



# The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

November-December 2014

Carol Czadek, President

Charlene McAllister, Editor

## NOVEMBER MEETING WILL EXAMINE POST ELECTION QUESTIONS, ISSUES

President Carol Czadek and Action Chair Nancy Kleiber will lead a discussion about Post Election Issues at the League's November 11 meeting.

The meeting starts at 10 a.m. at the Caspar Community Center and members will examine national, state and local concerns about the general election.

Of concern are continuing voter rights issues, election fraud,

registration hurdles, and the influence of money on politics.

All League meetings are open to the public at no charge (donations are gladly accepted).

Coffee will be served at 9:30 a.m.

There will be no League meeting in December. Meetings resume at the Caspar Community Center on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, when members

will discuss the local League's recommendations for the state organization's positions to be considered at the LWV California convention May 15-17, 2015, in San Diego.

Based on our discussions at the January meeting, recommendations will be submitted to the state League on topics that include government and good governance, natural resources and social policies.

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### LWV Voter Tools

#### Smart Voter

<http://www.smartvoter.org>  
Unbiased election information about candidates and issues

#### Pros and Cons

<http://www.cavotes.org/>  
Unbiased information about state ballot measures

#### The Easy Voter Guide

<http://www.easyvoterguide.org/>  
Gives new and busy voters easy-to-understand non-partisan information. Available in five languages.

#### Voter's Edge

<http://votersedge.org>  
Sources of campaign funding compiled by non-partisan non-profit Maplight in cooperation with LWVC.

### Mendocino County Clerk Information

County Registrar of Voters: <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr/elections.htm>  
(707) 234-6819

County Clerk Election Office: (707) 463-4371  
To confirm your Vote-by-Mail ballot has been received:  
<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr/vbm.htm>

Or call (707) 234-6819, and enter 4371 when prompted

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<https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1>

**President's Message**—The most contested ballot measures in California this fall may well be in the San Francisco Bay area against the soft drink industry. Health advocates in cities throughout the U. S. are paying close attention to ballot proposals in Berkeley and San Francisco that would tax sugar-sweetened beverages. If the tax passes in one of the two cities, as polls show it might, it'll be the first loss for the beverage industry, which has emerged undefeated in more than 30 similar fights in states and cities, from Maine to Richmond, California in recent years.



The industry is all in, pouring millions of dollars into the fight in order to hold its perfect record. If it can beat back this latest threat in a liberal haven, it could very well kill soda taxes once and for all by discouraging other cities and states from even trying. Experts say that if the taxes pass in one of the cities, it could reignite similar measures throughout the country.

Berkeley's sugar-sweetened beverage tax, Measure D, would levy a 1 cent-per-fluid-ounce general tax on distributors of soft drinks, energy and sports drinks, and sweetened teas, and the bulk syrup used to sweeten them and other drinks. It would generally not apply to fruit or vegetable juice, infant formula, milk or nutritional supplements. Nor would it apply to beverages that are mostly milk, diet sodas and alcohol (which is already taxed). Though the tax would be added at the distributor level, distributors can decide whether to pass the cost along to businesses. Should businesses increase the price of their products, and this is the expected effect, the additional cost could reduce soda consumption by encouraging people to select healthier, cheaper options.

The soda tax campaign in Berkeley grew out of a community effort to help save school and community gardening and nutrition programs when the federal government slashed funding to them in 2012. Parents, teachers, health organizations, and social justice advocates formed the Berkeley Healthy Child Coalition and came up with the idea of charging distributors a penny an ounce on beverages sweetened with sugar. Since sugary drinks are blamed for increasing the rates of chronic disease and obesity in America, they hoped the tax would not only raise money

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for children's health and nutrition programs, but also discourage kids from buying beverages that harm their health. Measure D requires only a simple majority because the \$1–3 million it could raise each year would go into the city's general fund. If it passes, a panel of community and child nutrition experts will recommend ways the City Council can direct the funds to children's health initiatives. The fact that proceeds would go into the general fund, however, has been the main focus of the No on D campaign. San Francisco's similar Proposition E requires a two-thirds vote because the \$30 million or so it could raise each year from a 2-penny-per-ounce tax is dedicated to funding nutrition and physical education programs at local schools, and other projects like water-bottle-filling stations. State law requires the higher margin if special taxes are earmarked.

Supporters of soda tax proposals say taxes can help curb the rise of obesity and diabetes and help fund health programs, while opponents argue such taxes represent a government overreach and would raise the cost of living. At one point, this seemed to be more of a shared battle, but the San Francisco initiative is struggling under the attacks of the beverage industry, whereas Berkeley's seems to have a better chance, thus, is a bigger threat to the beverage industry.

Sugary drink taxes are modeled on other effective taxes, like tobacco taxes. Taxing a product to reduce its consumption has been effective with cigarettes. According to the American Cancer Society, every 10% increase in the cost of a pack of cigarettes has caused a 4% decline in the rate of smoking. Just as the tobacco industry did with cigarettes, soda companies go to great lengths to target vulnerable populations. A good chunk of soda advertising is aimed at children and teenagers. The result in the U.S. is that soda provides teenage girls with about 10 teaspoons of sugar daily and teenage boys with about 15 teaspoons. Low income communities and communities of color, which proportionately consume more soda than other communities, are also major targets of ad campaigns. The CDC estimates that one third of all children born since 2000, and nearly one half of African American and Latino children will be diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in their lifetimes.

It's government's job to make smart policy decisions that help promote people's chances of living healthy, fruitful and prosperous lives, and taxing soda to offset the potential health risks caused by long-term use is a legitimate proposal. These taxes work in three ways:

**Raise awareness.** The public discussion about this proposed tax is already raising awareness about the link between sugary drinks, diabetes and other diseases, and how the beverage industry targets its marketing towards youth and communities of color.

**Raise revenue for community programs that combat the influence of sugary drink marketing.**

Revenue from the tax could fund community and school-based programs that give families tools to make healthy choices about what they eat and drink.

**Reduce consumption.** Research predicts that a penny per ounce tax will decrease consumption and save lives.

Endorsers include more than two dozen local organizations, including the NAACP, Latinos Unidos, the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association, and the Berkeley Federation of Teachers, along with all city council and school board members and local representatives to the state legislature, and the LWVBAE (League of Women Voters Berkeley Albany Emeryville). By contrast, the American Beverage Council California PAC has almost no local community support.

As of Oct 18, the beverage industry said it had invested \$7.7 million into defeating Proposition E in San Francisco, a city of 837,000, dwarfing the \$260,000 raised by supporters. The industry has put \$1.4 million into its effort in Berkeley, a community of just 117,000 people, compared with about \$135,600 raised so far by proponents. Berkeley, which recently celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the Free Speech Movement, has a history of pioneering this kind of civic activism, be it banning plastic foam food containers and smoking in public places, or requiring curb cuts to accommodate people in wheelchairs. Victory there would have far-reaching ramifications. This isn't just a local campaign, this is a national campaign. If Berkeley passes Measure D, other cities will have it on their ballot.

*Carol Czadek*

## Book Review—Sharon Gilligan

### *No Ordinary Time-Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II*

Simon & Schuster

Winner of the 1995 Pulitzer Prize in History

In the spirit of full disclosure, I haven't finished reading this book. On my e-reader it's 1612 pages, although the last 400 pages include the index, sources and photographs. It deserves to be savored slowly and considered deeply.

It begins with the German invasion of France and Belgium on May 9, 1940 and we all know how it ends--the hero (FDR) dies before completing his quest. But he leaves his successor (HST) the tools to get the job done. The not-at-all demure heroine (ER) continues her fight for workers' rights, minority rights, women's rights, human rights for the rest of her life.

Roosevelt was fighting on many fronts long before war was declared. The Chambers of Commerce were hostile to him although he believed he saved them from themselves.

Without recovery from the Depression the country might have drifted toward fascism or communism. They chafed at laws on minimum wage, unionization, working conditions and trade. Some claimed he was trying to maneuver the country into war to establish a permanent socialist system in the United States. Roosevelt is known to have said, "It's a terrible thing to look over your shoulder when you are trying to lead—and find no one there."

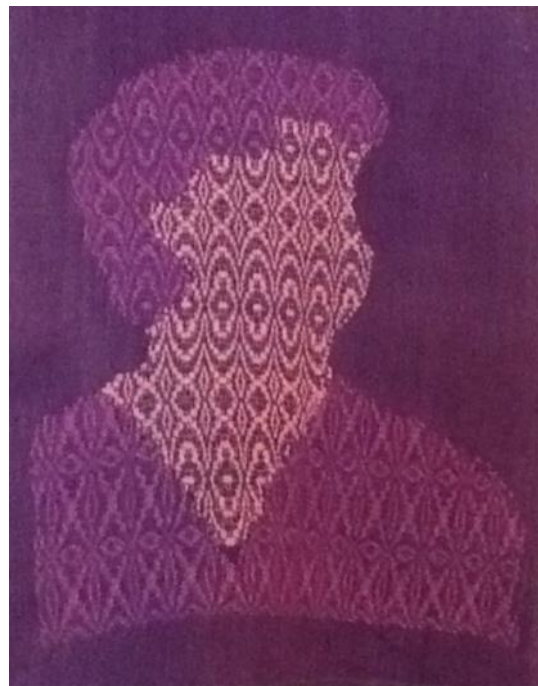
One of the first impressions gleaned from reading this book is that some things have not changed. When war was spreading in Europe in 1940, Eleanor wanted the state department to relax visa requirements to allow more people to seek refuge in the US. Since there was no numerical cap on visitor visas, Eleanor tried to get the process expedited. Then like now, officials and isolationists sowed suspicions about how many seeking asylum would not be Jewish or refugees, but instead German agents, spies bent on undermining our country, criminals or would be carrying disease. Breckinridge Long, administrator in charge of visas, adamantly refused to make it easier for refugees to seek asylum using those excuses, but also because anti-Semitism was widespread and overt in many parts of the administration and the Capitol.

Throughout the rest of her life Eleanor carried guilt and remorse that she had not been able to save more refugees, especially children.

In addition to the pre-war and wartime decisions and legislation, the author includes detailed histories of all the important figures surrounding Franklin and Eleanor. Exhaustive research of diaries, biographies, opinion columns and other source material about Harry Hopkins, Missy LeHand, Joseph Lash among others is evident. She probes their feelings, loyalties and personal backgrounds in great detail. She even quotes entries from Joseph Goebbels' diary. When lend-lease legislation passed, Goebbels wrote "the Führer finally gave his propagandists permission to attack America. It was high time. Now we shall let rip. Mrs. Roosevelt is shooting her mouth off around the country. If she were my wife, it would be a different story."

Introduced by Roosevelt in September, 1940 Lend-Lease was attacked by Republicans as giving the President the power to carry on an undeclared war without seeking consent of Congress. It provided for the lending of battleships, airplanes and war materiel to Britain with the understanding they would be returned or replaced by them after the war. Testifying before Congress in support of lend-lease in February, 1941, Wendell Wilkie, Roosevelt's opponent in 1940, refused to side with the isolationists even when they quoted back to him criticisms he leveled at FDR during the campaign. His reply: "he won the election. He is my president now."

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**Board member and artist Roberta Brockschmidt created this handwoven portrait to honor Eleanor Roosevelt. She described the piece that hung in a past exhibit in the Pacific Textile Arts Gallery, Fort Bragg, as "a tribute to Eleanor Roosevelt, my heroine."**

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Of particular interest to us, Eleanor's involvement with the League of Women Voters began in 1921 along with her friendship of Esther Lape and Elizabeth Read, early organizers in the League. She also began friendships with Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman around this time. Whisperers in society referred to these women as engaging in 'Boston marriages'

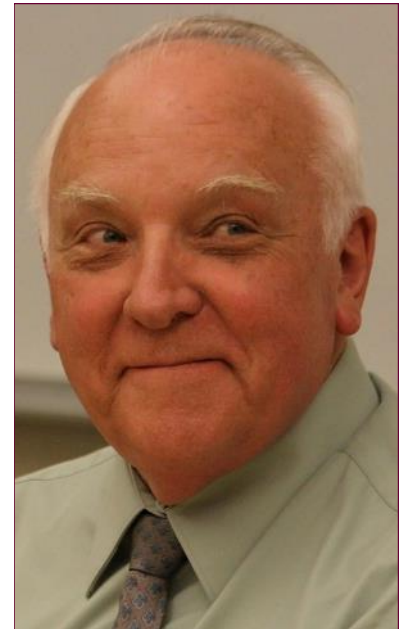
Who should read this book? Any admirer of meticulous research, anyone interested in the history of the 20th century and definitely any fan of FDR and ER. Doris Kearns Goodwin transforms recounting of events into a passionate art form. In August, 2014 it was reported that Fox TV is developing a 10-part series based on this book. Hannah Pakula, widow of Alan Pakula who optioned the rights prior to his death, is one of the executive producers.

Note: Some passages in this report are direct quotes or very similar to lines in the book. The reviewer takes no credit for these lines and uses them only to praise this work.

## **PUBLIC MEETS CANDIDATES, EXAMINES ISSUES AT LWV EVENTS**

*By Charlene McAllister*

The League's Voter Service committee involved the community in the current election by introducing candidates and issues to voters with a series of public events. Voter Service chair Jane Person and Jary Stavely presented Pros and Cons of State ballot measures at the October League meeting, and pro/con discussions were conducted by League members at the Ukiah Civic Center and on KZYX radio. The Fort Bragg City Council candidate forum was a standing room only event September 26 at Town Hall. More than 200 people attended the forum for the Mendocino Coast Health Care District candidates October 6 in Cotton Auditorium. Candidates for the State Senate and the State Assembly filled out the schedule. The forum Oct. 10 at the C.V. Starr Center was the only candidate forum in the district where candidates Jim Wood and Matt Heath appeared together. The City Council, Health Care District and Senate forums can be seen at <http://mendocinotv.com/> Thanks to Terry Vaughn for volunteering to record these events and make them available to the public.



***Mike McGuire (left), Democrat, Healdsburg, and Lawrence R. Wiesner (right), Republican, Santa Rosa. Candidates for California's Second District Senate seat spoke at October 17 LWV forum in Fort Bragg.***



***Matt Heath (left), Republican, of Santa Rosa and Jim Wood (right), Democrat, of Healdsburg. Candidates for California Second District Assembly seat spoke at Oct. 10 forum at Fort Bragg C.V. Starr Center.***

## LWVC-Supported Election Legislation: Batting Two for Four

*Editor's Note: The state League researches and supports or opposes scores of bills introduced in the state legislature. Here is a brief year-end report on the fate of four election bills we have followed.*

The state League supported two election/voting rights bills that recently were enacted:

**AB 1440**, introduced by Speaker pro Tempore Nora Campos (D-San Jose) and enacted Sept. 30, 2014—requires at least one public hearing before district boundaries are adjusted by a governing body, and requires at least two public hearings when a proposal is before a governing board to change from an at-large method of election to a district-based method of election.

In a letter to the governor on Sept. 19, the League's Helen Hutchinson said, "The continued use of at-large elections in many local agencies throughout California is a disservice to communities of color across our state. The discriminatory effects of these elections hinder the success of qualified minority candidates at all levels of government. While a number of cities, school districts, and other jurisdictions have switched to district elections, the vast majority of elections in California are still conducted at-large. Under AB 1440, the public's confidence in government will increase as voters see that new district lines are drawn in a manner that is open and fair, and that the resulting districts represent the different communities of the jurisdiction."

**SB113**, introduced by Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) and enacted September 26, 2014—allows pre-voting registration for every 16 and 17-year-old who meets every requirement except age. The League's letter of support for this bill said, "Allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to register to vote capitalizes on the timing of most American History and American Government classes in schools. Students can register to vote in class when they are studying civics and are discussing issues, candidates, and the election process in class. Providing for pre-registration at age 16 or 17 also takes advantage of the fact that many young people visit the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain their first driver's license and can register at the DMV. Since their registration would not become active until they turn 18, this process does not interfere with the U.S. Constitution, which defines the voting age as 18."

**AB280**, introduced by Assembly Member Luis Alejo (D-Salinas), would have addressed some voting rights issues that resulted from the U.S. Supreme Court *Shelby County v. Holder* decision. The California bill would have provided protections for racial, ethnic and limited-English proficient groups that "continue to face discrimination at every stage of the voting process; this includes known discriminatory practices such as voter purges, redistricting practices, practices where jurisdictions switch from by-district to at-large elections, voter registration practices and change to the election-day process and material that have a disparate impact on historically disenfranchised communities," LWVC President Jennifer A. Waggoner wrote in June. AB280 died in an appropriations committee August 15, 2014.

**SB 1365**, introduced by Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Pacoima)—Would safeguard against dilution of voting rights of classes protected by the California Voting Rights Act in a district-based election of a political subdivision. The League supported this legislation which was vetoed by Gov. Edmund Brown Sept. 30. The governor's veto message said in part: "I am returning Senate Bill 1365 without my signature. This bill would apply the rules governing at-large elections in the California Voting Rights Act to challenges related to district-based elections. While there is progress to be made, the federal Voting Rights Act and the California Voting Rights Act already provide important safeguards to ensure that the voting strength of minority communities is not diluted."



*Assembly member  
Nora Campos*



*California Senator  
Hannah-Beth Jackson*

## League of Women Voters of Mendocino County 2014-2015 Meeting Calendar

<b>Tuesday, November 11, 2014</b>	<b>Post Election Issues</b> <b>Carol Czadek, Nancy Kleiber</b> <b>10 a.m. Caspar Community Center</b>
Tuesday, November 18, 2014	Board of Directors Meeting 9:30 a.m. Fort Bragg Library Community Meeting Room

### No Meetings in December—Happy Holidays

#### And please hold these days in 2015 for LWV Meetings:

Tuesday, January 6, 2015	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Tuesday, January 13, 2015</b>	<b>LWV State Positions Membership Meeting</b>
Tuesday, February 3, 2015	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Tuesday, February 10, 2015</b>	<b>Climate Change, Sustainability Membership Meeting</b>
Tuesday, March 3, 2015	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Friday, March 20, 2015</b>	<b>Meet &amp; Greet Your Elected Officials Event</b>
Tuesday, April 7, 2015	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Tuesday, April 14, 2015</b>	<b>Mendocino Community College Membership Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 12, 2015</b>	<b>Annual Business Membership Meeting</b>
Tuesday, June 9, 2015	Board of Directors Meeting

**NOTES ABOUT VOTER REGISTRATION IN CALIFORNIA:** If you haven't registered to vote in the district of your current residence, it's too late. Registrations must be complete by the 15th day prior to the election; in 2014 that date was October 20. If you are registered in another district, you may cast your ballot there, but update your district of residence as soon as possible. Registration can be done online, but you will need to have a California driver's license or state issued ID for that. The state needs to provide the precincts with a signature for the voting rolls. To register by mail you may find registration forms at most libraries, post offices, city and county government offices, and the Secretary of State's offices. Basic information on voting rights for the state can be found on page 31 of the supplemental publication of the Official Voter Information Guide. The Voters' Bill of Rights states that voters must be at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the U. S., not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction, and must be registered at their current place of residence. It spells out rights including: casting a provisional ballot if your name is not on the voter's rolls, the right to request a new ballot if you spoil or make an error on the ballot you are given, and the right to request assistance to vote if you need it. The Voters Bill of Rights can also be found online through the Secretary of State's website (<http://www.sos.ca.gov/>) as can another informational document, A Guide to Voting in California. In general, California wants to make it easy for you to exercise your Constitutional right to suffrage.

*Sharon Gilligan*

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 2014-2015 cover the period between September, 2014 and September, 2015.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **LWV Mendocino County**  
 And mail to: **LWVMC**  
**P.O. Box 1128**  
**Fort Bragg, CA 95437**

**The League of Women Voters  
 of Mendocino County  
 P.O. Box 1128  
 Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
 (707) 937-4952**

[www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org)

[www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org)

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**Mendocino County  
 Election Office  
 (707) 463-4371**

**Status of the bills in Congress  
[www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov)**

[www.smartvoter.org/ca/state/](http://www.smartvoter.org/ca/state/)

#### **Sources of Information about Money in Politics**

[www.moneyoutvotersin.org](http://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://ca.lwv.org/sites/ca.lwv.org/files/Campaign%20Finance%20FACTS_1.pdf)

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

#### **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 THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.**