Wohlfrom** and Voter Service Director **Judy Higgerson** were joined by students, teachers, and several family members to celebrate our 2026 inaugural Student Art Contest winners.

Partner representatives from Yolo County Library Services, Woodland Public Library, Yolo County Office of Elections and Yolo County Board of Education were present to honor the artistic talents and civic commitment of our countywide High School students. Student artists submitted 35 entries for blind judging. County District 5 Supervisor Angel Barajas and Registrar of Voters Jesse Salinas were also present.

First Place Winner: Sergio Santiago, 12th grade, Esparto High

Second Place Winner: Shriya Sriram, 12th grade, Davis Senior High

Third Place Winner: Anna Steidlmayer, 11th grade, Davis Senior High

Several categories received multiple artist recognitions. Learn more about the event and the contest [HERE](#).

MAY VOTER EDUCATION TABLING



May 1 - 28, our League voter outreach team offered registration and ballot return information to local residents at the **Davis Farmers Market** and **Woodland Community Center** for the June 2 primary.

Many thanks to **Kate Curry**, **Judy Wohlfrom**, **Judy Higgerson** and **Faye Smith-Gee**, who scheduled the dates and set up the sites with help from **Jim Procida** and **Richard Smith-Gee**.

Thank you to first-time tablers **Zachariah Oquendo**, **Shrawani Thapa** and **Sophia Weathers**, along with our outreach regulars.

Service Opportunities / Committee News

Voter Service Tabling and Forums

Are you interested in helping with outreach to voters for the November Mid-Terms? There will be new opportunities to table in Davis, Woodland and around the County.

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.

Events

Help plan and host **LWVYC's 2026-27 Membership meetings and Public 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 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? All jobs are important. Reach out to our events team at info@lwvyolo.org to receive information for upcoming LWVYC event service opportunities.

Healthcare

The healthcare committee is closing out the 25-26 year with a commitment to 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 this summer.

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

The committee is seeking members to help us create a 2026-27 **Observer Corps** to observe local county boards, councils and commissions relating to developments in County healthcare services and funding policy. Contact Healthcare Committee Chair, Michelle Famula, to learn more or if you wish to receive invites to our monthly meetings. msfamula@gmail.com

Housing

Committee Chairs **Kate Curry** and **Mary Jo Bryan** are looking for more committee members to continue to learn more about affordable housing and homelessness issues. No new events are planned before fall. Email info@lwvyolo.com if interested.

Membership

Members continue to inquire about renewal options. Membership Director **Kathleen Stack** advises that members can use the LWV Membership Portal from our website's **Membership page**.

For more guidance, view the "**How to Join the League**" video made by the St. Tammany, LA League.

REMINDER: The Membership Committee holds 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 an opportunity to get to know other league members. Please contact **Kathleen Stack** (membership@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.

The 2025-26 Board meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 1:00 pm.

- The last 2025-26 Board meeting will be June 10, 2026
- July: NO BOARD MEETING
- August: NO BOARD MEETING

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

State and National Advocacy items

LWV California (LWVC)

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 at: my.lwv.org/california/join-online-interest-group.

LWVC continues to protect the Rights and Freedoms of all Californians. For more than a century, the *League of Women Voters* has championed civil rights, democratic participation, and equal justice for all. You can help us protect that vision and progress in California by helping pass **SB 1105 (Perez), The Protect California Rights Act**.

SB 1105 responds to harms being perpetrated by the Trump Administration and DHS agents, and protects Californians by:

- Prohibiting state and local law enforcement agencies from entering into joint task forces or interagency agreements to assist racial or identity profiling, criminalize speech, or use of unauthorized weapons of war.
- Ensuring that California does not give federal law enforcement officers acting beyond their federal jurisdiction broad power to stop and arrest Californians.

ACTION ALERT! Tell your State Assembly member to vote YES on SB 1105 to protect Californians' rights and freedoms. Learn more **HERE**. You can use the form **HERE**.

LWVC continues to *oppose* the voter suppression measure that has qualified for the November 3 ballot, the **California Voter Identification, Citizenship Verification, and Registered Voter List Administration Initiative**. This proposition seeks to amend the California Constitution by adding several requirements for voter registration and election participation. Well beyond simple Voter ID, it jeopardizes voter privacy for mail-in ballots, complicates continuous voter eligibility for both in-person and mail-in ballot returns, and makes it harder for millions of eligible Californians to register and vote. Learn more at **lwvc.org/voting-rights-groups-vow-defeat-measure-restricting-ballot-access**.

National League of Women Voters (LWVUS)

LWVUS stands with Election Workers across the country!

- LWV announced a partnership with the **National Education Association (NEA)**, focusing on recruiting a new generation of poll workers for upcoming elections.

*"A healthy democracy relies on neighbors helping neighbors at the ballot box, yet poll worker shortages remain a silent threat that leads to long lines and silenced voters," said **Jeanette Senecal, LWVUS chief of civic learning and impact**. "Our partnership with the NEA helps meet this challenge by empowering a new generation of civic leaders."*

LWVUS expands poll monitoring program in Alabama.

- The *Alabama League of Women Voters'* **poll monitoring program** is not new; it happens every election cycle. But this year, the group has seen more interest from people who want to get involved in protecting voters and supporting safe, accessible elections statewide.

LWVUS is monitoring Voter Suppression efforts nationwide.

- Court declares New Hampshire HB1569 Anti-voter Law Unconstitutional. LWVUS notes that the bill contained some of the most restrictive voter provisions of any state legislation.

ACTION ALERT! LWVUS Advocacy Opportunity

- LWVUS wants to hear your **Election Hero story**. Tell us about an election worker who inspired you or what motivated you to become an election worker yourself.

LWVUS will join an appeal to challenge **Florida's partisan map.**

- *"Florida voters spoke clearly in 2010 when they made partisan gerrymandering illegal under the state constitution," said **Jessica Lowe-Minor, League of Women Voters of Florida president**. "While the League is disappointed that [the court's] decision won't halt the immediate implementation of the new maps drawn in defiance of the Fair Districts standards, we know that this ruling represents only a short part of a long journey to ensure that the will of the voters is respected."*

LWVUS and SPLC 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 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 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](#).

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

Fundraising: Lorna Carriveau, Chair, Kathleen Stack, Christine

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[LWV Yolo County Facebook](#)

[Register to Vote](#)

[Easy Voter Guide](#)

[VOTE 411](#)

[Yolo County Elections Office](#)

[Local Elections](#)

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