

A Big Shout-Out to Our Amazing Election Dept.

On the morning of October 18th, over 40 (closer to 50) Humboldters answered the call from the Election Department for part-time temporary workers to help with processing mailed-in ballots. The Election Department had already checked the signatures on the mailed-in envelopes, and the cutter had slit the envelopes. The assembled workers then opened each envelope, removed the ballot, and straightened the ballot so that it would go through the machine easily. A second person then checked every ballot for any personal remarks on the ballot or any damage that might make it unreadable. All this was very carefully recorded, with each worker signing for each group of ballots he/she checks.

I did this same work last year, and I want to congratulate **Juan Pablo Cervantes**, Registrar of Voters, Nicole Goldbach, Elections Manager, and their dedicated staff for all the work they have done to make this year's ballot processing so much easier. They listened to all suggestions from last year and have developed an amazingly effective and efficient way of directing the traffic as so many people were lining up to have their work recorded.

Peggy Syvertson was also there, and together we had a chance to congratulate **Juan Pablo** in person, and to get his permission to let you all know what a great Elections Department we have in Humboldt County. You, too, can be an election worker. Just sign up at the Elections Office! Be a part of the most amazing Elections Office in California!

Byrd Lochtie
LWVHC Election Service Director

Save the Date!

LWVHC Holiday Party

***Tuesday, December 9
6:00 p.m.***

***Tess Coffman's home
1698 Bella Vista Road
McKinleyville***

***Please bring "finger food" to
share and your choice of
beverage.***

***The LWVHC will be
accepting
donations for the
tweens of the Boys and Girls
Club of Eureka.***



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.

Report on Official Board Actions at the November 11, 2025 Meeting

At our November 11 meeting ,the L WVHC Board took following “official action”:

Board Appointment:

It was moved/seconded and passed unanimously that Board President Julie Kelly appoint Suzanne McClurkin-Nelson to the Board for a one-year term (the remainder of this term). Suzanne has a background in Environmental Consulting and is interested in helping with our Natural Resources positions.

Bonnie Oliver
L WVHC Board Secretary

Letter from the L WVHC to the Editor of the North Coast Journal

The League of Women Voters Humboldt County commends the successful collaboration between the Sheriff's Office and the county Elections Office, as reported in the North Coast Journal's summary of the 2024-25 Grand Jury findings. HCCF staff reports that 72 inmates voted in 2024, 46 voted in 2025 and that this effort will continue in the future.

This is a validation of our incarcerated citizens' inherent worth as members of our community.

The League would also like to thank the citizens on the Grand Jury for their hard work and sacrifice in fulfilling their mandate to oversee our local community institutions and services. We encourage all citizens to read the full report on the county website.

Claire Eyton
L WVHC Government Director

An Improvement to the L WVHC Website

On the L WVHC website, you may now join the local League or renew your membership.

Here is the link: <https://my.lwv.org/california/humboldt-county>

Becky Simpson
L WVHC Membership Director



**Welcome New/Returning
Member**

Kathleen Rose Hughes

November Membership Meeting: Abolishing the Electoral College

Abolishing the Electoral College was the topic of the November membership meeting. **Anne Hartline**, a long-time member of the League presented this informative talk to 20 members. The League has a long-standing position to abolish the Electoral College first approved in 1970, with an update in 2010.

Anne presented a history of the Electoral College, created by the framers of the Constitution to limit the potential for corruption and the concentration of power. At the time, slow communication and long distances were impediments to the voting process. These issues are not as relevant today.

Anne then presented some Myth Busters that affect people's understanding of the Electoral College today:

Myth-Without the Electoral College, our presidents would all be chosen by a couple of big states like California, New York, and Texas.

Fact-Direct election by popular vote would ensure that every person is equally represented, regardless of where they live.

Myth-Smaller, less populated states need the protection of the Electoral College to ensure their interests are represented by the President.

Fact-There is no coherent "small state" or "large state" interest that needs protecting by the Electoral College. Even the smallest state has substantial diversity within it, and it is a fallacy to suggest that when a state goes "red" or "blue," that represents the interests of the entire state.

Myth-The Electoral College protects the rights of the minority from the tyranny of the majority.

Fact-Protecting minority rights is a critical part of democratic societies, and the Founding Fathers designed our government accordingly. As a result, two of our three branches of government were designed to ensure the protection of minority rights. The first is the courts. Their role is to ensure the constitutional rights of the individual, regardless of the opinion of the majority of citizens. The second is the Senate, in which every state, regardless of population size, gets two representatives. This ensures that a state such as Wyoming, with a small population, has equal representation with a state with a large population, such as New York.

Myth-Abolishing the Electoral College will mostly benefit Democratic candidates.

Fact-Modern analyses indicate this is not true: abolishing the Electoral College is a non-partisan issue. One person/one vote would mean that every vote counts.

The League of Women Voters supports a Constitutional Amendment to replace the Electoral College with direct election of the President. Our first step is to contact our legislators and urge them to re-introduce and co-sponsor an amendment to change the Constitution. But given that a change to the Constitution is a long arduous process, a work around called the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact was introduced and it would guarantee the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia would be elected President. Information about this compact and how to support its passage is on the League Website.

Great talk Anne, and thank you for presenting this important position.

Peggy Syvertson
LWVHC Program Director

Access Humboldt Giving Tuesday Fundraiser: December 2

As with many non-profits, money to accomplish agency goals is always needed. When public access TV was first set up in the 1970s by the federal government, the primary funding source was a small percentage of profits from cable TV. However, far fewer people have cable TV now that more are using streaming services. The streaming services do not have to pay any fee in support of public access TV. This means that the funding source for Public Access TV, radio, and podcast services have decreased.

Access Humboldt is participating in the Day of Giving on December 2. I had hoped to have my own donation page set up for you to make contributions, but alas, it has proven too complicated for this year! But Molly Cate, a League member and former LWVHC board member has a page that you can use to donate to Access Humboldt's Giving Tuesday fundraiser: <https://mtyc.co/lknidg>

Access Humboldt provides coverage of city and county meetings, educational programming from local schools, and community stories told authentically by the people who live them daily. Definitely something to support!

As you may have heard, College of the Redwoods is cancelling the lease for Access Humboldt by May 31, due to seismic issues with the building. In the meantime, Access Humboldt has been busy looking around Humboldt County to find a suitable venue that can be useful for years. Keep your fingers crossed that they find an ideal venue

Janet Foos
LWVHC Access Humboldt Liaison

Save the Date!

The poster features the LWV League of Women Voters of Humboldt County logo at the top left. Below it, the text "PINTS FOR NONPROFITS" is written in a large, bold, yellow font with a black outline, slanted upwards. To the right of this text is the Six Rivers Brewery logo, which includes a stylized "R" and the text "SIX RIVERS BREWERY" and "SMALL BATCH CRAFT BEER • RESTAURANT". Below the main text, the date "Wednesday, January 14, 2026" is written in a large, black font. At the bottom left, the text "Sip, support, and make your voice heard!" is written in a bold, black font. Below this, a paragraph of text reads: "Join the LWVHC at Six Rivers Brewery for Pints for Nonprofits—register to vote, grab some swag, and enjoy a beer for democracy!". At the bottom right, there is an illustration of two beer mugs clinking together, with foam spraying out. At the very bottom, a line of text states: "\$1 from every pint sold be donated to the LWVHC".

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY

**PINTS FOR
NONPROFITS**

**SIX RIVERS
BREWERY**
SMALL BATCH CRAFT BEER • RESTAURANT

Wednesday,
January 14, 2026

Sip, support, and make your voice heard!

Join the LWVHC at Six Rivers Brewery for Pints for Nonprofits—register to vote, grab some swag, and enjoy a beer for democracy!

\$1 from every pint sold be donated to the LWVHC

The Season of Giving

Giving Tuesday may be over already. However, after giving thanks at Thanksgiving, I like to think that we enter the season of giving. You may be thinking that we should give all year, and I would not dispute that. However, our society has embraced Giving Tuesday and that one day can be just the beginning of contributing to those organizations that we care about.

On December 13, the LWWHC moderated a panel of representatives from various local nonprofits. Each of the representatives had a few minutes to explain how their nonprofits have been affected by federal funding cuts. They also said that the effects on one non-profits often causes unintended effects on other nonprofits. What struck me is that instead of losing hope, the non-profits were making the most of what is quite a grim situation. They continue to do their best to help those they have been serving. But they do need financial support.

In the October Voter, the “Report on Official Board Actions” included League donations to KEET TV and to Access Humboldt. Here is an excerpt from a letter of thanks to the League from KEET TV: “Now, as Keet faces the most challenging, pivotal moment in our shared journey with the loss of crucial federal funding (nearly 50% of our annual budget), we are heartened to know that we will not face it alone. While we face difficult choices in the months to come, your support-which is so incredibly vital-tells us that public broadcasting is still important to our Redwood Coast community.” Again, that voice of hope and resilience rings true.

In a few of the articles in this edition of the VOTER, you’ll see more appeals for support for nonprofits including one in January for the LWWHC : Pints for Nonprofits.

In this season of giving, please choose one or more local nonprofits whose work you admire and give them your support. You’ll also be supporting a strong and generous community.

Leslie Leach
LWWHC VOTER Editor

Show your support in style!

The LWWHC is offering its first-ever merch: sturdy, reusable tote bags perfect for errands, events, and everyday use. 17” wide, 15” tall, with a zipper closure at top and interior zippered pocket for just \$15!

They can be purchased at our Pints for Nonprofits at Six Rivers Brewery in January or at the annual meeting in June.

Jessica Schlechter
LWWHC Communications Director



League of Women Voters Humboldt County 2025-2026 Calendar

Please Note: Board meetings will be hybrid and will take place at United Congregational Christian Church (UCCC), 900 Hodgson Street, Eureka on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 5:30-7:00pm. Membership meetings will be on Zoom, generally on the 3rd Thursday of the month, beginning at 6:30pm. Membership Meeting topics shown here may change.

July 2025 <u>Board Meeting:</u> Board Retreat, 7/26	January 2026 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 1/13, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 1/22, 6:30 pm. Zoom Topic: LWVUS Program Planning
August 2025 No LWVHC meetings this month	February 2026 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 2/10, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 2/19, 6:30 pm, Zoom Topic: Education Position Update
September 2025 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 9/9, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom <u>North Country Fair:</u> 9/20 & 9/21, Arcata Plaza <u>Membership Brunch:</u> 9/27, 10 am-12 pm, Arcata Lutheran Church, 151 E 16th St., Arcata	March 2026 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 3/10, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom <u>Sunshine Week:</u> 3/16-3/20 <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 3/26, 6:30 pm, Zoom Topic: Civil Grand Jury System Position Update
October 2025 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 10/14, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 10/16, 6:30 pm, Zoom Topic: Fact Checking in the Digital Age	April 2026 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 4/14, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 4/16, 6:30 pm, Zoom Topic: Local Program Planning <u>SOCL:</u> 4/10
November 2024 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 11/11, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom Note: this is Veteran's Day <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 11/13, 6:30 pm, Zoom Topic: Abolishing the Electoral College	May 2026 <u>Avenue of the Giants:</u> 5/3 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 5/12, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom
December 2025 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 12/9, 5-6 pm, Tess Coffman's home <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 12/9, 6 pm , Holiday Party, Tess Coffman's home	June 2026 <u>Annual Meeting:</u> 6/2, 6 pm, Location TBA <u>Board Meeting:</u> 6/9, 5:30 pm, Tess Coffman's home

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.

Your membership will be good for 1 year from the date you pay your dues.

Visit www.LWVHC.org or mail the form below!

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

A single individual member payment of \$75 is suggested, but you can pay less if you wish, with a minimum of \$20 per member.

I am enclosing payment for my annual membership renewal:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

email _____



The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502

www.lwvhc.org

leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org

(707) 444-9252

Who's Who in Your 2025-2026 League Board

President.....Julie Kelly
Vice President.....Peggy Syvertson
Secretary.....Bonnie Oliver
Treasurer.....Tess Coffman
Program Director.....Peggy Syvertson
Natural Resources Director.....Vacant
Social Policy Director.....Corinne Frugoni
Government Directors.....Kathy Johanson
and Claire Eyton
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.....Anne Wasson
Communications Director.....Jessica Schlachter
Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
Website Director.....Leslie Leach
Access Humboldt Liaison.....Janet Foos
SOCL Publicity Chair and Board Liaison....Anne
Wasson
Director.....Karen Price





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

Tuesday, December 9 5:00-6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting In person only. 1698 Bella Vista Rd. McKinleyville
Tuesday, December 9 6:00 p.m.	LLWVHC Holiday Party Please see p. 1 for details 1698 Bella Vista Rd. McKinleyville
Anytime	LWVHC Webpage LWVHC Instagram LWVHC X Bluesky @lwvhc.bsky.social