

A decorative graphic at the top of the slide featuring a curved section of the American flag, with blue stars on a white background and red and white stripes.

Introducing: VerifyIt!

<https://verifyit.buzz>

**The new, free, online game that
teaches civics, news literacy and
voting in a fun way**

A decorative graphic at the top of the slide featuring a curved section of the American flag, with white stars on a blue field and red and white stripes.

VerifyIt!

<https://verifyit.buzz>

Find our presentation at

<https://verifyit.buzz/slides>

Our Goals: Creating Version 1 Released Fall 2020

How to Become Informed Citizens

- News Literacy
- Civic Participation
- Voting

And Effective Participants in our Democracy

- Petitioning the Government/Protesting
- Working for issues or candidates
- League of Women Voters

A decorative graphic at the top of the slide featuring a curved portion of the American flag, with white stars on a blue field and red and white stripes.

Civics

- If you don't know the principles of our Democracy how can you know how you fit in or what to do?
- If you don't know the history of our Democracy how can you keep it?

A decorative graphic at the top of the slide featuring a blue field with white stars and a red and white striped field, resembling the American flag.

“Real” News v “Fake” News

- Do you know the difference?
- Do you share things you read or receive on Social Media?
- Do you check to see if it is accurate before you share?
 - How do you find out if it is accurate?
 - Politifact – Factcheck.org – Snopes - Reuters
- Do you include a comment when you share?



How Do I Register to Vote and Vote?

- How to register - online or in person
- Registering at 16 and 17
- Mail ballots or in-person: your choiceHow your vote-by-mail ballot works
- How to vote in person - early voting; drop boxes; precincts
- ID to register or to vote
- Provisional ballots
- Tracking your ballot
- Common myths
 - My vote doesn't count
 - If I don't vote on everything my vote won't count
 - The President can decide if my vote counts

Version 1: Introduced Fall 2020

- Fall 2019-Spring 2020: Tested an In-Person Game Show with Civics & News Literacy Questions:
 - Girls Inc
 - Palo Alto Journalism Classes
 - Berkeley City College Class
- Summer 2020: Re-designed as Online Game to release before 2020 election
- Single Player - True/False questions
- Voting questions for California & multiple swing states
- Tested by government and history teachers in Alameda California
- **Feedback** - All ages loved the game: youth through seniors
 - Over 3200 games played September - December 2020 Nationwide

A decorative graphic at the top of the slide featuring a stylized American flag with white stars on a blue field and red and white stripes, curving across the top.

Version #2: Released May 1 for Law Day

- **Two games in one:** Single Player Game and Multiplayer Game
- **Multiplayer** Game designed for teachers & other presenters to use as an **ice-breaker** to engage students/spark discussion about civics, civics engagement, voter registration & voting, veracity of the “news”
- **Expanded categories**, including LWV issues: voter suppression, racial and gender justice, climate change, money and politics
- **More Games** - now 45+ Games to choose from
- Developed **more and a greater variety of questions** - Over 800 questions
- We update the questions weekly to keep them current and topical



Non-profit, non-partisan partners - Nationwide

- American Constitution Society (ACS): Constitution in Classroom program for Law Day (May 1) and Constitution Day (September 17)
- Wolf-Pac - non-profit dedicated to getting money out of politics
- Douglas J. Day, Professor Emeritus of Politics, Mount Holyoke College
- TheCivicsCenter.org - focused on voter registration of high school students (new-pending)

Partners are:

- Writing questions in their subject areas
- Incorporating the Game on their websites, communications, and social media
- Using the Game as an ice-breaker in school presentations

Goal: Introduce into the schools in the fall/establish more partnerships

- Constitution Day – September 17, 2021 (ACS)



How you can use Verifyit! to amplify your own efforts:

- Play the game: <https://verifyit.buzz>
- Add the link on your website: <https://verifyit.buzz>
- Post the link on your social media accounts
- Introduce Game as part of Civics Education & Voter Registration efforts in your local schools
- Develop partnerships with other non-profits & community organizations interested in civics education, local judges, bar associations, Rotary, etc.
- Coordinate with your local ACS chapter to partner with them for Constitution Day activities - ask us how!
- Send the link to your local community, to friends, family, and colleagues – nationwide! We currently have voting questions for **10 states [plus an Any State category]** & plan to write questions for all 52 states. **If you can help with this - contact us!**



Play the Game: <https://verifyit.buzz>

Like/Follow us on **Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/Verify-It-101796721661445>

Like/Follow us on **Instagram**: <https://www.instagram.com/verifyitgame/?hl=en>

Like/Follow us on **Twitter**: https://twitter.com/Verify_It_Game

Contact Us:

- LWV Alameda: <https://lwvalameda.org>
- Sheila Durkin: Sheila.durkin@gmail.com
- Linda Bytof: lbytof@gmail.com
- Laura Kinley: laura.kinley@yahoo.com

Slides: <https://verifyit.buzz/slides>



About Us

Teachers/Presenters

Be a more informed citizen

- Engage in Civics in your community
- Challenge your News Literacy skills
- Exercise your Voting Rights

PLAY **VERIFYIT!**™

Single-Player

Choose the game

Multi-Player

I'm the game runner



VERIFYIT! WILL HELP YOU BE

an informed voter



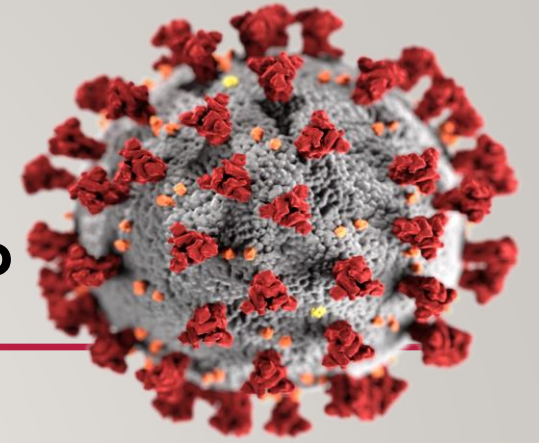
“COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS,” A PUBLIC PROGRAM
PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CONTRA COSTA
COUNTY LIBRARY

LWVDV IS TRULY GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY & STAFF!



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A PANDEMIC PIVOT LEAGUE/LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP



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licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

- **So Many Decisions:**
- Best day for virtual weekly planning meetings
- Align League/Library program priorities where possible
- Brainstorm program ideas to the interests of the community
- Agree on: a programs focus, panelists, moderator, & ways to promote
- Establish best day & time for presenting “Community Conversations”
- Record & Post on League/Library YouTube and Facebook Pages

THE TEAM JUST HAD ITS ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY !!



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Community Conversations
Thinking About Our Post-Pandemic World:
Ensuring a Just Recovery for Contra Costa County
Thursday, May 28 | 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.



LWV
LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

350ContraCosta

 **CONTRA COSTA
COUNTY LIBRARY**
Bringing People and Ideas Together
cclib.org

CELEBRATING WOMEN OF DIVERSITY FOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Women of Color: Activists Then and Now - A Community Conversation

Women of Color: Activists Then and Now
Thursday, August 27 | 4 p.m. PDT

Meet our Panelists



Lauren Babb
Commissioner, California
Commission on the Status
of Women and Girls,



Diana Carpenter Madoshi
Board Member, National
Women's History Alliance



Dr. Allison Parker
History Department Chair
and Richards Professor of
American History at the



Dr. Lorl A. Watson
Racial Equity and Social
Justice Facilitator/
Consultant

PREPARING FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION “2020:YOUR ROADMAP TO VOTING” IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH



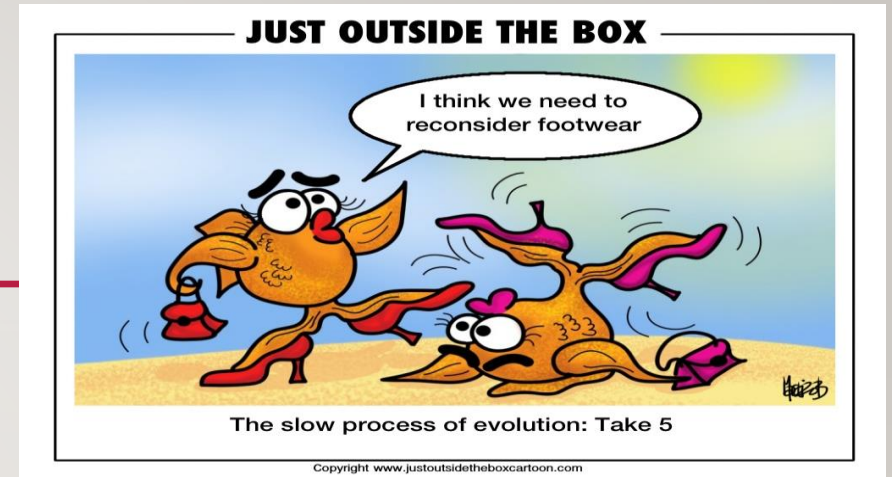
TEAM MEMBERSHIP GREW OVER THE YEAR



- Library Graphics Staff...Promo Flyers
- Community College Intern
- Contra Costa Television, Live Stream & Rebroadcasts
- LWV West Contra Costa, New Partner League

IT'S AN EVER EVOLVING PROCESS

- Use Google Docs For “Working Notes”
- Created “Working” Templates:
 1. Spread Sheet of Panelists, Includes: Contact Info, Bio, Point person, etc.
 2. Day of Event Webinar Outline
 3. Data Spread Sheet to Track Social Media Views
- Wrote Intro and End Scripts for Moderator; changes with each program topic
- Always Seeking Ways to Promote “Community Conversations”



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1ST SAMPLE DOCUMENT

Panel Participants Check List							
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Last edit was made 9 days ago by Ann Flynn							
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E8 fx yes							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
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2	Name of Participant	Email	Phone	LWVDV/WC Contact	Bios Completed	Letter w/Zoom Protocols	Upload Speed Minimum 5Mbps
3	Janet I			Diane	yes	5/15 sent	150 mbps
4	David			Ann	yes	5/14 sent	150 mbps
5	Helen			Ann	yes	5/15 sent	
6	Debi			Shawn	yes	5/14 sent	
7	Diane			Shawn	yes	5/14 sent	
8	Raechelle			Madeline I	yes	5/17 sent	office/high speed
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							

2ND SAMPLE DOCUMENT

WEBINAR OUTLINE - Google Docs

https://docs.google.com/document/d/148s6kA_P83pTWEk2ywc0JMq_CtNFuisDpyODXbnb3bw/edit?ts=60a6d270

Not syncing

WEBINAR OUTLINE

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was made 7 days ago by Diane Bianchi

100% Normal text Arial

WEBINAR OUTLINE-REDISTRICTING

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
3:30	Active Speaker View is already set	Zoom default
	Make Ann, Shawn, Diane, Madeline, Erin, Helen, Raechelle, Debi Cooper, David Twa co-hosts	David
	Closed Captioning enabled	David
3:30	Panelists/Moderator/LWVDV/Library arrive Introduce panelists to one another Voice and picture check/spotlight	Ann

4:33 PM 6/3/2021

ZOOM BEST PRACTICES SENT TO PANELISTS AND MODERATOR

[HTTPS://WWW.FAST.COM](https://www.fast.com) (UPLOAD SPEED)

[Type here]



ZOOM Participant Best Practices

Prepare for the meeting

- Use a wired connection (instead of WiFi) if possible
- Use a desktop or laptop (instead of phone) if possible
- Test your audio and video
 - Use Computer Audio whenever possible
 - Make sure your camera is set to HD:
 - Click arrow beside Camera/Video icon.
 - Make sure HD is checked
- Select your Zoom-space:
 - Somewhere clear of distractions with a neutral background (or use a virtual background).
 - Lighting should come from in front of you or from the side, in order to best light your face
 - Place yourself in the screen so your size and position are similar to the example below.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

[illegible]

THE FIRST 2021, “COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS” PROGRAM

Community Conversations

Racism: A Public Health Crisis in Contra Costa County

Thursday, February 18 | 4 - 5:30 p.m.



Online Program
Presented by:



LWV League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley

Like This Page · January 28 ·

Join with us for the next Zoom meeting in our Community Conversation Series, in partnership with the Contra Costa County Library. Learn the genesis of this important County Board of Supervisors' resolution declaring racism as a public health hazard and how citizens will participate in the process of achieving health equity in a welcoming and just Contra Costa County. Sign up at <https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search?q=contra%20costa%20library%20racism%20a%20public%20health%20crisis/event/6011ae3b88fc5a24007eba38>

Mary Volmer, Mary Schreiber and Gidared Crowder like this.

28 Shares

RACISM: A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY



Shawn Gilbert



THE MARCH 25TH PROGRAM ON THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Keeping Democracy Alive

Does My Vote Count?
The Future of the Electoral College



Electoral
College

Online Program
Presented by:



League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley's Photos
in Timeline Photos

ELECTORAL COLLEGE PANELISTS AND MODERATOR



APRIL WAS VOLUNTEER MONTH



Community Conversations
Volunteerism: Contra Costa Needs You!
Thursday, April 22 | 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Online Program
Presented by:

League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley's Photos

LWV
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY
Bringing People and Ideas Together
ccclib.org

LWV League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley
Like This Page · March 30 ·

The world is changing fast -- consider new ways to help with changing needs at our next Community Conversation. <https://my.lwv.org/california/diablo-valley/event/volunteerism-contra-costa-needs-you-community-conversation>

Mary Schreiber, Kathi Bruce and 2 others like this. Most Relevant ▾

1 Share 1 Comment

LWV Author
League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley
5w

THE FINAL SPRING PROGRAM FOCUSED ON REDISTRICTING (VIEW THIS ON [HTTPS://BIT.LY/LWVDV](https://bit.ly/LWVDV))



Making Democracy Work

Redistricting: Reading between the Lines
Thursday, May 27 | 4 p.m.

Online Program
Presented by:

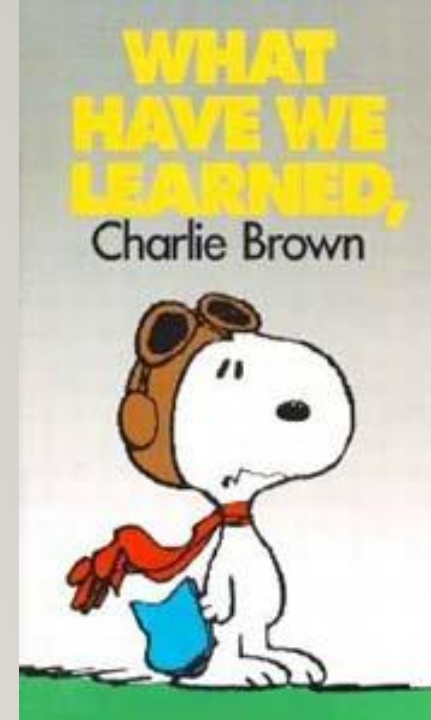


PANELISTS AND MODERATOR FOR THE MAY PROGRAM ON REDISTRICTING



THINGS WE HAVE LEARNED!

- Keep working documents...lots of moving pieces
- Be flexible...things happen!
- Keep emails to a minimum...less confusion, include all documents to panelists/moderator
- Have a consistent point of contact for panelists/moderator
- Set defined expectations for the moderator
- Know in advance if a panelist has PPT or pictures for presentation...helps for tech
- Write Thank you notes...personalized to a point or two from their presentation
- Made stronger connections with: elected officials, and county offices
- Doing translations/interpretations requires more advanced prep and time
- Virtual Zoom programs means panelists from wider areas



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Improving Civics Education (K-12 and Beyond)

presented by Betsy Patterson, President, June 9, 2021



Improving Civics Education (K-12 and Beyond)

Why?

- Many voters did not seem to know about...
- how elections work
- how our government works
- Some voters did not trust our election process

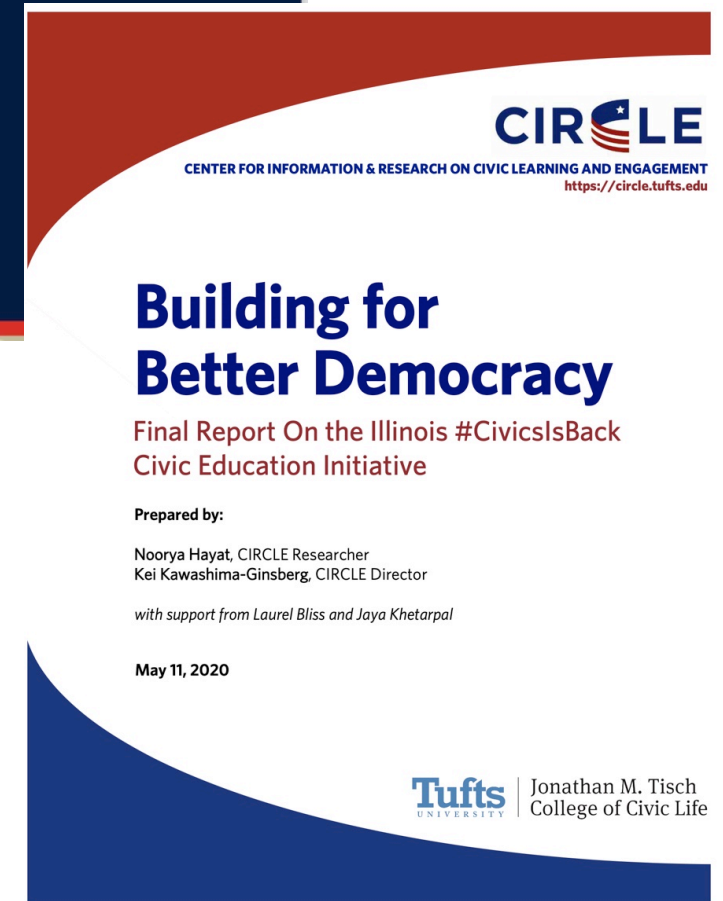
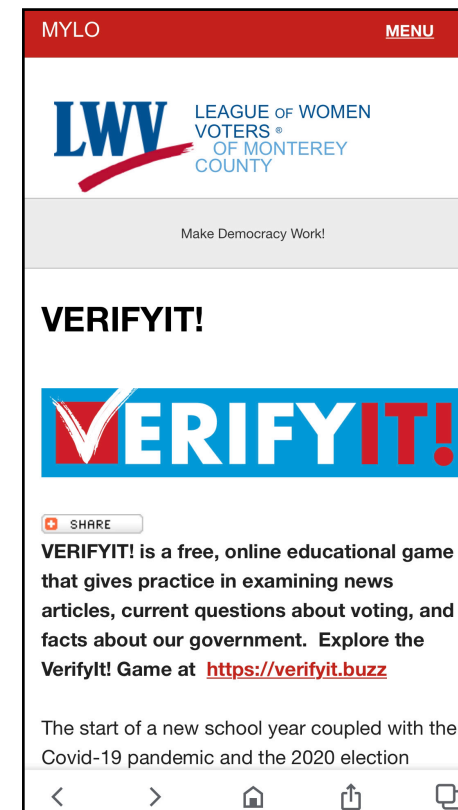
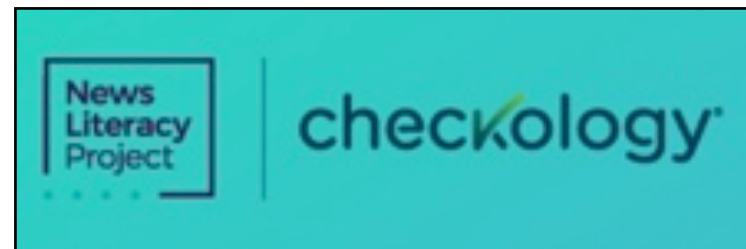


Staffing a Vote Center

Improving Civics Education (K-12 and Beyond)

How?

- **Resources:**
 - academic
 - data-driven research
 - educational tools
- **Reaching people:**
 - Social Media
 - Community activities
 - Classrooms, conference rooms, workplaces



Civics Knowledge

How does Government Function?

What are Elected Offices?

What is an Active Citizen?

What is Our History?

Climate Change

Global, National, State
& Local Issues

Environmental & Economic
Priorities

Media Team

Restoring Trust in Facts
& Science

Fighting Mis- and Dis-
information

Voter Services

Fair Access to Voting

Redistricting
Local Elections

Racial & Social Justice

Registration & Access to Voting

Bail & Policing Reform

Improving Civics Knowledge

National Projects

- **Educating for American Democracy (EAD)**
 - 140 champion organizations support EAD Roadmap (inquiry-based)
 - <https://www.educatingforamericandemocracy.org>
- **Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE)**
 - Tufts University Tisch College - Director Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg
 - Research on youth civic education and engagement (data-based)
 - <https://circle.tufts.edu>
- **iCivics**
 - Founded by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor
 - Executive Director Louise Dubé
 - Provides engaging resources for teachers and students (tools-based)
 - <https://www.icivics.org>

Improving Civics Knowledge

State Projects

◆ CA 2016 History-Social Science Framework - K-12

- <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/hssframework.asp>

◆ CA State Seal of Civic Engagement - Sept 2020

- <https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/hs/hssstateseal.asp>

◆ Michigan Social Studies Standards - K-12, 2018

- https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Final_Social_Studies_Standards_Document_655968_7.pdf

◆ Illinois Civic Education Laws & Standards, 2019

- ◆ <https://www.illinoiscivics.org/2019/resources/illinois-civic-education-legislation>

◆ Massachusetts, 2018 - S2631, An Act to promote and enhance civic engagement signed

◆ Florida, 2010 - Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Education Act passed

Challenges: Teacher preparation/professional development, assessment costs, K-12 incorporation, public acceptance of role of education in developing active citizens

Improving Civics Knowledge

Local Projects

- ♦ **Power of Democracy - Civic Learning Awards - July 2013**
 - 2021 Award of Distinction - **Royal High School**, Ventura Co
 - <https://www.courts.ca.gov/21763.htm>
- ♦ **Conejo Valley Unified School District -**
 - **5th Grade “We the People”** - Center for Civic Education since 1987
 - <https://www.conejousd.org/News/ArtMID/36540/ArticleID/181/We-The-People-Lets-5th-Graders-Civic-Engagement-Skills-Shine>
 - **Youth Citizenship Awards** - Thousand Oaks Rotary since 1987
 - <https://conejousd.org/News/ArtMID/36540/ArticleID/1628/CVUSD-Students-Receive-Youth-Citizenship-Awards>
- ♦ **Ventura County Mock Trial** competition - since 1983
 - <https://www.vcoe.org/mocktrial>
- ♦ **High School Voter Registration** - Gov't/Econ classes during Civic Engagement weeks (Fall and Spring)

Improving Civics Knowledge

Exploring Other Options

- ♦ Girl Scouts of the USA
 - ♦ New for 2020: Civics Badges (K-12)
 - <https://www.girlscouts.org>
- ♦ School Extracurricular Clubs
 - ♦ Leadership, Junior States of America, Assoc. Student Body, Mock Trial, Social Justice, Environmental, etc.
- ♦ Youth Activists groups
 - ♦ Climate Change, BLM, CAUSE, Indivisible
 - ♦ LWV NYC and NY Youth Civics Initiative (<https://www.nyyci.org>)
 - ♦ “Take the Next Step” after marching; a platform to bring together events, workshops, fellowships for students in climate change, education, racial justice and more.
- ♦ High School Voter Registration
 - ♦ Peer-to-Peer, LWV mentors, LWV Observer Corps, etc.
- ♦ Others?

Improving Civics Knowledge

Where to Start?

- ♦ LWVC Civics Education Group
- ♦ School Contacts
 - ♦ Superintendents, Social Science Dept Chairs, Club Advisors, Teachers, Students
- ♦ CA Dept of Education - Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Education: <https://www.cde.ca.gov>
- ♦ Civics Secures Democracy Act of 2021 -
 - ♦ Bipartisan bill co-sponsored by US Senators Coons (D-DE), Cornyn (R-TX), and US Representatives DeLauro (D-CT), Cole (R-OK), Blumenauer (D-OR)
 - ♦ Authorizes \$1 billion annually for 6 years across federal civics education grant programs (state agencies, nonprofit organizations, higher education institutions, researchers & fellowship program for educators from underrepresented communities)
- ♦ Others ideas?



Thank You!

Please share your ideas with us

Improving Civics Education (K-12 and Beyond)

Contact info for Betsy Patterson:

bpatter123@gmail.com or

lwvvc.info@gmail.com

805-798-4685



Forum for Social Policy on Racial Justice

Better Together Social Justice Resources



LWVNCSD Social Policy Background Brief

✓ June 2018

- ▶ Committed time and energy to educating and advocating on behalf of our adopted Position on Homeless

✓ Summer 2020

- ▶ Intensified focus on racial divide

✓ Resolved

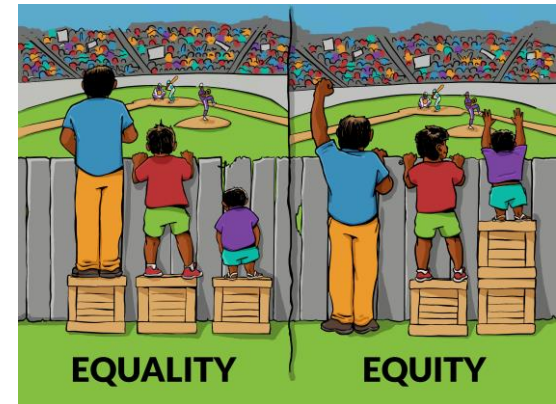
- ▶ Our local Board determined need educate ourselves on the history of racism in America just as we studied Homelessness



Defining the Study

- ✓ Quantity of media information was overwhelming
- ✓ Our Board decided to align with California League's Position on Criminal Justice while not ignoring related Positions that fall under the umbrella of Social Justice
- ✓ Deliberated over the proper terms to define our mission and decided to call our "study":

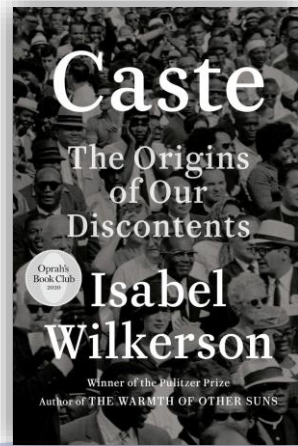
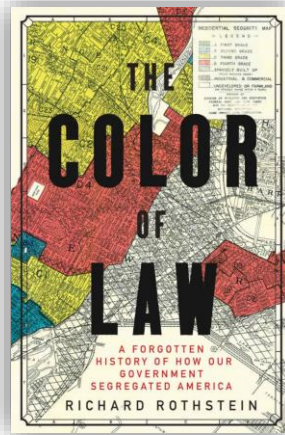
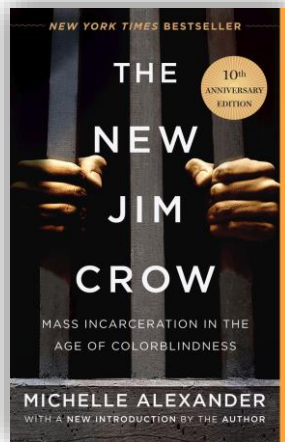
Social Justice and Racial Equity



Educating Ourselves

Invited members to read:

- ▶ *The New Jim Crow*
by Michelle Alexander
- ▶ *The Color of Law*
by Richard Rothstein
- ▶ *CASTE*
by Isabel Wilkerson



Supported by Book Club discussions, newsletter articles & dedicated webpage

Sharing What We Learned

✓ Developed 14 articles for Newsletter & new section on Website

- ▶ Provide members & site visitors new info on history of racism
- ▶ Most had never read or heard about during their K-12 education

✓ Topics included:

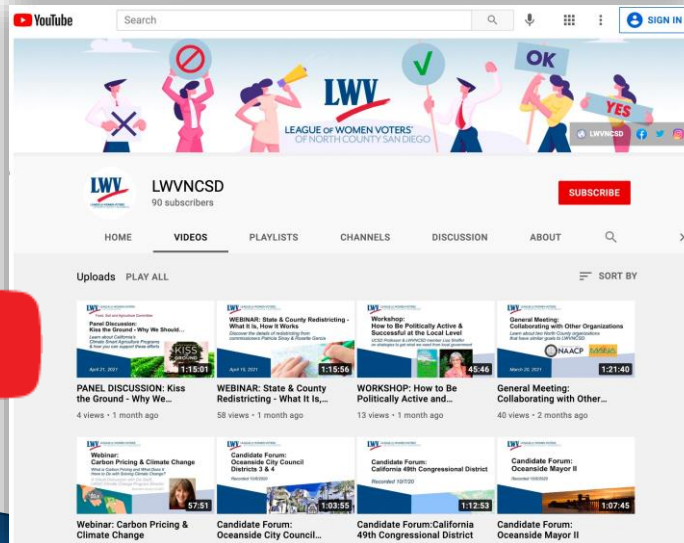
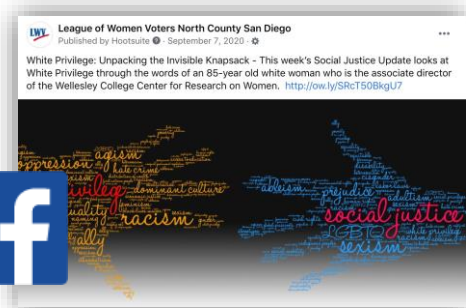
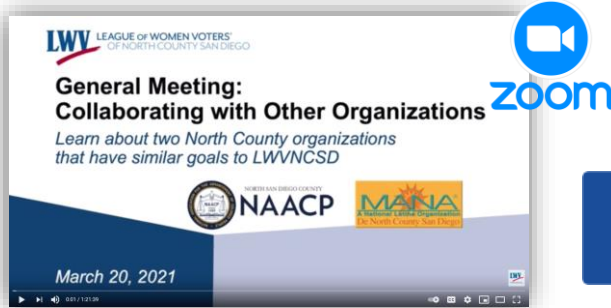
- ▶ The real meaning of Confederate Flags and Confederate Statues
- ▶ The nexus between homelessness and the impact of the racial divide in San Diego
- ▶ The findings of Michelle Alexander in her book, The New Jim Crow, regarding the inordinate incarceration of Black men.
- ▶ The Color of Law highlighted the history of government-sponsored residential discrimination in the USA
- ▶ Looking at the State Propositions through a Racial Justice Lens
- ▶ White Privilege through the words of an 85-year-old white woman
- ▶ How Does the US Supreme Court Play a Role in Suppressing Racial Justice?
- ▶ The disproportionate use of traffic stops to target Black men
- ▶ Reflecting on the Call to Action by LWVUS at their National Convention to “advocate” against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement.
- ▶ Policing in America
- ▶ Caste or Race?
- ▶ CASTE and White Supremacy

Reaching Out to Broader Community

✓ Zoom Meetings,
Town Halls & Webinars

✓ Social Media

✓ New YouTube
Channel

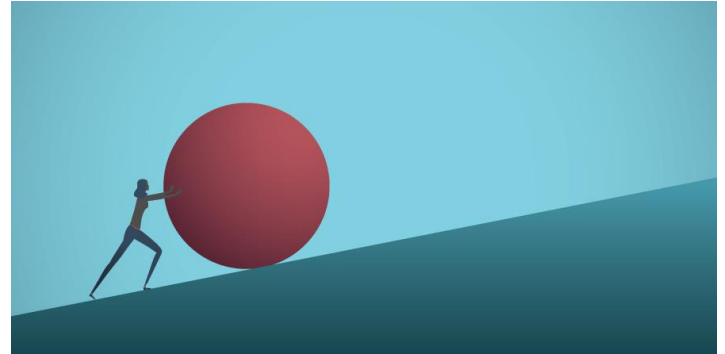


6:33 PM · Mar 19, 2021 · Hootsuite Inc.

What Do We Do Now: From Education to Action

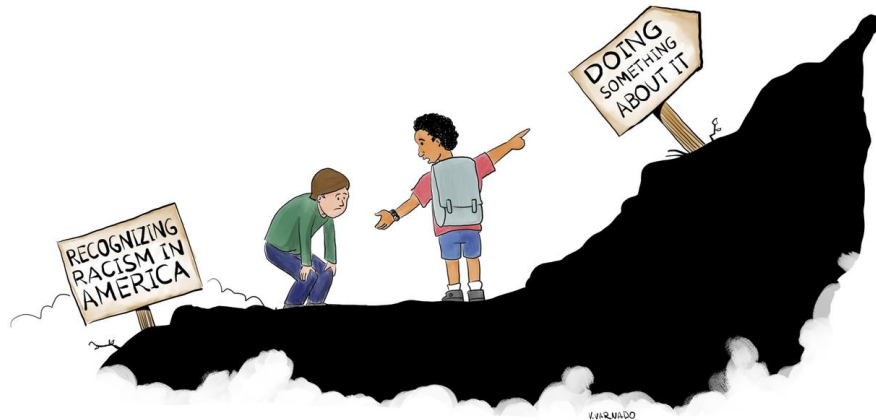
✓ Members identified 5 Focus Areas for more Education linked to League Advocacy:

- ▶ Collaboration with other Groups serving BIPOC
- ▶ Education K-12
- ▶ Equity in economic areas
- ▶ Criminal Justice
- ▶ Urging municipalities to pass Proclamations on Social Justice & Racial Equity



Moving Forward

- ✓ Topics took on new meaning for 2021-2022...
- ✓ Our League's Program Planning exercise identified Social Justice & Racial Equity as top "Area of Interest" in year ahead



References

- ✓ LWVNCSD Social Justice page, with links to articles
 - ▶ <https://my.lwv.org/california/north-county-san-diego/social-justice-social-policy>
- ✓ LWVNCSD *The VOTER* Newsletter Archive
 - ▶ <https://my.lwv.org/california/north-county-san-diego/voter-newsletter/north-county-voter-archives>
- ✓ LWVNCSD YouTube Channel (Please Subscribe!)
 - ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRmLhQzg5jYAOpNKVK5d8GA>
- ✓ LWVNCSD on Twitter (Please Follow us!)
 - ▶ <https://twitter.com/LWVNCSD>
- ✓ LWVNCSD on Instagram (Follow us here too!)
 - ▶ <https://www.instagram.com/lwvncsd/>
- ✓ Sadly, we've been "deplatformed" on Facebook

