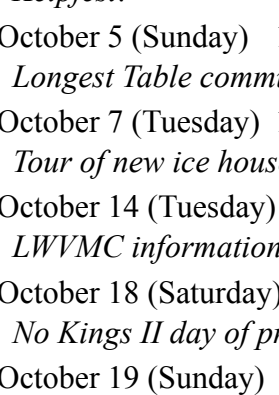


Informational Meeting

November Special Election

Mid-decade redistricting

Zoom from home



Tuesday
October 16
6:00 pm

CLICK HERE
to join

by *Charlene McAllister*

On November 4 we go to the polls. There is only one measure on our ballot this time. Learn what this is about by tuning in on October 14 at 6 pm via Zoom, where League Board members will cover the reasons for the measure, details on how it would be implemented, who supports and opposes it, and what the changes would mean for Mendocino County. There will be time for questions, and the meeting will be recorded for later access. This educational presentation will be to inform you, but not to advocate for one side or the other.

You can also find out more about this ballot measure with the [Easy Voter Guide](#) online, or by finding it at your branch of the Mendocino County Library or at one of the many places throughout the county where we have the printed copies available. Call 707-937-4952, or email us at info@lwvmendo.org for more specifics.

And remember to vote! Need to register? Register by October 20 (online or postmarked). You can also “conditionally” register and vote at your county elections office or polling place after the 15 days voter registration deadline. We will offer voter registration forms and info at the Fort Bragg farmers market all during October.

Please tell your neighbors and friends about this virtual meeting on October 14. The League encourages all members of the voting public to be informed and vote on Proposition 50.

Calendar		
October 3-5 (Friday-Sunday)	Fort Bragg, Mendocino Kelpfest!	
October 5 (Sunday) 1-4	N. Franklin St., Fort Bragg Longest Table community meal	
October 7 (Tuesday) 11 am	S. Harbor Dr. Tour of new ice house/facility	
October 14 (Tuesday)	6:00 pm LWVMC information presentation on Proposition 50	
October 18 (Saturday)	9-11 No Kings II day of protest	
October 19 (Sunday)	Fort Bragg Senior Center Gala Brunch for Senior Center food programs	
October 20 (Monday)	Mendocino County Last day to register to receive a mail-in ballot	
October 20 (Monday)	Fort Bragg City Council/Planning Commission meeting re Headlands	
November 4 (Tuesday)	United States Election Day / California Special Election	

The public is welcome at these events. Please invite your friends and neighbors. For details, see Community Engagement, below.

In this issue ...
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KelpFest Returns
Coastal Planning
Local and Regional News
Community Engagement Opportunities
California League Updates
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LWVMC Information
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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 October 7 at 6 pm on Zoom.

Meet elected officials in person ...

League Hosts “Meet & Greet”

Annual public event

On September 19 the Mendocino County League held its annual Meet & Greet Your Local Officials reception at the Stanford Inn garden lawn. Organizers were pleased with the high number of countywide officials who were able to come and chat with each other and the public. The League particularly thanks Jeff Stanford for his generosity in making the lovely spot available for this event. Special thanks are also due to League member Sydney Grange for making all of the preliminary arrangements, and to Grant Miller and Barb Rice for managing the wine table. Setup, cleanup, and food were organized by Charlene McAllister, Pat Dunbar, Paula Cohen, Cindy Plank, and Morning Nichols. Thanks also to all who came. Those who helped at the end were treated to a beautiful sunset.

KelpFest Returns

to Mendocino Coast

The second North Coast KelpFest! is happening in Mendocino and Fort Bragg October 3-6, 2025. The first one was held from mid-May to mid-June 2024, bringing art, science, food and film together to tell the story of kelp forests on California's north coast. Through a month long series of events, communities from across Northern California were invited to the Mendocino coast to learn about and celebrate the ocean's forests, and connect with coastal ecosystems and culture in a meaningful way. The combination of innovative art + science, ocean-oriented and kelp-inspired events hosted through KelpFest engaged the hearts and minds of people of all ages and ethnicities. These events were designed to contribute to the success of kelp restoration efforts and ultimately create sustained appreciation and stewardship for this ocean ecosystem.

This year's schedule includes a presentation on regenerative aquaculture at the Noyo Center for Marine Science field station, ocean trips on the vessel *The Kraken* led by Noyo Pelagics, a tour of the Big River Kelp Recovery Project, an indigenous food festival/market, First Friday in downtown Fort Bragg, and a number of other events. A schedule and much more background information is available on the [KelpFest website](#).

Coastal Planning

Latest public information session

On September 18, The Grassroots Institute Mendocino Vision workgroup held its latest bi-monthly meeting to review how updates to the three Local Coastal Programs in the county are going, and consider related coastal planning issues. Steffany Aguilar, technical advisor for Project-HERE and a geologist with Farallon Consulting, presented a slide show which included the background for Project-HERE; a history of the Fort Bragg mill site; an outline of the pollutants which have been found, and the cleanup which has taken place there so far; a list of informational and data gaps which cause concern; and next steps which Project-HERE will take. She presented much more information than can be summarized here, but her portion takes up only the first 37 minutes of the recording (found on the [Mendocino Vision webpage](#) at the bottom of the page).

Here are some highlights:

- no monitoring of pollution at the site until 1980, when air pollution from fly ash was cited
- a graphic explanation of how contaminants move through the ground
- dioxins—what they are, how long they last, why they are hard to remove and remain in area OUE
- various methods of cleanup which have been employed
- land use covenants now in place, and what they are
- how feasibility studies are done, and why the current draft recommends no direct action
- gaps in current information include:
 - lack of consideration of sea level rise and danger from tsunamis and earthquakes
 - Pond 8 dam built in 1885, and how or whether to armor it is questionable
 - level of contaminants in the water of Soldier Bay is unknown
- Project-HERE will study mussels in Soldier Bay this fall, and conduct walking tours

County Planning Director Julia Krog then reviewed the status of the various studies which will contribute to the county's LCP Update. The draft of the vulnerability and risk assessment from the Sea Level Rise Resilience Study grant (which should include information about the Fort Bragg headlands) is due to hit her desk by early October, and the county has applied to the Coastal Commission to extend the grant's termination date, due to unanticipated delays. The other studies, funded by the Rolling Grant, are mostly proceeding with back and forth between county staff and consultants, although the Groundwater Study is still paused, as negotiations with the CCC over changes to the scope of work continue. Julia plans to submit an application to push back the termination date for this larger overall grant, as well. Those who receive emails from the county regarding the LCP Update will soon receive links for two new online documents: a survey about preferred coastal views with an enjoyable interactive map, and a page listing all the documents which the various studies have produced. Peter McNamee (moderator for the meeting) will receive the links and share them.

Louis White from ESA, the consultants for the Sea Level Rise studies for all three county updates, reported that Point Arena's final report has almost completed its back and forth with Commission staff, and should soon be finalized. Marie Jones added that Point Arena is currently involved in upgrades to its pier and campground regulations. She and Sarah McCormick announced that the Noyo Harbor draft SLR assessments and maps will be on display at Town Hall in Fort Bragg on October 3, starting at 4 pm, as part of the KelpFest taking place the whole weekend.

Later, Marie mentioned that the Fort Bragg City Council will hold a joint meeting with its Planning Commission on Monday, October 20, to discuss the collaborative plan being developed with Mendocino Railways. Followup comments at the meeting largely concerned the Noyo Headlands, where the city's Coastal Trail is already eroding faster than expected. The next GRI bi-monthly planning review meeting is scheduled for November 20, from 3 to 5 pm.

Coastal Commission Reception

The California Coastal Commission held its meeting in Fort Bragg on September 10-12. The League was a co-sponsor with GRI and others of a reception for the commissioners at the Botanical Gardens. We tabled, but mostly enjoyed the wine, weather, and company.

Local and Regional News

Environments Protected

Last month the Mendocino Land Trust announced the environmental protection of two pieces of land:

“MLT recently added two new conservation easements to our ever-growing roster of protected lands in Mendocino County. In July, PG&E donated a conservation easement to protect Windy Hollow, a 30-acre parcel near Point Arena, consisting of open grasslands and wetlands, protecting special status species of flora and fauna including the federally endangered Point Arena Mountain Beaver. This area is also a potential habitat for the Behren's Silverspot Butterfly—a species near to our hearts as we are actively working to restore its habitat along the coast. This conservation easement will permanently protect the property from any kind of future development, preserving these habitats forever.

“Earlier this month, we were honored to accept the donation of a conservation easement from the trust of the late Sonya Popow, a longtime MLT supporter and renowned ceramic artist. Sonya's legacy will now include protecting her beautiful redwood trees on the land she owned for over 50 years, including a beloved second-growth redwood fondly named the Grandmother Tree. This stunning 2.3-acre property sits between Pudding Creek and the Noyo River, just east of Fort Bragg. Now, these redwoods will never be cut down, and MLT will work closely with future property owners to restrict the development of the property, safeguarding the surrounding wildlife habitats.

“For more information about our land protection and habitat restoration work, please visit our website.”

Nome Cult Walk: A Western Trail of Tears

In 1863, Native Americans of the Konkow Maidu and other tribes were forced to march over 100 miles from a reserve near Chico to the “Nome Cult” ranch in Round Valley. Of 461 people who began the march, only 277 survived it. From September 14 through 30, participants retraced — on foot — this “Konkow Trail of Tears.” This was the 30th annual Nome Cult Walk, a weeklong remembrance of a tragic chapter in Northern California history.

A story by Matt LaFever describes plans for the march; the Forest Service website includes the video below in which participants in the walk, including descendants of survivors, talk about its meaning to them.

This forced relocation of indigenous people on foot also involved people from the U.S. Army posted in Fort Bragg.

Fiesta Latina

On September 27 the Coastal Latino Coalition held a festival on Laurel St. in Fort Bragg. The event featured food, and other aspects of Latino culture, including a folklorico dance troupe from Petaluma. League member (and *Voter* photographer) Morning Nichols was there.

Request for Recreation Supplies

The Mendocino Coast Recreation & Park District is looking for gently used corn-hole supplies. They are starting a Corn-hole Club in Point Arena and hope the community can help. Used or new boards and bags are welcome. Contact the District for more information.

Albion Bridge Replacement Document Published

Caltrans has released a final Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for its proposed replacement of the Hwy. 1 bridge over the Albion River. The public notice about it includes a graphic representation of the proposed new structure. The document itself can be found on the project website. There are paper copies at the Mendocino Community Library on William St. in Mendocino, and at the Fort Bragg Branch of the Mendocino County Library on E. Laurel St. in Fort Bragg.

California Legislature Spares Redwoods

from the *Mendocino Announce List* via *Mary Rose Kaczorowski*

The California Alliance for Retired Americans posted the following message about the defeat of a bill which would have allowed landline service to be discontinued:

“Today, we celebrate a meaningful win for all Californians, especially our seniors and most vulnerable communities. AB 470, which proposed to allow major telephone providers to abandon their Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) obligations in certain areas, has been defeated in the State Senate. This is more than just a legislative win, it's a reaffirmation of our commitment to every retiree's safety, dignity, and connection. We saw what was at stake: essential communication, fair pricing, and safeguards for those often left out. Today, those remain protected.”

Roses for Mammograms

from the *Mendocino Announce List* via *Marilyn Boese*

Raising awareness of the fact that mammograms save lives, during October, the Noyo Sunrise Sororptomists have donated pink roses to be distributed by Adventist Health Mendocino Hospital to each person receiving a mammogram during the month. The Radiology Department is typically busy in October and appointments should be made in advance—its contact number is 707-961-4665. Dozens of roses are given away each week. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In the United States, about one in eight women will develop invasive breast cancer in her lifetime. Early detection is the key to successfully fighting and living with breast cancer.

Opportunities for Community Engagement

Senior Center Brunch Fundraiser

Chefs Margaret Fox and Shannon Hughes are cooking up a Gala Brunch to benefit the Redwood Coast Seniors Food Program on Oct. 19, from 9 am to 1 pm at the center, located at 490 N. Harold St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

For entrees the menu features:

- Baked French Toast Bread Pudding, Caramelized Apples, Whipped Cream
- Roasted Red Pepper & Potato Frittata, Sheep's Milk Feta, Tomato Salad
- Coho Salmon Capers-Dill Salad with Preserved Lemon and Mayonnaise, on a Sourdough Bagel from HardHead Bread

The choice of entree includes your choice of accompaniments and beverages. Accompaniments are hickory smoked bacon, tossed green salad w. champagne vinaigrette, or fresh fruit salad. Beverages include orange juice, mimosa, Thanksgiving coffee, and Mendocino Tea Company tea. Dessert is wild blackberry chocolate walnut coffeecake to go.

Purchase tickets online, or call the Center at (707) 964-0443.

New Ice Facility in Noyo Harbor

On October 7 from 11 am til noon the Noyo Harbor District is hosting a ribbon cutting and tour for the new ice house facility at 19101 S. Harbor Dr. An article by Matt LaFever gives some details:

“The Noyo Harbor District is inviting the community to step inside the future of the local fishing industry with a public walk-through of its new icehouse construction project on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025, according to a press release. The 20-ton flake ice facility, funded through California Jobs First as part of the Noyo Harbor Revitalization Project, will provide a critical service to Fort Bragg's commercial fleet. Once complete, fishermen will be able to load freshly made ice directly onto their boats, keeping locally caught salmon, crab, black cod and other species cold from sea to market, the district said. “More than ice, this project is about securing the future of our fishing fleet and working waterfront,” Harbormaster Anna Neumann said in the release. “We want the community to see this milestone up close, because their support has made it possible.”

The Longest Table

Voter readers interested in civil discourse may wish to participate in the Longest Table event to be held in Fort Bragg on Sunday, October 5. We share here the city's announcement, followed by one from the community arts group Clockworks.

Hosted by the City of Fort Bragg, THE LONGEST TABLE FORT BRAGG! – a free community meal and conversation event! The City provides the tables, chairs, and linens. You bring your own meal & beverage, take a seat at the table, and enjoy a wonderful afternoon connecting with neighbors and friends! Whether you come by yourself or gather your crew as a Table Captain (perfect for potlucks with friends & family), this event is all about fostering human connections, inspiring conversation, and strengthening neighborhood relationships! This is a global movement that started from a desire for more human connection, and now it's coming to Fort Bragg! All ages, genders, races, singles, couples, families, and even beloved pets are welcome. We'll also have Chalk Art & Face Painting for kids! Ready to join the table? Learn more and RSVP at <https://LongestTableFortBragg.eventbrite.com>.

We're thrilled to be part of The Longest Table Fort Bragg, a joyful community meal and connection event happening on Sunday, October 5, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Franklin Street in downtown Fort Bragg. We believe in the power of art to bring people together, and we're excited to contribute to this special afternoon by providing chalk art activities for attendees of all ages. Whether you're a seasoned artist or just looking to add a splash of color to the street, we invite you to join us in creating vibrant, temporary masterpieces that celebrate our community spirit. This free, family-friendly event is a wonderful opportunity to connect with neighbors, share a meal, and enjoy live music, face painting, street art, and more. The City of Fort Bragg will provide tables, linens, and chairs. All you do is bring your own meal and beverage, or purchase food from local restaurants and food trucks on-site.

Waterless Sanitation

The Meadow Farm Community Land Trust is holding a two-day event about the process of composting human waste Oct. 4 & 5. The Saturday event will be a screening of the movie *Holy Shit*, “a lively, thought-provoking documentary exploring how communities around the world are rethinking solutions for human waste” at the Company Store mall in Fort Bragg. On Sunday there will be a “Compost Toilet Workshop, showing “how to build and manage a safe, effective composting toilet system and gain practical skills for emergency sanitation” at the Meadow Farm itself off Pudding Creek Rd. north of Fort Bragg. A donation of \$10 is suggested for the movie, which includes snacks and a raffle for a “Loveable Loos.” There is a sliding scale fee of \$20-\$60 for the workshop. Those interested may register online, or find more information by contacting the Meadow Farm CLT: (707) 813-9234, <http://meadowfarm.org/>.

Correction:
The September *Voter* incorrectly stated that First District Supervisor Madeline Cline was the youngest Supe ever elected in California. She is the youngest one currently serving in the state. We regret the error, and thank Mary Rose Kaczorowski for noticing.

California League Updates

Clean Money Bill Signed

Governor Gavin Newsom has signed SB 42 (Umberg), the California Fair Elections Act of 2026, and now it will head to the November 2026 ballot. This is a huge milestone. By putting the California Fair Elections Act on the ballot, California has sent a clear message: our democracy belongs to the people. With Senator Tom Umberg's leadership, the Governor's signature, and the steadfast commitment of Principal co-authors Senators Allen, Cervantes, Becker, Blakespear, and Stern, along with Assemblymembers Berman, Kalra, Lee, and Pellerin, communities across the state will finally have the chance to decide how campaigns are financed.

For the League of Women Voters of California, this has been a fight many years in the making. We've always believed elections should put voters — not big donors — at the center of our democracy. SB 42 moves us closer to that vision, where candidates spend more time listening to voters instead of chasing money. It opens the door for women, people of color, and working-class Californians to have a fairer shot at running and winning, and it strengthens the very foundation of our democracy. The League was proud to sponsor SB 42 alongside the California Clean Money Campaign and California Common Cause. Together, our coalition worked to put voters back in charge of our elections, reduce the outsized influence of wealthy donors, and restore trust in government.

Strengthen the Racial Justice Act

AB 1071 (Kalra) strengthens California's commitment to a justice system free from racial bias. Help us get this reform across the finish line. California is one signature away from a stronger, fairer justice system. To ensure the landmark Racial Justice Act (RJA) delivers on its promise of equal treatment under the law, we need you to ask Governor Newsom to sign AB 1071. The RJA was a historic step toward confronting racial bias in our courts, but gaps in implementation are leaving people unprotected. Courts have struggled to apply the law consistently, creating unnecessary barriers for those seeking relief from convictions or sentences influenced by race, ethnicity, or national origin.

AB 1071 fixes roadblocks to enforcing the law. It removes procedural barriers and gives courts the guidance they need to enforce the RJA. The bill clarifies that people who have been convicted and have a claim under the RJA must be provided with a lawyer if they can't afford one, or if the State Public Defender asks for it; guarantees access to crucial information so people can bring claims under the RJA; requires courts to take action if racial discrimination or bias is proven, while giving judges the choice as to what the right action should be. AB 1071 reflects lessons from real cases and feedback from public defenders, legal practitioners, and the California Supreme Court. It keeps the Legislature's intent clear: racial bias has no place in our justice system. As co-sponsors of both the original RJA and the Racial Justice Act for All, the League of Women Voters of California remains deeply committed to ensuring the law works as intended. Urge Governor Newsom to SIGN AB 1071 to strengthen the Racial Justice Act.

The Easy Voter Guide

Easy Voter Guides Are Ready

The Easy Voter Guide for California's November 4 special election is live at easyvoter.org/easy-voter-guide. All five languages are posted so every voter can access the information they need to make their voice heard. Voter turnout in special elections is dangerously low. Without trusted tools like the Easy Voter Guide and VOTE411.org, too many Californians will be left out of the democratic process.

State League Names New Executive Director

The League of Women Voters of California is thrilled to announce Jenny Farrell, Esq., as our next Executive Director. A dynamic public interest lawyer and nonprofit leader, Jenny has a proven record of driving growth, building powerful partnerships, and championing equity and justice. From securing major philanthropic investments to expanding community-based services, she has shown how bold leadership can deliver real impact. Jenny's passion for civic engagement and her commitment to a more inclusive democracy make her the right leader for this moment. She officially steps into the role on October 20, 2025. [Read the full story.](#)

LWVUS News

No Kings Day 2

LWVUS is joining **No Kings 2** as a national partner on Saturday, October 18. LWVUS has decided to become an official partner for this day of mobilization to stand in solidarity with partners and stand up against hate and authoritarianism. [League President Dianna Winn will] be attending a No Kings event in [her] own community. The League has consistently and boldly spoken up in the face of rising authoritarianism. This is an opportunity to put words into action and show up in defense of democracy and as an effective ally.

Registering New Citizens to Vote

An updated US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) policy bars groups like the League from providing voter registration services at USCIS-run naturalization ceremonies. This new decision not only prevents us from carrying out our mission work but is a blatant attempt to keep new citizens from accessing their full rights. Leagues can still register new citizens at ceremonies conducted by federal courts. While the USCIS guidance harms our ability to register voters at many naturalization ceremonies, we are committed to ensuring all new citizens can register to vote.

Election Hero Day

The League is the **new managing partner** of Election Hero Day (EHD). Election Hero Day is a nonpartisan civic holiday founded in 2020 to honor the election workers who empowered voters during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since its founding, the League has partnered with EHD to celebrate poll workers, election officials, and the other people who keep our elections fair and efficient.

“[We are] excited for the League of Women Voters to step into the role of Managing Partner of Election Hero Day,” said Ashley Spillane, director of the Civic Responsibility Project. “The staff and volunteers at the hundreds of Leagues across the country have built strong nonpartisan relationships with election officials who serve voters in their communities and join with hundreds of our partners to uplift election heroes on this holiday.” You can learn more about Election Hero Day on its [website](#) or by following EHD on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

“Use It or Lose It” Voting Laws

Youth voters are challenging long-standing assumptions about political apathy among young people. However, students face a hidden threat to their right to vote: “Use It or Lose It” voter roll purging laws. These laws allow states to presume that a person has moved or is no longer eligible to vote if they haven't cast a ballot in recent elections. Although voter purges are not isolated to college students and young voters, thousands are at risk of being quietly culled from voter rolls — and many are unaware this is happening. Given the transient nature of student life, and most young voters regularly change residency between both their family home address and school address. Coupled with historically low youth voting patterns, this mobility makes students particularly vulnerable to voter purges, creating unnecessary barriers to voter access. **Such laws are discussed** by Jayla Smith in the LWVUS blog.

LWVUS Statement on the Killing of Charlie Kirk

“The League of Women Voters is horrified by the targeted murder of Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University.

We extend our condolences to Mr. Kirk's wife, children, family, and friends during this tragic time.

The League of Women Voters unequivocally condemns gun violence in any form. Every individual has the right to free speech and peaceful activism without fear of harm. Gun violence has no place in our democracy. Thank you to local law enforcement, whose response prevented further violence.

We call on Congress to take action and put an end to gun violence and political violence once and for all.”

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