Introduction
The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County has prepared this guide and made it available free-of-charge in order to promote informed participation in county government by providing access to detailed information about elected and appointed offices, intergovernmental bodies, and other public agencies. We wish to thank the county officials and staff and the many individuals who provided information for this publication; any errors are our own. The figures are based on the 2017-2018 adopted budget.

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

Supporting the League
The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. It does take action on selected government issues in the public interest. Join us in creating responsible civil discourse, and action based on substance rather than partisanship. Become a member of the League. Membership is open to all persons at least 16 years of age. Call 444-9252 or email us at vote@lwvhc.org. Write to us at: P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502-3219.

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Elected Offices

Courts
Superior Court of California 7 judges
County of Humboldt 1 Commissioner
825 5th St., Eureka 95501 445-7256
483 Conger St., Garberville 95542 923-2141
toll free (866) 608-1804
Avg. Salary: $200,042 State-funded

Has general trial jurisdiction, including all felonies, civil matters, family court involving child custody and support, adoptions, probate and guardianships, dissolutions and annulments, traffic violations, small claims, and misdemeanors. Issues jury summonses; provides juries for courts; maintains the law library. Because increasing the number of judges is not lightly done, the court has acted within its authority to appoint a commissioner with limited judicial authority to assist with the family law caseload.

Superior Court Administrative Office
Kim Bartleson, Chief Executive Officer 269-1200
Staff: 107.0 Budget: $1,858,248* *County Contribution

Coordinates and schedules the court's calendars; compiles with all orders of the court and ensures their proper and timely execution; maintains secure custody of all legal records; performs personnel management for the court administrative officer; is responsible for all financial aspects of court operations; maintains statistical data on judicial and administrative activity.

Traffic Division
421 I St., Eureka 95501 445-7256
Collects fines and answers questions arising from traffic citations.

Law Library
812 4th St., Room G04, Eureka 95501 476-2356
The law library is administered by a board of trustees made of up county judges and attorneys, and provides the bench, bar, and public with free access to up-to-date, user-friendly, and appropriate legal resources.

Legislative Bodies
Board of Supervisors 5 members
825 5th St., Room 111, Eureka 95501 476-2396
Clerk of the Board 476-2390
Avg. Salary: $87,427 Staff: 9.0 Budget: $1,399,376
Meets: Every Tuesday, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., except the 5th Tuesday of the month
825 5th St., Eureka Supervisors Chambers

Serves as the legislative and policy-making body of the county; adopts ordinances, resolutions, and orders; appoints the non-elected department heads and members of boards and commissions; governs a number of special districts; adopts annual budget; levies taxes and sets fees; approves contracts; regulates land use in unincorporated areas.

Meeting agendas are available on their website on the Friday before each meeting. For county departments, to request that an item of business be placed on a future agenda, submit a written request, together with any supporting material, to 825 5th St., Room 111, Eureka, CA 95501, at least ten days before the desired meeting. Members of the public may alternatively submit supporting materials must provide an original and nine copies for the materials to be placed in the public record. At meetings, the chair asks for public comment on agenda items after staff and board discussion and before the vote. The time for citizens to address matters not on the agenda is during the limited period set aside for public comment. Public comment is identified as such on the agenda, generally the first item of the afternoon session. Citizens also have the right to be heard during any public hearings that are noticed or advertised to the public. Meetings of the Board of Supervisors are broadcast live on Suddenlink channel 10, and are also rebroadcast Wednesdays at 8 P.M.

Board of Education 5 members
901 Myrtle Ave., Eureka 95501 445-7030
Salary: Not salaried, receive a state-funded stipend
Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 3 P.M., call to confirm
Office of Education Board Room
Adopts rules and regulations governing the office of education; sets the county superintendent's salary; approves the office of education budget; approves educational films and videos for school districts; acts as the governing board for county-operated schools and programs; functions as an appellate body for student expulsions.

Meeting agendas are posted at the office of education, and at each school site. An item to be considered for the agenda must be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools at least two weeks in advance. Discussion is limited to school business; confidential matters regarding individual students and personnel will not be discussed during public meetings. Each agenda item has time allotted for public comment. If you wish to address an agenda item, you may do so by signing in at the beginning of the meeting, or by raising your hand to be recognized and then coming forward to speak. There is no set time limit for public comment.

Executive Offices
Assessor
Mari Wilson next election 2018
825 5th St., 3rd Floor, Eureka 95501 445-7663
Salary: $121,464 Staff: 31.0 Budget: $2,651,858

Appraises all unsecured property annually; appraises secured property at time of transfer, including all new construction; prepares the tax roll and delivers it to the auditor yearly; keeps records of taxable property.

League of Women Voters of Humboldt County
**Auditor-Controller**

Joseph Mellett  
825 5th St., Room 126, Eureka 95501  476-2452  
Salary: $121,464  Staff: 14.1  Budget: $1,492,520

Serves as chief accounting officer for the county; records the financial transactions of the county and other related agencies; audits and processes claims for payments; issues receipts for all monies received by the county; maintains personnel earnings and benefit records; accounts for property tax monies; oversees the divisions of payroll, accounting, accounts receivable, audit and cost accounting, and property tax.

**Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters**

Kelly Sanders  
825 5th St., 5th Floor, Eureka 95501  445-7593  
Salary: $121,464  Staff: 23.0  Budget: $2,827,648

The official repository for all real estate records and official maps as well as vital records (birth, death and marriage records). Files fictitious business name statements and notary bonds; sells marriage licenses and performs civil wedding ceremonies. It has one division:

**Elections & Voter Registration**  445-7481

Judith Hedgpeth  
2426 6th St., Eureka 95501  
Staff: 6.0  Budget: $1,649,392

Registers all voters; conducts federal, state, county, city, school, and special district elections; ensures that all eligible residents are able to exercise their right to vote; ensures that elections are held in a fair, accurate, and efficient manner; provides election information and results to the public.

**District Attorney**

Maggie Fleming  
825 5th St., Eureka 95501  445-7411  
Salary: $169,308  Staff: 57.3  Budget: $6,416,491

Initiates and conducts the prosecution of public offenses occurring within Humboldt County on behalf of the People of the State of California; assists and advises the grand jury on criminal matters; oversees a Victim-Witness program which offers support services to victims, their families and witnesses during criminal proceedings, and collaborates with other agencies to operate special programs focusing on child abuse and anti-drug abuse enforcement.

**Sheriff-Coroner**

William "Billy" Honsal III  
826 4th St., Eureka 95501  445-7251  
Salary: $175,716  Staff: 294.1  Budget: $38,895,555

Enforces state law, county ordinances, and court orders; maintains police patrols for unincorporated areas including all waterways in the county and the Pacific Ocean out 3 miles; performs search and rescue; processes civil writs; operates the county jail; serves as bailiff to the superior court; processes business licenses, gun registrations, and concealed-carry licenses; provides public protection through stray dog control, bite investigations and dog licensing programs; serves as director of emergency services; provides public access to fingerprinting services.

**Coroner and Public Administrator**  445-7242

Ernest Stewart, Chief Deputy Coroner  
3012 I St., Eureka 95501  
Investigates all deaths reportable to the coroner; safeguards property of the deceased; notifies and counsels next-of-kin; conducts inquests; administers estates; provides burial for indigent persons. Formerly an elected office, the Coroner’s Office was consolidated with the Sheriff’s Office in 2015.

**Office of Emergency Services**  268-2500

Controls and directs the county’s emergency efforts; assists cities or special districts that request additional resources and organization in times of crisis by mobilizing both county assets and, when necessary, assets from other cities and special districts; requests assistance from the state office of emergency services when necessary.

**Superintendent of Schools**

Chris Hartley  
901 Myrtle Ave., Eureka 95501  445-7030  
State-funded:

Salary: $176,000  Staff: 332.0  Budget: $46,595,847

Provides educational, consultative, administrative, legislative, and business services to 31 school districts in Humboldt County; coordinates regional services in health, special education, multi-county education-related mental health, staff development, attendance, library/instructional media, insurance/risk management, and legal services; maintains teacher credential files; operates court and community schools, special education schools, and career education support services; acts as a liaison between the California Department of Education and local school districts; monitors income and expenses of local school districts.

**Treasurer-Tax Collector**

John Bartholomew  
825 5th St., Room 125, Eureka 95501  476-2450  
Salary: $121,464  Staff: 17.0  Budget: $2,234,010

Performs functions for several local governmental agencies not under the control of the Board of Supervisors; collects taxes for all taxing agencies including cities, school districts and special districts; invests the monies for the school districts and most special districts; coordinates financing for county and other local agency projects; issues business licenses; administers the county’s Deferred Compensation and Defined Benefit Plans. This is a unique relationship in that the Board of Supervisors alone controls department financing, but the office is equally responsible to all of the agencies it serves.

**Sheriff Substations**

Garberville Station  
648 Locust St.  923-2761

Mckinleyville Station  
1608 Pickett Rd.  839-6600

Trinity River Division Station  
80 Country Club Dr. Willow Creek  
(530) 629-1025

Animal Shelter  
980 Lycoming  
McKinleyville  
840-9132

The tax-defaulted property auction is held annually. For more information call:  476-2450

**Business Licenses**  476-2450

**Property Taxes**  476-2450  
(877) 448-6829  (877) 4HUMTAX

League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

--A Citizen’s Guide to County Government--
Appointed Offices

Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights & Measures
Jeff Dolf
5630 South Broadway, Eureka 95503  441-5260
Salary: $129,456  Staff: 8.0  Budget: $1,047,495
Provides environmental protection through agricultural pest exclusion, pesticide use enforcement, and management of predatory animal damage; registers local organic producers with the State program and performs compliance inspections for the national organic program; protects consumers by inspecting and/or testing all commercial weighing devices and enforcing package labeling laws.

Chief Probation Officer
William “Bill” Damiano
2002 Harrison Ave., Eureka 95501  445-7401
Salary: $132,372  Staff: 123.4  Budget: $12,562,759
Provides supervision of adult and juvenile offenders; sanctions and treats offenders through community correction; enforces court orders; provides accurate and comprehensive information to the courts; is responsible for the operation of the juvenile hall and Northern California Regional Facility. The probation department is an arm of the superior court, and its head is an appointee of the court.

Child Support Services Director
Lisa Dugan
2420 6th St., Eureka 95501  (866) 901-3212
Salary: $131,448  Staff: 54.0  Budget: $5,183,305
Administers child support services for the county; establishes paternity and enforces child support orders; locates non-custodial parents; collects and disburses child support funds. State and federal funding supports these services; they have no impact on the general fund. Since 1975, federal law has mandated that all states operate a child support enforcement program. To ensure uniformity of effort statewide, each California county is required to enter into a plan of cooperation with the State’s Department of Child Support Services.

Cooperative Extension Director
Yana Valachovic
5630 South Broadway, Eureka 95503  445-7351
Salary: $142,104  Staff: 1.5  Budget: $183,685
Provides programs and activities related to forestry, dairy, livestock and range, marine science, horticulture, and 4-H Youth Development. Humboldt County supports this office with clerical staff and operating expenses. The University of California appoints the director and other local advisors.

County Administrative Officer
Amy Nilsen
825 5th St., Room 112, Eureka 95501  445-7266
Salary: $184,716  Staff: 36.0  Budget: $10,752,432
The administrative arm of the Board of Supervisors. The CAO’s office assists the Board in the development and implementation of policies, and recommends annual budget and legislative platforms to the Board. Acquires goods and services for county departments and conducts sales and auctions of retired equipment; oversees the mailroom; collects court fines and other outstanding fees owed to county departments; and negotiates payment agreements.

Economic Development
520 E St., Eureka 95501  445-7745
Encourages economic development by focusing on business retention and expansion, on the development of housing and infrastructure, and on workforce development; oversees the Headwaters Fund and the Workforce Development Board.

Information Technology & Communications
839 4th St., Eureka 95501  445-7556
Operates and maintains the county’s computer network. Administers the county’s phone and radio systems, which includes all federally licensed equipment and frequencies that operate through the courthouse emergency dispatch center, public works dispatch center, and six remote mountaintop radio repeater sites; manages the county’s utilities, and negotiates and administers the cable television franchises.

County Counsel
Jeffrey Blanck
2420 6th St., Eureka 95501  (866) 901-3212
Salary: $166,608  Staff: 24.5  Budget: $2,239,148
The General Services Unit serves as legal advisor to the Board of Supervisors, all county departments, and some joint powers agencies; by contract gives legal advice to special districts; represents the county in civil litigation; oversees litigation aspects of the risk management program. The Child Welfare Services Unit provides legal services to Child Welfare Services from the trial court to the appellate court level. The Code Enforcement Unit performs investigative inspection, abatement and compliance work related to use, maintenance and safety of land and structures.

Human Resources Director
Lisa DeMatteo
825 5th St., Room 100, Eureka 95501  476-2349
Salary: $142,104  Staff: 10.0  Budget: $34,906,394
Manages the county human resources and risk management programs, including recruitment, selection, classification, equal employment, training and workers’ compensation; keeps employee records; administers contracts with employee organizations; conducts ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance activities; administers benefit programs; and administers county insurance and liability programs.

League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

A Citizen’s Guide to County Government
**Health & Human Services Director**

Connie Beck  
507 F St., Eureka 95501  
441-5400  
Salary: $175,752  
Staff: 130.4  
Budget: $185,719,242  

The department has 3 branches:

**Mental Health**

Emi Botzler-Rogers, Director  
Admin: 824 Harris St., Eureka 95501  
268-2990  
Services: 720 Wood St., Eureka 95501  
268-2900  
Alcohol & Other Drug Programs  
727 Cedar St., Garberville 95542  
923-2729  

Staff: 370.9  
Budget: $40,307,121

**Veterans Services**

1105 6th St., Suite F  
Eureka 95501  
445-7611  
Serves as a liaison between veterans and their families and the Veterans Administration on matters such as home loans, pension and medical benefits, and burial benefits.

**Library Services Director**

To be appointed  
1313 3rd St., Eureka 95501  
269-1900  
Salary: $112,068  
Staff: 30.3  
Budget: $3,912,566

Provides library and information services via the Eureka Main Library, ten Branch Libraries and a Bookmobile; maintains reference, print, and audio/visual collections and materials of local historical and genealogical significance; provides public internet and computer access. Library revenues come primarily from property taxes, state and federal funds, and some fees, fines and gifts.

**Planning & Building Director**

John Ford  
3015 H St., Eureka 95501  
445-7245  
Salary: $118,368  
Staff: 42.0  
Budget: $9,505,557

The Planning & Building Department has 4 main divisions:

**Current Planning**

Steve Werner, Supervising Planner  
Staff: 17.0  
Budget: $1,995,454

Processes land use permit applications for subdivisions, lot line adjustments, coastal development permits, special permits, use permits, and applicant-initiated amendments to the General Plan and Zoning text and maps. Current Planning provides public information and reviews building applications, reviews business license referrals, assigns addresses and street names, and manages the code compliance unit.

**Building Inspection**

Todd Sobolik, Chief Building Official  
toll-free (800) 900-4034  
Staff: 14.0  
Budget: $1,720,226

Authority for building regulations for unincorporated areas of Humboldt County; performs inspections during new construction for codes and standards compliance; issues permits to alter, enlarge, remodel or repair existing buildings and issues permits for the placement of mobile homes in unincorporated areas.

**Advance Planning & GIS**

Michael Richardson, Supervising Planner  
Staff: 6.0  
Budget: $3,753,417

Prepares and updates the General Plan and Land Use and Development Codes including Community Plans, Housing Element and Local Coastal Plans; maintains an online Geographical Information System (GIS); manages affordable housing and grant programs.

**Cannabis Services**

Staff: 5.0  
Budget: $2,036,460

Supports the permitting process and provides long-range planning, development and implementation of local ordinances and code related to commercial medical cannabis.

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**League of Women Voters of Humboldt County**

A Citizen’s Guide to County Government
**Public Defender (Interim)**
Marek Reavis  
1001 4th St., Eureka 95501  
445-7634

Salary: $150,132  
Staff: 32.9  
Budget: $4,053,844

Represents defendants in criminal cases who are unable to pay for a private attorney. Also represents juveniles, parents in dependency matters, and proposed conservatees of the Public Conservator. Oversees the offices of the Alternate Counsel and Conflict Counsel, who also represent defendants.

**Public Works Director**
Thomas Mattson  
1106 2nd St., Eureka 95501  
445-7491

Salary: $138,456  
Staff: 219.0  
Budget: $89,448,973

Responsible for the improvement and maintenance of the county’s public infrastructure, as well as the county’s vehicle fleet. Prepares engineered plans and specifications; inspects construction projects; manages county properties and right-of-ways; obtains regulatory permits; manages six county airports; administers solid waste franchises and facilities; also provides funding to transit service operators and for pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Following are two major divisions of Public Works:

**Environmental & Park Services**
Hank Seemann, Deputy Director  
1106 2nd St., Eureka 95501  
445-7491

Staff: 12.0  
Budget: $17,968,171

Responsible for environmental permitting and compliance, resource management, natural hazard planning and mitigation, and recreation facilities. Environmental Services has three main units:

- **Natural Resources Planning**  
  267-9542
  Implements programs for integrated water resource management and natural hazard mitigation. Performs environmental review and permitting for Public Works projects and operations.

- **Parks & Trails**  
  445-7651
  Operates 17 park units (nearly 950 acres) and the five-mile-long Hammond Trail in McKinleyville. The park system includes ten beach parks, five parks with river access, five boat ramps, and five campgrounds.

- **Water Management**  
  445-7741
  Manages three levee systems, implements storm water pollution prevention programs, and leads or provides assistance for water resource projects such as habitat restoration, flood risk reduction, and regional planning initiatives.

**Road & Equipment Maintenance**
Robert “Bob” Bronkall, Deputy Director  
1106 2nd St., Eureka 95501  
445-7421

Staff: 110.0  
Budget: $23,763,628

Performs routine maintenance for all county roads and bridges. Also provides disaster response during storms and other emergency events, and maintains the county’s heavy equipment.

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**Board of Supervisors**
**Appointed Boards, Commissions and Committees**

The Board of Supervisors appoints the following to advise them on specific matters or to perform certain duties, or appoints a designated number of their members. Citizens may seek appointments to these bodies, and they all have designated time at their meetings for public input. For more information contact the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Following is a partial list:

**Assessment Appeals Board**
Meets: As needed.  
476-2390  
825 5th St., Eureka  
Supervisors Chambers

Hears property tax valuation assessment appeals.

**Behavioral Health Board**
Meets: 3rd Thursday, 4 P.M.  
268-2905  
Meeting location varies

Advocates for mental health and alcohol and other drug (AOD) services in the community, evaluates the community’s behavioral health needs and priorities.

**Fire Safe Council**
Meets: 3rd Monday every quarter, 4 P.M.  
267-9542  
1105 6th St., Eureka

Oversees the Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), shares fire-safety information, assesses fire risk, promotes community fire-safe planning and coordination, and links fire-prevention programs.

**First Five Humboldt**
Meets: Varies, call or check their website  
445-7389  
525 2nd St. Suite 203, Eureka

Responsible for the county strategic plan for the support and improvement of early childhood development. Promotes comprehensive, integrated services to ensure that all children enter school in good health, ready and able to learn.

**Forestry Review Committee**
Meets: As needed.  
445-7541  
3015 H St., Eureka

Advises the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission regarding technical forest-related matters.

**Headwaters Fund Board**
Meets: 2nd Tuesday, 12:15 P.M.  
445-7745  
520 E St., Eureka

In 1999, the Board of Supervisors used economic mitigation funds from the Headwaters Forest acquisition to create the Headwaters Fund, which promotes the economic development of the area through grants and loans. The board reviews and recommends policies and projects.
**Housing Trust Fund & Homelessness Solutions Commission**

Meets: Call for times and locations 476-2390

Established in 2018 to recommend criteria for the use of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to meet the county’s affordable housing goals with an emphasis on "bricks and mortar" projects, to recommend projects, and to make recommendations on homelessness solutions.

**Housing Authority Commission**

Meets: 2nd Monday, 12 noon 443-4583
735 W. Everding St., Eureka

Administers the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program, funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Human Rights Commission**

Meets: 1st Thursday, 5 P.M. 476-2390
825 5th St. Room 1A, Eureka

Established in 1965 to aid in the eradication of discrimination in Humboldt County, particularly with reference to housing, employment, and education. The commission investigates complaints of human rights violations, educates the community about human rights issues, and co-sponsors public discussions.

**In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Board**

Meets: 4th Monday, 2 P.M. 476-2100
808 E St., Eureka CA

IHSS provides domestic services and personal care to individuals who require assistance to remain safely in their homes. The board advises the Board of Supervisors, the IHSS program and the IHSS Public Authority. It also develops and implements educational materials and activities to enhance the IHSS program.

**Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)**

Meets: Bimonthly beginning in January 445-7508
3rd Wednesday, 9 A.M.
825 5th St., Eureka Supervisors Chambers

Reviews proposals for the formation of new local governmental agencies and changes of organization in existing agencies; coordinates changes in local governmental boundaries; conducts special studies that review ways to organize, simplify and streamline governmental structure. Works to protect agricultural and open-space lands by guiding development toward urban infill.

**Measure Z Citizens’ Advisory Committee**

Meets: Thursdays, 2 P.M. - Varies 445-7266
825 5th St., Eureka

Recommends to the Board of Supervisors how funds should be spent that are raised by Measure Z, a half-cent sales tax passed by voters in 2014. Provides a forum for public comment on Measure Z projects.

**Planning Commission**

Meets: 1st Thursdays, 5 P.M. 445-7541
825 5th St., Eureka Supervisors Chambers

Approves land and zoning permits that can’t be done administratively, usually hearing cases for exceptions to zoning regulations. Meetings are televised live, and rebroadcast, on Suddenlink local access channel 10.

**Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) Board of Directors**

Meets: 3rd Thursday, 5 P.M. 269-2001
904 G St., Eureka

Determines policy and direction for the RCAA, a local, private, non-profit agency that provides a wide range of services to low- and moderate-income people with the aim of reducing poverty and dependency.

**Resource Conservation District**

Meets: 2nd Thursday, 8 A.M. 444-6058 Ext. 5
5630 S. Broadway, Eureka

Non-regulatory organization that works in voluntary cooperation with landowners, residents, and community groups. Provides information, technical assistance and funding to implement practices that improve and protect water quality and natural habitat on private lands.

**Workforce Development Board (WDB)**

520 E St., Eureka 445-7745

Meets: Call for times and locations

Works to improve the quality of the local workforce. The majority of members represent private sector employers; WA requires certain agencies using workforce funds to be represented on the WDB, such as the Employment Development Department and the Northern CA Indian Development Council; CA law requires that 10-15% of the WDB membership be Labor Unions.

**Superior Court Appointed Bodies**

**Grand Jury**

825 5th St., Eureka 95501 476-2475

Do you have a concern about your county government or elected officials? 476-2475

Investigates and reports on efficiency and operation of county government and special districts. Jurors, in their official capacity, have the right to inspect: prisons, jails, government facilities, and with limited exceptions, official books and records to which other citizens are denied access. The Grand Jury may receive and investigate complaints by individuals concerning county or public officials, and may bring accusation against a public official for misconduct.

Jurors are selected by lot from a pool of volunteers, nominations and holdovers, and serve a 1-year term. Members are sworn to secrecy, and most of the jury’s work is conducted in closed session. The foreperson is the only official spokesperson for the Grand Jury.

**Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission**

15 members

Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 6 P.M. 445-7401
Office of Education Annex, 901 Myrtle Avenue

Promotes and sanctions programs for delinquency prevention; monitors services to youth within the county; appointed by the presiding judge of the superior court, with concurrence of the judge of the juvenile court.
Intergovernmental Bodies

**Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG)**
Marcella Clem, Executive Director
611 I St., Suite B, Eureka 95501  444-8208
Meets: 3rd Thursday, 4 P.M.  Eureka City Hall, 531 K St., Eureka

The HCAOG board is the final authority for all of the decisions generated in the region's transportation planning and programming arena. The board is comprised of the Mayors of the seven incorporated cities and the chair of the Board of Supervisors or their designee. HCAOG is the designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) and Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE). The RTPA is largely responsible for programming state and local road improvements, public transportation resources, and roadside call boxes. HCAOG also bears responsibility for the preparation and implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

**Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA)**
Greg Pratt, General Manager
133 V St., Eureka 95501  443-0826
Meets: 4th Wednesday, 9 A.M.

Made up of seven members of indefinite term (five members chosen from participating cities and two members from the Board of Supervisors); serves as governing board for the Redwood Transit System; oversees maintenance and operation of the buses; provides support for Dial-A-Ride and Dial-A-Lift.

**Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA)**
Jill Duffy, Executive Director
1059 West Hawthorne, Eureka 95501  268-8680
Meets: 2nd Thursday, 6:30 P.M.  Eureka City Hall, 531 K St., Eureka

A joint powers authority made up of the following municipalities and the County: Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Rio Dell. HWMA owns and operates a transfer station that includes garbage drop off, green waste drop off, a recycling center and a household hazardous waste collection facility. HWMA also collects hazardous waste, tires and electronics at mobile events around Humboldt County, and works with local garbage companies, recycling centers and others to reduce, reuse, recycle and safely dispose of the waste generated in Humboldt. HWMA does not provide or oversee any curbside collection services or bin rentals.

**North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (AQMD)**
Brian Wilson, Air Pollution Control Officer
707 L St., Eureka 95501  443-3093
Meets: Time and locations vary, call or check website

Formed in 1982 from the merger of air pollution control districts of Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties, the AQMD was created to achieve and maintain federal and state ambient air quality standards. A five-member board of directors, made up of four county supervisors and one member from an incorporated city, appoints the air pollution control officer and adopts the budget, air quality rules and regulations, and policies. The air pollution control officer monitors air quality; enforces county, state, and federal air pollution laws.

**Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA)**
Matthew Marshall, Executive Director
633 3rd St., Eureka 95501  269-1700
Meets: 3rd Monday, 3:15 P.M.  HBMWD Offices, 828 7th St., Eureka

A joint powers agency formed in 2003 comprised of the seven incorporated cities and the county, governed by representatives from each of these jurisdictions. The RCEA's purpose is to develop and implement sustainable energy initiatives that reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, and advance the use of clean, efficient and renewable resources. RCEA is funded completely from contracts and grants.

**Redwood Region Economic Development Commission (RREDC)**
Gregg Foster, Executive Director
520 E St., Eureka 95501  445-9651
Meets: 4th Monday, 6:30 P.M.

-formed in 1977 to coordinate economic development and planning, and to allocate grant funds given to the County as economic mitigation for the expansion of Redwood National Park. Coordinates project development and grant administration; operates $3.3 million in revolving loan funds for small businesses; contracts to administer other programs; assists member entities with grant applications and administration. Made up of 19 members and alternates; each is appointed by the governing board of each member jurisdiction for an indefinite term.
Other Elected Offices

Special Districts

Special districts provide services outside of incorporated cities. There are 60 special districts in Humboldt County: 13 governed by the county, and 47 governed by elected boards. In practice, many elected board members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors because of a lack of candidates. Special districts can be financed by property taxes, bonds, or fees for services. Many receive homeowner’s exemption tax loss reimbursement from the state. Some districts receive state and federal grants and private donations.

Three examples of large self-governed districts follow:

Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
601 Startare Dr., Eureka 95502 443-0801
Meets: 4th Thursdays, 7 P.M.

Charged with the oversight and development of the harbors and ports of Humboldt County and the development and protection of the county’s natural resources for “multiple purpose use and for the benefit of the people.” The HBHRCD is a countywide agency empowered to grant permits, franchises and leases over all tide, submerged and other lands granted to the district, including all of Humboldt Bay. The commission divisions share the same boundary lines as the supervisory districts.

Funded by: a small portion of Humboldt County property taxes; grants; tidal land leases from dock operators and mariculture operations; rents and leases from sources such as Woodley Island marina and the Fields Landing boat yard; the Harbor Improvement Surcharge levied on deep draft vessels.

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
828 7th St., Eureka 95501 443-5018
Meets: 2nd Thursday, 9 A.M.

Makes decisions on the wholesale distribution of industrial and drinking water, power generation and recreation from Mad River and the Ruth Lake Reservoir; protects the long-term water supply and water quality interests of the district.

McKinleyville Community Services District
1656 Sutter Rd., McKinleyville 95519 839-3251
Meets: 1st Wednesday, 7 P.M.

McKinleyville Hall, 1620 Pickett Rd.

School District Boards

The role of each local district board is to establish a vision for the district, set policies for how the district is run, oversee district operations, and hire the district superintendent.

Meeting agendas are posted at each school site. Discussion is limited to school business. Confidential matters regarding individual students and personnel will not be discussed during public meetings. School board meetings may vary slightly, but each will allow public comment and time to address an agenda item. You may do so by signing in at the beginning of the meeting, or by raising your hand to be recognized. It’s always a good idea to call and verify that a meeting has not been cancelled or changed.

School District Phone Meets

School District Phone Meets

Arctic 822-0351 2nd Monday, 6:30 P.M.
Big Lagoon Union 677-3688 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 P.M.
Blue Lake Union 666-5674 2nd Thursday, 6 P.M.
Bridgeville Elementary 777-3311 2nd Monday, 5:30 P.M.
College of the Redwoods 476-4170 1st Tuesday, 1:00 P.M.
Cobblestone Union 769-3372 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 P.M.
Cutter 441-3900 2nd Monday, 5:30 P.M.
Eureka City Schools 441-2400 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 P.M.
Ferndale Unified 766-5900 2nd Monday, 6 P.M.
Fieldbrook 839-3201 3rd Tuesday, 5:30 P.M.
Fortuna Elementary 725-2293 3rd Tuesday, 6:15 P.M.
Fortuna Union High 725-4461 2nd Tuesday, 7 P.M.
Freshwater 442-2969 2nd Tuesday, 6 P.M.
Garfield 442-5471 2nd Thursday, 4 P.M.
Green Point 668-5921 2nd Thursday, 6 P.M.
Humboldt County Office of Education 445-7030 2nd Wednesday, 3 P.M.
Hydaville 768-3610 2nd Monday, 6 P.M.
Jacoby Creek Charter 822-4818 2nd Saturday, 7:15 P.M.
Klamath Trinity Joint Unified 530-625-5600 2nd Monday, 5 P.M.
Kneeland 442-5472 2nd Thursday, 4 P.M.
Loleta Union 733-5705 2nd Wednesday, 5 P.M.
Maple Creek 668-5596 2nd Friday, 1:30 P.M.
Mattole Unified 629-3311 2nd Thursday, 4 P.M.
McKinleyville Union 839-1549 3rd Wednesday, 6 P.M.
Northern Humboldt Union High 839-6470 2nd Tuesday, 6 P.M.
Orick 489-2821 2nd Tuesday, 4 P.M.
Pacific Union 822-4619 2nd Thursday, 6 P.M.
Peninsula Union 443-2731 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 P.M.
Rio Dell 764-5694 2nd Wednesday, 6:15 P.M.
Scottia Union 764-2212 2nd Thursday, 7 P.M.
South Bay Union 476-8549 2nd Thursday, 7 P.M.
Southern Humboldt Unified 943-1789 2nd Thursday, 4:30 P.M.
Trinidad Union 677-3631 2nd Thursday, 6:30 P.M.

County-governed Special Districts by Type:
- Lighting...................... 8
- Fire Protection............... 3
- Flood & Drainage........... 2

Self-governed Special Districts by Type:
- Community Service........... 24
- Fire Protection............... 19
- Harbor......................... 1
- Health Care.................. 1
- Parks & Recreation.......... 1
- Water............................ 1

League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

A Citizen’s Guide to County Government
**City Councils**

City councils oversee, set policy and provide direction in the consideration of ordinances and resolutions pertinent to the city. By law, citizens have the right to speak during any public hearing that was noticed or advertised to the public. The public is allotted time to speak at city council meetings in two different places:

- **Public comment**
  - Time is specifically set aside for public input on items not found on the agenda.

- **Speaking to an item on the agenda**
  - Normally, the chair of the council will ask for public input on an agenda item either before or after discussion by the council, but before a vote.

These segments are identified on the meeting agenda, which may be viewed prior to the meetings at the posted locations. The time allowed for public input varies from 2 minutes to no limit. The chair will normally tell the audience what the limit is and stop you if you have gone over that limit.

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**Arcata City Council**

736 F St., Arcata 95521 822-5953

Meet: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 6 P.M.

Agendas are posted in the City Manager’s Office at Arcata City Hall the Friday before each council meeting. To place an item on the agenda contact the city manager’s office at 822-5953 at least 15 business days prior to the meeting. Citizens are allowed three minutes per person to address a non-agenda item during the public comment section of the meeting by approaching the podium to be recognized. Citizens are also allowed three minutes per person to speak on agenda items, before discussion by city council members, by approaching the podium to be recognized. Meetings are televised live, and also rebroadcast, on the local access channel: Suddenlink channel 10.

**Council Members**

- **Mayor:** Sofia Pereira
- Susan Omselas
- Paul Pitino
- Brett Watson
- Michael Winkler

**Blue Lake City Council**

111 Greenwood St. P.O. Box 458, Blue Lake 95525 668-5655

Meet: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7 P.M.

Agendas are posted at the Blue Lake City Hall and the post office. To place an item on the agenda, send a request in writing to the city clerk, at least one week before the meeting. Citizens may address an agenda item during discussion of the item by raising their hand to be recognized, and non-agenda items during the public comment time of the meeting, either by signing in or raising their hand and standing to be recognized.

**Council Members**

- **Mayor:** Adelene Jones
- Summer Daugherty
- Jean Lynch
- Elizabeth MacKay
- Bobbie Ricca
- Sue Long
- Tiara Brown
- Dean Glaser
- Doug Brown
- Patrick O'Rourke
- Michael Sweeney
- Dwight Miller
- Tami Trent

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**Eureka City Council**

531 K St., Eureka 95501 441-4144

Meet: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 6 P.M.

Agendas are posted at Eureka City Hall the Friday before each council meeting. To place an item on the agenda call by 5 P.M. the Wednesday before the next meeting. Public comments are limited to three minutes; citizens may address agenda and non-agenda items during the public comment section of the meeting by approaching the podium to speak. Meetings are televised live, and also rebroadcast, on the local access channel: Suddenlink channel 10.

**Council Members**

- **Mayor:** Frank Jäger
- Ward 1: Marian Brady
- Ward 2: Heidi Messner
- Ward 3: Kim Bergel
- Ward 4: Austin Allison
- Ward 5: Natalie Arroyo

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**Fortuna City Council**

834 Main St. P.O. Box 1095, Ferndale 95536 786-4224

Meet: 3rd Wednesday, 7 P.M.

Agendas are posted at Ferndale City Hall. To place an item on the agenda, call at least one week before the meeting. Citizens may address a non-agenda or agenda item during the public comment time of the meeting by raising their hand to be recognized and standing to speak. Public comments are limited to five minutes unless the mayor grants more time. The council appreciates speakers stating their name and address, but it is not required.

**Council Members**

- **Mayor:** Don Hindley
- Doug Brower
- Dan Brown
- Patrick O'Rourke
- Michael Sweeney

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**Ferndale City Council**

621 11th St., Fortuna 95540 725-1409

Meet: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6 P.M.

Agendas are posted at Fortuna City Hall. To place an item on the agenda, call at least 10 days before the next scheduled meeting. Citizens are allowed to address a non-agenda item during the public comment time of the meeting. Citizens may address an agenda item during discussion of the item by raising their hand to be recognized. Meetings are televised live, and also rebroadcast, on the local access channel: Suddenlink channel 10.

**Council Members**

- **Mayor:** Sue Long
- Tiara Brown
- Dean Glaser
- Douglas Steinle
- Tami Trent

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**Forty Dell City Council**

675 Wildwood Ave., Rio Dell 95562 764-3532

Meet: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M.

Agendas are posted at Rio Dell City Hall, the post office and the chamber of commerce. To place an item on the agenda, send a request in writing to the city clerk, at least one week before the next meeting. Citizens may address agenda items during discussion of the item by raising their hand to be recognized, and non-agenda items during the public comment period.

**Council Members**

- **Mayor:** Frank Wilson
- Debra Barnes
- Gordon Johnson
- Timothy Marks
- Sue Straham

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**Trinidad City Council**

409 Trinity St., Trinidad 95570 677-0223

Meet: 2nd Wednesdays, 6 P.M.

Agendas are posted at Trinidad Town Hall, the post office and Murphy’s Market. Anyone wishing to place an item on the agenda should call 677-0223 at least one week before the meeting. Citizens may address a non-agenda or agenda item during the public comment time of the meeting, either by signing in or raising their hand and standing to be recognized.

**Council Members**

- **Mayor:** Susan Rotwein
- Jim Baker
- Steve Ladwig
- Dwight Miller
- Jack West
**Voter Registration Information**

You are eligible to vote in this county if you are:

- a citizen of the United States
- a resident of Humboldt County
- at least 18 years old by Election Day
- a registered voter at least 15 days before the election OR have visited the Elections Office in the 14 days up to and including Election Day to complete a voter registration affidavit and receive a conditional ballot
- not judged mentally incompetent by a court of law
- not in prison or on parole for a felony

To register to vote:

**Register Online:** [http://registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov)

**Register by mail:** Get a postcard registration form at any post office, library, city hall, or military recruiting office. You may also call the Humboldt County Registrar of Voters 707-445-7481, or you may call toll-free (800) 345-VOTE anytime; leave your name and address, and a form will be sent to you. For help in Spanish call: toll-free (800) 232-VOTA.

**Register at the DMV:** Registration forms are also offered by agencies serving the disabled and to those applying in person for public assistance.

**Re-register to vote if you:**

- have never registered to vote in Humboldt County
- changed your place of residence and/or mailing address since last registering
- wish to change your political party
- changed your name since last registering

Direct questions on voter registration and ballots to:

**Humboldt County Elections Office**
2426 6th St., Eureka 95501
445-7481

Hours: 8-12, 1-5, Monday-Friday