

Charlene McAllister, President

January 2026

Jary Stavely and Dorine Real, Editors

January meeting ...

Healthcare on the Coast:

How are we doing?

The Mendocino County League of Women Voters will examine the current conditions for healthcare on the coast at its next monthly meeting, on January 20 at 6 pm by Zoom. Paula Cohen will moderate a discussion with Lucresha Renteria from the Mendocino Coast Clinics and Dr. William Miller from Adventist Health Mendocino Coast about current issues in continuing care for the residents of northwest Mendocino County.

The League's position on health care is broad, but takes into account that health care should be a right. It states that every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care, and mental health care. Every US resident should have access to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive service that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care. Dental, vision, and hearing care also are important, but lower in priority. The League believes that under any system of health care reform, consumers/patients should be permitted to purchase services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level.

The League supports regulatory incentives to encourage the development of cost-effective, alternative ways of delivering and paying for health care. Delivery programs may take place in a variety of settings, including the home and online, and must provide quality care, meaning consistent with "standard of care" guidelines, by trained and licensed personnel, staffed adequately to ensure their own and patient safety.

Contrast this position to what is actually happening today in health care and learn what the local concerns are. The Zoom access is in the sidebar on the left. Please invite your friends and neighbors to participate in this informative discussion. Followup questions will be welcome. As usual, our zoom master will let participants into the webinar at 5:30 for virtual sociality.

Calendar

January 6 (Tuesday) 9 am County Courthouse / Zoom
Supervisors meeting (see "Climate Change Language")

January 13 (Tuesday) 2-4pm Mendocino College
Listening session on Native American news needs

January 15 (Thursday) 3 pm Zoom
GRI LCP Update review

January 20 (Tuesday) 6 pm Zoom
LWVMC member meeting: Local Healthcare

January 23 (Friday)
Comments close on Cultural Resources Analysis Report

January 24 (Saturday) 1:30 Company Store
Environmental film showing

February 14 (Saturday)
League's birthday

February 17 (Tuesday) 6:00 Caspar Community Ctr./Zoom
LWVMC member meeting: Program Planning

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

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Click these entries to jump to the articles.

League board meetings are always open to the public. League members and other interested folks are cordially invited to tune in and learn how the board operates. The next one will be held on **January 13 at 6 pm on Zoom**.

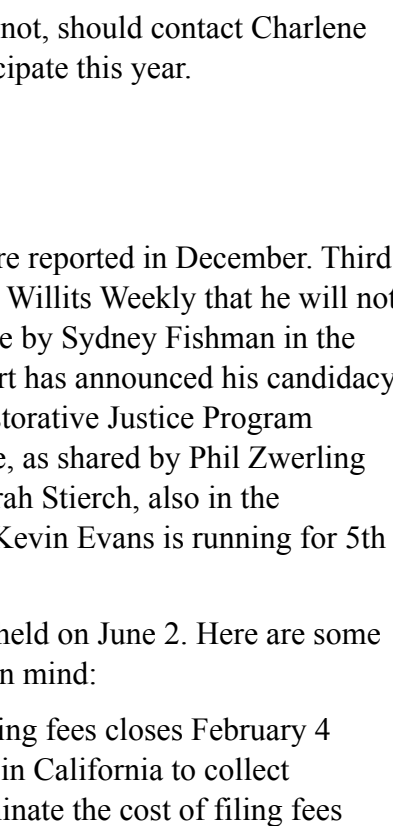
President's message ...

A Busy Year Ahead for LWV

Civic engagement starts with us

by Charlene McAllister

The upcoming year promises to be an active and impactful period for the League as it prepares to undertake numerous initiatives aimed at promoting informed voting and active civic engagement. League is well known for its commitment to fostering an informed electorate. In early 2026 we will be focusing on Program Planning, followed by Candidates Forums. We will need to build partnerships with local organizations to expand our outreach and foster a culture of civic responsibility.



To accomplish these ambitious goals, we rely on the support of volunteers. Program Planning, done in February, gives that opportunity to learn more about how League sets priorities. And there is always a need for assistance in putting together Candidates Forums as well as voter registration and getting out the vote.

A Reminder for LWVMC Members

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do that right away before your short grace period expires: [Join the League of Women Voters | MyLO](#). This League portal requires that you sign into your account (or create one, if you haven't done so). Be prepared to find an access code that they send, in order to complete your sign in.

Whether you have a few hours to spare or can commit to ongoing activities, your contribution can make a significant difference. Volunteering with the League provides an opportunity to be actively involved in shaping a more informed and engaged electorate, especially during a pivotal election year.

Join us in making this year a successful and impactful one. Together, we can strengthen our democracy and empower voters to participate confidently in the electoral process.

Time for Legislative Interviews

For the past several years the Mendocino County League has collaborated with our sister units in Humboldt, Sonoma, and Marin to conduct legislative interviews with our representatives in the Assembly and State Senate. The [Legislative Interview Kit for 2025-2026](#) and associated material is now available on the [Members Only](#) website. Local League legislative interviews provide an opportunity for you to connect with your district representatives, expand your League's presence as constituents in their districts, and heighten our collective impact. They are also an excellent chance to cultivate new leaders and build new relationships. Interested *Voter* readers, members or not, should contact Charlene McAllister or any Board member, in order to participate this year.

June Primary News

Some developments in the Supervisor elections were reported in December. Third District Supervisor [John Haschak](#) announced in the Willits Weekly that he will not seek reelection after seven years in office. An article by Sydney Fishman in the Mendocino Voice says that Willits resident Eric Hart has announced his candidacy to replace him, as has Buffy Wright Bourassa, Restorative Justice Program Manager for the Mendocino County Sheriff's office, as shared by Phil Zwierling on the Mendocino Announce List. An article by Sarah Stierch, also in the Mendocino Voice, states that Anchor Bay resident Kevin Evans is running for 5th District Supervisor.

The California Statewide Primary Election will be held on June 2. Here are some significant dates for candidates and voters to keep in mind:

- The period for submitting signatures in lieu of filing fees closes February 4 (*Signatures in lieu of filing fees* allow candidates in California to collect signatures from registered voters to offset or eliminate the cost of filing fees required to run for certain offices.)
- Judicial Notices of Intent may be filed between January 26 and February 4.
- Candidate filing dates go from February 9 to March 6.
- The extension period for filing, if an incumbent fails to file, is from March 7 to March 11.
- Write-in Declarations are accepted from April 6 to May 19.
- Sample Ballots begin to be mailed on April 23.
- First day to submit absentee ballots is May 4.
- The last day for voter registration is May 18.

Although California Assembly and Senate districts will remain unchanged for Mendocino County residents this year, last fall's Prop 50 changed the boundaries for federal Congressional Districts. In the absence of a court order otherwise, voters who live east of Hwy. 101 will vote for District 1 candidates, while those to the west remain in District 2.

Local News Shorts

Skunk Train Developments

Elise Cox filed two stories in mid-December regarding Mendocino Railway. The first one, [California Appeals Court Says Public Utilities Need Not Serve Active Customers](#), describes how a California appeals court overturned an eminent domain ruling by a Mendocino Municipal court judge in the *Meyer* case, regarding property on Hwy. 20 adjacent to the Skunk Train tracks. The second, [Skunk Train Chief Details Freight Operations, Federal Oversight Amid Eminent Domain Dispute](#), follows up with an extended interview with MR president/CEO Robert Pinoli. Both pieces provide photos as well as depth.

Showing of Environment-Focused Films

from the *Mendocino Announce List*

The Climate Crisis Work Group of the Grass-Roots Institute is showing 3 short, inspiring films in Fort Bragg on Saturday, January 24 at 1:30 pm. The venue is upstairs at the Company Store, 303 N. Main St. The program will conclude at about 3 pm. The films are:

- *Sehem Village*, about a 58 year-old eco-village in Egypt
- *The Story of Plastic*, a very short cartoon made by the folks who produced the *Story of Stuff* cartoon
- *Sustainable Development in Brazil*, which highlights some of the many innovative designs and practices that are part of life in Curitiba, a city of 3.2 million people, voted the world's Greenest City.

There will be time for discussion after each film. The program is free, including refreshments. For more information, contact peace@mcn.org, or 707-235-9080.

News Coverage for Indigenous Communities

According to an [article](#) by Sydney Fishman in the Mendocino Voice, that organization, in partnership with Mendocino College and the North Far North Regional Consortium, will host a community listening session on January 13, to better understand the news coverage needs of Mendocino County's Native American communities and to help develop a journalism training program.

Sea Level Rise Survey

from MCOG

Rising seas and changing weather are already impacting our coastline—including the roads we rely on every day. Sea level rise may cause more frequent and long-term flooding of low-lying roads, as well as increased coastal erosion from stronger storms, especially along areas already prone to flooding or erosion. The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) is conducting a Sea Level Rise (SLR) Roadway Impact Study to understand how flooding, erosion, and other climate-related impacts are affecting County- and City-managed roadways. This study is being funded through a Climate Adaptation Planning Grant (CAPG), offered by Caltrans.

We are identifying the roads most at risk and will select up to five sites for in-depth planning and evaluation. Your input will help determine which areas to study and guide solutions to protect your community. Take the survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MCOG-SLR>) today and make your voice count!

Fort Building Has New Life

Voter readers may wish to note that "Gee Bee" on Facebook has presented more information on the building we showed in a photo last month, part of a series entitled "Buildings and Businesses with History in Fort Bragg, CA".

"The Fort Building at 430 N Franklin Street is Fort Bragg's oldest surviving structure, built in 1857 as the quartermaster's storehouse for the U.S. Army post. The fort was established on land long inhabited by the Coastal Pomo, many of whom were displaced or forced onto the Mendocino Indian Reservation during the Army's occupation. After the post closed in 1864, the building remained on the mill site, later used by Georgia-Pacific as a small museum. It was donated to the city in the 1980s and moved to its current location. It is [home to] the Kai Poma Center, a tribal non profit formed by members of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Round Valley Indian Tribes, and Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians."

Newly Available LCP Documents

from Julia Krog, head of Mendocino County Planning

The County has recently made available, on the Visual and Archaeological Resources Update page, the Scenic Views Questionnaire Report and related Highly Scenic Area Maps, as well as the Cultural Resources Analysis Report. All documents are available online:

- [Visual and archeological resources update \(overview\)](#)
- [Scenic Views Questionnaire Report](#)
- [Highly Scenic Area Maps](#)
- [Cultural Resources Analysis Report](#)

Comments regarding the Cultural Resources Analysis Report should be submitted to krogj@mendocinocounty.gov and LCPUpdate@mendocinocounty.gov by January 23, 2026.

[*ed. note*—The next GRI Mendocino Vision LCP Update review meeting, as noted below, is to be held on January 15, from 3-5 pm on Zoom.]

Mendocino College Scholarships

by the Mendocino College Foundation

High school students may wish to know that the application period is now open for scholarships to attend Mendocino College. More than \$200,000 is available through the Mendocino College Foundation. Hour-long workshops are being held every Friday from January 9 through February 27, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Workshops are held via Zoom (ID: 853 1609 8768). Questions can be directed to scholarship@mendocino.edu.

Healthcare Foundation Hiring

from the Mendocino Announce List

The Mendocino Coast Healthcare Foundation, a non-profit organization in Fort Bragg, is seeking to fill two positions: Manager (\$32-\$38/hour depending on experience) and Administrative Assistant (\$26-\$30/hour depending on experience). Full details and downloadable vacancy announcements can be found on the MCHF website.

Coastal Planning Review

by Peter McNamee

The public is invited to the GrassRoots Institute's Mendocino Vision Workgroup's coastal Zoom discussion with state and local agencies & organizations on Thursday, January 15, from 3 pm to 5 pm. Bring your questions, your ideas and your suggestions about managing for a better coastal future! Here is the planned agenda:

3 pm - Presentations from agencies and organizations:

- Mendocino Transit Authority coastal public transportation initiatives.
- Noyo Harbor Master presentation regarding planned improvements in the harbor.
- County of Mendocino Planning & Building Permits update of progress on coastal studies foundational to amending the county Local Coastal Program governing planning & permitting in the unincorporated areas of the coastal zone, as well as any Coastal Development Permitting in process.
- City of Fort Bragg initiatives
 - Development of Blue Economy Plan & update to the City's Local Coastal Program planning & permitting process.
 - Master Development Agreement for Noyo Headlands, Toxic Contamination Remediation activities with Ca. Dept. of Toxic Substance Control, And Coastal Development Permitting in process.
- City of Point Arena updating Local Coastal Program planning & permitting, as well as any Coastal Development Permitting in process.

4 pm - Public Discussion, Questions, and Comment Period

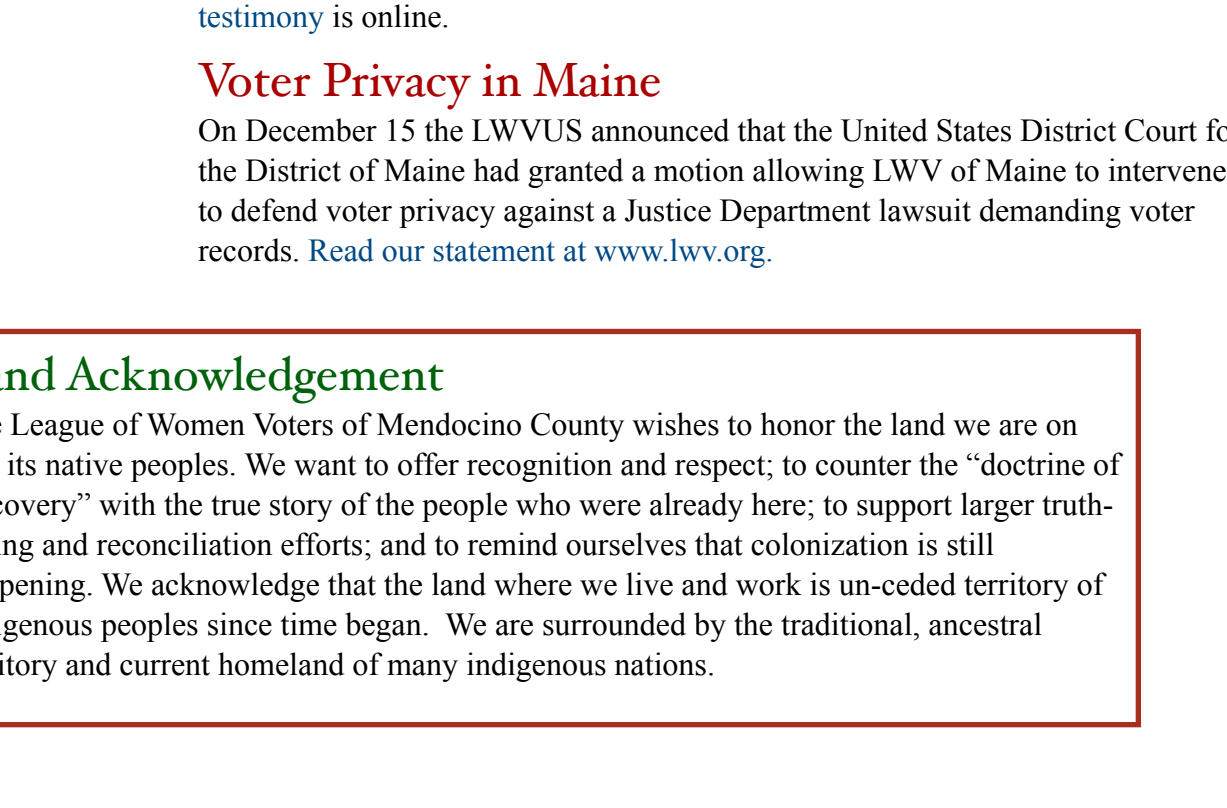
5 pm - End session.

The GrassRoots Institute's Mendocino Vision Workgroup hosts public coastal zoom discussions on a bimonthly basis in order to facilitate direct public engagement in coastal zone planning and land use process. Generally, these sessions are well attended. Many coastal area residents and organizations rely upon the sessions to keep the public engaged and up to date about actions directly affecting them.

Eel and Russian Rivers

Trump Administration Weighs In Against Two-Basin Solution

On December 19 U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins filed a notice to intervene in federal proceedings over the proposed decommissioning of the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project. PG&E no longer wants to operate the water-diversion complex, which involves two dams on the upper Eel River, and which provides water for Lake Mendocino and Russian River communities and wineries. Many community leaders, indigenous groups, and environmentalists have looked forward to the removal of the dams, and have endeavored to plan for ways to continue to serve the water needs of Mendocino and Sonoma Counties with a so-called Two-Basin Solution. Elise Cox filed this story, "[USDA Steps into Potter Valley Project Decommissioning Fight](#)".



Scott Dam and Lake Pillsbury, part of the Potter Valley Project.
(Photo by Mike Nelson from the Two Basin Partnership website)

County policy

Climate Change Language

Supervisors revisit decision to scrub their Legislative Agenda

by Jary Stavely

At its December 16 meeting the Board of Supervisors discussed a proposal from Ted Williams to reconsider its previous decision removing references to climate change from its Legislative Agenda (also called the Legislative Platform) for the coming year. The issue was discussed at the GRI Mendocino Vision workgroup's meeting on November 20 [see December '25 *Voter*]. Ted proposed re-inserting several references to how crucial climate change and its effects are to the county, and his changes were supported by all those who gave public comment. During the meeting, Supervisor Haschak supported re-introduction of the references, while Supervisors Cline and Norvell expressed their desire to keep the previously adopted language so as not to lose federal funding unnecessarily. Supervisor Mulhern stated she was unwilling to sacrifice carefully crafted language which the Board had worked out in its previous adoption, and agreed to work with Williams on a new draft for the Legislative Agenda which kept the language she didn't want to lose, and which still addressed the need to recognize environmental change. A complete re-edited version of the platform will be considered at the January 6 Supervisors meeting as agenda item R10. The new draft can be accessed online. The meeting, which begins at 9 am, may be attended in person or on Zoom; electronic e-comments may be made on the [agenda web page](#).

Mendocino County League of Women Voters President Charlene McAllister submitted the following letter to the Supervisors prior to the December 16 meeting:

"The League of Women Voters believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and our planet. The League believes that an interrelated approach to combating climate change—including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources—is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decisions, at all levels—local, state, regional, national, and global."

State League calls for

Action Against the Death Penalty

Governor Gavin Newsom has less than 13 months left in office. During that time, he has the power to do something truly historic for justice and human dignity: commute every death sentence in California. The League of Women Voters of California opposes the death penalty and supports criminal justice policies that protect human rights and reduce injustice. We are urging Governor Newsom to use his executive authority now to grant universal clemency—commuting every death sentence in California so that although people would remain incarcerated, no one can be executed.

There are currently 565 people on California's death row—the largest death row in the nation and one of the largest in the world. Universal clemency would not only save hundreds of lives, it would also move California toward confronting the failures and inequities of its death penalty system. We urge you to [take action now](#).

U.S. League Goes on Record

Healthcare Affordability

On December 11 the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) sent a memo to the Senate about the set-to-expire Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies, urging senators to make a good faith effort to pass legislation to ensure health care affordability in the new year. The letter may be read online. The Senate wasn't able to do so. The League also joined over 128 organizations in a similar letter to the whole Congress.

Attempts to Silence Non-Profit Organizations

On Dec. 16 the LWVUS announced that it had joined 257 partner organizations in opposition to government efforts to silence nonprofit organizations that disagree with the party in power. It sets a dangerous precedent and threatens the essential services provided by nonprofit organizations. The full statement is online.

South Carolina Voter Registration

Co-presidents from the LWV of the Charleston Area, SC, wrote a powerful opinion about standing up for voter registration in the League's lawsuit against DHS and USCIS. Read the piece: [Commentary: Why the League of Women Voters took a stand for voter registration](#).

LWVUS Updates

Citizenship Question in the Census

On November 21 LWVUS expressed strong opposition to the *Equal Representation Act* and any other efforts to add a citizenship question on the Census or exclude non-citizens from the apportionment counts. The letter is online.

SAVE Database Overhaul

In late November, the League urged DHS to rescind the revised System of Records Notice (SORN) for SAVE, and revert the SAVE system to its prior authorized state. LWV, LWVLA, LWVVA, and LWVTX submitted comments in response to the Department of Homeland Security's ("DHS") proposal to modify and reissue a DHS system of records notice titled, "Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)-004 Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program ("SAVE")." 90 Fed. Reg. 48948 (Oct. 31, 2025). Additionally, 100 non-plaintiff Leagues sent a similar comment in response to the SORN. Both comments are online.

Protest Against Federal Policies

On December 9 LWVUS joined a sign-on letter to the President opposing the Administration's anti-humanitarian and anti-immigration policies following the shooting of National Guard members in DC. The letter is online.

National Voting Rights Act

On December 10 the House Administration Committee's subcommittee on elections held a hearing on "potential updates to the NVRA" and LWVUS testified that in any efforts to potentially update the NVRA, it is crucial that the law retains its power to protect voters and facilitate voter registration. The testimony is online.

Voter Privacy in Maine

On December 15 the LWVUS announced that the United States District Court for the District of Maine had granted a motion allowing LWV of Maine to intervene to defend voter privacy against a Justice Department lawsuit demanding voter records. Read our statement at www.lwv.org.

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 Message phone: (707) 937-4952

Our website: lwvmendo.org

Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo/>

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