



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

March, 2020

Cindy Plank and Nancy Kleiber, Presidents

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

Our March event ...

Meet and Greet Your Public Officials

New Mendocino County Sheriff Matthew Kendall, and recently named Fort Bragg Interim Police Chief John Naulty are among those planning to attend the League's 15th annual Meet & Greet Your Public Officials reception, set for Friday, March 20, from 5 to 7 PM at the Caspar Community Center . The invitation list includes officials and leaders from Mendocino County offices in Ukiah, Mendocino College, the City of Fort Bragg, the Mendocino Coast District Hospital, the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District, coastal school, water and fire districts, and more. This event will provide opportunities to interact with many of our elected

and appointed public representatives in a relaxed, casual atmosphere. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Our League is proud of the reputation we have developed for the tasty treats offered at this event. League members who can help in providing them (finger food is best) should please bring them in by 4:45 to allow sufficient time for setup. If you have questions, contact Patricia Marien at 964-4942 before March 13, or email them to paprika@mcn.org. Meet & Greet Your Public Officials is free and open to the public. We hope to see all *Voter* readers there, and please bring a friend.



Meet and Greet 2019

*Left: John Redding, MCHCD; Lee Tepper, Charlene McAllister, LWVMC.
Right: State Parks director Terry Bertels, past MAPA director (and League member) Jenny Heckerth, and 5th District Supervisor Ted Williams. Photos by Becky Bowen.*

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 through education and advocacy.

President's message ...

Celebrating With Action

by Cindy Plank

We've been celebrating 100 years of the League of Women Voters! We began our birthday celebration with cookies on January 29 at three Willits High School youth voter classroom visits, again on February 3 at the Mendocino Community School classroom, at the February 9 Work Party at Harbor Lite Lodge, and on February 10 with the City of Fort Bragg, whose Council issued a Proclamation honoring and congratulating us and commending the League for its significant contributions to empowering voters and making democracy work. We continued to celebrate our centennial at our February 11 Program Planning meeting with homemade birthday cake, jazz music, and planning our focus for 2020-2021. And I hope you read Nancy Kleiber's excellent Community Forum in the *Fort Bragg Advocate* and *Mendocino Beacon* newspapers.



More classroom celebrations will take place this month as we continue to celebrate "this mighty political experiment" and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment. And speaking of women, don't forget to go to the 37th Annual Women's History Gala Celebration in Ukiah on Monday, March 1. California State Treasurer Fiona Ma is a speaker for this celebration of Valiant Women of the Vote, which will honor League members Val Muchowski and Carrie Durkee, among others.

At the Work Party on February 9 we had a happy birthday banner and homemade cookies from Jane Person. Around 10 volunteers, including LWV members and non-members, assembled 400 Youth Voter Registration swag bags in 35 minutes! I should have brought more materials. And four individuals made 160 Census buttons. Amazing work, and fun to boot! Thank you to Linda Jupiter, Margaret Holub, Marilyn Boese, Carol Czadek, and many more. The next Work Party is scheduled for Sunday, March 8, 2-4 PM. We may do some of the same packet assembly and button making, or we may do something different. Any ideas for a good project? Come and enjoy the fun.

Youth Voter Registration teams have so far visited 7 schools (11 classrooms) and 4 "events" (Fort Bragg HS Conservative Club, Fort Bragg HS Liberal Club, Mendocino College "college hour," Fort Bragg Citizenship Class Celebration). We have distributed 457 swag bags, which include a pocket constitution, a patriotically wrapped chocolate, and several resource lists for registering, researching and fact checking. So far we have registered or pre-registered 88 students. Some of the classrooms we have visited included students who were not yet 16, and therefore could not pre-register. We hope to have inspired this young generation to pledge to be the highest voting population ever.

During our classrooms visits, we also share the importance of every family completing the 2020 Census. We've paid our tax dollars, and now we need to bring those dollars back to our Mendocino County community to put them to work on the needs of all our residents: schools, health care, roads, fire protection, veterans' & senior services, and many other programs. In addition, the Census count is what gives us the number of California representatives we can vote into office and have work on our behalf. Be ready to go online as soon as you receive your notice in the mail around March 12. Don't wait—do it right away—in order to ensure your household gets counted. Completing the Census immediately will also reduce the amount of follow-up needed. If you have a physical mailing address, you will get a card from U.S. Census with your code to access the Census 2020 form online. If you have a P.O. Box as your mailing address, you should receive a card sent by United Way with instructions on how to go online to access a code for completing the Census. If you don't have online access, you can phone in your response. There will also be computers available throughout our community. Do it for your county, for your community.

February meeting ...

League Members Celebrate the Past & Plan the Future

by Jary Stavelly

Thirteen members attended the February 11 meeting at the Caspar Community Center to celebrate the League's centennial and to adopt program goals to support at the national convention this June in Washington, D.C. Those present also identified areas of emphasis for the Mendocino County unit's 2020-21 program year.



After announcements [see President's Message, p. 2], those present partook of the 100th Birthday cake brought by Dorine Real. After the audience returned with celebratory plates in hand, Nancy Kleiber reviewed the goals the national League is proposing for the upcoming two year cycle, which is a continuation of the current program goals, and which has also been adopted by the state League:

The LWVUS Board recommends that Program 2020-2022 continue the campaign for Making Democracy Work® with Leagues throughout the country by working on:

- Redistricting
- Voting Rights
- Improving Elections
- Campaign Finance/Money in Politics

She also presented a position proposal on Voter Representation/Electoral Systems that will be considered for concurrence at the convention. This new position would more directly identify the kinds of representation and election mechanisms which the League supports. It is designed to encourage voter participation and engagement; to give better voice to minorities and other under-represented communities; to promote better access to elections; to minimize 'wasted' and 'strategic' voting; to require a majority, rather than a plurality, of votes for the winners of single-seat offices; and not to interfere with vote-by-mail ballots. Our unit cannot decide directly on our vote at the convention, but we can

Advise or Instruct?

The League has some traditional ways of doing democracy that remind us of some democratic values that are often overlooked in the 21st century. When delegates go to Convention to decide League policy, they represent the "grassroots," yet they are not tied to the vote of the "grassroots" members. Why not? Because full democratic decision making requires a thoughtful exchange of viewpoints among the widest possible diversity of constituents, and even sometimes a little compromise. So we "advise" our delegates of our thinking on the issue and send them off with open minds and hearts.

advise our delegates in their decision.

Several members voiced concerns about the sections of the proposed position which address ‘wasted’ or ‘strategic’ voting, and about the compromise of the secret ballot which mail-in ballots can entail. It was decided to reconsider whatever guidance to give about the proposal at the May Annual Meeting.

Nancy next reviewed what our unit adopted at last year’s program planning meeting:

- Making Democracy Work, with emphasis on civics education, and civil discourse,
- Voter Services/Young Voter Registration
- Environment/Climate Change
- Behavioral Health/Measure B
- Organization Building

Cindy, who, along with Carol Czadek, is a member, said that the state Climate Change Task Force wants each local unit to recommend working on climate change as a fifth element of Making Democracy Work at the national level. It’s clear that solutions to global warming are necessary right now in order to make democracy work in the future. The group decided that Climate Change was so crucial that the chapter should recommend not only including it as a component of Making Democracy Work, but also as a second, co-equal goal alongside it. For our local program emphasis, everyone concurred that last year’s program should be re-adopted, with the following changes:

- Making Democracy Work, with emphasis on redistricting instead of civics education
- Voter Services/Young Voter Registration
- Environment/Climate Change
- Health (broadening to include physical health and hospitals)
- Organization Building, with emphasis on inclusion and an investigation of racism in the community.

A Step Towards Constitutional Equality

US League President Chris Carson’s message about the Equal Rights Amendment (2/13/20):

“Tomorrow, the League of Women Voters turns 100 years old, and I can’t think of a better birthday present than this clear progress towards a more equal democracy for women. Today, we celebrate an important step forward in a long-awaited dream of Constitutional equality for women. Since the 1970s, the League of Women Voters has fought hard to see the ERA become part of our Constitution and guarantee the same freedoms for all of us. The ERA will pave the way for further legislative progress towards gender equality and will allow the courts to closely scrutinize sex-based discrimination. There is no deadline on equality. We urge the Senate to follow the House and remove the deadline for the Equal Rights Amendment.”

The League’s link to contact Senators: <http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/>

The Best Way to Celebrate the Right to Vote is by Voting!

Have you already exercised your right to vote? Don’t worry, you have until Tuesday at 8PM to bring your mail ballot to a polling place. If your ballot is lost, you can get a provisional replacement at the polling place. The news is full of the Democratic primary, but we have very important local offices and issues to decide: the health of our hospital, schools, and emergency services are all at stake in this election.



Still have questions about ballot measures?

Voter’s Edge (<https://votersedge.org/ca>) has the information you want in a convenient form.

Fort Bragg Recognizes League Centennial



League members Jim Plank, George Reinhardt, Meg Courtney, Nancy Kleiber, Jane Person, and Cindy Plank posed with Fort Bragg Councilman Lindy Peters, who presented the official Proclamation from the City honoring the Mendocino County League at the City Council meeting on February 10.

April meeting ...

More about the Schools & Communities First Referendum

Our evening meeting on April 14 will include a presentation by former state League President Helen Hutchison on the Schools & Communities First referendum. Mark your calendars.

Andrew Muse-Fisher, from the state League office, reports that the Schools & Communities First Campaign hit a huge milestone: one million signatures have been submitted for the new and improved ballot measure. He adds. "Over the last few months, several Leagues have gone above and beyond in collecting signatures and spreading the word. LWV Diablo Valley stands in the front of the pack with over 1,000 signatures submitted (nearly one-third of all signatures collected by Leagues across the state)! Also leading the pack are LWV Oakland, LWV Alameda, LWV Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, LWV Ventura County, LWV San Bernardino County, LWV Palos Verdes Peninsula, LWV Humboldt County, **LWV Mendocino County**, and LWV Pasadena."

Gerrymandering Can Live for a Long Time

Voter readers who have been following the news about gerrymandering may be interested in this message from All on the Line, an organization headed by former Attorney General Eric Holder. In Wisconsin, a nonpartisan redistricting commission like the one in California may not be enough, because under the state constitution, it is the Legislature that has the authority to choose the maps:

"Every time we try to make progress, map manipulators dig their heels in. Wisconsin is the perfect example. Wisconsin has been a consistent battleground in the fight for fair maps. The maps drawn in 2011 were notoriously gerrymandered. In fact, during the 2018 election, Republicans won 62% of congressional seats with only 46% of votes.

"Governor Evers saw the injustice inherent in the state's maps and created a nonpartisan redistricting commission to give voters a strong voice in this process. But the existing leadership in the legislature — who hold power because they gerrymandered the maps way back in 2011 — are committed to making sure the lines are drawn in their favor for another decade."

Confused about “Prop 13” on your March Primary Ballot?

by the California LWW

If you are confused about the Proposition 13 appearing on your March 3 ballot, you are not alone. This NEW Proposition 13 has nothing to do with the old Proposition 13, passed in 1978, which changed the way California’s property taxes are assessed. The new 2020 Proposition 13, known as the Bonds for Schools and Colleges, is a legislatively referred statute that authorizes \$15 billion in state general obligation bonds for facility repair, construction, and modernization at public preschools, K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities. The League of Women Voters recommends a YES vote on this Proposition 13.

Although the new “Prop 13” for 2020 has nothing to do with property taxes, there is confusion not only due to the state numbering system, which starts over every 10 years, but also because of another measure, Schools and Communities First—which will appear on the November 2020 ballot—that proposes changes in the way commercial properties are taxed, in order to ameliorate some of the unfair burden on residential property owners that resulted from the 1978 measure. For more information about this November measure, see: <https://lwwc.org/our-work/issues/government/schools-and-communities-first>

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

1978 Prop 13

Tax Limitation
Initiative Constitutional Amendment

Limits all property taxes (residential and commercial) to be based on the value at time of purchase, with a maximum increase of 2% a year, even if value of property and/or inflation grows faster.

Caused damaging cuts to school and local government funding.

also known as
“the 1970s tax revolt”
passed on June 1978 ballot

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1978_California_Proposition_13

2020 Prop 13

The Public Preschool, K-12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2020

A one-time bond for the state government to borrow \$15 billion for earthquake safety and other upgrades to school and college buildings.

No changes to property taxes.

also known as
“Prop 13 School Bond”
“Safe Schools Healthy Learning”
on March 2020 ballot

SafeSchoolsAndHealthyLearning.org

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST

no Prop number assigned yet
The Family Home Protection and Fairness in Property Tax Reassessments Act

Charges low so that commercial property taxes are based on current value, rather than value at time of purchase. No change to property taxes on houses, apartments, & other residential property.

Would bring in \$12 billion a year for schools and local government.

also known as
“Prop 13 Reform” or “Split Roll”
aiming for November 2020 ballot

SchoolsAndCommunitiesFirst.org

Compiled by Alfred Two, Feb 3, 2020.
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Correction: We misreported contact information for Heather Guevara and Zero Waste Mendocino in the February *Voter*. She and her organization can be reached at (706) 284-1211, and zerowastemendo@gmail.com.

37th Annual Women's History Gala Celebration
Valiant Women of the Vote

MARCH 1ST, SUNDAY Doors open 12 pm, Program 1-2:30
 Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse 107 S. Oak St, Ukiah



Barbara Bristol
 Jackeline Orozco



Fiona Ma, Speaker
 CA State Treasurer

**2020
 Mendocino
 Honorees**



Kelda Britton
 Speaker



Val Muchowski
 Carrie Durkee



MUSICIANS
 HISTORICAL
 PERFORMANCES
 FUNDRAISERS
 APPETIZERS,
 COFFEE/TEA
 DESSERTS

In support of education and opportunity for women
 to participate in leadership and governance.

Presented by the
 Mendocino Women's Political Coalition
 American Association of University Women - Ukiah
 Mendocino County Office of Education
 Cloud Forest Institute

ALL ARE
 WELCOME
 \$10
 SUGGESTED
 DONATION
 AT THE DOOR