

### *President's Message*

The League of Women Voters Humboldt County is joining the California League, and other Leagues throughout the US, to Stop Asian Hate. Dave Rosso's article in this VOTER explains the Stop Asian Hate campaign by the California League of Women Voters.

The impact of using divisive tactics such as hatred, intimidation, voter suppression, fear, and scapegoating has brought the country to extreme rhetoric and episodes of violence. Targeting communities of color or those suffering with mental health issues generates fear for many in our community. The extreme rhetoric moves on to hatred and then to violence. The Board of the League in Humboldt joins with many groups condemning the rhetoric fueling the anger and hate as well as the acts of violence. The League stands for the democratic values of our society including the freedom to live without fear, to participate in government, and to find ways to work together for the success of this great experiment called democracy. We stand in solidarity with all who are calling for an end to violence.

The League also continues to work making sure our local positions are up to date and ready for any action or advocacy the League should take. Be sure to read **Molly Cate's** article, a summary of the Social Policy meeting in February. That meeting drew attention to the League's need to focus on the mental health section of the Social Policy Position. Look for a discussion on that position addressing mental health at our Annual Meeting. All the changes to the positions will be included in the Annual Meeting Kit.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 2 at 2 p.m. for a Zoom membership meeting. The president of Zero Waste Humboldt, Maggie Gaynor, and Vice-President, Krista Miller, will inform us about the work of Zero Waste Humboldt. League members, please attend so you may ask questions and provide input.

Be sure to mark your calendars for May 20 at 6:30 p.m. for the Annual Meeting, again by Zoom. You will have an opportunity to see the updates to several positions, to review a budget designed for the upcoming year, and to meet the nominations to the Board for the coming year.

Continue to stay safe and well. I look forward to a time when we can all meet again.

**Deborah Downs**  
*LWVHC President*



#### *Our 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.

★ *Board Briefs*

**Citizen's Guide Update:** The Board is working on updating the Citizen's Guide for 2021. All Board members have submitted their corrections to **Nancy Kay** who is working on collating the information.

**Foster Care Position Update:** We have received 23 positive votes for the changes in the Foster Care Position. This constitutes a quorum. The position will be updated in the 2021 Annual Meeting Kit.

**Public Health Services Position Review Meeting:** The Board approved the updated wording to the Public Health Services position. These changes will be presented at the Annual Meeting for membership approval.

**Zero Waste Humboldt Letter of Support:** The Board approved that **Deborah Downs** and **Leslie Leach** will write a letter of support to Zero Waste Humboldt.

**Sunshine Week:** A letter to the Editor about League's support for Sunshine Week was published in the *Times Standard* on Sunday, March 7, 2021. Thank you, **Dave Rosso**, for making this happen.

*Anne Hartline*  
*LWVHC Secretary*



***Mark Your Calendars, Leaguers! Sunday, May 2, 2:00 p.m.***

On Sunday, May 2, at 2:00 p.m., Zoom in to the LWVHC membership meeting to hear about the organization, Zero Waste Humboldt. The president, Maggie Gainer and vice-president, Krista Miller will update us on the rapidly changing field of Zero Waste, what Zero Waste Humboldt is doing, and what we can do to reduce waste and climate change. They will answer questions afterward. Maggie Gainer has also suggested a film you may want to view before the meeting. Here is what Maggie has to say about the film along with the link:

If League members are interested, I highly recommend they see a film -- eye opening, timely, well-researched: "PLASTIC WARS". It's 54 minutes, PBS Frontline. Link: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/plastic-wars/>

Once again, an opportunity to become more informed about what's happening right here in Humboldt County is being offered by your local League. The LWVHC board greatly appreciates having members attend meetings in order to have their questions, ideas, and input made known.

See you Sunday, May 2.

*Leslie Leach*  
*LWVHC Natural Resources Director*

## ***Public Health Services Position Review Meeting Held***

On Thursday evening, February 25, LWVHC members and the Board of Directors met via Zoom for a review of our League position on Public Health Services, last reviewed in 2011. Board member **Molly Cate** presented the findings of her research that included Department of Public Health Director Michele Stephens' assessment of our 2011 position and a review of the county's latest Community Health Assessment report (2018). She also sought assistance from League members **Kay Escarta** and **Hollie Klingel**. (Thanks, Kay and Hollie!) Finally, Molly interviewed local National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) board and League member **Debbe Hartridge** and past NAMI president and Behavioral Health Board member Tim Ash. They both graciously agreed to attend the Zoom meeting as guest presenters. (Thanks, Debbe and Tim!)

Much has changed in the world of public health since 2011, and the position written at that time was ready for revision. One of the briefest of all LWVHC positions, it did not seem to encompass the broad interests of our savvy membership and Board.

The group first discussed the five 2011 sub-positions that were not about mental health and agreed to expand those to include the following: equity and stable funding; broadband access to expand telehealth services; preventive measures such as immunizations, suicide prevention, addiction mitigation, and also access to quality nutrition by dealing with the county's ten areas identified as 'food deserts'. We also discussed health risk factors for children known as "ACES," or Adverse Childhood Experiences of abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction. From that lively discussion, the original five sub-positions were expanded to the seven we reached consensus on that will be presented to the membership at our annual membership meeting on May 20.

We focused the rest of the meeting on mental health, the issue most sparsely covered in the 2011 Public Health Services position. Debbe Hartridge and Tim Ash addressed many aspects of mental health that could use improvement here in Humboldt County. They spoke from a set of proposed sub-positions crafted in several conversations with Molly before the meeting. These included the following: the hiring of more clinicians and case workers; expanding telehealth and in person care for those in LatinX and Native communities; diverse housing and care options, including expansion of Sempervirens; and programs that divert those suffering mental illness away from the criminal justice system and into treatment.

As the time to close the meeting approached, the consensus was that we need a separate study of mental health issues. We agreed to bring that idea to the membership at the annual meeting for further consideration. For the time being, we agreed to the wording of a single, broad statement supporting the expansion of funding for and parity in mental health services in the county.

Please plan to join us via Zoom in May as we further the conversation about our position on public health here in Humboldt. For those who want to dig in to these issues before that meeting, here's the link to the county's 2018 Public Health Department Community Health Assessment report. It is quite thorough and informative. <https://humboldt.gov.org/DocumentCenter/View/71701/2018-Community-Health-Assessment-PDF>

***Molly Cate***  
***LWVHC Social Policy Director***

## *The League Calls for an End to Anti-Asian Hate and Violence*

The League of Women Voters of California condemns all xenophobic and hateful acts targeting Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.

In a statement following the killing of eight people in Atlanta, Ga., including six Asian-American women, Stephanie Doute, executive director of the League of Women Voters of California, said, “No person, or group of people, should have to live in fear because of who they are. Our hearts are with the loved ones of those lost in Atlanta. We stand with AAPI people everywhere who are experiencing fear, sadness, loss, and anger as they are impacted by not only the domestic terror attack in Atlanta, but the attacks on AAPI communities everywhere. No one should have to live in fear because of who they are.”

Doute said, “The tragic murders in Atlanta punctuate an increase in anti-Asian violence and hate we have seen across the country. Systemic racism and white supremacy in the U.S. are not bound by state or city lines -- they are everywhere. California is no exception; anti-Asian hate crimes within California have been on the rise. It is the responsibility of allies everywhere to vocally denounce hate, violence, and xenophobia and actively work to dismantle the systems of racism and white supremacy that have perpetuated these attitudes and actions in our country.”

She called on “elected and appointed officials at all levels of government to demonstrate their commitment to keeping ALL communities safe.”

She added, “Please visit [StopAAPIHate.org](https://www.stopaapihate.org) and be part of the solution. There can be no liberty in the face of racist and xenophobic violence.”

**Dave Rosso**  
*LWVHC VOTER Editor*

## *Support the League and Your Favorite Local Restaurant*

Later this month, you will receive your Annual Meeting Kit for our League’s annual business meeting, when we will approve our budget, our program, and new members for the Board of Directors. In the past, we have gathered together for a meal and a time of fellowship, but because of Covid-19, this meeting will again be on Zoom to ensure the health and safety of all.

We will not be supporting a local restaurant or catering company to enjoy dinner together, but we all have the opportunity to support our local businesses. If you can, we encourage you to order a take out meal from your favorite local restaurant, and enjoy it as we meet on zoom to do our business. You could even splurge and support a local delivery company to bring your meal to your door!

Don’t miss our Annual Meeting on May 20, 2021—and support your local community businesses at the same time!

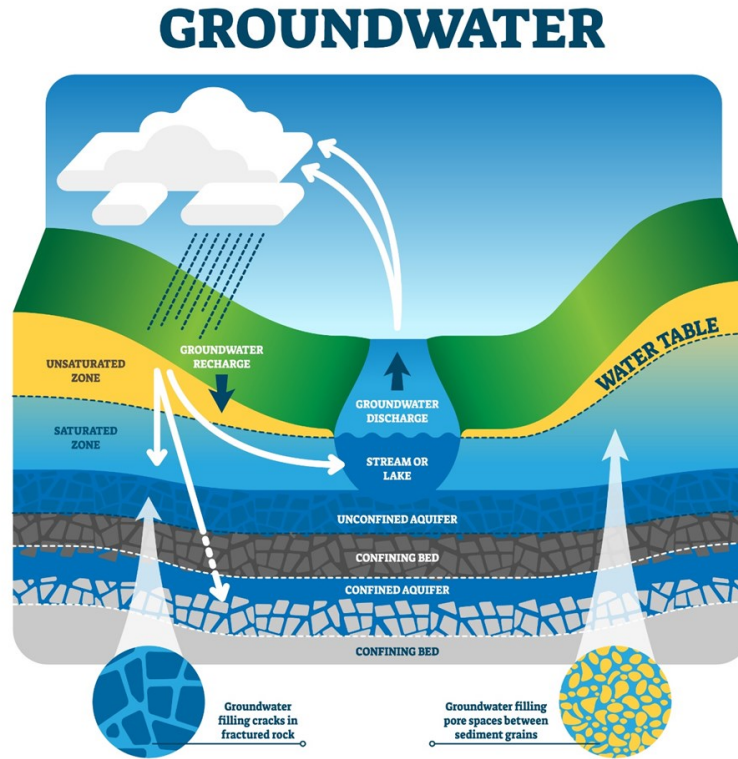
**Byrd Lochte**  
*LWVHC Election Service Director*



## *Managing the Water Under Our Feet: Groundwater*

Along with surface water from lakes, rivers, and streams, groundwater that accumulates in underground aquifers is a major source of water for California's communities and farms, and for the environment. In California, some local groundwater levels are critically declining.

**Groundwater provides 40 percent of California's water supply in normal years, and up to 60 percent during dry years.** In some California communities, groundwater is the only source of tap water for household use.



In the midst of the severe 2012-2016 drought, the California legislature passed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to address the rapid decline of groundwater levels that was occurring mainly in agricultural areas. SGMA requires local water agencies, cities and counties in areas with significant groundwater depletion to form groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) and to develop groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) to achieve groundwater sustainability over a twenty year planning horizon.

A GSP must contain a water budget ensuring that ultimately, the amount of water leaving an aquifer is balanced by the amount of water recharged. GSPs must monitor and manage groundwater levels, groundwater quality, land subsidence, surface and groundwater interconnections, and saltwater intrusion in coastal areas. GSAs are required to consider the interests of all local groundwater users as they develop and implement their plans.

Critically overdrafted groundwater basins, most in the San Joaquin Valley and Central California coastal areas, completed their GSPs in 2020. Other high and medium priority basins have until 2022 to complete their plans. Some groundwater basins, mostly in Southern California, are adjudicated and are not required to develop GSPs. Basin prioritization and adjudicated areas are shown on [this map](#).

Together with water conservation, recharging groundwater aquifers is essential for achieving groundwater sus-

## ***Managing the Water Under Our Feet: Groundwater (continued)***

tainability. In wet years [Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge \(Flood-MAR\)](#) can deliver multiple benefits for communities, agriculture, and the environment, especially in the Central Valley. This includes flood risk reduction, ecosystem enhancement, climate change adaptation, and working landscape preservation.

[Managed Aquifer Recharge \(MAR\)](#) projects in some areas have used multiple means to recharge aquifers, including deep injection methods and the use of urban stormwater and treated wastewater to recharge aquifers. Groundwater can migrate underground, even between subbasins, in ways we do not understand well. It can be pumped out of the ground and moved to other locations through California's extensive system of canals. Also, people with rights to both surface and groundwater in one basin can forgo surface water so that it can be moved to another basin while drawing down their own groundwater, impacting other users in their basin. For all these reasons, groundwater management in California will ultimately involve regional as well as local management strategies in order to ensure statewide sustainability.

***Diane B. Merrill***  
***Member LWVC Water Committee***

## ***Looking Back at Sunshine Week***

The first week of March was the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sunshine Week, which was launched in 2005 by the American Society of News Editors, now the News Leaders Association with support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Gridiron Club Foundation.

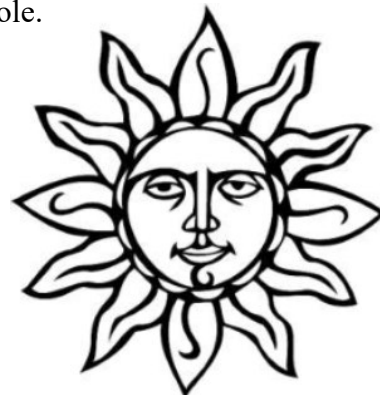
Sunshine Week promotes open government and has events across the United States during the first week of March, including Sonoma West Publishers, which held a Zoom event with a panel of award-winning investigative journalists to discuss "the importance of an open and transparent government with responsible journalism."

The National Press Club Journalism Institute held a discussion on public access to information and the role that investigative journalism plays in restoring public trust, with practical advice from *Associated Press* global investigations editor, Ron Nixon and *The Markup* president Nabiha Syed, moderated by *CQ Roll Call* senior writer, John Donnelly.

The National Newspaper Association recognized Tom Boney, the publisher of the *Alamance News*, Graham, NC, with its First Amendment Award.

The Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications held a session on Holding Government Accountable that examined the values of open and responsive government and how we all play a role.

***Dave Rosso***  
***LWVHC VOTER Editor***



### **Renew Now or Help Someone Become a LWVHC Member!**

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages. Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

Membership dues and donations to the LWVHC are not tax-deductible.

Donations to the LWVHC-Education Fund, through the Humboldt Area Foundation, are tax deductible.

Annual Dues are due each year on July 1st

Visit [www.LWVHC.org](http://www.LWVHC.org) or mail the form below!

Please make checks payable to LWVHC, P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502.

Yes! I want to join the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County and become a voice for citizens and a force for change.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Single Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$115 Family Membership  
(2 in same household)

\_\_\_\_\_ I also want to gift a membership!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing for my annual membership renewal:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_



### **The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County**

434 7th Street, Eureka, CA 95501  
P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502  
[www.lwvhc.org](http://www.lwvhc.org) [vote@lwvhc.org](mailto:vote@lwvhc.org)  
(707) 444-9252

#### **Who's Who in Your 2020-2021 League Board**

- President.....Deborah Downs
- Vice President.....**VACANT**
- Secretary.....Anne Hartline
- Treasurer.....Nancy Kay
- Program Director.....**VACANT**
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Director.....Molly Cate
- Government Director.....**VACANT**
- Access Humboldt Liaison.....Molly Cate
- Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
- Forum Director.....Carol Masterson
- Voter Service Director.....Maggie Augustine
- Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
- Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- VOTER Editor.....Dave Rosso
- Community Education Director .....Nancy Kay
- Communication Director.....**VACANT**
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter





P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

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## ***Get Involved!***

We all have a unique set of skills to contribute and limited time to afford. Working together we become a viable force for change. Call or email today to say you want to participate.

Visit [www.lwvhc.org](http://www.lwvhc.org) or call (707) 444-9252.

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## ***Our Diversity Policy***

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. Not only shall there be no barriers to membership and participation in the LWVHC on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, economic status, nor political affiliation, but also the LWVHC will actively seek to reflect the diversity of the community in its membership, board and programs.

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## ***Making Democracy Work!***

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## ***LWVHC Calendar***

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Tue., Apr. 16 5:30 p.m.	Board Meeting Zoom
Sun. May 2 2:00 p.m.	Zero Waste Humboldt Zoom
Thurs. May 20 6:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting Zoom
LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!

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