



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

Happy New Year! It is good to put 2017, behind us. May 2018k be a year of change for the better.

Things that we have planned for the beginning of the year are: attending the January 13th Civil Discourse Training (see Calendar below for details), helping with the change to voting by districts in Ventura and Oxnard, putting on candidate forums for the 2018, elections, attending our planning meeting in January where we decide what we want our state league and ourselves to work on in 2018, co-sponsoring and attending the Equal Means Equal video presentation (see Calendar for the where's and when's), working to get the Equal Rights Amendment passed, registering voters at local high schools and more. We look forward to working together with all of you.

It was great to see so many of you at our holiday luncheon in December including some of our newest members. Thank you, Carol Lindberg for arranging such a nice venue (Aloha's at the beach) for us.

Our new LWVVC tee shirts state, "Democracy is not a spectator sport" - I know that you all believe that too. Thanks for your continuing dedication to our democracy, good government, and the League. Oh yes, and if you would like to purchase one of our tee shirts, contact Pat Butler or send us an [email](#).

Yours in League,

Pat Essick
President

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➤ SPECIAL EVENTS ◀



Sunday, January 21 - Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network will host its annual celebration of the Roe vs. Wade decision - 2:00 - 5:00pm. Location: Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Rd., Ventura.

VCRRN will screen the movie "Birthright: A War Story". This informative documentary packs a powerful message: Reproduction has become perilous for women in America as a radical movement tightens its grip across America. Michele Goodwin, Chancellor's Professor of Law at UC Irvine and Director, Center for Biotechnology and Global Health, will provide comments on the film. Please join us!

For more info, including about the annual signature ad, email VCRRNetwork@gmail.com or call 805-212-0702 or visit online at www.bit.ly/VCRRN or facebook.com/VCRRN.

ASK BEFORE YOU SIGN...PETITIONS

Ask Before You Sign or, Think Before You Ink

The League of Women Voters of California encourages its members and the public to be cautious during this period of circulation of initiative and referendum petitions. Voters are often asked to sign a petition "just to get it on the ballot so people can vote on it." The League says to voters, "Your signature is valuable, perhaps even more valuable than your vote. Why? Because far fewer signatures are required to qualify a measure for the ballot than votes needed to pass it once it's on the ballot.

Board of Directors:

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Betsy Patterson

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Only sign a petition for an initiative or referendum that you believe belongs on the ballot." The LWVC suggests six questions voters should ask themselves to help determine whether or not to sign an initiative petition:

1. Is it complex? Some issues can be decided by a simple yes or no vote. More complex issues may be better handled by thorough examination and debate in a legislative arena.
2. Is it confusing? Some initiatives are not well written or contain conflicts that may require court resolution or interpretation.
3. Does it belong in the Constitution? If an initiative amends the Constitution, consider whether it really belongs there. Is it a fundamental law that should be protected from change? Correcting a constitutional amendment later would also require amending the Constitution, is cumbersome and costly, and requires another vote of the people.
4. How will it be funded? Is it an "unfunded mandate" that would require the legislature to take funds from other essential programs? Consider the effect on the overall flexibility of a government budget with already limited revenue. An initiative should generally define its own revenue source or specify what would have to be cut to fund it.

5. Before you sign, ask about who is circulating the petition. Many initiative campaigns use paid signature gatherers. The only requirement in California is that the petition itself have a disclaimer that it may be circulated by a paid signature gatherer. You can ask whether the person requesting your signature is paid, and if so, how much.

6. Who is behind it? It can be difficult to find out who the real sponsors and opponents of a petition are. Sometimes there are news reports, or a Web site that can help you. Contribution and expenditure reports of committees organized for action on ballot measures are available through Cal-Access, the lobbying and campaign disclosure system sponsored by the California Secretary of State's office. Go to this site—www.calaccess.ss.ca.gov—to read the financial reports of campaign committees.

Source: LWV California

WEBINARS FOR MEMBERS

Free Training for Local Members Compliments of LWVC (and You)

One of the many benefits of being a member of the League of Women Voters is your free access to upcoming webinars and participate live, share the recordings for individual use, or take what we've done and use it as a group or even customize it for your needs. For each webinar we share the recording, slides, materials, and point people for questions, collaboration, and assistance.

[Concurrence Webinar - policing as example](#): This webinar answers the questions: What is local League concurrence? How do you do it? Why would you do it? Why would you not do it? Who can help you with it?

[Criminal Justice Recruitment Webinar](#): What is criminal justice? How can we get more members interested this? How can we recruit new members who are interested in criminal justice?

Political, YES! Partisan, NO!: [webinar recording](#) and [PDF of slides](#)

Register for upcoming webinars to participate and/or to receive the recording, slides, and materials in your email:

[Basics of Advocacy](#)

[Legislative Analysis](#)

Source: LWV California

PROPOSITION 13 REFORM

Make It Fair Campaign - Taking Another Look at Prop 13

Californians deserve world class schools and universities; quality healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and affordable homes. That is what our taxes should pay for. It's past time to close this loophole and stop letting big business rob our schools and local communities, impoverish future generations, and endanger

California's economic future. The [California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018](#) is the responsible, fair, and long overdue tax system to ensure California can thrive; now and in the future.

[The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018](#) will create a "split roll"; non-residential, non-agricultural commercial property will be reassessed on a regular basis. This will lead to an estimated increase in property tax of over \$11 billion per year -- revenue that will go directly to schools and local governments.

Our [broad grassroots coalition](#), including [PICO California](#), [California Calls](#), [Advancement Project California](#) and [Evolve California](#), announced the filing of a ballot initiative to fund California schools by closing the Corporate Property Tax Loophole in Proposition 13 while continuing to guarantee protections for homeowners, residential renters, agricultural land, and small businesses. Through filing this initiative, the coalition is beginning to take the necessary steps for a possible 2018 ballot initiative. [Join the Conversation »](#)

For more information click [here](#)

Source: LWV California

LWVVC COMMITTEE REPORTS

▶ **Advocacy Committee (local medical cannabis study group & electoral college reform) - Chelsea Sutula, Chair:** The medical cannabis study group took time off for the holidays and will resume its monthly meetings beginning in January. See Calendar below or the LWVVC website [calendar](#) for the particulars. - VOTER

▶ **Budget Committee - Cheryl Collart, Chair:** The Committee will begin its work for the 2018/2019 League year in early summer. - Submitted by C. Collart.

▶ **Civil Discourse Committee - Betsy Patterson, Chair:** The Committee has scheduled a free training session for anyone interested in learning this "discipline". See Calendar below or LWVVC website [calendar](#) for the particulars. - VOTER

▶ **Nominations Committee - Cheryl Collart, Chair:** Over the next few months the Nominations Committee will be gearing up to recruit new board members. As of now the Committee is short one member from our membership. The Committee will convene in the spring and contact our local chapter members in search of officer and board candidates to provide leadership for our organization's new year which runs from July 1, through June 30. The Nominations Committee is a good opportunity to become acquainted with our entire membership and help members find their way to board and committee participation for mutual benefit. Please contact me if you have questions about the committee or would like to participate. Cheryl Collart, 805.746.0931 or cheryl.collart@gmail.com. - Submitted by C. Collart.

▶ **Program Committee - Steve Lattimore, Chair:**

▶ **Scholarship Committee - Geri Loe, Chair:**

▶ **Voter Registration Committee - Carmen Hurd, Chair:**

LWVVC BOARD DOINGS

All members are encouraged to attend monthly LWVVC Board meetings. See Calendar below for the when's and where's. Come and see what your Board is doing and learn about projects that are in the works.

Notes from November Board Meeting

Note: LWVVC Board did not hold a Board Meeting in December

Topics Covered and "To Do" List:

- President's Report and action items – Pat Essick reported for Carmen Hurd that all high school registration projects have been postponed until early February.
- Betsy Patterson updated the board on the civil discourse project.
- The Board discussed the future of our Membership Directory. The decision was made to skip publication this membership year and publish the next directory late fall of 2018.
- Ideas were discussed for our upcoming (to be scheduled) Program Planning meeting early in 2018.
- Carol Lindberg gave an update on procedural doings within the LWVVC Scholarship Committee. Melanie Ashen has agreed to be our liaison to Ventura Community College.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

PICS FROM OUR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

For those who were unable to attend, here's a smattering of what you missed, and for those of you who were able to attend, VOTER apologizes right up front for the irreverent captions. VOTER also apologizes for not knowing everyone's name and so omitting all personal references.



...he brings the sleigh in low and the updrafts save fuel.



No no, it isn't a horn, it's cowlicks. That's why he wears the red hat.



We should do this more often as no matter the size or shape of the table it just isn't possible to talk to everyone.



But seriously, welcome to our new members, we're delighted you came.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members

Donors – Thank you to our donors!!

LWVVC Scholarship Fund Donors – We thank you and so do the students

If you would like to donate to the LWVVC Scholarship Fund, please make your checks payable to “LWVVC Education Fund” with a notation “Scholarship Fund” on memo line of the check.

As a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization, all contributions to LWVVC are tax deductible.

VOLUNTEER A LITTLE TIME

• lwvvc needs you! •

If you have some time and are interested in volunteering a bit of it for the good of the League, following is a list of projects that could use your help. If interested in getting involved, send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org and let us know what you would like to do, someone will follow-up.

Why Volunteer?

We know you want to be a part of it. We know you want to make a difference; that’s why you joined the League of Women Voters! Take the next step and volunteer.

Your voice is crucial. What you bring to your local League is priceless.

**If you think you’re not ready – you're ready!
If you think you don’t know enough – you're enough!**

Help out with a single task or event or sign on to something long term. Work remotely or in-person. We’ll find the perfect fit for you.

▶ Soon we will be laying the groundwork for a **possible forum on artificial intelligence and up-coming candidates forums**. Start thinking about whether this is something you could participate in.

▶ Tired of the screaming heads, the insults without productive communications? **Join our Civil Discourse group** and learn how to participate in respectful communication to find solutions to contentious issues. Work with other members, reach out to college students, engage in small discussions. The goal of the group is to have frequent social hours to discuss issues that concern all of us, not to find THE solution but to practice listening and understanding other points of view. A program will be offered to LWV members who would like to participate on campus with students or would prefer to work with other LWV members in our communities. Interested? Email [Betsy Patterson](mailto:Betsy.Patterson@lwv.org). Meetings will be posted on our [website](http://www.lwv.org) and in the VOTER.

▶ We are looking for members who might be interested in **joining the Study Committee on Local Medical Cannabis Regulation**. The Committee holds a **STANDING** meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 11:00 - 12:30 pm at Panera Bread, 2720 Portico Way, Oxnard. Check our website for scheduled meetings.

▶ **Advocacy (Electoral College Reform etc.), Voter Registration, Program, join a Committee and get active**. Send [us](mailto:us@lwv.org) an email and let us know if you'd like to get involved. Following are our current committees:

- Study Committee Local Medical Cannabis Regulation
- Advocacy Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Budget Committee
- Voter Registration Committee
- Program Committee
- Nominating Committee

▶ **Articles for the VOTER. We are always looking for articles** to include in the VOTER. Anyone who has a piece they think would be of interest to our members can email it to [us](mailto:us@lwv.org). If needed, we may edit pieces for length or when language is “un-league-like” (nonpartisan and civil). **VOTER deadline is one week prior to ending of every month.**

▶ **LWV Nominations Committee has one opening for a general member**. The committee is composed of three general members and two board members. The committee meets in the spring for the purposes of putting together a slate of officers and board members to be adopted by the membership at the annual June meeting. Please send [us](mailto:us@lwv.org) an email or contact Cheryl Collart if you are interested or have questions.

Working on a project for the LWVVC and need some help? Send an email to info@lwventuracounty.org and tell us what you need. We'll include it in the next VOTER. Please include dates, location, time of day.

CALENDAR

- all league meetings are open to the public •

Our Calendar Can Also Be Found on our Website

THINGS ARE HAPPENING

▶ **Thursday, January 11 - - LWVVC Board Meeting** – 11:00 to 1:00 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law, Classroom #1 located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members or anyone interested in learning more about League. Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of every month. Following are Board meetings for 2018 League year:

- February, 8
- March, 8
- April, 12
- May, 10
- June, 14

▶ **Saturday, January 13** - Facilitator Training for LWVVC Civil Discourse Project - 1:00 pm - 4:00.

Location: California State University Channel Islands, Petit Salon, 1 University Dr. Parking in lots A4 or A11, Camarillo. LWVVC, in collaboration with California State University Channel Islands, will host a civil discourse facilitator training session. Presenters will be Martha Cox and Mary Thompson from the LWV San Diego and LWV North San Diego. They have been working on this for at least 6 years in collaboration with Carl Luna, PhD, Director of the Institute for Civil Civic Engagement at the University of San Diego. [Contact Betsy Patterson](#) if you are interested in attending. Free event - Registration required: <http://tinyurl.com/yd356zz8>.

▶ **Tuesday, January 16** - Study Committee on Local Medical Cannabis Regulation - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm.

Location: Panera Bread, 2720 Portico Way, Oxnard. The Study Committee has a STANDING meeting scheduled the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Panera. Check our website for Committee meeting dates for 2018:

▶ **Sunday, January 21** - Roe v. Wade Anniversary Event - Showing of Film Birthright, a War Story - 2:00 -

5:00 pm. Location: Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Rd., Ventura. This informative documentary packs a powerful message: Reproduction has become perilous for women in America as a radical group tightens its grip across America. ([insert graphic from C. Lindberg email here](#))

▶ **Thursday, February 8** - Showing of the video *Equal Means Equal* produced by Kamala Lopez - 6:00 pm.

Location: Ventura Community College, Applied Sciences Building. LWVVC has agreed to collaborate with NOW, The Acorn Project, Justice for All, and Ventura College in this venture. Equal Means Equal offers an unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today by uncovering outdated and discriminatory attitudes that influence seemingly disparate issues, from workplace harassment to domestic violence, rape and sexual assault to the foster care system, and the healthcare conglomerate to the judicial system. Director, Kamala Lopez, reveals the inadequacy of present laws that claim to protect women, ultimately presenting a compelling and persuasive argument for the urgency of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.

