Vol. 62 No. 9 October 2021

President's Message

Hello LWVHC Members!

Due to the surge in local COVID-19 cases, September 7 marked the second time our annual membership meeting was held virtually. While I appreciate the accessibility that virtual programs provide, I can't wait until the time that we can safely meet again in person. During the meeting, **Deborah Downs** reviewed the results of our previous social media campaigns from when we worked with Allie Jones of Illuminated Marketing. **Anne Hartline** spoke on dignity principles that the board observes during meetings. **Molly Cate** updated the membership on the progress of the mental health study. **Maggie Augustine** gave a very informative overview of California's recall process, in anticipation for the September 14 special election.

California's special election over the recall of Governor Gavin Newson was held on September 14, and I know that many League members served as poll workers. Thank you all for volunteering your time to make democracy work!

We're still preparing for our upcoming move and board members have been in the process of packing the contents of the office. If you think that you might have anything in there that you would like to claim, please let **Sharolyn Hutton** or me know.

Jessica Schlachter Co-President LWVHC

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.

Another Marathon Completed

It was a most unusual year! A quick Thank You to Vicky Turner and Rudy Ramp, Karen and Dan Price, Maggie Gordon, Maggie Fleming, Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Donna Clark and her foreign exchange student, Kunnine, for showing up on a drippy Sunday morning.

This year there were fewer runners due to Covid-19 and the change of date from May to September. We all enjoyed the lighter duty and the gorgeous redwoods when the sun streamed through to illuminate the course.

As usual, we received many "Thank You for being here" comments from the runners, so we know what we do is appreciated. My personal appreciation to our volunteers. You are the best!

Kay Escarda Member LWVHC



Photo by Cameron Venti on Unsplash

Page 2 THE VOTER October 2021



September Board Briefs



The Non-Partisan Policy was reviewed. The Board decided that the fourth paragraph, needed the wording change shown below:

"The President, the Voter Service Director, the Public Relations Chair, the Community Education Director, (added) and the Action Directors shall not take an active, visible role in, or make a financial contribution to, any political candidate's campaign, or to any political party. They are not allowed to attend any fundraising function of any individual candidate."

The Nominating Committee was approved to include **Becky Simpson** and **Anne Hartline**, in addition to **Judy Bennett**, **Judith Stoffer**, and **Maggie Fleming** who were elected at Annual Meeting.

Also approved was the complete Executive Committee, adding **Anne Hartline** to the Committee designated at our August meeting: **Sharolyn Hutton**, **Jessica Schlachter**, **Molly Cate**, **Nancy Kay**, **Deborah Downs**.

The search for a new office space is continuing since our office in the A1AA building is being sold. **Sharolyn** continues looking into possible spaces for us.

Anne Hartline Secretary LWVHC

LWVC Press Release: Commission Receives Official Census Data

This is the official notification that the California adjusted census data is now available. Map drawing can now begin, with some restrictions on when some governments can release draft maps.

Helen Hutchison Director LWVC

Vote Humboldt (VH) Update

Vote Humboldt and LWVHC are collaborating on the Humboldt Youth Voter Registration Project. Since our last communication, there has been steady progress. Update is as follows:

- The school letters have been sent to over 20 public and private high schools.
- The website has been launched. VH is currently working on building it out and ensuring that it shows up on search engines.
- Contact information is Humboldt Youth Voter Registration Project <u>www.votehumboldt.org</u> and info@votehumboldt.org and (707) 247-5021.

Attention now turns to finalizing the list of individuals who have expressed interest in volunteering for this project. These volunteers will be trained and assigned to schools where they will conduct school discussions and voter registrations. At least two volunteer orientations will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

The membership will be kept apprised of this project.

Maggie Augustine Voter Service Director LWVHC October 2021 THE VOTER Page 3

Mental Health Study Begins!

This fall the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County (LWVHC) begins a new study, and you are invited to participate. League studies are research projects designed to produce, by consensus, a set of statements outlining that League's position on a topic of public concern. Those position statements are the guide to all our education and advocacy work.

On February 25, 2020, LWVHC held a member meeting to update our Public Health Services position. At that meeting, it was determined that a separate Mental Health position was needed, requiring a new study. This was approved at our annual meeting in May.

A committee is forming to do this work. Several board Directors and other members of LWVHC are involved If you would like to add your heart and your knowledge to this effort or want more information about it, please contact LWVHC Program Director Molly Cate at awestruckliving@gmail.com.

You are invited to join us. Please let us know as soon as possible. We begin meeting in October.

Molly Cate Social Policy Director LWVHC



Recall the Recall

The votes are in, and Gavin Newsom remains governor of California.

The Associated Press called the race for Mr. Newsom less than an hour after the polls closed. About 66 percent of the 8 million ballots counted by 10 p.m. on Sept. 14 said the governor should stay in office.

However, many reforms to the recall process are being considered: raising the number of signatures needed to qualify for the ballot, requiring a runoff between the two top vote-getters to replace the governor, and allowing the lieutenant governor to take over if the governor is recalled.

State Senator Steve Glazer and Assembly Member Marc Berman, who chair the Legislature's election committees, announced they would hold joint, bipartisan hearings this fall to vet those and other possible changes.

Under California's law, if a governor is recalled by a majority of voters, the top vote-getter among the replacement candidates wins — even if their total share of the electorate is less than that of the ousted incumbent.

Recent polling also suggests voters are open to some changes. A recent survey by the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies found 69 percent of registered voters would support holding a runoff between the top two replacement candidates.

Any significant changes would have to be approved by voters through a constitutional amendment.

Dave Rosso Co-editor LWVHC Page 4 THE VOTER October 2021

Another Impressive Effort by the Humboldt County Elections Office

Well, I just had another experience working as a poll worker at a four-day Voter Assistance Center, and I came away impressed once again. It's actually somewhat surprising that the recent recall election was only the second time I have worked at the polls. I know many of my LWVHC friends, including **Byrd Lochtie**, **Patricia-Anne WinterSun**, and many others, have worked elections for decades. I guess it's in part because my full-time employment as a teacher, until my retirement four years ago, made such service impossible. But here I am with election #2 under my belt.

This time, I was not placed with an LWVHC team. Instead, Leaguers were spread out across the county and I was placed with a Voter Assistance team located at Sunny Brae Middle School. A side benefit for me, a career middle school teacher, was to be placed in such close proximity with quirky young adolescents, a population I find delightful (most of the time!) Even though I met the others on my team for the first time at Friday night set-up, I found them to be friendly, knowledgeable and hard-working.

The four-day assignment was again grueling, and this time the first three days seemed especially endless since turnout at our center on those days was minimal. Things did liven up quite a bit on Tuesday, the official election day. Still, I came away heartened by the enthusiasm and kindness I witnessed from everyone involved (honestly, how does Lucinda Jackson stay SO positive over such a long and busy series of endless days?)

My biggest thrill, however, was the enthusiasm of the countless younger voters who passed through our center. Many mentioned that they were HSU students. Often, they had neglected to re-register with their Humboldt County address so they had to vote provisionally, but to a person they were highly motivated to be a part of the election process. It did my heart good!

You know what else did my heart good? The overall voter turnout for this very unusual election is thought to have been 59 percent, which is amazingly high for a special election. Wow! I'm impressed with that, and I'm happy that I was a part of the process. Go voters!

Anne Hartline Secretary LWVHC



October 2021 THE VOTER Page 5

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 <u>not tax-deductible</u>.

Donations to the LWVHC-Education Fund, through the Humboldt Area Foundation, <u>are</u> 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

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

Who's Who in Your 2021-2022 League Board

Co-PresidentsSharolyn Hutton/ Jessica Schlachter	
Vice PresidentMolly Cate	
SecretaryAnne Hartline	
TreasurerNancy Kay	
Program DirectorMolly Cate	
Natural Resources DirectorLeslie Leach	
Social Policy DirectorsMolly Cate/ Amy Moffat/Sylvia Shaw	
Government DirectorsSharrone Blanck/ Karen Price	
Fairs DirectorBecky Simpson	
Access Humboldt LiaisonMolly Cate	
Election Service DirectorByrd Lochtie	
Forum DirectorCarol Masterson	
Voter Service DirectorMaggie Augustine	
Membership DirectorBecky Simpson	
Social Media ChairJessica Schlachter	
VOTER Co-EditorsDave Rosso/Leslie Leach	
Community Education DirectorsNancy Kay/ Amy Moffat	
Communications DirectorDeborah Downs	
Traditional Media ChairJessica Schlachter	
DirectorEddie Morgan	





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, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic\ that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity

LWVHC Calendar

Tuesday, October 5 Board Meeting 6 p.m.

Thursday, October 21 Membership Meeting,

7 p.m.

LWVHC Webpage Any Time!

LWCHC Twitter Any Time!

LWCHC Instagram Any Time!