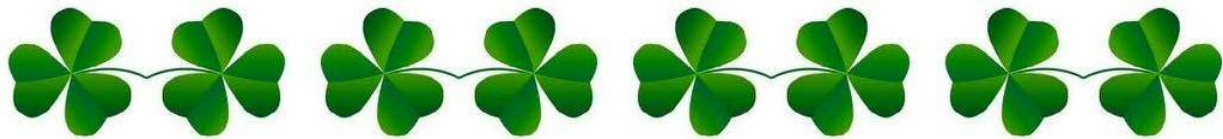




EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

Happy St. Patrick's Day



COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

In February the Media Team, Climate Change Task Force, Civics Education committee, and others met to plan their work. Come join us in any of these activities. Email us at info@lwvventuracounty.org

Media Team

Many great ideas came forth in the first meeting on 2/22/21. Look for letters to the editor, guest articles, website publications about current legislation, how our elections work and how to get involved in election processes, recognizing mis/dis-information and where to find reliable sources, the importance of a “free press” and civil discourse, and more.

Three specific projects were proposed:

1. Creating a FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) space on our website addressing local and state elected positions, democratic tools like the filibuster, recall elections, initiatives vs referendums and more.
2. Engaging voters in the election process beyond voting (poll working, ballot processing) and ensuring voters’ rights and the security of the election process.
3. Public service announcements or letters for current issues (individually or with LWVVC signature if falls under League positions) - VC Star published Pat Butler’s letter “The Facts about Vaccinations” on Feb 27
<https://www.vcstar.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/02/26/letter-facts-vaccinations/6836796002/>

Climate Change Task Force

Wayne Morgan reviewed the LWVUS, LWVC and municipal positions concerning Climate Change and several areas that might be relevant to Ventura County: green infrastructure (planting trees in urban areas); Clean Power Alliance (moving towards 100% renewable energy sources); electrification of buildings as well as the transportation sector (EVs); sea level rise; healthy soils, forests and wildfire risks. Members will research how climate change is covered in current school curriculum; aspects of climate change (slow it down urgently) and climate resiliency (future needs), including roles of oil and utility companies; finding reliable, evidence-based sources for educating the public; current and future climate change legislation.

Here are some interesting resources for your reading or viewing pleasure:

1. Bill Gates, [How to Avoid Climate Disaster](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bill-gates-climate-change-disaster-60-minutes-2021-02-14/) or see Anderson Cooper's interview on CBS News 60 Minutes, Feb 15, 2021, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bill-gates-climate-change-disaster-60-minutes-2021-02-14/>
2. "Kiss the Ground" documentary film on Netflix, <https://www.netflix.com/title/81321999>
3. LWV Long Beach 6th Annual Climate Symposium (Jan 19, 2020), available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55agebHtRgs>

Civics Education

Committee members presented many ideas for improving civics knowledge of the public, with a focus on high school and elementary ages.

1. Case Studies Project workshop presented by LWV of Greenwich, CT, and Harvard Business Professor David Moss (free & Virtual) directed towards high school Social Studies teachers interested in using case studies and original sources in teaching civics.
2. Civics education collaboration project with Simi Valley Girl Scouts troop for peer-to-peer education and merit badge award.
3. Essay contest focusing on some aspect of civics education, offering a financial award or scholarship to high school winner(s) and another form of recognition for middle school winner(s). The opportunity to collaborate with other community organizations will be pursued.



4. Development of FAQs on LWVVC website to educate the public on civics, government, elections, recall process, filibuster, etc.

Scholarship Committee



March finds our Scholarship Committee busy working with Ventura County Colleges to select scholarship recipients. Each year our Scholarship Fund provides \$2,000 to one or two community college students who have an interest in pursuing a four-year degree in government, political science, or history. Soon we will be adding a California State University Channel Islands student into the rotation. We depend on generous donations specifically supporting the Scholarship Fund to maintain this program. Please consider donating to support our scholarship program.

Donate online through our website or mail a check to the address on the last page of this newsletter.

Here is the latest information about last year's scholarship winners from Moorpark college. They are Alyson Lucas and Jackelyn MezaGaribay.

Alyson is currently enrolled at Cal State Channel Islands and is majoring in Global Studies which she describes as a mixture of political science, community organization and health science. Next year she hopes to take part in an educational abroad program in Taiwan.

Jackelyn is attending UCSB majoring in political science. Her goal, after completing her undergraduate degree, is to attend law school.

As you can see, our scholarships go to worthy recipients who will make a difference in our community and the world. Thank you to all our previous generous donors.

Legislative Interviews

The local Leagues from Los Angeles, Ventura County, Santa Barbara County, Santa Maria, and San Luis Obispo County collaborated for legislative interviews of our state representatives - State Sen. Henry Stern (SD 27), State Sen. Monique Limón (SD 19), Assemblyman Steve Bennett (AD 37), Congressman Salud Carbajal (CD 24), and Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin (AD 44) in January. We interviewed Congresswoman Julia Brownley (CD 26) on Feb 3rd. We will continue to try to set up an interview with Congressman Mike Garcia (CD 25).

We were tasked with asking 3 questions formulated by the state League (LWVC) which were on the following topics:

- Climate Change and Land Use
- Housing and Homelessness - Zoning and Affordability
- Equitable Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery
- Local issue question
- Personal Legislative Priorities

We will share the conversations once the reports are finalized and the interviews completed.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nominations Committee

The Nominations committee will begin meeting in March to reach out to members who are willing and **interested in serving on the Board** for the coming new year of July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. The Board meets monthly to plan, manage and present the LWV events and activities for our members and larger community. Board members may take on a specific program/project, or may serve in an “at large” capacity, lending support as needed. Please contact Cheryl Collart, committee chair, (cheryl.collart@gmail.com) if you have questions or wish to participate.

Budget Committee

The Budget committee will begin meeting in late March to develop the League's budget for the coming program year, July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. The committee will be reviewing the current budget and will respond to Board direction and requests from committee chairs on coming plans to make sure funds are available. Anyone wishing to lend a hand to this effort should contact the committee chair, Cheryl Collart (cheryl.collart@gmail.com) for details.

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## **EFFECTIVE CALLS TO LEGISLATORS**

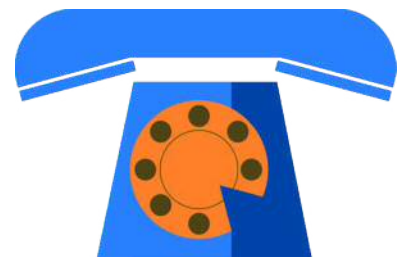
Phone calls are the most effective form of communicating with your members of Congress because phone calls can't be ignored.

You have two senators and one representative. To find out who they are and how to contact them, use Google, text your zip code to 520-200-2223, or check the EXTREMELY comprehensive <https://contactingcongress.org/>.

Each member of Congress has a DC office as well as one or more local offices in-state. If you have time, call both! If you can only call one, call the office most local to you first. If no one is answering, then call the DC office.

Save their numbers in your phone—two numbers each, both the local office and the DC office.

When you call, they will probably ask you for zip code and possibly your address, to make sure you are a constituent, so be ready to give those.



Ask for specific things like “vote for the XYZ Bill”. It’s helpful to have a script prepared by you or by an organized group. Keep it short. You don’t need to tell the staffer why you support or oppose something, just that you support or oppose it. They are just creating a tally of how many people took which position; they won’t pass your convictions or supporting arguments along to your member of Congress. Be courteous and polite.

- Information from Indivisible Ventura

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COMING EVENTS

March 4th 4:00-6:00 pm PST - LWVVC Redistricting with Chris Carson via Zoom. Chris is the former LWVUS president. Redistricting will be occurring at every level of government due to the 2020 Census. How well it is carried out determines how well you will be represented. RSVP now to info@lwvventuracounty.org if you are interested in attending.

March 6th, 1:00pm PST – Stop Human Trafficking presented by Soroptimist CRR District 1. Register to hear the expert panel of speakers: Dawn Schiller, M.A., Expert Consultant & Survivor; Detective Kathryn Torres, Ventura Co. Sheriff; Dr. Allison Santi, ER Physician at Los Robles Hospital; and Christan Perez, Interface Children & Family Services. [Webinar registration here.](#) For more information, please contact Kay Armstrong at kayarmstrong@gmail.com.

March 11th, 9:00am PST - Vaccine Outreach Follow-Up Discussion. During the meeting, we will be joined by the Barry Zimmerman from the County of Ventura and will have more time to ask questions about vaccine rollouts and share outreach experiences with the larger group. We will also hold breakout groups to discuss awareness ideas, needs in the community, and how philanthropy can help play a role to support your efforts. Please click below to register. [Register Here.](#)

March 11th, 4:00pm PST - Board Meeting – Members and guest are welcome. To join us, please email Betsy Patterson at bpatter123@gmail.com to be invited to the Zoom meeting.

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## MEET THE MEMBERS

Get to know the League of Women Voters members. Join us for a casual get-together. Learn about the League. Talk over League activities. Catch up with friends. Make new friends. **You are welcome to attend either MTM Zoom meeting.** Please register with the host in advance. Please note: **MTM Ventura is moving to the second Tuesday of the month.**



- Ventura – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday @ 6:30 - Pat Butler, [pbutler10@msn.com](mailto:pbutler10@msn.com).
- Oxnard/Pt Hueneme – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @ 5:30 pm, Kay Armstrong, [kayaarmstrong@gmail.com](mailto:kayaarmstrong@gmail.com).

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COVID VACCINE UPDATES – Ventura County

Ventura County has expanded the number of locations and the number of appointments available for first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccinations. There is information about the vaccine phases and who is included in each. **Sign up for vaccinations [here](#).** Subscribe to be notified when appointments are available. Community members who are eligible to be vaccinated but who have limited computer/internet access may call the phone registration line at **805-477-7161**. The phone line is open Monday through Friday 8:30-5:00. **Second doses are being offered [here-d2/](#).**

Vaccine Phase Expanding March 1 - The County of Ventura will begin vaccinating teachers and childcare providers, first responders and food and agricultural workers who are eligible under the State's Phase 1B as supply allows March 1.

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## WE THANK OUR SUPPORTERS

**NEW MEMBERS:** We warmly welcome our newest member: Lynnae Hitchcock of Ventura.

**RENEWING MEMBERS:** Many thanks and gratitude to our members who have renewed their membership and to those who have made an additional contribution toward the expenses of operating the LWVVC.



**VOLUNTEERS:** To all those who have noted your areas of interest on your Volunteer Surveys, thank you for volunteering to help fulfill our mission to empower voters and defend democracy. Our committee chairs will contact you in the coming months as various League activities get underway.

**To join or renew** your support/membership, please send a check to P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006. Your support is critical! For questions or information, contact us using the below information.

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CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED

Tax deductible donations can be made to:
General Fund
Scholarship Fund
Ann Gist Voter Education Fund
Ann Gist Scholarship

Please send checks to LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006, or donate online [here](#).

If you wish to make it in remembrance of someone, please include their name and a few lines about their life. Specify General Fund or Scholarship Fund. Thank you.

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## **RAISE AWARENESS OF THE LEAGUE**

Wear a **LWVVC Shirt** to all our public functions. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL. Donation of \$20.00 or more requested. For shirts, please contact [ksavitt@aol.com](mailto:ksavitt@aol.com)

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VENTURA COUNTY INFORMATION

For all relevant news about Ventura County, go to: <https://www.ventura.org/>. Find out how to view Board of Supervisors agenda, documents, broadcasts, and videos. Connect with County services.

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## **Making Democracy Work...**

### **Membership Form Available online:**

<https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county/join-league-or-renew-here>

**Email:** [info@lwvventuracounty.org](mailto:info@lwvventuracounty.org)

**Website:** <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county>

**Mailing Address:** **LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006**

**Voter's Edge:** <https://votersedge.org/ca> for Candidate funding and proposition information.

The League of Women Voters of Ventura County is a 501 (c) 3 organization.

**All contributions are tax deductible.**

To contribute, please go to <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county/donate>

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The League of Women Voters is non-partisan. It does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. The League encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.