



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY



October, 2014

Carol Czadek, President

Charlene McAllister, Editor

LEAGUE TO HOLD DISCUSSION ON BALLOT PROPS OCTOBER 14

Local League members will lead a discussion about state ballot propositions at the membership meeting at 10 a.m., Tuesday, October 14, at the Caspar Community Center.

League members Jane Person, JoAn Blackstone and Jary Stavely will present Proposition Pros and Cons prepared by the California League.

Californians will vote on six propositions on the November 4 ballot:

Proposition 1: A \$7.1 billion legislative bond act to fund water-related programs.

Proposition 2: Legislative Constitutional amendment to change pay down of state debt and save money in reserves.

Proposition 45: Initiative statute that states some changes in health insurance rates will require the Insurance Commissioner's approval before going into effect.

Proposition 46: Initiative statute mandates random drug/alcohol testing for doctors, changes some prescription procedures and places a cap on medical malpractice damages.

Proposition 47: Initiative statute that reduces penalties for some non-violent crimes from felonies to misdemeanors.

Proposition 48: Referendum on two tribal gaming compacts.

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SPOTLIGHT ON UPCOMING LWV CANDIDATE FORUMS

**MENDOCINO COAST
HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014
6-8 P.M.
COTTON AUDITORIUM,
FORT BRAGG**

**CANDIDATES:
JOHN A. KERMEN
KITTY BRUNING
MICHAEL CARROLL
PETER GLUSKER
WILLIAM ROHR**

MODERATOR: JOAN BLACKSTONE

**CALIFORNIA
STATE ASSEMBLY
2ND DISTRICT**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2014
6-7:30 P.M.
C.V. STARR
COMMUNITY CENTER,
FORT BRAGG**

**CANDIDATES:
MATT HEATH (R)
JIM WOOD (D)**

MODERATOR: SHARON DIMAURO

**CALIFORNIA
STATE SENATE
2ND DISTRICT**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2014
6-7:30 P.M.
C.V. STARR
COMMUNITY CENTER,
FORT BRAGG**

**CANDIDATES:
MIKE MCGUIRE (D)
LAWRENCE R. WIESNER (R)**

MODERATOR: KEN MATHESON

ALL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CANDIDATE FORUMS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, NO CHARGE

2014-2015 Officers Board of Directors

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Louis Hough, Susan Mitchell,
Jane Person

Please visit us on our new facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1>

President's Message

Local Food = A Livable World

Climate change poses a major challenge to agriculture because of the critical dependence of agricultural systems on climate. Climate disruptions to agriculture have been increasing and are projected to become more severe over this century. Extreme heat, drought, disease, and heavy downpours will diminish the security of our food supply. The effects on agriculture will have consequences for food security though changes in crop yields and food prices and effects on food processing, storage, transportation and retailing. Climate change will also alter the stability of food supplies and create new food security challenges as the world seeks to feed nine billion people by 2050.



Carol Czadek

Food shortages lead to unrest and riots. Riots over food can quickly spiral into general unrest, especially given a social situation that is already primed and volatile. While we know that the Pentagon is prepared for any civil unrest resulting from climate change, it would be more comforting to know that someone is working on addressing the situation before it gets to the point of riots in the streets.

In the debate over climate change, the politically polarized U.S. Congress can't even agree whether it's happening. The stalemate was on display in May, when the administration of President Barack Obama released its updated National Climate Assessment. The 841-page report was five years in the making, with input from more than 300 scientists, engineers, government and industry officials and other experts, a 60-member advisory committee and more than a dozen federal departments and agencies. It was among the first major assessments of climate change to move from predictions of disaster to point out the effects that can already be seen: record-setting heat waves, droughts and torrential rains.

Within hours of its release, Representative Lamar Smith of Texas, Republican chairman of the House Science Committee, decried the report as nothing more than "a political document intended to frighten Americans into believing that any abnormal weather we experience is the direct result of human [carbon dioxide] emissions." Representative Nancy Pelosi of California, the Democratic leader, responded: "There is no time left to deny the reality of climate change, or to turn a blind eye on the impact it is having on our country."

Climate change adaptation actions often fulfill other societal goals, such as sustainable development and agriculture. The

Continued on Page 3

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.**

www.lwv.org

www.ca.lwv.org

LWVC Ballot Recommendations

November 4, 2014 Election:

<http://lwvc.org/ballot-recommendations>

LWVC supports Propositions 2 (debt pay down and reserve fund protection) and 47 (Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act). The League takes a neutral stand on Proposition 1 (Water Bond).

Continued from Page 2

LWV has adopted an Agriculture Policy to “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.”

Most adaptation efforts have occurred at local and regional levels, since rural communities face particular geographic and demographic obstacles in responding to and preparing for climate change risks. In particular, physical isolation, limited economic diversity and higher poverty rates, combined with an aging population, increase the vulnerability of rural communities. Mechanisms used by local governments to prepare for climate change include land-use planning and provisions to protect ecosystems.

The Mendocino County Food Policy Council has written the Mendocino County Food Action Plan whose mission is to collaborate with institutions, businesses, and the public at large to create a sustainable local food system that reduces hunger, increases health and expands economic vitality (read the plan online at www.mendocinofood.org).

At our candidate forums, let’s ask the candidates what they would do to support local food processing facilities, and how will they promote policies that support increased access to land for community and school gardens and farms.

Eat Local For The Climate.



Let the Sun Shine In

Save the Date
May 15-17, 2015
in San Diego

Visit <http://lwvc.wordpress.com>
for more information

League of Women Voters of California Convention 2015

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

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Monday, October 6, 2014 | LWV Candidate Forum-Mendocino Coast Healthcare District Board of Trustees 6-8 p.m. Cotton Auditorium, Fort Bragg |
| Tuesday, October 7, 2014 | Board of Directors Meeting 9:30 a.m. Fort Bragg Library Community Meeting Room |
| Friday, October 10, 2014 | LWV Candidate Forum-2nd State Assembly District C.V. Starr Community Center, Fort Bragg 6-7:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, October 14, 2014 | Ballot Propositions Pros and Cons Jane Person, JoAn Blackstone, Jary Stavely 10 a.m. Caspar Community Center |
| Friday, October 17, 2014 | LWV Candidate Forum-2nd State Senate District C.V. Starr Community Center, Fort Bragg 6-7:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, November 11, 2014 | Post Election Issues Carol Czadek, Nancy Kleiber 10 a.m. Caspar Community Center |
| 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 |
| Tuesday, January 13, 2015 | LWV State Positions Membership Meeting |
| Tuesday, February 3, 2015 | Board of Directors Meeting |
| Tuesday, February 10, 2015 | Climate Change, Sustainability Membership Meeting |
| Tuesday, March 3, 2015 | Board of Directors Meeting |
| Friday, March 20, 2015 | Meet & Greet Your Elected Officials Event |
| Tuesday, April 7, 2015 | Board of Directors Meeting |
| Tuesday, April 14, 2015 | Mendocino Community College Membership Meeting |
| Tuesday, May 12, 2015 | Annual Business Membership Meeting |
| Tuesday, June 9, 2015 | Board of Directors Meeting |

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

All Board of Directors Meetings are open to members.



THE NOVEMBER 4, 2014 GENERAL ELECTION

AN OVERVIEW AND A *VOTER* REPORT: FOLLOWING THE PROP MONEY TRAIL

Our sample ballots for the November 4 General Election went out in the mail September 25. Californians will elect eleven state officials from governor to Superintendent of Public Education. Twenty state Senators will be elected along with 80 Assembly members. Fifty-three California Representatives will be elected to the U.S. House (one will represent District 2 where Mendocino County is located). Voters also will decide whether to retain three appointed California Supreme Court Justices.

In Mendocino County, Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal and Willits real estate broker Tom Woodhouse are candidates for District 3 Supervisor. Incumbent John Pinches did not file. Ten full term seats will be filled in city council races in Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah and Willits.

Seats in two local healthcare districts will be filled by appointment because of lack of candidates for every slot in the Coast Life Support District (south coast shared with Sonoma County) and the Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District (shared with Humboldt County).

Five candidates are on the ballot to fill three full terms at the Mendocino Coast Healthcare District and the League will moderate a candidate forum from 6-8 p.m., Monday, October 6, at Fort Bragg's Cotton Auditorium. All candidates will be there. The forum is open to the public. There is no charge.

County Measures on the ballot for specific areas are:

Measure M: Albion-Little River Fire Protection special tax to maintain and improve protection.

Measure O: Fort Bragg extension and increase of tax levy to maintain and improve fire protection.

Measure P: Ukiah extension of transaction and use tax to fund public services.

Measure Q: Laytonville USD school improvement \$5.5 million bond issue.

Measure R: Point Arena question: Should the office of City Treasurer be appointed or elected?

Measure X: Southern Humboldt Unified School District \$10 million school improvement bond.

Measure S: County-wide decision to adopt ordinance that would ban hydraulic fracturing here.

Measure H: Sonoma County Junior College District \$410 million district bond issue to upgrade and improve facilities at Santa Rosa Junior College. This community college district serves Sonoma, Marin and Mendocino Counties.

Six state measures are on the ballot:

Proposition 1: Water Bond This measure was removed from the ballot in 2010 and 2012 and now appears as a \$7.1 billion legislative bond act to address serious state-wide water conservation and management issues. The state League is neutral, citing "serious concerns that the measure favors large surface water storage projects and gives control over that spending to a commission composed of political appointees with no budgetary oversight by the legislature." According to the LWVC, Second District Assembly member Wesley Chesbro (D), chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, is listed as opposing the measure (<http://cavotes.org/vote/election/2014/november/4/ballot-measure/proposition-1/more>).

Proposition 2: State Budget Reserves The state League supports this proposed legislative constitutional amendment and says it promotes state fiscal discipline. At press time, there was little information about campaign funding for this measure other than unidentified contributions of some \$190,000 to support.

The VOTER staff took a look at the remaining four ballot measures by following the money that funds support or opposition to these measures and the rest of this VOTER issue is about this project. The source is <http://votersedge.org> produced in cooperation with the California League's Smart Voter by Maplight, a Berkeley non-partisan non-profit that compiles data about campaign funding.

Proposition 45: Health Insurance—Initiative Constitutional Statute Allows state's insurance commissioner to reject health insurance price changes.

**Major Funders In Support—\$516,000
100 per cent from California**

| | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1 | consumer watchdog, Santa Monica, CA | \$365,000 |
| 2 | Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP, Santa Monica, CA | \$125,000 |
| 3 | Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC), Sacramento, CA | \$105,121 |
| 4 | National Nurses United (NNU), Sacramento, CA, | \$75,000 |
| 5 | American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Burbank, CA | \$25,000 |
| 6 | California School Employees Association (CSEA), Sacramento, CA | \$10,000 |
| 7 | United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC), Oakland, CA | \$10,000 |
| 8 | KCMKC, Sacramento | \$6,825 |
| 9 | Orange County Employees Association, Sacramento, CA | \$1,500 |
| 10 | California Democratic Party & Affiliates, Sacramento, CA | \$1,022 |

**Major Funders In Opposition—\$37.6 Million
99.8 per cent from California**

| | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1 | Kaiser Permanente, Oakland, CA | \$14,590,350 |
| 2 | WellPoint, Sacramento | \$12,500,000 |
| 3 | Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA), San Francisco, CA | \$9,963,200 |
| 4 | Health Net, Sacramento, CA | \$135,000 |
| 5 | National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU), Washington, D.C. | \$100,000 |
| 6 | California Association of Health Plans (CAHP), Sacramento, CA | \$60,000 |
| 7 | Word & Brown, Orange, CA | \$52,000 |
| 8 | Warner Pacific Insurance Services, Westlake Village, CA | \$50,000 |
| 9 | LISI, Inc., San Mateo, CA | \$50,000 |
| 10 | UnitedHealth Group, Minnetonka, MN | \$30,000 |

Proposition 46: Health Care Reforms—Initiative Constitutional Statute Increases cap on medical malpractice damages, requires random drug and alcohol testing of doctors, and mandates checking a prescription drug database before prescribing certain drugs.

**Major funders In Support—\$1.9 Million
(almost all from California)**

| | | |
|----|---|-------------|
| 1 | Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC), Sacramento, CA | \$1,183,180 |
| 2 | consumer watchdog, Santa Monica, CA | \$290,000 |
| 3 | Robinson Calcagnie Robinson Shapiro Davis, Inc., Newport Beach, CA | \$250,000 |
| 4 | Panish Shea & Boyle, Los Angeles, CA | \$130,000 |
| 5 | Aitken Aitken Cohn, Santa Ana, CA | \$125,550 |
| 6 | Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP, Santa Monica, CA | \$125,000 |
| 7 | Casey, Gerry, Schenk, Francavilla, Blatt & Penfield, LLP, San Diego, Ca | \$115,000 |
| 8 | Bruce G. Fagel, A Law Corporation, Beverly Hills, CA | \$110,000 |
| 9 | Walkup, Melodia, Kelly, & Schoenberger, Petaluma, CA | \$105,000 |
| 10 | Kazan, McClain Satterley & Greenwood, Oakland, CA | \$100,000 |

**Major funders In Opposition—\$90.3 Million
(99.8 per cent from California)**

| | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1 | Cooperative of American Physicians (CAP), Los Angeles, CA | \$15,168,704 |
| 2 | THE DOCTORS COMPANY, Napa, CA | \$15,111,200 |
| 3 | NORCAL Mutual Insurance Company, San Francisco, CA | \$15,000,000 |
| 4 | California Medical Association (CMA), Sacramento, CA | \$10,186,559 |
| 5 | Medical Insurance Exchange of California (MIEC), Oakland, CA | \$10,000,000 |
| 6 | Kaiser Permanente, Pasadena, CA | \$8,000,000 |
| 7 | California Hospital Association (CHA), Sacramento, CA | \$5,000,000 |
| 8 | American Dental Association (ADA), Sacramento, CA | \$4,047,000 |
| 9 | The Dentists Insurance Company, Sacramento, CA | \$3,120,000 |
| 10 | California Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (CAHHS), Sacramento, CA | \$2,500,000 |

Proposition 47: Criminal Sentences—Initiative Constitutional Statute Reduces simple drug possession and theft-related sentences to misdemeanors and directs financial savings to substance abuse programs, K-12 education, and trauma recovery services for crime victims. LWVC supports this proposition.

**Major Funders In Support—\$3.2 Million
(42.8 per cent from CA,
38.2 per cent from Washington, D.C.
19 per cent from New York)**

| | | |
|----|--|-------------|
| 1 | Open Society Policy Center, Washington, D.C. | \$1,210,112 |
| 2 | Public Storage, Malibu, CA | \$ 750,000 |
| 3 | Atlantic Philanthropies, NY and San Francisco, CA | \$ 600,000 |
| 4 | Netflix, Santa Cruz, CA | \$246,664 |
| 5 | Steve Phillips, San Francisco, CA | \$129,167 |
| 6 | Akonadi Foundation, Oakland, CA | \$104,167 |
| 7 | American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, San Francisco, CA | \$40,000 |
| 8 | The Women's Foundation of California, San Francisco, CA | \$25,000 |
| 9 | National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Sacramento, CA | \$14,904 |
| 10 | Sacramento Area Congregations Together-Act | \$10,000 |

**Major Funders In Opposition—\$17,500
(100 per cent from California)**

| | | |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | California Police Chiefs Association | \$5,000 |
| 2 | Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (LACPPOA) | \$5,000 |
| 3 | California Peace Officers Association (CPOA) | \$4,500 |
| 4 | California Correctional Supervisors Organization | \$3,000 |

Proposition 48: Indian Gaming—Referendum on Existing Law Ratifies two gaming compacts and exempts execution of the compacts and intergovernmental agreements from the California Environmental Quality Act.

**In Support—\$328,658
(98.9 per cent from Nevada)**

| | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| 1 | Station Casinos, LLC and North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, Las Vegas, NV | \$325,000 |
| 2 | California Democratic Party & Affiliates, Sacramento, CA | \$ 3,658 |

**In Opposition—\$4.1 Million
(49.2 per cent from New York, NY)**

| | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| 1 | Table Mountain Rancheria, Friant, CA | \$2,028,099 |
| 2 | Brigade Capital Management, NY, NY | \$1,666,780 |
| 3 | Riva Ridge Recovery Fund LLC, NY, NY | \$ 226,232 |
| 4 | DG Capital Management, NY, NY | \$ 113,258 |
| 5 | Chukchansi Economic Development Authority, Coarsegold, CA | \$ 25,000 |
| 6 | Club One Casino, Inc., Fresno, CA | \$ 15,000 |

Note: On August 11, the state Supreme Court removed **Proposition 49** from the ballot, ruling in part that the measure was advisory only with no binding legal result if approved. The measure asked voters to recommend Congress overturn the 2010 Citizens United “Corporate Personhood” U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

LWVC BREAKING NEWS**GOVERNOR SIGNS BALLOT INITIATIVE TRANSPARENCY ACT**

Gov. Edmund G. Brown signed SB 1253 Saturday, September 17, an act that “gives voters information about ballot measures in a way that is easily understood and readily accessible,” LWVC Education Fund President Helen L. Hutchinson said.

Here are elements of the bill, introduced by Sen. President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento):

- Gives voters one-stop access to information about funding to state propositions by revealing the top 10 donors that support or oppose an initiative. Voters also can request an e-mail version of the voter guide from the Secretary of State’s office, so the state can save money on costs of printing and mailing.
- Presents ballot material with easy-to-understand language.
- Identifies and corrects mistakes in an initiative before it makes it onto the ballot.

The one-stop access to information about state ballot measures will be the Secretary of State’s website.

The League was one of the sponsors of the legislation that received support from several organizations including California Common Cause, California NAACP, California AARP, Think Long Committee for California and California Forward.

Hutchinson also addressed the third element of the law as critical to ability of state voters to make informed ballot choices. “The current initiative process in California leaves little room for review and almost no opportunity for negotiation and compromise with the Legislature. Too often we only find out about problems after a measure has passed and we are implementing a flawed law. SB 1253 changes the timetable for the initiative process in a way that allows the Legislature to engage with proponents and potentially find a way to implement a legislative solution to the problem,” she wrote in a letter to the governor August 29.

The law provides for a new 30-day public review period at the beginning of the initiative process. Proponents can amend the initiative in response to public input during the review period. The signature gathering period also would be extended to 180 instead of the current 150 days. Authors of an initiative will be allowed to withdraw it after petitions and signatures are certified, but before ballots are printed.

The law follows results of public opinion polls that showed more than 80 per cent of voters were “fed up” with a bewildering number of ballot propositions that were hard to read and hid the money trails of support or opposition to many measures.

FORT BRAGG CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES TAKE PART IN FORUM



Michael A. Cimolino



Mark Iacuniello



Heidi Kraut



Lindy Peters



Dave Turner

All five candidates for Fort Bragg City Council participated in the League’s public forum Friday, September 26, 2014. An overflow audience came to Town Hall for the event. VOTER editor Charlene McAllister was moderator. Three full-term seats will be filled on the city council in the November 4, 2014 General Election.

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

Important Election Dates

September 25, 2014 - Sample Ballots in Mail

October 20, 2014 - Last Day to Register

October 21, 2014 - Last day to submit Write-in Declaration of Candidacy

October 28, 2014 - Vote-by-Mail Ballot Request must arrive by this date

November 4, 2014 Election Day - Completed ballots including
 Vote-by-Mail Ballots must arrive by 8 p.m. close of polls

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

Voting Information California Secretary of State

Voting deadlines, military and overseas voters, resources,
 information guides <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/>

Voter Registration (including on-line applications)
<http://registertovote.ca.gov/>

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.easylvoterguide.org/>
 Gives new and busy voters easy-
 to-understand non-partisan in-
 formation. Available in five lan-
 guages.

Voter's Edge

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

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County

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