

President's Message

The holiday season is upon us! Hope everyone's filled with joy and laughter as you're surrounded by those you love.

On November 21, LWVHC's **Peggy Syvertson** hosted a, very well attended, position discussion about Civic Engagement that included community guests Jim Glover and Larry Miller from the Human Rights Commission as well as the new Access Humboldt Executive Director, Christina Marie Jeffers.

Wrapping up our year means the annual LWVHC Holiday Party! This year I will be hosting it at my newly remodeled office (1930 Myrtle Ave, Eureka)! It will be a potluck where we ask you to bring either an appetizer, a salad, or a sweet to share. Festivities begin at 6 pm.

Please remember to bring your contribution to the Boys and Girls Club, our annual holiday fundraiser.

Looking forward to Happy New Year and, as always, thank you for your hard work and support.

Julie Kelly
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.

Save the Date!

LWVHC Holiday Party

Friday, December 13
6:00 p.m.

1930 Myrtle Ave.
Eureka

Julie Kelly's Office
Parking is

available across the
street at the Sacred
Heart Church.

Please bring an appetizer, a salad, or a sweet to share, and your choice of beverage.

The LWVHC will be accepting

donations for the tweens of the Boys and Girls Club of Eureka.

Please make checks out to the LWVHC or bring a gift.



Report on Official Board Actions from the Nov. 4, 2024 Meeting

At our November 4 meeting the Board acknowledged the following “official actions” which were online motions/Board majority votes between our October and November meetings:

New LWVHC representative to the Access Humboldt Board of Directors: Elaine Weinreb was accepted as the LWVHC designated member to the Access Humboldt Board of Directors in place of Molly Cate who is now serving as chair of the Access Humboldt Board.

Statement on Eureka’s Ballot Measure F:

The Board voted to approve and publish the following statement:

“Housing inadequacy is a serious problem in Eureka. The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County has serious concerns over Measure F. While we are a non-partisan organization, supporting neither candidates nor parties, we may advocate on issues which we have studied and reached consensus. Concerning this measure we reference our Housing Positions: We support measures to encourage the county and cities to adopt regulations, programs, and projects that will increase adequate, safe, and sanitary housing stock for all income people. We support preparation and implementation of the Housing Element on a timely basis. We encourage active and transparent citizen involvement in housing elements revisions.

The City of Eureka planned for adequate low-income units with robust public input in the development of their Housing Element, which now is certified by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) as required by law. Measure F would amend the Housing Element, which could leave Eureka short of California’s required number of housing units. This would put Eureka out of compliance with state law which in turn could subject the City of Eureka to litigation on several fronts.

The Overlay Zoning suggested in Measure F may not meet state law for minimum density requirements for low-income housing. In addition, the Jacobs property suggested to provide the required housing belongs to Eureka City Schools and is not under the control of the City of Eureka. Therefore, it cannot necessarily be depended upon to meet State requirements.

Revision and acceptance of a revised Housing Element could take years and have serious ramifications. It could delay housing development, does not guarantee housing will be built at the Jacobs’s site, puts Eureka at risk of litigation for non-compliance with State Housing Law, and could make project applications subject to the complicated Housing Accountability Act allowing builders to bypass the General Plan and local zoning regulations until a new Housing Element is approved.

Perhaps the most onerous is that if Measure F proves to be troublesome, revision can only be accomplished by another ballot measure to mitigate any deficiencies or unintended consequences.

Therefore, the League urges a no vote on Measure F.”

Bonnie Oliver
LWVHC Board Secretary

Editor’s note: Measure F did not pass.
2,868 or 30.34% of the votes were Yes.
6,586 or 69.66% of the votes were No.

Big Celebration at Access Humboldt!

History was being made! The festivities hosted by Access Humboldt on October 30 included more than the usual Annual Membership Meeting and a brief meet-and-greet.

On that memorable evening, we said a very fond farewell to Sean McLaughlin, founding executive director (ED) of Access Humboldt and gave a very enthusiastic welcome to the new ED, Christina Marie Jeffers.

Sean moved to Humboldt County from Hawaii 18 years ago to lead Access Humboldt, our county's public access Community Media Center. He shepherded the organization's growth in the public, education, and government sectors, the federal mandate of public access channels nationwide. He has long been a strong voice for equity and inclusion in local government meetings and in Internet access. As part of his send-off, the big gala on October 30 included bit of a "roast" of Sean hosted by League member Tracy Jordan French. Quite a few folks had funny reminiscences to share.

Christina Marie Jeffers comes to us from Access Sacramento where she was director of Development, Marketing, and Sales. She has a passion for community building, for media that matter, and for sharing diverse, compelling stories that enhance greater awareness of the breadth of creativity and wisdom to be found in our community.

Equity is key. Christina wrote in her application, "The more voices in the room, the better." In her years with Access Sacramento, she forged a strong collaborative focus on the arts and on digital media advocacy, both of which have contributed to a growing arts economy in Sacramento. A skilled creative and technical writer, producer, fundraiser, and specialist in brand development, Christina loves being the organization's public-facing person and is glad to be back in that role.

You may wonder why all this is included in the VOTER. The LWVHC has participated in the development of Access Humboldt from the beginning. The very make-up of the Access Humboldt Board of Directors reflects an emphasis on inclusion, with seats designated for a variety of local entities and organizations, the League being one of them.

That leads me to one more bit of Access Humboldt news worth sharing here. At the Annual Membership Meeting that began the October 30 event, League member Elaine Weinreb was welcomed back as the designated LWVHC member on the Access Humboldt board. Elaine served in that capacity before 2019, and we are fortunate to have her back in that position.

Welcome Christina and Elaine!

Molly Cate
LWVHC Program Director



Final Voter Service Article for the 2024 Election Cycle!

The November 2024 General Election is **over, and regardless of how you feel overall about the results, there is so much that LWVHC can feel proud of!** The LWVC sent a Voter Service survey to us that I just completed for the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County, and I decided that, for this final election article, I will share my responses. I wrote about many of these activities previously, but this seems like a pretty good summary. I hope I haven't left anything important out.

I was asked to list three goals, activities, and outcomes, as well as challenges and accomplishments. I'll paste below what I wrote.

NOTE: I'll add a few extra comments for LWVHC members here in *italics*.

Goal #1

Increase overall voter registration and election knowledge amongst all local citizens, with younger voters as a specific target group.

Activities to Achieve Goal #1

Staffed information/voter registration booths at two day-long July 4th Community Fairs in major locations in our county.

Staffed an information/voter registration booth at the two-day North Country Fair, an event in mid-September, which especially involves our local college students.

Staffed a voter registration table at a welcoming potluck event for students attending our local state university and our local community college.

Registered voters at two local high schools in both February and September.

Registered voters at a local California Conservation Corps (CCC) residential facility team meeting.

Registered voters at our local state university on National Voter Registration Day (September 17) and at an election trivia night event hosted by the university.

Distributed 500 Easy Voter Guides to local branch libraries, the university library, local high schools, and numerous community groups.

Outcomes/Results Toward Goal #1

Overall, we registered or re-registered (changes of address) approximately 350 local voters, the vast majority of whom were between the ages of 18 and 30.

Goal #2:

Educate voters on the ten CA Propositions, as well as two especially controversial local ballot measures.

Activities to Achieve Goal #2

Prepared and presented a 1.5-hour class for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) class titled "Pros and Cons of Statewide Ballot Measures in November" that included information about all ten CA Propositions as well as two of Humboldt County's 13 Ballot Measures. ***YAY Karen Price! You and your team did an amazing job on this particularly challenging task!*** Note: We partnered here with Cal Poly Humboldt, did our own research on the two local measures, and drew in expertise from both Humboldt County and Eureka City government staff.

Printed and distributed 300 Pros and Cons documents to local branch libraries, the university library, local high schools, and numerous community groups. Shared digital copies with CR to print for students.

Presented information about the ten CA State Propositions to five local high school classrooms who then analyzed and took positions on CA State Propositions.

Outcomes/Results Toward Goal #2

We had 90 attendees on our webinar/OLLI class. ***WOOHOO! AMAZING!*** In addition, the session was recorded and made available 24/7 to anyone interested on the OLLI website.

Final Voter Service Article for the 2024 Election Cycle! (continued)

Approximately 125 local high school students analyzed CA propositions and took stands, with evidence and rationales, on at least five of those propositions.

Goal #3

Conduct candidate forums as needed.

Activities to Achieve Goal #3

For the November election, we conducted three candidate forums for local races.

A service organization in the community of Blue Lake (one of eight small cities in Humboldt County) requested that we conduct a community forum for candidates running for Blue Lake City Council. Five of the seven candidates running were able to attend.

We also conducted two candidate forums that were shown live on our local PBS television station, KEET TV, and recorded and streamed on YouTube and Access Humboldt.

The first forum was for Eureka City Council, and all four of the candidates for two positions participated.

The second forum was for the two candidates running for Second District State Assembly, and both candidates were present. Since neither candidate lives in Humboldt County, we felt this was quite an achievement. *Yay! This felt really good!!!*

Outcomes/Results Toward Goal #3

The candidate forum in the city of Blue Lake was well attended, with over 50 community members crowded into the local grange to hear the views of the candidates. Many questions were asked by audience members (screened, of course, by League members.)

While it is impossible to know how many people watched the candidate forums on PBS/KEET TV, advertising was done by both LWVHC and KEET TV. We did get some questions phoned in from the viewing public.

Additionally, the fact that the forum for Second District State Assembly took place AND that both candidates were present was quite an achievement.

Please describe the greatest challenge you faced in achieving any of your goals.

Our greatest challenge for the 2024 November election came with VOTE411. The VOTE411 team, notably Sharon Stone, was extremely helpful and offered many training opportunities and support. However, getting our local candidates to enter their information onto the site was extremely challenging. In the end, after much effort on the League's part, we had about 40% candidate participation, which is abysmal.

Please describe the accomplishment in the November general election that your League is most proud of. This is a great place to brag about your work!

Three things stand out for me:

Registering a total of approximately 350 local voters, the vast majority of whom were between the ages of 18 and 30, was a major accomplishment. Additionally, having League members reaching out to so many sectors of our community (high schools, university, CCC, local fairs, etc.) really helped to spread the word about League and what we do.

The Pros and Cons class for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) class titled "Pros and Cons of Statewide Ballot Measures in November" that included information about all ten CA Propositions as well as two of Humboldt County's 13 Ballot Measures, required the intense work of multiple League members. *Yay Karen!* The fact that we had 90 attendees on our live webinar/OLLI class, with countless additional views of the recording on the OLLI website, was a real accomplishment.

Final Voter Service Article for the 2024 Election Cycle! (continued)

The "Official Humboldt County Voter Information Guide" prominently listed VOTE411 as a resource for election related information. ***YAY! Thank you, Juan, and your amazing Humboldt County Election team! You are all wonderful!***

So, there you have it! The bottom line here is – **NONE OF THIS COULD HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT THE HARD WORK AND PARTICIPATION OF MANY LWVHC MEMBERS.** I can't list you all, but hopefully you know who are and that you are greatly appreciated! It has been fantastic working with all of you!

Signing off for now,

Anne Hartline
LWVHC Voter Service Director



Thinking about the Future Now

I am looking for a League member (or members) to assist me for the next **Avenue of the Giants Marathon on May 4, 2025**. It's always run on the first Sunday in May. I want to train someone to take over the station for 2026. There's really not a lot to do. The runner's club provides all of the supplies, and we provide the volunteer staff.

I will have chaired the aid station some 60+ times by then. I love going out to the redwoods after a long winter, seeing the sun come through the trees, knowing the runners appreciate our help and adding \$500 or so to the League coffers! What's not to like? I will be glad to help, but I will be 89 next year and 90 (fingers crossed) by 2026, so it's time to pass the baton! It's easier to ease into it rather than jump in at the last minute. So, who will step up? Call me and let's talk.
707-442-7495.

Kay Escarda
LWVHC Avenue of the Giants Marathon Chair
707-442-7495.

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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(707) 444-9252

Who's Who in Your 2024-2025 League Board

- President.....Julie Kelly
- Vice President.....Molly Cate
- Secretary.....Bonnie Oliver
- Treasurer.....Michelle Vassel
- Program Director.....Molly Cate
- Natural Resources Director.....Cindy Humphry
- Social Policy Director.....Sylvia Shaw
- Government Director.....Peggy Syvertson
- 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.....Jessica Schlachter
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- Website Director.....Leslie Leach
- Director.....Kathy Johanson





P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

Get Involved!

We all have unique skills to contribute and limited time. 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 of Humboldt County (LWVHC), in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to membership nor participation in the LWVHC on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, economic status, or political affiliation. LWVHC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVHC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of the community in its membership, Board, and programs. Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be accepted within the League, including but not limited to race, socio-economic status, age, ability status, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, or marital status. The League is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging for all people. The League is an organization that respects and values the richness of our community and our members. The collective sum of our individual differences and life experiences represents not only our culture, but our reputation and the organization's mission and achievements as well.

LWVHC Calendar

Friday, December 13 5:30 p.m.	Board Meeting in person only at 1930 Myrtle Ave. Eureka, CA
Friday, December 13 6:00 p.m.	LWVHC Holiday Holiday Party Please see p. 1 for details.
Anytime	LWVHC Webpage LWVHC Instagram LWVHC X