

#1

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Q1 Name of League

LWV of Butte County

Q2 Contact person

Debra Barger

Q3 Email address

debra.barger@sbcglobal.net

Q4 What was the name of your project?

Voter Outreach to Underserved Populations

Q5 What was the date of your project?

August through November 1, 2018

Q6 Briefly describe your project:

Mid-term elections historically have lower voter turnout, so LWVBC hoped to build a solid foundation for voter outreach which we can expand upon for 2020. In preparation to target underserved populations, we trained 25 voter registration team members, including student peer leaders at Chico State, targeting Chico State, Butte College, and Inspire High School to conduct youth voter outreach efforts. Our student peer leaders helps us continue our presence on the university campus. We reached out to homeless shelters and assisted living facilities. The most extensive voter registration efforts we conducted through the diligent work of a bilingual team of dedicated individuals who conducted voter outreach to the Hispanic community. In the end, our team of seven volunteers attended 27 boothing events and distributed over 5000 bilingual brochures and 300 bilingual voter registration forms.

Q7 Did you have collaborative partners in the project? Briefly name them and their role in the project/program:

Thanks to the recommendations and contacts with several organizations, including the Hispanic Resource Council, we were directed to events, resource centers, commercial businesses, clubs and everywhere else potential Latino voters might be. We hit every library, health center, immigration attorney office, resource office and Mexican restaurant in Butte County with the California Secretary of State's bilingual brochures. In the last month we participated in the Butte County Hispanic Resource Council's preparation for La Dia de Campesino. The Office of Civic Engagement at CSU, Chico partnered with us recruit student peer leaders and we set a record with 61 voter registration forms completed in just two hours at CSU, Chico's Rock the Block event for new freshman.

Q8 Briefly describe how this program/project engaged your community with consideration to the following elements:- worked with segments of the community not previously reached- created the impetus for future opportunities to engage with collaborative partners.

While we will never know exactly how many Latino voters ended up voting because of our efforts, we do know that, for the first time, our League of Women Voters reached out to welcome them into the voting process. We were thanked often for our efforts and felt that our work was appreciated and rewarding. La Dia de Campesino went beyond Butte into Glenn and Tehama counties and we began to be recognized for our presence. We are participating with the Hispanic Resource Council on an ongoing basis as we build a strategy for early registration for 2020. For Youth outreach, we are already scheduled for the start of each school year at Chico State.

Q9 Do you believe that this program/project has potential to be a model for use by other Leagues? If yes, tell us the critical elements for success:

Definitely! We consulted with shelter staff in advance to let them know we needed to learn from them about homeless needs, and be sensitive to special issues, e.g, a mailing address. We welcomed student peer leaders and went to campus to train them and listen to their ideas for targeting their fellow students. Finally, we reached out to Hispanic organizations and sought their ideas and followed through

#2

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Q1 Name of League

LWV San Luis Obispo County

Q2 Contact person

Julie Rodewald

Q3 Email address

julie0513@sbcglobal.net

Q4 What was the name of your project?

High-School Voter Registration

Q5 What was the date of your project?

Began in January 2017 and ongoing.

Q6 Briefly describe your project:

League members have engaged with local high schools, both traditional and alternative, as well as both campuses of Cuesta Community College. During visits to the high schools League members present a power point highlighting the following: mission of the League of Women Voters, history of voting rights, registration requirements, resources available to become an informed voter, methods of voting, and why one vote can make a difference. During the presentation students are led in a discussion of these topics and are then given the opportunity to register to vote. Students are encouraged to complete a pledge card and give the League permission to email or text them with information about future elections. If a student signs the pledge card they will be sent at least 2 notifications about important election deadlines and other information about the upcoming election. The League has also participated in outreach days at the community college to answer questions and encourage students to register and vote.

Q7 Did you have collaborative partners in the project? Briefly name them and their role in the project/program:

Originally, the League partnered with staff from the County Clerk-Recorder's office to visit the classrooms but now only League members are involved. We have a team of committed, enthusiastic League volunteers who manage the program. Other collaborative partners are the teachers who assist with scheduling, encourage the students to participate, and provide feed-back to the League.

Q8 Briefly describe how this program/project engaged your community with consideration to the following elements:- worked with segments of the community not previously reached- created the impetus for future opportunities to engage with collaborative partners.

This is the first program in our county to reach into the high schools to encourage voter registration and pre-registration for students 16 years of age and older. In addition, our work at the community college has enabled us to reach people who may be new to the county or have not been previously registered. Outreach to the high schools has resulted in a program that is in its 3rd year of reaching out to students. The teachers look forward to our visits and presentations in their classes. We have also been in discussion with student government leaders at the community college about hosting other voter registration events on campus.

Q9 Do you believe that this program/project has potential to be a model for use by other Leagues? If yes, tell us the critical elements for success:

Yes. Critical to the success of the program are: 1. the development of a presentation that builds on and expands what the students are learning in their history, government and economics classes; 2. direct engagement with interested teachers to build momentum for annual (or more frequent) visits to their classrooms; 3. a group of well-trained, committed League volunteers willing to visit the classrooms and engage the students.

#3

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Time Spent: 00:47:29
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Q1 Name of League

League of Women Voters, San Diego

Q2 Contact person

Lori Thiel

Q3 Email address

president@lwvsandiego.org

Q4 What was the name of your project?

In-Jail Voter Outreach

Q5 What was the date of your project?

Ongoing since 2018

Q6 Briefly describe your project:

Convince local sheriff to allow our League to send members into San Diego Jails to register eligible inmates. This required an introductory letter with the request, an initial meeting to share our goals and intentions, a selection of LWVSD representatives from the community, a series of training sessions with the sheriff and the Registrar of Voters, and, finally, the on-site registration.

Q7 Did you have collaborative partners in the project? Briefly name them and their role in the project/program:

Yes, we were alerted to this need by Pillars of the Community an organization that "is committed to embracing and celebrating the historic, rich, and diverse culture of Southeast San Diego....and strive[s] to counter the criminalization of our community through community organizing, leadership development, and strategic partnerships." We worked with them, Think Dignity (an organization that advocates for the homeless), and members of Viet Vote and local members of #FreeTheVote.

Q8 Briefly describe how this program/project engaged your community with consideration to the following elements:- worked with segments of the community not previously reached- created the impetus for future opportunities to engage with collaborative partners.

Our League have very little history of partnership with communities of color, so our collaboration with Pillars of the Community was a first for us. Likewise with the other community organizations, as well as the sheriff's department. POC and #FreeTheVote had been organizing an email campaign to register eligible inmates, but they were unable to convince the sheriff to let them register in the jails. I heard about their struggle and contacted the head of POC to ask her if she would accept my help in opening that door for her. She agreed and I reach out to the sheriff to start the process with absolutely no problem. (#WhitePriviledge) The sheriff insisted that ONLY League members enter his prison to register voters, so we solicited a select set of activists who had been working on this and added them to our membership roles, hosted a LWVSD orientation event to bring them up to speed on our member requirements, and paired them with long-time members to register voters in the county jails. Our outreach and successful partnership with the community organizations AND the sheriff's department was unprecedented and paved the way for future collaboration in election years.

Q9 Do you believe that this program/project has potential to be a model for use by other Leagues? If yes, tell us the critical elements for success:

Absolutely! It was critical for us to work WITH the organizations on the ground who had been doing this work. At no time did I try to step in and push them out. Further, the sheriff was skeptical, so it was crucial that I get not only buy-in but collaboration from them. We relied on them to direct us, educate us and keep us safe.

#4

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Q1 Name of League

league of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

Q2 Contact person

Co-President Joanie Jones

Q3 Email address

cnjjones@cox.net

Q4 What was the name of your project?

New Voter Outreach

Q5 What was the date of your project?

January to December 2018

Q6 Briefly describe your project:

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Education Fund received a \$5000 grant for new voter outreach in the 2019 election year. That application turned out to be a blueprint for registering, educating and encouraging people to vote—especially under-served and under-represented communities. Our goal was to carry out the mission of the League of Women Voters “Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy” by targeting those who have not previously participated in the democratic process. To do this, we contracted with two bilingual community organizers, worked with dozens of local groups, consulted with Latino leaders, and translated all election information and candidate forum videos. We estimate reaching almost 5000 people directly, another 45,000 on Spanish-language media, registering at least 596 on paper forms and on-site, and many more who filled out forms at home and online. We gave out 4000 “I Will Vote/Voy A Votar” stickers, 3500 flyers and 400 Easy Voter Guides.

Q7 Did you have collaborative partners in the project? Briefly name them and their role in the project/program:

Our voter service team, led by director Susan Horne, worked with many organizations—including CAUSE, Future Leaders of America, the Santa Barbara Housing Authority, the Santa Barbara Public Library, the high schools, People's Self-Help Housing, Creative Democracy, the Women's March. Nearly 200 volunteers helped with more than 50 events, including marches, Martin Luther King Day, and National Voter Registration Day (over 30 volunteers registered voters at six libraries and a Carpinteria Albertsons). LWVSB trained high school students who registered over 375 students in three weeks at four local high schools, and acted as advisors to students who prepared voter education and pre-registration to 780 students in 26 social studies classes.

Q8 Briefly describe how this program/project engaged your community with consideration to the following elements:- worked with segments of the community not previously reached- created the impetus for future opportunities to engage with collaborative partners.

LWVSB partnered with the SB Housing Authority and with People's Self-Help Housing to reach low-income and majority Latino residents of subsidized housing facilities, providing bilingual materials and registering voters at several events. To reach young voters, League volunteers had a table at a Creative Democracy arts party and at a Bike Ride-Mural Art Event. Volunteers got advice on outreach from the coordinator of the UCSB voter registration drive and Future Leaders of America staff, and did trainings for Islamic Society leader and the Women of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom. Two days before the Nov. 6 election, League members partnered with the Paseo Nuevo Mall to set up a Pop-Up Ballot Education Tent, providing bilingual information on how to read the ballot to at least 70 pedestrians of all ages and locations. After creating so many important partnerships, the League will continue these (and form more) in the future. To help with the cost of community organizers and translation, the League is a finalist for 2020 and is hoping to receive another grant from the Fund for Santa Barbara.

Q9 Do you believe that this program/project has potential to be a model for use by other Leagues? If yes, tell us the critical elements for success:

Yes. The most critical element for success is to work closely with community leaders on how best to reach Latinos, low-income people, young people, residents of senior housing and new voters. In addition to doing registration, providing information and conducting candidate forums ourselves, League members trained others to do those activities in their own organizations and neighborhoods. Another critical element is using Spanish-English newspaper and radio stations to publicize events, and to broadcast videos in English and Spanish on local TV and YouTube and livestream forums on Facebook.

#5

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Q1 Name of League

League of Women Voters for Fremont, Newark, and Union City

Q2 Contact person

Syeda R Inamdar

Q3 Email address

syedar.inamdar@gmail.com

Q4 What was the name of your project?

Parkland Voter Movement

Q5 What was the date of your project?

Spring and Fall of 2018, ongoing into 2019, 2020

Q6 Briefly describe your project:

Our League was approached by Julie Dunkle and her son Michael who wanted to do something in the face of the horrors of gun violence deaths at schools. They thought pre-registering/registering to vote would enable teens to have a voice in our government and eventually change laws. Our League became the fiscal sponsor and founding partner of The Parkland Voter Movement (PVM). PVM is a grass roots effort to support teens to register other teens to vote and then to encourage each other to actually vote. In 2018, over 3,000 teens in Fremont/Newark/Union City were registered as new voters and many voted in the 2018 elections.

Q7 Did you have collaborative partners in the project? Briefly name them and their role in the project/program:

This project's main focus was to provide opportunities to empower the voices and talents of youth in all of our local high schools and community college. PVM had 50+ youth volunteers and 100+ adult volunteers who organized the voter registrations drives and who registered in excess of 3000 youth in just Spring and Fall of 2018! We also reached out to several other community organizations for volunteers and other kinds of support; some of these organizations were: American Muslim Voice, Tri-City Health Center, Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Church. Of course, the project had full support from the civics teachers, school Principals and School Board members.

Q8 Briefly describe how this program/project engaged your community with consideration to the following elements:- worked with segments of the community not previously reached- created the impetus for future opportunities to engage with collaborative partners.

PVM engaged the community in so many ways. Passionate students (individuals or clubs like "We the People") were given an easily accessible and doable structure to make a significant impact. Adults who are passionate about registering voters were also given an easily accessible (2-hr volunteer windows) avenue to DO something (dozens of volunteers came from Nextdoor postings). Teachers were excited to have quality civics instruction they could replicate. PVM also engaged marginalized populations - youth (lowest turn-out group), very diverse schools, included special education students, alternative high schools, homeless, and underrepresented ethnic voting groups. Fremont United School District produced two 30-minute Community Conversation TV segments about the project. A church designated a special second collection for the project (>\$600).

Q9 Do you believe that this program/project has potential to be a model for use by other Leagues? If yes, tell us the critical elements for success:

We absolutely believe this model can be utilized by other Leagues! The critical elements are the following:

1. Outreach to civics teachers, school Principals and district administration to identify and invite youth interested in organizing voter registration drives.
 2. Outreach to community organizations for adult volunteers (including your own league) and other kinds of support. You can also post on a community network app such as Nextdoor and recruit at public rallies/protests etc.
 3. Meet with youth organizers to ascertain logistics of the drives.
 4. Ensure that volunteers are properly trained to provide direction and answer questions.
 5. Debrief afterwards to see what worked and what could have worked even better.
 6. Have a website/app/ facebook page etc. to assist with logistics, coordination, marketing etc. We are currently in process of seeking grants and other funding to update the Parklandvotermovement.org website.
 7. There are already several organizational and informational tools posted to the website which other Leagues as well as other organizations can access; you can click on the teen and adult volunteer tabs for these tools which can be modified as necessary.
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