

President's Message

Hello League members!

It's been a busy month for the LWVHC!

On March 6th, I attended the Arcata City Council Meeting and accepted the Sunshine Week proclamation on behalf of the League. Sunshine Week is a national recognition of access to public information that takes place in March and celebrates the importance of access to information and a transparent government.

On March 16th, the membership meeting for the review and update of our position on the resources and development of Humboldt Bay was held. Led by **Leslie Leach** with special guest Caroline Griffith from the Northcoast Environmental Center, we updated the wording of the position in order to best advocate for the needs of the Humboldt Bay environment.

The State of the Community Luncheon is quickly approaching! Make sure your calendars are marked for April 21st - I'm thrilled that it's once again being held in person.

Finally, a handful of us are rapidly preparing for the State convention, being held in San Francisco at the end of May. I had a fantastic time at the National convention in Denver last summer, and I'm looking forward to attending this one.

Regards,

Jessica Schlachter
LWVHC co-president

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday

May 25th

6 pm

In person

Details to come



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,



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY

The LWVHC cordially invites you to the 30th Annual State of the Community Event

The League of Women Voters will be honoring:

JAMES “JIM” GLOVER

Community Volunteer

and

HUMBOLDT COUNTY CHILDREN’S AUTHOR FESTIVAL

Master of Ceremonies – Maggie Fleming
The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Keynote Speaker – Joseph James, Chair
Yurok Tribal Council

State of the County Remarks – Steven Madrone, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Friday, April 21, 2023

11:30 Doors open

Buffet service begins

12:00 – 1:30 Program

Adorni Center

For further information contact

Judith Stoffer judithstoffer@gmail.com

Maggie Fleming maggiefleming2018@gmail.com

- Judy Bennett, Chair
- Kay Escarda
- Maggie Fleming
- Nancy Frost
- Debbie Hartman
- Debbe Hartridge
- Lorey Keele
- Byrd Lochtie
- Carolyn Prescott
- Judith Stoffer

My check is enclosed to support the 2023 State of the Community Luncheon:

I wish to support The League of Women Voters and have my name printed in the program. Please reserve _____ ticket(s) at \$65 per person.

I am unable to attend the luncheon, but I wish to support The League of Women Voters with a contribution of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Payment must be received in advance.

Please make checks payable to

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

82 Steele Lane, Eureka, CA 95503

or use **PayPal** at **LWVHC.org**

Position Review Meeting of Resources and Development of Humboldt Bay

On Thursday, March 16, nine LWVHC members joined the Zoom meeting for the review of the Natural Resources position: Resources and Development of Humboldt Bay. We were joined by Caroline Griffith, executive director of the Northcoast Environmental Center and editor of the EcoNews. Caroline joined us last year to add her expertise to the review of our Natural Resources position Land Use Planning. This year, she not only provided her own expertise, but also that of Jennifer Kalt, director of Humboldt Baykeeper. Although Jennifer was not able to be at the meeting, she met with Caroline, and they looked closely at our position to provide suggestions to members.

The position hadn't been reviewed since 2013, and there have been lots of changes since then. However, I think members of the LWVHC may take pride in the position being comprehensive enough to not require many changes.

As we went over the position point by point, there was time for members to ask questions and discuss the merits as well as any changes we felt were necessary. The biggest change is an additional point to the position: planning on sea level rise.

Thank you to all the members who were able to attend and to Caroline and Jennifer for the time and effort they gave to help the LWVHC. The position will go before the LWVHC board in April and, if approved by the board, will be presented to the members for their approval at the Annual Meeting to be held Thursday, May 25.

Leslie Leach
LWVHC Natural Resources Director

Call for Help at the Avenue of the Giants Marathon

The date for the 51st running of the **Avenue of the Giants Marathon** is **Sunday, May 7, 2023**.

The organizers have limited the number of runners, but have **changed the course**. Now the runners will make **two loops** on our section of the Avenue, so we will have double the fun! They have increased our cup allocation by 500! They have been sold out since early January! So, that means we will be very busy. We will need ALL the helpers we have had in the past and could use more. We will not be able to drive on the course after 8:00 am so we'll need to be there and set up early. They expect the first ultra-fast runner to be at our station by about 8:10.

Our League has staffed an aid station near Meyers Flat for over 30 years. Each year brings in between \$300 and \$500 to our treasury. Over the years we have added between \$4,000 to \$5,000 to our treasury and had a good time doing it. It has also raised awareness and good will for the League and has helped the runners as well.

I have committed League to do it again, so I'll need at least 12 of us to handle it. Friends and family are more than welcome too.

If you are willing to help staff the aid station, let me know NOW and I will contact you with the details.

HELP!

Kay Escarda 442-7495 kay.escarda@gmail.com

Legislative Interview with Assemblymember Jim Wood

Question 1 Do you believe that targeted voter outreach and education would help to shrink California's participation gap?

Would you support funding to the Secretary of State, county elections offices, and/or community-based organizations to address the problem?

Absolutely, I would support this. When you look at the assembly in particular, the voter turnout in districts varies widely. In a presidential election, in my county of Sonoma there will be an 80% turnout, and in an off-year election 50% - 60%. In a Los Angeles district, there may be a 17% turnout. People are not voting in some districts, so we need to make some changes.

Question 2 Would you advocate for changes to the School Facilities Program to reduce [the] inequity [in school funding caused by property taxes]? One way to do this would be to have the School Facilities Program structured so that the required match percentage from a school district is reduced for low-wealth districts.

This question deals with equitable funding for school facilities to fund school construction and modernization. Taxpayers in districts with low property tax value per student have to pay a far higher property tax rate than those in the wealthier districts in order to raise the same per student dollar amount. Would you advocate for changes to this school facilities program to reduce the inequities?

Yes, in theory. One of the frustrations is that some communities are more willing to fund bond measures than others. If we are going to offer resources, the community needs to have skin in the game. Some communities won't vote for bond measures because it increases their property tax. We especially see this in communities where there are lower numbers of school-aged children. Communities should contribute something, because sometimes it takes that investment in order to value it.

Question 3 How would you propose to transform management of California's water resources in response to changing conditions to minimize impact on food production and its associated jobs without adversely affecting food security and other users and uses of water?

Our water conservation efforts need overhaul, especially in certain areas of the state. Right now, with all of the rain we have had in our state, we need some of that water to run out to the ocean for wildlife/habitats/well recharge etc...., but there are opportunities with some of these large storms to find ways to recharge in the Central Valley. Building some large storage type ponds to capture water and recharge groundwater is important-- groundwater recharge is really important. A lot of people focus on above water storage-- there is value to that too. We have approved very little above ground water storage, in part because of the long permitting process. It would be helpful, but it isn't a full solution.

We've been working on drought planning on an ongoing basis. In the past, after the drought crisis was averted, the boards went back to how they were doing things before, but we need to maintain a focus in this area. We just put a bill forward proposing a Drought Planning Agency, with a full-time staff person to focus on droughts, knowing they will likely continue to be in our future.

Water rights need to be redone. At the moment, they are set up so a farmer can't divert and save river water in the winter, when we have most of the rain, but in the summer, our dry season. Getting some of these water rights and management adjusted so that they can be more relevant to meeting needs with climate change in mind would be good.

Question 4 What are your personal priorities, Assemblymember Wood?

My priorities are the district's priorities. We have very different districts across the state, and we need to build

relationships and understanding-- getting people to come out to see our district so they can understand more of where we're coming from and our needs. I work to educate new assembly members about rural districts which are often shortchanged. There are 27 members of the assembly that represent LA County, while I am representing 5 counties. Also, when bills are introduced, they need to take those differences into account. We don't have the same positioning to go after grants like big cities do.

I'm continuing to focus on broadband-- there are big swaths of the district that are underserved. In fact, we have the largest area of the state without the internet. There's a big push to build a middle-mile network through parts of Highway 101 which would give internet service providers a chance to tap in. I've been involved in broadband since I came to the legislature, and I continue to sit on a commission that oversees \$7 billion going into this project. A lot of carriers don't want to say who has access and who doesn't, so we are pushing for accurate mapping not done by cable companies to get the money where we need it to go.

I support alternate energy plans. Offshore wind is coming to the coast of Humboldt County, about 25 miles offshore. It will be a decade-long project to get that up and going.

Healthcare is also a big facet of what I do. I have held this position for eight years and am the second longest serving health committee chair in the history of the state. I authored a bill in 2016 that allowed hospitals to directly hire physicians. It was a sunset bill so it only lasts 7 years, but I am working to remove the sunset so that it can be a permanent bill. I am very concerned about private equity funds in health care and am trying to find ways to get a handle on that. A big challenge to our northern county hospitals are the seismic issues. The cost to retrofit hospitals is very expensive and in some instances may not be necessary. For example, Mad River Hospital in Arcata is a single-story hospital. It has survived seven earthquakes without losing a day of service. I am looking for an assessment of what the costs will be to do this, because losing a hospital would be devastating.

Right now, one-third of California's population is on Medi-Cal and we are entering a down budget. We are going into a big deficit between 25-40 billion dollars. This will likely be balanced by our reserves which have been piled up for years. We are slowing down the implementation of other projects and probably won't see huge cutbacks in programs this year. We're in the midst of a restructuring of Medi-Cal to provide more integration of services and to try to continue care for people, especially those with behavioral health challenges. We are shifting to Cal AIM (Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) and have had to apply to the federal government for waivers to do this work.

My staff and I work with our constituency on a daily basis. That is why we are here.



Welcome New Member

Karen Suiker

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 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

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www.lwvhc.org
leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org

(707) 444-9252

Who's Who in Your 2022-2023 League Board

- Co-Presidents..... Sharolyn Hutton/
Jessica Schlachter
- Vice President.....Molly Cate
- Secretary.....Vacant
- Treasurer.....Michelle Vassel
- Program Director..... Molly Cate
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Directors.....Molly Cate/
Sylvia Shaw
- Government Director.....Karen Price
- Fairs Director.....Becky Simpson
- Access Humboldt Liaison.....Molly Cate
- Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
- Forum Directors..... Vacant
- Voter Service Director.....Vacant
- Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
- Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- VOTER Co-Editors....Dave Rosso/Leslie Leach
- Community Education Directors.....Karen Price
- Communications Director.....Vacant
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter





P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

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 or call (707) 444-9252.

Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity

LWVHC Calendar

Tuesday, April 4 6:30 p.m.	LWVHC Board Meeting Zoom
Friday, April 21 11:30 a.m. 12 –1:30	State of the Community Luncheon Doors Open Buffet Service Begins Program
LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!
LWCHC Instagram	Any Time!