



The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County

April 2008

Carol Ann Falk, President

Susan Eveleth, Editor

MENDOCINO LEAGUE WELCOMES PUBLIC TO PRESENTATION BY LWVC PRESIDENT



Janis R. Hirohama, President of the LWV California

“Is the league necessary?” is the question California LWV President Janis R. Hirohama will put to members and guests at a special potluck luncheon meeting Saturday, April 19 at 11:30 a.m. at St. Michael’s Church, Fort Bragg.

Ms. Hirohama has served as President of the League of Women Voters of California since July 2007. She is a member of LWV Beach Cities and has been a League member since 1994. She previously served as First Vice-President (2002-2004) and as a member of the Board of Directors (2000-2002) of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). She was Secretary of the LWVC (1998-2000), coordinated the Building the Future Membership Incentive Program (1999-2000), and served as a member of the LWVC Diversity Task Force (1998-2000). A former president of LWV Beach Cities (1997-1998), she also served her local League as Voter Service Director, Speakers Bureau Coordinator, and Outreach Director. She has been a facilitator and speaker at diversity workshops at the local, state, ILO, and National League. A graduate of the New York University School of Law, she is an attorney in public service whose areas of professional expertise include voting rights, criminal law, and fairness education.

The meeting is open to the public. There is no charge. St. Michael’s Church is at the corner of Fir and Franklin Streets in Fort Bragg.

**• POTLUCK
Lunch, Address
By Janis Hirohama,
LWVC President
Sat., April 19, 2008
11:30 a.m.
St. Michael’s Church
Fort Bragg,
Fir & Franklin St.**

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**Members Only Insert with
Annual Meeting Information
Luncheon Order Form**

**2007 - 2008
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The President's Message

With great anticipation, I invite you to our next meeting which will be held on Saturday, April 19th at 11:30 am at St. Michael's Church corner of Fir and Franklin. I'm excited because our honored guest will be Janis Hirohama, LWVCA President. Following lunch, Janis will speak to us. Her address is titled, "Is the League Necessary?" She has promised to leave some time for questions as well.

It is our hope that this alternate meeting time will allow all members, friends of the League, and the public to attend. We are inviting the Sonoma and Humboldt Leagues as well as local service clubs. It will be a potluck luncheon meeting and when the date gets closer, you will receive a reminder call to bring a salad. Everything else will be provided. I want to emphasize that this meeting and Janis' speech is intended for our friends and the public as well, not just League members. So invite a friend or two and I'll see you there.

Our March meeting, Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials reception, was definitely the place to be. The room was buzzing with energy as officials and public mingled and chatted while they enjoyed goodies and wine. It was a time to ask questions and seek answers.

In addition to the local officials who attended, we had more officials from over the hill than ever this year. Supervisor Kendall Smith, District Attorney Meredith Lintott, Sheriff Tom Allman, and Susan Ranochek, our County Clerk Recorder, all came over from Ukiah. While just beginning her legislative break, State Senator Pat Wiggins came in from Sacramento to be with us.

Sheriff Tom Allman told me there is nothing else like this event in the entire county and said, "I hope you keep it up." When my husband Roy told Meredith Lintott about our Special Districts Study she was thrilled, saying "I'm so glad you're looking into this." Ironically, she had spent all day working with another struggling special district.

The officials seem to enjoy this event as much as we do, as it is also an opportunity for them to talk with each other. Apparently, they rarely find themselves together all in one room at the same time. This is the third year for this event and it just keeps getting better and better.



Carol Ann Falk

League Sets Date for Pros and Cons Discussion of June Ballot Measures

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County will conduct a Pros and Cons discussion about county measures on the June ballot Saturday, May 3, 2008 from 10 a.m.—noon at St. Michael’s Church, Fort Bragg (corner of Fir and Franklin Streets)

League members will present both sides of each measure with time for questions and discussion.

Three proposed county ballot measures are:

Measure B—A county-wide measure that would repeal Measure G of the Mendocino County Code Chapter 9.36—Cannabis Personal Use Ordinance for Mendocino County, and the adoption of new guidelines for the maintenance and possession of medical marijuana that did not exceed the minimum state limits.

Measure C—Fort Bragg School District Improvement Bond of 2008 which is a \$16 million school bond for modernization of school facilities including

heating and plumbing system upgrades and installation of solar panels.

Measure D—Leggett Valley School Facilities Improvement District Bond which is a \$2.5 million bond to finance acquisition, construction and improvement of school facilities.

The June 3 primary also will include voting on State Assembly 1st District, Congressional 1st District, and Mendocino County Supervisors for Districts 1, 2 and 4.

www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org

www.smartvoter.org

www.ca.lwv.org

www.co.mendocino.ca.us
Click on County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder for Elections Information
707-463-4371 (Elections)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA URGES SUPPORT OF VOTERS FIRST STATE INITIATIVE DRIVE

Janis R. Hirohama, President of LWV of California, last week announced the state organization supports California Voters FIRST redistricting initiative “because it will create state district maps reflective of California’s diverse populations and protect the voting rights of all Californians.”

The state league currently is circulating petitions to qualify the measure for the November 2008 ballot.

Here are highlights of the

proposed measure from the league website:

Background: What is redistricting?

Every ten years, after the census, new boundary lines for Congress and CA Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts are drawn. Currently, the state Legislature draws those lines. This is a major conflict of interest.

How would California Voters FIRST Act change redistricting?

- 14-Person Citizens Redistricting Commission. The California Voters FIRST Act would create a politically balanced Commission—5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, 4 others. Commissioners would be chosen for the impartiality, skills, and to reflect our state’s demographic and geographic diversity.
- Protecting communities, cities, and counties. The act would

Create a list of prioritized mapping criteria for the Commission to follow. This would ensure that our Constitution, federal and state laws are followed. California’s communities, cities, and counties must be respected.

- Open and public process. The Commission would hold hearings to receive public input. The Voters FIRST Act would end the closed-door political deals by legislators to draw districts that protect themselves.

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California Voters FIRST Act continued from Page 3

How would the commission be formed?

- California registered voters are invited to participate.
- A pool of 60 (20 Democrats, 20 Republicans and 20 others) is selected based on their skills, ability to be impartial, and diversity by a review panel of state auditors (1 Democrat, 1 Republic and 1 other).
- The 4 Legislative leaders can strike up to 24 people from the pool.
- Out of the remaining pool, 8 Commissioners are randomly picked—3 Democrats, 3 Republicans and 2 others
- The final 6 Commissioners (2 Democrats, 2 Republicans, 2 others) are chosen by the 8 Commissioners from the remaining pool based on the balance of skills and diversity they would bring.

What Mapping Criteria Would the Commission have to follow? In ranked order, the criteria are

- Districts shall comply with the US Constitution, including equal population requirements.
- Districts shall comply with the Voting Rights Act.
- Districts shall be geographically contiguous.
- The geographic integrity of any city, county, or city and county, neighborhoods, or communities of interest shall be respected. Communities of interest shall not be defined as having a relationship with incumbents, candidates, or parties.
- To the extent possible, after the above criteria have been satisfied, districts shall be compact.
- To the extent possible, after the above criteria have been satisfied, districts shall be nested. Incumbent residences may not be considered; districts may not be drawn to favor politicians or parties.

What is the scope of the Citizen’s Redistricting Commission?

- The Commission will draw California Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization seats in the next redistricting, 2011 and after each decennial census.
- The State Legislature will draw Congressional seats, following the same mapping criteria and hearing requirements as the Commission.

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.

League Celebrates, Meets, Greets County, State, City, District Officials



Mendocino County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder Susan M. Ranochak and LWV Member Roy Falk greet each other at the third annual Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials night March 14.



Sacramento State student Michael Matado joins Jasmine Jones, left, Vice President of the Mendocino Campus at College of the Redwoods and Student Body President Angelica Barrera, right.



Fort Bragg Mayor
Doug Hammerstrom

Mendocino Hospital District Trustee Michael Dell'Ara.



Retired College of the Redwoods Vice President Judith Kvinsland, left, and Fort Bragg City Councilperson Jere Melo (right). In background College of the Redwoods Trustee Will Smith and LWV member And VOTER editor Susan Eveleth.



Mendocino County voter Fay Yee, left, meets State Sen. Pat Wiggins at Meet and Greet gala.

**The League of Women Voters
Of Mendocino County
P.O. Box 1128
Fort Bragg, CA 95437**

VOTE JUNE 3, 2008

Calendar of Events

Tues., April 15 Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. Location: St. Michael's Church, Fort Bragg Social time 9:00 a.m.

Sat., April 19 Potluck Salad Luncheon and General Meeting 11:30 a.m. Guest speaker: California State League President Janis Hirohama Location: St. Michael's Church, Fort Bragg **(PLEASE NOTE DAY & TIME - SEE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR ALL THE DETAILS.)**

Sat., May 3 General Meeting 10:00 a.m. Topic: Pro and Con discussion on June ballot measures. Location: St. Michael's Church, Fort Bragg

Tues. May 13 Annual Meeting 10:30 a.m. Location: Wharf Restaurant, Fort Bragg (See luncheon choices in this VOTER)

Tues., May 20 New/Old Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. Location: St. Michael's Church, Fort Bragg Potluck Luncheon

June 3—Election Day

June 13-17 National Convention Portland, OR

APRIL 2008

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MAY 2008

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