

***President's Message***

Dear LWVHC Members,

As summer turns into fall, **Jessica Schlachter** and I are beginning our third year as your co-presidents. Your board began the new League year with our hybrid board retreat, held July 22, 2023, at **Julie Kelly's** home. Thanks, Julie! The board decided to conduct hybrid board meetings at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, and membership meetings usually will be on Zoom. Our Fall Brunch Membership Meeting will be a hybrid meeting and will be Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 10:00 - 12:00 at the Eureka Veterans Memorial Hall.

The board also voted to support AB1416 and asked our Community Education Director, Karen Price, to draft a letter of support to our Board of Supervisors. Karen has done that, and Jessica and I will see that the letter is presented to the board.

I take two small steps for the environment:

1. Zoom meetings rather than driving to them whenever possible.
2. Not drive my car at all at least one or two days a week.

Working together to make democracy work!

**Sharolyn L. Hutton**  
*LWVHC Co-President*

Singing in a choir or chorus is good for you.  
You're more likely to VOTE!



***President's Message***

Hello All!

As **Sharolyn** and I start our second term as co-presidents, I would like to once again extend my gratitude not only to the board, but the membership as well. The past two years have been a fantastic learning experience, and I'm looking forward to a strong start to this term. As Sharolyn mentioned, we're jumping headlong into activities, with the upcoming membership brunch and voter registration opportunities in September. We're keeping the LWVHC's presence known in the community with letters to the Board of Supervisors and booths at various street fairs.

As we slowly transition back to in-person meetings, the board is trying out a hybrid model for our monthly board meetings. I find that the ability to meet on Zoom makes the meetings far more accessible for attendees, while the in-person option provides an opportunity to come together. I'm looking forward to seeing how the hybrid option works!

I hope everyone is enjoying what finally feels like summer outside -- the blue sky is quite a lovely change.

**Jessica Schlachter**  
*LWVHC Co-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.

***Save the Date!***

**LWVHC ANNUAL FALL  
MEMBERSHIP BRUNCH**

**Date: Saturday, September 30**

**Time: 10:30 a.m.**

**Place: Veterans Memorial  
Building in Eureka  
Or Zoom**

**Speaker: Juan Pablo Cervantes,  
county clerk/registrar of voters**

**Topic: Voter Choice Act**

**Catering by: McKinleyville  
High School Catering Class**



Veterans Memorial Hall, 10th and H Streets, Eureka, CA

## Let's Take Action

It's happening, summer is coming to a close, way too rapidly for me. But with the end of summer, we have the beginning of the League year, and I always look forward to that. This year, I will be one of the three Action Chairs on the League Board. I will be taking over the Government Portfolio, and I want to invite you to help me.

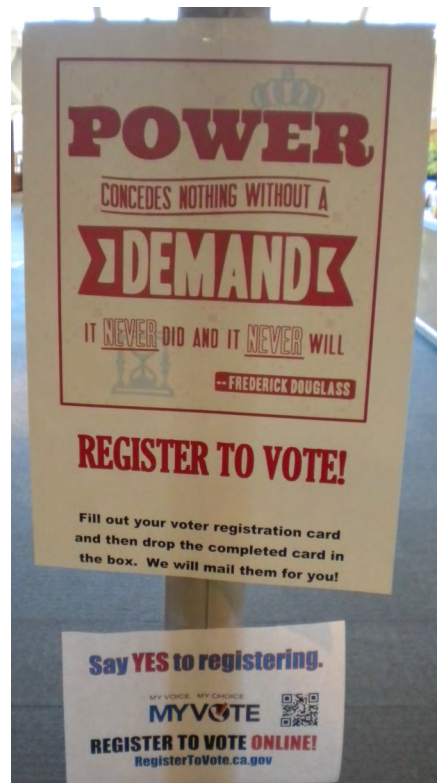
We are called Action Chairs because we are supposed to use our League positions to influence public policy for the greater good. The Government Portfolio contains our positions on the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury System, Library Facilities, Eureka City Government, Local Government Financing in Humboldt County, The Role of Government in Economic Development in Humboldt County, Transportation in Humboldt County and Civic Engagement. Just a few things to think about.

LWVUS says in *Impact on Issues 2022-2024*, "In the League, we tend to focus our effort on influencing legislative measures in the US Congress and state and local legislative bodies by preparing testimony, lobbying legislators, and initiating advocacy campaigns on issues of interest to our members" (p. 4). We can do those things at the local level by addressing our Board of Supervisors, our City Councils, and other locally elected governmental bodies. Let me know what interests you. Has something been happening out there that you think isn't right or that is right and should be commended. We can take action by being supportive of decisions our leaders make. Share your thoughts with your Action Chair: Social Policy, Natural Resources, and Government. Check out our local policies on our LWVHC website or your annual meeting kit.

Every Sunday, the *Times Standard* publishes meeting times of elected local bodies and often a brief synopsis of the agenda. Most have published agendas on their websites. For meeting times and agendas of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors go to <https://humboldt.gov/> For city government meeting times and agendas, type city of (and name of city in Humboldt County) in your browser. You'll receive a list of websites; the first one listed is usually the official city website.

Take a look; you might learn something that could benefit all of us. Let's make our Democracy work.

**Judy Bennett**  
LWVHC Government Director



Hello all you Leaguers,  
The Fall Membership Brunch is fast approaching. We'll have business to conduct, so we'll need a quorum. Please plan to attend either in person or on Zoom



**The Board of the LWVHC urges you as an individual to contact your representatives to urge them not to support Governor Newsome's call for a Constitutional Convention. The League speaks with one voice, and the LWVC has made its voice clear.**

League of Women Voters of California  
500 Capitol Mall, Suite 2350 - #5001, Sacramento, CA 95814

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The League of Women Voters of California Denounces Governor Newsom's Call for a Constitutional Convention**

*Sacramento, CA, August 24, 2023* — The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) strongly opposes Governor Newsom's recent decision to seek an Article V constitutional convention. The proposal, encapsulated in [SJR 7](#), seeks to add California to the states aiming to alter the U.S. Constitution, a move that comes without a clear structure or guidelines.

The Constitution is a living document, representing the fundamental tenets on which our democracy rests. The LWVC supports targeted and focused policy action to address gun violence and the damage it is doing to our children and our communities, and a constitutional convention is not the right approach.

“Opening a Constitutional Convention puts every right, civil liberty, and underlying value of our country at risk. There are no limits or guardrails to what can be changed during a Constitutional Convention and it opens the door to well-funded special interests buying access to change the Constitution to serve their purposes” said Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters of California.

The uncertainty surrounding the nature of a Constitutional Convention cannot be understated. Former Chief Justice Warren Burger once expressed concerns about the ambiguity and danger, noting, “[T]here is no way to effectively limit or muzzle the actions of a Constitutional Convention. The Convention could make its own rules and set its own agenda. Congress might try to limit the Convention to one amendment or one issue, but there is no way to assure that the Convention would obey. After a Convention is convened, it will be too late to stop the Convention if we don't like its agenda.”

Key concerns articulated by the LWVC include:

**Threat to National Stability:** Advocating for a Constitutional Convention plunges the nation into an era of unparalleled tension, uncertainty, and protracted legal battles that might irreversibly alter America's trajectory.

**Shift of Power from the People:** An Article V Convention would elevate the voices of politicians and special interests above those of ordinary people. Such a development could result in an unprecedented opportunity for the few to reshape the core principles of the country for the many.

**Unbridled Convention Agendas:** Historical precedents caution that a Constitutional Convention might not restrict itself to its original mandate and every right that we have as Californians and Americans would be placed at risk.

The LWVC calls on the legislature to reject this dangerous path forward. “California should not take this enormous risk with the rights of every person who lives in our state. We implore the legislature and every Californian to reject SJR 7 and continue working with communities to find

solutions to our challenges that do not put the very foundations of our state in peril,” added Stephanie Doute, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California.

For further inquiries or media engagements, please contact:

Kristy Oriol  
442-7215 koriol@lwvc.org Web-  
site: LWVC.org

**Here are two links to more background on this issue. First is from Common Cause, also opposed to the idea, and the second is from the governor's office explaining their purpose.:**

<https://www.commoncause.org/california/press-release/nonpartisan-group-blasts-gov-newsoms-plan-to-rewrite-constitution/>

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2023/08/14/governor-newsoms-right-to-safety-resolution-calling-for-a-constitutional-amendment-introduced-in-california-legislature/>

*Molly Cate*  
*LWVHC Social Policy Director*

**Below is a link to an interesting explanation of how risky a constitutional convention can be:**

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/newsom-constitution-convention-amendment-guns-18326696.php>

*Judy Bennett*  
*LWVHC Government Director*

## ***Calling All LWVHC Members to Take Action***

Dear League Members,

On p. 3 of this VOTER, **Judy Bennett** explains ways you can take action, including attending the Saturday, September 30 Membership Brunch ensuring that we have a quorum so we can make decisions. On the previous page and this page, you are urged to take action as individuals letting your representatives know that you want them to oppose Governor Newsome's call for a Constitutional Convention. On p. 6, you are called to volunteer to help with the LWVHC's booth at the North Country Fair on Saturday, September 16 and Sunday, September 17. On p. 7, you'll read how your LWVHC board is taking action with a letter to the Humboldt County Supervisors. On pgs. 8 and 9, you'll read about actions that have already been taken.

We appreciate all of you and all of your efforts, but we're not shy about asking you to Take Action!

*Sharolyn Hutton*  
*Jessica Schlacter*  
*LWVHC Co-Presidents*



## ***Sign-up to Register Voters at the North Country Fair***

Hi! Do you like reaching out to people and talking about the importance of registering to vote as well as the importance of actually voting? Are you enthusiastic about welcoming college students to our community and getting them set up to effectively cast their votes during the upcoming 2024 election season? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you!

Please sign up to work at the LWVHC booth at the North Country Fair on Saturday, September 16 and Sunday, September 17 on the Arcata Plaza. Here are the shifts we need to fill:

### **Saturday, 9/16**

8:30 Set up the booth (we need 3 or 4 people)  
We'll need two people for each shift below:  
9:30-12  
12-2  
2-4  
4-6

### **Sunday, 9/17**

We'll need two people for each shift below:  
9:30-12  
12-2  
2-4  
4-6  
6-? Take down the booth (we need 3 or 4 people)

If you are interested, please email **Anne Hartline** at [annehartline10@gmail.com](mailto:annehartline10@gmail.com) by September 11 at the very latest. Be sure to indicate which days and times are options for you. The more options you enter, the easier our scheduling job will be. We'll let you know your day/shift by Wednesday, September 13.

Just FYI: It's REALLY fun!

Thanks!

**Anne Hartline, Julie Kelly, and Peggy Syvertson**  
**LWVHC Voter Service Team**

## ***Fourth of July Festivals Voter Registration***

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who came out to set up or register voters at the LWVHC booths at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festivals in both Arcata and Eureka this year! While we didn't get a lot of completed registrations (it is an off-year in terms of elections), we did have ample opportunities to talk with people from all over the state about the importance of registering to vote, as well as give out information about LWVHC and what we do. AND it gave us lots of opportunities to show off how pleasant and friendly we are!

Special thanks to these volunteers (please forgive me if I've left anyone out!):

**Patricia-Anne and George Wintersun, Michelle Fell-Casale, Donna and Jim Clark, Sharolyn Hutton, Karen Suiker, Kathy Johansen, Kay Escarda, Janet Foos, Julie Kelly, Peggy Syvertson, Keith Kons, Wendy Harden, Connie Smith, Sharon King, Sylvia Shaw, Valerie Simons, and Cindy Humphry.**

Thank you, one and all! I appreciate you!

**Anne Hartline**  
**LWVHC Voter Service Director**





## League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

July 26, 2023

The Honorable Humboldt County Board of Supervisors:  
Rex Bohn, Michelle Bushnell, Mike Wilson, Natalie Arroyo and Steve Madrone (Chair)

825 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: AB 1416

Dear Supervisors,

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County writes to strongly support AB 1416, and would oppose any ordinance that would allow for the opting out of the state law (AB 1416), that would require a short list of the supporters and opponents of each local ballot measure to be shown on the ballot.

The League supports an informed, active electorate, and we believe that voters should be provided with relevant, accurate and easily understandable information about elections. The League strongly supported the 2021-2022 State Assembly Bill 1416 (AB 1416)<sup>1</sup> to give more information directly to voters and empower them to make better informed choices. AB 1416 was passed into law as Section 9170 of the California Elections Code.<sup>2</sup>

Educated and informed voters are the key to our democracy. A list of support and opposition on the ballot will provide Humboldt County voters with accessible and concise, yet salient information that can help them make more informed decisions.

Research shows that Californians support increased transparency on ballots. A poll by the nonpartisan Clean Money Campaign<sup>3</sup> before the November 2020 election found 79% of California voters want to know who supports and opposes ballot measures, but they're not confident they know this information or can find it easily. The poll also showed 75% of those voters favor adding a short list of supporters and opponents of each measure on the ballot itself-precisely what Section 9170 of the California Elections Code addresses.

While we appreciate that support and opposition may be listed in the Humboldt County Voter Information Pamphlet, this is not as accessible as having it listed on the ballot itself.

For these reasons and more, the League strongly opposes Humboldt County permanently opting out of Section 9170 of the California Elections Code.

Thank you for your public service, hearing our concerns, and the opportunity to speak about ways to ensure that Humboldt County voters have the information and confidence they need to participate in our democracy.

We are available to speak with you about these issues. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sharolyn Hutton  
Jessica Schlachter  
Co-Presidents  
League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

1. [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB1416](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1416)

2. [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=ELEC&sectionNum=9170](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=ELEC&sectionNum=9170).

3. [https://www.yesfairelections.org/content/pdf/ccmc\\_ab1416\\_twopager.pdf](https://www.yesfairelections.org/content/pdf/ccmc_ab1416_twopager.pdf)

## *Community Election News*

On July 12, the Bear River Tribal Council announced a Special Election to fill their At-Large Seat 3 Position due to a resignation. They asked the League to supervise this Special Election and to do so under changes to their Election Ordinance, which sets forth very specific and tight timelines for the mailings and counting of ballots. This will be a Mail-in Ballot only election, with the ballots counted on August 26, 2023. The Board approved an MOU with the tribe for this work.

I want to thank all the Leaguers who responded so quickly to my request for help to put together the first mailing on July 17: **Janine Randall, Molly Cate, Judy Bennett, Leslie Leach, Peg Gardner, and Karen Price.** I also want to thank **Brittany Gonzales**, Bear River administrative assistant, for all her fast work putting together the materials for the mailing and setting up the room for the stuffing work party. Kudos to the members of the Bear River Election Committee, **Jeffrey Leonard Bowman, Crystal Lynn Bowman, and Cassandra Jean Curr**, who helped Brittany with all the preparation and came with their energy and commitment to help put the mailing together. They stayed until the full mailing was ready to go into my car so I could deliver it to the Post Office in time to meet the mailing date in the Election Ordinance. Thank you, everyone, for making the work go quickly and efficiently.

Another big thank you goes to **Karen Price**, who took many notes and will be in charge of the Second Mailing on August 4, since I will be having hip replacement surgery on August 2. Some of the same helpers will be with her, as well as the Election Committee, so I know that the mailing will go well.

**Byrd Lochtie**  
*LWVHC Election Service Director*



“The job facing American voters... in the days and years to come is to determine which hearts, minds and souls command those qualities best suited to unify a country rather than further divide it, to heal the wounds of a nation as opposed to aggravate its injuries, and to secure for the next generation a legacy of choices based on informed awareness rather than one of reactions based on unknowing fear.”

— [Aberjhani](#), *Illuminated Corners: Collected Essays and Articles Volume I.*



## ***Bear River Special Election August 26, 2023***

After the First Notice of the Special Election was mailed to all Bear River Tribal members on July 17, three candidates sent in their Intent to run for the Member-at-Large Seat 3 on the Tribal Council by the July 31, 2023, deadline. Sixty-one voters requested the mail-in ballot for this mail-in only election.

Working quickly to meet the deadline to send the Second Notice that is required in the Election Ordinance, Bear River Executive Secretary **Brittany Gonzales** and Bear River Election Committee members **Cassandra Curr**, **Crystal Bowman**, **Jeffrey Bowman**, and **Valerie Robinson** teamed with League Members **Janine Randall**, **Peg Gardner**, **Karen Price** and **Molly Cate** to get the second mailing out not later than August 4. My special thanks to **Karen** for taking charge of the League's part since I had just returned home on the 3rd after getting a new hip.

Then on Saturday, August 12, two of the three candidates were available for a Candidate Forum that was live as well as available online for all Tribal Members to learn about the candidates. While the Bear River Election Committee was in charge of presenting the forum, a majority of the members felt they were too closely related to at least one of the candidates to be seen as completely unbiased as the moderator or question sorters for the forum. They asked the League to appoint other Leaguers for these positions.

**Anne Hartline** provided her usual excellent skills as the moderator. **Judy Bennett** so effectively mentored two new Question Sorters, **Janine Randall** and **Peggy Syvertson**, that they are now pros at sorting questions! Bear River Election Committee Members also contributed: **Cassandra Curr** introduced the forum and the moderator; **Crystal Bowman**, new to this role, was the timekeeper under the guidance of **Kay Escarda**; and **Jeffrey Bowman** was very effective as the usher, handing out cards and pens for written questions and then collecting them to give to the sorters. Bear River staff members **Brittany Gonzales**, Executive Administrator, and **Karla Ramirez**, Communications/Marketing Coordinator, used their organizing and technical skills to record the forum, provide it online for tribal members not able to be there in person, and retrieve any questions submitted via email.

Thanks to **Sharolyn Hutton** who is checking the League Election P. O. Box for Mail-In Ballots arriving during the weeks before I could start driving again. Sharolyn collects the ballots, date stamps them, and adds them to the locked box for safety. And thanks to **Karen Price**, **Janine Randall**, and **Peg Gardner** for agreeing to join me on August 26 to count the Mail-In Ballots that have come in by the deadline. EVERYONE contributes to making democracy work through fair and effective elections!

Check out the photo of all the people who made this such a very effective forum; the candidates answered about 25 questions on many topics from tribal members. The League is always happy to work with Bear River to ensure fair and effective elections. As always, I am so grateful to League members who quickly answer my calls for volunteers. Thanks to everyone for such good work!

**Byrd Lochtie**  
**LWVHC Election Service Director**

Bear River Candidate Forum , August 12, 2023

Seated: Candidates Rhoda Keisner and  
Derek Bowman  
Standing left to right: **Brittany Gonzales**,  
**Kay Escarda**, **Byrd Lochtie**, **Peggy Syvertson**,  
**Karla Ramirez**, **Janine Randall**, **Cassandra Curr**,  
**Anne Hartline**, **Judy Bennett**, **Crystal Bowman**,  
and **Jeffrey Bowman**



### **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**

627 3rd Street, Eureka, CA 95501  
P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502  
[www.lwvhc.org](http://www.lwvhc.org)  
[leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org](mailto:leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org)

(707) 444-9252

#### **Who's Who in Your 2023-2024 League Board**

- Co-Presidents.....Sharolyn Hutton,  
Jessica Schlachter
- Vice President.....Molly Cate
- Secretary.....Maggie Fleming
- Treasurer.....Michelle Vassel
- Program Director.....Molly Cate
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Director.....Molly Cate
- Government Director.....Judy Bennett
- Fairs Director.....Becky Simpson
- Access Humboldt Liaison.....Molly Cate
- Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
- Forum Director.....Anne Hartline
- Voter Service Director..... Anne Hartline
- Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
- Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- VOTER Editor.....Leslie Leach
- Community Education Director.....Karen Price
- Communications Director.....Vacant
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- Director.....Cindy Humphrey
- Director.....Bonnie Oliver
- Director.....Sylvia Shaw
- Director.....Peggy Syvertson





P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

## ***Get Involved!***

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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, 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, September 5  
5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting  
Two Street Art Lab,  
527 2nd Street, Eureka  
or on Zoom

Saturday, September 30  
10:30 a.m.

Membership Brunch  
Veterans Memorial  
Building  
10th and H Streets  
Eureka

LWVHC Webpage

Any Time!

LWVHC Twitter

Any Time!

LWVHC Instagram

Any Time!