

Report on Official Board Actions at the February 10, 2026 Meeting

At our February 10, 2026 meeting, the LWVHC Board took the following “official actions”:

Support for LWV Minnesota:

It was moved / seconded and passed by a unanimous vote that we send a letter of support and encouragement to the LWV Minnesota and the LWV Minneapolis / Hennepin County (MN) Boards and include some LWVHC bumper stickers and/or local products for them in our mailing.

National LWV Program Issue recommendation:

It was moved / seconded and passed by a unanimous vote that we submit a statement to the LWVUS’s 2026-28 Program Planning Survey, identifying “Money in Politics” as a topic to be included in their program planning. This issue was among the topics that were discussed and identified as important in our League’s Membership Meeting of January 22.

Bonnie Oliver
LWVHC Secretary



Our Mission Statement...

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

Save the Date! March 26 Membership Meeting

The March Membership Meeting on Thursday March 26, 2026 at 6:30 will be on Zoom (the link will be in a separate email). The topic will be our Civil Grand Jury Position Update. League member **Claire Eyton** will chair the meeting, with Jim Glover available to answer questions. He has been active for years in the local and state Civil Grand Jury organizations.

There are different types of juries that do the following: Criminal and civil (trial) juries hear evidence presented by the plaintiff and the defense and render a verdict. The trial is presided over by a judge who can also explain the law to the court and answer the jury's questions during deliberations.

Criminal Grand Juries hear the evidence presented by the prosecutor and decide if the evidence warrants an indictment ("true bill") which can lead to a trial or some other resolution.

In California a Civil Grand Jury (known in Humboldt County as The Grand Jury) is a group of citizens who volunteer to investigate local government operations. Their findings can lead to reforms and improvements in local governance.

The Grand Jury in Humboldt County investigates the Sheriff's Department and the Conservation Camp every year. In addition, the Grand Jury does the following:

- reviews complaints and conducts inquiries into government misconduct or inefficiency.
- issues reports and recommendations based on its findings.
- operates independently from the government to ensure accountability.
- serves as a check on public officials and agencies.

Please plan to attend to hear this important update to our Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury System position and ask any questions you may have. We hope to see you there. Watch for the email with the link to join us on March 26.

Claire Eyton



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY

The LWVHC cordially invites you to our
Annual State of the Community Luncheon

Maggie Fleming, Chair

Tess Coffman

Kay Escarda

Anne Hartline

Kathy Johanson

Lorey Keele

Byrd Lochtie

Carolyn Prescott

Connie Smith

Judith Stoffer

Anne Wasson

The League of Women Voters will be honoring:

Marilyn Tucker
Community Volunteer

~

Betty and Gene Senestraro
Community Volunteers

Master of Ceremonies – Sue McIntyre
The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Keynote Speaker – Susan Seaman, Program Director
North Edge: Business Financing and Community Development

State of the County Remarks – Mike Wilson, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Friday, April 10

11:30 Doors open - Buffet service begins

12:00 – 1:30 Program

Adorni Center

Judith Stoffer
judithstoffer@gmail.com
(707) 502-4344/(707) 443-9972

Maggie Fleming
maggiefleming2018@gmail.com
(707) 501-5420

My check is enclosed to support the 2026 State of the Community Luncheon:

☐ I wish to support The League of Women Voters. Please reserve _____ ticket(s) at \$75 per person.

_____ Indicate the number of vegan/gf meals requested.

☐ I am unable to attend the luncheon, but I wish to support The League of Women Voters with a contribution of \$_____.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

**Payment must be received in advance. Please make checks payable to
The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County, P.O. Box 376, Eureka, CA 95502**

Contributions to the LWVHC are **not** deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

* This year a vegan, dairy-free, gluten-free entrée is available at the luncheon. IT MUST BE ORDERED IN ADVANCE. You will receive a ticket at the door for the pre-plated entrée. Please remember to indicate the number of these special meals on the form above..

Long-Time Humboldt County Volunteers to be Honored at the SOCL

It's time to make your reservations for the League's 33rd annual State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL), April 10, at the Adorni Center in Eureka. Doors open at 11:30 am. Catch up with your friends and community leaders and get an update on the state of Humboldt County.

We're offering a vegan, dairy-free, gluten-free entrée this year. It must be ordered in advance on the invitation form on p. 2. You'll receive a ticket for each vegan/GF meal at the door. The entrée will be pre-plated, so you won't have to stand in the buffet line.

The luncheon program will begin with the presentation of the Civic Contribution Awards. These awards honor the contributions of citizens or groups whose volunteer work has improved and enriched the lives of Humboldt County citizens. Our awardees this year are Marilyn Tucker, and Betty and Gene Senestraro.

Marilyn Tucker of Arcata is a long-time library philanthropist and volunteer. She served on the Friends of the Redwood Library Board for 38 years, serving in several Board officer positions for 20 years. She has helped grow the FRL into a vital resource for the Humboldt County Library. Tucker says she especially enjoyed her 20 years as editor of the FRL newsletter. She helped raise funds for the library by creating the Children's Art Calendar and by volunteering with the Humboldt Children's Author Festival and the Serendipity Store. She ran the store's quarterly book sales for 15 years.

Tucker says she's always loved to read, although she cannot remember learning the skill. Growing up in Southern California on a citrus, cattle, and sheep ranch with her two siblings, the bookmobile's visits to her rural community were a special event. "I'd spend so much time picking out the books I could borrow," Tucker recalls.

Tucker taught elementary school for 12 years in McKinleyville and at Humboldt State University for eight years, where she was supervisor for the math methods class for prospective teachers and supervised student teachers. She holds teaching credentials in both teaching and history.

An active member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international teaching sorority, for more than 30 years, Tucker was their newsletter editor for 15 years and worked on their Yearbook for 20 years. Volunteering with the group's auction, she raised funds for student-teacher scholarships.

Besides reading and spreading the importance of reading, Tucker loves to travel. She's traveled to all seven continents and more than 54 countries. The Tucker family spent a summer living out of a red van during a European vacation. Keeping up with technology, Tucker turned the family's travel photos into short videos, which she then shared in classrooms throughout Humboldt County.

Tucker's advice to young parents: "Read to your children every day and discuss with them what they've read. It's the best way to create a lifelong love of reading."

Betty and Gene Senestraro of Eureka, formerly of Fortuna, have given their time and talent for a combined 80 years of their adult lives to the betterment of Humboldt County's dairy and agricultural industries. Long-time dairy ranchers in Humboldt County, they were also active volunteers in Italian heritage organizations and at St. Joseph hospital – Betty for 45 years and Gene for 30. Betty has encouraged many of her friends to become long-term volunteers at the hospital.

The couple has been married for 70 years and have raised six children.

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News from Access Humboldt

Sunshine Week, celebrating the media's essential role in supporting good governance and promoting civic participation is March 15-21. The LWVHC and Access Humboldt are encouraging the community to honor our media and the important role it plays.

One way to honor our media is to attend Illuminate 2026!, organized by Access Humboldt and co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County. This event will be held on Thursday, March 19, from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Eureka Theater. There will be Ray of Sunshine awards, the "Sunnies," given out to three local reporters chosen by the boards of Access Humboldt and the League. Awards will go to the best journalist, best photojournalist, and best youth journalist. The event is free and catered, with wine and beer available for purchase. Last year's reception benefited Access Humboldt's "broadcasting backpacks" program, made available to local libraries.

Several League members are available to help on the 19th. If you would like to help too, contact Janet Foos at 707-845-7591 by voice or text and plan to arrive at 5 pm for assignment. The event should be a lot of fun!

The League is also working on proclamations from our local city councils and the Board of Supervisors to honor Sunshine Week. **Molly Cate**, Board Chair for Access Humboldt, said, "We are delighted to host Sunshine Week once again. Sunshine Week is a nonpartisan collaboration among groups in journalism, civics, education, government, and the private sector. Our Humboldt County press does an outstanding job covering local government and civic events, ensuring our residents stay informed and involved. The past year has seen a decline in press freedom. Locally, our journalists have 'stepped up to the plate' and reported on how national and state-level policies affect Humboldt residents."

Sunshineweek.org says the Week got its start with the events of September 11, 2001 and the country's realization that we need more openness and transparency in government, with the press playing a vital role. Sunshine Week was established and is celebrated in mid-March each year, coinciding with James Madison's birthday. Madison was a driving force behind the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and he presented the first version of the Bill of Rights to Congress.

If you have not already connected with wonderful programming put on by Access Humboldt, you can look at cable channels 8, 10, 11, and 12, and radio station KZZH 96.7 FM, or go to Accesshumboldt.net to view live programming or watch archived programs. Access Humboldt is also on Facebook – if you "like" their page, you will get lots of information on local activities.

Hope to see you all on Thursday, March 19 at the Eureka Theater at 5:30 to celebrate!

Janet Foos
LWVHC Access Humboldt Board Liaison



LWVUS Program Planning Meeting

The LWVUS Program Planning membership meeting was held on Zoom on Jan. 21, 2026. Ten LWVHC members attended the meeting. In typical LWVHC fashion, we had a lively discussion which included the LWVUS program focus “Women Defend Democracy: Democracy Under Siege.”

The issues included under the umbrella of Women Defend Democracy are:

- Voting Rights (Citizen’s Right to Vote and Citizen’s Right to Know/ Citizen Participation)
- Election Protection (Voter Protection in the 21st Century)
- Redistricting
- Individual Liberties
- Immigration
- The Presidency

These proposed Areas for Emphasis are fully described in the LWVUS publication *Impact On Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions of the League of Women Voters*.

Brief summaries for each of these areas are provided below:

Voting Rights (page 12)

Citizen’s Right to Vote:

Protect the right of all citizens to vote and encourage all citizens to vote.

Citizen’s Right to Know / Citizen Participation:

Protect the citizen’s right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making.

Election Protection:

Voter Protection in the 21st Century (page 21, 2nd paragraph): Help to remove or mitigate barriers to voting by underserved populations and to advance the capacity of state Leagues to become even more effective advocates.

Redistricting (page 12):

Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

Individual Liberties (page 12):

Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Immigration (page 16):

Promote reunification of immediate families: meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States: be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for individuals already living in the country without legal permission to earn legal status.

The Presidency (page 13):

Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

The LWVHC members attending the meeting decided that Money in Politics (formerly Campaign Finance) should be an additional focus.

(continued on p.7)

LWVUS Planning Meeting (continued)

Money in Politics (page 12):

Support campaign finance/MIP regulations that enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions and big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. Support campaign spending that is restricted but not banned. Support public financing, full disclosure, abolishing Super PACs and creating an effective enforcement agency.

Other topics of interest discussed at the meeting included the following:

Abolishing the Electoral College

Healthcare for all

Accountability and transparency for the President

In the end, LWVHC members attending the meeting came to consensus that we would support the Areas for Emphasis proposed by LWVUS, but that we would advocate for our other priorities if they come up at the LWVUS Convention this June.

Peggy Syvertson
LWVHC Program Director

Two Feathers Native American Family Services Wins Award

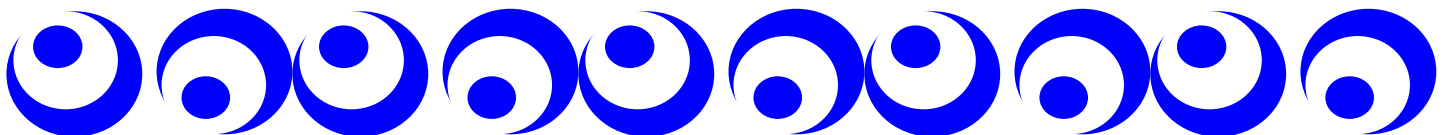
The LWVHC congratulates Two Feathers Native American Family Services (NAFS) for winning a 2026 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award. The \$350,000 grant will be used to grow its youth mental health program that puts culture at the heart of healing.

The online youth mental health symposium Two Feathers NAFS held in partnership with Stanford University a few years ago was an important contributor to the current LWVHC behavioral health position. Their leadership in Humboldt shines brightly as a beacon of inclusion and hope.

Click on the link below the picture to read more about Two Feathers and their award.

<https://nativenewsonline.net/health/two-feathers-native-american-family-services-wins-2026-irvine-leadership-award>

Molly Cate
LWVHC Member



Presentation on the Electoral College As It Relates to Health Care

Anne Hartline from the LWV Humboldt County was invited to speak about the Electoral College at the monthly meeting of the Healthcare for All/Physicians for a National Health Program (HCA/PNHP-Humboldt) on December 17, 2025. Anne's presentation was very informative and is relevant to the education and advocacy the group is doing to support health justice and equity.

The LWVUS supports a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College for several vital reasons: the Electoral College creates a disincentive to vote in the Presidential elections for citizens living in non-battleground states; it polarizes American citizens and exaggerates our sense of being a divided nation; and it puts the choice of President of the US in the hands of voters in only a few battleground or swing states that are not predominantly "blue" or "red". Additionally, the fact that the Electoral College has several times selected a presidential candidate that did not receive the majority of popular votes is a serious problem.

Eliminating the Electoral College would ensure that all voters are equally represented regardless of where they live. Results of the Presidential Election would be determined by those who vote and not by state because every vote would then be deemed equal.

Amendments to the Constitution are time-and labor-consuming. LWVUS therefore supports an interim measure called the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVI Compact). Because the U.S. Constitution gives the states exclusive control over awarding their electoral votes, a group of states and the District of Columbia have created this Compact to pledge their electoral votes to the Presidential candidate who wins the national popular vote. The NPVI will not take effect until enacted by enough states to reach the threshold of 270 electoral votes to achieve direct popular vote for the President and Vice President. As of January 2026, 17 states and the District of Columbia have enacted the NPVI Compact. These states collectively hold 209 of the 270 electoral votes. California's state legislature voted to join the NPVI Compact in 2011.

The LWVUS supports the permanent solution of a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College and simultaneously supports the NPVI Compact as an acceptable interim solution. How is this related to healthcare reform?

The following statements are found in the League's Impact on Issues 2024 – 2026 pp. 157-159: The national LWV's position clearly supports "a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums" (p. 157, paragraph 6). The League is opposed to a strictly private market-based model of financing the health care system (p. 158, paragraph 2). The League supports the single-payer concept as a viable and desirable approach to implementing the League's positions on equitable access, affordability, and financial feasibility. In any proposed health care financing system, the League favors health insurance access independent of employment status (p. 157, paragraph 7).

At this time the majority of Americans support the deprivatization of health care with a nonprofit publicly administered unified financing system that delivers patient-centered care based on patient outcomes, not dollars saved for shareholders' pockets. If we can elect a President and Vice President who truly represent the majority of citizens in the United States, the possibility of establishing a Single Payer health care system is closer to becoming a reality. All U.S. residents deserve equal access to high quality health care, and all U.S. citizens should have their votes count equally.

The League's support for Single Payer healthcare reform and the NPVI Compact illustrates the alignment of these two movements with the foundational policies of the League. These are non-partisan issues.

Thank you, Anne, for your excellent presentation.

Corinne Frugoni
LWVHC Social Policy Director

Thank You to So Many Wonderful Volunteers!

On January 23rd, a team of wonderful volunteers again met at Bear River for the final mailing party for the Bear River Election on March 14, 2026.

A special thank you to **Kay Escarda**, our sub, who came when called that morning because **Christina Hutton**, who had volunteered, was sick and unable to attend. And thank you, Christina, for keeping your germs at home and protecting all the rest of us! The wonderful crew stuffed and sealed envelopes and prepared the Delivery Confirmation tracking numbers so that we follow the Bear River Election Ordinance requirement for tracking of delivery when asked. Thanks to Brittany Gonzales, Bear River Executive Secretary, and Roseann Thomas, Bear River Election Committee member, who had everything all ready for us to do our work. And thank you, my dedicated League team of **Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Sharolyn Hutton, Kay Escarda, Joan Williams, Judi Hedgpeth, and Janet Foos**. You are all awesome!

There are still two more dates for you to volunteer to help with an election. Let me know by replying to me by email at byrdloch@aol.com or call me at 707-498-6610.

The Bear River election is on Saturday, March 14, 2026. We still need:

- one more person from 7:30 to 9:30 am
- one more person from 9:30 to 11:30 am
- two more people from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
- three people from 1:30 to 3:30 pm

The Wiyot election is Saturday, April 4, 2026. I will need two people for each two-hour shift between 9:30 am and 1:30 (2:00) pm. Choose your time and let me know when you can help.

Thanks to all you Leaguers who help me fill my shifts for the elections. I appreciate all of you!

Byrd Lochtie

LWVHC Election Service Director

League of Women Voters Humboldt County 2026 Calendar

Please Note: Board meetings will be hybrid and will take place at United Congregational Christian Church (UCCC), 900 Hodgson Street, Eureka on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 5:30-7:00pm. Membership meetings will be on Zoom, generally on the 3rd Thursday of the month, beginning at 6:30pm. Membership Meeting topics shown here may change.

March 2026 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 3/10, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom <u>Sunshine Week:</u> 3/16-3/20 <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 3/26, 6:30 pm, Zoom Topic: Civil Grand Jury System Position Update	May 2026 <u>Avenue of the Giants:</u> 5/3 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 5/12, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom
April 2026 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 4/14, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 4/16, 6:30 pm, Zoom Topic: Local Program Planning SOCL: 4/10	June 2026 Please note that the date of the Annual Meeting has been changed from 6/2 to 6/3. <u>Annual Meeting:</u> 6/3, 6 pm, Location TBA <u>Board Meeting:</u> 6/9, 5:30 pm, Tess Coffman's home

Renew Now or Help Someone Become a LWVHC Member!

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages. Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

Membership dues and donations to the LWVHC are not tax-deductible.

Donations to the LWVHC-Education Fund, through the Humboldt Area Foundation, are tax deductible.

Your membership will be good for 1 year from the date you pay your dues.

Visit www.LWVHC.org or mail the form below!

Please make checks payable to LWVUS. Send to P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502.

A single individual member payment of \$75 is suggested, but you can pay less if you wish, with a minimum of \$20 per member.

I am enclosing payment for my annual membership renewal:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

email _____



The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502

www.lwvhc.org

leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org

(707) 444-9252

Who's Who in Your 2025-2026 League Board

President.....Julie Kelly
Vice President.....Peggy Syvertson
Secretary.....Bonnie Oliver
Treasurer.....Tess Coffman
Program Director.....Peggy Syvertson
Natural Resources Director.....Vacant
Social Policy Director.....Corinne Frugoni
Government Directors.....Kathy Johanson
and Claire Eyton
Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
Forum Director.....Anne Hartline
Voter Service Director.....Anne Hartline
Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
VOTER Editor.....Leslie Leach
Community Education Director.....Anne Wasson
Communications Director.....Jessica Schlachter
Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
Website Director.....Leslie Leach
Access Humboldt Liaison.....Janet Foos
SOCL Publicity Chair and Board Liaison....Anne
Wasson
Director.....Karen Price
Director.....Suzanne McClurkin-Nelson





P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

Get Involved!

We all have unique skills to contribute and limited time. Working together we become a viable force for change. Call or email today to say you want to participate. Visit www.lwvhc.org or call (707) 444-9252.

Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County (LWVHC), in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to membership nor participation in the LWVHC on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, economic status, or political affiliation. LWVHC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVHC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of the community in its membership, Board, and programs. Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be accepted within the League, including but not limited to race, socio-economic status, age, ability status, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, or marital status. The League is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging for all people. The League is an organization that respects and values the richness of our community and our members. The collective sum of our individual differences and life experiences represents not only our culture, but our reputation and the organization's mission and achievements as well.

LWVHC Calendar

Tuesday, March 10 5:30 pm	Board Meeting UCC Church/Zoom 900 Hodgson Street Eureka, CA In-person
Zoom https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82436363821?pwd=kAnTSbGXQI88VncVvrFgooTOtRpvv3.1	
Sunshine Week: 3/16-3/20	
Thursday March 19 5:30-8 p.m.	Illuminate 2026 Eureka Theater
Thursday, March 26 6:30 pm, Topic: Civil Grand Jury System Position Update	Membership Meeting Zoom only
Anytime	LWVHC Webpage LWVHC Instagram LWVHC X Bluesky @lwvhc.bsky.social