

The Voter THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY November 2022

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

November meeting ...

Water and Climate teams. She will lead the presentation and discussion about the

multiple issues around water and what is already being done locally that we can

get involved in. This will be your formal invitation to join LWVMC's Water team and work collaboratively with GRI and other organizations to address water The Need for Water Awareness and Stewardship One of the League's key missions is citizen awareness and engagement on major issues of our time. Water—too little and too much, and the high energy cost of pumping and treating it—has become one of those crises. Our Southern California members have already taken an active role in transforming how their communities use and steward their water (See the article Water Affordability and

Equity in this issue). How can our local League find similar ways to help our neighbors and friends take effective action—before we face more dry wells, rising

water bills, longer droughts, winter flooding, salt intrusion, threatened rivers, ecosystems and wildlife corridors? Working with local groups already focused on water and climate action can be a first step, while we become more water aware in our own lives. Water is life itself, and our collective thirst has replaced oil as our biggest county-wide and global challenge of 2022 and beyond. What will happen when we turn on the tap in 1–5 years; when we pay our water bill; when we need to drill a new well; when we want to protect another watershed, river, or fish and wildlife habitat from being drained away? Grassroots Institute's (GRI) Climate Action and Water Coalition Groups have been working with other collaborative organizations and policy makers on the

most effective strategies for transitioning from intense water and energy use, to more climate and budget friendly practices. Fort Bragg's water treatment plant alone uses 47% of its budget, while agriculture, tourism and gardens represent 90% of our overall water use. What skills and connections do we have that will make a difference? You can join GRI, work with them as part of the LWVMC Water team, or do both! Rainwater and Greywater Harvesting

Grassroots Institute's (GRI) Water Coalition Group is focused on the growing statewide and global paradigm shift—from building more high energy use reservoirs, dams and water treatment plants to creating community wide rainwater harvesting, where every rooftop and rain catching garden becomes a "spring." One rainstorm can often capture enough water to feed our landscapes, gardens and farms for an entire drought season, and recharge our water table, as well. This proven strategy builds our community's collective capacity during both drought and flood conditions, redirecting valuable storm water while taking the load off our aging and overburdened municipal water and sewer systems. To accelerate this paradigm shift in how we think about and use rainwater, there is now major state funding available for collaborative capacity building

projects. GRI's Water Coalition Group needs more local volunteers to build community support for collaborative projects that will qualify for multiple grants to help our neighbors install rainwater and greywater systems. You can also visit Donna Feiner's home demonstration project in Mendocino Village and/or Ken Taylor's demonstration project at his Joshua Grindle Inn, both by appointment.

to join

Climate Ready Job Training Certification and apprenticeship programs for installing catchment tanks and greywater systems, for building solar systems, for learning green-friendly carpentry and building skills, for training qualified plumbers, and other skilled craftsmen—all are urgently needed in our community. GRI's Water Coalition Group needs volunteers to help with existing and planned collaborative outreach to employers, schools, colleges, and young people to design projects and gain the targeted state and federal funding. Localizing California Waters The organization Localizing California Waters will hold its State Conference November 7–10 in Groveland, at the entrance to Yosemite. Geri will attend this exciting series of workshops on public policy advocacy and innovative watershed stewardship projects statewide. LCW invites everyone to become a land and natural resource manager, a steward to empower one's own healthy watershed community. Go online to LCW Annual Conference 2022 to see list of presenters and agenda for workshop topics. Here's a small sampling: Local to Regional Approach for Water, Flood, Fire, Habitat, Extreme Heat; Water & Equity; Sense of Place & Tribal Knowledge; Case for Conservation in the Midst of Climate

Yates Green, a GRI team member and popular 5th grade teacher at Dana Gray. It

watershed field trips, meetings with city and county officials to empower kids to become environmentally active, and more. It also led to our group becoming part of the Foster Grandparent Program sponsored by North Coast Opportunities, creating a mutually safe space for mentoring students and offering hands-on workshops.

> 6:00 PM Zoom November 1 (Tuesday) Water Equity and Affordability webinar November 1, 3 (Tuesday, Thursday) 10:00 AM **FBHS** Assemble youth voter packets November 3 (Thursday) 9:00 AM Zoom Planning Commission discusses vacation rentals Zoom November 3 (Thursday) 7:00 PM LWV Alameda reproductive rights webinar November 8 (Tuesday) 8:00 PM Polling places Last chance to vote November 15 (Tuesday) Zoom 6:00 LWVMC meeting: Water Issues Enjoy the holidays, see you on

January 17 (Tuesday) 6:00 PM

invite your friends and neighbors.

LWVMC meeting: Defending Democracy

The public is welcome at these LWVMC events. Please

Calendar

October League activities Voter Information October was a busy month for our League. The Voter Service committee organized three candidate forums and two presentations on both local and State ballot measures, and participated in presenting an additional forum in Willits. If you missed some of these, they were all recorded—look for the links below: Albion Little River Fire Protection District Board Three candidates, Pam Linstedt (incumbent), Steve Acker (incumbent), and Dan Gates, are running for two open positions on the board. Pat Dunbar moderated a forum on October 7, which included opening and closing statements, and the candidates' responses to a number of questions submitted from the zoom audience. Watch a recording here.

> The Little Lake Grange; WELL (Willits Economic Localization); the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, and the League held an in-person election forum on October 9 at the Grange Hall in Willits. A major portion of the forum was devoted to candidates for three seats on the Willits school board. Robert Chavez (incumbent), Colby Friend, David Lilker, Paula Nuñez (incumbent), Jennifer Sookne, Jeanne King (incumbent), and April Lambert participated. Jeffrey Ritchley, an eighth candidate, was unable to attend. The candidate discussion was moderated by Sherrie Ebyam. Watch a recording here. Mendocino Coast Health Care District Board

participated in the event, moderated by Paula Cohen. Incumbent John Redding is also on the ballot, but did not attend. The youtube recording of the League's forum is here. An earlier forum, moderated by Skip Taube on Mendocino TV, featured all four candidates. Fort Bragg City Council

State Ballot Measures

nine active candidates (Jason Godeke, Richard Mohr, Michelle Roberts, Blanca Pena, Scott Taubold, Mary Rose Kaczoroski, incumbent Lindy Peters, and Ms. Albin-Smith) attended a hybrid candidate forum held by the League at Town Hall on October 14 with the assistance of the City. Incumbent Marcia Rafanan was unable to attend, but participated through written statements read by moderator Pat Dunbar. Watch a recording here. Seven of the active candidates also recorded interviews with Peter McNamee of the non-partisan Grassroots Institute.

Informational Session on County Measures O & P The League supports the two countywide measures on the ballot, and invited their supporters to talk about them at a zoom meeting on October 19. Scott Cratty, Executive Director of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, and Kerry Robinson, Chief of the Redwood Valley–Calpella Fire Department, presented information about Measure P. Michele Savoy and Mary Gill, of the Citizens Committee for the Library Initiative, discussed Measure O. Each measure has a website supporting its passage: yesonlibraries.org and yesonpmendo.com. Watch a recording here. LWVMC Awards Student GOTV Video LWV Mendocino County held a "Get Out The Vote Video Contest" this fall for students in the Mendocino College Digital Arts & Media Department. The

final entries were due October 27 and the winning video will be available soon on our website & Facebook page. Congratulations to Raul, Jackson, Trinity,

The League appreciates the help which many people have provided during this busy election season. Pat Dunbar skillfully arranged the complicated Fort Bragg

city council forum, and moderated both it and the Albion Little River Fire Protection board forum with aplomb. Paula Cohen cheerfully hosted the health care district forum, and prepared the table of League election materials at the Town Hall forum. Dorine Real made our zoom events happen (and moderated the Measures O & P session at the last minute), and assisted with the League table and question cards at Town Hall. Peggy Smith also distributed and collected the

Frej & Tamara for your creativity & skills — great job!

question cards, while generally helping out.

Carol Czadek kept track of the time at the coastal zoom events, as well as at Town Hall. Carole Press represented us at the Willits forum and acted as timekeeper there. Nancy Kleiber organized and moderated our Pros & Cons presentation, and managed both the setup of the easel and the writing of topics on it at Town Hall. (And without Cindy Plank's help the easel and markers would not have been available.) Special thanks are due to Kathy Wylie, who made our zoom recordings accessible on You Tube. We are very grateful to the City for allowing us to use Town Hall without charge. We are especially grateful to Mateo Ortiz for his work as the AV technician. He managed the event with courtesy and professionalism, and he was always patient with my questions. I counted about 40 present at Town Hall, and someone said that about 140 other people watched on live streaming.

Voter's Edge says, "Missed the October 24th registration deadline? You can still register and vote the same day, all the way up to Election Day!" Whether you are unregistered, didn't get a ballot, or lost it, you can still cast a "provisional" ballot at your local polling place on Election Day. Find your Mendocino County voting location online (they are listed by supervisor district), then show up there on

election day (November 8), and receive a ballot in person. Or you can register and

I hate to make such a request at this time, when your message inbox may be full of requests for election donations (the League's effort to take money out of politics having been thwarted for lo, these many years), but, if you have not yet done so, please send your dues to us as soon as you can. I'm sorry not to be able to greet you in person and receive your check, but that is not to be this fall. Our dues remain the same, \$60 for individual complete memberships, and \$90 for households, with the option to send in more to support our local efforts. Checks

get a mail-in ballot, right up to election day, at the County elections office in Ukiah. The elections department is happy to help people navigate this process —

made out to LWVMC can be sent to the same acronym at P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg, CA. 95437. Please review the October *Voter* for more information. And thank you for supporting the League in all the ways you do. (A separate attachment to this newsletter email has a form you can print. This is

Volunteer opportunity

Make Up for Lost Time:

Another sister League will present a webinar on

reproductive rights

Alameda County Council

Local Updates

Roe v. Wade

November 3rd @ 7pm PT

2022 & Beyond

Sister Leagues

2:00 PM. That will give us time each day to set up the materials and put them away before we leave. Please invite others who you think might enjoy the fun, especially members we don't see often or potential members. Mark your calendars and thank you! Water Affordability and Equity Webinar will address a California crisis by Dora Rose, Deputy Director, LWVC The North County San Diego and San Diego Leagues are having an exciting online webinar on Tuesday, November 1 from 6 to 7 PM, entitled Water Equity,

Affordability & Climate Change in California. You can register here. Below is a

Changes in climate are expected to further drive up

efficiency, better planning, and more equitable rate

Guest speakers will be Heather Cooley and Laura

Feinstein. Heather Cooley is Director of Research at the Pacific Institute, where she conducts and

stewardship, and climate-resilient water systems. Laura Feinstein, Sustainability and Resilience Policy Director at SF Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Organization (SPUR), leads SPUR's work on climate mitigation, adaptation,

oversees research on water issues, including sustainable water use and management, safe and

affordable drinking water, corporate water

and environmental justice.

Garden Friendly Community Fort Bragg (GFCFB)

costs and impact water affordability but that

outcome isn't inevitable. Improved water

structures are key steps to ensure water in California is more affordable for everyone.

Water is a human right. Yet, California's water affordability crisis is growing rapidly as water rate increases outpace inflation, rising 45% between 2007 and 2015 alone. By September 2021, nearly 650,000 residences and 46,000 businesses owed over \$315 million in unpaid water and wastewater bills. Disadvantaged communities have been hardest hit by the affordability crisis, with hundreds of

description of the topic and speakers.

thousands of residents experiencing water shutoffs.

Interview with Local Astronaut Nicole Aunapu Mann, NASA astronaut on the international space station, US Marine officer, fighter pilot, graduate of the US Naval Academy and Stanford University, and Native American Wylacki member of the Round Valley Confederated Tribes, was interviewed live from outer space on NASA Television October 19. The first Indigenous woman to be launched into space, she answered questions from Native American media outlets and Indigenous school children in a live-streamed (and recorded) in-flight interview from the International Space Station. County Planning Commission to Consider

Mendocino County Planning Department has been using a section of County Code about offering room and board in a private home as the legal basis for authorizing vacation rentals in unincorporated areas. In December, the Planning

Commission formed an ad hoc committee to review the way this section is interpreted. The Planning Commission will discuss the ad hoc committee's findings at their next regular meeting, and may take a position on how the code should be interpreted. The meeting will be on Thursday, November 3 at 9:00 AM. For more information about this meeting, please contact the Planning Division at 707-234-6650 or read the full meeting notice on the Department's website. You

A number of important League-supported bills have been signed by the Governor.

AB 256 (Kalra), Racial Justice Act for All_is watershed legislation co-sponsored by the League. It adds retroactivity to the Racial Justice Act, thereby ensuring that

AB 2841 (Low) is a bill we co-sponsored with the ACLU to prevent erroneous voter registration cancellations and to protect the voting rights of people with disabilities under conservatorship. California's eligible voters need protections to

Check out our Bill Status Report to see them all. A few highlights are:

all Californians have the opportunity to challenge criminal convictions or

Short Term Rentals

Thanks to Kathy Wylie for publicizing this important meeting.

can join the meeting in real time on Zoom,

California Legislation Update

sentences when they have been tainted by racial bias.

by LWVC Sacramento office

Mendocino Trail Steward board member John P. O'Brien, PhD., gave a talk about Jackson Demonstration State Forest for the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society on October 17 via Zoom. You can view this talk about the JDSF, its history, and the

voter turnout. This will increase the legitimacy and accountability of the elected offices. AB 2584 (Berman) will help protect against frivolous recall elections, provide voters with accurate information, maximize community participation in government decision making, increase transparency, and boost participation by consolidating special elections.

boundaries.

US League Announcements

Debate Dodging

Thinking about How to Teach Civics

section called "Civics Education and the Midterms."

Solomón have to say about debate dodging.

LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase Solomón writes:

brief in a Supreme Court case that could define our democracy for years to come. The case, *Moore v. Harper*, focuses on the "independent state legislature theory" (ISLT), which, if adopted, would give state legislatures nearly unrestricted

The Independent State Legislature Theory

Contact LWVMC By mail: P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg CA 95437 Our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1

Links

Racial Justice for All Act: https://ct3.blob.core.windows.net/21blobs/95eda427-2737-43d4-Voter protection: https://calmatters.org/commentary/2022/09/californias-eligible-voters-need-protections-to-

Fort Bragg City Council forum: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=665362495242714 FB City Council GRI interviews:: https://www.grassroots-institute.org/fbinfo State ballot measures: https://youtu.be/zz_NFEKHMEY < https://youtu.be/zz_NFEKHMEY Measures O and P: https://youtu.be/SQSmWotuB44. Polling places mendocinocounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument/53115/637988325394400000

LWV Mission Statement The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, strives to increase understanding

75c15d7b-8560-4dd8-a9c3-2fb0d44bcf96; Fresno https://ct3.blob.core.windows.net/21blobs/ f28dccda-2096-4c6d-9d92-b2b0886101b9; and Kern https://click.everyaction.com/k/ 51900970/370661119/885087518; testimony (@ 46 minutes): https://www.assembly.ca.gov/media/ assembly-local-government-committee-20220420/video Election worker protection: https://ct3.blob.core.windows.net/21blobs/c72a811c-18a9-45f8-aba6-

e962e6febe23 Prisoner voters: https://ct3.blob.core.windows.net/21blobs/c84a35f1-fd23-4aec-ae32-4b6a6259f379: Sheriffs and DAs: https://ct3.blob.core.windows.net/21blobs/7dcd4d48-886b-46ea-9caa-ec72a99a1b00

Water Issues You can get involved locally by Geri Morisky On Tuesday, November 15 at 6:00, we will meet by Zoom for a discussion of water. Geri Moriskey has been working as a member of Grass Roots Institute's

Zoom from home **Tuesday** November 15 6:00 pm **CLICK HERE**

Change; Youth and Community Led Design; From Parcel to Watershed: Implementing the Governor's Water Supply Strategy. You can also contact Geri if you're interested in attending: geri.morisky@gmail.com. Water Stewardship & Climate Action in Schools Kids are the best motivators of parents! We need more volunteers! GRI's Water Coalition Group and Climate Action Team members Geri Morisky, Sandy Turner and Hannah-Leigh Bull began collaborative work in the schools initially with Jess resulted in many exciting climate action items: initiating school composting, In this issue ...

Water Issues

Voter Information

Dues are Past Due

Where's My Ballot?

Youth Voter Packets

LWVMC Information

Local Updates

Links

Please Share This Message

Thanks to Voter Service Team

Water Affordability and Equity Webinar on Reproductive Rights

Click the entry to jump to the article.

President's message Please Share This Message by Paula Cohen and Dorine Real Vote.

Willits Unified School District Board

On October 11 the League hosted a zoom forum for candidates running to sit on the Mendocino Coast Health Care District (MCHCD) board. Three four-year terms are a stake. A two-year term will be filled by Paul Katzeff, the only person who filed for it. Candidates Lee Finney, Susan Savage, and Jade Tippett The ballot for seats on the Fort Bragg City Council includes eight candidates for three four-year terms, and two candidates for one two-year term. Since the ballots were prepared, however, two candidates (Richard García in the long-term list, and Alberto Aldaco in the short-term) have dropped out, and another, incumbent Tess Albin-Smith, has campaigned as an official write-in candidate. Eight of the now

On October 18 the League presented Pros & Cons of all the measures on the November ballot on Zoom. Jane Person covered Proposition 1; Nancy Kleiber (who also moderated) summarized Props 26 and 27, and later, Prop 31; Jary Stavely told about #28; Dorine Real (as she has in the past) explained the background and nuances of the dialysis initiative, #29; Pat Dunbar reviewed Prop 30, and the county measures N, O and P. Questions from the zoom audience were discussed at the conclusion. Watch a recording here.

Many Thanks

by Jane Person

to the Voter Service team ...

Where's My Ballot?

call them at (707) 234-6819.

Dues Are Past Due!

by Jary Stavely

No problem ...

Youth Voter Packets Assembly by Cindy Plank In order to make it work with as many of your schedules as possible, I've scheduled two days for putting together the rest of the Youth Voter packets. The two days are Tuesday, November 1 and Thursday, November 3. Come on whichever day you are available, or come both days if you can. We will turn on some music, chat while we fill up little sacks and pause for a snack now and then —it will be fun! We'll meet at the MCOE Coast Staff Development Classroom at the Fort Bragg High School (Room 306) at 10:00 AM each day and we'll have the room until

Looking for Some Help We are searching for a few talented volunteers with building skills to help us put together some items for the South Lincoln Street Community Garden. These items include compost bins, greenhouse tables, and outdoor tables. We will supply the materials and a plan with measurements, but we would then need people to take the supplies to their homes to build. This would require having your own tools. If this sounds like something you or someone you know may be interested in, please email board member Wyatt Emig at wyattemig@gmail.com.

State Forest Talk

ongoing issues with management.

ensure they can cast ballots is an opinion piece co-authored by the LWVC and the ACLU that was written to help persuade the Governor to sign. Governor Newsom signed three bills to establish independent redistricting commissions in Riverside – AB 1307 (Cervantes), Fresno – AB 2030 (Arambula), and Kern – AB 2494 (Salas) counties. These were bills both supported by and testified on by the LWVC (testimony begins 46 minutes in). And here's a Tweet from the Equitable Maps Coalition and one from Assemblymember Cervantes, thanking us for our advocacy SB 1131 (Newman). Election officials across the nation are resigning due to threats and harassment. California officials have also been threatened. SB 1131 allows all public employees experiencing intimidation to enroll in California's Safe at Home address confidentiality program. It also protects poll workers by ending the requirement to post full names while retaining the requirement to post party affiliation at the polling place.

AB 1848 (Bryan) permanently ends the practice of prison gerrymandering to require that people who are incarcerated are counted as residents of their home

AB 759 (McCarty) requires that Sheriff and District Attorney elections occur in presidential election years, when we see highest rates and broadest diversity of

Cindy Plank strongly recommends an article by Kristen Kern in the LWV blog entitled A Look at American Civics Education. It raises questions such as "What is Civics Education? What Might a More Robust Civics Education Look Like? What is the Connection Between Civics Education and Democracy?", and includes a

Debates are a tradition of American democracy. They are essential to the election process. Here's what LWV president Dr. Deborah Turner and CEO Virginia Kase

On October 26 Leagues from 50 states and DC stood together to file an amicus

community, and not where the prison is located, when drawing political

authority to set the rules for federal elections. Checks and balances are an essential part of our democracy, keeping power in the hands of the people rather than politicians. We implore the court to reject the ISLT and rule in favor of voters. Learn more from our press release. Keep up with the topics covered in the Voter by visiting our Mendocino County League on Facebook. The site is http://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1/ You don't even have to sign up in order to see what is posted there.

of major public policy issues, and influences public policy

By email: voter@mcn.org Our website: lwvmendo.org Albion-Little River Fire Protection Board: https://youtu.be/I0vsAcW3iHo Willits USD: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTs1c6tRpx8 MCHCD LWV forum: https://youtu.be/OPMFw1k 1B0 MCHCD MCTV interviews: https://mendocinotv.com/2022/09/20/the-mendocino-coast-healthcare-districtcandidates-forum-for-board-of-directors/

ensure-they-can-cast-ballots/ Independent redistricting commissions: Riverside https://ct3.blob.core.windows.net/21blobs/

answered-001256705.html bf99-6d1e11de7ba8?\

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 truthtelling 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.

Frivolous recalls: https://ct3.blob.core.windows.net/21blobs/2f77b8a9-6c0c-47a0-b0fa-a969c23b3f66 How to Teach Civics: lwv.org/blog/look-american-civics-education Debate dodging: thehill.com/opinion/congress-blog/3690007-debate-dodging-the-latest-threat-to-ourdemocracy/ ISLT: lwv.org/blog/look-american-civics-education

Jackson Forest talk: https://youtu.be/Qr911UgNWgg Local Native American astronaut: news.yahoo.com/astronaut-nicole-aunapu-mann-Short term rentals: mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/public-notices; Zoom link: mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/86547840562