

The Voter THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY October 2021 Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

This month's meeting ... Grass Roots Institute

Partner in climate action by Carol Czadek This summer our League wrote a letter to the Board of Supervisors of Mendocino

County and the City Councils of Fort Bragg, Willits, Ukiah, and Pt. Arena, supporting the Grassroots Institute's recommendation that they each maximize

the benefit of the funds provided by the enactment of the American Rescue Act Tuesday, October 19th,

at 6:00 PM on Zoom:

by placing a priority on the following projects: the installation of solar panels on county and municipal buildings, the installation of electric car charging stations, and the transition of our public transportation (i.e. MTA) to electric vehicles. At our next meeting on October 19, we have invited Jim Tarbell and League member Carrie Durkee, of the Grassroots Institute, to present a brief history of GRI and their current areas of focus. This should be very interesting and informative, as our League is also focusing on climate change and securing a sustainable and resilient future. In an email, Jim outlined how he believes our two groups can work toward "Solutions for the Common Good":

. **CLICK HERE** to join

EVENING MEETING

"Multiple participants in the Grassroots Institute (GRI) are excited to present and explore the many common issues and goals we share with the League of Women Voters Mendocino County (LWVMC). These issues include the most critical problems we face, from money-in-politics, to election integrity to the climate crisis. GRI and LWVMC also both pursue public policy and practical actions to achieve progressive solutions that benefit the common good of Mendocino of the Mendocino Coast. Ukiah and Willits as well as at the Community Center of Mendocino and by

County and beyond. We see both of our organizations as part of a centuries-long tradition of cooperative community efforts benefiting the environment and culture "Grassroots Institute (GRI) has conducted workshops all across Mendocino County for the past six years at Mendocino College campuses in Fort Bragg, Zoom. Hundreds of Mendocino County residents have participated in our undertakings that have ranged from deep dives into grassroots solutions to Mendocino County, and working with our County and city governments to

Voters, have partnered with us in this effort.

"Let's explore how we can share resources and actions to benefit the common good of the Mendocino Coast in the future. Please check out our website at

corporate power, to building and mapping the Economy for the Common Good of Zoom from home grassroots-institute.org for more information."

dedicate a substantial portion of the federal funds available to them to mitigate the causes of climate change. Many organizations, including the League of Women Be sure to join us at 6 PM on Tuesday, October 19 on Zoom to learn more about Jim and Carrie's group and how to be constructive and positive in the face of climate change. Calendar

All events are on Tuesdays, except as noted. For more on starred

In this issue ... October 2-29 (Saturdays)* **Grass Roots Institute** MWPC Candidate training **Supervisor Redistricting** October 6 (Wednesday)* Four Feminist Writers Climate Change Town Hall 6:30 PM Zoom The Climate Crisis in California October 9 (Saturday)* **Local Candidate Trainings** 11 AM Zoom Songs of the Suffragists New California Housing Laws To October 15* **Local Housing Survey** Hispanic Heritage display Drive Clean Virtual Gathering October 16, 20 (Saturday, Wednesday)* Local News Drive Clean Zoom October 19

outside events, see articles in this Voter.

Defenders of Democracy National Updates Links Members' Meeting: Climate 6:00 PM Zoom November 2 Local and Municipal Elections November 16 Members' meeting: Indigenous History 6:00 PM Zoom December 14 Members' meeting: Housing 6:00 PM Zoom September meeting ...

Supervisor Redistricting Draw your own map by Jary Stavely Twenty-one online participants learned about county redistricting at the League's kickoff meeting on September 28. League Vice-President Paula Cohen opened the discussion with a summary of how and why redistricting is required after each census, the federal and state criteria which must be followed (as far as possible) in drawing new boundaries, and the makeup of the advisory commission which was formed to provide community input and suggested boundaries to the Board of Supervisors in time for new supervisor districts to be adopted by December 15.

> New districts must be equal in population, contiguous, and keep identifiable communities together. Identifiable communities include the four chartered cities of the county (Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Willits, and Point Area), as well as 19 other Census Designated Places (CDP's), such as Albion, Caspar, Cleone, Little River,

to submit their own ideas of how to make districts that are equal in population,

Paula was followed by Mr. Farr, an expert in cartography, who has assisted in the development of Mendocino County supervisor district boundaries for the past four

decades. He explained how to use the GIS tool on the county website to learn

one district to another. In the past, Laytonville has gone back and forth between the 3rd and 4th, but has expressed the preference to be in the 3rd with Willits. In order to enlarge the 4th in 2011, an attempt was made to add Mendocino, but residents there were opposed. Hopland also has changed districts, going back and forth between the 1st, 2nd, and 5th. Leif ventured a guess that, although that community does have some shared interests with the Anderson Valley, most of its

The commission will meet on 10/7, 10/12, 10/20, 11/3, and 11/30 for public workshops; it will also participate in public input hearings with the Board of Supervisors on 10/26, 11/9, an as yet undetermined date in early December, and on 12/7, when a suggested ordinance will be introduced. The Supes are scheduled to adopt the final redistricting plan on 12/14. Information on the commission, on

how to attend its meetings, and on their specific times, can be found at

mendocinocounty.org/government/executive-office/redistricting. Readers may

and Mendocino along the north county coast. Other identifiable populations, based on Communities of Interest (COI's) can also be considered in drawing boundaries. These can include shared economic, cultural, or educational ties. The Commission is composed (in district order) of Kyle Farmer, Dee Palleson, Mary Ziady, Peter McNamee, and Paula Cohen. It is advised by county staff including Deputy Chief Executive Officer Cherie Johnson, Assistant County Counsel Charlotte Scott, and Geographic Information Systems Administrator Leif Farr. This year, instead of seeking public input from town hall meetings in different areas of the county, the Commission will be doing so via Zoom. They invite all residents of the county to identify their own communities of interest, and

current census information about one's own community, and then, to draw your own boundaries to submit to the commission. His favorite path to get to the mapmaking portal is to go to the Mendocino County homepage, click Services, and then click GIS. There, the "Portal User Guide" gives a complete tutorial on different features of the tool. The Mendocino County map displayed on the site shows the 2011 supervisor districts with 2020 census numbers included. The map allows one to see all the smallest geographical areas or 'blocks' which the census identifies. Once the user is ready, they can draw their own boundary, either identifying a community which should be kept together, or giving a complete suggestion for supervisor districts, to present to the commission. During his presentation Leif revealed that this year, as has been the trend for several decades, the 4th District has grown less than the rest of the county, and that the city of Fort Bragg has actually lost population. This will require adjustments in order for the five districts to be within 3% of each other in population. Dale Perkins asked how communities feel about being shifted from

residents would prefer to be affiliated inland.

email the commission with questions and/or input.

Four Feminist Writers

This will give you a boost. Read about these four inspiring women and their

To be featured in a virtual program

President's message ...

by Cindy Plank

contiguous, and keep identifiable communities together.

talent for "writing against the grain and using the power of words to fight for equality." They will be featured in an upcoming program put together by two New Jersey League members, Laura Engelhardt and Susan Ferris. Their introduction to the program follows: Journalist, activist, and prolific writer, Mary Livermore was a true force to be reckoned with in the second half of the 19th century. She focused on the abolitionist cause before the Civil War, turning her attention to the women's suffrage movement afterward. In 1868 she helped establish the American Woman Suffrage Association in Chicago, and published *The Agitator*, a suffragist journal that focused on women's interests and rights. In its first year, The Agitator produced 37 issues, all dedicated to women's suffrage. After moving to Boston in 1870, Mary Livermore helped establish the Massachusetts Women's Suffrage Association, and merged *The Agitator* with Boston's women's publication, *The* Women's Journal. In 1871 Edwin Christie and George Cooper dedicated their song, "Daughters of Freedom! The Ballot Be Yours," to Livermore in honor of her

> Daughters of freedom, the ballot be yours! Wield it with wisdom, your hopes it secures.

In the late 1880s, Kate Chopin was a prolific author of short stories and novels. Her honesty and objective descriptions of the woman's experience shocked the public, though publishers reveled in her feminist takes on American society.

While her short stories were celebrated by readers of magazine fiction, her novels

focused on feminine experiences and sexual passions. Chopin's work was largely ignored by the literary world until the 1950's, when scholars rediscovered her writing. A half-century after her death, critics identified Chopin as one of the first modern feminist writers, dubbing her a revolutionary in the world of literature. Not only did her work draw attention to the failure of American law when it came to women's rights, but she also transformed the depiction of women in fiction. Her work has since been published in 20+ languages, and has become part of the

To date, author and activist Margaret Atwood has published 18 novels, 18 books of poetry, 11 books of nonfiction, 8 children's books, and 2 graphic novels. Atwood's work addresses many feminist themes, including sexual politics, gendered relationships, and limitations on women's power. Her most celebrated novel, The Handmaid's Tale, has played a key role in highlighting the injustice done to women throughout history: while the genre of her story is science fiction, the details of the suffering and subjugation of women described in the novel is based on historic truths. The book has become a symbol of women's resistance to oppression, In recent years US activists have dressed in the iconic handmaid's garb to attend marches and protests. "I avoid looking down at my body, not so much because it's shameful or immodest, but because I don't want to see it. I don't want to look at something that determines me so completely."—The

California state senator Mike McGuire has announced a Virtual Climate Crisis Town Hall to be conducted on Wednesday, October 6 at 6:30 PM. He writes:

The climate crisis is one of the top challenges of our time. It's impacting every continent on earth and scientists believe climate change is evolving quicker than anticipated. We also know the impacts of climate change will disproportionately impact our most vulnerable neighbors, especially poor and older Americans.

Mendocino Women's Political Coalition

Campaign Training

"Be a Change Agent for Freedom"

were dismissed by readers as vulgar and disagreeable, largely because they

Rights that are equal—this ye claim. Bright be your guerdon, fair your fame!

work towards Women's Suffrage:

core curriculum in English Literature. "She was becoming herself, and daily casting aside that fictitious self which we assume like a garment with which to appear before the world." — The Awakening, Kate Chopin American poet, feminist, and civil rights activist Audre Lorde was instrumental in addressing the need for intersectionality in the feminist movement. As a black, lesbian author, Lorde's work uniquely addresses the cross-section of racism, sexism, and homophobia in the United States. Her early work was first published In Langston Hughes' 1962 New Negro Poets and other magazines. She published several poetry collections throughout the 1960's and early 70's, however it was her collection Coal, in 1976 that gained her wider acclaim. Lorde's poems focusing on the experiences of black and lesbian women pushed the feminist movement to grow and become more inclusive. At the time, her literary work and activism were dismissed by white feminists because she advocated for more than just women's rights. Today, however, her work is widely celebrated by modern feminists. "There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle, because we do not

Learn more about this Feminist Four in "Songs of the Suffragists," being presented on October 9 at 11 AM by

The Climate Crisis in California

live single-issue lives." —Audre Lorde

In the Golden State and throughout America's West, experts believe climate change has made this region warmer and drier. Extreme heat is now the top weather-related killer in the US and western states are more susceptible to extreme drought and larger, more destructive and more frequent wildfires. Coastal communities are also preparing for sea level rise. California has historically led this nation on emission reduction efforts, and now more than ever, we must redouble our efforts to combat this growing crisis. We hope that you will join us for an important conversation with some of America's top climate experts via phone or video livestream, whichever is easiest for you. Presenters will include Senator McGuire; Daniel Swain, Climate Scientist with the Institute of the Environment & Sustainability at UCLA; and Kristina Dahl, Senior Climate Scientist for the Climate & Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. RSVP by clicking here. The call-in number and video livestream link will be returned via email. For questions call 576- 2771. Mendocino Women's Political Coalition

New California Housing Laws In a letter to its leaders, the state office wrote: VICTORY!!!! Thank you to Governor Gavin Newsom for signing SB 8, 9, and 10 —much needed bills to alleviate the housing crisis. • SB 8 extends the Housing Crisis Act of 2019 to continue to streamline the development of homes in California by prohibiting local actions that reduce housing capacity. • SB 9 allows qualifying homeowners to split their property into two lots and

• SB 10 allows communities to ease some of the barriers to building small

To Senators Skinner, Atkins, and Wiener, thank you for your leadership and for

And THANK YOU to our many supporters who contributed to our grassroots efforts to get this legislation on the Governor's desk. More and more often, home buying is becoming a privilege only available to the wealthiest. As a result, many renters will have little to no option to enter the housing market and begin to build equity. These bills will incentivize the production of more homes, and in doing so,

make the dream of homeownership a reality for more Californians.

Find more on our #housing position: https://lwvc.org/position/housing.

HAT (The Housing Action Team, North Coast of Mendocino County) is asking

The surveys are on our website: HATMendoCoast.org. There are two versions, one for businesses/public agencies and one for everyone else. Choose the one that's right for you, Employer or Employee, in English or Spanish. Participation

"The results will give us valuable information that's not available elsewhere," explained HAT's coordinator Elizabeth Swenson. She added, "Among other things, we're asking employers if they're having trouble hiring staff because of housing. This survey also asks if housing is hurting their business' bottom-line."

community, renters and homeowners will help us understand the obstacles they

HAT will analyze the results and create conclusions that help us address issues the surveys identify. If participation is robust and we get a meaningful number of responses, we'll be able to share our conclusions and collaborate with people who

We understand that people are (rightly) concerned about privacy, so the surveys are designed for anonymity. Names are not required and responses are not linked

Johanna Jensen, a HAT volunteer, offered, "Responses we get from the

encounter. We're also interested in finding out how many households are

displaced by vacation rentals, something we hear a lot about."

fellow North Coast residents to complete a super-short (5 minutes or less) housing-impact survey. We know that we have a housing crisis. What we don't know, but intend to find out, is how housing affects our businesses, public agencies, and the people who live here. What we learn will help us tackle our

Help your favorite candidate or be a candidate yourself. The training will be at Co-Work Ukiah at 104 N. School St., on October 2, 9, 16 and 23, from 9 AM to 1 PM. The training will be in segments, with each

session led by an elected woman as well as two trainers. MWPC encourages anyone interested in public service

Registration is accepted on our website: mendocinowomen.org. For more information call Lynda McClure, 272-0580, or Val Muchowski, 895-3543; or email them: lynda@pacific.net or vjmuchowski@gmail.com.

years ago to research, advocate and take action for housing solutions that work in our community. HAT is comprised of dedicated resident volunteers invested in tackling the North Coast's housing crisis. To join us or ask a question, you can contact us by phone at (707) 969-7730.

Drive Clean Virtual Gathering

League promotes EV adoption

 Experts will discuss government incentives, solutions for residents who live in apartments and additional financial incentives for disadvantaged communities. We will debunk common EV myths and answer your questions. Attendees who are residents of California will receive priority placement for Drive Clean's EV Discount Program. (Next Discount Program: November 2021) Invite everyone you know. We've made it easy. Just sign up and share through

New Members: Over the past months at least thirteen local people have

This letter is from your membership chair and explains why renewing your

membership is important. You will find a printable membership form in the email with this Voter; or just mail your check, with your current email address written

Every year at this time we begin a new program year, and we also solicit

your annual dues. Please take a minute to mail your annual dues to us at P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg, CA. The more we collect at this time, the less we will spend on

October 1, 2021

joined the League. Veteran members, please give a warm welcome when you have contact with them during these socially distant times. Our new members include Carole Press from Willits, Alice Bonner from Boonville, Sydney Grange from Fort Bragg, Loreto Rojas from Mendocino, Ang Dominguez from Fort Bragg, Gregoria Cordoba from Fort Bragg, Yolanda & Bruce Fletcher from Fort Bragg, Alison Trick-Thornton from Albion, Nancy Milano from Fort Bragg, Karen Bowers from Albion, Dale Perkins from Fort Bragg, Gary and Susan Levenson-Palmer from Manchester, and John Haschak from Willits. And please, if you have joined since January of 2020 and are not mentioned here, contact us by email:

Texas Abortion Law: On Sept. 1 The national and Texas Leagues issued a joint statement regarding the Supreme Court's acceptance of the new Texas Abortion Law: "Bodily autonomy is a personal right. The League of Women Voters believes every person deserves the access and the privacy to make their own reproductive choices, and we will continue the fight for reproductive justice in Texas and across the nation." Texas Voting Restrictions: Much has been written about the recent passage of new voting restrictions in Texas, but, according to a statement from the

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. GrassRoots Institute: http://www.grassroots-institute.org/ Redistricting commission information: mendocinocounty.org/government/ executive-office/redistricting; email to redistricting@mendocinocounty.org Program on feminist writers: alicepaul.org/alice-paul-institute-presents-the-

LinkTracking.php?id=405790&eaid=348603&url=https:// sd02.senate.ca.gov/climate-crisis-town-hall&tid=SD2C662065257 or https://sd02.senate.ca.gov/video MWPC candidate training: mendocinowomen.org; email lynda@pacific.net or vjmuchowski@gmail.com LWVC housing position: https://lwvc.org/position/housing HAT housing survey: HATMendoCoast.org Drive Clean: drivecleancalifornia.org/league-of-women-voters/ Blues Beach legislation: sd02.senate.ca.gov/news/2021-09-24-mcguire'shistoric-legislation-transferring-sacred-blues-beach-property-back Hispanic Heritage: learninglab.si.edu/news/top-8-reasons-why-and-howwe-celebrate-hispanic-heritage-month Texas decision: https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/leaguewomen-voters-response-scotus-failure-block-texas-abortion-law?

This will be the first in a series of Town Halls that we'll be hosting in the coming year on the Climate Crisis and how it impacts California. All of them will be focused on the root causes of this crisis and the bold solutions that will be needed in the months and years to come.

Local Candidate Trainings

Be a change agent for democracy

Women's Political Coalition's (MWPC) upcoming

political organization that welcomes all genders.

Next year we will have plenty of elections. In June

Legislators may be running in new districts due to redistricting. And elections for Mendocino County offices from Sheriff to Superintendent of Schools, as well as Supervisors for Districts 3 and 5, will be held. The November 2022 elections will feature four seats on the Ukiah City Council and four seats on the Fort Bragg City Council, as well as

State League backed legislation ...

I'd like to give you a heads up on Mendocino

Candidate Training. MWPC is a nonpartisan

all statewide offices are up for election.

seats on all school boards.

to attend these training sessions.

by Val Muchowski

Handmaid's Tale

Town hall will discuss causes, impacts and solutions

Engelhardt and Ferris for the Alice Paul Institute.

build two homes on each lot.

multifamily developments.

putting Californians first!

Local Housing Survey

submitted by HAT

most pressing housing problems.

ends October 31, but we hope you'll take it sooner.

to the person submitting it. Data collected will be compiled and analyzed collectively, solely to understand our housing needs. We appreciate and thank you for helping us collect this valuable information. We'd also appreciate it if you'll tell your friends and family. Share the survey link with as many people as possible! The Housing Action Team North Coast Mendocino County (HAT) started five

have, or want to start, housing programs.

step a typical California resident can take to reduce carbon emissions is to switch to an electric vehicle. During the one-hour Zoom event, experts from Drive Clean California, EV drivers and climate and clean air enthusiasts will share their interest in clean air and a cool planet. The event will feature:

vehicles, costs, and considerations when moving to electric.

• EV and e-bike experts and owners will share their experiences, the latest trends,

League of Women Voters of California, together with Drive Clean California, is

co-hosting Drive Clean with the League, an educational and inspirational gathering to improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions. The LWV of California and the LWVUS have declared a climate emergency, urging all local Leagues to include Climate Action as a high priority in 2021. The most important

Hispanic Heritage display: The coastal Latino Coalition has created a display in celebration of the Hispanic Heritage Month at the former Whistlestop Antiques storefront next to Spunky Skunk on Franklin St. in Fort Bragg. The display can be enjoyed until October 15. Those who come by can learn more about Latco's work, and view the main prizes to be offered for their 2022 scholarship raffle. Voter readers may wish to check out the Smithsonian's "Top 8 Reasons Why and How We Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month" (passed on by Cindy Plank).

national office, the new laws would have been worse without the efforts of the Texas League and its partner civil rights groups. "Pro-voter activists in 2021 made a major impact mitigating the severity of anti-voter laws, proving that even "little" actions can make a huge difference."

Freedom to Vote Act: The Freedom to Vote Act, legislation that would protect and expand the right to vote, decrease the influence of money in politics, and stop gerrymandering, was introduced in the US Senate. The League strongly supports this legislation. As stated by LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase Solomón, the "provisions in this bill work together to provide Americans with more options to

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

email or post on social media. Your guests can invite their social circle. And so on. Word of mouth is the best way to accelerate EV adoption and Drive Clean is designed with this in mind. More information is on the Drive Clean California website. Two Zoom events are available: • Saturday, October 16, 5:00-6:00 PM: Register • Wednesday, October 20, 6:00-7:00 PM: Register Local News Blues Beach transfer: In late September Governor Newsom signed into law legislation that enables transfer of the ownership and management of the Caltrans property south of Westport known as Blues Beach, to a non-profit consortium operated by the Sherwood Band of Pomo, the Round Valley Indian Tribes, and the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo. The law is designed to ensure that the roughly 172-acre property will never be used for commercial activity, and that public access continues to be available during daylight hours. According to a press release from sponsoring Senator McGuire's office, "The property is a popular spot for both locals and tourists. Its popularity and remote location has also led to challenges for the local community: illegal encampments, cars getting stuck on the beach, an abundance of trash, and most critically, damage to Native American cultural sites."

postage for having to ask later on. The full amount of your regular dues -- \$60.00 for an individual membership or \$90.00 for a 2-member household—is passed on to the U.S. and California Leagues to support their laudable efforts towards making democracy work and preserving our world. This amount also gives you full membership in both organizations. As these regular dues add nothing to our coffers, we include additional levels of contribution for you to consider when you make your renewal. These fund the activities of our local League. Each membership level is named after a woman of the past who chose to make a difference: Susan B. Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton. • Amelia Bloomer was the first woman to own, operate and edit a newspaper, *The* Lily, which promoted women's rights issues. Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the National Woman Suffrage Association and served as its first president. • Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters: "Winning the vote

is only an opening wedge —learning to use it is a bigger task."

Another individual who chose to make a difference was Frederick

Thank you for remaining a member of a committed group of women and

Jary Stavely

Membership Chair

Douglass, who spoke at the Seneca Falls women's rights convention urging women not to compromise on their demand for the vote. Donations to our League's Frederick Douglass Diversity Fund allow scholarship and "try us" memberships. We are also pleased to say that free memberships for students 16-21 years of age are the official policy of the national League. They are available

men who are working to make a difference in the future of our country.

voter@mcn.org.

Defenders of Democracy

on it, to P.O. Box 1128, 95437.

Dear Members and Friends,

for the asking.

National Updates

Membership ...

(That's you)

administration to do everything within their power to pass federal voting rights legislation. Please visit the League's action page for promoting this bill. Contact LWVMC

Voting rights laws: https://www.lwv.org/blog/how-texas-advocatesmitigated-attack-voting-rights Freedom to Vote Act: https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/ League Links To join the LWVMC Zoom meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/ 82319138585?pwd=ODJQVktrdEQ3WExwWVU3MCttcHgwUT09 Mendocino County League's website: https://my.lwv.org/california/ mendocino-county

participate in our democracy." A vote on this bill is anticipated in the near future. Should it fail to pass, LWV will continue to encourage President Biden and his 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 **LWV Mission Statement**

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songs-of-the-suffragists/ Climate town hall: https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/

fbclid=IwAR3TvfzQzmATpbL6d97mMCgW62xXg-rBQIrlazNgzOleague-supports-new-senate-voting-rights-bill-freedom-vote-act and http:// salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5950/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/

> Mendocino County League's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/ LWVMendo1 State League positions can be found at: https://lwvc.org/our-work/ positions