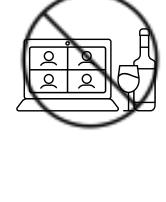


## The Voter THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY October 2021

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

An Opportunity to Meet in Person

## It may be pouring, but it won't be boring You can free up your calendar for Tuesday, November 16, since there will not be a League Zoom meeting at 6 PM on that day. Instead, put Sunday, November 14 at Not this month!



1 PM into your plans. The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County invites you to visit the exciting new South Lincoln Street Community Garden located at the C.V. Starr Community Center on Lincoln St. in Fort Bragg. Matt Drewno and the staff and volunteers of the Garden Friendly Community of Fort Bragg (GFCFB) will conduct tours and show off the tremendous transformation of the south lot of the Aquatic Center. They will also share plans for the second garden in development, the South Harbor Street Community

Garden.

This will provide a great opportunity for League members and friends to get together in person! Membership Chair Jary Stavely will provide our traditional

League ID tags, and will be happy to receive renewing dues from those who bring their checkbooks. This collaborative event is free, but a donation jar will be handy so you can support this volunteer-driven Garden Friendly project in our Garden Friendly City. Please contact Cindy Plank (357-4282 or cindyplank@gmail.com) if you will attend, so the GFCFB can prepare properly.

Join the League of Women Voters of Mendocino **County and Garden Friendly Community Fort Bragg** 

For a free community garden tour:



This free collaborative event includes a tour of the garden and

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MENDOCINO COUNTY

Donations are welcomed to support a growing community garden movement in Fort Bragg! Calendar In this issue ... All events are on Tuesdays, except as noted. The format of future meetings is still being planned. Learning Local History November 14 (Sunday) 1:00 PM, C.V. Starr Center **Grassroots Institute** 

Community Garden tour

Zoom

discussion of the role our community gardens play in the health and sustainability of Fort Bragg!

December 14 6:00 PM, Members' meeting: Housing, State and National Leagues Our Communities / Our Issues January 11, 2022 time/place TBA Members' meeting: Voting Rights / Voting Equity time/place TBA February 15

A study group of local League members have tasked themselves with learning more about the indigenous people who have lived, and are now living, in Mendocino County. They have compiled a report about what they discovered so far, entitled *The Land We Call Home*. Their work covers four major areas: The Land We Live On, The Roots of our Democracy, Local Efforts, and Common November has been designated National Native American Heritage Month by President Biden, so this is an especially appropriate time to share their report. The Voter is sending it as a stand-alone document, but it should be considered an integral part of this month's newsletter. The introduction to the piece follows: There is so much history about the land that we live on and the people who have lived here for thousands of years. But too many of us know far too little of that history. Our League has formed a discussion group to learn more about the peoples and the cultures of this land. The League of Women Voters began more than 100 years ago, advocating education and good government policies, but many of us in our group realized we didn't know enough about local Tribal governments, how they connect with federal, state and local

governments, and the common goals between Tribal governments and the positions/policies of League of Women Voters. We would like to respectfully

share what we've learned so far, limited by the best of our current

understanding.

Grassroots Institute

individual voting rights and keeping corporate money out of politics. Eventually, he, Carrie, local economist Michael St. John, and Willits activist Margaret Koster, taught a series of community college classes in Fort Bragg, Willits, and Ukiah dealing with citizenship, economics, and corporate power. They received guidance from Bay Area academic Lillian Cartwright. In 2015 the five of them formed the Grassroots Institute, with the tagline, "Progressive Solutions for the Common Good." After recounting some of her own experiences leading up to her involvement with GRI, Carrie outlined what its current working groups are doing. The Climate Action group's carbon emissions reduction initiative was the basis for the county's \$2M resolution adopted on August 3 of this year. Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde joined the group, and, with 3rd District Supervisor John Haschak, led the effort to craft the resolution, which involves the use of local, state, and federal funding. Dan reported to the zoom audience that an energy audit of all county buildings is underway as a first step in making a specific proposal

Eileen Mitro, also a member of GRI's climate action group, presented more

information on residential solar energy. The good news is that California now has a law mandating that new buildings of three stories or more must be equipped with solar panels, a measure that will extend solar energy to more low and middle income families. The bad news is that PG&E is promoting 'Netmetering 3', a regulation that will deprive private solar panel users of some current economic benefits, thereby discouraging conversion. Both AARP and the watchdog group TURN have supported the regulation. She urged the public to contact Gov. Newsom in opposition to it. More information can be found at solarrights.org.

Carrie then introduced Michelle MacMillan of the Mendocino Coast Resilience Network, and Genevieve Mullins of the Mendocino Trail Stewards, who are members of GRI's Forest group. The Forest Group supports the movement to change the way the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) selects trees for harvesting. Asserting that JDSF is not really demonstrating a model for better forest management practices, they call for an emphasis on preserving, rather than cutting, the large second growth redwoods in the tract. Making it a 'reserve' rather

than a harvest site would keep a large amount of carbon sequestered from the atmosphere. They want to better inform the public about existing and future timber harvest plans, and to provide information on how to contact CalFire and their legislators. More information can be found at savejackson.org. Other GRI working groups which Carrie summarized are Water, led by Ken Taylor; Noyo Headlands, led by George Reinhardt and Jim Tarbell; Land Ownership & Management, led by Judy Tarbell, Geri Morisky, and Michael St. John; Seeking Election Candidates, led by Susan Nutter and Linda Rosengarten; and Blueprint/Vision for Mendocino County, led by Peter McNamee. Peter complimented Dan Gjerde for his ample interaction with the climate action group to get the carbon reduction resolution crafted, and mentioned that the supervisors are also equipping all the libraries and some other facilities with battery storage rather than generators for use during power outages. The goals of the Blueprint group include facilitating communication among different organizations within the county; improving the electrical grid and reducing the need for power shutoffs for public safety; helping local governments make good use of upcoming state/ federal infrastructure funding; and keeping communities rather than corporations in control of the county's natural resources.

commission meetings, go to wedrawthelinesca.org/10\_27-29\_21\_handouts. You can comment, too. Although new maps for California Community College districts are scheduled for completion at a later date than those for county, state and federal voting districts, Mendocino College has begun its process. Initial meetings for Willits and Lake County have already been held, and the first one involving the Mendocino Coast will take place at the campus on Ocean View Drive in Fort Bragg (and on Zoom) from 5 to 7 PM on November 3. More information about the background of California Community College redistricting, criteria, key dates, and meeting information are on the College's website. Fort Bragg Mill Site Skunk Train vs City of Fort Bragg According to articles in the Advocate-News and MendoFever, the City of Fort Bragg and the Skunk Train are at odds concerning who will control the southern portion of the old oceanfront mill site on the Noyo Headlands. On October 12 the Fort Bragg City Council authorized the sale of lease revenue bonds, part of which will be used to restructure the city's pension debt, and part of which might be used to acquire the so-called Mill Site South from Georgia-Pacific. Prior to that

meeting, Mendocino Railway (a.k.a. Skunk Train) President Jason Pinoli

from G-P, based on a railroad's historic right to declare eminent domain.

George Reinhardt, of NHUDG and Grassroots Institute's Noyo Headlands

published an op-ed in *MendoFever* heavily criticizing the city's purchase idea, saying it merely wanted to "interfere" with his business' plan to redevelop the property. Mendocino Railway has filed a lawsuit to acquire the contested property

## or bike there? healthy natural state. We must daylight the year round creeks and finish

is, you can attend in person or online.

State and National Leagues

Now campaign to demand that President Biden use his full power to promote federal voting rights legislation. Both incidents led to the arrest of multiple coalition members, public figures, faith leaders, and community activists, including LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase Solomón, actress Alyssa Milano, People For the American Way's Ben Jealous, and Declaration For American Democracy's Jana Morgan. LWV and partners will continue to advocate for the freedom to vote in actions on November 3, 10, and 17. Senate Introduces John Lewis VRAA In a 51 – 49 vote, the US Senate failed to move forward on the *Freedom to Vote* Act. In response, LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase Solomón stated, "This legislation will provide equal access to voting for all Americans, stop partisan gerrymandering, and limit the influence of dark money so that billionaires can't buy elections. We need federal legislation to protect voting rights before the next election cycle." Meanwhile, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA) was introduced in the Senate. This bill would fully restore the *Voting* Rights Act and put an end to discriminatory voting policies. Tell your senators to support this act, which is anticipated to receive a Senate vote within the next month. (Congress)women Power Democracy LWV hosted a panel discussion among four women in Congress to discuss the challenges facing US democracy. Representatives from all parties were invited to participate. Panelists included Congresswoman Terri Sewell, Congresswoman

Transparency Task Force Report and Recommendations. The LWVC was included in this important work with League members Jennifer Waggoner and Katie Zoglin representing LWVC on the Task Force. The intent is that the legislature will use these recommendations to improve or create disclosure laws that address the ever growing and ever changing practice of digital political advertising. Recall Reform The LWVC Board of Directors discussed recall election reform during its last meeting. The LWVC has positions and general principles that support reform. Much investigation and research is needed to determine what and how recall elections can be altered to make sure that California has a reasonable, rational

governmental system that carries out the will of the voters. Careful consideration of any reform idea is necessary and will be conducted using the League's process for assessing any bill or Constitutional amendment. See the Recall update for

State Senator Mike McGuire recently (October 21) held an online workshop on homelessness in his district. Voter readers who were unable to attend can find a

Mendocino Coast Health Care District. The public can now follow its activities at either mchcd.org or mchcdorg.com. The sites currently display a concise history of the District and the Hospital (mchcd) and results of its recently completed healthcare satisfaction survey (mchcdorg). Information on the Board's meetings is

report in the Ukiah Daily Journal; or view the recording on Facebook.

promoting and encouraging Californians to participate in public hearings at the state and local levels. Several League members are serving on their city or county citizens redistricting commissions. [Our League has two: Paula Cohen and Peter McNamee] Hats off to them! Our indefatigable members Helen Hutchison and Chris Carson are spending many hours a week monitoring the state Citizens Redistricting Commission, coordinating with LWVUS's work, and offering

The California Fair Political Practices Commission recently released its Digital

education and advice to local Leagues. Our thanks go to them.

Digital Transparency Task Force

to support reliable statistics, there is ample confirmation that indeed employers are losing employees and potential employees because of housing issues. Hopland Fire Protection District It's a quiet election season in Mendocino County. Except in Hopland, where the Fire Protection District has put forth Measure L, a property assessment to give the

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-

happening. We acknowledge that the land where we live and work is un-ceded territory of

**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

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

Sturdy Links If the link in the article doesn't work, try pasting the address into your browser. You may need to edit out spaces. Native American Heritage Month: whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/ 2021/10/29/a-proclamation-on-national-native-american-heritage-month-2021/ Rates for solar customers: solarrights.org GRI meeting recording: us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/3QYSs3uoLTC89dpaxgq7zF0iNooOYZQyvnEopSzd5E4BzS11ec1mYUA0lLFWx1S.eVrsT2JW2yqpOCy8 County redistricting information: *mendocinocounty.org/government/executive-office/* redistricting/redistricting-board-meetings-and-public-workshops/-fsiteid-1#!/

Skunk Train controversy (MenoFever): https://mendofever.com/2021/10/13/skunk-train-isattempt-to-use-eminent-domain-to-obtain-mill-site-south-say-city-of-fort-bragg/ Fort Bragg City Council meetings: https://cityfortbragg.legistar.com/

**Improving Communication** Voter readers who are concerned both about civil discourse and about encouraging diversity should consider reading "How Our Discussion of Race Becomes Distorted," an article by John McWhorter, recommended by Pat Dunbar and Cindy Plank. The author, who is a professor of linguistics at Columbia University, explores how the meanings of words change over time, and how that affects our ability to communicate with those around us. He begins, "The other day, one of my daughters, who's 9, asked me what diversity was. She'd picked it out as a common word in the stream of talk coming from the NPR station that we listen to in the car. I started to say something about folks valuing having a wide assortment of people involved in things, but I felt fake. I decided to tell my daughter the truth, which is that in modern parlance, diversity refers to having not just white people around, and especially having Black and Latino people present, too, and not just one or two ..." **Employee Housing** The North Coast Housing Action Team (HAT), from whom we heard in March, has been looking at the problem of "workforce" housing. It is intuitively clear that a lack of available, affordable, suitable housing for employed people is a problem

department on November 2.

Save Jackson DSF: savejackson.org California redistricting: wedrawthelinesca.org/10 27-29 21 handouts Mendocino Community College redistricting: www.mendocino.edu/redistricting Advocate-News article on possible Headlands purchase: https://www.advocate-news.com/

Congresswomen discussion: https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/icymi-memberscongress-discuss-how-women-power-democracy and salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/ track.jsp?v=2&c=FYXyZtf4dVetQ4dTRb56NZGoUMZM1aBJ LWVC advocacy: https://my.lwv.org/california/local-league-management/leaders-

Links Try clicking these entries to jump Members' meeting: Program Planning to the article. Learning Local History

by Jary Stavely The Grassroots Institute (GRI) presented an overview of their organization's history and current activities during the League's October 19 Zoom meeting. Thirty members of both groups and the general public participated in the event, which was organized by the League's environment committee to follow up on GRI's efforts last spring and summer to get Mendocino County governing bodies to reduce their carbon footprints. [see August '21 Voter: "LWVMC supports Grassroots Institute recommendation—Local Governments Can Reduce Carbon Emissions—Three steps we can take and pay for now"] League board member Carol Czadek opened the meeting, and introduced GRI leaders Jim Tarbell and Carrie Durkee. Jim presented a brief history which tied the group to roots in land stewardship (pre-Caucasian communities), and in

October meeting

Discovering our affinity

that will be considered by the Supes at their December 7 meeting. He and Supervisor Haschak have also been working to facilitate rebates for people who have been able to install solar panels, thereby accelerating the overall conversion

to renewable sources.

What is your community? The work of redistricting continues as the December deadline for final county, state assembly, state senate, and US congressional districts maps approaches. The Mendocino County Advisory Redistricting Commission held an additional public input meeting on October 27 to prepare for its final public input meeting on November 3, and for its mandated submission of a map or a set of maps for the Supervisors to consider on November 9. So far, the Commission has received input that the community of Mendocino wants to remain in the 5th, that Laytonville wants to remain in the 3rd, that Hopland wants to move to the 1st, and that the Caspar community, stretching from Jughandle Creek to Russian Gulch, does not want to be split between the 4th and 5th. In addition, it has determined that the indigenous community in Round Valley would like also to remain entirely in the 3rd. At the November 3 meeting the commission will consider a Draft 10 map, which appears to meet the population equalization criterion, as well as accommodating the community input summarized above. Redistricting information online includes the Draft 10 map, the previous ones that have been proposed, and links for attending the ARC's meetings. The State Commission is currently publishing "visualizations," preliminary maps which have not reached the level to be called "proposals." The most recently available visualizations show Mendocino County as part of long coastal districts for state assembly and senate. The US Congressional district, however, would lose coastal Marin County. To view the visualizations for the most recent state

A recording of the zoom meeting is available.

Redistricting Deadline Approaches

Working Group, has published several letters critical of the Skunk Train's position. Citing videos showing the head of the Sierra Railroad Corporation (which owns both Sierra Energy Company and Mendocino Railway) speaking about its work, George writes, in part, Is this an energy company moving into our precious coastal environment? ... Is it a land developer, who thinks it is above the law and doesn't need a permit to fence off public access, and do whatever it wants on, "its property," along the Pudding Creek watershed?... And is our community aware that the Skunk's eminent domain lawsuit is trying to grab the Pudding creek watershed so it can charge the community to walk This needs to become a community wide dialogue. The mill site is a key to the future of our community. The Noyo Headlands need to be restored to a the necessary cleanup of the mill pond and ponds 6 & 7. The old "rip-rap" beach berm should be removed as we prepare for the rapidly rising Pacific Ocean. Nature based carbon sequestration will be an important part of our community's future.

People from all over California and beyond have been making use of the city's Noyo Headlands Park, and what happens to the rest of the mill site will affect more than just the residents of Fort Bragg. City Council meetings are hybrid, that

On October 5 and 19, the League continued its No More Excuses: Voting Rights

Rallies for Voting Rights Lead to Arrests

Jackie Speier, Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, and Congresswoman Nikema Williams. Watch the discussion, which covered redistricting, mis- and disinformation, voting rights legislation, and more. California Recall Toolkit Our Education Fund created a Recall Election Toolkit that many of you used to educate and engage voters, as well as counter mis/disinformation leading up to the Recall Election. Thanks to our partners, Asian American Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus and NALEO, for assisting in translating the Toolkit into nine languages. Given our broad preparation for scalable voter education and engagement, the LWVC EF was in the perfect position to apply for and use grant funding to create a get out the vote campaign focused on youth and historically under-resourced communities. We placed in-language nonpartisan voter education

messages in 21 primarily Asian media outlets with a combined circulation of over half a million people; sent Spanish language postcards to Spanish speaking voters in the Central Valley; engaged hundreds of thousands of 18-24 year old voters on

New Links for Health Board Before Adventist Health took over its operation, the Mendocino Coast District Hospital (MCDH), and its board, could be found online at its acronym, mcdh.org. After the change, however, the publicly elected board referred to itself as representing the Mendocino Coast Healthcare District, or MCHD. Recently, the board has established a new acronym by separating its name into five words:

more detail on the positions and process.

Homelessness Workshop

Our Communities, Our Issues

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

Volunteer Fire Department a steady funding source, replace equipment, and even hire some paid staff. The assessment falls heavily on the cannabis industry. If you

are in that district and haven't voted, you can still take your ballot to the fire

2021/10/13/fort-bragg-authorizes-bonds-to-repay-calpers-debt/

Upcoming voting rights actions: *salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?* v=2&c=978bki40nn2V fr TY45 fOFZ GoUMZM1aBJJohn Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act: salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp? v=2&c=rBrRw4XI21MoalMKqw0jM5GoUMZM1aBJ

Digital Transparency: https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NS-Documents/DTTF/ DTTF-Final-Report.pdf Recall reform: https://my.lwv.org/california/local-league-management/leaders-update#recall Homelessness webinar: https://ukiahdailyjournal-ca.newsmemory.com/? publink=020728bc0 1345f73&fbclid=IwAR25W7Aclz7xzCyHTm660dzM0IArjv3sh334u

League Links

Mendocino County League's website: https://my.lwv.org/california/mendocino-county Mendocino County League's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1

To join the LWVMC Zoom meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82319138585?

State League positions can be found at: https://lwvc.org/our-work/positions

pwd=ODJQVktrdEQ3WExwWVU3MCttcHgwUT09

President's message ... by Dorine Real Connections.

Meet in Person

Redistricting

Mill Site

immigrant co-operation (early 20th century Finns), as well as to his experience with back-to-the-landers, and to his and Carrie's involvement with political groups opposing aerial spraying and off-shore oil-drilling. He eventually helped found the KZYX radio program Corporations & Democracy, and joined the Alliance for Democracy, which, like the League, is involved in preserving

Snapchat with voting lenses and filters; and had 40 League members text banking to engage young Black voters across the state. This project is a fine example of good partnerships; of the diversity, equity, and inclusion lens in our voter education work; and diligence in acquiring funding to increase our impact. LWVC Advocacy The League advocated on over 65 bills and co-sponsored two bills in the recently ended legislative session, making important progress advancing our legislative priorities. Twenty-five bills that LWVC supported were signed by the Governor. One League co-sponsored bill, AB 796, which makes significant improvements in voter registration at the Department of Motor Vehicles, passed and was signed. The second, the Racial Justice for All Act, will be taken up in the upcoming session. See the Advocacy Report for details. State Redistricting The work of redistricting continues at a faster pace with the release of California's Official Redistricting Database on September 20 and a deadline of December 27 for final map submission. Leagues across the state are doing fantastic work in

not only for workers, but for employers and the economy as a whole. HAT has set out to understand and quantify this problem by doing two surveys: one for employees and one for employers. The employer survey in particular has had an excellent response, with over 70 employers responding. While this is not enough

DepartmentDetail.aspx?ID=22597&GUID=BDACD7EE-A0E9-4878-9D35-85726278FB63&Mode=MainBody Voting rights rallies: *salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?* v=2&c=GENRFpo69ugTLYAKiugrCJGoUMZM1aBJ and salsa.wiredforchange.com/ dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=Ib2wXVeW/2Sr67pv7zr3mFb84SsTwVPJ

update#adv Redistricting statewide database: https://statewidedatabase.org/redistricting2021/? emci=91d94480-e72a-ec11-981f-c896653b9208&emdi=3d2cbad7-7d2b-ec11-981fc896653b9208&ceid=1971663 SLh4G94GCFCUi5A0BYRaG4 and facebook.com/SenatorMikeMcGuire/videos/ 262286835909205 Discussing race: nytimes.com/2021/10/01/opinion/language-race-semantics.html? Workforce housing: https://www.hatmendocoast.org/