



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

January-February 2014

Jane Person, President

Charlene McAllister, Editor

LWVMC TO FOCUS ON NATIONAL PROGRAM JANUARY

By Charlene McAllister

The League of Women Voters of the United States public policy positions cover four major areas: Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

Under each of these categories, there are positions that guide action at the national level. It should be noted that all action at the federal level must be authorized by the LWVUS board. This includes any effort aimed at influencing a

decision on a federal issue, such as communicating with an elected or appointed official, joining a coalition, taking part in a press conference or rally, or writing a letter to the editor. This assures that the League continues to speak with one voice.

To learn more about LWVUS public policy positions, come to the January 14 League meeting. You may also go to <http://www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues> and

download a copy of "Impact on Issues." This is an indispensable resource for League leaders. A clear understanding of LWVUS positions, how they interrelate and how they can complement and reinforce state, local and Inter-League Organization (ILO) positions, will strengthen the League's "Impact on Issues" at all levels of government.

The meeting is at 10 a.m., Tuesday, January 14, at the Caspar Community Center.

According to the LWVUS policy statement, the League believes efficient economical government requires competent personnel, clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

Our January 14 meeting is an opportunity to let the national League know our priorities. To prepare, please see the LWV public policy position summaries on Page 8.

Save the Date

LWV Meet & Greet

Your Elected Officials

March 21, 2014

5-7 p.m.

Caspar Community Center

LOCAL LEAGUE PANEL TO DISCUSS NEW PRACTICES ATTACHED TO NATIONAL AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

By Charlene McAllister

While the focus of the Affordable Care Act has been on health insurance coverage for everyone, there are a number of provisions that have not been well publicized. Some of the key points will take place in the coming years will move us to global, capitated and bundled payments with hospitals and doctors getting one payment to coordinate all the costs and care given to patients. By bundling the payments into a flat amount, there will need to be more cooperation between hospitals, doctors and other caregivers to better manage patient care. Transformative changes are predicted in the decade ahead that will change the system from providing care to managing health.

The League program meeting on February 11, 2014, will begin with a presentation of the Affordable Care Act and cover changes that have taken place prior to January 1, 2014. This will be followed by a panel discussion of how the ACA will affect organizations and businesses.

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President's Note: The IRS recently announced it is seeking public comment on proposed changes in rulemaking regarding 501(c)4 organizations. Such organizations poured secret money into many 2012 elections. The League issued the statement below in support of correcting abuses that came after the Citizens United v. FEC Supreme Court ruling. But the League is deeply concerned about those aspects of the proposal that would define voters service work (including the non-partisan work of the League) as political activity inappropriate for 501(c)4 organizations. Many local Leagues, including LWVNC, are 501(c)4 organizations.
Jane Person



Washington, DC – The LWVUS announced support of the new **notice of proposed rulemaking** for non-profit, 501(c)(4) organizations announced in early December by the Internal Revenue Service.

“We could not be more thrilled that the IRS is taking this first important step in curbing the abuse of non-profit, 501(c)(4) organizations for partisan political activity,” League President Elisabeth MacNamara said.

“Since the *Citizens United* case, we have seen 501(c)(4) non-profits used to funnel millions of dollars of secret money into candidate elections, and this threatens the integrity of our elections and government decision-making. New IRS regulations covering non-profit organizations are one of the most important reforms that can be taken under current law to overcome the effects of *Citizens United*,” she said.

Some have suggested the proposal goes too far by including voter registration and voter guides under the definition of candidate-related political activity which would be controlled under the proposal governing 501(c)(4) organizations. “This IRS action is about dark, secret money in America’s elections plain and simple. Unlike some opponents of such reforms, the League thinks the concern about truly nonpartisan activity is overblown,” MacNamara said.

“It is important to remember this is just a proposal—a good one, but still just a proposal—and an incomplete one as well,” MacNamara said. “The League will be reviewing it closely and submitting comments to ensure true nonpartisan election information activities for the appropriate 501(c) organizations are protected.”

The IRS notice of proposed rulemaking is a request for comments on key issues as the IRS considers a new set of rules governing 501(c)(4) organizations and is not a complete new set of proposed rules. In addition to asking for comments on its proposed new definition of “candidate-related political activity,” the IRS is seeking comment on whether similar rules should be extended to business and labor associations under sections 501(c)(6) and (5), how much “candidate-related political activity” should be allowed for a (c)(4) organization, and how best to deal with truly nonpartisan and unbiased voter information activities by such organizations.

Source: LWVUS December 3, 2013 Press Release

LWV MEMBER PROFILE—BETTY BARBER

BY SUSAN MITCHELL



It was an auspicious day when Betty Barber arrived in Mendocino on July 3, 1976. The next day was the first parade in Mendocino County in fifty years. She had found a new home. She still feels fortunate to “live with the beauty of the ocean and the trees.” She knew no one here but thanks to her interest in tennis, she met a group of people on the courts that made her feel welcome. (Luckily for me, she was still playing tennis 21 years later when I arrived in 1997. I didn’t know anyone either and she immediately made me feel “part of the group”).

Betty grew up in San Francisco, attended Grattan Grammar School, Lowell High School and the University of California, Berkeley. After graduation, to help her parents during World War II, she worked in her father’s doctor’s office in San Francisco in his clinical laboratory doing simple tests and running errands. Later she lived in the Berkeley hills with her previous husband and children and was active in politics. During this time she became interested in one of her passions: Teaching. She got a degree in and taught English as a Second Language and taught basic English and arithmetic to predominately African-American adults living in a West Oakland housing project.

After moving to Mendocino in the mid 1970s, she worked as a reporter for six years for the *Mendocino News Service* (MNS), a weekly 30-minute program covering local news and events broadcast on local radio stations KPMO and KMFB. Betty always has loved getting to know people and being involved in the community. Writing for radio was a perfect way to accomplish that. Betty’s interviews covered a diversity of general interests from raising hydroponic tomatoes in Albion to interviewing Bette Davis who was here making a movie.

She met Grail Dawson, her partner, in 1977. He also was reporting for MNS on the development of the Mendocino Town Plan element of the California Coastal Plan.

Betty and Grail joined the Mendocino Land Trust in its early years and kept it alive during the 1980s.

They are proud of the organization’s work to establish a conservation easement at the Mendocino Bay Outlook, where a bench built by local fine woodworker Nathan Anderson commemorates their achievement that earned statewide recognition.

Betty has always been politically aware and a tireless volunteer for causes and organizations in which she believes. Some of these organizations include the Democratic Party, Mendocino Children’s Fund, Mendocino Land Trust and the League of Women Voters of Mendocino County, where she serves as the off-board Nominating Committee Chair.

Betty strongly believes in the goals of the League, especially voter education and getting people out to vote. One of the most pressing problems she sees is the lack of faith in government by many people and the misdirected energy put into the “next episode of some TV show instead of learning about the issues we all face.” She feels local jobs are a high priority as is the ongoing problem of affordable health care. She and Grail (who also is a long-time member of our League) understand the need for the League to be non-partisan despite wishing stronger stands could be taken on some local issues.

Betty has great enthusiasm for everything in which she is involved, be it her book club (“I read every book to the end whether I like them or not,”) or one of her most recent interests, a “death and dying” discussion group that she finds most illuminating. She enjoys being “connected” and finds the world has opened up with her computer and is now taking pictures with her iPad. She loves theatre, music (she just bought a ukulele and is learning to play), being able to have a good laugh and “being a helper not a leader.”

Know Your County

The Office of the Mendocino County Assessor/Clerk/Recorder

By b.e. auerbach

Editor's Note: We continue a League tradition that introduces voters to government at the local level. This issue looks at the history of the county clerk and takes it one step further and asks voters to "Know Your County Officials." We hope you join us from 5-7 p.m., Friday, March 21, 2014, at the Caspar Community Center to learn more about our officials at the 9th Annual Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Mendocino County. It is our chance to meet our elected officials face-to-face.

Susan M. Ranochak serves as: Assessor, County Clerk, Recorder, Commissioner of Civil Marriages, and Registrar of Voters. There are different tasks for each responsibility and a different form for each request. If Susan M. Ranochak can't give you the answer, the question doesn't exist. The smaller the town or city, the more hats the County Clerk wears.

The County Clerk's employ evolved over centuries. The origins of the position of "clerk" are unclear. In ancient Greece there were secretaries for each polis who read official documents publicly and at the opening of a meeting read public curses. [1] The early keepers of the archives were often called "remembrancers," and before writing came into use, their memory was public record. When the early colonists came to America, one of the first offices established was that of clerk.[2]

Today, all our transactions whether we are paying taxes, voting, getting married, buying or selling real property are recorded by the county clerk. The other day I tried to write down all the contacts I had with the County Clerk's office over the past year. Our property needed to be reassessed. I needed a new birth certificate, and a copy of our marriage license, albeit not issued in Mendocino County. I received information about the upcoming elections, and when I was working on the Board of Elections, we needed to contact the County Clerk's office about election procedures. I had to renew my passport and the last item that I remembered was filing a fictitious business name. I am certain that there were other transactions that I cannot recall.

A prompt at the County Clerk's website states: "This Division performs the mandated duties of recording, indexing and maintaining for public access, all documents authorized by law to be recorded. Records in this office date back to the beginning of the county. It is imperative that records be well-preserved and easily accessible as current property transactions depend on the accuracy and availability of previously recorded documents. All documents include: papers, letters, maps, books, photographs, films, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data-processing records, artifacts, or other documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance in connection with the transaction of public business."

The County Clerk's office is called "the hub" for a reason. Don't rely on hearsay when your voting rights are at stake. A call to the County Clerk's office or an online visit will give you up-to-date information about: Campaign statements, vote by mail, election precincts, polling place look-up, register to vote, absentee ballots, election results, and election and candidate information.

1. *Literacy and Orality in Ancient Greece* - Google Books. Books.google.com
2. "TOWN CLERK - WESTERLY, Rhode Island." Westerly.govoffice.com

MISSION STATEMENT

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, A NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION,
ENCOURAGES INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT,
STRIVES TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF MAJOR PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES,
AND INFLUENCES PUBLIC POLICY

*Know Your County Officials***Susan M. Ranochak—County Clerk...and More***By Jane Person*

- Born in Pennsylvania
- Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, with emphasis on Accounting, California State University, Chico
- Employed as a tax assessor for 30 years; became Assistant Assessor and appointed Assessor in 2008 after the retirement of Marsha Wharff.
- Salary: \$103,708

Susan Ranochak wears five hats—Tax Assessor, County Clerk, County Recorder, Registrar of Voters, and Commissioner of Civil Marriages. These positions were combined in 1999.

As Tax Assessor she produces the secured roll on which property taxes are based. For this job she has an Advanced Auditor/Appraiser's Certificate. As County Clerk she is responsible for filings such as marriage licenses and fictitious business names; she also handles environmental reports, collects fees for Fish and Wildlife; and can perform civil marriages.

As County Recorder Ms. Ranochak is responsible for recording property records, notices of default, survey maps, military discharge papers, foreclosures, reconveyances, liens, naturalization and other documents. She also is responsible for issuing certified copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates.

As Registrar of Voters, she is responsible for the entire conduct of elections: Obtaining precinct sites for more than 200 precincts, delivering voter material to poll workers, printing the voter information booklet, and overseeing the counting, recording, and publishing of voting results.

How do you train for five jobs at once? She has had more experience as assessor, having spent 19 years as an auditor-appraiser and four years as the county Assistant Assessor. One is required to have an appraiser certificate for this position. She is also required to participate in continuing education conducted by the State Board of Equalization, the Election Administration Commission (for federal elections), the Secretary of State's office, and others.

She became an assistant to Registrar of Voters Marsha Wharff, while remaining Assistant Assessor. The county purchased touch screens for voting in 2006, and she was responsible for the first deployment of the touch screens in the June, 2006, primary. She also assisted in sending out the vote-by-mail ballots and completing the voting canvass for the 2006 election. About 70% of registered voters use these vote-by-mail ballots now.

For the positions of County Recorder and County Clerk, training was mostly on the job. Two crucial job skills, she said, are the ability to pay attention to details and the need to know and apply the law. She held up a binder about 5 inches thick and said, "This is Proposition 13, for example."

These positions are not without challenges. The 2008 market crash brought additional work for the Tax Assessor part of her job since many properties were reappraised for tax purposes. Laws governing her five positions change annually, so there is a lot to read up on. She spends about 60 hours a week on the job.

"There will always be legislation that affects this job." One change coming to Mendocino County voters will be the county's participation in a pilot program called VoteCal, wherein the State of California keeps all records of voting. Mendocino is only one of five counties in the state participating in this program. This change will allow for same day registration and voting and is expected to be up and running by 2016-2017.

Court decisions also affect her job; however the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on gay marriage did not produce a flurry of gay marriages in the county, she said.

For local candidates, her office puts together a toolkit containing cost of filing fees, dates to remember, job requirements, formatting of candidate statements, and the title to use on ballots (i.e., educator, developer, etc.). Should a candidate want statements to be printed in the sample ballot material, the county requires a deposit to offset printing costs. Once the election is over, the candidate is billed for their share of the printing cost less the original deposit. If the county were to pick up the tab for that, it could be construed as a gift of public funds, she said. The county also conducts elections for special districts, and districts get a bill for election costs.

She noted that the State of California has allowed online voter registration since September, 2012, right before the presidential election. The California Secretary of State's office is working to make the online voter registration system even better, and the office anticipates a new release in the coming months.

What would she like Mendocino County residents to know about the county? "The County Assessor's office is all about fair and equitable assessment of taxes," said Susan. To that one can add that the county is working hard to assure the right to vote to all registered voters.

Notes from the LWV November Meeting about Climate Change — By Jary Stavely

The November membership meeting centered on the topic of climate change. After encountering some problems in getting new equipment to work in unfamiliar settings, the committee for this program (Lee Tepper, Patricia Marien, Jary Stavely, and Dorine Real), showed a video entitled *Heat & Harvest: the Effect of Climate Change on California Agriculture*. The video explained how earlier and warmer spring weather is adversely affecting cherry crops in the Stockton area, and abetting detractive potato pests up and down the Central Valley. It also showed how rising sea levels will worsen the problem of salinity in the San Joaquin Delta, requiring the diversion of even more fresh water from the northern mountains away from agricultural use toward stemming the rising tide of encroaching sea water. Members who missed the meeting can view the video at <http://science.kqed.org/quest/video/heat-and-harvest/>.

Local meteorologist Walt McKeown next shared some geo-engineering ideas which may in the future reduce the degree of warming which the planet undergoes. The first concept would be to shade the amount of solar radiation reaching the earth by 1%. This could possibly be done by deploying satellites with large reflective arms, or by inducing artificially created cirrus clouds in the extreme upper atmosphere. A second concept would be remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere either mechanically (using 10,000 machines such as done aboard submarines) or biologically (using genetically modified plankton which would absorb CO₂ while they grow, and then sequester it at the bottom of the sea when they die). A third idea would be to reduce the amount of dark material which absorbs heat and replace it with lighter, more reflective surfaces, perhaps through genetically altering the greenery, or by resurfacing highways and roofs with light, rather than dark colors. He suggested that these ideas and others were technologically feasible, just a question of whether governments or other entities would have the will to put money into them.

Jary Stavely then reviewed the three area of emphasis which the League has identified for advocacy and action: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting energy efficiency in buildings, and facilitating the increased use of alternative energy production. He pointed out that both the national and state boards are currently taking prominent roles in supporting EPA regulations which regulate emissions from new and existing power plants. League work in building energy requires legislation on state and local levels which make it easier for individuals to invest in available technology. Similarly, in developing alternative energy, the League has promoted legislation facilitating the development of alternatives by individuals, while also requiring alternative energy to be supplied in increasing amounts in what public utilities provide. Jary's outline will be available for inspection at the next membership meeting.

After a break, Patricia and Dorine led a brainstorming session about how we should respond to climate change locally. Several visitors spoke at this time in favor of local efforts in developing biofuels, in local food production, and in reforming local financing possibilities through making Mendocino a charter county. Concerns about fracking were also expressed. One League material suggestion which might have merit would be for us to develop a list of local resources and groups concerned with alternative energy, so that more information is readily available to the public.

A C T I O N BY BARBARA MATHESON

O R N E R

Local Action:

Sent a letter to Susan Ranochak, County Elections Clerk, listing the League's concerns about having so many precincts located at the Starr Center and suggested that one or two be moved to other locations.

National Action:

Joined Leagues from across the United States and sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supporting their proposed federal carbon pollution standards for every new power plant built in America. These standards also are strongly supported by President Obama.

*All General
LWV Program Meetings
are Open
to the Public.*
All Board Meetings
are Open
to Members*

**Small donations
gratefully accepted*

2013-2014 LWVMC Calendar

Tuesday, January 7, 2014	Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. Fort Bragg Library
Tuesday, January 14, 2014	General Program Meeting 10 a.m. Caspar Community Center Program: National Program Planning
Tuesday, February 4, 2014	Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. Fort Bragg Library
Tuesday, February 11, 2014	General Program Meeting 10 a.m. Caspar Community Center Program: Healthcare
Friday, March 21, 2014	Annual Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials 5-7 p.m. Caspar Community Center
Tuesday, March 25, 2014	Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. Fort Bragg Library
Tuesday, April 8, 2014	General Program Meeting 10 a.m. Caspar Community Center Program: To be Announced
Tuesday, May 13, 2014	Annual Luncheon Business Meeting and Potluck Caspar Community Center

LWVC Issues Status Report on Money in Politics Legislation Supported by the League

The California LWV continues to support legislation that discloses sources of political campaign financing. In December, the League issued the following status report on legislation it supports to improve California disclosure laws:

SB 2: Ted Lieu (D-Torrance) and Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) increases transparency by strengthening enforcement and improving campaign funding information provided to voters. SB 2 will increase penalties for violating campaign laws so fines are not simply chalked up as the cost of doing business, require state candidates to “Stand by Your Ad,” as federal candidates have done for more than a decade, and toughen slate mailer disclosure. The notice to voters will be required to appear in the same languages as the mailer, and voters will be alerted when slate mailer ads are purchased by third parties or independent expenditures. **Status:** Awaiting its final floor vote in the Assembly, its second house.

SB 27: Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana) closes the loophole that allows nonprofits to contribute huge sums in California elections without disclosure. SB 27 will clarify the law about who must disclose donors (campaigns must not be able to launder funds through nonprofit corporations without disclosing the true source of the money) and require the top contributors to a campaign be listed on the Internet. **Status:** Awaiting its final floor vote in the Assembly, its second house.

AB 800: Rich Gordon (D-Menlo Park) gives the Fair Political Practices Commission important tools to investigate suspected violations. AB 800 will give the FPPC audit and injunctive relief power to investigate suspected violations prior to Election Day or to the date of a required filing and streamline the process of disclosure, reporting, and enforcement for greater efficiency and cost saving. **Status:** Failed its final vote before being sent to the Governor. Awaiting action to reconsider.

SB 3: (Yee and Lieu) Cal-Access, the current campaign and lobbying online disclosure system, dates from 1999 and is sorely in need of upgrading. SB 3 would have required a feasibility study, the first step in replacing Cal-Access; required timely training and certification for campaign treasurers; and increased the fines for late filing of reports, with the increased funds going to the new online disclosure system. **Status:** Vetoed by the Governor. He objected to the treasurer training provision but pledged further work on the online disclosure system.

SB 52: Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) will require the three largest funders of political ads to be clearly and legibly identified on the ads themselves. This applies to all kinds of political ads, including television, radio, print advertising, and websites. **Status:** Awaiting hearing in Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee.

Source: www.ca.lwv.org

*SUMMARIES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS***REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT**

PROMOTE AN OPEN GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM THAT IS REPRESENTATIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPONSIVE.

Voting Rights

- Citizen's Right to Vote—Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.
- DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation—Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

- Apportionment—Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.
- Campaign Finance—Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.
- Selection of the President—Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

- Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation—Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making.
- Individual Liberties—Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.
- Public Policy on Reproductive Choices—Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

- Congress—Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.
- The Presidency—Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization—Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PROMOTE PEACE IN AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD BY WORKING COOPERATIVELY WITH OTHER NATIONS AND STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

United Nations—Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade—Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries—Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control—Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending—Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

PROMOTE AN ENVIRONMENT BENEFICIAL TO LIFE THROUGH THE PROTECTION AND WISE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

Natural Resources—Promote management of natural resources as interrelated parts of ecosystems.

Resource Management—Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control—Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality—Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy—Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use—Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource. Incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources—Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater, drinking water.

Waste Management—Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues—Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation—Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy—Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY

SECURE EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL. PROMOTE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE
AND THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL AMERICANS.

Equality of Opportunity

- Equal Rights—Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.
- Education, Employment and Housing—Support equal access to education, employment and housing.
- Federal Role in Public Education—Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

Fiscal Policy

- Tax Policy—Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.
- Federal Deficit—Promote responsible deficit policies.
- Funding of Entitlements—Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care—Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Immigration

- 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 unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs—Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

- Income Assistance—Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.
- Support Services—Provide essential support services.
- Housing Supply—Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

- Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

- Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention—Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control—Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy—Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty—The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

Sentencing Policy—The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

Membership in The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County is a bargain and a statement. You will be saying that you are committed to the ballot as a means for change and for providing non-biased information to voters. The issues your League follows are those that affect every resident's family and community. Get involved in the League of Women Voters. Dues for 2013-2014 cover the period between September, 2013 and September, 2014.

Please consider joining at one of these levels:

Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership \$55 ____

Amelia Bloomer Two-member Household Membership \$80 ____

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership \$100 ____

Carrie Chapman Catt Membership \$250 or more ____

Donation _____

Name/Names: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

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And mail to: LWVMC
P.O. Box 1128
Fort Bragg, CA 95437**

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Election Office
(707) 463-4371**

www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org

**Status of the bills in Congress
www.thomas.loc.gov**

www.ca.lwv.org

www.smartvoter.org/ca/state/

www.lwv.org

Sources of Information about Money in Politics

www.moneyoutvotersin.org

<http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Candidates/>

<http://www.fppc.ca.gov/index.php?id=14>

<http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Measures/list.aspx?session=2011>

http://ca.lwv.org/sites/ca.lwv.org/files/Campaign%20Finance%20FACTS_1.pdf

<http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml>