



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

May, 2019

Cindy Plank and Nancy Kleiber, Presidents

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

Annual meeting ...

We All Count: Strategy for Achieving a Fair Census

League member Paula Cohen, formerly the director of the Mendocino Coast Clinics and currently a board member for the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, will tell local League members about efforts underway to ensure an accurate 2020 census for our county at the League's Annual Meeting on May 14 at the Caspar Community Center.

On March 25, the Mendocino County Complete Count Committee (MCCCC) held the first meeting in its campaign to make the census as complete and accurate as possible. Ms. Cohen took notes, and will amplify both the content of the meeting, and what has transpired since at the county level. The county itself has submitted its Work Plan, as required for a state

grant for monies, and representatives from both the federal and the state agencies have reported that we are ahead of many counties in organizing outreach.

The MCCCC recently issued a call for local citizens to apply to be paid census workers (*see page 7*).

The Annual Meeting starts with coffee at 9:30 and includes a potluck luncheon. Members, please bring a salad, bread, or dessert to share, which will complement the soup being provided by the kitchen of the Westport Hotel. Don't forget your "packet" so you can participate knowledgeably in our annual decisions: board elections, budget, program, and convention matters. Guests are quite welcome.



This graphic was created by Fort Bragg native Jose Gaona, who now works in Washington DC for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), a major organization working for a fair and complete census.

LWV 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.

President's message ...

Think Global, Act Local

Preparing for our annual membership meeting on May 14 gives us a chance to reflect on the past year and look ahead to next year. From the general to the specific, this last year in our local programming we have run the gamut. Starting in the fall of 2018 with programs on climate change as it affects the planet as a whole, to the spring programs on our local efforts to build soil and grow food, we've covered some of the ways in which we personally can sustain life in an increasingly threatening environment.

On our second focus area, "Making Democracy Work", we supported national efforts to promote voting rights, which by this spring had boiled down to the omnibus bill HR1. At the granular level, we undertook a youth voter registration project to reach and involve potential voters one at a time.

Kudos to all of you who participated in these programs and projects.

At our May meeting you'll have an opportunity to weigh in on two proposed California State League positions that will be considered at the June LWVC biennial convention in Pasadena: one on civility and one on criminal justice (see your meeting packet to review). The Leagues' unique structure and process for establishing positions keeps us nimble enough to think globally and act locally. The national and state leagues hold conventions in alternate years to consider new and/or amended positions that have been proposed directly by local chapters or through a subject study undertaken by multiple league chapters. Once adopted, these positions form a guiding framework for state and local chapters to act on the issues within their geographic jurisdictions.

Looking ahead to our fall programs, your Board will be guided by your suggestions expressed via "dot" votes at the February 2019 programming meeting. We call on you to help us develop specific presentations on the two top vote getters: Environment and Behavioral Health. It's going to be a busy season, especially with the move of the 2020 primary election from June to March.

So the May 14th meeting is both the end of a very successful year and the launch of the new. See you there!



A Great Spring in the Virtual Garden

We are still in the midst of the Virtual Garden Tour, our local League's annual fundraiser. So far we have raised \$765 from 13 contributors. Thank you!

Thanks also to our untiring Presidents Nancy Kleiber and Cindy Plank, who wrote, stuffed, and mailed all the invitations.

Please enjoy the tour photos, or post one of your own, on [our Facebook page](#).

An Invitation to California State League Convention

At its April 30 meeting, the Mendocino County League board voted to send Dorine Real and Lee Tepper as delegates to accompany Co-President Cindy Plank at the upcoming California League convention in Pasadena. We publish the Final Call to the event below—all are welcome to attend.

In addition to the proposals for consensus which we considered at our February program planning meeting, two of which are on the agenda at our Annual Meeting, the convention will also be considering a new position on charter schools presented, after a study, by the Fresno League. The link to the study is at https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/charter_report_october_2018.pdf.

The state league recently celebrated the passage and signing of SB 126, the Charter School Transparency Act: <https://lwvc.org/news/victory-charter-school-transparency-sb-126-signed-gov>

Final Call to LWVC Convention

What: The 67th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of California

When: 10 AM, Friday, May 31, through 12 PM, Sunday, June 2, 2019, with a special pre-Convention event on Thursday, May 30.

Where: [The Westin Pasadena Hotel](#)

191 North Los Robles

Pasadena, CA 91101

Phone: 626-792-2727

Who: Attendance at Convention is open to everyone; we encourage all members to attend and are eager for the public to come learn about the League. We ask that you extend invitations to your friends and contacts.

If you haven't [registered for convention](#), it's not too late. Although the early bird rate has ended, online registration continues until May 23.

Business of Convention

This is the last call to Convention 2019 as required by the LWVC bylaws, Article IX, Section 8. The LWVC Bylaws govern the composition and business of the convention. Our bylaws direct us (See Article IX, Sec. 5) to:

- [Elect officers](#), directors, and members of the nominating committee for the 2019-2021 biennium (Article IX, Sec. 5)
- [Adopt a budget](#) for the 2019-2021 fiscal years (Article VIII, Sec. 2)
- [Adopt program](#) for 2019-2021 (Article XI)
- [Adopt amendments to the bylaws](#) as needed (Article XII)

Convention Workbook is Now Available

The [convention workbook is now available](#) online to download and/or print. You can also access [different sections of the workbook](#), if you're looking to print part of it.

Going Green for Convention 2019

In past years, we've used over 23,000 pieces of paper — over 46 reams of copy paper — to print the convention workbook, workshop material, and other handouts. We can reduce the number of paper used with better planning and advanced preparation.

This year, LWVC has decided to go green and NOT provide a printed workbook for all attendees. The [convention workbook](#) is now accessible on the convention website, where you can download or print the file. We will provide workshop materials and flyers ahead of time as well, so you'll have early access to everything you need — whether you want to print it yourself, or download it on to your laptop.

At convention, a USB flash drive will be provided that contains the workbook and other materials. If you will not have an electronic device that can access the materials on the flash drive, we recommend that you download or print the materials prior to arriving at convention.

Please remember that you will not have complimentary WiFi access (you have the option to purchase it when you register) in the plenary hall or in workshop rooms. There is complimentary WiFi in your hotel room and in the hotel lobby.

Read more about speakers, workshops, special activities, and more on our site:

<http://lwvc.wordpress.com>

Youth Voter Registration Project

by Cindy Plank

We're nearing the end of the Youth Voter Registration Project (YVRP), but still have several schools to visit. It's been a wild and rewarding ride. You might expect that every high school classroom has its own personality, and you would be correct. Some groups of students are fully engaged, while others are less so. But all in all, Mendocino County high school 12th grade students are so very inspiring.

Twelve schools have been visited so far, with the potential of two to five more. Two schools opted out at the first contact, one saying all the students had been registered by another group (no recollection of what group it was) and another school saying it uses a similar lesson plan and wouldn't need League help.

Besides the classrooms, League volunteers have interacted with high school youth at two events this year, sharing some voting materials and encouraging voter registration. Twenty-two League and non-League volunteers have participated in the YVRP, including classroom training/visits and the assembly of 1,000 voting information packets. About ten Fort Bragg High School students helped put together 200 of those packets. Those who helped assemble and assist with classroom visits also included two inland volunteers: Ukiah mayor Mo Mulheren and Mendocino County Board of Education member Tarney Sheldon.

In assembly-line fashion, it takes about 2 minutes to put a packet together, so altogether we spent more than 33 hours organizing materials to distribute to the students. We also made about 2,300 one-inch voter buttons from the 12 designs created by Mendocino College art student Annie Kalantarian. With the designs printed and punched (punching is the lengthy and not so enjoyable part), it's possible to make a hundred buttons in about half an hour. Little by little is the key, and it is fun. Clicking the pins onto the back takes about another 15-20 minutes per hundred. So, best guess is about 8-10 hours for making the buttons once the prep is done. The prep work, especially the punching out of the design circles, was time consuming, but there is a circle cutter available to buy that can make that part a whole lot easier. It may be worth considering for the League to purchase for our next go around.

So far, we've interacted with about 19 classroom instructors/advisors. And we've connected with around 1,000 students, including the classroom visits and the two events. We've provided about 600 full voter packets and some additional single voter items, such as the wallet cards with registration/information links and buttons.

Our experiences have been varied, but all of the experiences have been wonderful. In one school, we had 20 minutes per class to get students inspired and to encourage them to register or pre-register right then. That's quick when answering questions and there are 20-30 students in the class. Our total percent of completed registrations, online and hard copy is only about 28% at this point. Some of the reasons include students forgetting to bring needed info, not being a citizen, religious conflict, and not having time to finish the process during class. But our plan is to connect with the instructors again to ask for another count of students who may have completed the process after we left. In another classroom, not only did 95% of the students register, the instructor gave us the entire period, which allowed students to ask questions and provide comments, which highlighted the remarkable work being done in civics education by many instructors.

It was difficult to connect to instructors initially. But once we made contact and visited, the teachers wanted us to come back next fall. So we will begin getting ready for another round of classroom visits in just a few months. But the process will be much smoother from here on. A future goal will be to encourage interested high school students to become knowledgeable in the registration process in order to help with registering their peers, and perhaps we can expand our focus to include juniors and sophomores.

Below are some of the questions we've asked and some of the messages we've conveyed as we connect with students, depending on the amount of time available:

- **Why vote?** It's your power. Don't ever give up your power by not voting, or by voting the way someone else tells you to vote.

- ***Does every vote really count?*** Yes, one vote can make history. The 19th Amendment was finally ratified by the 36 required states in August, 1920, when Tennessee State Representative Harry T. Burn changed his vote, breaking a tie and giving women the right to vote.
- ***When is California's presidential primary?*** March 3, 2020! We're less than a year away. We all need to pay attention.
- ***Which age group is expected to be the largest this year? What is their voting percentage?*** Millennials are expected to surpass Baby Boomers in population this coming year, and even though their voting rate increased this past midterm election, it was still only about 38%.
- ***Which age group should be the largest voting group? Gen Z*** - Current high school students. Don't let old people do all of the voting. This is your world. Take charge. Vote for what matters to you, your family, your community. Use your own eyes, your own ears, your own excellent brains – don't believe sound bites provided for you. Don't fall for traps, but instead question inflammatory statements on websites, Instagram, or twitter sites with account names meant to be appealing. Make your own decisions based on the best info and facts – use your own excellent brains.
- ***Who can register to vote?*** Citizens 18 years and older can register by paper registration form or by online registration. It takes about 5-10 minutes. California allows those who are 16 and 17 years old to pre-register so that when they turn 18 they are automatically registered and ready to vote in the next election.
- ***Pledge to vote for what matters to you, in every election.***

Members, don't let us have all the fun – join this dedicated group and allow yourself the pleasure of being inspired by our youth.

Citizens Redistricting Commission Seeks Members

Readers who remember our local efforts on behalf of the 2010 California Redistricting Commission may be interested in the following announcement passed along by state League President Helen Hutchinson:

The California State Auditor has launched the Shape California's Future informational webpage.

ShapeCaliforniasFuture.auditor.ca.gov is the official site for the public, community organizations, and stakeholders to get information about the application and selection process for the 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The new webpage houses general information and timelines about the application and selection process, regulations, contact information and allows interested parties to sign up for information and updates. Top

Questions, Fact Sheets and other documents are available to download. The Top Questions and Fact Sheet documents are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Tagalog.

As the application period approaches, ShapeCaliforniasFuture.auditor.ca.gov will be regularly updated with new information. Once the initial application period begins on June 10, 2019, ShapeCaliforniasFuture.auditor.ca.gov is the site where interested parties can begin the application process.

If you have any questions or feedback, please call (833) 421-7550 or email shapecaliforniasfuture@auditor.ca.gov

Panel Discussions on Local Farming and Gardening

by Jary Stavelly

A crowd of 75 people attended "A Conversation with Local Farmers," hosted by the League on April 9 at the Caspar Community Center. The event allowed a panel of local farmers and gardeners to follow up on the previous League presentation on carbon sequestration (see the February '19 *Voter*) with information about local efforts to grow food using methods which enrich the soil at the same time they keep carbon out of the atmosphere.

Sara Kelemen of the Noyo Food Forest, Maggie Barrett of 3 Sisters Produce, Jaime Jensen of the Coast Botanical Gardens Vegetable Garden, and Kyle Burns of Nye Ranch opened the program by sharing how they became involved with gardening, and went on to describe some of the challenges they have faced, the greatest pleasures they derive from their work, and its ultimate sustainability. The evening concluded with questions from the audience.

Here are some points which stood out for me. It is impressive what local vegetable gardens can produce using no-till methods which keep the soil covered. A large quantity of food is being provided on the coast for local schools, the Fort Bragg Food Bank, and the Senior Center, while coastal gardens also help supply the Wednesday Farmers' Market in Fort Bragg, which at \$500K/year is the largest in the county. Local soils are productive when well-drained and composted.

Agriculture on the coast is difficult, involving long hours and strenuous effort. The presenters all laughed and agreed when Ms. Barrett suggested that the audience "buy massage for an overworked farmer." Two of the three gardens represented on the panel benefit from a significant amount of volunteer labor, while also receiving support from their larger "parent" organizations, and all have received grants which have helped them implement and improve sustainable practices on their gardens or farms.

Everyone on the panel agreed that they derived great satisfaction and support from interactions with the public, from a child filled with wonder at the growth of a plant, to the pleasure of sharing a task side by side with a volunteer, to the smile on the face of a satisfied customer. I was impressed that each one finds great personal reward from the practice of their idealism.

Chris Calder of the Fort Bragg Advocate-News also covered the event. His article and accompanying photo can be found at <https://www.advocate-news.com/2019/04/11/a-future-for-farming-on-the-mendocino-coast/>. He also wrote about it in his editorial, also published in the April 11 edition of the Advocate. Keith Wyner made a videotape of program, which is on YouTube. Look for "Local Farmers Local Food."

Local Farmers Seek "Garden Friendly" Designation

by Jary Stavelly

Seven coastal gardeners shared information about their environmentally friendly food production at a meeting held on April 17 at the Caspar Community Center. Fifty people turned out for the event, which was organized by Matt Drewno of Victory Gardens for Peace, in order to develop support for a Garden Friendly Community declaration by the City of Fort Bragg. This meeting, like the Farmers' Conversation held the previous week (see accompanying article), built on the interest inspired by the League's January presentation about Carbon Sequestration.

Maggie Barrett of Three Sisters Produce introduced the speakers, starting with Mr. Drewno, who explained the idea behind the gathering—to inspire

the official designation of Fort Bragg as a place for sustainable gardening, in the same way that it became the first official Bee City in the USA. Kim Morgan described the development of the Noyo Food Forest from 2006 up to the present day. Julie Castillo (the leader of Three Sisters Produce, along with her daughter Ms. Barrett) outlined her work as the Gardening/ Culinary Arts teacher at Redwood, Dana Grey and Fort Bragg Middle Schools, with specialized gardens at each site. Linda Leitner told about her development as a gardener, and her work at the 1/3-acre Senior Center garden raising one ton of produce per year.

Sakina Bush, who helped develop both the Noyo Food Forest and the Senior Center gardens, now raises starts for other gardeners and manages the Mendocino Farmers' Market. Cornelia Reynolds reviewed how the Fort Bragg Bee City proclamation came about—she currently chairs the Bee City Committee. Jaime Jensen explained how the Botanical Gardens orchard/vegetable garden provides 7000 pounds of food per year to the Fort Bragg Food Bank (the number includes apples). Finally, Judi Vidaver reported on the work at Meadow Farm, a 28-acre site established as a community land trust.

Questions and comments about the proposal concluded the meeting, with a followup scheduled for May 1.

Considering the work at Fortunate Farm shared at the January Carbon Drawdown meeting, the Farmers' Conversation of April 9, and the additional descriptions from this meeting, one could conclude that the designation of our area as a Garden Friendly Community is well warranted. League member George Reinhardt has suggested that we have the opportunity to accomplish locally what is needed to curb global warming. Let us hope that the quest for sustainable agriculture continues to develop here.

Looking for Census Workers

According to Kathy Wylie on the Mendocino Announce List:

The Census wants to hire 200 people by the end of May 2019 to begin working on getting everyone in Mendocino County counted. This is just the beginning, because they will continue hiring for the additional phases of the run-up to Census Day, April 1, 2020. Hiring local people will be an economic

boost for our community. The jobs will last for about a year. Salaries start at \$16.50 to \$18.00 an hour, with mileage reimbursement and flexible hours. You must be an American citizen, have a social security number, and be able to pass a background check for the past 5 years. (There is no drug testing). Info and application at: <https://www.2020census.gov/en/jobs>, or phone: 1-855-JOB-2020.



**Supervisory
&
Non-supervisory
positions available in
Mendocino County,
CA**

\$16.50 - \$18.00 per hour

JOIN THE 2020 CENSUS TEAM

Mental Health in Mendocino County ...

Mendocino County Will Hold Forum on Mental Health and Incarceration

Kathy Wylie has published the following message via the men listserv:

Approximately 2 million individuals who suffer from serious mental illness are incarcerated each year across the United States. Mendocino County, not being immune to this problem, aims to reduce the number of people with mental illness in local jails. With the support and guidance of the Mendocino County National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Mendocino County is hosting its first Community Forum to discuss our local efforts.

The Community Forum will be held in two locations:

Ukiah: Wednesday, May 8, at the Ukiah Veterans Hall, 293 Seminary Ave.

Fort Bragg: Thursday, May 9, 2019 at the Fort Bragg Veterans Hall, 360 Harrison Ave.

MENDOCINO COUNTY

Mendocino County
NAMI
National Alliance on Mental Illness

THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

Please join us at Mendocino County's first Community Forum to learn about our local efforts to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails.

Guest Speakers: Elizabeth Siggins, Council of State Governments Justice Center, and Farrah McDaid Ting, California State Association of Counties.

UKIAH	FORT BRAGG
Wednesday May 8th, 2019	Thursday May 9th, 2019
293 Seminary Ave.	360 Harrison Ave.
Ukiah Veterans Hall	Fort Bragg Veterans Hall

Educational Session
from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
&
Public Forum
from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

To RSVP, visit
www.surveymonkey.com/r/MendocinoSteppingUp
(requested but not required.)

For more information on the National Stepping Up Initiative, visit stepuptogether.org

Each day and location will host both an Educational Session from 1–5 PM and a Public Forum from 6–8 PM. If you would like to learn more about this issue and what is being done locally, please join us at one of the events above. To RSVP, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MendocinoSteppingUp>.

For more information on the National Stepping Up Initiative, please visit <https://stepuptogether.org>.

For more information about the local forums, please contact the Mendocino County Executive Office at (707) 463-4441.

Sheriff Calls on Measure B Committee to Act

Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman has published an open letter to fellow members of the Measure B Committee calling for it to exercise more leadership and decision-making. In the letter he suggests that the Supervisors are willing to follow their group's lead, that they need not wait for approval from them before making proposals. He lists three questions which the committee should address:

- Should we spend time and money on the old Howard Hospital building?
- Should we fully fund the Orchard Street Project?
- What can we do on the Coast to improve services?

He continues, "Let's cooperate in the name of improving the quality of lives in our county, and at the same time, assist in reducing Public Safety's massive time involvement with so many mental health contacts. Let's work with our hospitals and reduce bed space currently allocated to long term mental health cases."

The full text of the letter can be found at <https://www.willitsnews.com/2019/04/13/letter-a-plea-to-the-measure-b-committee/>.

Kayla Miles of Mendocino County's Behavioral Health & Recovery Services sent us this flyer.

Future of the Fort Bragg Mill Site to Be Explored

by the Fort Bragg Mill Site Symposium Committee

After 20 years of disuse and non-action on the Fort Bragg Mill Site, multiple initiatives, now on the table, promise to impact the future of the actual property, Fort Bragg, and the whole northern California coast. There is good news:

- The Coastal Trail is complete and for the first time in 150 years, the public has access to Fort Bragg's seashore.
- The Noyo Center is acquiring 11.6 acres in the middle of the Coastal trail and is working on a design for a visitors center.

And bad:

- Most importantly, the remediation of the Mill Site is incomplete and the landowner wants to avoid a full cleanup.
- A private purchase of the northern 70 acres of the Mill Site is now under negotiation.
- Fifteen acres contiguous to the Cypress Street entrance, including some of the only remaining forest on the site, have been sold to a private owner.
- The City Council has initiated a new Local Coastal Planning Process to determine how much land will be in open space and how much available for development.

Concerned citizens need to be engaged in all that is happening around the Mill Site. In order to educate and facilitate public participation in the future of the property, we are presenting an array of independent informative programs over the next several months. These will include:

- Several radio specials on KZYX
- A series of small-group lectures and discussions on issues involved in the Mill Site's future
- A story in the June Real Estate Magazine also dedicated to its future use
- A Symposium at the Caspar Community Center on June 21–22

The Symposium will feature an evening of roundtable discussions with informed speakers. The next day a series of workshops will look at the value of open space, the situation with the cleanup, the various development proposals on the table, the plans for the Noyo Center, daylighting of the creeks, the visions of the Coastal Commission, and the ideas of the Fort Bragg Mill Site Consortium.

For more information on these events and to become involved, please contact us: George Reinhardt, george@mcn.org; Jim Tarbell, rtp@mcn.org; Cal Winslow, cwinslow@mcn.org; Bill Lemos, blemos@mcn.org.



Fort Bragg Mill Site Symposium

June 21 & 22, 2019

Caspar Community Center

UN Conference on Women

Fort Bragg resident Mary Rose Kaczorowski attended the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at UN headquarters in the middle of March, and gave a report to the Noyo Sunrise Soroptimist meeting on April 9. *Voter* readers may be interested in this press release concerning her talk:

It is a little known fact that the first CSW was convened in 1947 at Lake Success, New York, after the establishment of the UN in 1945 in San Francisco. The 15 government representatives to the first meeting of the CSW were all women. The CSW is dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. As a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), CSW was established by the U.N. Security Council in June 1946.

According to a UN Women press release, "As the single largest forum on gender equality and women's rights for UN Member States, civil society organizations and other international actors, this year's CSW saw a record number of attendees. Participants included more than 5,000 representatives from civil society organizations around the world, nearly 2,000 Member State delegates and 86 ministers."

This year's session of the CSW, "Reaffirmed the access to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure for women and girls as key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)." Kaczorowski points out, "That governments around the world, including our own, have agreed to the SDG's as a 'universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.' Many people might remember the landmark Beijing Platform for Action, and that meeting of the 4th World Conference on Women made history. The Platform for Action is a living document and still emphasizes that women share common concerns 'that can be addressed only by working together and in partnership with men towards the common goal of gender equality around the world.' "

According to the UN, "The SDGs, adopted by all U.N. Member States in 2015, are a call for action by all countries - poor, rich and middle-income - to promote prosperity while protecting the environment.

They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, equality and job opportunities while tackling climate change and working to preserve our ocean and forests."

Kaczorowski says, "I am perplexed that the mainstream media practically ignores the distinct goals and measures that were adopted as 'blueprints to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all'."

During its long history, the CSW was instrumental in moving forward and drafting the early international conventions on women's rights including the first international agreements on women's rights in marriage in 1953, the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in December 1993.

She says that this is an important time for women worldwide and locally, to claim the language in the Beijing Platform for Action and spur its implementation in their home localities. Next year is the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action. For more information, about CSW and the Beijing Platform for Action go to <http://www.unwomen.org/en>.

Kaczorowski can be reached at maryrose95437@gmail.com.

Sad State of Plastic Recycling

Voter readers who remember Meg Courtney's article from May, 2018, about recycling, may be interested in the following 4-minute You Tube clip from The Story of Stuff Project: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urFZ5o0az_4.

Schools and Communities First

On May 1 our state League held a webinar on its Schools and Communities First campaign, an attempt to reform the infamous Prop 13. It is still available to interested League members. To sign up and attend this online resource, as several board members have, go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6922718021232441868>

Updates from the National League:

[The Census Counts—So Do You](#) In April the Supreme Court heard cases challenging the Commerce Secretary's decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. The addition of the question has been controversial and is expected to have a chilling impact on Census participation, particularly in hard-to-count communities. April 1, 2020 marks the kickoff of the 2020 Census. This process of counting will ensure that the political power, health, and safety of every community is maintained or enhanced in the upcoming decade. By the Census Bureau's own analysis, adding a citizenship question would stop approximately 6.5 million people from participating. Three federal judges in New York, California, and Maryland have already agreed—the decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census was unlawful. Now, we are hopeful that the U.S. Supreme Court will come to the same conclusion. Let's show the power of our communities and fight for representation and the resources we need. Help us make sure everyone is counted next year, without exception, and that our voices are heard—sign the #CountMeIn pledge.

[Michigan to Redraw Maps by 2020](#) Last week a panel of federal district judges ruled in favor of LWV of Michigan in their First and Fourteenth Amendment challenges to the state and congressional redistricting plans.

We went to court over the current district maps, drawn in 2011, after the last census. Michigan will be required to implement new maps in time for the 2020 election and before the next redistricting cycle in 2021. With this decision, new maps will move the state closer to ensuring voters are picking their representatives—not the other way around. The state will come up with a remedial plan by August 1, 2019, in order to hold special elections in 2020 for seats in the challenged districts.

[Naturalized Texas Voters No Longer Affected by Unjust Purge](#) In Texas this month, LWV of Texas and other civil rights groups reached a settlement with state officials to end the discriminatory purging of the state's voter rolls. The settled lawsuit was raised in opposition to a purge effort in January that was based on a flawed list of possible non-U.S.

citizens. The purge included thousands of naturalized citizens who were eligible to vote. Voter roll purges that disenfranchise eligible voters are nothing short of voter suppression. No citizen should have to fear that their voting rights might be taken away because of where they were born. With this settlement the state will no longer be permitted to use stale data from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to question the citizenship of new Americans. Additionally, it must follow a list of procedures before initiating any program to invalidate the voter registration of any individual based on DPS citizenship data.

[We the People Demand a Hearing on the For the People Act](#) It's time for Senators to give the American people an opportunity to hear their legislators debate the pros and cons of the For the People Act. The American people deserve a fair hearing to determine how the For the People Act might strengthen our democracy—that's why, this month, we launched a nationwide ad campaign urging voters to contact their Senators to demand a hearing on the For the People Act. Many of the bill's democracy reform provisions—like public campaign funding, bipartisan redistricting commissions, same day registration, and automatic voter registration—are widely supported among the American public and have a successful track record in many states and localities. This bill stands to improve American elections by making our election system freer, fairer, and more accessible to all eligible Americans. It deserves a fair hearing; contact your Senator today.

[Restoring the Voice of Wisconsin Voters](#) In March a judge ruled in favor of the LWV of Wisconsin in our suit against the state legislature. During a lame-duck session last year, the Wisconsin state legislature passed a series of laws limiting the incoming governor's power, undermining the desire of the voters. Elected officials have a duty to respect the state constitution and honor the will of the voters above their own political interests. Because of this victory, the desires of Wisconsin voters will once again be heard, and the unconstitutional bills will be dissolved.

Links for more on LWVUS activities:***The Census Counts—So Do You***

http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=13665&utm_source=MonthlyHighlights&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=April19

Michigan to Redraw Maps by 2020

https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwv-celebrates-new-michigan-district-maps-2020?utm_source=MonthlyHighlights&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=April19

Naturalized Texas Voters No Longer Affected by Unjust Purge

https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwv-celebrates-settlement-reverse-discriminatory-voter-purge?utm_source=MonthlyHighlights&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=April19

We the People Demand a Hearing on the For the People Act

http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=13663&utm_source=MonthlyHighlights&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=April19

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