

## The Voter THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

Empowering voters, defending democracy

Jary Stavely and Dorine Real, Editors

by Pat Dunbar

March 2025

## Zoom **Tuesday**

to join

March 10-March 30

March 20 (Thursday)

April 1 (Tuesday)

Special District Elections

from home March 18 6:00 pm **CLICK HERE** 

County elections are expensive! This month's League program, to be held Tuesday, March 18 at 6 pm, will look at those costs, and how they affect the

districts for them.

ability of special districts, such as fire, water and cemetery, to field slates of candidates. It seems that for many of these small districts, the cost of an election is prohibitive. Instead, districts may just have the number of needed candidates for the number of open seats, resulting in appointments rather than an actual election. Not really very democratic, is it? Our Registrar of Voters, Katrina Bartolomie, will join our Zoom meeting to funds from the state for conducting elections; the county budget only covers county-wide elections and the supervisor races. The elections department is for social time, and the program will begin at 6:00. As always, the League welcomes your friends and neighbors to participate in the presentation and

explain how election costs are determined, and how those costs are apportioned to various districts, candidates, and measures. Our county no longer receives any required by law to cover other costs by charging the cities, candidates, or special Join us for a lively discussion of this topic. Zoom will be available starting at 5:30 discussion. In this issue ... Calendar

March 4 - March 27 evenings Dineouts to support Latino Coalition scholarships March 10 (Monday) 6:00 Fort Bragg Town Hall Public planning workshop for Noyo Headlands Online LWVC Action Auction fundraiser 3:00 5:00 Zoom Zoom 4:00-5:30 6:00 Zoom

**Special District Elections** March 4 (Tuesday) evening **Taking Action** "Light for Our Democracy" event Discussion of Local Goals local restaurants Study of the Federal Judiciary Civics Education **Funding for Senior Meals** New Landline Service Threat League Treasurer Wanted

GRI LCP Update March 30 (Sunday) "Local Power" panel discussion [tentative] Member meeting: Federal Judiciary study The public is welcome at these events. Please invite your

friends and neighbors. Taking Action by Charlene McAllister These are certainly troubling times. Our local League has recently helped to spread the word locally about the No Buy Day on February 28, and the coastal senior centers' alarm over funding for its meal programs. As

Noyo Headlands Planning Of Local Interest Sustainable Reconstruction California League Updates **US League Statements** Light for Our Democracy **LWVMC Information** Links Click these entries to jump to the articles

any better than Celina Stewart, CEO of LWVUS, did: "For over a century, the League has remained steadfast in our commitment to Demand that Congress defend the Constitution: the American people and our https://www.lwv.org/take-action For a quick email: democracy. President Trump's latest actions put both in deep jeopardy. We call on our For phone calls and letters: elected officials to stand up to Representative Jared Huffman (202) 225-5161 tyranny, protect our democracy, and honor U.S. House of Representatives their oath to the American people. 2330 Rayburn House Office Building "The dismantling of our sacred democracy Washington, DC 20515 on full display for the world is one of the (202) 224-3841 Senator Adam Schiff most horrific events in modern-day politics. When the executive branch egregiously signals it will defy court orders (202) 224-3553 and neglect the welfare of citizens, that is

for the national situation, I cannot say this

**United States Senate** Washington, D.C. 20510 Senator Alejandro Padilla **United States Senate** when Congress must be reminded of their Washington, D.C. 20510 duty to defend the Constitution. The League demands Congress act to prevent threats to the very fabric of our Republic." Take part as much as you can in the events and actions that the League is supporting. Make your concerns known to the White House. Call them at 202-456-1111. Send a letter to the White House (consider typing on 8.5x11) and be sure to put your return address on the inside and outside of your letter. The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20500. Or email, to get there faster: https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/. Program Planning: Discussion of Local Goals It's all about community

Dear LWVC,

The following letter was sent to the State League as our input about state level priorities: The Mendocino County League has held its State-level program planning discussion and concluded the following: We agree with your program planning guidance to us that your agenda has been very full with ongoing projects relating to five

Making Democracy Work (now reorganized at the National

level as Women Defend Democracy)

Housing and homelessness

· Criminal justice

• Climate change

Water

Sincerely,

Charlene McAllister

for LWV of Mendocino County

reviewing some recent developments We agree that these topics are all important for the people of in the county regarding water, California. We agree that they are all appropriately addressed at planning for sea level rise, and the the State level. We believe that you, our State leaders and staff, newly revived effort to map out what have the best insights into which topics and specific projects are should take place on the Noyo most "ripe" for effective action. Therefore we won't choose Headlands. Charlene then discussed favorites among these topics, but leave balancing energy among transportation issues the county is them to your discretion. facing. Finally, Dorine presented an However, we do feel that some new priorities have arisen that idea from Civic Nebraska for a Civic demand to be addressed now: Health Survey. • The integrity of the U.S. Constitution as it affects the rights During the ensuing discussion on and welfare of the people of California

reforms include

PRATTICIPATE IN THE LIFE SE VOLD COMMUNITY

here!

"THANK YOU.

League Help Wanted

carried out at county farmers' markets (the site of many productive interactions with the public during the League's voter registration efforts last fall), and could lead to better democracy at the county and local levels. A committee of Jess Green, National study coming to LWVMC

Zoom, it became clear that the group

Engagement as especially important

project could give non-voters space to discuss why they have stayed

away from the polls, could be partly

favored exploring Civic Health /

to the current situation. Such a

Thirteen people participated in the League's February 18 Program

Planning meeting on Zoom.

Charlene McAllister began the session with an overview of the

process, and then asked Dorine Real

to lead a discussion on the state level

program. Dorine presented a draft

emerging issues caused by national

Everyone in attendance approved the

letter as representing our local input

Morning Nichols began the

League's local Program by

discussion of how to guide the

letter [see sidebar] emphasizing

politics.

to LWVC.

• adopting an enforceable code of ethics that SCOTUS Justices must adhere to, • and providing more transparency for decisions made on the so-called shadow docket. LWVUS has fast-tracked a study to create an official position which is to be announced in June of this year. The study's purpose includes (but is not limited to) clarifying and addressing concerns about judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics. The scope addresses the Supreme Court as well as the other Article III federal courts. hat does it take to be a good citizen

Sydney Grange, and Dorine was formed to continue to work on the concept, with assistance from Charlene. A secondary emphasis on assisting land use planning for the former Fort Bragg millsite was also agreed to by those in attendance. There seemed to be true consensus, even without sticker dots. Study of the Federal Judiciary According to a U.S. League Town Hall held on February 4, several bipartisan reforms for the Supreme Court are now being considered as a way to de-politicize its makeup, and to augment public respect for the federal judiciary, thereby strengthening the balance of power that helps make our democracy work. These

• Solidarity with immigrants, particularly undocumented ones,

We expect more urgent issues to emerge at the national level and

urge you to support LWVUS as strongly as possible.

and other targets of discrimination

League youth outreach coordinator Cindy Plank has found a local League site in Washington State as an example of how to organize civics education resources. Cindy adds, "Those of us who have visited Mendocino County high schools have seen many classrooms with excellent civics education." At the state League level, Washington has many educational materials and has even created civics textbooks for grade 3 up. This attractive poster (found on the above site) points out that good citizenship is "not all about government" and suggests that good citizens need to •Respect each other even when we don't think alike •Keep our minds open to new ideas •Take care of each other and the natural world that sustains us

government decision makers and pressure them enough so that the federal funding for the food program can continue. The Older Americans Act, law 89-73, provides about \$250K a year to our Fort Bragg/Redwood Coast Senior Center, which is about 1/2 of our budget, for the congregate lunch program and the meals-onwheels program. All senior centers across the U.S. that receive federal funding are affected by this cut. If the Older Americans Act is not REAUTHORIZED, the federal money will stop in mid March. "As for our senior center, it is operating normally—active, useful, and fun—and it

Voter readers who followed the recent CPUC decision denying AT&T's request to

Resort' Obligation":

Hall to provide the public with information about a proposed collaborative planning effort between it and Mendocino Railway (MR), concerning future development on the Noyo Headlands. Presentations were made by a panel which included representatives of MR, the city (including all five council members), and a third party planning group. The meeting also was designed to give local residents the opportunity to present their ideas about the plan. A city press release announcing the meeting gave some background: "For over two decades, the City has been engaged in planning efforts for the Mill Site. In 2019, the City's two-year reuse planning process was put on hold due to litigation between the City, Mendocino Railway, and the California Coastal

and posters. Attendees were also invited to make three-minute public comments and questions in stages of 5 or 6 speakers in succession, each stage followed by a response period for the presenters to give feedback, clarification, and further information. Widespread appreciation of the Coastal Trail was expressed during this period, as well as hopes for continued cooperation, more housing, watercourse restoration, an indigenous cultural center, and the development of a

feasibility of the collaboration.

Dine Out to Support Worthy Students Coastal Latino-owned restaurants are participating in a campaign to support the Latino Coalition's scholarship fund for high school seniors who wish to attend college. Each establishment listed will donate a portion of their proceeds on the designated day to the fund. Coastal residents are invited to dine out in support of the effort. • Tuesday, March 4: Mayan Fusion

> • Thursday, March 6: Cafe One • Monday, March 10: Los Gallitos • Wednesday, March 12: La Palapa • Wednesday, March 19: Casa del Sol

Of Local Interest

have you be part of this workgroup. If you are interested, please send me an email. We are going to need all the help we can get with the current assault on our democracy.

The video of the last workshop with Elise Cox, veteran journalist and KZYX News Director, is now up on the GRI website (scroll to bottom). She presented a vision for revitalizing local journalism. Let me know if you have any questions.

Fort Bragg Headlands. Additionally, a presentation is being prepared outlining public goals, concerns and recommendations for the seven coastal areas in the 5th Supervisor District (Mendocino village to Gualala). And finally, the Working Group will discuss the County's Transportation Plan update started by MCOG. The Mendo County Vision Working Group plans to issue a report with recommendations on the County's Transportation Plan in the coming months. Input on the content of that report is solicited and welcome—email me your ideas and suggestions. At the Coastal Commission level, a letter has been sent to Kate Huckelbridge, the CCC's Executive Director, requesting clarification about participation by the Coastal Commission in joint development of a master development agreement

EAC, and PWP displayed a strong respect for the League of Women Voters. —Kitty Kroger and Kathy Berlin, Natural Resources Committee, LWV-PA California League Updates "Love Letter" to the League [Below is an excerpt from Helen Hutchison's message on the US League's birthday, February 14.) On the League's 105th birthday, we're not just celebrating, we're fighting. You've seen President Trump's relentless attacks on the fundamental tenets of our democracy: freezing federal funding, suspending refugee programs, eliminating DEI initiatives, enforcing aggressive immigration policies, and pushing voter ID

Image courtesy of Los Angeles County Fire Dept.

US League Statements Government Against the People Following numerous executive actions threatening democracy, as well as the immigrant and LGBTQIA+ communities, on February 6, LWV CEO Celina Stewart condemned "the weaponization of government against Americans." Demanding Investigation into DOGE On February 7 LWVUS joined 118 organizations calling on Congress to investigate the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) 's illegal activities.

> action, and solidarity. window.

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-

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

telling and reconciliation efforts; and to remind ourselves that colonization is still

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 Message phone: (707) 937-4952 Our website: lwvmendo.org Our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1 **LWV Mission Statement** encourages informed and active participation in government,

Links

"Questions are arising re the senior center—we are asking for folks to call the

is our intention to continue to do so. Lunch is delicious and there is live music [3] days a week]. More wonderful volunteers are always wanted—garden time is

"What to do? Phone our district [Congressman] Huffman, 202 225-5161; our senators: Padilla—202-224-3553, Schiff—202-224-3841. Perhaps even better,

"Directory of representatives" and "Contacting us senators" are 2 web sites that

please CALL REPUBLICAN SENATORS AND CONGRESSPEOPLE!!

be allowed to abandon providing certain landline services may be interested in a message posted by Albion resident Annemarie Weibel to the Mendocino Announce List. She found the following piece in the Eureka Times-Standard by Sage Alexander, entitled "Bill Introduced To Get AT&T Out Of 'Carrier Of Last "A state assembly bill was introduced earlier this month. The author intends it to be a placeholder to amend laws that make AT&T provide base-level phone service to thousands of Californians. Carriers of Last Resort (COLR) are companies required by state law to provide some service to all customers who request it. AT&T is the largest COLR in California. The telecommunications giant has been attempting to get out of this designation for swaths of California, including Humboldt County, so far without success. The bill's author, Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood) told Politico earlier this month that this bill, AB 470, is an intent bill that would phase out AT&T's obligation for landline service in areas that have other coverage."

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County is still seeking a Treasurer

Commission over land use authority. In November, the City and Mendocino Railway jointly requested a litigation stay to explore a collaborative planning approach. This workshop marks a critical first step in setting litigation aside and establishing a structured process with clear guidelines and commitments for developing a community-based reuse plan for the Mill Site. If successful, this

effort could pave the way for new housing, job opportunities, and expanded open

During the meeting Chris Hart and Robert Pinoli of the railroad, along with urban design specialist Burton Miller, described their current ideas for the area, which

A map representing a "starting point" for planning, incorporating these ideas plus concepts from previous community planning efforts, was passed out at the door;

participate by writing comments on post-it notes and attaching them to the maps

more diversified economy. During this part of the meeting, former City Council member Jessica Morsell-Haye suggested that the millsite plan presented four years ago by a committee from the City Council and Planning Commission, after a similar process involving the railroad, the city, and the public, could be just as suitable a basis to proceed from as what was being shown now. MR attorney

The case brought by the County against Mendocino County Auditor Chamise Cubbison has been dismissed, and after a hiatus of 16 months, she has resumed work. Details can be found in a report by KZYX news director Elise Cox, and a

more maps and other displays covered the walls. The public was invited to

"Over the past two months, the City has reignited planning efforts with Mendocino Railway and its land use planning team. Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS), along with local planning professionals, is leading this initiative. EPS, which previously contributed to Mill Site planning in 2004 [by facilitating the purchase of the Coastal Trail property from Georgia-Pacific],

brings extensive experience in large-scale development projects."

common carrier, it was not obligated to seek building permit approval from the city or the Coastal Commission—an issue which is at the heart of the litigation that has stalled planning since 2020. The City Council will hold a Study Session at 6 pm on March 10 at Town Hall to further explore the possibility of pursuing this plan to collaborate. The public is invited to attend. The February 25 meeting was recorded, and can be viewed on

County Auditor Exonerated

(paywalled) article by Press-Democrat reporter Colin Atagi.

 Monday, March 24: Noyo River Grill • Thursday, March 27: Estrella Taqueria La Gloria participated on February 25. Garden Beds Available from Sakina Bush via the Mendocino Announce List

Indigenous Community Buying Property Frank Hartzell has published an article about multiple recent property acquisitions by Mendocino County indigenous tribes. The League recognizes the fact that local governments and a large percentage of the population occupy land that historically was seized by force.

LCP Update Review Coming March 20

The next Mendocino County Vision Working Group zoom meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20 from 3 to 5 pm, and will feature a presentation from California State Parks on the challenges of climate change and its plans for coastal State Parks going forward. Also, HERE (a local group of residents) has received approval for a technical assistance grant from the Department of Toxic Substance Control and will make a presentation on their project addressing the

detail, but it was interesting:" From a sister League ... Sustainable Reconstruction of Pasadena Buildings Destroyed by the Eaton Fire The following is taken from the Voter of our sister League of the Pasadena Area. Our county's repeated experience with destructive wildfires makes it of particular interest. On February 11, 2025, Kathy Berlin and Cynthia Cannady of the Natural Resources Committee attended meetings of the Environmental Advisory Commission and the Municipal Services Committee of Pasadena. Both meetings

> included a presentation regarding rebuilding in Pasadena after the Eaton Fire, which destroyed 185 structures in

> However, during the presentation nothing was mentioned about sustainability. Kathy then introduced a letter from the Pasadena Area League, signed by Karen Roberson, President of LWV-PA, and with the support of Martha Zavala, Advocacy Chair, concerning the need for

sustainable rebuilding. A lively discussion ensued at both meetings regarding the pitfalls of relying on fossil fuels instead of carbon-free energy sources such as solar power, supported by batteries. The idea was advanced that PWP purchase the solar energy and lease it to the members of

the community, thereby forming a microgrid (a small grid that can operate independently and be connected to a larger

Pasadena, according to the mayor's office.

network, if needed). The interim director of PWP, David Reyes, attended both

We will observe what follows from these discussions. One thing, however, is clear: Without the encouragement of the League, it is doubtful the question of sustainable reconstruction would have arisen at all! The members of the MSC,

laws, just to name a few. Through this, we remain standing shoulder to shoulder, resisting these relentless threats to our democracy. The barrage is designed to wear us down. But we refuse to break. Our democracy is only as strong as those

meetings and said that PWP would investigate that possibility.

California Fair Elections Act Introduced The new California Fair Elections Act has been introduced to allow public financing of campaigns in order to fight Big Money in politics anywhere in California. Residents of our state are rightly concerned they lack a full voice in elections because their small contributions can't compete with big money from wealthy interests. Five charter cities have voluntary public financing of campaigns to amplify the voices of everyday voters and provide candidates an alternative to relying on large donors. But in the vast majority of elections—all those for counties, districts, general law cities, and in state elections—this prodemocracy option is banned. SB 42, authored by Senators Tom Umberg and Ben Allen and Assemblymember Alex Lee, and sponsored by the California Clean Money Campaign, California

Common Cause, and the League of Women Voters of California, will put the California Fair Elections Act on the November 2026 ballot to repeal the current ban on public financing of campaigns so any jurisdiction in the state can pass public financing of campaigns. SIGN THE PETITION to ask YOUR legislators to

With attacks on democracy making daily headlines, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But real change is happening—right in our own communities. Across California, local leaders are stepping up to defend democracy, protect rights, and drive policy that ripples across the nation. We're proud that some of our very own League members have recently been elected to serve their cities—and we want you to

Join us on March 30 at 4:00 for an inspiring conversation with three newly elected

coauthor SB 42 now, or thank them if they already have.

League members who are making a difference:

Adena Ishii – Mayor, City of Berkeley

Lorrel Plimier – Councilmember, City of Piedmont

service, every contribution helps us take action. Let us know!

Natalya Zernitskaya – Councilmember, City of Santa Monica They'll share why local government is more important than ever, how they're strengthening democracy in their communities, and what we can all do to make an impact. Tickets are just \$10—and additional donations are strongly encouraged to

support the League's critical advocacy efforts in Sacramento and throughout

Support the LWVC Action Auction, March 10—March 30. Do you have a good or service you'd like to donate to the LWVC 2025 Action Auction? Your generous donation helps power the fight for democracy, fueling our work in Sacramento and beyond. Whether it's a vacation stay, a special experience, or a unique

The letter, led by Public Citizen and the National Women's Law Center, demands that Congress investigate whether Elon Musk and the DOGE violated the law by

On February 14, League leaders from all 50 states and DC urged Congress to

accessing protected or classified information without authorization.

Urging Congress to Exercise Authority

stand in its authority and restore stability to our government.

meet them.

California.

"Local Power" Event for California League

On February 27, winding up Black History Month, the League published a blog post by Brady Horine profiling four women who shaped the Civil Rights Movement, paving the way for our work today. Light for our Democracy The League is supporting We the People in the following co-ordinated action.

display their own lights on the evening of March 4.

LIGHT FOR OUR DEMOCRACY

MARCH 4, 2025 • 8:30PM ET

#Light4Democracy

together to defend it.

While there are no gatherings scheduled nearby, Voter readers are invited to

Democracy is not just a system of government—it's the power of the people. It begins with us, our voices, and our votes. At a time when democracy is under threat, LWV is asking you, and countless folks across the country, to come

Tuesday, March 4th, marks the President's Address to Congress. Instead of tuning in, We the People will participate in community gatherings at state capitols and public gathering spaces across the country to bring people together in reflection,

This action offers a peaceful and unified space to come together for the health of our democracy, the future of our nation and the well-being of all its people. If you are near an event, bring some type of light—flashlights, portable lanterns, cell phones, etc. If you are not near an event, shine a light on our Democracy by joining with friends, neighbors, family or by lighting a candle to shine from your Land Acknowledgement The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County wishes to honor the land we are on

> The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, strives to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy

Judiciary: https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy-litigation/2024-2025-federal-judiciary-studyprocess-committee-and Civic education: https://www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/content.aspx? page\_id=22&club\_id=209672&module\_id=496492

Noyo Headlands: https://cityfortbragg.granicus.com/player/clip/1447?view\_id=1&redirect=true Local: https://www.kzyx.org/2025-02-27/chamise-cubbison-returns-to-work, https:// (fundraiser) Fair elections: https://click.everyaction.com/k/101748578/526942353/-32740833

www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/mendocino-county-auditor-case-2/ (auditor); https:// www.grassroots-institute.org/courses/elections2024 (GRI); firesafepointarena@gmail.com (Hubs and Routes); https://mendocinocoast.news/potter-valley-tribe-adding-preserving-lands-in-westport-caspar/ (Indigenous); https://mendovoice.com/2025/02/mendocino-county-supervisors-explore-regulations-fordude-ranch-and-hip-camp-rentals/ (hip camping); https://www.eventcreate.com/e/leagueleaders

US Statements: https://default.salsalabs.org/T2d93837f-6616-43d6-

bf3a-672b9216f0c7 (DEI); https://default.salsalabs.org/Taaeb3d55-daaf-49f7a950-47ffb6188ad3/34be5bff-59c8-45df-bf3a-672b9216f0c7 (civil rights)

bf3a-672b9216f0c7 (Congress); https://default.salsalabs.org/Tfc1224ea-c90d-4963-8d6ba98e5434ba89/34be5bff-59c8-45df-bf3a-672b9216f0c7, https://default.salsalabs.org/ default.salsalabs.org/Tfc1c8432-1743-4758-9965-5ae8507b3d85/34be5bff-59c8-45df-

bc2c-173d9ed733c0/34be5bff-59c8-45df-bf3a-672b9216f0c7 (government/people); https:// www.lwv.org/league-joins-partners-urging-congress-investigate-illegal-actions-elon-musk-and-doge (DOGE); https://default.salsalabs.org/T03fce4fc-5620-4516-a158-25d6ccad8cbe/34be5bff-59c8-45df-Tbaa82e3f-8a6f-46f1-a356-deb540a149cf/34be5bff-59c8-45df-bf3a-672b9216f0c7, https://

The Mendocino County League will participate in the study at a zoom meeting, likely to be held on Tuesday, April 1. Please save the date and plan to attend. More information will be provided ahead of the meeting. Since there will not be time at the meeting to educate ourselves on the issues, you can prepare by visiting the LWVUS Study Guide and related information. Civics Education DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY? VOTE!

• enacting 18-year term limits for Supreme Court Justices,

Funding for Senior Meals During February, leaders of the Redwood Coast Senior Center have been advocating for action to make sure that federal funding for its senior meal programs is continued. Board member Zomala Abell provided this summary on February 24:

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Chair John Haschak responded to the League's dissemination of the Senior Center's call to action (which also included information on the February 28 No Buy Day, supported by the League) with the following message: "Dear League of Women Voters of Mendocino County, Thank you for your advocacy on these two issues: the Feb. 28 no buy day and funding for the Older Americans Act. I participated in an emergency meeting of the Area Agency on Aging re: the OAA reauthorization. Subsequently, the Board has sent a letter of support for OAA reauthorization to our legislators so that our senior centers can get needed funding. I have attached the letter we sent to Congressman Huffman. Thank you for your advocacy in these troubling times." To see the letter, send an email to voter@mcn.org. New Landline Service Threat

list names, state, political party, phone numbers.

"Redwood Coast Seniors, 707-964-0443."

whose duties would begin July 1. Its Board would also love to have some tech support in the areas of social media, website maintenance, and record keeping, as with the Treasurer mentioned above. If you can offer your help, or know of someone else who might, please contact Cindy Plank via email (cindyplank@gmail.com) or phone (707-357-4282). New direction for Noyo Headlands Planning On February 25 the City of Fort Bragg held a public workshop at a filled Town

includes a new railroad station on a westward extension of Redwood Avenue, a new rail loop in the north central area, an electric trolley line running most of the way between Cypress & Elm streets., and a nature trail with a discovery center along the drainages leading to Pond 8, connecting to the existing Coastal Trail. Walter Keiser of EPS showed a flow chart describing the various steps needed for a successful collaboration. The outcome would also need to satisfy other stakeholders such as the Coastal Commission and the state Department of Toxic Substance Control. City Council members Lindy Peters and Jason Godeke (currently Mayor) have been participating in the Ad Hoc Committee exploring the

space for the community.

Torgny Nillson repeated the railroad's legal stance that, as a federally supervised the city's website.

The Caspar Community Garden has some garden beds available. Garden beds are approximately 4' x 20' (some a bit longer). Rent for a bed is \$25 a year and includes water, access to a shared greenhouse, tools and toolshed, and communal compost. If interested contact Rochelle at relkan@mcn.org. GRI Election Workshops Wrap Up by Jim Tarbell Thanks to all of you for all you did in making GRI's series of workshops on Elections 2024 an informative and community-building experience for everyone. We completed the series on February 16 with a wake for Elections 2024 and the initiation of a GRI Pro-Democracy workgroup to deal with the challenges our democracy is facing with the new Republican administration. We would love to

> Hello, Coast Community! The Hubs & Routes project is drawing to a close. If you signed up as a Hub, your Hub information is no longer accessible online. If you wish to help local emergency readiness moving forward, please reach out to one of the following leaders. These leaders are the new owners of Hubs & Routes' educational equipment, in addition to other plans and resources. • NORTH COAST: Chief Dan Maxey of Westport Volunteer Fire Department • CENTRAL COAST: Captain Thomas O Neal of Fort Bragg Police Department • SOUTH COAST: Jennifer Smallwood of Point Arena Fire Safe Council We are very thankful for the support you have given us over the past five years!

Hubs & Routes Closing Down

by Jennifer Kreger

by Peter McNamee

plan for the Fort Bragg headlands—part of an effort to craft a settlement of the lawsuit between Mendocino Railway vs. Fort Bragg and the Coastal Commission [see Noyo Headlands Planning, above]. As always, if you have any questions or comments, or wish to see a copy of the letter I just mentioned, please feel free to contact me. Supervisors Discuss Camping Proposal *Voter* readers with interest or concerns about the proposal to allow private landowners (without commercial licenses) to provide "hip camping" on their Mendocino County properties may want to read this article shared by League Board Member Sydney Grange on February 15, with the message, "Here is an article I came across from the meeting where this was discussed. Not a ton of

I've been a League member for 56 years—more than half its lifetime. It has been one of the greatest loves of my life. And now, as Interim Executive Director, I see firsthand the power of this organization every day. We are not partisan, but we are political. And we are a trusted voice in Sacramento, influencing decisions that shape California's future and protect us from federal policies aimed to weaken democracy. This work is deep, strategic, and built to last. Decades ago, we fought for independent redistricting—and today, we continue protecting it. Recently, an LWVC briefing paper shaped the vote on an important issue. And just last year, our testimony on the dangers of a Constitutional Convention helped shape legislation that keeps California from being a party to attempts to undermine our democracy. We continue to fight these efforts in the current legislative session.

who defend it, and together, we are unshakable.

Celebrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Earlier in the month, CEO Celina Stewart explained what DEI really is and how it impacts us and our democracy, and on February 28, the LWVUS stood with partners in boycotting companies that have dissolved their DEI programs, such as Amazon, Walmart, and Target. Women of the Civil Rights Movement