



June gathering ...

Come to the Annual Meeting

MEET IN PERSON!
Saturday, June 17
noon at the
Caspar Community
Center
If you need to
Zoom here
CLICK HERE
to join

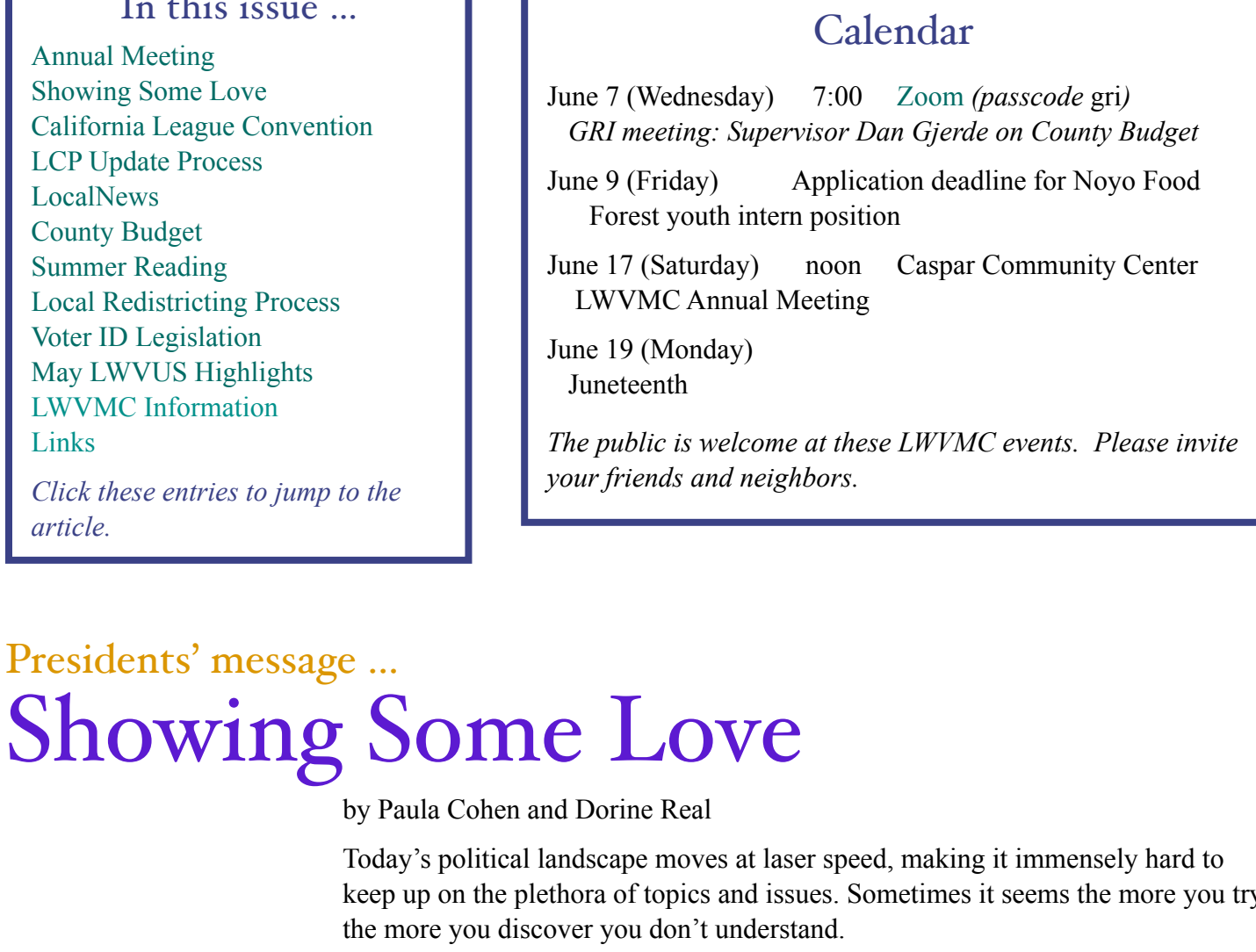
The Annual Meeting of the Mendocino County League of Women Voters will be held at the Caspar Community Center on Saturday, June 17 at noon. All members and friends are cordially invited to congregate in person, to enjoy lunch, to elect officers and directors, to approve the next fiscal year's budget, and to consider future programs and activities in a convivial atmosphere.

For the business part of the meeting, the contents of the Annual Meeting packet (emailed in mid-May) will be helpful – you may want to download it on your phone or tablet to bring along, or print a paper copy to have at hand. A copy of the [packet](#) can also be found online.

Members are invited to bring a salad or appetizer to share. Coffee, tea, bread and dessert will be provided.

Several local delegates to the League convention (see below) will be on hand to share their experiences, and the enthusiasm they derived from attending the nearest biannual conclave in recent memory. This will be a great opportunity to gain a first-hand account of a consistently inspiring event.

Our annual meeting will be a good opportunity to meet and mingle with new and old League friends. Be sure to come to Caspar to take care of business, help guide the League in 2023–24, and have a good time.



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Calendar

June 7 (Wednesday) 7:00 Zoom (*passcode gri*)
GRI meeting: Supervisor Dan Gjerde on County Budget

June 9 (Friday) Application deadline for Noyo Food Forest youth intern position

June 17 (Saturday) noon Caspar Community Center
LWVMC Annual Meeting

June 19 (Monday) Juneteenth

The public is welcome at these LWVMC events. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

Presidents' message ...

Showing Some Love

by Paula Cohen and Dorine Real

Today's political landscape moves at laser speed, making it immensely hard to keep up on the plethora of topics and issues. Sometimes it seems the more you try, the more you discover you don't understand.

The LWV is a grassroots network and membership organization that believes that the freedom to vote is not a partisan issue. Our signature activities include advocating for voting rights, registering people to vote and providing information to encourage and support an informed electorate. To meet these objectives, it is incumbent on each of us to be informed, get involved, encourage others and participate in the political process.

But, hey, did you notice that 2023 is NOT an "election year"? Hard to believe, with all the news coverage, controversy, fundraising, and [voting legislation](#) bombarding our brains. This is as close to a pause for reflection as we're going to get. So let's make the most of this opportunity to think a little outside the (ballot) box, to try to build a democracy that is not only wider but deeper. Let's show off our love of democracy; our democratic values including respect, inclusion, cooperation, and individual rights; and our democratic practices like insistence on transparency in government and open and serious discussion of civic issues. Let's share our dedication to the common good. Let's speak up for democracy now, before the partisan din gets even louder.

California League Convention

Mendocino County delegates report

by Carole Press, Charlene McAllister, Cindy Plank, and Darra Williamson

Four of us represented LWV Mendocino on May 19-21 in San Francisco. As it always is with a convention, we came back enthusiastic and ready to take on the world. Along with the business of adopting program and Issues for Emphasis for the 2023-2025 League year, adopting a budget, and electing the new board and officers, there were workshops and caucuses on a number of League issues. We attended workshops and caucuses on Redistricting, Housing and Homelessness, Healthcare, Diversity, Juvenile Justice, and Immigration, not to mention gathering tips on getting out the vote, communicating through social media, the power of words in creating a culture of belonging, and various ways to civically engage young voters. Using the LWV for effective advocacy for state and local issues also left a big impression on us.

LWVC adopted the following as Issues for Emphasis for 2023-2025: Making Democracy Work; Climate Change with an emphasis on water issues; Housing and Homelessness, and Criminal Justice and Juvenile Justice Reform. If you would like more information or would like to be involved in one of the above issues, contact us and we can send you the information on how to keep informed via email groups. (Email charad@comcast.net, to get involved!)

GRI hosts webinar on

LCP Update Process

Coastal Commission staff explain

by Jary Stavely

On May 17, the Grass-Roots Institute Mendocino Vision Group held the fourth in a series of meetings about the Local Coastal Program (LCP) update grants which have recently been awarded by the Coastal Commission to Mendocino County, the city of Point Arena, and the city of Fort Bragg. [see Dec. '22, Feb. '23, and Apr. '23 [Joters](#)]. Peter McNamee hosted the zoom event, which featured presentations by Coastal Commission staff members Melissa Kraemer, Kelsey Ducklow, and Amber Leavitt, with extensive comments added by county planner Julia Krog, Fort Bragg special projects director Sarah McCormick, and Point Arena city manager Paul Anderson.

The Coastal Commission staffers presented a summary of how California's Coastal Act provides a process for preserving and protecting the coast through LCPs, which are separate planning guides adopted by each local government along it. Mendocino County's local jurisdictions are the cities of Fort Bragg and Point Arena, and the county itself, which dictates planning over all the shoreline not within those cities' limits. The coastal commission recently awarded grants for bringing our county's three LCPs up to date in face of the inevitable changes coming which were not foreseen when they were adopted. Details for public engagement in the processes for Mendocino County and Fort Bragg have not yet been developed, as they are still in the stage of seeking consultants to help carry out all the work which needs to be done. (They have issued so-called Requests for Proposals, or RFPs, to do this). Point Arena is farther along, as their grant was issued earlier, and a consultant for their update, Environmental Science Associates, is already on board and working. The local officials and Commission staffers present all stressed that public input will be extensive and much sought after.

To help establish baseline information for the LCPs, Mendocino County has applied to the Coastal Commission for a separate Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment grant, which will lead to a risk management and resiliency options study. The application for this grant was presented to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors on May 23 for final approval (a week after this zoom meeting), and it is hoped that the Coastal Commission will soon give its okay. At that point consultants for the assessment can be sought through a separate RFP. This grant would add \$100K to a matching amount the county has already obtained. Both cities expect to rely on the results of this study, which will cover the entire county coastline. Several coastal residents participating in the zoom are especially interested in this separate study, as it would apply specifically to the millsite, which is part of Fort Bragg's LCP area, but not directly addressed in the update grant, which focuses on the harbor area.

A recording of the 90 minute meeting, with a link to all the chat comments, can be found on the GRI website. Mendocino County has a [page dedicated to its update](#), where readers may also get on a list for email notification of developments. The city of Fort Bragg has not yet finished a special website dedicated to its update. Further questions about the process can be directed to [Commission staffers](#) Kraemer, Ducklow, and Leavitt can be found at coastal.ca.gov/contact/#.

Local News

Beverage Container Buy-Back Resumes

Early in May, 5th District Supervisor Ted Williams announced that CRV container buy-back was returning to the Mendocino Coast:

During the week of May 14th, 2023, Redwood Waste Solutions [began] operating a new Mobile CRV Redemption Facility. This pilot project is one of ten alloted in the state of California. Alongside the mobile operation, the search for a permanent location for CRV Redemption in the Fort Bragg area will continue. RWS will also be looking to expand the operational days and locations of the mobile service soon.

The initial mobile CRV redemption locations will be:

Mendocino K-8 School
44261 Little Lake Rd
Mendocino, CA 95460
Sundays 8:30AM-5:30PM (beginning May 14th)

Caspar Community Center
15051 Caspar Rd
Caspar, CA 95420
Mondays 8:30AM-5:30PM (beginning 15th)

Please keep in mind this is a new mobile service, which may affect wait times. Redwood Waste Solutions appreciates your patience as they bring this service back to the coast.

Divers Strive for Marine Ecosystem Balance

Recreational scuba divers and support personnel recently held an "urchin smashing party" to remove overpopulating purple sea urchins from Caspar Cove. The effort has grown out of experiments sponsored by the Noyo Center for Marine Science and others, to find ways to revive the giant kelp population and return balance to the local marine environment. Another urchin smashing party is planned for June. An [article](#) by Kate Fishman about this effort appeared on the Mendocino Voice.



Teen Gardening Internship Offered

The Noyo Food Forest is providing an internship for a local youth to become involved in gardening:

Do you have a teen in your life who is interested in gardening/farming?

This 6 week paid internship at The Learning Garden is an opportunity for high school students (age 13-17) to learn about sustainable gardening, gain valuable job experience, and explore our local food system. The SUMMER 2023 Internship is a paid opportunity with CA Department of Education work permit required, provided in the application. The Learning Garden is located at 300A Dana Street on the Fort Bragg High School campus.

The internship will meet 10 hours a week for 6 weeks, June 19–August 4. (No meetings the week of July 4th).

The Noyo Food Forest intern program has demonstrated an ability to increase student interest in agriculture. We engage students who have never been exposed to garden production, while expanding the curriculum for returning interns to include more advanced skills in garden planning, propagation, soil / water management, and local food production.

Plus, it's fun. Apply now until June 9.

Mendocino County Budget

Supervisor Gjerde will discuss current challenges

At the monthly Grass-Roots Institute meeting on Wednesday, June 7 at 7 pm, Supervisor Dan Gjerde will discuss the County's current budget in a period of rising costs and diminished revenues, and then respond to questions from participants on zoom. He will also talk about his work with Sonoma Clean Power and progress made implementing the Board of Supervisors' goal of eliminating carbon emissions from County operations, a goal set in partnership with the GrassRoots Institute and its support for the Board of Supervisor's "2021 Carbon Free Mendocino Resolution." Following Supervisor Gjerde's presentation and Q&A, the Institute will discuss its new social media outreach efforts and the activities of GRI's workgroups.

Supervisor Gjerde is the longest serving county supervisor currently on the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, and in January of this year publicly announced he would not seek a fourth term in the March 5, 2024 election. He's uniquely qualified to talk about the many challenges, past and present, confronting Mendocino County.

Everyone is invited to [attend this meeting](#) on Zoom. Use passcode "gri".

Summer Reading

by Dorine Real

Civic Nebraska is an organization with a mission "to create a more modern and robust democracy for all Nebraskans." For several years they have been publishing a [summer reading list](#), based on public input, on topics of "democracy, civics, history, and the social sciences." They range from nonfiction (*The Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens*, by Richard Haas) through novels (*The Seed Keeper*, by Diane Wilson), to books for young children (*Democracy for Dinosaurs: A Guide for Young Citizens*, by Ina Krasny Brown & Marc Brown).

There are plenty of other lists out there. In fact Goodreads even has a [list of lists](#) of books related to democracy. Audible has a category for [democracy audiobooks](#). Or ask a librarian. Or, best of all, trade favorite books with a friend—that might even lead to a great discussion.

State League action alert ...

Local Redistricting Process

Proposed laws will make it fairer

The California League is urging members to take action in support of independent local redistricting commissions. Mendocino County created an independent advisory commission to redraw and rebalance supervisorial districts following the 2020 census. The LWVC appeal follows.

Redistricting, the process of redrawing election district boundaries every ten years to ensure that districts have equal population, is crucial to our democracy. AB 764 (Bryan) and AB 1248 (Bryan & Allen) would help ensure that local jurisdictions adopt electoral maps that result in fair representation for all Californians.

AB 764 would strengthen the FAIR MAPS Act (FMA), which prohibits partisan gerrymandering in cities and counties and sets standardized redistricting criteria to ensure neighborhoods and diverse communities are kept intact. Specifically AB 764 would prohibit incumbency protection in the redistricting process; increase transparency and public engagement; expand provisions of the FMA to include educational and special districts; and create a clear legal process for bringing claims alleging violations of the FMA.

AB 1248 would require that the state's larger cities, counties, and educational districts establish independent redistricting commissions (IRCs). Voters and communities should choose their elected representatives, rather than elected officials choosing their voters. IRCs are one tool to ensure that the redistricting process respects and fairly represents communities, neighborhoods, and shared interests.

LWVC is co-sponsoring these bills because we know that every Californian's voice should be heard when determining our communities' futures. How districts are drawn has the power to determine, for the next decade, whether communities and neighborhoods' shared interests will be fairly represented at varying levels of government. [Tell your Assemblymember now to vote yes on AB 746 and AB 1248—ensuring fair representation for all.](#)

LWVUS reflects on

Recent Voter I.D. Legislation

A recent U.S. League article (said to be a blog) begins, "Voter ID laws have long been debated in the United States. While supporters argue that voter photo ID laws are necessary to prevent voter fraud and ensure the integrity of elections, reality tells a different story. Not only do these measures [disproportionately](#) impact Black, Native, elderly, and student voters, but they also fail to effectively address any real issues related to election integrity—the very thing advocates say these measures are designed to do. In this blog, we'll explore the true nature of voter photo ID laws, examine the arguments supporting them, and look at how they impact voters at the polls from different walks of life." The succeeding sections are titled "Voter Photo ID Laws Won't Prevent Voter Fraud," "ID Laws as Voter Suppression," and "LWV's Stance on Voter Photo ID Laws." The full piece is posted online at www.org/blog/whats-so-bad-about-voter-id-laws.

If you are really interested in the many new voting-related laws – both voter suppressing and voter protecting – that are being enacted in many states, and in current legal cases relating to voting rights, then you will want to visit the website [Democracy Docket](#) and perhaps sign up for their newsletters.

More from the National Desk

May LWVUS Highlights

Some Voting Rights Lawsuits Are Settled ...

Pro-voter efforts were rewarded in Arizona and Pennsylvania this month. In PA, voting rights advocates prevailed in a [settlement](#) against anti-voter groups who attempted to remove thousands of voters from the rolls ahead of the 2020 election. Meanwhile, LWVAZ [litigation protecting voters from ballot box intimidation](#) reached a settlement. Pinny Sheoran, president of LWVAZ, said, "The League of Women Voters of Arizona is proud to have challenged activities that were intimidating voters, and we will continue to defend our democracy against anyone who would interfere with the right to vote."

...While Others Begin

LWV of Louisiana joined advocacy partners in [suing the state](#) for its felony disenfranchisement scheme. And LWV of Florida sued the state of FL to block provisions of a recent law that would [penalize basic, nonpartisan civic engagement](#) efforts. The bill would severely restrict organizations like the League from engaging with voters.

The NVRA Turns 30

The National Voter Registration Act, which the League was instrumental in passing, had its 30th anniversary on May 20. "This landmark legislation [paved the way](#) for states to increase voter access with pro-voter reforms the League advocates for," said LWV CEO Virginia Kase Solomon.

Continued Calls for Action

Tell your Senators to enshrine sex-based equality by [affirming the Equal Rights Amendment as part of our Constitution](#). Reduce the influence of dark money by [promoting the DISCLOSE Act!](#)

Land Acknowledgement

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County wishes to honor the land we are on and its native peoples. We want to offer recognition and respect; to counter the "doctrine of discovery" with the true story of the people who were already here; to support larger truth-telling and reconciliation efforts; and to remind ourselves that colonization is still happening. We acknowledge that the land where we live and work is un-ceded territory of indigenous peoples since time began. We are surrounded by the traditional, ancestral territory and current homeland of many indigenous nations.

Contact LWVMC

By mail: P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg CA 95437
By email: voter@mcn.org
Our website: lwvmendo.org
Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1>

LWV Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, strives to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy

Links

- Annual meeting packet: my.lwv.org/california/mendocino-county/voter-newsletter **WRONG CONTENT**
- LCP update process recording: <https://www.grassroots-institute.org/vision>
- Mendocino County LCP update: mendocinocounty.org/departments/planning-building-services/long-range-plans/lcp-update
- Coastal Commission staff contacts: coastal.ca.gov/contact/#
- Urchin smashing: <https://mendovoice.com/2023/05/urchin-smashing-off-to-strong-start-this-year-with-30-recreational-divers-at-caspar-cove/>
- Garden internship: <https://noyofoodforest.org/internship/>
- GRI meeting on County budget: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86237053867>
Meeting ID: 862 3705 3867 Passcode: gri
One tap mobile: +16694449171,,86237053867#,,,*758834# US
- Summer reading: <https://www.civicleague.org/2023/05/29/summer-democracy-reading-list/>; <https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/democracy>
- Redistricting improvements: <https://secure.everyaction.com/6tuWFYDPHUKg8CSzbsnrlg2>
- Effects of voter i.d. laws: <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/impact-voter-suppression-color>
- LWVUS blog on voter i.d. laws: <https://www.lwv.org/blog/whats-so-bad-about-voter-id-laws>
- Democracy Docket: <https://www.democracymocket.com/>