

IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

“Sips and
Conversation”
about suffragists
Wednesdays
Zoom, 7 pm
See [website](#)

SEE INSIDE FOR:

New Member
Orientation, page 3

Virtual Voter Services,
pages 2 and 4

Proposition 15
Campaign events,
page 4

Also Board Briefs, Ruth
Bader Ginsberg, and
more!

**For information on how
to access virtual
LWVDV meetings,
check the Calendar on
our [webpage](#).**

Stay safe and well!

lwvdv@lwvdv.org
(925) 283-2235

Proposition 15 Panel Discussion



**Wednesday, September 16th
7:00 – 8:30 via Zoom**

Community Conversation



2020: Your Roadmap to Voting

*hosted by the
League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley
and the Contra Costa County Library*

**Thursday, September 24th,
at 4:00 pm via Zoom**

Panelists will include experts from the Elections Office, Post
Office, Board of Supervisors and the League of Women
Voters.

President's Letter from Suzan

Dear League Leaders, Members and Friends,

Do you want to work together with our neighbors and other non-partisan groups to turn this year of pandemic, heat, fire, and smoke into a positive experience?

Volunteer with The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley to register and educate voters, encourage early voting, and get out the vote. Here are some opportunities to help (see more on page 4):

- Do **community outreach through online communication** methods like Zoom. Gain Zoom expertise to help “host” meetings while a moderator delivers content.
- Sign up to participate in -- or maybe design and help organize -- (virus-safe) activities for **National Voter Registration Day**, September 22, 2020.
- Become knowledgeable about the election processes this year by reviewing the links on this [resource document for voters](#), and let us know if you want to participate in sharing the information with others.
- Check our Website, YouTube, and Facebook pages regularly and **share new information** like the video recordings of state ballot measures Pros and Cons or the recorded Candidate Forums.
- Send a request to voter.services@lwvdv.org if you would like to volunteer in some way and want to learn more about **opportunities to participate**. We will have coordinating meetings next week and will get in touch with you with date and time.



Why participate? By getting to know our LWVDV neighbors in central, south, and east Contra Costa County, and by coming to understand what has meaning for them, we can convincingly encourage even more of them to register and vote.

In some conversations, we may learn:

- that they are suffering economically, and why;
- that they have suffered racist behavior and policing and lack of justice;
- that they worry about their kids in public school and what their experience has been;
- that they worry about their rent or the costs of their home when their monthly payment is so high;
- that the lack of affordable daycare is keeping them from educational or job opportunities;
- they have been avoiding medical care because of the lack of insurance or not enough health insurance

And when we can relate their concerns to the applicable level of government and their local districts, our outreach will make a significant difference in their interest in voter registration, participation, and turning out to vote.

Through meeting and sharing, we can all gain an understanding of what will benefit all of us when we vote for elected officials and when we vote on current ballot measures.

All of us want to support your commitment to volunteer with us this year!

Sincerely,

Suzan

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

The new Contra Costa County Administration Building is lit up in purple and gold to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, granting women the vote.

The building at 1025 Escobar in Martinez joined others around the United States honoring the colors of the suffragists, who won the vote in August 1920. (photo credit Ann Flynn)



The suffrage leaders worked through a pandemic to win us this right. A century later, we work through a pandemic to exercise it. Celebrate them in this 100th year and in every election. – Virginia Kase, CEO, LWVUS



Join Us to Learn More About the League

Our next LWVDV orientation for new members and guests will be on Saturday, September 12 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. This will be a virtual meeting on Zoom. You can join the meeting online or on the phone (*see below*).

We hold orientations for members and guests to give an overview of the League's history, mission, procedures, current priorities and how you can get involved. If you have joined LWVDV recently, would like to attend as a guest, or are a member who wants to know how to get more involved, please email Cathleen Kirk at membership@lwvdv.org

Please RSVP **by Wednesday, September 9th**. If you've already sent your RSVP to Cathleen, you do not need to RSVP again. On Thursday, September 10th, Cathleen will send the link, meeting ID number, password and phone numbers (if you need to attend by phone) for the Zoom meeting.

You'll want to log on to Zoom about 10 to 15 minutes before the meeting to give yourself time to logon and join the meeting. If you're not familiar with Zoom, the following link will take you to a tutorial.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E&authuser=0>

It's a whole new world!

Martha Goralka, Voter Services Co-Chair

I don't remember which Disney movie sang that refrain... but for Voter Services Candidates Forums, and for Pros & Cons, it is so appropriate and exciting.

The League is still partnering with CCTV, the Contra Costa Elections Department, Contra Costa Library, and the League of Women Voters of West Contra Costa for Candidate Round Tables with professional broadcast moderators. **Zoom taping will be done on September 16th, 17th, and 18th** for broadcast and



available on many YouTube outlets, including our own Voter's Edge. We've added extra forums and will be covering 20 races covering as many communities.

LWV Diablo Valley is doing some additional forums for school board races with CCTV and the Contra Costa Library (September 29th & October 1st). We are also partnering with Clayton's AAUW (September 28th) and the Orinda Association (October 8th) for other Zoom forums – with more possibilities in the planning stages.

There is something for every volunteer with these forums and roundtables. We need technical coordinators (Zoom managers to let candidates into the "waiting room" and to handle the forum logistics); timers (hold up green, yellow, or red signs to your camera as each candidate's time for speaking runs out); and moderators to ask the questions and graciously remind candidates when their time has expired.

If you want to help, let me know! My LWVDV email address is voter.services@lwvdv.org.

Pros & Cons presentations are also changing. Kay James and Janet Thomas are working on scripts – even as you read this. They are partnering with St. Mary's College students to produce videos of presentations. I'll forward your emails to them if you want to volunteer your help. I know I can count on each of you to Empower Voters and Make Democracy Work!



Answering those Proposition 15 Questions

The League is hosting three programs in September to advocate for Proposition 15. The first two are for Rossmoor groups and the third is a public Zoom meeting. State League president Carol Moon Goldberg will explain Proposition 15 details, and Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia and County Superintendent of Education Lynn Mackey will discuss Proposition 15 from their perspectives.

To submit questions for the panel, email them to Prop15@lwvdv.org.

To register to attend, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvdeyhqzsoG9yhPqXYS-koJKN3mf-oh7v4>. After registration, you will receive an email with meeting information.

Don't Forget Action/Advocacy Committee meets Sept. 5 from 10-noon! Email action-advocacy@lwvdv.org for a Google Meet link (*similar to Zoom*).

Observer Report from Lafayette:

The Lafayette City Council has been busy.

- **Racial Equity/Unconscious Bias:**

In response to residents' calls to address racism, the City Council created the Task Force to Effect Change and Action in the Area of Racial Equality. The three city council members leading this task force, Susan Candell, Cam Burks, and Teresa Gerringer, invite wide participation.

- **Planning the next 20 years:**

Lafayette is poised to update its city plan - this will shape the next 20 years. The Youtube link below explains more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNyW9qdN2Wc>

Then you can enter PlanLafayette.org in your browser and add your voice!

Following "The Terraces"?

Monday, August 24, 2020, after another long meeting, the Lafayette City Council voted 4-1 to approve the building of the 315-unit apartment building. Vice-Mayor Candell dissented.

City Council has 3 seats up for election in November:

Lafayette will fill three of the five city council seats in the November election. Four candidates are running: Cam Burks (incumbent), Carl Anduri, Gina Dawson, and Farschad Farzan are on the ballot. Mayor Mike Anderson and Councilmember Steve Bliss are not running. You will soon be able to read about these candidates and more on votersedge.org.

Healthcare Commission Submits First Report

Pat Snyder, Health Care Issues Co-Chair

The Healthy California For All Commission, which began work in January of this year, has submitted its first report, "An Environmental Analysis of Health Care Delivery, Coverage, and Financing in California" to Governor Newsom and the Chairs of the Assembly and Senate Health Committees, Senator Richard Pan, and Assemblymember Jim Wood.



The meeting on August 18th focused on financing options and considerations. Future meetings will study issues related to provider payment; the role, if any, of intermediary organizations; eligibility, covered benefits and patient cost sharing; and governance and cost containment.

All commission meetings are open to the public, and public comment is actively sought. In addition, community engagement sessions will be conducted in September and late November to secure input from groups who experience the health care system in a variety of ways, such as persons of color and underserved individuals, marginalized populations, including those who have lost coverage due to COVID-19 unemployment, and other uninsured persons, such as immigrants.

The Commission has scheduled monthly meetings through the end of this calendar year and is to submit its final report in February of 2021. The purpose of the Commission is to provide the Governor and Legislature with recommendations to achieve a health care delivery system for all Californians with a unified financing system.

More information including The Environmental Analysis and summaries of Commission meetings are available at <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/healthycforall/>.

How Will Our League Get Ballot Information to Voters in a Pandemic? You Can Help!



Covid-19 prevents us from speaking directly to voters this year. We plan to bring our voter information services to you virtually this year instead – but we need your help!

We will be producing videos of the Pros and Cons presentations on the ballot measures that so many community members look for before elections. **These Pros and Cons videos will be posted online at our LWVDV website and in Voter's Edge, YouTube, and social media. We hope to make them available in Spanish as well.**

This is possible through a new partnership with St. Mary's College Communications Department. Professor Jason Jakaitis will oversee student interns to assist us in producing and distributing the videos. We'll be providing stipends for these interns, and that's where we need your support.

Our budget goal is \$3,000 which will cover the student intern stipends for video production, and funding for Spanish translation, for the video-taped Pros and Cons of state ballot measures.

Please [donate to this project](#) now (*this is a Paypal link but no Paypal account is needed to donate*). You can also participate in the fundraiser and share it with friends via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/donate/620110582226562/?fundraiser_source=external_url or mail a check to the LWVDV office at 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette 94549 (specify "Interns").

Note: During this busy election season, watch your email to keep up with frequent additions and changes to our schedule of activities!



Board Briefs

In August, the LWVDV Board took the following actions:

- Approved questions for candidates to be added to the Contra Costa part of Voter's Edge.
- Approved a letter to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors requesting a moratorium on oil and gas drilling in East Contra Costa County until completion of the new General Plan
- Approved re-allocating funds from meetings and candidate forums to stipends for interns from St. Mary's College, to assist with producing videos of Pros & Cons
- Approved a fundraising appeal to help support the St. Mary's College intern project

The Board also

- Established the 2020-21 Executive Committee of Suzan Requa, Shawn Gilbert, Sue Brandy, Paul Derksen, and Janet Hoy to handle essential business between Board meetings
- Reviewed the extensive list of voter resources prepared by Shawn Gilbert
- Heard reports on plans for candidate forums and voter registration outreach

Constitution Day Award for Justice Ginsberg

On the 100th anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment, and as part of its [Women and the Constitution](#) initiative, the National Constitution Center will award its 32nd annual Liberty Medal to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg for her pathbreaking efforts to advance liberty and equality for all.

To make the Liberty Medal especially meaningful for Justice Ginsburg, the National Constitution Center will honor her with a special video tribute in words and music, broadcast live on Constitution Day, Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. EDT (3:30 pm PST). Please [mark your calendar now!](#)



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Welcome new members Sarah Baird, Carol Boyd, Kristin Chambers, Jillian Elliott, Priscilla Graft, Ian and Liz Llacer Chamberlain, Pat Seaman, Lorie and Greg Tinfow, Janice Tomczak and Lucile Weed! And welcome back Juliana Boyle, Diane Griffiths and Claudette Stanton – we missed you!

If you have a September or October membership anniversary, watch for your renewal reminder. We need you, so please renew!

If you have been a League member for 50 years or more, you are a Life Member. Life Members do not pay dues. Contact Membership Chair Cathleen Kirk (membership@lwvdv.org) to upgrade your status!

Our Mission: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice.



Visit us and LIKE our **Facebook** page.

<http://tinyurl.com/of4o2pj>

Follow us on **Twitter** -- @LWVDiabloValley

See us on **Instagram**: @lwvdiablovalley

DONATE

To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at www.lwvdv.org.

Membership: Join Us or Renew!

Membership is not based on ability to pay.

To request dues assistance, please contact the League office: (925) 283-2235.

- \$80 Individual Membership
- \$115 Family Membership (2 members)
- \$35 Additional Family Membership
- \$10 Student Membership

(LWVDV is a 501(c)3 organization. Dues and donations to LWVDV are tax-deductible. Tax ID number supplied on request.)

LWVDV Board Members:

Suzan Requa, *President, Voter Registration*
 Shawn Gilbert, *First Vice President*
 Karen Dolder, *Secretary, Office Manager*
 Paul Derksen, *Treasurer*
 Mary Schreiber, *Action/Advocacy*
 Ann Flynn, *Meetings Co-Chair*
 Diane Bianchi, *Meetings Co-Chair*
 Cathleen Kirk, *Membership Co-Chair*
 Martha Goralka, *Voter Service Co-Chair*
 Elaisa Acosta-Mendez, *Communications*
 Sue Brandy, *At-Large Director*
 Janet Hoy, *At-Large Director*

**CALENDAR
MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Sept 5 Action Committee
 10-noon Zoom Meeting*

Sept 10 Board Meeting
 10:15 am - Zoom Meeting*
 12:15 pm

Oct 3 Action Committee
 10-noon Zoom Meeting*

Oct 8 Board Meeting
 10:15 am - Zoom Meeting*
 12:15 pm

*To participate in a Zoom meeting, leave a message with your email address on the office phone and meeting link will be sent to you.

**The League of Women Voters
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Voter**

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[website](#).

**Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.**