

## ***Report on Official Board Actions at the May 2025 Meeting***

At our May 6 meeting, the LWVHC Board took following “official actions”:

### **History Day Student Gifts:**

It was moved / seconded and passed by a unanimous vote that we award each of the high school students travelling to the state History Day competition a gift of \$300 to use toward travel expenses.

### **Support of Due Process:**

It was moved / seconded and passed by a unanimous vote that we use the LWVUS template resource to write a “letter to the editor” of local news outlets in support of Due Process.

See p. 3 of this VOTER for more information about the LWVUS Unite and Rise 8.5 Initiative.

### **Welcome New Members And Returning Members**

**Elizabeth Belluscio  
Karen Burkhardt  
Winifred Creamer  
Laurel Dalsted  
Mona Daly  
Kim Ervin  
Dannielle Greco  
Jonathan Haas  
Jan Kraepelien  
Stephanie Lane  
Michele McKeegan  
Jesse Miles  
Rowetta Miller  
Deborah Musick  
Ed Olsgard  
Hayley Simera**

## ***Save the Date! June 5***

Thursday, June 5 is your Annual Meeting. In order to have a successful Annual Meeting, we need a quorum.

Here are a few of the agenda items:

1. Vote on our slate of candidates put forth by the Nominating Committee for the Board.
2. Review the Treasurer's report and pass our proposed budget for the coming year of 2025-2026.
3. Take direction from the Membership on what you want the Board to focus on for the coming year.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025  
SEQUOIA CONFERENCE CENTER  
ROOM B  
901 MYRTLE AVENUE  
EUREKA**

**6:00 p.m. REGISTRATION**

**6:30 p.m. DINNER \$25**

**7:00 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING  
(NO CHARGE)**

**ZOOM IS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO  
CANNOT ATTEND IN PERSON**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88910627631?  
pwd=86i5L042DOBrImhiaA9mMj3oBQIHil.  
1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88910627631?pwd=86i5L042DOBrImhiaA9mMj3oBQIHil.1)



## ***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.

## ***Be Prepared!***

**Jessica Schlachter** was acting as a League observer would, by bringing something to the board's attention for possible action. Your League board prepared a statement for public comment at the [College of the Redwoods](#) Board of Trustees meeting, and I applied via email to read it at the meeting. In accordance with many local, state, and national LWV positions, your board firmly disagreed with the CR Board's attempt to rescind these resolutions. CR's president and former LWVHC board member Dr. Keith Flamer, who had suggested the rescinding of the resolutions in the first place, after discussion with the CR board president removed the item from the agenda before the meeting. Therefore it was no longer necessary to make our statement in opposition to the proposed action.

I still attended the board meeting as an individual (the board had only approved me to make the statement in opposition), and I made a statement thanking the board for removing the item from their agenda. I believe it is important to say thank you when governmental bodies take actions we like, not just to advocate against something we don't approve. Perhaps the decision was made because of several people signing up in response to the agenda posting, asking to speak against the item. For whatever reason, I believe it was at least partly in response to interested and involved citizens, including the League. Advocacy can make a difference!

**Byrd Lochtie**  
*LWCHC Election Service Director*

## ***LWVCA Webinar on California's Housing Crisis***

On April 29, 2025 the League of Women Voters of California hosted a webinar titled "California's Housing Crisis – Policy Barriers and Solutions." Board member Bonnie Oliver attended, along with hundreds of other League members across the state.

The first speaker, Corey Smith of the Housing Action Coalition, explained the scope of California's housing needs. Currently there is a 3.5 million-unit shortage in California. Since 2016, the state of California has passed hundreds of laws to make it easier to build housing. The Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) assigns cities and counties the number of new homes across a spectrum of housing types that they must plan for in the next eight years. The Housing Action Coalition advocates for fair, affordable housing in California by investigating whether cities and counties are making realistic and equitable plans in their determination of how to comply with their RHNA number requirements. The Housing Action Coalition sued / are suing the cities of San Mateo and Lafayette over flawed Housing Element plan development and reporting.

The second speaker, Norina Limon, is the CEO of the Casita Coalition. They have a "Build the Middle" focus in their housing advocacy, emphasizing the development of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and duplexes. She was excited to share that there is a California Assembly Bill, AB 1033, that will allow the "condo-ization" of ADUs, to permit separate sales of the units on one residential property, as a way to have more affordable home ownership options. She reviewed California's current ADU laws and discussed homeowner barriers to developing ADU's, such as the high cost of construction; qualifying for ADU financing; and complex, time-consuming permitting processes.

The third speaker, Cesar Covarrubias of the Kennedy Commission, talked about the challenges to developing low and very low income housing. Developing these projects is much more expensive than what is covered by rental rates for this demographic, making state and federal funding sources necessary. The Kennedy Commission team tracks municipal developments and makes public comments on their compliance with California Housing Element mandates, particularly related to low and very low income housing. He encouraged housing advocates in all California communities to get involved in similar compliance tracking efforts. He also mentioned California's SB 4 – Affordable Housing on Faith Lands Act, passed in January 2024, which allows religious institutions and non-profit colleges to build housing projects on their properties as "By-right" developments.

If you are interested in listening to the webinar, you can use the link below to access a recording provided by LWVCA: <https://youtu.be/eDI4M6dSX8M>

**Bonnie Oliver**  
*LWVHC Secretary*

## ***League of Women Voters Launches ‘Unite and Rise 8.5’ Initiative***

The following article is copied directly from the LWVUS public website. In case LWVHC members are not aware of this recent initiative from LWVUS, the LWVHC Board wanted this information to be available to our membership.

Open the link below to read the page online and to follow the links embedded:

<https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/today-league-women-voters-launches-unite-and-rise-85-initiative>

### **LWV Launches New Initiative to Mobilize 8.5 Million Voters Through Advocacy, Civic Education, and Engagement**

Press Release / Last Updated: May 1, 2025

Washington, DC — Today, the League of Women Voters of the United States, a century-old, nonpartisan organization, launched a powerful new initiative, [Unite and Rise 8.5](#), which aims to engage and mobilize 8.5 million voters through advocacy, civic education, and community engagement. On April 17, 2025, Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters, and Dianna Wynn, president of the League of Women Voters, took the serious step of [labelling our current moment a constitutional crisis](#), and concurrently announced the Unite and Rise 8.5 initiative.

“In the first 100 days of the Trump administration, as our constitution and rule of law have been assailed, the democracy movement has been on the defensive,” said Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “Today, that changes. Unite and Rise 8.5 embodies a proactive, positive vision of what America can be — something that anyone who cares about democracy, no matter their party affiliation, can participate in. More than 105 years ago, women of all political leanings fought together for the freedom to vote, and the unprecedented political moment we find ourselves in today demands we take action to lead a movement again.”

Over the next year and a half, Unite and Rise 8.5, which expands the League’s [existing](#) power-building work, will encourage Americans to reinvigorate our civic life through education and engagement, public mobilization, partnership-building, and policy advocacy.

Unite and Rise 8.5 builds on LWV’s pro-democracy actions of the past three months. For example, on April 30, League members from Washington DC, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia gathered at the US Capitol to meet with their representatives in a coordinated all-member lobby day to demand that Congress protect the rule of law, defend the Constitution, and end the overreach by the executive branch of government.

To learn more and be part of the movement, check out our Unite and Rise 8.5 [landing page](#).

Background: LWV launched Unite and Rise 8.5 because our country is in a constitutional crisis — and it is up to all Americans, no matter their political leaning, to engage, mobilize, and push back against anti-democratic threats.

According to [Harvard political scientist Erica Chenoweth](#), 3.5 percent of a population can successfully pressure a government to accommodate their movement, leading to policy change. Approximately 245 million Americans were eligible to vote in the 2024 general election; 3.5 percent of these eligible voters is roughly 8.5 million voters. The League’s initiative will test the theory that it takes 3.5% of a population to protect democracies.

The Unite and Rise 8.5 initiative is a part of LWV’s [Women Defend Democracy campaign](#).

## ***‘Unite and Rise 8.5’ Landing Page***

Copied below is the text on the Unite and Rise 8.5 landing page mentioned on the previous page. See the “How Can You Make Change” section at the bottom of the article to find the actions suggested by LWVUS.

### **Unite and Rise 8.5: A Campaign to Defend Democracy**

Blog / Last Updated: May 1, 2025

<https://www.lwv.org/uniteandrise>

Updated 5/13/25

On April 17, LWV CEO Celina Stewart and President Dianna Wynn released the following statement:

“It has now been 87 days since the start of the Trump administration. From the flagrant disregard for congressional authority and governmental checks and balances to defying Supreme Court orders to bring Kilmar Abrego Garcia back home, one thing is abundantly clear: our country is in a constitutional crisis.

“We the people must fight back. That is why the League of Women Voters is launching a powerful new initiative, Unite and Rise 8.5.”

Through Unite and Rise 8.5, we will engage and mobilize 8.5 million voters to protect and preserve our democracy. Read on to learn more about the campaign and how to get involved.

### **Are We Really in a Constitutional Crisis?**

The League defines a Constitutional Crisis as:

When the executive, the legislative, or judiciary branches cannot or will not adequately protect the US Constitution, when there are explicit attempts to dismantle a functional democracy within any of the three branches, or when any level of federal government takes action to destroy democratic institutions in a manner that intentionally or purposefully jeopardizes the US Constitution.

When these events occur, the US Constitution is deemed at the highest serious risk and warrants full-scale action to preserve and protect democratic institutions and civil society.”

Since the Trump administration took office in January 2025, we’ve seen [increased attacks](#) on our democratic systems and a failure by Congress to intervene. This came to a head in early April, when the president [defied a Supreme Court order](#) to return the wrongfully deported Marylander, Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia.

On April 16, 2025, a US District Court Judge, James Boasberg, [ruled](#) that there is “probable cause” to find the Trump Administration in criminal contempt of court for violating his order to immediately pause deportations under the [Alien Enemies Act](#).

The executive branch’s blatant disregard for an order by the judicial branch constitutes an attack on our democratic system. Therefore, we consider our country to be in a Constitutional Crisis.

### **What is Unite and Rise 8.5?**

Unite & Rise 8.5 aims to build a movement of 8.5 million individuals to unite and rise up against the anti-democratic actions of this administration. Launching in May 2025 and running until the 2026 midterm elections, this initiative is part of our [Women Defend Democracy](#) campaign.

Unite & Rise 8.5 aims to build a movement of 8.5 million individuals to unite and rise up against the anti-democratic actions of this administration.

### **Why 8.5?**

The number 8.5 million is the estimated number of voters it would take to bring about change through nonviolent protest. This is based on the [following finding](#) from the Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights:

“Nonviolent protests are twice as likely to succeed as armed conflicts...and those engaging a threshold of 3.5%



## *‘Unite and Rise 8.5’ Landing Page (continued)*

of the population have never failed to bring about change.”

According to the [University of Florida](#), approximately 245 million Americans were eligible to vote in the 2024 general election. According to the above research, if 3.5% of these eligible voters — 8,575,000 people — engage in nonviolent protests, we will bring about meaningful change.

### **How Can You Make Change?**

Unite and Rise 8.5 will fight for our democracy on multiple fronts, from the courts to the streets. More actions will be outlined in the future, but as of today, here are a few you can take:

Protect democracy: [Tell your Senators](#) to oppose the anti-voter SAVE Act;

Tell Congress [not to gut crucial programs like Medicaid](#);

Raise your voice about illegal deportations: join mobilizations around immigrant rights and due process with organizations like the [National Partnership for New Americans](#), [United We Dream](#), and others;

“Turn Up the Heat” on elected officials: [Connect directly with your representatives](#) on the issues that matter via Town Halls and other opportunities

Act locally: Join local organizations like [your state or local League](#) to act on the issues that matter in your community.

If you would like to participate in some aspect of this effort, please contact **Julie Kelly** or **Anne Hartline** to let us know your particular interest and how you’d like to be involved.

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

## *Another Successful SOCL Luncheon*

Our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL) was held in April at the Adorni Center in Eureka. LWVHC President **Julie Kelly** opened the program, reminding attendees, “As an organization, our goal is to be a resource for the community, and we love to educate and inform voters.” SOCL Committee Chairman **Maggie Fleming** welcomed the 350 attendees.

**Byrd Lochtie** presented the LWVHC Civic Contribution Awards to two community organizations: California Retired Teachers Association North Coast Division 27 (CalRTA) and The Elections Transparency Project.



**Kevin Collins** accepts a Civic Contribution Award on behalf of The Elections Transparency Project from **Byrd Lochtie**.

**Donna Clark**, LWVHC member and co-president of CalRTA, accepted the award, saying, “Locally we invest thousands of hours of volunteer time in the community.” CalRTA has been active in community schools, nonprofits, museums, and service organizations for 70 years. Clark reminded attendees of the importance of recognizing the work of the retired teachers in the community. “As teachers, we have given back through our working lives, and as retirees, we’re still giving back to the community.”



**Donna Clark**, co-president of the California Retired Teachers Association-North Coast Division 27 accepts a Civic Contribution Award from **Byrd Lochtie** for the Retired Teachers Association

## Another Successful SOCL Luncheon (continued)



LWV President **Julie Kelly** (right) and **Byrd Lochtie** (center) greet keynote speaker, **Dr. Keith Flamer**, President of College of the Redwoods.

**Kevin Collins** accepted the award on behalf of The Elections Transparency Project (ETP) volunteers. He called the group's volunteers "fantastic people. They don't get paid, and the work isn't glamorous. I think this (award) is really good for the group's morale." Collins said the non-profit group has been working on ballot transparency for 18 years. They became concerned about election accuracy after the hotly contested 2000 Presidential election. California and many other states were planning to install paperless voting machines. Believing that paper ballots are essential to election integrity, the ETP modified computer software to scan original ballots and produce a unique image of each ballot. The ballot images are publicly available without compromising ballot security. If election results don't match the ETP's count, they can be easily corrected using ballot images.

College of the Redwoods President **Dr. Keith Flamer** gave the keynote address that focused on collaboration. Flamer said he was a long-time admirer of the LWV, quoting Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Stressing the need for education and a job, and the importance of voting, he said his grandfather told him, "Those things are immutable and can't be taken from you." SOCL Treasurer **Judy Bennett** said the luncheon raised \$28,000 before expenses, which will help support the LWVHC's efforts. Each attendee received a copy of the LWV's *A Citizen's Guide to Humboldt County Government*, provided by the League.

**Anne H. Wasson**  
**SOCL Member**



**Maggie Fleming** (left) welcomes **Elishia Hayes** who updated attendees on Humboldt County's funding challenges.

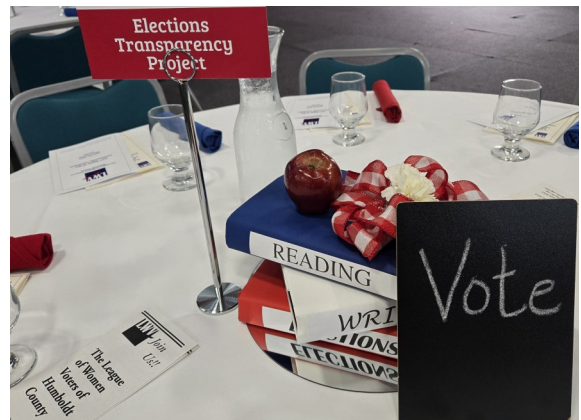


Table centerpieces honored both Civic Contribution Award recipients.



## *The 53rd Avenue of the Giants Marathon*

Thanks to a great crew, we pulled off another successful aid station this year. We again supported the runners and raised funds for our League! My personal thanks go to Darleene Sampson, **Patricia-Ann WinterSun**, **Tracy Jordan-French**, Barb Hash, **Anne Hartline**, **Jessica Schlachter**, **Dan Schlachter**, and Kaylen Escarda. As you can see from the pictures, it was a cold morning, and the wind was moving the tree tops. The runners appreciated our Gatorade, oranges, bananas, and encouragement.

### **A Little History of The League and the Avenue of the Giants Marathon:**

In the late '60's, Lenny Escarda and a small group of dedicated guys started running an unofficial marathon on the Avenue. Later, several of them went to the Garberville Chamber of Commerce to see if they would sponsor an official marathon. The Chamber declined because they didn't think enough people would participate to justify the business.

The first sanctioned Avenue race occurred in 1972, sponsored by the recently formed Six Rivers Running Club. Within a few years, signups exploded and they registered 5,000 runners. Runners came from many states and several countries. The redwoods, cool weather, and the flat course made for good qualifying times for the Boston Marathon. They now cap registration at 2,000. This year, the Avenue of the Giants Marathon was the Official California Marathon, and registration closed last December!

When the running club began paying organizations to staff the aid stations, I tapped the League membership to help support the race and the League. Our loyal League member, **Carol Masterson**, brought family and friends and the League banner for years. Runners would yell "Thank you League," "Love the League," and various compliments. We sure miss Carol's presence! It's been a fun activity for League members and has consistently bolstered our budget.

This brings me to 2026. **Anne Hartline** has stepped up to organize the station for next year. I have done it for 53 years, not counting support before the race was official. I will help as usual as long as I can, but it's time for new leadership. The runners' club provides all of the supplies, and we provide the volunteer staff. I hope others will be as generous with their service as past Leaguers have been for me. It's always run on the first Sunday in May, so keep that in mind and answer Anne's call for volunteers next year.

Thank you Anne, and my thanks again to all who have volunteered over the years!

**Kay Escarda**  
*LWVHC Member*



Preparing for the hordes. Kaylen Escarda, **Anne Hartline**, and Barb Hash



Left to right: Kaylen Escarda, **Kay Escarda**, Darleene Sampson, **Tracy Jordan-French**, Barb Hash, **Anne Hartline**, **Patricia-Ann WinterSun**, **Dan Schlachter**, **Jessica Schlachter**.



**Patricia-Ann WinterSun**, **Dan** and **Jessica Schlachter**

## ***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](http://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](http://www.lwvhc.org)

[leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org](mailto:leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org)

(707) 444-9252

### **Who's Who in Your 2024-2025 League Board**

President.....Julie Kelly  
Vice President.....Molly Cate  
Secretary.....Bonnie Oliver  
Treasurer.....Tess Coffman  
Program Director.....Molly Cate  
Natural Resources Director.....Vacant  
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](http://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, June 10 Board Meeting  
5:30 p.m.  
2520 Hubbard Lane, Eureka  
(Use the link below.)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88910627631?pwd=86i5L042DOBrImhiaA9mMj3oBQIHil.1>

Thursday, June 5  
See p.1 for details  
In person or on Zoom

Anytime	LWVHC Webpage
	LWVHC Instagram
	LWVHC X
	Bluesky
	@lwvhc.bsky.social