

## *President's Message*

Hello everyone! I hope everyone had a peaceful holiday season and is ready to take on the new year. As normal for January, it's been a slow month for the League.

On January 20, **Leslie Leach** hosted a very informative membership meeting on Land Use, with guest Caroline Griffith, Executive Director of the North-coast Environmental Center. Thank you for organizing such a great meeting, Leslie, and thank you to all the members who attended!

Our upcoming board meeting on February 1 will be an abbreviated one, immediately followed by a membership meeting hosted by **Molly Cate**. Keep an eye on your email for more information! And on February 17 at 7 p.m., **Sylvia Shaw**, **Kay Escarda**, and **Bonnie Oliver** will host a second membership meeting on Housing to review the current Housing position. See page 4 of this VOTER for details.

**Sharrone Blanck** and I will join forces with the Marin, Mendocino, and Sonoma Leagues on January 27 to interview State Senator Mike McGuire as part of the League's annual legislative interviews. In February we'll be meeting with State Assembly Member Jim Wood. I really enjoy the opportunity to work together with other nearby Leagues to touch base with our representatives in the state legislature -- it's always a fascinating and informative time!

With the new COVID variant tearing through the community, stay safe! I've upgraded my much-loved cloth masks to a KF94 and my husband and I are being ever vigilant about frequent hand washing. Let's hope there's an end in sight!

*Jessica Schlachter*  
*LWVHC Co-President*

### In Memorium

The League mourns the death of long-time member, Carol Masterson, who left us on January 25, 2022.

## *Human Rights Survey*

Ellen Murphy is an intern working with the Human Rights Commission as part of her Masters program. She has asked Commissioners to send the information out to as many people as possible so that the Commission gets a good number of surveys back. The surveys will be used by the Commission to determine if there are policies about human rights in Humboldt County that we need to recommend to the Board of Supervisors.

From: Ellen L Murphy <emurphy@humboldt.edu>  
Date: Thu, Jan 13, 2022, at 7:17 P.M.  
Subject: Human Rights Survey

Here are the links to the survey, for both adults and teenagers.  
Ellen Murphy

Here is a link to the survey (as of now we have 165 responses)  
<https://forms.gle/XPBWRmWpAtT6xMyx5>

Here is the link to the survey ages 14-18  
<https://forms.gle/oxKSTs1w4X2k4rTr5>

*Byrd Lochtie*  
*LWVHC Election Service Director*

## *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.

## *Election Service*

For a number of years, our League has been working with the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria as their appointed Election Board. We have prepared all documents, arranged all mailings, sent out notices, collected Mailed-In Ballots in our P. O. Box, conducted the election at the Community Center, verified and counted all the ballots, and sent in the necessary reports.

In 2020, for the last regular election, we had done all the preparation and the mailings before Covid-19 shut everything down. I was not willing to ask my crew, many of them older people, to sit in the Center to conduct the election, even with masks. I consulted with the Bear River Election Committee, appointed by the Tribal Council to help the League/Election Board as needed. (The Tribal Council pays for LWVHC memberships for the members of this committee.) Members of the Election Committee and the Bear River staff agreed that they could set up a socially distanced election in the Community Center, and provide a safe and sanitary room with a window for League members to observe the election. We provided observers, and then League members counted the ballots.

The restrictions of the pandemic actually served to help the Tribe begin to take more responsibility for their elections, while retaining consulting from the League to maintain fair elections for Bear River. Now, with a new election scheduled for March 26, 2022, we have signed a new MOU. We will be consulting with the Election Committee so that they can take on more of the work to conduct the election. They will be preparing the announcements and documents, preparing and mailing the election packets, and setting up and staffing the actual election on the 26th. The League will again provide consultation, proof-reading and additional help as needed throughout the process. The League will also provide observers for the election, will collect Mailed-In Ballots in our P. O. Box, and will verify signatures and count all the ballots. This will help the members of the Tribe take more responsibility for their election, while still retaining the trust in the results counted by a neutral party.

So, I will not be holding the mailing preparation parties as in the past, and I will not be asking for volunteers to staff the election on the polling day. But I will be asking for you to be an observer for a couple of hours on Saturday, March 26, 2022, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., or to count ballots when the polls close. Watch for an email to sign up for one of the time slots! And THANKS!

*Byrd Lochtie*  
*LWVHC Election Service Director*



## **LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

One year ago today, the world moved both in slow motion and hyperspeed all at once. I woke up, planning to watch the certification of the election for the first time in my life. I had never watched it before, as it seemed so routine, so mundane -- a procedural necessity. But last year, it felt important. The world was too shaky, too uncertain, and too many things that I had accepted as impossibilities had already happened. I needed to see it with my own eyes -- it didn't feel like a foregone conclusion.

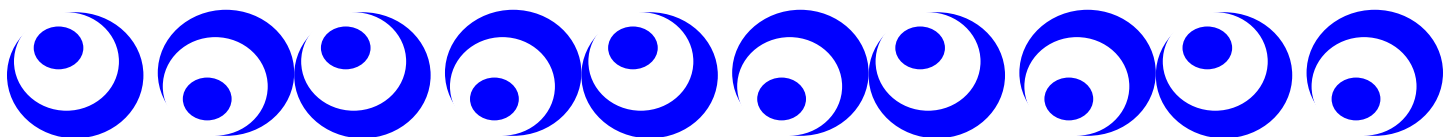
And then there were insurrectionists. And outrage. And violence. Up was down. Down was up. Everything seemed to move so fast, and at the same time, it was all so surreal, it seemed to move so slowly. Our staff at the League paused all of our planned work, and virtually watched the events unfold together, holding space for one another to process what was unraveling at the Capitol. You see, we are here -- everyday -- from the time we wake up, to the time we go to sleep at night, thinking about and fighting for our democracy and for voters. But that day, one year ago, we watched as cracks emerged in the foundation of the things all of us at the League work hardest for and care about so deeply. We watched the context of the world shift. We sat in disbelief, wondering how this was reality.

My email had sporadic notes of shock from League members. My texts were eerily silent, with the occasional "What? Is this really happening?" as we all watched and tried to grapple with what we were seeing. And we all know the next chapter. The vote was certified, and our elected President and Vice President were sworn into office. Many of us exhaled a deep, existential breath we didn't even know we had been holding when we saw the orderly transition of power with the inauguration. Our democracy and democratic systems had endured the greatest immediate threat of most of our lifetimes.

And nothing has been the same since then. That day was not a period at the end of the sentence, but a comma -- a brief breath -- leading us to the next stages of saving our democracy. We are all fighting, together, for fair voting rights and fair electoral districts across California and the country. We are fighting to fix the cracks we saw form in our democracy -- and every single person in the League helps bring that change. You show up in the ways that you can. In your conversations, your financial support, your volunteer work, your community engagement -- we are all in this together. From pushing advancement of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the Freedom to Vote Act, to advancing safe election access in California by permanently providing mail ballots to all California voters, together, we are on the front lines of preserving our democracy.

That's what gives me hope. On this day, the one year anniversary of the January 6 insurrection, I honor and celebrate League members across California. Your strength, tenacity, and dedication to our democracy and to voters reminds me every day that we are stronger together. That things worth having are worth fighting for. There are good people everywhere coming together to do what needs to be done to save our democracy. So, on the anniversary of a dark day in our history, thank you for your light. For shining as a beacon of hope, justice, and better days to come. I am proud to lead with you and stand alongside you in this work.

***Stephanie Doute,***  
***Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California***



## ***Land Use Planning Meeting***

As part of our local Program Planning process, determined at the 2021 Annual Meeting, January was the time scheduled to review the LWVHC position on Land Use Planning from the Natural Resources portfolio. To that end, **Leslie Leach**, Natural Resources Director, put together a GREAT meeting on January 20. On that evening, seventeen Leaguers gathered on Zoom to discuss and review our position with expert analysis from Caroline Griffith, Northcoast Environmental Center Executive Director. Before the meeting, Ms. Griffith had taken the time to closely review our Land Use Planning Position Summary and the individual Positions, and she proved to be extremely informative and insightful on this topic. She had even prepared some suggested edits to our position, something that was quite valuable to this League secretary.

Since the original position was written in 1973 (and reviewed/modified in 1999, 2000, and 2012), there were many aspects of current land use planning that were not specifically addressed in the position, most notably impacts of climate change, energy-efficient guidelines for new development, and diverse agricultural operations. After a lively discussion, it was determined that a committee should be formed to revise some wording in the position. A committee was then formed consisting of **Leslie Leach, Anne Hartline, Byrd Lochtie, Deborah Downs, and Gina Rogers**. The committee will meet and develop some proposed specific wording changes, all of which will be presented to the LWVHC membership at the March 17 Membership meeting.

Special thanks go out to Leslie Leach for arranging this valuable and interesting meeting, and to Caroline Griffith for her time and expertise, as well as to the seventeen Leaguers in attendance! Reviewing positions is important League work which helps us to be sure that our positions are up to date, thorough, and able to support League advocacy and education.

*Anne Hartline*  
*LWVHC Secretary*

## ***Second Housing Position Review Meeting***

What is the role of local government in solving Humboldt's housing crisis?

Join the Zoom membership meeting on **Thursday, February 17, 7 p.m.**, to hear what the City of Eureka and Humboldt County Planning Departments are working on to promote innovative housing solutions. The purpose of this second membership meeting on Housing is to inspire us to seek current information to update our local Housing Position. We need to have a relevant, current position that we can use for advocacy about housing policy and projects.

The first housing membership meeting in November featured LWVHC members in the know about local housing issues and what has changed in the last ten years since our position was adopted. Please read the Housing position in the Annual Meeting booklet and/or bring it with you to the 2/17 meeting. The Housing position can also be accessed at the following link:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/humboldt-county/position/social-policy-housing-1975-1983-2012>

After you have a chance to ask questions of our speakers, our committee will ask you to express your thoughts on how our position can be updated to reflect the current reality. The committee will take your thoughts away from the meeting to digest into an updated position statement draft to go before the Board and 2022 Annual Meeting.

*Sylvia Shaw*  
*LWVHC Social Policy Director*  
*Kay Escarda, Bonnie Oliver*  
*LWVHC Members*

### **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) [vote@lwvhc.org](mailto:vote@lwvhc.org)  
(707) 444-9252

#### **Who's Who in Your 2021-2022 League Board**

- Co-Presidents.....Sharolyn Hutton/  
Jessica Schlachter
- Vice President.....Molly Cate
- Secretary.....Anne Hartline
- Treasurer.....Nancy Kay
- Program Director.....Molly Cate
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Directors.....Molly Cate/  
Amy Moffat/Sylvia Shaw
- Government Directors.....Sharrone Blanck/  
Karen Price
- Fairs Director.....Becky Simpson
- 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 Co-Editors....Dave Rosso/Leslie Leach
- Community Education Directors.....Nancy Kay/  
Amy Moffat
- Communications Director.....Deborah Downs
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- Director.....Eddie Morgan





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, February 1 6 p.m.	Board Meeting and Membership Meeting
Thursday, February 17 7 p.m.	Membership Meeting
LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!
LWCHC Instagram	Any Time!