

President's Message

Dear League Members,

The League of Humboldt County is an active League, and February showed the commitment of the Board and members. A review of this month's VOTER shows all that activity. The League reviewed two different positions, the hazardous waste position and the social policy position. Thank you, **Leslie Leach**, for putting together the hazardous waste presentation and thank you, **Molly Cate**, for putting together the public health presentation. Look in this VOTER to see the summary of the hazardous waste position review meeting. A summary of the public health policy will be in the April VOTER. The Board will review both updated positions and then present them to the members to vote on at the Annual Meeting in May. Once the updated positions are approved by the LWVHC membership, they can be used by the Board for advocacy. In addition, members participated in legislative interviews with Representative Jim Wood and Senator Mike McGuire. Read the summary in this VOTER for the responses of the legislators. Thank you, **Judy Bennett**, for all your work in making the interviews happen. The responses are informative.

Thank you, **Nancy Kay**, and the budget committee for preparing the budget for the next fiscal year, a challenging task without the League's usual fundraiser. The budget will be presented at the annual meeting.

Thank you to all who made all these activities possible while I took a vacation in Texas to help with a new grandbaby. Little did I expect to end up in Texas' worst storm in decades! It was fun at first with six inches of snow to play in. But then the sleet/rain came that placed a layer of ice on top of the snow, making it impossible to even step outside. The weather stayed below 20 degrees for a week so I we were able to experience living off the grid, melting snow for water, and wearing coats, scarfs, and gloves in the house. All the news about the Texas storm was very real. It was wonderful how Americans helped Americans. There were volunteers venturing out in very treacherous conditions to help their neighbors, people with chain saws cleaning up debris, water distribution points, and those with a fireplace inviting neighbors over to share some heat, and a grocery store, when the electricity went out, allowing everyone inside to just leave with their groceries. It was a long week, some sad news, but a lot of inspiration. As Mr. Rogers said, in times of trouble, "Look for the helpers, you will always find the helpers."

I'm glad to be back in Humboldt County and ready to keep the work going. Enjoy all the information in this month's VOTER.

Deborah Downs
LWVHC President



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.

★ *Board Briefs*

Budget Committee Report (Nancy Kay):

The 2021-2022 Proposed Budget was presented by **Nancy Kay** and discussed. The Budget Committee consisted of **Nancy Kay, Becky Simpson, Jessica Schlachter, Sharolyn Hutton, Lorey Keele, and Judy Bennett**. This proposed budget will appear in the 2021 Annual Meeting Kit, and will be voted upon by the membership at that meeting.

Hazardous Waste Position Review Meeting Report (Leslie Leach)

The Position Review meeting on February 7 was discussed and **Leslie Leach** was praised for her organization of the meeting and for the outstanding speaker. Wording changes agreed upon by the members at the meeting were approved by the Board. These proposed changes to the position will appear in the 2021 Annual Meeting Kit, and will be voted upon by the membership at that meeting.

Sunshine Week (Anne Hartline)

LWVHC was approached by the City of Arcata regarding whether or not we would once again support Sunshine Week via proclamation. The Board voted to continue to support Sunshine Week in this way.

As a follow-up, **Anne Hartline** contacted the City Clerk's office and updated the information on the proclamation. The proclamation was scheduled to be read at the City Council meeting on March 3 at 6 p.m. Anyone can watch the meeting via the link on the city's website.

Suffrage Parade (Nancy Kay)

The Parade Committee has decided to organize a suffrage parade celebrating the end of the 100 Year Anniversary on August 14, 2021. More details will follow.

Election Services (Byrd Lochtie)

The Board approved an MOU for election work with the Wiyot Tribe for 2021 and 2022.

Anne Hartline
LWVHC Secretary



“Somehow we’ve weathered and witnessed
a nation that isn’t broken
but simply unfinished...
And yes we are far from polished
far from pristine
but that doesn’t mean we are
striving to form a union that is perfect
We are striving to forge a union with purpose
To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of
man”

Amanda Gorman

Legislative Interview

Interview with Jim Wood

On Jan. 29, Deborah Downs, Byrd Lochtie, Sharolyn Hutton, and Jessica Schlachter joined League members from the Mendocino and Sonoma County Leagues to interview Assemblymember Jim Wood via Zoom.

In regard to combating climate change, Wood stated that half of California's pollution is from wildfires, and that the best way to prevent that is proper forest management, which not only prevents wildfires but also creates jobs. There is already \$1 billion in the state's budget for forest management, but there should be more.

In regard to affordable housing, Wood said that it wasn't his area of expertise, so he defers to his more knowledgeable colleagues on that subject. He did point out that it is necessary to change the attitudes of those who are against building affordable housing.

In regard to an equitable COVID recovery, Wood disagreed with the governor's current vaccination plan. He believes in addition to vaccinating high-risk people, their entire household needs to also be vaccinated.

Finally, when asked what he viewed as major issues in 2021, Wood stressed that equal broadband access in communities is vital. With distance learning and the growth in telemedicine, adequate access to broadband is more important than ever.

Interview with Mike McGuire

On Feb. 2, Byrd Lochtie, Sharolyn Hutton, and Jessica Schlachter joined League members from Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County Leagues to interview State Senator Mike McGuire via Zoom.

In regard to combating climate change, McGuire pointed out that because last year's fire season released seven years-worth of carbon into the atmosphere, fire prevention is a top priority. Negotiations for an increased budget for fire prevention are underway. He also mentioned subsidizing electric car purchases and a need to reduce fossil fuel dependency.

In regard to affordable housing, McGuire mentioned a number of upcoming bills meant to combat California's housing crisis: **SB10** makes it easier for city staffs to permit buildings of up to 10 units. **SB6** makes it possible to turn malls and office parks into housing without city planning or city council approval if two-thirds of the existing area is used for housing and the remaining third for retail (as long as local zoning requirements are followed). **SB7** may also be used for housing in addition to the stadiums and green energy projects it was originally intended for. In addition, the eviction moratorium in California will give landlords 80% of their owed back rent and utilities if they keep their tenants.

In regard to an equitable COVID recovery, McGuire stated that FEMA has promised to reimburse states and counties 100% for expanded vaccination sites. Because the pandemic has unproportionally affected communities of color, vaccination efforts need to be strategic.

Finally, when asked what he viewed as major issues in 2021, McGuire stressed the importance of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by better coordination of the Paycheck Protection Program, getting children back to school, and fire prevention. His personal priority also includes working to combat climate change.

Overall

The LWVHC enjoyed the chance to collaborate with other Northern California Leagues to interview state legislators. Transparency in government is vital and these interviews help to accomplish that

Jessica Schlachter

LWVHC Social/Traditional Media Chair

A Summary of the Hazardous Waste Position Review Meeting

On February 7, at 2:00 p.m., 16 League members zoomed into the Hazardous Waste Position Review meeting. Before the meeting was over, each of us felt fortunate to have as our guest speaker Maje Hoyos, Supervising Environmental Materials Health Specialist, Hazardous Materials Unit, DHHS Public Health Division of Environmental Health.

First, Maje explained that to be considered hazardous waste, substances must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Corrosive (such as acids)
- Toxic (poisonous impact on humans)
- Explosive
- Highly flammable

We learned that all Hazardous Waste is shipped out of the county!

Maje then raised two concerns: First, that our society look at the cost/benefit analysis of disposing of hazardous waste. In other words, whether we make it easier or harder for people to dispose of hazardous waste. If we are making it harder and/or more expensive, that can result in citizens not doing anything or dumping hazardous waste alongside roadways or out of the way places. For example, past legislation made it quite expensive for a homeowner to remove an old deck made with pressure treated wood (toxic). The concern is that person may circumvent the legal disposal laws deciding instead to dispose the old deck in a manner that is less costly personally, but more costly to society. Maje related that recent legislation regarding the disposal of pressure treated wood has helped to make disposal less expensive. (See link to **Treated Wood Waste Legislation** below. Legislation of hazardous waste disposal needs to be carefully thought out and well-written.

Maje's second concern is that there needs to be more education about hazardous waste. For example, there are a number of substances that most people do not realize are hazardous, including vape dispensers and cigarette butts (nicotine residue in each is small, but the volume is huge), and containers that held products such as Windex (ammonia is a toxin). Addressing the problem of hazardous wastes requires teaching citizens about what is hazardous, what alternatives exist, and how these substances can safely be disposed of. One example is the Master Gardener Program that educates people about the most effective, least harmful choices to make for gardens and agriculture. Maje told us that the Agricultural Extension Service can help people learn about toxic and non-toxic garden/agricultural products.

Finally, Maje told us that she thinks our Hazardous Waste position is strong and recommended a couple of changes that were taken into consideration by the group as we modified wording in our LWVHC position.

Maje Hoyos' presentation provided us with a great deal of valuable information that helped us understand the complexities of hazardous waste management and disposal and guided our position revision. For more information, see the links below:

“The **CalEPA Regulated Site Portal** is a website that combines data about environmentally regulated sites and facilities in California into a single, searchable database and interactive map. The portal was created to provide a more holistic view of regulated activities statewide. By combining data from a variety of state and federal databases, the portal provides an overview of regulated activities across the spectrum of environmental programs for any given location in California. These activities include hazardous materials and waste, state and federal cleanups, impacted ground and surface waters, and toxic materials.”

<https://siteportal.calepa.ca.gov/nsite/map/help>. This is a map where you can look at what is happening with chemicals in your neighborhood.

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Also, the **Safer Consumer Product Regulations** require the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to issue a Priority Product Work Plan every three years. The Work Plan must include two elements:

- A description of "the product categories that the Department will evaluate to identify product-chemical combinations to be added to the Priority Products list during the subsequent three years"; and
- A "general explanation of the decision to select the identified product categories for evaluation."

Summary of the proposed Draft Work Plan contains the following six proposed product categories:

- Beauty, Personal Care, and Hygiene products
- Cleaning Products
- Building Products and Materials Used on Construction and Renovation
- Food Packaging
- Children's Products
- Motor Vehicle Tires

To see the plan or learn more about it, here is their website: <https://calsafer.dtsc.ca.gov/cms/commentpackage/?rid=12753>

The DTSC **Treated Wood Waste Legislation** Update can be found at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/treated-wood-waste-variances/>

Leslie Leach
LWVHC Natural Resources Director

March Is Women's History Month

In 1981, Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the president to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week."

In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the president to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month.

The first female U.S. senator, Rebecca Latimer Felton, represented Georgia for a single day in 1922, and the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, Hattie Caraway, was elected from Arkansas in 1932. Fifty-eight women have served in the United States Senate since its establishment in 1789. As of January 20, 2021, there are 24 women (16 Democrats and eight Republicans) serving in the U.S. Senate.

The first four women were elected to the California State Assembly in 1918. They were Esto Broughton, Democrat of Stanislaus County; Grace Dorris, Republican of Kern County; Elizabeth Hughes, Republican of Butte County; and Anna Saylor, Republican of Alameda County. The first female senator was elected in 1976. She was Rose Ann Vuich, a second-generation Serbian-American from Dinuba, California.

Currently, California women in the U.S. Congress are Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Reps. Doris Matsui, Nancy Pelosi, Barbara Lee, Jackie Speier, Anna Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren, Julia Brownley, Judy Chu, Grace Napolitano, Norma Torres, Linda Sanchez, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Maxine Waters, Nanette Barragan, Katie Porter, Michelle Steel and Sara Jacobs.

Kamala Harris was also a senator from California, but she is now Vice President Kamala Harris.
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The following is a collection of female quotations:

Clara Barton, who founded the American Red Cross in 1881: “I may sometimes be willing to teach for nothing, but if paid at all, I shall never do a man’s work for less than a man’s pay.”

Oveta Culp Hobby became director of the Women’s Army Corps during World War II: “Women who stepped up were measured as citizens of the nation, not as women ... This was a people’s war, and everyone was in it.”

Amelia Earhart was an American pilot, the first woman to fly alone across the Atlantic Ocean. In 1932, she also became the first person to fly across the Atlantic twice. She disappeared in 1937, while attempting to fly around the entire world, and was declared dead in 1939: “The most difficult thing is the decision to act; the rest is merely tenacity.”

Like Amelia Earhart, Edna Gardner Whyte was a pioneer in aviation. She served as a pilot for over 60 years and helped train thousands of young pilots for World War II. “Just watch, all of you men. I’ll show you what a woman can do...I’ll go across the country, I’ll race to the Moon... I’ll never look back.”

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an American lawyer and jurist who served as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States until her death in September 2020: "My mother told me to be a lady. And for her, that meant be your own person, be independent."

Dave Rosso
LWVHC VOTER Editor



The Water-Energy Nexus

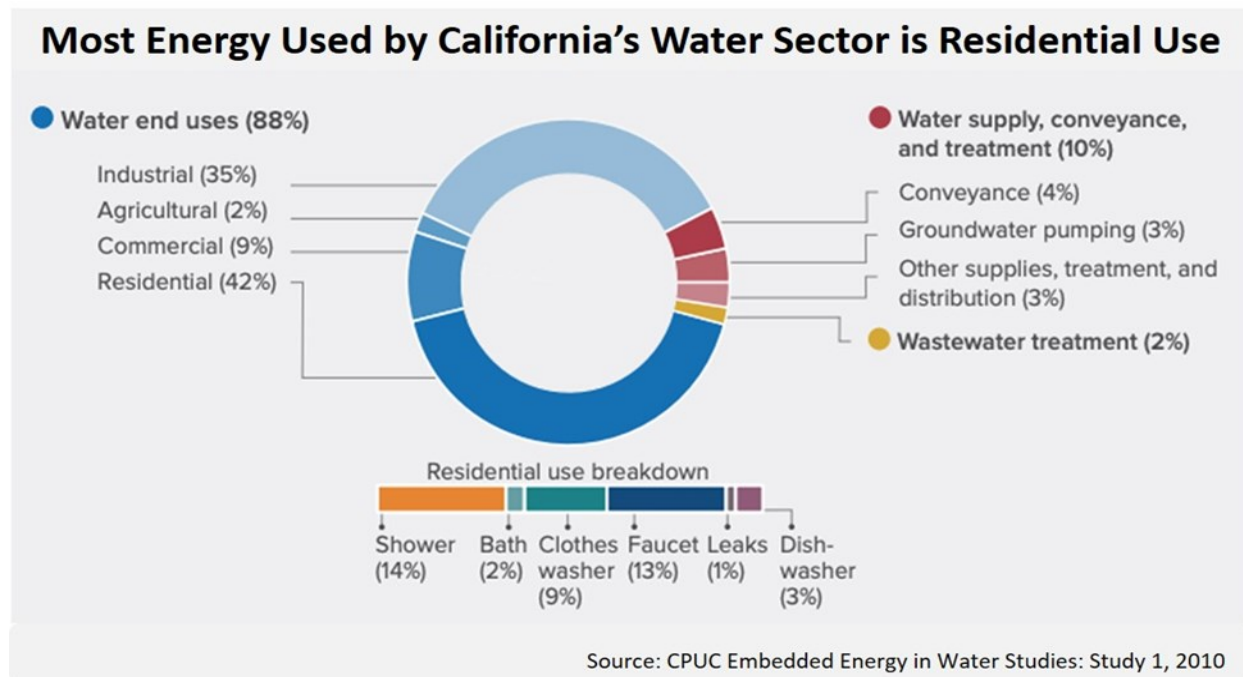
Water is heavy; it takes large amounts of energy to haul water uphill. Conversely, the prodigious power of water rolling downhill can scour stone into canyons, and can also be harnessed for energy, whether it is used for grinding grain or generating electricity.

Water has embedded energy; the awesome power of the sun evaporates water from the oceans-leaving salt and other impurities behind-and then lifts it high up in the atmosphere where it coalesces into precipitation. The higher up that precipitation falls, the more places it can potentially roll downhill (its natural watershed). Add energy, and we expand the natural watershed by pumping water uphill. Moving water around consumes more electricity in California than any other use. The [Edmonston Pumping Plant](#), which lifts water 2000 feet from the Central Valley to southern California, is the single largest user of electricity in California and accounts for [40% of the electricity used by the State Water Project](#) (SWP).

In the heat wave-caused electricity shortage of August 2020, the SWP worked with California Independent (continued on next page)

System Operator (CAISO), the electricity load-balancing authority for the California grid, to provide dispatchable power, shutting off pumps to reduce electricity demand while releasing water to flow downhill to generate electricity when electricity demand was highest. This reduced the spatial extent and duration of (or even prevented some) rolling blackouts. We can do more of this, but that requires building water storage throughout the state so that sections of the long aqueducts can convey water independently, as electricity is needed in their region.

Water conveyance, treatment, delivery, heating and sewage treatment account for about [20% of California electricity and 30% of natural gas use](#). Most of the energy consumed by the water sector is for [residential use](#).



Pure water is also energy in the sense that, if we use enough energy and expensive technology, we can clean dirty water for reuse. Advances in technology have made desalination and potable reuse/recycling, (which requires similar equipment), energetically competitive with imported river water for coastal southern California cities.

Ironically, using more energy at the right times can help us lower our greenhouse gas emissions, e.g. a lack of midday electricity users has slowed the development of solar power in California. Sewage is generally treated when people use water, but desalination can soak up cheap solar power during the midday to increase the development of solar power that we need to help us during the late afternoon/evening peak electricity demand. Finally, energy has embedded water. Refineries and power plants use massive amounts of water for cooling. In southwest Los Angeles county, refineries and natural gas power plants are mostly cooled with recycled water. About half that water evaporates, while the rest goes back to the sewage plant for recycling. Most people know that to cut their water they should reduce their lawn area, plant less thirsty gardens, and install water-saving appliances and fixtures. But they rarely think that they would save a large amount just by using less gasoline or by shifting their electricity usage to the daytime, when electricity is produced by renewables instead of natural gas.

**Dr. Grace Peng, Chair
LWVC Energy Team**

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.

Annual Dues are due each year on July 1st

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

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

Yes! I want to join the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County and become a voice for citizens and a force for change.

_____ \$75 Single Membership

_____ \$115 Family Membership
(2 in same household)

_____ I also want to gift a membership!

Name _____ Phone _____

I am enclosing for my annual membership renewal:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____



The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

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Who's Who in Your 2020-2021 League Board

- President.....Deborah Downs
- Vice President.....*VACANT*
- Secretary.....Anne Hartline
- Treasurer.....Nancy Kay
- Program Director.....*VACANT*
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Director.....Molly Cate
- Government Director.....*VACANT*
- Access Humboldt Liaison.....Molly Cate
- Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
- Forum Director.....Carol Masterson
- Voter Service Director.....Maggie Augustine
- Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
- Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- VOTER Editor.....Dave Rosso
- Community Education DirectorNancy Kay
- Communication Director.....*VACANT*
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter



LWV of HUMBOLDT COUNTY

THE VOTER

P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

Get Involved!

We all have a unique set of skills to contribute and limited time to afford. 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 Policy

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. Not only shall there be no barriers to membership and participation in the LWVHC on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, economic status, nor political affiliation, but also the LWVHC will actively seek to reflect the diversity of the community in its membership, board and programs.

Making Democracy Work!

LWVHC Calendar

Tue., Mar. 9 5:30 PM	Board Meeting Zoom
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LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
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LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!
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