



MONTHLY MEETINGS

See calendar, back page

SAVE THESE DATES:

Wed-Fri, September 17-19 (3 days) – Candidate Roundtable tapings, CCTV, Martinez (see page 3)

Wednesday, Sept.17 -- Constitution Day

Saturday, Sept 20 "Inequality for All" LWVDV Boardroom

Tuesday, Sept 23 – National Voter Registration Day

Friday, Oct 17 -- LWVDV Field Trip, Cal State East Bay

Monday, Oct 20 Last Chance Voter Registration

Tuesday, Nov 4 Election Day

***Don't Miss
Our Next "Third Saturday" League Meeting!***

Immigration: Up Close & Personal



Regardless of how you feel about people entering our country without permission, this talk will provide information about some of the drivers behind immigration, how immigrants are treated, how our immigration system conflicts with American values, and why immigration reform needs to happen now.

Speaker and discussion leader Suzanne Llewellyn will provide some information and personal experiences from her work with immigrants held at the Richmond Detention center.

**Saturday, August 16, 2014
3:00 – 4:30 pm
Concord Library Meeting Room
2900 Salvio Street, Concord**

Bring a friend! Light refreshments will be served.



LEAGUE LEADER'S LETTER

By Leslie Stewart, LWVDV President

Looking Lively

Our first two Saturday meetings this year brought a mix of League members and community members to discuss the timely topics of Healthcare (just before the most recent rulings on the Affordable Care Act) and Climate Change (on a warm July afternoon). We hope the trend continues as we focus on the impacts of immigration (how much more timely can we get?) Bring a friend to the Concord Library on August 16 to share the discussion.

Our annual LWVDV Board retreat was that same warm July day. Among other activities, we structured the LWVDV calendar for the year, heard reports from LWVUS Convention (*see page 5*), and approved a new application to the IRS for 501(c)3 status (*see page 6*). Several off-Board members joined us for the day – thanks, Ashley Coates, Sally Germain, Nancy Balles and Lucia Trujillo!

Looking ahead, we're already getting phone calls requesting Pros & Cons presentations for this fall – the most fun you can have with a ballot! Our candidate roundtable team of Gwen Watson, Sharon Burke and Ann Flynn has already set the taping schedule for September 17-19 at CCTV – unlike the June primary, there will be a lot of races to cover this season. See pages 3-4 for all the ways to help during election season!

Plan to help with voter registration, especially Last Chance Registration in the late afternoon and evening of October 20. In her President's Message this month, LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara wrote: "**Registration is not just the key to increasing voter turnout, but also an opportunity to personally invite new voters to join the most important community of all, the community of active and engaged voters.**" This is the work the League did for new women voters in 1920 and has been doing ever since."

And now for an election-season reminder! Sometimes members of the public ask us, "How can you give us impartial information when you also take positions on ballot measures?" First, we never take any positions regarding candidates or parties, so members who represent LWVDV should not endorse or contribute to candidates. Second, we try to maintain a separation between our two "League hats", education (including voter service like Pros and Cons) and advocacy. So the member heading a ballot measure campaign shouldn't be doing Pros and Cons! If you have any question about whether you, or another LWV member, should be involved in an election-related activity, please check! What you're doing may be just fine – but if not, prevention is much easier than doing damage control on our carefully tended reputation!

VOTER SERVICE

Ready, Set, Go!!

Gwen Watson, Director, Voter Service



The General Election Season has arrived:

- August 8 - Deadline for Candidate Filing
- August 13 - Candidates' Filing Deadline(if incumbent declines to file)
- September 17, 18, 19 - filming days for the Televised Roundtables
- October 4 - Ballots are mailed
- November 4 - Election Day

All Voter Service Team members—Pros & Cons of Ballot Measures (Kay James, Chair); Voter Registration (Lee Lawrence, Chair); Smart Voter (Ashley Coates, Chair); and Televised Roundtables (Ann Flynn, Chair)—are preparing for a full schedule of events

You can help! We'll need Pros & Cons trained presenters and Smart Voter assistance (see below for more), as well as voter registration helpers (contact Lee Lawrence) and timers at televised roundtables (contact Ann Flynn). *Please call the LWVDV office at 925-283-2235 or e-mail info@lwvdv.org if you don't have contact information for these members and want to help!*

Help provide online information via Smart Voter

Help us reach thousands of voters with local election info!

Join the Smart Voter team and do one or more of the following:

- explain the benefits of Smart Voter to candidates (we provide a script)
- describe Smart Voter at voter registration events
- publicize Smart Voter to libraries or colleges
- reach out to community groups with info on how to use Smart Voter
- load ballot measures onto the Smart Voter site
- link from Smart Voter race pages to media coverage

Contact Ashley Coates to explore what you can do with Smart Voter.

Pros & Cons: Calling All Informed and Intelligent LWV Members!

We'll soon have another chance to get ourselves educated on the upcoming propositions for the November 2014 election -- and then share our knowledge with friends, neighbors and organizations. By this I mean that we'll soon be embarking on another round of Pros and Cons, and there is a huge need for all of you wonderfully

intelligent League members to participate. We had a number of very good participants for the November 2012 election –Jean Blaser, Ken Coates, Ann Flynn, Martha Goralka, Kay James, Lee Lawrence, Diane Mader, Jennifer Mahoney, Carol Murota, Linda Soliven, Janet Thomas, Linda Trujillo, Gwen Watson, Carole Woods and Gabriella Zacco. We made a total of 32 presentations to individual groups that year.



However, we are losing a large number of these past presenters, so I would like to extend a hearty welcome to **anyone** interested in becoming a Pros and Cons presenter for the November 2014 election. You will be trained, you will have a partner and you will have a script to work from, so much of the work will be done for you in advance. Please call me or email me if you have an interest in this very important part of our League activities and if you have any questions about this activity. Also, if you can think of someone else who might like to do this, please let me know. It's such a rewarding experience, and since we all should become informed about the ballot initiatives anyway, why not share the fruits of your study with others?

We will be holding at least one training prior to the November election, probably sometime in mid-September and/or early October, depending on when the LWV California office in Sacramento issues the complete information for the November 2014 ballot measures. The November election looks to have at least 7 initiatives thus far, so I'm anticipating a great deal of interest by the public. Therefore, we'll be in need of lots of presenters to fulfill all of these requests.

So, please do contact me! Kay James, Pros and Cons Chair.

Thanks to Two Great Volunteers!

Carol Murota, Vice President

Many thanks to **Lori Stevens** for volunteering to represent the League at our Danville City Council meetings! As a part of the League Observation Corps, she gets a first hand look at her city operations and operators with an eye our for accessibility, transparency, and other issues of particular concern to the League and her community. Welcome, and thanks for helping with an important part of LWV-DV service.



We are excited to have our youngest volunteer on board, a Northgate High School senior who is helping us reach out to local high schools and engage the next generation of young voters. Registering her peers to vote, keeping local teachers and media informed of our work and working with former LWV-DV president Ashley Coates on Smart Voter will give this energetic young woman an overview of Voter Service at our League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley.

LWV Action – What’s Happening in Sacramento?

Carol Murota, Vice President, and Mary Fenelon, Housing

Campaign Finance Reform

SB 52 - California DISCLOSE Act is now before the Assembly Appropriations Committee. If passed, this bill will require clear disclosure of top funders of political ads on tv, radio, newspapers, even websites. SB 52 is an important part of efforts to shed light on our political campaigns. There will be an Appropriations Committee hearing on SB 52 on Wednesday, August 6, at 9 am in Sacramento. For more information contact yesfairelections.org.

Housing

“The California 2014-15 budget signed by Governor Brown includes funds for desperately needed work force and low income housing. Included is \$50 million for multifamily housing and \$50 million for supportive housing. In addition, \$135 million has been set aside for affordable housing and other sustainable components, such as bike paths, walkways, transportation and planning. Under Cap and Trade provisions, 10 percent, or an estimated \$200/\$300 million will be set aside for affordable housing.

LWVUS – What Happened at Convention?

Our LWVUS Convention delegates, Nancy Balles and Lucia Trujillo, report that they had a whirlwind of activity at the Convention in Dallas in June. A contested election for LWVUS President was electrifying as Elisabeth MacNamara was re-elected for a third term.



A non-recommended study of Economic Justice (one of LWVDV’s priorities) was not adopted, and a proposed concurrence with LWV Kansas’s position also failed. However, a concurrence with LWV New Jersey’s **position on Human Trafficking** was approved (*see the full position on page 7 – we can start to use this NOW!*)

The **new study** approved by Convention delegates was “a comprehensive three-part program combining study and review of key, specific structures of American democracy, consisting of: A study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution; A review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of forty years of change; and a review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress.” It will be some months before we see the initial outline for this study, but we can start to gather ideas and information.

Other Convention business included passing a budget with small increases in our per-member-payment to LWVUS each year.



The Saga of 501(c)(3)

Carole Woods, Treasurer

As you may recall, LWVDV joined with several other California leagues to apply, as a group, for 501(c)3 status. After a year and a half wait, the application was denied, with the direction that each League would have to apply separately.

Within the last month the rules changed again. The application form has gone from 28 to 3 pages, the fee from \$850 to \$400, and the approval rate is much improved.

The Board approved our proceeding with the application. The federal form was submitted last week.

Tom Carson, the LWVC advisor, has helped all along the way. He's not sure what the turn-around time will be, but he expects we will be approved. Even if we have to provide evidence, the information from the former application just needs to be updated.

The advantages of being a 501(c)3 are that the dues will be tax-deductible so membership may increase, and all donations will be tax-deductible. We won't have to separate donations between LWVDV and LWVC Education Fund. The 501(c)3 designation won't change how we function. We can continue to provide voter service and an advocacy role. Some small percentage of dues for printing and the web site will be reported as costs for activities related to influencing legislation.

Keep your fingers crossed.

New Education Committee Forming!

Suzan Requa, a new LWVDV member, is interested in forming a new committee to build expertise on hot topics in education like Core Curriculum, technology challenges or teacher evaluations (as examples).



The new Education Committee members will determine the priorities of focus. The goal is to establish this new committee as we start our new League year, pull together a list of hot topics of interest and come to agreement on the topic of choice, possibly considering a member survey.

Suzan plans to observe various League activities, meetings, board meetings or Pros and Cons trainings to meet more of you and to get more comfortable with the activities and sources of expertise of LWVDV. If you see Suzan at a meeting, please help orient our future Education Committee chair to what she refers to as "our dedicated, accomplished and much respected organization" -- she would very much appreciate your support!

Please email Suzan at info@lwvdv.org (*email will be forwarded*) with the subject line of Ed Hot Topics if you have an interest in participating in the committee or can provide expertise in specific Education topics.

DONATE

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

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley Voter
Published monthly except June and December
LWV of Diablo Valley
500 St. Mary's Road, #14, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-2235 www.lwvdv.org
Editor: Leslie Stewart
Email delivery is free, but delivery by U.S. mail is \$10/year. Current/past issues are posted on our [website](http://www.lwvdv.org).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND DIRECTORY UPDATES

If your name appears below, then it is time to renew your membership. Please use the form on the back page. If you have already renewed, thank you!

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Lisa Borba | Chris Coons | Jean Kitchens | Eleanor O'Donnell |
| Sharon Burke | Mary Fenelon | Anna Lee | Alison Stewart |
| Joan Conley | Eunice Kilkenny | Elaine McClellan | |
| Kristin Connelly | Paul Kilkenny | Dolores Morgan | |

Welcome, new members: Zena Potash, Lafayette

STATEMENT OF POSITION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING
As adopted at the LWVUS 2014 National Convention
The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



LWVDV VOTER
 Published ten times per year
League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley
 500 St. Mary's Road, #14
 Lafayette, CA 94549

Membership: Join Us or Renew!

Membership is not based on ability to pay. To pay alternate dues or to request a scholarship, please contact Carole Woods at the League office: (925) 283-2235.

- \$ _____ \$65 Individual Membership. Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$95 Family Membership (2). Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$35 Associate Membership. Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
 (For a student or non-citizen non-voting member)
- \$ _____ GIFT MEMBERSHIP (circle appropriate category above)

Gift Membership from: _____
 (Please write recipient's information below.)

- \$ _____ \$10 included to receive printed copies of the Voter by US Mail
- \$ _____ Additional Donation to LWVDV (not tax deductible).
- \$ _____ **TOTAL** of ALL above enclosed to LWVDV (not tax deductible).
- \$ _____ TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION to LWV (our account at LWVC).
 Please make separate check payable to LWVC - Education Fund.

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Please print, complete, and mail this form along with your check to:
 LWVDV, 500 St. Mary's Road #14, Lafayette, CA 94549

CALENDAR

- Aug. 12 Action Comm.**
2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Aug. 14 Board Meeting**
2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Aug. 16 Immigration Program**
3-4:30 Concord Library

