

### *President's Message*

Dear League Members,

The League forums taped on Zoom have proved to be a great way to continue to provide information for voters even in the time of the pandemic. Thank you all for a terrific team effort! **Carol Masterson** for setting up the forums, **Nancy Kay**, **Byrd Lochtie**, **Anne Hartline**, and **Sharolyn Hutton** for moderating the forums, **Julie Kelly** and **Becky Simpson** for time-keeping. Allie Jones has transferred the recording to YouTube Videos and shared with members and posted. The videos are also on the League website for easy viewing.

The membership meeting by Zoom was informative though we all missed having breakfast with each other. Kelly Sanders provided great information on the changes that we will all see this election season, and **Nancy Kay** provided a clear explanation on how Ranked Choice Voting works. See **Anne Hartline's** article in this VOTER for a complete summary of the membership meeting.

The social media campaign is helping voters learn of the election changes and encouraging people to vote. Much of the information is shared with local media. Press releases are shared with members through the email blasts. The emails often appear under the "Promotions" tab. If you use Gmail be sure to check so you can stay informed on what the League is doing. See directions for receiving LWVHC emails on p. 5.

These are very important times for correct information and one of the primary objectives of the League is to keep us all informed.

**Deborah Downs**  
*LWVHC President*



**The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County proudly presents the new and improved LWVHC Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVofHumboldtCounty>



### *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.

**MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!**

 *News from the League*

### ***Ranked Choice Voting***

Ever go to the polls with first, second and third choices? Well, there is a voting method that welcomes that. It is called Ranked Choice Voting and the League of Women Voters supports it.

In November Eureka voters will decide whether to begin using Ranked Choice voting for its city-wide election -- an electoral system in which voters can rank candidates in order of preference.

It was previously called Instant Run-off Voting. In much of the United States, a plurality (not a majority) of votes grants the win. In some jurisdictions, such as Humboldt County, a majority of votes is required, and in multi-candidate elections, this can lead to a run-off election.

RCV was devised to ensure a majority of votes, instead of a plurality and to eliminate run-off elections. If no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the votes, the last place candidate's second choice votes are redistributed to the remaining candidates. This process continues until one candidate has more than 50 percent of the votes.

#### **Ranked Choice Voting**

- Promotes majority support
- Can promote voter turn-out
- Discourages negative campaigning
- Provides more choices for voters
- Saves money when replacing primaries and run-offs of elections requiring a majority
- Allows diverse groups of voters to elect candidates of choice. This promotes diversity of political viewpoint as well as diversity of candidate background and demographics.

**Vote Yes on Measure C!**

***Dave Russo***  
***LWVHC VOTER Editor***

### ***Measure F***

The League of Women Voters Humboldt County supports Measure F referencing our position of *Local Government Financing in Humboldt County (1980)*. This position states our League supports adequate local government financing to maintain government services to meet the demands of the community.

To obtain proper equipment and staffing for the Arcata Fire District, Measure F proposes a yearly tax that is collected based on the use of taxable property. For example, if you own a single-family residential property you would pay \$118 per year. There are 10 property designations in which this tax would be annually collected. The last time a special tax by the District's voters was brought to the ballot was 13 years ago where a \$5 per year per unit benefit was approved.

The Arcata Fire District serves not only the City of Arcata but the communities of McKinleyville, Manila, Bayside, and Jacoby Creek. The District currently has 3 stations (only 2 open) with 15 firefighters and 2 chief officers. The third station does not have the funding to be open, properly equipped and staffed. Once approved by this year's voters, the special tax will supersede the 1997 benefit and be used to continue providing fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services as well as hire more firefighters, providing adequate firefighting equipment and completing necessary capital improvements in order to maintain and improve the current level of service to the District. A two-thirds majority of the voters in the District is needed to adopt Measure F.

***Julie Kelly***  
***LWVHC Vice President***





YES on PROP 15: [SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST](#)

YES on PROP 16: [OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL](#)

YES on PROP 17: [RESTORE VOTING RIGHTS](#)

YES on PROP 18: [VOTING RIGHTS FOR 17-YEAR OLDS](#)

NO on PROP 19: [PROPERTY TAX BREAKS](#)

NO on PROP 20: [ROLLBACK ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS](#)

NO on PROP 24: [CONSUMER DATA PRIVACY](#)

YES on PROP 25: [END CASH MONEY BAIL](#)



## *Fall Membership Meeting*

On Saturday, September 12, 2020, 22 Leaguers came together on Zoom for our Fall Membership Meeting. Admittedly, it was not as fun as normal because we didn't get to have personal conversations with friends we haven't seen in a while, or get much-needed hugs, or even enjoy a delicious meal. Still, we did gather together digitally for an informative program thanks to our great speakers.

Our LWVHC President, **Deborah Downs**, started the meeting by introducing the 2020/2021 Board. She discussed the decision to hire Allie Jones of Illuminated Marketing to help us use technology effectively to get the word out for the upcoming general election. She also outlined our plans to host recorded Zoom candidate forums in order to inform voters effectively under COVID-19 restrictions. The recorded ZOOM forums will be posted on YouTube and members will be notified by email. Deborah Downs reminded the membership that this year our League will be reviewing LWVHC three positions: Eureka City Government, Public Health Services, and Hazardous Waste.

Next, Deborah introduced our guest speaker, Kelly Sanders, Humboldt County's clerk-recorder. Kelly Sanders updated us about what her very busy Humboldt County staff is doing to prepare for the upcoming election. She explained that the county has purchased some amazing voting tabulation equipment that can process up to 18,000 ballots per hour, though it is unlikely that such a speed will be needed. This will save county staff countless hours and ensure election transparency.

Every registered voter in California will automatically be mailed a mail-in ballot on October 5. Humboldt County ballots will be mailed locally and will be processed locally, allowing ballots to arrive three days after mailing (by October 8.) Kelly Sanders explained that vote-by-mail ballots are VERY secure in Humboldt County and across the state. In addition, for the November election, voters can track their ballot from when it is mailed out, all the way until it is received and counted, by registering for this service at [wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov](http://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov).

Other changes this election season include nine mail-in ballot drop-off boxes in locations around the

county. These ballot drop-off sites will mostly be at supermarkets. They will be open 7 days per week and locked at 8 p.m. on election night. This means voters don't have to put their ballots in the mail. However, Kelly Sanders did emphasize that, if voters do put their ballots in the mail, there is no need for additional postage. All ballots will travel first class through the system!

Additionally, nine Voter Assistance Centers across the county will be open for four days of physical voting this year (October 31, November 1, November 2 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and on Election Day, November 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.) Voters who choose to vote in person MUST bring their mail-in ballot with them so that it will be canceled and they can then vote in person. Pop-up locations on election day are being planned as well. LWVHC is proud to provide staff for the Voter Assistance Center adjacent to the Elections Office, as well as additional staff support for the Elections Office. (Thank you, **Nancy Kay**, and others, for making this happen!!)

Personally, my hat is off to Kelly and her staff who are working tirelessly to make voting accessible and reliable during this very unusual election year!

Deborah Downs then discussed briefly LWVHC's advocacy for this election. She mentioned that the LWVC document "Vote with the League" is now available on the LWVC website. All voters need to do is search for "Vote with the League" and the appropriate page will come up first. There is lots of great information on the site. Please share the link with your family and friends. Deborah Downs also told members that the LWVHC Board has voted to support California Proposition 15, the Schools and Communities First Initiative (see the September 2020 VOTER for details) as well as Measure F (Arcata Fire District Assessment) and Measure C (City of Eureka Ranked Choice Voting.)

Last, but certainly not least, **Nancy Kay**, LWVHC treasurer as well as our Community Education powerhouse, presented "What is Ranked Choice Voting?" Her excellent PowerPoint presentation helped clarify what ranked choice voting is all about and included several brief but very information videos explaining it. (Continued on p. 5)

## *Fall Membership Meeting contd.*

See the article on p. 2 in this VOTER for more information about ranked choice voting.

Deborah Downs then ended the meeting, and we all said goodbye. I, for one, certainly miss our lively in-person LWVHC meetings, but I am proud that we have risen to the challenge of the times and developed ways to safely gather and exchange information. Thank you to everyone who participated!

*Anne Hartline*  
LWVHC Secretary



## *Candidate Forums Schedule*

Three candidate forums have already been recorded and can be viewed on the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County's [YouTube channel](#). Upcoming forums will be recorded and shared in the coming weeks:

Tuesday, September 22, McKinleyville  
Community Services District  
Thursday, September 24, Humboldt Community  
Services District  
Tuesday, September 29, Northern Humboldt  
High School District  
Thursday, October 1, Second District Supervisor  
Tuesday, October 6, Fortuna City Council

LWVHC members will be notified by email when forums are able to be viewed on YouTube. Please see the article below to be sure you receive these important notifications.

## *LWVHC Emails*

### **How to Ensure You're Getting Our Emails!**

Email settings might be keeping you from receiving our emails. Make sure you aren't missing important updates.

**If you aren't receiving emails at all:** Check your spam folder first. Some email filters assume Mailchimp messages are spam. If it's not in spam, email [beheardhumboldt@gmail.com](mailto:beheardhumboldt@gmail.com) and we'll add you to our contact list.

**If your emails are going into the "Promotions" tab:** If you use Gmail, your emails might be sorted into the Promotions tab, where they're more easily lost. To fix this, simply right click on a League of Women Voters of Humboldt County email and select Move to Tab > Primary. A small pop up will appear

## *Easy Voter Guide Link*

Below is the link to the League of Women Voters of California's Easy Voter Guide, containing information about the following topics:

Help for Voters  
The General Election  
The State Propositions  
Ways to Vote

<http://www.easylvoterguide.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EVG-Nov2020-Eng.pdf>

### **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](http://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**

434 7th Street, Eureka, CA 95501  
P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502  
[www.lwvhc.org](http://www.lwvhc.org) [vote@lwvhc.org](mailto:vote@lwvhc.org)  
(707) 444-9252

#### **Who's Who in Your 2010-2021 League Board 2016-2017**

- President.....Deborah Downs
- Vice President.....Julie Kelly
- Secretary.....Anne Hartline
- Treasurer..... Nancy Kay
- Program Director.....**VACANT**
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Director.....Molly Cate
- Government Director.....Julie Kelly
- Access Humboldt Liasion.....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 Director .....Nancy Kay
- Communication Director.....**VACANT**
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter

“The job facing American voters... in the days and years to come is to determine which hearts, minds and souls command those qualities best suited to unify a country rather than further divide it, to heal the wounds of a nation as opposed to aggravate its injuries, and to secure for the next generation a legacy of choices based on informed awareness rather than one of reactions based on unknowing fear.”  
— *Aberjhani, Illuminated Corners: Collected Essays and Articles Volume I.*





P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

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### ***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](http://www.lwvhc.org) or call (707) 444-9252.

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### ***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.

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### ***Making Democracy Work!***

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### ***LWVHC Calendar***

Tue., Oct 13 5:30 PM	Board Meeting Zoom
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LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
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LWVHC Facebook	Any Time!
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LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!
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