



The Elephant's Trumpet

A Publication of the West Valley Republican Women Federated
Founded in 1952

Affiliated with National Federation of Republican Women,
and the California Federation of Republican Women



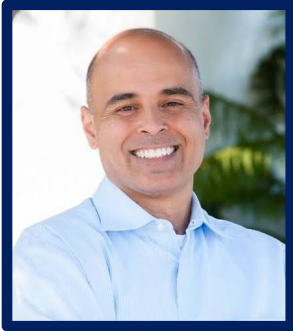
VOLUME 74 – Issue 1

Email: westvalleyrwf@gmail.com

Website: westvalleyrwf.org

January 2026

JANUARY 15, 2026



We are pleased to welcome Candidate for California Superintendent of Public Instruction, Gus Mattammal, as our keynote speaker this month.

Gus is the Director of Advantage Testing of Silicon Valley. Advantage Testing has been described by the New York Times as “the gold standard of the tutoring industry.” Gus has led the expansion of Advantage Testing’s private and pro bono activity throughout the South, Midwest, and West. As a full-time educator with Advantage Testing for over 22 years, Gus has personally worked with over 1,000 students of every race and socioeconomic background and helped them achieve their academic goals and aspirations.

Gus is also an elected member of the Midcoast Community Council and serves on countywide boards dealing with transportation and with tax oversight. He is also President of SHIFT-Bay Area (www.shift-ba.org), a nonpartisan policy advocacy group focused on regional issues in the Bay Area. SHIFT-Bay Area brings together people from across the entire political spectrum to promote transparent, accountable, rational policymaking in the areas of housing, infrastructure, finance and transportation.

When not teaching kids or working on public policy, Gus enjoys reading, taking his border collie Dixie on long walks, and spending time with his amazing wife Jill, whom he says he hopes to one day deserve.

NEW VENUE

As announced at our Christmas Party in December, we are excited to be meeting in a beautiful new location, the Boulder Ridge Golf Club in San Jose. Boulder Ridge features breathtaking vistas of the entire South Bay. We hope you’ll join us for our first General Meeting of 2026, when we feature one of our 2026 candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction and experience this beautiful place for yourself!

RSVP

Boulder Ridge Golf Club

1000 Old Quarry Road – San Jose, CA 95123

11:30 Check-In

12:00 Call to Order

Cost of Program: \$35.00

Includes the program, lunch, coffee & tea, taxes & gratuity!

***Must RSVP by Thursday January 8th!
Number of lunches must be pre-ordered.
Call Grace, 408-499-1695***

Checks payable to “West Valley RWF” can be mailed to:
Grace Russo - 2393 Karen Dr. #3 - Santa Clara, CA 95050

Food is ordered in advance; no refunds will be issued after Thursday, January 8th.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTED FOR 2026-2027

Co-President: Fran Watson - watson6511@sbcglobal.net - 408-838-9924

Co-President: Lisa Nelsen - woenJC@proton.me - 408-710-3966

1st Vice President/Programs: Hafsa Giles - hafsagiles@gmail.com

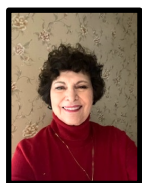
2nd Vice President/Membership: Kristina Jansons - kjansone@protonmail.com

3rd Vice President/Fundraising: JoAnn Destro - Italians2@comcast.net

Recording Secretary: Tina Bundros - tinabundros@gmail.com

Treasurer: Julia Montesi - julia@jemnjul.com

Introducing Co-President Fran Watson



Frances (Fran) Watson was born and raised in San Jose, CA. She is a divorced mother of 4 grown children and grandmother of 2 grandsons and 2 granddaughters. An active member of Queen of Apostles Catholic Church for 60 years, she has sung and been Canon in the church choir for all 60 years. She has a great love of music. Fran is retired, having worked for 35 years for many Silicon Valley Companies, including Hewlett Packard, Intel, National semiconductor and Atmel. Seeing our need, Fran graciously stepped up co-chair our Club!

Introducing Co-President Lisa Nelsen



Elizabeth (Lisa) Nelsen lives in Gilroy, and is a wife, mother of 2 grown children, and grandmother to 1 grandson. She currently works at home on the family farm and is providing caregiving for a local woman with Alzheimer's. She has worked in the past as a bookkeeper, database administrator, executive and senior legal assistant. She has volunteered for many Gilroy community activities, including the Gilroy Rodeo, Coyote Grange in Morgan Hill, Gilroy

Gators Swim Team and the Gilroy Garlic Festival. She and her family are active members in South Valley Community Church in Gilroy. Lisa joined us in November and quickly stepped up to fill the position as co-President with Fran Watson!

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

(Standing Committee Chairs are appointed by the President)

Americanism: **OPEN**

Caring for America: Sondra Serenka - cherrygn@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary: Mary Moley - holymoley@comcast.net

& Julie Eckroat - julieeckroat@gmail.com

Historian: Christine Austin-Walker - c_austin-walker@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality: Grace Russo - grusso871n@gmail.com

Immediate Past President/Web Manager: Robin McCarthy - robin.wvrwf@gmail.com

Legislation: CFRW Website - <https://cafrw.org/updates/>

Newsletter: **OPEN** (Bunny Hacker, bunny328@reagan.com) will be happy to retire!)

Phone Tree: **OPEN** (We have the committee – we just need a Chair to manage the call lists!)

Publicity/Social Media: **OPEN**

***Is there an open position you'd like to fill, or a committee you'd like to serve on?
Please contact anyone on the executive committee and let us know
you'd like to join us on the board - we'd love to have you!***





Have you ever wondered where your \$60 annual dues money goes?
The \$25 Associate dues remain entirely for our Club's use. Associate memberships are reserved for Republican Gentlemen, or Women already members of another Federated club

Where your membership dues go:

\$27 to State and National Republican Women to maintain our National RW headquarters and professional State and National lobbyist.

\$33 remains for West Valley RWF's use to fund the many activities of our Club:

- Support our NFRW scholarship programs.
- Support our participation in the CFRW campaign to help the Young Americas' Foundation, educating & training Conservative youth.
- Support publicity efforts to share our message.
- Provide additional support for our Club to remain a CFRW Ambassador.
- Pay expenses to produce our monthly newsletters, sent to all members, associates & guests.
- Pay registration, hotel & meal expenses for our club President to attend Federated conferences & conventions.
- Sponsor a portion of registration for members to attend Federated Women conferences & conventions.
- Lunch, honoraria and/or travel expenses for monthly speakers, as required.
- Provide printing and postage for our outreach efforts to invite new members to join us.
- Provide, maintain and update expenses of our website.

Benefits of Membership:

- Network with like-minded people in a friendly environment.
- Attend monthly meetings with informative and educational speakers.
- Meet distinguished Republican speakers and candidates as well as ask questions of those in the know;
- Receive monthly newsletter and information from State and National Federations.
- Automatic membership to the California Republican Women Federated.
- Automatic membership to the National Republican Women Federated.
- Receive updates regarding Republican Issues.
- Keep up to date on current and proposed legislation.
- Contribute to our local community as well as to Young America's Foundation.
- Learn about ways to volunteer on campaigns, voter registration and participate in obtaining signatures for ballot initiatives etc.
- Notice of Republican events, conferences, and trainings.
- Hear great Republican speakers regarding current issues.
- Support grassroots efforts in electing Republicans.
- Your personal information is only shared with [CFRW](#) and [NFRW](#).

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW USING THE FORM ON PAGE 5!



All General Meetings: Check-in 11:30am and Adjourn at 1:30pm

January 1

- Happy New Year

January 15

- West Valley RWF BOD Meeting 10:00am - Boulder Ridge Golf Club
- West Valley RWF General Meeting 11:30am, featuring Gus Mattammal, Candidate for California Superintendent of Public Instruction

January 19

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 14

- Valentine's Day

February 16

- Presidents' Day

February 19

- West Valley RWF BOD Meeting 10:00am - Boulder Ridge Golf Club
- West Valley RWF General Meeting 11:30am – featuring Mindy Pechenuk, Candidate for Mayor of Oakland

March 8

- Daylight Savings Time begins

March 17

- St. Patrick's Day

March 19

- West Valley RWF BOD Meeting 10:00am - Boulder Ridge Golf Club
- West Valley RWF General Meeting 11:30am – featuring TBA

April 1

- April Fools' Day
- Passover Begins

April 5

- Easter Sunday

April 16

- West Valley RWF BOD Meeting 10:00am - Boulder Ridge Golf Club
- West Valley RWF General Meeting 11:30am – featuring TBA

A Gentle Reminder About Courtesy During Our Meetings

One of the things that makes our organization so special is the care and respect we show to one another—and to the guests who generously share their time and knowledge with us. Our guest speakers prepare thoughtfully, travel to be with us, and offer insights meant to inspire, educate, and strengthen our community.

To help honor that generosity, we kindly ask everyone to be mindful of courtesy and quiet while a speaker is presenting.

Even small side conversations, phone use, or movement around the room can unintentionally distract both the speaker and fellow attendees who are trying to listen. Creating a calm, attentive environment allows everyone to fully benefit from what is being shared—and helps our guests feel truly welcomed and valued.

Here are a few simple ways we can all help:

- Silence phones and devices before the presentation begins
- Save conversations for breaks or after the meeting
- Minimize movement in and out of the room while the speaker is talking
- Give our full attention as a sign of appreciation and respect

These small acts of mindfulness make a big difference. They show our speakers that their voices matter and help ensure that every meeting is a positive, enriching experience for all.

Thank you for being part of a community that leads with kindness, consideration, and respect.



Renew Today

We need you to be part of the Federation team that will help enlighten others about our Republican values. And we need each of you to recruit your sister Republicans so that our message goes out to an ever-broadening audience!

**Please fill in the following information and enclose with your check
made payable to West Valley RWF.**

Mail to: Kristina Jansons – 1484 Pollard Rd, Suite 413 – Los Gatos CA 95032

Cut here: - - - - -

Print Name: _____ **E-mail:** _____

We do not share your email outside of Republican Women Federated!

☐ I am registered as Republican

Address: _____ **Il_City** _____ **Zip:** _____

Cell Phone: _____ **Home Phone:** _____

☐ Renewal \$60

☐ New Member \$60

☐ Sustaining \$80

☐ Associate* \$25

☐ College Student \$27

☐ +Donation _____

***Associate women:** please note the name of the Federated club to which you are paying your regular membership dues: _____).

***Associate men:** Republican Gentlemen are welcome to attend our General Meetings, and we invite you to join us in a supporting role as Associates!

CAPITOL QUAGMIRE

A blog by...



Kevin Kiley
United States Congressman

A COLLISION COURSE

December 15, 2025

Today is the first day of the trial challenging Newsom's Prop. 50 map, and something interesting has happened. Newsom is attempting to block the testimony of the guy who was paid \$108,000 to draw the Prop. 50 map for him. I wonder what he's trying to hide.

Also interesting: it's being reported that Newsom and Kamala Harris are now on a collision course, with both planning to run in 2028. As I told Newsmax, they actually already ran against each other in 2024; it's just that Newsom's delusional campaign ended before it even began.

Meanwhile, California is forcing Tahoe Truckee Unified youth sports to compete in CA instead of Nevada, despite this being impractical and unsafe for athletes whose seasons will move from Spring to Winter in a snowy area. The reason: Nevada doesn't allow males in female sports.

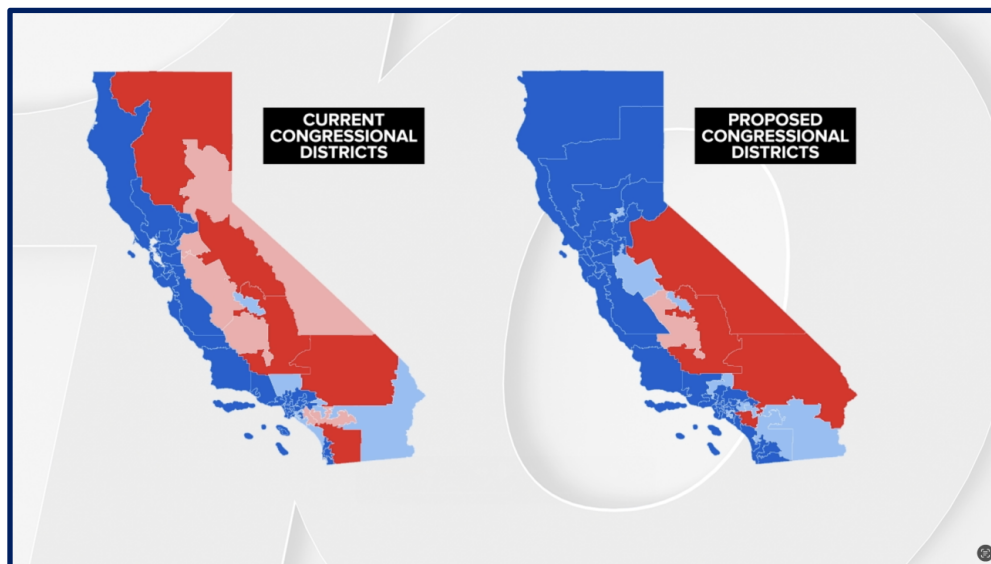
I blasted Newsom on the House Floor for this insanity. I also countered his claim that California is a model of "efficiency," by noting: \$128 billion for a phantom bullet train, \$24 billion in homeless spending "lost" \$32 billion in EDD fraud; \$650 million on a canceled 911 system.

Yet, new data shows things are actually improving in SF and other parts of California. The reason is we keep beating Newsom. He opposed Prop. 36 and we passed it overwhelmingly. He asked for the *Martin* homelessness decision to be upheld and the Supreme Court overturned it.

In DC, a bill I sponsored to support homeschooling passed committee, and two bills I sponsored are heading to the President's desk: one to support rural schools and the other to bring back whole milk at school lunch. I also sponsored a bill to ban stock trading by Members of Congress.

As I said on CNN, Congress has a 15 percent approval rating, and it's well-earned. We need to become the People's House again. That starts by banning insider trading, ending gerrymandering, passing timely budgets (or no pay), and solving problems rather than assigning blame.

**Sign up here to get my direct updates on the fight for California: <https://blog.electkevinkiley.com>*



LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

NATIONAL

President Donald J. Trump (R)

1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500
White House Switchboard:
202-456-1414
Comment Line: 202-456-1111
president@whitehouse.gov

Senate

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

Rep. John Thune (R)

United States Senate SD-511
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2321
Toll-Free: 1-866-850-3855
<https://www.thune.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>

SENATE MINORITY LEADER

Sen. Charles Schumer (D)

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202-224-6542
schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck

Senator Adam Schiff (D)

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Phone: (202) 224-3841
<https://www.schiff.senate.gov/contact/>

Senator Alex Padilla (D)

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padilla.senate.gov

House of Representatives

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Rep. Mike Johnson (R)

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202-225-2777
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HOUSE MINORITY LEADER

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D)

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jeffries.house.gov/contact

Rep. Kevin Mullin (D)

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Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3531
kevinmullin.house.gov

Sam Liccardo (D)

1117 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-8104
<https://liccardo.house.gov/>

STATE

Governor Gavin Newsom (D)

State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-445-2841
governor@governor.ca.gov

State Senate

STATE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

Mike McGuire (D)

1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4002
<https://sd02.senate.ca.gov/contact>

STATE SENATE MINORITY LEADER

Brian Jones (R)

1021 O Street, Suite 7640
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 651-4040
<https://jones.cssrc.us/e-mail-senator>

District 13—Josh Becker (D)

1021 O Street, Suite 7250
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 651-4013 / (650) 212-3313
sd13.senate.ca.gov/contact

District 15 – Dave Cortese (D)

1021 O Street, Suite 7520
Sacramento CA 95814
(916) 651-4015 (408-723-4154)
<https://sd15.senate.ca.gov/contact>

State Assembly

District 24– Alex Lee (D)

1021 O Street, Suite 6330
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
(916) 319-2014

District 25 – Ash Kalra (D)

1021 O Street, Suite 4610
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
(916) 319-2025

District 26 – Patrick Ahrens (D)

1021 O Street, Suite 6110
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
(916) 319-2026

District 28—Gail Pellerin (D)

1021 O Street, Suite 6310
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
(916) 319-2028

COUNTY

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

GOP – Dave Johnson - Chair

Meets 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30pm
Orchard City Banquet Hall
Campbell Community Center
1 W. Campbell Ave.
Campbell, CA 95008
<https://www.sccrg.com>

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

70 W. Hedding Street
10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110
(408-299-5001)

District 1—Sylvia Arenas

(Vice President)
408-299-5010
District1@bos.sccgov.org

District 2—Betty Duong

408-299-5020
District2@bos.sccgov.org

District 3—Otto Lee

(President)
408-299-5030
District3@bos.sccgov.org

District 4—Susan Ellenberg

408-299-5040
District4@bos.sccgov.org

District 5—Margaret Abe-Koga

408-299-5050
District5@bos.sccgov.org

Communicate well – and often – with your Representatives. Whether Democrat or Republican, they are elected to represent ALL of us and they need to hear from their constituents. It isn't okay to sit idly by and just hope other like-minded people will do the work - we ALL need to do the work if we hope to ever return California to it's once-Golden days of prosperity and freedom!

WEST VALLEY RWF

c/o Bunny Hacker
55 Church St., #1301
Los Gatos, CA 95030-6922



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Cheers to a fresh start and new adventures in 2026!

“The Elephant’s Trumpet” is a publication of the West Valley Republican Women Federated and is published monthly. For more information, please email westvalleyrwf@gmail.com. You can find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/westvalleyrwf> and on the web at <https://westvalleyrwf.org>.