



The Voter

"... to promote informed citizen participation in government."

Membership: (949) 718-9626, League Phone: (949) 451-2212, Website: <http://orangecoast.ca.lwvnet.org>

February-March 2017

Calendar of Events

Monday, February 6th, 9:45am. LWV Orange Coast Board Meeting
Location: St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Bonhoeffer Room, 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road, Newport Beach, CA 92660. Call 208-284-9167 or barbjsocal@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 2nd, 3-5pm. CAPO Unit: Clip & Come
Call: 949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com, for location and information.

Thursday, February 16th, 3-5pm. CAPO Unit: Book Club
*Book: "Don't Think of an Elephant!: Know your values and frame the debate" by George Lakoff
Call: 949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com, for location and information.*

Friday, February 24th, Noon to 2:30pm. Lunch with League
*Where: Casta Del Sol Golf Course, 27601 Casta Del Sol, Mission Viejo, 92692.
RSVP: call 208-284-9167 or barbjsocal@gmail.com. See page 4 for more information.*

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*Book: "The Sixth Extinction: An unnatural history" by Elizabeth Kolbert
Call: 949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com, for location and information.*

Friday, March 17th, Noon-2:30pm. Lunch with League
*Location: Casta Del Sol Golf Course, 27601 Casta Del Sol, Mission Viejo, 92692
RSVP: Required, 208-284-9167 or barbjsocal@gmail.com. See page 4 for more information.*

Saturday, March 18th, 9:30am-1:30pm Great American Write-in
Location: Delhi Center, 505 E. Central Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92707. See page

All members or guests are welcome at any of the meetings in this calendar

President's Message

Happy New Year! This is the time when everyone begins to evaluate successes of the previous year, and plan for the new one. By now, you have heard from LWVUS and LWVC, so I would like to bring you up to date on the Education and Advocacy activities of your Orange Coast League. With the election, your League was very busy; hopefully I have captured all the activities.



EDUCATION:

- Presented 27 Pros & Cons; held 5 candidate forums reaching 1328 voters.
- Organized a Voter Service Workshop on 2/23/16. Information presented by Mony Flores-Bauer. Attended by 20 League members.
- Maintained OC League email, webpage, Facebook, and *The Voter*; the LWVOC website averages 61 requests per day; Facebook averages 15 views per day.
- Petti Van Rekom and her committee supported votersedge.org by gathering and inputting information about Orange County candidates and ballot measures.
- Attended the “Reproductive Justice Initiative” Luncheon and the “Race, Sex and the 2016 Election” forum at the UCI School of Law; Co-sponsored “Encroachment of Reproductive Rights: Rethinking Roe v Wade” at UCI School of Law.
- Continued film series with Unitarian Universalists Association of Orange County.
- Lunch with League: several of the luncheons neared or exceeded 100 attendees. Luncheon speakers addressed topics as diverse as the Supreme Court, San Onofre waste disposal, Homeless Children in OC, Black Lives Matter, and a wrap up of the 2016 election.
- Two study consensus meetings: Money in Politics and Higher Education in California.
- One program planning and one Annual Meeting, one Pros and Cons of the election propositions for members and guests.

ADVOCACY:

- Participated in National Voter Registration Day. Distributed pamphlet “Voting 101: A College Student Guide to voting in Orange County”.
- Responded to Action Alerts from National and State League, whether by phone calls to our Representatives, or letters.
- Opposed Banning Ranch Development; wrote letter to Governor Brown and California Coastal Commission. Sent copies to the LA Times and the Daily Pilot.
- Opposed Proposed Lethal Injection Regulations; wrote letter to Timothy Lockwood of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
- Opposed Census Bureau’s proposal to continue to inaccurately count incarcerated people as “residents” of prisons, rather than at their home address; wrote to Karen Humes, Acting Chief, U.S. Census Bureau.

- Supported SB 124, the bill concerning juveniles held in solitary confinement. Wrote to Assemblyman Travis Allen urging him to support this bill.
- Supported SB 32 and AB 197, which extended the goal for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Our League received a letter of thanks for our support from State Senator Fran Pavley. This was an action request from State League.
- Sent letter to City of Huntington Beach in support of continuing to videotape and air candidate forums in the November 2016 election.
- Sent Letter to the City of Newport Beach recommending televising planning commission meetings.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Orange Coast League merged with Capistrano League; vote held at Annual Meeting.
- Currently have 198 members
- Held a food drive over the Holidays. Delivered several boxes of nonperishable food to Second Harvest Food Bank
- Raised money for support of Orange County homeless teenagers
- Participated in Giving Tuesday.
- Continued to partner with other groups and organizations.

2017 ACTIVITIES:

- LWVUS has partnered with “The Union Edge”. You can listen to “Voices from the League” 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 1:30 pm ET. “The Union Edge” is the only nationally syndicated labor talk radio program in the country. Check LWV web page for additional information.
- Continue advocacy in support of League principles of positions. Watch your email for updates of League activities on local, State and National issues.
- Plan to join the book club and/or Clip and Come

Your League is busy. There are many opportunities to be involved. Plan on attending a League Board meeting, send an email with your ideas, suggestions, and recommendations; come to Lunch with League; read the League Leader updates and follow through on requested actions. We look forward to a busy and productive 2017.

In League,

Diane Nied, President

Orange Coast League Cities:

Aliso Viejo, Costa Mesa, Dana Point, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Sunset Beach, Laguna Woods, Laguna Niguel, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, and Seal Beach

February 2017 Lunch with League

Friday, 24, noon-2:30pm

Topic: "Fake News and the Influence of Money on Journalism"

Speakers: Dr. Lori Cox Han, Professor of Political Science Chapman University.
Martin Wisckol, Columnist at the Orange County Register



Dr. Han received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Davis, a Master of Arts from the University of Southern California and California State University, Northridge and her Ph. D. from the University of Southern California. Dr. Han joined the Chapman faculty in 2005 as Professor of Political Science. Her major area of expertise is American government, with emphasis the US presidency. Dr. Han is past president of the Presidency Research Group, an organized section of the American Political Science Association devoted to the study of the presidency, and she has also served as a member of the national executive board of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national Political Science honor society. She is the author of numerous books and articles on the American Presidency.



Martin Wisckol is a groundbreaking journalist with 30 years of newspaper and magazine experience. He received a B. A. in American Literature from California State University San Diego and studied at Seinan Gakuin University, Fukuoka, Japan. He is an award-winning investigative, analytic and feature story writer whose work can be read in Orange County Register, The Mercury News, Los Angeles Daily News, The Bond Buyer, Daily Breeze, Daily Democrat, Lake County Record-Bee, The Daily News (Palo Alto) and 3 more publications. He plays guitar with the eclectic jazz band "Little Radio."

Friday, March 17th, 2017, noon-2:30pm.

Topic: "The Current Status of Health Care in the US, CA and in the Future?"

Speaker: Dr. Bill Honigman

Where: Casta Del Sol Golf Course, 27601 Casta Del Sol, Mission Viejo, 92692

Menu: Chicken breast salad and roll; meatloaf, vegetables and potato; grilled vegetables, tuna, turkey or ham and cheese sandwich.

Cost: \$15 for lunch and speaker, \$5 for speaker only

RSVP: Required. Barb Wood, call 208-264-9167 or email barbjsocal@gmail.com

↵ PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION ↶

Breast Cancer and Implementation of AB 1795

Sydney Minchin, Orange County Women's Health Project, has announced that effective January 1, 2017, the "Every Woman Counts" (EWC) Program (part of the Department of Health Care Services' Cancer Detection and Treatment Branch), will provide breast diagnostic services to symptomatic women of any age as required by Assembly Bill 1795. Prior to January 1, 2017 diagnostic services were provided by EWC only to symptomatic women *40 and older*.

Recipients must also meet eligibility requirements listed here:

- have low income ([EWC Income Criteria](#)),
- have no or limited insurance,
- do not receive services through Medi-Cal or other government-sponsored program, and
- live in California.

Warning signs and/or symptoms of breast cancer include, but are not limited to:

- Palpable mass, lump or swelling in the breast or the underarm;
- Changes in size or shape of the breast;
- Change in skin texture and color (dimpling, puckering, redness, scaly skin, or thickening) of the breast or nipple;
- Nipple retraction or inversion;
- Nipple discharge; and/or
- Breast pain.

Please note that these warning signs and/or symptoms may occur with conditions other than breast cancer. For information call 1-800-511-2300, available 24/7. Please see this link for full bill text: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill>

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< In Memorium >

Fern Pirkle died at her Newport Beach home Friday, Nov. 11. She was 90. Pirkle was the founder and president of Friends of the Newport Coast and led the fight against the Irvine Company to preserve as open space nearly 10,000 acres of the Irvine Ranch that bordered the sea between Corona del Mar and Laguna Beach. In the 1960s, she marched in the civil rights movement and against the war in Vietnam. She was a founding member of the Kentucky ACLU and president of the League of Women Voters of Louisville.

Kevin Starr, died January 14, at age 76. He was a public intellectual in a class of his own. He had been an avuncular, high-profile California state librarian from 1994 to 2004. For half a century, **Starr** chronicled the greed, cruelty, enlightenment, innovation, vanity and sacrifice that took California from a place of Native American hamlets through Spanish colonization, entry into the United States and growth into a diverse powerhouse of technology, culture and trade. His life's work made him **the state's foremost historian** and one of its most revered public intellectuals. Starr was particularly adept at seeing where California was going -- politically, economically, culturally -- before most others. Starr did much to **redefine how we think** about our history as Californians, filling essential gaps between the easy mythology about California.

Board of Supervisors Report for 2016! And here's to 2017

By Wanda Shafer, Observer Corp LWVOC

A new BOS policy requires members of the public to address the Board at the beginning of the meeting, regardless of the item they wish to address. This resulted in two and a half hours of 3-minute speeches, starting at 9:30a.m., mostly composed of testimonials of airline employees trying to convince the Board of the best choices for leases.

However, eleven of the speakers were asking the Board to approve the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program. We have 19,000 eligible Orange County citizens eligible for this program of food stamps. It will start with the cities of Santa Ana and Anaheim and gradually increase around the county.

Most of the homeless have no means of refrigeration or any kind of stove for food preparation, thus making it difficult to buy produce and other healthy foods. Now they will be able to eat at approved restaurants, get their hands washed, and eat warm food! Two speakers stated their appreciation for the Shelter Courtyard (the old transportation station). A charity group offered statistics for one week of service there: 296 volunteers offered 623 hours and served 6,808 meals. Twenty-eight homeless achieved certified exits of success and will no longer be sheltered there.

The 2017 County Priorities are as follows:

- property tax allocation and funding flexibility
- addressing the County's homeless population
- flood control and watershed management
- county infrastructure projects
- mental health
- sober living homes
- monitoring nuclear fuel storage issues
- responding to the 2016 ballot propositions.

The OC Grand Jury asked for \$400,000 to enable the State Attorney General to appoint special counsel for them. They are investigating whether the OC District Attorney and OC Sheriff's current informant practices conform to the law. They also want to see how the Orange County DA is implementing the Dec. 2015 evaluation of these informant practices.

Hoping you have a wonderful New Year. Support your League!

The Great American Write-In

The Great American Write-In is a free annual event offered to the public by **Women For: Orange County**, to provide community members with the means to influence policy decisions by writing letters to their legislators. Over 50 different organizations and advocacy groups presented information on some of today's most vital issues. Almost three hundred attendees visited the participants' tables and then voiced their opinions by writing over 2200 letters and postcards to government and corporate decision-makers in the hopes of bringing about constructive change. **Delhi Center, located at 505 East Central Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92707. Saturday, March 18, 2017, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Wicked Problems - not Wicked People

By Petti Van Rekom

Given the election we just suffered through, the disappearance of “civil discourse” is on many people’s minds. With the current political climate and apparent cultural separation, how can we bring people together to have “civil” discussions and solve important issues for our communities and our country? There are several organizations that provide processes, discussion guides, and frameworks for conducting civil discussions. Often it is assumed that “civil citizens” given a structured meeting and a trained facilitator could discover a solution to the problem under discussion.

But then I learned of the term “Wicked Problems”. It’s become one of my favorite terms!

Put simply, a "wicked problem" is a social or cultural problem that is difficult or impossible to solve. There are usually four reasons why this is so: 1) knowledge is incomplete or contradictory; 2) there are a number of people and opinions involved; 3) there is a large economic burden; and 4) the problem is complex and interconnected with other problems. For example, poverty is linked with education, nutrition with poverty, the economy with nutrition, and so on. The effort to solve one aspect of a wicked problem may reveal or create other problems.

Most often the issues discussed in large community gatherings are wicked problems; a perfect solution that everyone would support does not exist. Classic examples of wicked problems include [economic](#), [environmental](#), and [political](#) issues. A problem whose solution requires a great number of people to change their mindsets and behavior is likely to be a wicked problem. Therefore, many standard examples of wicked problems come from the areas of public planning and policy. These include global [climate change](#), education, healthcare, the [AIDS](#) epidemic, international [drug trafficking](#), nuclear energy, and [social injustice](#).

Every wicked problem can be considered to be a symptom of another problem. And every wicked problem is essentially unique; there is no “formula” that can be applied to a similar one. For example, the problem of poverty in Texas is grossly similar but discretely different from poverty in Nairobi.

When I think of some recent wicked problems here in San Clemente, there was often a conflict between the economic benefits (e.g. income from new shopping center) and the environmental impact (e.g. traffic, night lighting, loss of open space).

It is our values and beliefs (i.e. our “worldview”) that often polarizes our discussions. Although the world is full of wicked problems, those of us seeking solutions are not “wicked people”. We just have different worldviews. I believe that understanding the differing worldviews of others will aid us in finding less polarizing “solutions” to the many wicked problems in our community, our state, and our country. If you’re interested in working to make community discussions more “civil”, please let me know at: petti.vanrekom@petti.com.

Membership News:

Say a big League HELLO to new member: Michelle Musacchio, from Irvine

LWV of California Update:

Are You Ready for “A Capitol Connection?”

CALL TO CONVENTION: *2017 LWVC Convention in Sacramento, scheduled for June 2-4, 2017 at the [Sheraton Grand](#).*

Your League may have recently received an invitation letter from the Sacramento County League – the Convention host League – asking for your help. Please consider one or several of the options they’ve presented as a way to support their efforts, whether it’s volunteering for a job that you’d love to do, contributing a special piece or event for the silent auction or contributing financially which helps us to provide great presenters, great workshops and the most inspiring convention possible.

Speakers, you say? An impressive list of speakers and presenters is being assembled. To give you a taste of what’s in store, we’re pleased to announce that **Chris Hoene**, Executive Director of the [California Budget & Policy Center](#), will be one of our speakers. If you attended the 2013 Convention in San Jose, you may remember Chris. He was a hit then, and we knew we wanted him back.

We encourage you to consider arriving early for “Lobby Day” at the State Capitol on Thursday, June 1st. You’ll be pleased to know it’s just a short walk from the convention hotel. *What’s it going to cost?* is always a question. We have secured a room rate of \$169 for convention attendees. The [2017 LWVC Convention website](#) is up and running right now with its “*Save the Date*” placeholder. So stay tuned and check back often. We look forward to “Connecting” in June!

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Annual Green California Summit, February 15 in Sacramento:
www.clcvedfund.org/greencasummit

The LWVC participates in [Green California, a network of more than one hundred organizations](#) working collaboratively to speak to the legislature with a unified voice on issues impacting California’s air, water and natural resources.

- 2017 Future of California Elections Conference, March 9, 2017 in Los Angeles:
<http://futureofcaelections.org/conferences/foce2017/>

The LWVC is a member of the *Future of California Elections (FoCE)* collaboration between election officials, civil rights organizations, and election reform advocates to examine and address the unique challenges facing the state of California’s election system.

- Make It Fair California: <http://www.makeitfairca.com/>

The LWVC is a member of the *Make It Fair California* coalition, dedicated to closing the corporate property tax loophole. If you are interested in working on this issue, join the LWVC list serve lwvc-make-it-fair-campaign@googlegroups.com. We’ll be sharing ideas for local Leagues.

The 2016 Presidential Election WAS Rigged

by Sarah Courtney, LWVUS 11/23/2016

Voter Suppression Can Impact Outcomes

Washington, DC – This year, and for several years, there has been a concerted effort in many states to stop some voters from voting, or to make it much harder for them to participate. Since the Supreme Court rolled back key provisions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013, elected officials have purged existing voters from the rolls, made cuts to early voting, reduced polling places, put in place strict voter photo ID laws and levied onerous voter registration restrictions.

“We recognize the importance of a peaceful transfer of power as a hallmark of a functioning democracy, and we recognize that we have one of the best election systems and democracies in the world, but we also need to say it out loud: **This election was rigged. And it needs to stop,**” said **Chris Carson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States.**

“It is clear that this kind of voter suppression could impact the outcome of elections,” Carson continued. “We may never know whether the efforts to block voter participation changed the outcome in any particular race – but we must be on guard for the future.”

Tight margins in some key elections show that suppression may play a role.

In Wisconsin, President-elect Trump beat Secretary Clinton by roughly **27,000 votes**, however according to federal court, **300,000 registered** voters lacked the proper photo ID. In North Carolina, the closest governor’s race the country has seen in more than a decade is still unresolved, with fewer than 8,000 votes separating the current governor from his challenger. On Dec. 5 North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory conceded the race to challenger Roy Cooper. Since then the N.C. legislature has been busy stripping away the powers of the governor’s office in order to hobble the governor-elect.

“We are not talking about vigilante voter intimidation,” said Carson. “We are talking about official, legal voter suppression by state legislatures and election officials.” Carson pointed especially to the work of Kris Kobach, the Secretary of State of Kansas, who engaged in a multi-year effort to stop eligible Kansans from voting. Laws drafted by Kobach required restrictive documentary proof of citizenship to register by mail and at the DMV. Despite defeats in federal and state courts, Kobach still pushed to keep eligible citizens from voting.

“Some try to justify voter suppression as just politics as usual – trying to ensure their candidates will win,” Carson said. “There is no excuse for erecting unnecessary barriers to voting. It is not the American way.

In 2016, the League worked to make sure voters impacted by new laws were aware of these restrictions. In Ohio, the League made thousands of phone calls to inform voters about that state’s purge. In Virginia, the League conducted outreach so voters knew about the new ID law. In Kansas, the League worked to register voters and provide them information. Across the country League members volunteered as non-partisan poll observers. “Every eligible citizen should vote and the election system should help them participate rather than standing in the

way,” said Carson. “The League of Women Voters will continue our work to expand participation in the election process and work to give a voice to all Americans,” she concluded. The League is gearing up to take a stand in statehouses and courtrooms nationwide to ensure no voters are left behind. What states rigged their elections?

Here’s the list of 13 states with new voting restrictions in effect in the 2016 election:

- 1. Alabama** saw a new restrictive photo ID requirement in 2016. There is ongoing litigation that could require voters to provide more burdensome documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote.
- 2. Arizona** for the first time had limitations on mail-in ballot collection. This law made it a felony to turn in another voter’s completed ballot. This practice is popular for rural and Native American communities that do not have access to reliable transportation or postal offices.
- 3. Indiana** now permits election officers to demand voters provide proof of identification. This law subjects voters to an additional and duplicative voter identification requirement that did not exist before the law was enacted.
- 4. Kansas** continued attempts to require documentary proof of citizenship in order to register to vote by mail and at the DMV. Courts overturned these requirements but many voters who tried to register were put on a suspense list.
- 5. Mississippi** passed a restrictive photo ID requirement that was allowed to go into effect after the U.S Supreme Court gutted Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act in 2013.
- 6. New Hampshire** enacted a new photo ID law, requiring voters without acceptable ID to be photographed at the polls, and the photograph to be affixed to an affidavit.
- 7. Ohio** made cuts to early voting and changed absentee and provisional ballot rules. The Buckeye State also eliminated the period known as “Golden Week”, when voters can register and cast a ballot on the same day. The Secretary of State also purged more than 1 million Ohio voters from the registration rolls.
- 8. Rhode Island** voters needed to provide a valid photo ID to vote this year. Voters without ID could only cast provisional ballots.
- 9. South Carolina** for the first time required voters who have photo IDs to produce them in order to vote in this presidential election. Voters without ID needed to sign an affidavit at the polls and could only cast a provisional ballot.
- 10. Tennessee** lawmakers made the photo ID law already in place more restrictive by limiting acceptable IDs to only those issued by the state or federal government. The state conducted an illegal purge of voters who hadn’t recently voted.
- 11. Texas** instituted one of the most restrictive photo ID laws in the nation, but was blocked in the courts. The state then required voters with ID to produce it, and individuals lacking the official ID could vote only after showing a different form of identification and signing a declaration.
- 12. Virginia** limited voter registration by civic organizations and required restrictive photo ID for the first time.
- 13. Wisconsin** reduced early voting hours on weekdays and eliminated them entirely on weekends. Voters also were required to show photo IDs for the first time.

Take action with the League and sign the petition to safeguard voting rights:

http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=12567

LWVUS Making News

League Urges Senators to Cosponsor S.65. The League joined other good government groups on [a letter](#) to the U.S. Senate urging Senators to cosponsor legislation to address financial conflicts of interest of the President and Vice President. The legislation, introduced by Senator Warren (D-MA), ensures that those elected as President will be required to take the steps essential to eliminating any conflicts of interest, appearances of conflict, and Emoluments Clause problems they will face as President

TAKE ACTION: Stop The Repeal of Health Care. The U.S. Senate is back in session and their first priority will be to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Repealing the ACA means undoing numerous protections for the American people. The League will not stand by while members of Congress dismantle protections for the health and well-being of the American public. Stand with the League today and [tell your Senators to oppose repeal of the ACA](#).

League Opposes H.R. 26, REINS Act of 2017. The League joined [a letter](#) to the U.S. House in opposition to the *Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act of 2017*. Under the REINS Act, no major regulation could take effect unless it is approved by both houses of Congress in a small window of time. This would make it impossible to protect the public by shutting down the entire regulatory system including attacks on the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and many other consumer protection measures.

United Nations: Commission on the Status of Women: Upcoming Events. The focus of the United Nations turns toward women and gender issues during the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York, March 13-24, 2017. The priority theme of the meetings will be ‘Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work’. The League can register up to 20 members to attend Commission meetings and events in the UN; please contact Suzanne Stassevitch at smstass@mac.com if you're interested in attending as a LWV UN delegate. All League members can also self-register to attend more than 450 NGO events, panels and trainings conducted in parallel with the Commission meetings. [Registration is open](#) through January 27, 2017.

Washington, DC. The new Congress was sworn in Tuesday, January 3, one of the first orders of business was adopting rules for the 115th Congress, including severe cut backs in the independence of the Office of Congressional Ethics. The following statement is attributed to League president, **Chris Carson**: *“Gutting the independent ethics office is exactly the wrong way to start a new Congress. Speaker Ryan should be ashamed of himself and his leadership group that are pushing this through the House. This opens the door for special interest corruption just as the new Congress considers taxes and major infrastructure spending. We all know the so-called House Ethics Committee is worthless for anything other than a whitewash -- sweeping corruption under the rug. That's why the independent Office of Congressional Ethics has been so important. The OCE works to stop corruption and that's why Speaker Ryan is cutting its authority. Speaker Ryan is giving a green light to congressional corruption.”*

In League,



**League of Women Voters
of Orange Coast
Board of Directors**



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK



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Contact Us

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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