

# The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

*Empowering voters, defending democracy*

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 Lucrecia 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 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.

Zoom from home

Tuesday January 20 6:00 pm

CLICK HERE to join

### 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 pm Company Store Environmental film showing

February 14 (Saturday) League's birthday

February 17 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm 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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U.S. League Goes On Record

LWVUS Update

LWVMC Information

*Click these entries to jump to the articles.*

President's message ...

## A Busy Year Ahead for LWV

Civic engagement starts with us

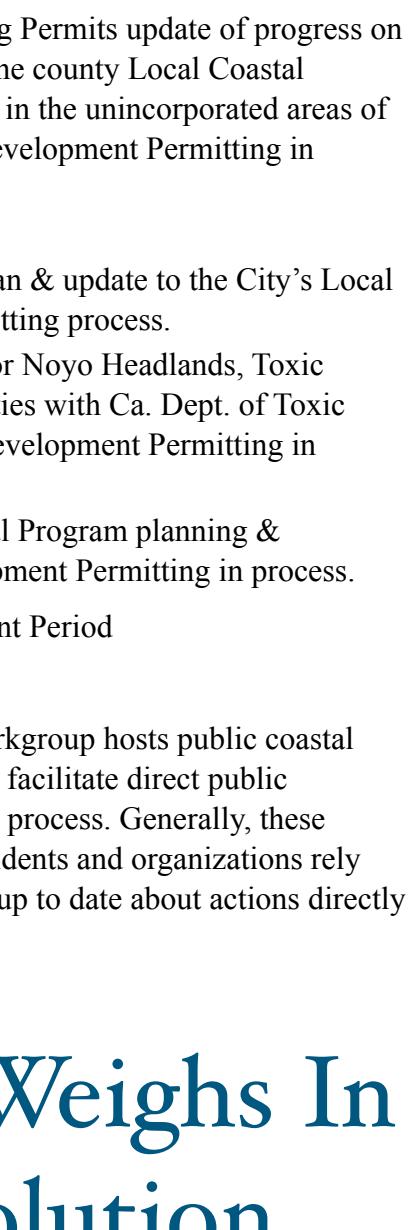
by Charlene McAllister

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 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 Buff Wright Bourassa, Restorative Justice Program Manager for the Mendocino County Sheriff's office, as shared by Phil Zwerling on the Mendocino Announce List. An article by Sarah Sterch, 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 Pino. 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:

- *Sekem 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](mailto: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 longer-term flooding of low-lying roads, as well as areas prone to coastal erosion from the sea. The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) is conducting a Sea Level Rise (SLR) Related Impacts Study to affect County, City and City-managed roadways. This study is being funded through a Adaptation Planning Grant (APG), 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 protect our community. Take the survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MCOG-SLR>) today and make your voice count!

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.

## 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](http://membersonly.lwv.org) 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.

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## Local News Shorts

### Citizenship Quest in the Census

On November 21 LWVUS expressed strong opposition to the [Censo.gov](https://www.censo.gov) website.

Comments regarding the Cultural Resources Analysis Report should be submitted to [krogi@memocounty.gov](mailto:krogi@memocounty.gov) and [LCPUpdate@memocounty.gov](mailto:LCPUpdate@memocounty.gov) by January 23, 2026.

*[Note: The next GRI Mendocino Vision LCP Update review meeting, as noted below, is to be held on January 13, from 3-5 pm on Zoom.]*

by Julia Krogi, head of Mendocino County Planning

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

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by Charlene McAllister

The Mendocino County Health Foundation, a non-profit organization in Fort Bragg, is seeking to fill two positions: Manager (\$32-\$38/hour depending on experience). Full details and downloadable vacancy announcements can be found on the [MCHF](http://mchf.org) website.

## Coastal Planning Review

by Peter McNamee

The public is invited to attend a public hearing on the Coastal Plan Revision on January 23, 2026, at 6 pm at the Mendocino County Courthouse, 303 N. Main St., Fort Bragg.

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