



# The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

Empowering voters, defending democracy

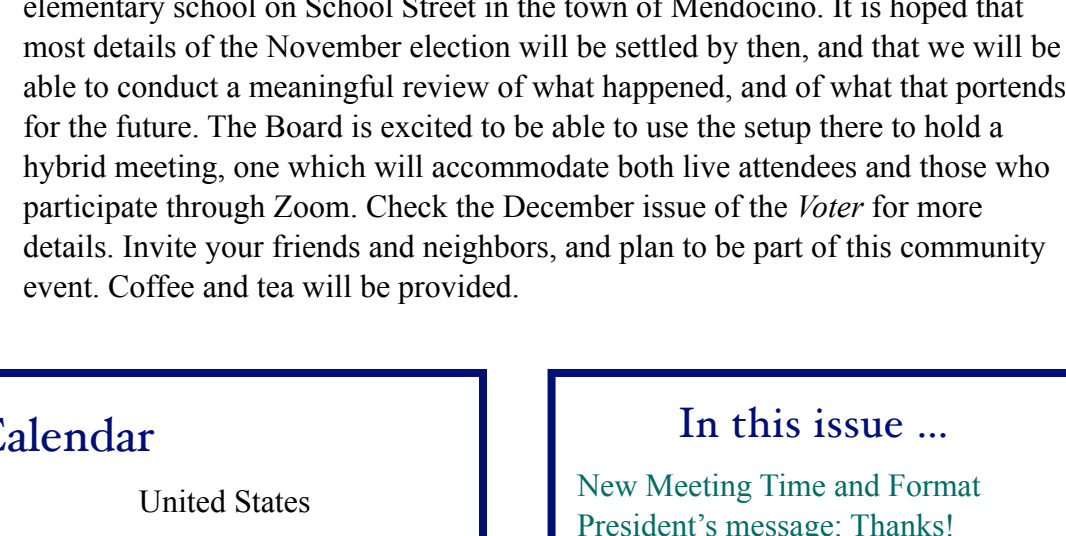
Charlene McAllister, President

November 2024

Jary Stavely and Dorine Real, Editors

## Next League Meeting

# New Meeting Time and Format



Mark your calendars and save the date for the next meeting of the Mendocino County League of Women Voters, at a novel time, day, and place—Sunday, December 15, from 3 to 5 pm at the Mendocino Community Center, the former elementary school on School Street in the town of Mendocino. It is hoped that most details of the November election will be settled by then, and that we will be able to conduct a meaningful review of what happened, and of what that portends for the future. The Board is excited to be able to use the setup there to hold a hybrid meeting, one which will accommodate both live attendees and those who participate through Zoom. Check the December issue of the *Voter* for more details. Invite your friends and neighbors, and plan to be part of this community event. Coffee and tea will be provided.

### Calendar

November 5 (Tuesday)	United States <i>Election Day</i>
November 18 (Monday)	6-8 Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse <i>Jackson DSF plan meeting, "Restoration Ecology"</i>
November 21	3-5 Zoom <i>GRI LCP Update meeting</i>
November 21 (Thursday)	5-7 Town Hall, Fort Bragg <i>Jackson DSF plan meeting, "Restoration Ecology"</i>
December 15 (Sunday)	3-5 pm Mendocino Community Center <i>or by Zoom</i> <i>LWVMC meeting: Life After the Election</i>

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

### In this issue ...

- New Meeting Time and Format
  - President's Message: Thanks!
  - Last Minute Voting Information
  - Supervisors will Work Better
  - Jackson State Forest Planning
  - Mendocino Coast Hospital Issues
  - LCP Update: Drought Resilience
  - Two Traffic Studies Underway
  - Our Voter Service Tradition
  - Election Officials are Ready
  - LWVMC Information
  - Links
- Click these entries to jump to the articles.*

## President's message ...

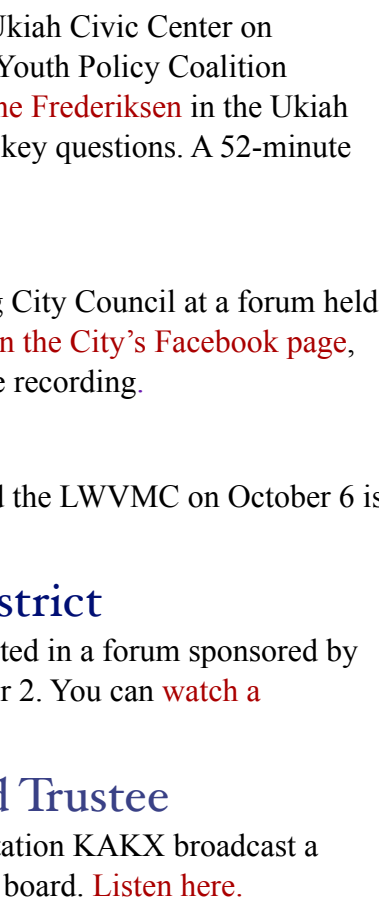
# Thanks!

by Charlene McAllister

This has been a busy election season and many thanks are due to those who have worked hard to register and educate voters. Here are some names that deserve recognition:

- Gregoria Cordoba, Kristan Larsen, Amanda Gray, Rogelio Munoz for their work with our Spanish speaking community
- Nancy Milano and Nancy Severy for being at Fort Bragg Post Office weekly
- Dorine Real, Lee Tepper, Jary Stavely, and Morning Nichols for "manning" the table at the Fort Bragg Farmers Market
- Paula Cohen for driving around the county to drop off election publications
- Carole Press, along with Cathy Monroe, Eileen Mitro and Robin Sunbeam for Mendocino College and the Willits Candidates forums
- Pat Dunbar, Darra Williams, Susan Warner, Peggy Smith, Frej Barty and Kyle Villagomez for their work on the Candidates Forums held in Fort Bragg
- Cindy Plank and Penny Elia for their work at Mendocino High School and the Mendocino College campus, and Annabell Guinan for helping out behind the scenes

I hope I didn't forget anyone. It's been a real team effort.



# Last Minute Voting Information

Here is a list of candidate forum information for voters who have not yet filled out their ballots:

### Ukiah City Council

Five of the six candidates for two seats on the Ukiah City Council participated in a forum presented by the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition and the American Association of University Women at the Ukiah Civic Center on September 24. Members of the Northern California Youth Policy Coalition (NCYPC) were there to help out. An article by Justine Frederiksen in the Ukiah Daily Journal quotes the candidates' answers to two key questions. A 52-minute recording of the forum is available from KZYX.

### Fort Bragg City Council

Hear from 5 candidates for 2 seats on the Fort Bragg City Council at a forum held by the LWVMC on September 19. Video is posted on the City's Facebook page, but the forum doesn't begin until 10 minutes into the recording.

### Willits City Council

An audio recording of a forum held by W.E.L.L. and the LWVMC on October 6 is available.

### Mendocino Coast Healthcare District

Four candidates for two seats on this board participated in a forum sponsored by LWVC, assisted by members of NCYPC, on October 2. You can watch a recording or read the report by Mary Benjamin.

### Mendocino Unified School Board Trustee

On October 29, the Mendocino High School radio station KAKX broadcast a "debate" between the two candidates for the MUSD board. Listen here.

### Ballot Propositions

The League's presentation of the arguments for and against ballot measures, both California and local, plus tips on how to evaluate proposals, is posted on YouTube.

And here are links to other sources of election information:

### Vote 411

This national website <https://www.vote411.org/> has ballot information customized to your address, including candidate statements, and lots more election information.

### Mendocino County Elections Department

Regular voter registration is closed, but provisional ballots may be cast at the department office during regular business hours from now till election day, and at any polling place on Nov. 5. Call them at (707) 234-6819 or email [mcvotes@mendocinocounty.gov](mailto:mcvotes@mendocinocounty.gov). They are glad to answer questions and solve voting problems.

### California Secretary of State

Register online, check your registration, find out who is spending for or against candidates and measures, and much more. Even track your ballot to make sure it's counted! <https://www.sos.ca.gov>.

### Misinformation and Disinformation

LWVUS has a short guide to evaluating what you read and hear. For a quick review, use this online poster from Cornell University. Hone your verification skills by playing a game called VerifyIt. You may want to use a fact-checking website such as Politifact or FactCheck.org.

### Vote with the League

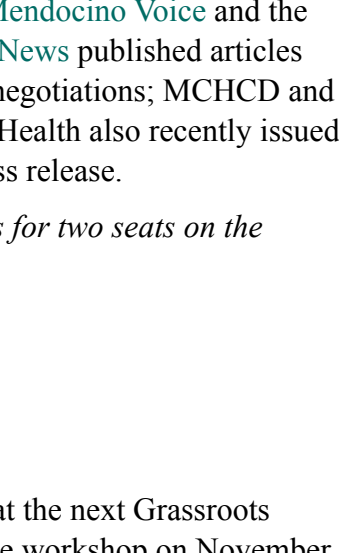
You can find the California LWV's recommendations on the state measures at . This is the only place where LWVMC takes a position on issues. All our other information is as unbiased as we can possibly make it.

### More

Ballotpedia is a respected national, easy-to-use source of ballot information and information on the political process. CalMatters specializes in California issues.

### Jane Person Scholarship

The Mendocino County League is partnering with the Mendocino College Foundation to offer a scholarship (or -ships) to honor its late stalwart leader, her love of community, and her devotion to democracy. If you would like to contribute, please make your check out to the Mendocino College Foundation, put her name on the memo line, and mail it to LWVMC, P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg, CA. 95437.



# Supervisors May Work Better

## An ad hoc committee will study how

The Mendocino County League has submitted a letter of support for a proposal by outgoing First District Supervisor Glen McGourty to revamp the way County staff provides information to the Board. His suggestions include developing specific working plans to implement the official Strategic Plan; regularly tracking and reporting progress towards meeting the Strategic Plan's goals; regular followup on the Supervisors' directives and initiatives; staff time devoted to research and background information for them; and staff time devoted to assisting the Supervisors' constituents.

The letter, signed by chapter President Charlene McAllister, states, "Supervisor McGourty's proposal for a focused conversation about how to take our BOS to the next level of effectiveness identifies five areas where he feels there is an important need/opportunity for improvement. These topics are all clearly important aspects of good government and/or good management within the Board/CEO framework. The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County applauds and supports the project of defining these needs and looking for the best and most available ways of meeting them."

After 45 minutes of discussion, the Supervisors unanimously voted to establish an ad hoc committee of outgoing members Gjerde and McGourty to study possible ways to implement the proposal, and to report back at the December 17 meeting. The proposal itself can be found on the agenda for the October 22 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, item 4g.

# Jackson State Forest Planning

## Management Plan Update Meetings Scheduled

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) has invited the public to a series of discussions on a new 10-year Forest Management Plan for Jackson Demonstration State Forest. Its press release states, "Forests provide immense and diverse values to the citizens of California. They supply many benefits that we use and enjoy, including clean water, carbon sequestration and storage, fish and wildlife, forest products, and diverse recreational opportunities. The Forest Management Plan guides our activities to sustain and improve upon these benefits. The plan will address opportunities for Tribal co-management, restoration ecology and economy, research and demonstration, sustainable forestry, recreation, and protection and restoration of wildlife habitat."

A series of meetings, already underway, "are intended to gain public insight prior to the first draft of the updated Forest Management Plan." A final draft is scheduled to be completed by early summer, 2025. The next meetings, on the topic of Restoration Ecology, will be held on Monday, November 18, 6-8 pm in Ukiah at the Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse, and on Thursday, Nov. 21, 5-7 pm at Town Hall in Fort Bragg. Restoration Ecology is the topic for the December meetings, on Thursday the 12th from 6-8 pm at the Senior Center in Ukiah, and on Friday the 13th, from 5-7 pm at the Fort Bragg Veterans Hall. Pre-register for any or all meetings.

The Mendocino Trail Stewards have also encouraged public participation in these meetings, stating that "CalFire is making plans to log more second-growth redwood trees, the carbon storing champions of Jackson State Forest ... without a new forest management plan in place ... For the past few years, we have advocated for an update to the outdated 2016 Forest Management Plan to account for a rapidly changing climate. Now is your chance to give input on a plan that will guide the management of JDSF for the next decade."

# Mendocino Coast Hospital

## Public concerns include services and stability

by Jary Stavely

As statements during the candidates' forum on October 2 made clear, Adventist Health has begun negotiations with the Mendocino Coast Healthcare District to restructure the contract by which it operates the coastal hospital (now known by the acronym AHMC). A clause in the contract, allowing such proceedings when a 5% profit is not earned from hospital operations, made it possible for the early renegotiation to begin.

At the MCHCD board meeting held the evening of October 24, Board Chair Paul Garza tried to allay public concerns by stating that, although the negotiations are underway, "The hospital will not close, and Adventist Health will not go away." At a GRI workshop on local elections held October 27, Mr. Garza added that Adventist Health had prompted the talks because they thought the District might gain income under a different arrangement, not because of their concern over lack of profit. He said that the two sides were very close to an agreement, and that he expected it would be reached by the end of November. He stated that new income for the oncology unit was likely, and reiterated his belief that the hospital has hopeful prospects for the future.

Public concern was reflected in a September 5 article by Malcolm Macdonald in the Anderson Valley Advertiser entitled "Oncology at the Coast Hospital," in which he discussed rumors that the coastal oncology clinic was to be closed, and reported coastal administrator Judy Leach's statements at an August board meeting that no decision to close the oncology unit had been made, but that "we are however continually evaluating the future viability of all healthcare services including oncology."

Several local residents, including doctors, made comments at the October 24 meeting criticizing difficulties in scheduling appointments at AHMC.

Both the Mendocino Voice and the Advocate-News published articles about the negotiations; MCHCD and Adventist Health also recently issued a joint press release.

Note: The November 5 election will determine directors for two seats on the Healthcare District Board.

## LCP Update this month will feature

# Drought Resilience

Peter McNamee has announced topics to be addressed at the next Grassroots Institute Mendocino Vision Working Group LCP Update workshop on November 21. The "Mendocino County Water Agency has agreed to make a presentation on their work to address drought resilience and how that impacts long term coastal zone planning. The workgroup is also working with Supervisor Williams on a proposal to encourage the county to seek grant funding to assess the impact of climate migration on the county and how that can be built into coastal land use planning and management. [We are] also working on a draft set of metrics for measuring the success of the LCP update process in preparation for the LCP update public hearings in 2026." The meeting will be held from 3-5 pm on Zoom.

# Two Traffic Studies Underway

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) is engaged in two studies of possible interest to *Voter* readers. On October 21 it sponsored a public engagement workshop on a Noyo Harbor Multimodal Circulation Plan. The focus of the project is "transportation, mobility, and access in Noyo Harbor that improves economic activity, daily business operations, and organizes tourist activity." Signage by the consultant group Fehr & Peers suggested that the study will cover the desirability of making N. Harbor Dr. one-way through the harbor and under the bridge to come out on the west side of Highway 1; the benefits of adding a roundabout at the intersection of Highway 1 and N. Harbor Dr.; the improvement of pedestrian and bicycle access in the harbor; and the provision of improved bus service. More information, including maps and a survey link, is available on the Noyo Ocean Collective website.

MCOG is also updating the Mendocino County Regional Transportation Plan and Active Transportation Plan (RTP/ATP) and would like to hear from members of the community about transportation needs, deficiencies, and mobility barriers/challenges. "The RTP/ATP is a long-range planning document covering a 20-year time span, which includes short- and long-range transportation projects across all modes of transportation, including motorized, non-motorized, and public transit. It promotes a safe and efficient transportation system, and establishes regional goals that support mobility, economic, and health aims of the region. The 2026 Plan is due to be adopted by February, 2026.

"Initial public outreach will be both virtual (through online survey and mapping tool) and in-person at community events. Please visit MCOG's transportation plan webpage for upcoming event information and to take the online survey and access the interactive mapping tool. For more information, call the MCOG office at 707-234-3434 or consult the agency's website."

# Our Voter Service Tradition

## A 100-year perspective

by Chris Carson, President, LWV California

It's worth looking back – a week before the 2024 election – to reflect on what the newly formed League of Women Voters was engaged in.

### Voter education

Local leagues were working on Voter Guides. Teams were creating templates for developing questions for candidate forums but were seriously concerned about the fact that some candidates were refusing to attend the forums. There was a good deal of stress around the fact that questions needed to be nonpartisan in content, concise, and non-judgmental.

### Get Out the Vote

The turnout in the 1922 election, especially among women and young people, had been dismal. Leagues across the country were focusing on women voters, particularly in urban areas where large numbers of working women needed to be engaged. League research had shown that young people were uncertain about the mechanics of voting and whether they could make a difference.

### Barriers to voting

Leagues were tabling to engage citizens and help them navigate the voter registration process. Literacy tests, poll taxes, party pressure to register with the 'right' party were all challenges that members were prepared to assist hopeful voters in dealing with.

### Navigating polling places

Vast numbers of polling places were in saloons and bars. In 1924, a lot of women were concerned about just walking into a totally male, probably hostile, environment to stand in line and vote. A concerted move to find alternative polling places was underway.

### Nonpartisanship

Just major angst at all levels about how the League needed to be 'nonpartisan' and what kinds of language and behavior were – or were not – nonpartisan.

Move forward to 2024 and we can see that the challenges haven't gone away. The specifics may have changed but the underlying problems remain. Through it all – a hundred years of facing those challenges – we have endured and succeeded. We're resilient and we're still here.

# Election Officials are Ready

## Swing state Secretaries of State discuss preparations

from the Ash Center for Democratic Governance & Innovation

"In a climate of growing distrust surrounding elections, election administrators play a pivotal role in safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process. For secretaries of state in key swing states, where vote margins are expected to be razor-thin this November, this responsibility is particularly pronounced. With many Americans anxious about the security and reliability of elections, the Ash Center for Democratic Governance recently gathered the heads of elections for Arizona, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and North Carolina to discuss their efforts to ensure a smooth and fair election process." Read the analysis here, or listen to a recording of the hour-long conversation.

### Land Acknowledgement

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

### Contact LWVMC

- By mail: P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg CA 95437
- By email: [voter@mcn.org](mailto:voter@mcn.org) Message phone: (707) 937-4952
- Our website: [lwvmendo.org](http://lwvmendo.org)
- Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1>

### LWV Mission Statement

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

### Links

- Voting information: (Ukiah) <https://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/2024/09/25/ukiah-city-council-candidates-answer-questions-in-tuesday-forum/>; <https://www.kzyx.org/2024-elections/2024-09-30/ukiah-city-council-forum/>; (Fort Bragg) <https://www.facebook.com/CityFortBraggCA/>; (Willits) <https://youtu.be/tCanLXAKsA>; (Healthcare) <https://www.mendocinocdcd.gov/candidate-profiles/>; <https://www.advocate-news.com/2024/10/10/mendocino-coast-health-care-district-candidate-forum-showcases-commitment-and-new-ideas/>; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvqjghLmckM&ab\\_channel=Jary](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvqjghLmckM&ab_channel=Jary); (Vote411) <https://www.vote411.org/>; (mis/dis) <https://www.lwv.org/blog/your-guide-mis-and-disinformation/>; [https://guides.library.cornell.edu/evaluate\\_news/infographic/](https://guides.library.cornell.edu/evaluate_news/infographic/); <https://playverifyit.org/>; <https://www.politifact.com/>; <https://www.factcheck.org/> (LWVC recommendations) <https://lwvc.org/ballot-recommendations-november-2024/>; (more) <https://ballotpedia.org/>; [https://ballotpedia.org/27s\\_Voter\\_Toolkit](https://ballotpedia.org/27s_Voter_Toolkit); <https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/>
- Supervisors: <https://mendocinolegistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1143656&GUID=3F9F85BC-359D-4F46-A8F5-CF8545031A72&Options=info&Search=>
- Jackson State Forest: <https://jacksonstateforestplan.com/register>
- Hospital: <https://mendovoice.com/2024/10/mendocino-coast-only-hospital-threatens-termination-of-its-lease/>; <https://www.advocate-news.com/2024/10/10/advocates-health-threatens-termination-of-its-coastal-hospital-lease/>
- LCP update: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84670348735?pwd=ObvbFVZaa51IRtZc0f2OEuOVVVC.1> Meeting ID: 846 7034 8735 Passcode: 151058
- Traffic planning: <https://www.mendocinocog.org/>; <https://www.mendocinocog.org/noyo-harbor-multimodal-circulation-plan/>; <https://bit.ly/4eue6nc>; <https://www.mendocinocog.org/2026-regional-transportation-active-transportation-plan>
- Election readiness: <https://ash.harvard.edu/articles/in-swing-states-rest-assured-election-officials-are-prepared-for-anthing/>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wCn5veLlOw&t=112s>