

### *President's Message*

Hello League Members,

In June, the board set August 13, 2022 for our board retreat. It will either be a hybrid meeting with in-person attendance at our space with Ink People or it will continue to be on zoom. The date of our fall Membership Meeting will be confirmed at the retreat. Our coming fall will be busy with the elections and providing information about the various propositions. Your help will be much appreciated.

**Jessica Schlachter** and I were in-person attendees at the LWV Biennial in Denver, and **Anne Hartline** and **Julie Kelly** attended virtually at this first-ever LWV hybrid convention. Each of us has written about our experiences there elsewhere in this VOTER.

On behalf of the board, Jessica and I sent thank you notes to Congressman Huffman, Congressman Thompson, and State Senator McGuire for their opposition to the "Coal Train."

Your board is looking forward to another productive year in 2022-2023! Join us in making democracy work!

**Sharolyn Hutton**  
*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.

### *Make Democracy Work*

Help Register Voters!

The North Country Fair will be held September 17 and 18 on the Arcata Plaza, a perfect time to register voters for the upcoming November election.

We are looking for volunteers to host the table at the fair in two-hour increments each day. If you would like an opportunity to see the fair, register voters, meet people, and talk about the League, then let **Deborah Downs** know and she will find the right slot for you.

Reach out to Deborah either at [lwvbrh@gmail.com](mailto:lwvbrh@gmail.com) or call 707-498-3810.

Enjoy the fair and help people understand how to register to vote.



Dressed for the occasion are Alissa and **Anne Hartline** at the Jefferson Community Center polling place on June 7, 2022.

## *News You Can Use from the LWVUS 2022 Convention*

The 55th National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) took place in Denver, CO, and online June 23 – 26. Dr. Deborah Ann Turner was [re-elected as the LWVUS board president](#) for the next biennium, in addition to a [new national board of directors](#).

League members conducted important business during Convention, and this page provides a summary of that business and the impact it will have on our work ahead in the next biennium.

### **Campaign for Making Democracy Work®**

The Campaign for [Making Democracy Work®](#) was adopted for the new biennium and amended to add language around the ‘election of the president by popular vote.’ [In Dr. Turner's Convention remarks](#), she announced the League's next "moonshot" goal: abolition of the Electoral College. LWVUS will be making a significant financial investment to begin building out this work during the coming fiscal year. We are at the very beginning stages of this work. We know we have a busy fall ahead of us, so LWVUS plans to further engage Leagues in this work [after the midterm elections](#).

- Language of the adopted motion: I move to adopt the proposed LWVUS program for 2022 – 2024: Campaign for Making Democracy Work®: ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics and Redistricting.”

Amended to include: to elevate the ‘direct election of the President by popular vote’ as a prominent, listed component of ‘Making Democracy Work.’ This motion includes both National Vote Interstate Compact and the Abolishment of the Electoral College by Constitutional Amendment.”

### **ERA Added to LWVUS Program**

Delegates voted to add Equal Rights Amendment to the LWVUS program so that resources and focus can be used to accomplish its passage and further our mission. This will be a continuation of the work we are already doing on the ERA.

Language of the adopted motion: I move that the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) be added to the LWVUS program so that resources and focus be used to accomplish its passage and further our mission.

### **New and Updated Policy Positions**

Delegates voted to retain all current positions and adopted two new positions by concurrence (Criminal Justice and Digital Equity) and updated a third position by concurrence (Health Care) These will be published in the 2022 – 2024 edition of Impact on Issues before the end of the calendar year.

#### • **Criminal Justice Position Adopted**

o Language of the motion: The League of Women Voters of the United States moves to adopt a concurrence with LWV of California’s Criminal Justice position.

o Position: The League of Women Voters of New York State supports a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry; the elimination of systemic bias, including the disproportionate policing and incarceration of marginalized communities; policing practices that promote safety for both law enforcement officers and the communities they serve; collaboration between government and community throughout every stage of the criminal justice system; a focus on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting the successful reentry into communities of those who have been incarcerated; and reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about law-enforcement programs and policies (including scheduled, periodic audits of program and policy effectiveness).

#### • **Digital Equity Position Adopted**

o Language of the motion: Move to consider a concurrence with LWV of Connecticut on Digital Equity.

o Position: The League of Women Voters believes that high-speed affordable internet access is an essential service that should be readily available to all U.S. residents and businesses. National, state and local government policies should support broadband, wireless, and other means of high-speed internet deployment throughout the nation. Efficient, high-speed, affordable access to the internet for all U.S. residents in their homes, schools, and workplaces--regardless of geographic location or neighborhood demographics--is a ne-

## *LWVUS Convention News (continued)*

cessity for assuring equal access to local and state government, for maintaining openness and transparency in government activities, for communicating with legislative leaders, for engaging in political discourse, for competing in the global marketplace, and for assuring that voters receive the information they need to participate in our democracy. The League of Women Voters supports making high-speed internet access available to all residents of the United States, without charge, through schools, libraries, and other secure public buildings.

### • **Health Care Position Updated**

o Language of the motion: adopt a concurrence with the LWV of New York's Health Care Update.

o Position: LWV support an update to the existing Healthcare position to add: expanded delivery options (e.g. telemedicine) while providing "standard of care" treatments, separating healthcare from employment status, "safe staffing" for staff and patient safety, patient, family, and *licensed medical providers, cost control requires evidence of reduced total costs and do not exacerbate outcome disparities.*

Amended to include: LWV of Alaska requested an editorial amendment in the language of LWV of New York's Health Care Update from "physician" to "licensed medical provider."

### **Resolutions**

Resolutions express the will of the delegates at the time of the Convention and are powerful declarations of the organization's values and acknowledgements. At the 2022 Convention, delegates overwhelmingly passed the following resolutions.

#### • **Abortion**

o Language of the motion: Be it resolved that the LWVUS supports the rights of women and those who can become pregnant to self-determination related to, and including, but not limited to bodily autonomy, privacy, reproductive health, and lifestyle choice.

#### • **Immigration**

o Language of the motion: Whereas the League of Women Voters has had a long-standing immigration position since 2008 and a strong commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI); Be it resolved that LWVUS actively advocates and supports Immigration Reform at all levels of LWV.

#### • **Climate Emergency**

o Language of the motion: move that we, as delegates of local Leagues assembled at the 2022 LWV US Convention, call upon the LWV US Board and state and local Leagues to urge state and local governments to adopt and publicize Declarations of Climate Emergency appropriate to local conditions and take appropriate action to implement the Declarations of Climate Emergency."

#### • **DC Statehood**

o Language of the motion: Therefore, be it resolved that LWVUS will provide continued and renewed support for the admission of the state of Douglass Commonwealth into the United States of America with equal status to the existing 50 states."

#### • **Missing & Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP)**

o Language of the motion: I move that LWVUS recognize there is an immediate, ongoing, & urgent problem of Missing & Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP). LWVUS recognizes the leadership of the Dept. of Interior on this issue as well as the need for additional Congressional attention. We resolve that LWVUS advocate for comprehensive data collection & inter-agency cooperation to address MMIP issues across the country.

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You can read more details about each of these votes, as well as motions that were not adopted, in the [2022 Convention Daily Briefing](#).

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## *Jessica Schlachter at the LWV National Convention*

I had such a fantastic time at the League of Women Voters National Convention! It was such a thrill to be around so many like-minded people who truly care about making democracy work and to exchange ideas with them. Additionally, I had never been to Denver before, and I had fun exploring the downtown area in my off time! The convention was held in a hotel on a pedestrian mall, which made wandering around feel not only safe, but welcomed.



**Jessica Schlachter** holds the California delegate marker.

Of the topics we voted on, the one that stood out to me the most was doing away with the age limit to join the League. There were teenagers there from Leagues across the country, and while the vote ultimately didn't pass, I absolutely loved seeing the enthusiasm these Gen Z-ers had. That generation is going to do powerful things.

The majority of the caucuses that I attended had to do with connecting to youth and I had a brief moment of dismay that I was no longer considered a "young voter," despite being not yet 30. Thankfully, I quickly moved past that and listened to the actual youth talk about how best to engage the younger population, getting them excited to vote and willing to join the League.

The hybrid format was not without its challenges; voting via our smartphones created plenty of technical issues (thankfully there was a very helpful tech support table!), and I heard that those on the virtual side faced a few troubles getting their voices heard as well. That being said, I'm thrilled to have been able to attend in person! After 2021's all-virtual state convention, I felt that the hybrid format was an improvement.

I'm sure many of you agree that hearing of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade was devastating. The news came over breakfast on the second day of the convention, and honestly, I could not have picked a better place to be: surrounded by that many like-minded people who mourned together, caucus presenters who recognized our feelings, LWV leaders who spoke calls to action, and, later that evening, a march together to join the protest at the State Capitol building.

Overall, I'm looking forward to the next convention! It was truly a rewarding experience.

**Jessica Schlachter**  
**LWVHC Co-President**



**Jessica Schlachter** and **Sharolyn Hutton** happy to be at the Convention.

## Sharolyn Hutton at the LWV National Convention

This was the first hybrid convention for LWV, and it presented many challenges for in-person attendees, virtual attendees, and for our amazing president, Deborah Turner, MD, JD. At registration, each of us was given our registration lanyard with a personal code that permitted us to enter the plenaries and to vote and for the League to count how many were there. Fifty states and the D.C. League were represented at this convention, with over 1,200 participants in person and virtually. During the discussion time before a vote, the president would recognize those for and against the issue on the floor and recognize alternately those attending on-line. Votes were cast on our cell phones using a program unfamiliar to almost all of us slowing us down as we scrambled to have the correct setting for each meeting. Virtual attendees used Zoom and then went to “chat” to find the link to vote. It was challenging, but we all worked through it. All sessions should now be on-line for those interested in viewing them. In addition to various meetings, there were tables of interest set up to represent various causes ranging from water rights to voting rights for citizens of Washington, D.C. There were also items for sale such as postcards representing geographic areas and shirts with catchy sayings.



Artifacts from the LWV 2022 National Conven-

Of importance to us all are the coming changes to membership fees and the bylaws. We learned that LWV was very pleased to discover that, instead of losing money during the pandemic, they actually thrived financially due to corporate giving. This increase was attributed to having staff members whose main purpose was seeking out donors. The plan is to continue this staffing structure with the hope of remaining solvent and increasing membership without having to increase per member payments (PMP).

Valerie Jensen, the opening keynote speaker, shared her personal story and stressed that “everyone has a role to play.” It always startles me to realize that while I was in college, children of interracial parents could be taken from their parents by law. That happened to Valerie Jensen, whose mother was white and whose father was black. Her statement, “Women may be underestimated, but can accomplish much” has stayed with me, possibly because of all she has had to overcome to be successful. Women powering democracy was another interesting session and stressed “building coalitions” in order to accomplish our goals. The overall theme continues to be Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” (DEI).

While we were in Denver, the Supreme Court overturned Roe vs. Wade. Dr. Turner had shared that her very first patient was a young woman bleeding from an illegal abortion. She died and that experience started Dr. Turner on her career path that eventually led her to specialize in gynecologic oncology. A few hundred of us at the convention marched to the capital to join hundreds of protesters. I returned to the hotel at 7:00, but others marched on, many of whom had worked to support reproductive rights before Roe vs. Wade. One stated that she couldn’t believe that after all this time she was going to be starting over on the same issue. Although there were chants, furious speeches, and many signs, the poster that spoke to me said, “Mom by Choice, Mom for Choice.”

I chose Immigration Reform, Climate Change, and Combatting Mis- Dis-information as sessions of particular interest. I hope the board can view the recorded session on fighting misinformation. I could write a page on each of these sessions. I hope this overview gives you some insight into League at the national level and encourages you to consider attending other League events in the future.

**Sharolyn Hutton**  
**LWVHC Co-President**

## *My Virtual Adventure at the LWV National Convention*

On June 24, 25, and 26, I attended the League of Women Voters US Convention in Denver virtually. Though I was able to attend from my own home and in my “casual” clothes (a.k.a. my pajamas), it was still an intense and sometimes wild ride.

My first day at the conference began with a “caucus” (more like a workshop) on youth engagement, followed by the first plenary session. In general, a plenary is a business meeting with a fairly strict agenda. In this case, there were 800+ attendees at the meeting, at least half of whom were attending via Zoom. In my opinion, our LWVUS President, Dr. Deborah Turner, did a fine job running these fairly complex meetings with graciousness and calm.

Day One Plenary was devoted to introducing Program Planning motions, which would be discussed and voted on at later plenaries. Items for concurrence, study, and other non-recommended program items were discussed very briefly, and four items went on to further voting at a later plenary: concurrence items on election security and digital equity, a possible study on digital democracy, and a not-recommended item supporting the ERA. Given that the Supreme Court decision to over-turn Roe vs. Wade had been announced that day, we ended the plenary with a vote to affirm our commitment to reproductive choice, which was approved by a landslide. Afterward, in-person delegates marched in protest. This was the point at which I really wished that I had been there myself, but I know that **Sharolyn** and **Jessica** marched proudly for all of

On subsequent days, I attended more caucuses working on homelessness in our community and the VOTE 411 project the League is sponsoring. During the Plenary sessions on Saturday and Sunday, we heard rousing speeches, approved bylaws changes, and debated (sometimes to the point of exasperation) priorities (as well as wording) to guide our national League over the next two years. We also elected a new slate for the LWVUS Board, including re-electing Dr. Deborah Turner. We approved the program recommended by the LWVUS Board as well as the concurrence items on election security and Digital Equity.

Our LWVHC board now has many new topics to discuss, and our members will be hearing more over the coming year.

*Anne Hartline*  
*LWVHC Secretary*



**Sharolyn Hutton** and **Jessica Schlachter** at a Roe vs. Wade protest at the Colorado State Capitol.

## Voter Registration

Several voter registration tabling events have taken place during the past few months:

LWVHC participated with Vote Humboldt for voter registration of high school students at Eureka High School. It was a peer-to-peer recruitment for voter registration with the high school students doing the recruitment and registration in May.

CUNA (Comunidad Unida Del Norte De Arcata) with the City of Arcata for Valley West Tianguis (Latinx Flea Market) on June 25, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Arcata Main Street for Arts Arcata held on the Arcata Plaza on July 8. I staffed the table from 4 to 6 p.m. and **Tracy Jordan French** held it from 6 to 8 p.m. Thank you, Tracy.

Voter registration at the Bear River Band Rancheria will take place on September 24. That day is the California Indian Days celebration. When I get more details from **Brittany Gonzalez**, I will be recruiting LWVHC members to assist with that event.

With these tabling events, LWVHC has had contact with different populations such as high school students and the Lantinx population. I was unsuccessful with Black Humboldt for a Juneteenth event. Pending is a voter registration table for the Asian/Hmong population.

National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 20, 2022. Every member of LWVHC should encourage family members, friends, business associates, etc. to register or to re-register.

Also, we are heading into the “on” season for the November election. So Voter’s Edge (VE) is revving up and has scheduled training sessions. If you are interested, here is the link to the VE Resource Page: <https://sites.google.com/a/votersedge.org/california/>. The zoom training sessions are in August as follows:

- Thursday, August 4 at noon
- Saturday, August 6 at 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 9 at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 10 at noon.

Please contact me if you are interested and I will get you signed up for Voter's Edge.

*Maggie Augustine*  
*LWVHC Voter Service Director*



## *Behavioral Health Services Study Update*

The LWVHC behavioral health study committee has held two meetings since my last update. We have been busy shifting our focus from research to reorganizing the information we already have for several uses. First, we are shaping our materials into categories that match our original statement of scope. From these categories we will draft consensus questions to bring to the LWVHC board of directors for approval (hopefully) at their September meeting, all while compiling the data that will support discussion of these consensus questions in membership meetings.

Our original statement of the scope of the study as approved by the board reads:

“Investigation of access to behavioral health services in Humboldt County from prevention to diagnosis to treatment, and availability to all community members.”

From that statement we have identified four categories around which to shape consensus questions and membership meetings: **prevention, diagnosis, treatment, availability**. We may choose to hold four separate membership meetings based on these topics or may reduce the number of meetings to three if one category contains fewer data points and can be merged with another topic. That decision will come out of the data we are reorganizing now.

In September, we will seek board approval of our draft consensus questions and will discuss with the board proposed dates for the membership meetings that will shape these consensus questions into draft position statements.

Between October and March, we will hold three or more membership meetings to find members’ consensus on the draft position statements that will make up our position on behavioral health services in Humboldt County.

Our committee is meeting more frequently this summer to work on these topics: July 20, August 3, August 17, August 31. Members are welcome to attend our Zoom meetings. All dates are Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m.

The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83789562688?pwd=K1FsNW52MG5HVzV2em9NQ1p3S09BUT09>

Here are some related items of interest:

Most exciting of all, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Humboldt is hoping to host Dr. Tom Insel, author of the ground-breaking book *Healing: Our Path from Mental Illness to Mental Health*, next spring and has asked the LWVHC to help with promoting this event. The League board enthusiastically agreed.

The new local youth behavioral health center, Sorrel Leaf Healing Center, will open in 2023. See their beautiful site at their website, <https://www.sorrelleaf.org/>.

Our Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury (HCCGJ) has released an important “Mental Health Crisis” report. Read the whole thing at the HCCGJ website.

Sempervirens, closed recently due to a COVID-19 outbreak, is now open. The Crisis Stabilization Unit was closed even longer.

The Humboldt County Sheriff’s Department and the Department of Health and Human Services have received a grant from The California Department of Health Care Services for \$430,000 to have mental health providers available to the Sheriff’s Department on a continual basis. Staffed by six providers in two teams, they will be available seven days a week.

The National Grange is partnering with an organization called **Rural Minds** on suicide prevention in rural areas.

*Molly Cate*  
*LWVHC Program Director*



### ***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***

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[www.lwvhc.org](http://www.lwvhc.org)  
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(707) 444-9252

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

- 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
- Interim Forum Director.....Ann Diehl
- 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***

Saturday, August 13 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	LWVHC Board Retreat
LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!
LWCHC Instagram	Any Time!