



League of Women Voters of Sonoma County  
Launches **STAND UP FOR DEMOCRACY** Campaign

May 3, 2025 – Empowering Voters and defending democracy is a key part of the League of Women Voter’s mission. Today the very foundation of our country — our democracy — is being threatened. LWV of Sonoma County is launching **STAND UP FOR DEMOCRACY** which offers Sonoma County residents a non-partisan way to better understand how our government was intended to work. This campaign features basic definitions of civic topics and why they matter as well as ways to get involved on the local level.

Teaser messages will appear on the back of Sonoma County Transit buses through the months of May and June. Plus, a digital media campaign will appear on the main News section of the Press Democrat digital.

Donna Roper, League of Women Voters of Sonoma County president says, *“Whether you need a refresher on the basics of government or you are new to caring about civics at all you can gain a basic understanding of the workings of our government and our democracy through this campaign. Knowledge is power and this is an effective way to maintain our foundations of democracy.”*

Scan the QR code on the bus back ads or click on the Press Democrat digital ads and get a better understanding of the Constitution and our government

Covered topics include:

The First Amendment, the Bill of Rights, due process, the three branches of the Federal Government, the three branches of California Government, the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Birthright Citizenship, checks and balances, how to amend the Constitution, the rule of law, how to join a local board or commission among others. To see all civics topics visit: <https://lwvsonoma.org/civicsmenu>.

**About the League of Women Voters:**

For 105 years, the League of Women Voters has been empowering voters and defending democracy. We are a diverse, non-partisan, grassroots group of women and men with a long-standing tradition of educating voters. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

Contact:

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# STANDUPFORDEMOCRACY

League of Women Voters of Sonoma County

## CAMPAIGN ELEMENTS



SONOMA COUNTY TRANSIT  
BUS BACK ADS

All ads link to non-partisan landing pages giving details of the topics mentioned, why the topic matters and links to learn more.

Plus, all pages link to all topics.

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISING [Click](#)

**STANDUPFORDEMOCRACY**  
League of Women Voters of Sonoma Co.

**KNOW THE LAW**  
What is Birthright  
Citizenship?  
**WHY DOES IT MATTER?**

**KNOW THE LAW**  
What is the 1<sup>ST</sup>  
Amendment?  
**WHY DOES IT MATTER?**

**KNOW THE LAW**  
What are the 3 Branches  
of CA Gov't?  
**WHY DO THEY MATTER?**

**KNOW THE LAW**  
How is the Constitution  
Amended?  
**WHY DOES IT MATTER?**

**KNOW THE LAW**  
What is Due Process?  
**WHY DOES IT MATTER?**

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What is the  
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**STANDUPFORDEMOCRACY**  
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What is The 1<sup>ST</sup> Amendment?  
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**KNOW THE LAW**  
What is Birthright Citizenship?  
**WHY DOES IT MATTER?**

**STANDUPFORDEMOCRACY**  
League of Women Voters of Sonoma County

**KNOW THE LAW**  
How is The Constitution Amended?  
**WHY DOES IT MATTER?**

**STANDUPFORDEMOCRACY**  
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**KNOW THE LAW**  
What is The 1<sup>ST</sup> Amendment?  
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**KNOW THE LAW**  
What is the Rule of Law?  
**WHY DOES IT MATTER?**

60 X 21" BUS BACK AD

70 X 21" BUS BACK AD

300 X 250 DIGITAL  
ADS IN THE PRESS  
DEMOCRAT

# STAND<sup>UP</sup>FORDEMOCRACY

League of Women Voters of Sonoma County

**STAND UP FOR DEMOCRACY** is the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County's non-partisan program to engage Sonoma County in the Constitution and civics.

If you are passionate about our democracy and want to deepen your understanding of government, here are some links for you.

These basic civics topics will allow you to see for yourself how government is supposed to run on the federal, state and local level.

**KNOW THE LAW. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. GET INVOLVED.**  
**STAND UP FOR DEMOCRACY!**

## LINKS TO CIVICS TOPICS

First Amendment – Religious Freedom : [lwwsonoma.org/ReligiousFreedom](http://lwwsonoma.org/ReligiousFreedom)

First Amendment – Freedom of Speech: [lwwsonoma.org/FreedomofSpeech](http://lwwsonoma.org/FreedomofSpeech)

Rule of Law: [lwwsonoma.org/RuleofLaw](http://lwwsonoma.org/RuleofLaw)

Fourteenth Amendment: Birthright Citizenship: [lwwsonoma.org/BirthrightCitizenship](http://lwwsonoma.org/BirthrightCitizenship)

Three Branches of Federal Government: [lwwsonoma.org/3Branches](http://lwwsonoma.org/3Branches)

Three Branches of State Government: [lwwsonoma.org/3BranchesCA](http://lwwsonoma.org/3BranchesCA)

Checks and Balances [lwwsonoma.org/ChecksandBalances](http://lwwsonoma.org/ChecksandBalances)

How to Amend the Constitution: [lwwsonoma.org/AmendConstitution](http://lwwsonoma.org/AmendConstitution)

Due Process of the Law: [lwwsonoma.org/DueProcess](http://lwwsonoma.org/DueProcess)

What are Emoluments?: [lwwsonoma.org/Emoluments](http://lwwsonoma.org/Emoluments)

Bill of Rights: [lwwsonoma.org/BillofRights](http://lwwsonoma.org/BillofRights)

Why Join a Board or Commission?: [lwwsonoma.org/BoardsandCommissions](http://lwwsonoma.org/BoardsandCommissions)

## KNOW THE LAW

### What Is the First Amendment?

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” – *US Constitution*

### Freedom of Speech, Right of Petition and Peaceful Assembly

**Freedom of Speech** is guaranteed to every person in the First Amendment. This includes the right to express opinions in public, including views that are critical of the government, without fear of being arrested, jailed, or deprived of our rights under the Constitution. Certain types of speech, like incitement of violence, are not protected.

Learn more: <https://www.history.com/videos?watch=freedom-of-speech>

**Right of Petition and Peaceful Assembly** is protected in the First Amendment. It allows people to gather, or associate with a group of people for social, economic, political or religious purposes. It also protects the right to protest against the government. The right to petition can mean signing a petition or even filing a lawsuit against the government.

Learn more: <https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution/amendments/amendment-i/interpretations/267>

Link to another 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment topic at: [lwvsonoma.org/ReligiousFreedom](http://lwvsonoma.org/ReligiousFreedom)

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Freedom of speech and the right to peacefully assemble are rights guaranteed by our Constitution and fundamental to our republic. Both of these rights are essential for a free and just government.

Link to more civics topics: [lwvsonoma.org/CivicsMenu](http://lwvsonoma.org/CivicsMenu)

## KNOW THE LAW

### What are the 3 Branches of CA State Government?

Both state and federal governments in the U.S. are structured with three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. However, they differ in scope, responsibilities, and the extent of their authority.

**The Executive Branch** is headed by the Governor and is responsible for enforcing state laws, managing the state budget, and overseeing state agencies.

**The Legislative Branch** of government is the State's law-making authority made up of two houses: the Senate and the Assembly. There are 40 Senators and 80 Assembly members who make state laws, approve the state budget and can impeach and remove the Governor.

**The Judicial Branch** consists of the State Supreme Court and lower courts that interpret state laws, ensure they are constitutional and resolve disputes.

Learn more at <https://capitolmuseum.ca.gov/learn/about-the-government/branches-of-government/>

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

State Legislators have authority over state laws, but the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution dictates that federal law takes precedence over state law. This includes state constitutions if the federal government has the power to legislate on the specific issue under the U.S. Constitution. This potentially could impact current laws, for example, abortion and same sex marriage laws.

Link to more civics topics : <http://lwvsonoma.org/CivicsMenu>

Sample  
Poster

# STAND<sup>UP</sup>FORDEMOCRACY

League of Women Voters of Sonoma County

Engage in our Constitution and government and see for yourself how government is *supposed* to run on the federal, state and local level.

**KNOW THE LAW. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. GET INVOLVED.**  
**STAND UP FOR DEMOCRACY!**

## CIVICS TOPICS LINKS



What is the First Amendment –  
Religious Freedom?



What are the Three Branches of CA  
State Government ?



What is the First Amendment –  
Freedom of Speech?



What are Checks and Balances?



What is the Rule of Law?



How is the Constitution Amended?



What is the Fourteenth  
Amendment - Birthright  
Citizenship?



What is Due Process of the Law?



What are the Three Branches of  
Federal Government



What is an Emolument?



What is the Bill of Rights?



How to Join a Board or Commission?

A non-partisan program