



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

September, 2016

Cindy Plank and Nancy Kleiber, Presidents

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

Special Dates for League's Kickoff and Fall Meetings

In view of the number of ballot measures facing voters this November (see the article below and the tables on page 6-7) the Board has set a special schedule for general meetings this fall. Three successive meetings, two weeks apart, have been organized, all to take place at the Caspar Community Center.

Our Kickoff get-together has been set for September 27th at 10:00 a.m. The pros and cons of a first set of state props will be considered. Then, at 10:00 on October 11th, a second set will be reviewed. The series will conclude on the evening of October 25th, with a forum on Sheriff Allman's county initiative for mental

health facilities. Mark your calendars for these dates, and note that we will not be meeting on the second Tuesday of September, nor on the second Tuesday of November.

As always, the public is invited to our general meetings, and these sessions will be a great introduction to what we do. Please bring something to share for a light brunch at the Kickoff Meeting, the morning of September 27th. Coffee and tea will be available to go with friendly conversation, starting at 9:30. Bring a friend, and let's prepare for the election together.

Pros and Cons Will Help Voters Climb Mountain of State Propositions

The League's first two meetings of the 2016-2017 season will be devoted to pro/con discussions of some of the state measures facing voters in the November election. The discussion committee consists of Carol Czadek, Nancy Kleiber, Cindy Plank, and Jane Person. As of *Voter* press time, the committee has not decided which measures will be studied. If you'd like to join the committee, please contact one of the members listed above.

Voters will face seventeen ballot measures at the November 8th election. An eighteenth, the "California Fair Wages Act of 2016 \$15 Minimum Wage Initiative," was certified for the November ballot but was withdrawn on June 23rd. As of July 25th, several county measures have qualified as well.

The 17 propositions to be considered by California voters this fall will bring the total voted on in the last 20 years to at least 213. Of those voted on before 2016, 50.5% passed (*ballotpedia.org*).

The Los Angeles Times has estimated that, "between funding signature gathering efforts and campaigning, more than \$452 million will be spent directly on ballot measures in California in 2016 (*Los Angeles Times, Feb. 16, 2016*). The fee to file an initiative was raised to \$2000 from \$200 in September of 2015. The original price dated from 1943.

One reason for the large number of ballot measures may be a the low voter turnout in 2014, since the number of signatures needed to qualify is based on the number of votes cast for governor in the previous gubernatorial election.

Issues covered by the measures on the November ballot include healthcare, education, business regulations, elections and campaigns, death penalty, firearms, marijuana, taxes, tobacco, civil and criminal trials, campaign finances and federal issues, government accountability, and adult entertainment.

The VOTER plans a special update in two weeks with details on which propositions will be discussed at each meeting.



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.

Presidents' message

Voting Rights: Use Them Yourself, Protect Them for Everyone

This year, LWVMC's presidents are the two of us, Nancy Kleiber and Cindy Plank. Feel free to greet either one of us as "Madame Co-President", and we will return your greeting with a nod of acceptance. Seriously, we are honored to serve such a wonderful Board and awesome membership

Based on suggestions presented at the Annual May Meeting, we have some super topics scheduled for member programs this year. In addition, there will be several candidate forums as well as our traditional review of the pros & cons of ballot measures, starting with our fall Kickoff Meeting. Let's all be as informed as possible when we vote in the November general election, for President as well as for many other important positions and measures.

But the election isn't the only hot topic taking place, as important (and crazy) as it is. We've recently marked 51 years since the Voting Rights Act (VRA) was signed and 96 years since women have been allowed to vote. Voting rights. That, Friends, is a very important topic. And that topic, those rights, require constant diligence on the part of each citizen in order to keep them in place.

Please check out the article on p. 5 about the changes to the VRA that took place three years ago with the Supreme Court's ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder*. And consider joining LWVUS in urging Congress to pass the bipartisan Voting Rights Advancement Act.

In addition, check out the article on this page about California's AB2466, a clarification to the 2011 law describing the voting rights for ex-felons. This bill is waiting for Governor Brown's signature. Please consider contacting Governor Brown to encourage him to sign this important bill.

We're hoping to see you all at our September 27th kickoff meeting. It's also National Voter Registration Day and we will have voter registration forms available. Pass the word, stay informed and encourage everyone to vote!

Cindy Plank and Nancy Kleiber
Co-Presidents



Mesdames Presidents Nancy Kleiber and Cindy Plank

Action alert

Voting Rights Clarification

We're in the home stretch of an important voting rights victory. [Please urge Governor Brown to sign AB 2466.](#)

Since slavery was abolished, felony disenfranchisement laws, which strip individuals of their vote because of a criminal conviction, have been silencing the political voice of communities of color. Three out of every four men in California prisons are men of color.

Contrary to opponents' fears, recent evidence suggests that civic engagement and voting can actually help people return to their communities and reduce their chances of going back to prison.

AB 2466 amends the Elections Code to codify a recent legal decision to ensure that more than 50,000 people under mandatory and post-release community supervision and those in county jails can vote; clarifies that a juvenile adjudication does not affect the right to vote and specifies the information courts send to election officials, so that no eligible voter is mistakenly denied their right to vote.

League Schedules Series of Local Election Forums

Voter Services Chair Jane Person has announced a series of forums to be held in October in addition to the general meetings devoted to state propositions. All are scheduled for from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 6—Fort Bragg City Council

Candidates: Bernie Norvell, Scott Menzies, Will Lee, Curtis Bruchler, Rex Gressett

Venue: Fort Bragg City Hall

Moderator: Pat Dunbar

Wednesday, Oct. 12—Parks & Recreation Board

Candidates: Kirk L. Marshall, John Huff, Lee Edmundson

Venue: C.V. Starr Center

Moderator: Jary Stavely

Friday, Oct 14—Mendocino Coast District Hospital Board

Candidates: Thomas Birdsell, Steven Lund, Kaye Handley, Lucas Campos, Tanya Smart,
Kevin Miller, Patricia Jauregui-Darland

Venue: Redwood Coast Senior Center Activity Room

Moderator: Sharon DiMauro

Tuesday, Oct. 25—Measure AG Mental Health Initiative

Presentation by Sheriff Tom Allman, proponent

Venue: Caspar Community Center

A complete list of local races and candidates can be found at [the County elections site](#).

LWVMC Meetings Calendar		
Date and Time	Place	Event
Tuesday, September 27 9:30 am coffee, 10:00 am meeting	Caspar Community Center	General Meeting. Kickoff meeting. Pros and Cons of State propositions
Tuesday, October 4, 2016 9:30 am	Fort Bragg Library Community Room	Board Meeting. Plan voter service events
Tuesday, October 11, 2016 9:30 am coffee, 10:00 am meeting	Caspar Community Center	General Meeting. Pros and Cons of State propositions
Tuesday, October 25, 2016 6:00 pm	Caspar Community Center	General Meeting. Forum on County mental health initiative
Tuesday, November 15, 2016 9:30 am	Fort Bragg Library Community Center	Board Meeting.
Tuesday, January 10, 2017 9:30 am coffee, 10:00 am meeting	Caspar Community Center	General Meeting. Consensus - local & State program
Tuesday, February 7, 2017 9:30 am	Fort Bragg Library Community Room	Board Meeting.
Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:30 am coffee, 10:00 am meeting	Caspar Community Center	General Meeting. Topic: Mendocino Coast District Hospital
Tuesday, March 7, 2017 9:30 am	Fort Bragg Library Community Room	Board Meeting. Prepare for annual meeting; discuss State convention
Friday, March 17, 2017 3:30 pm	Caspar Community Center	Public event: MEET & GREET Your Elected Officials.
Tuesday, April 4, 2017 9:30 am	Fort Bragg Library Community Room	Board Meeting.
Tuesday, April 11, 2017 9:30 am coffee, 10:00 am meeting	Caspar Community Center	General Meeting. Topic: broadband access
Tuesday, May 2, 2017 9:30 am	Fort Bragg Library Community Room	Board Meeting. Plan Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2017 9:30 am coffee, 10:00 am meeting	Caspar Community Center	General Meeting. Annual Meeting

Coastal Community College Transfer Continues

The transition of the Mendocino Coast Education Center from the College of the Redwoods to Mendocino Community College took another step towards completion in July when the California Community Colleges Board of Governors approved the transfer of territory of three local school districts from the jurisdiction of one to the other. The Leggett, Fort Bragg, and Mendocino Unified School

Districts will be officially incorporated into the Mendocino-Lake Community College District on July 1, 2017. Meanwhile, Mendocino College is continuing to offer classes at the campus off Ocean View Drive just south of Fort Bragg, under a memorandum of understanding with CR, until the transfer is completed next summer.

Hospital Board Meets to Fill Temporary Vacancy

by Sharon Gilligan

Although not a League sponsored event, the LWV of Mendocino County played a prominent role in a Mendocino Coast District Hospital Board meeting held on August 10th to fill the vacancy left by Dr. Kate Rohr's resignation. The elected member will serve until the end of this term (December) and the seat will then be filled by the winner of the general election in November. Our reputation for fairness prompted the hospital board to request members to assist in the questioning of candidates. League member Charlene McAllister reviewed questions written by the board to avoid repetition and presented them to the five candidates. Board member Jane Person was the timekeeper enforcing time limits on the candidates' answers

The candidates were Steve Lund, current chair of the MCDH Foundation; Tanya Smart, current president of the Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers' Association; Eric Frey, who has experience in medical management software and hospital coding; Phillip Ross, a former MCDH employee in engineering; and Dr. Donovan Spencer, who is currently employed as a *locum tenens* physician at the hospital. The board had decided on a weighted voting system. Each member ranked their top three choices on the ballot. The rankings carried different values and were tallied to produce a top choice.

Candidates were asked a series of six basic questions:

- their applicable experience with MCDH or any other hospital, especially any critical access facility
- what three points they felt were most important in their role as a board member
- what problems candidates saw at our hospital

- contrast their role with the responsibilities of the CEO
- whether they were familiar with reading financial statements
- why they wished to serve.

All agreed that financial stability was key, and that cooperation with, and education of, the community was vital to the health of our facility. Recruiting more permanent employees and reducing use of *locum* and traveler personnel was discussed. All had ideas on how they would improve relations with the public and how they wanted to contribute to the board's work. When questioning was completed, the board cast their paper ballots and CEO Bob Edwards was asked to count them with two volunteer members from the audience, one of whom was board member Roberta Brockschmidt.

Steve Lund received 21 points, Tanya Smart, 15 points, Eric Frey, three points, and Phillip Ross, one point. Lund has filed to run for the four year seat in November and Smart has filed for the two year seat.

Editor's note: In other hospital board news from the summer, CEO Bob Edwards announced at a previous meeting that closing the hospital ob/gyn services was no longer being considered.

Discuss the issues with your friends and neighbors, and don't forget to tell them about www.votersedge.org/ca, the new version of Smartvoter.org

A Brief Review of the Current Situation of Voting Rights

by Cindy Plank

The Voting Rights Act (VRA) was signed into law on August 6, 1965, by President Lyndon Johnson, who called the right to vote “the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice.” The VRA outlawed the discriminatory voting practices adopted in many southern states after the Civil War (including poll taxes and literacy tests as a prerequisite to voting), and enforced the 15th amendment (ratified in 1870), granting African American men the right to vote. In addition, the VRA provided for the appointment of Federal examiners (with the power to register qualified citizens to vote) in those jurisdictions that were “covered” according to a formula provided in the statute. Section 5 of the Act required covered jurisdictions to obtain “preclearance” for any new voting practices and procedures.

The law had an immediate impact. By the end of 1965, a quarter of a million new black voters had been registered; one-third had been registered by Federal examiners. By the end of 1966, only 4 of the 13 southern states had fewer than 50% of African Americans registered to vote. The VRA of 1965 was readopted and strengthened in 1970, 1975, and 1982. In 2006, the House and Senate voted overwhelmingly to reauthorize the VRA for another 25 years, and President George W. Bush signed the reauthorization.

However, in 2013 the Supreme Court invalidated section 4 of the VRA in a 5-4 ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder*. Section 4 was the formula determining which states and localities had to go through a preclearance process, which is outlined in Section 5. “Preclearance” was the process whereby states and localities that had a history of discriminatory voting laws needed federal approval before changing election laws. Since the sections worked hand in hand, without Section 4, the coverage formula, Section 5 became inoperative. Section 5 originally covered 15 states. Congress was responsible for revising and updating the coverage formula established in Section 4.

Since 2013, states with a history of discrimination have been able to change voting laws without

federal oversight. Since then, the U.S. has seen sweeping changes, with many states adopting stricter regulations, such as mandatory voter ID (in some cases a driver license or hunting license is accepted, but not a student ID or other government issued ID) and eliminating pre-registration (requiring some citizens to travel long distances multiple times in order to vote). For the first time in more than 50 years, this presidential election is set to take place without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act.

Without the preclearance requirement in place, states have been able to implement stricter voting laws, but lengthy court challenges have followed. This summer, voting laws in six states (North Carolina, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Kansas, Texas and Michigan) have experienced pushback from the courts. Some courts have gone as far as to question the intent of the voting laws, concluding that some laws are not improving democracy but are used to discriminate. A federal appeals court struck down North Carolina’s voter ID law for having discriminatory intent, whereas other courts challenging similar laws in other states said the impact disenfranchised minority voters.

There are two bills currently awaiting House Judiciary Committee hearings, the Voting Rights Amendment Act and the Voting Rights Advancement Act. Each would restore VRA’s preclearance requirement. The first would look at voting rights violations from the last 15 years, and the other from the last 25 years. Both of the bills have bipartisan support. However, U.S. Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Virginia), who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, has not granted a hearing for either bill, and has stated that the Voting Rights Act is working fine.

The League of Women Voters is asking citizens to [call on their Senators and Representatives](#) to support the Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 2867) and end voting discrimination.

(with thanks to PBS Newshour, LWVUS, Congressional Research Service)

State Propositions

as summarized by Ballotpedia

- 51:** Authorizes issuance and sale of \$9 billion in bonds for education and schools
- 52:** Requires voter approval of changes to the hospital fee program
- 53:** Requires voter approval for projects that cost more than \$2 billion funded by revenue bonds
- 54:** Prohibits the legislature from passing any bill until it has been in print and published on the internet for 72 hours prior to the vote
- 55:** Extends the temporary personal income tax increases on incomes over \$250,000 implemented by Proposition 30
- 56:** Increases the cigarette tax to \$2.00 per pack
- 57:** Increases parole chances for felons convicted of non-violent crimes, and gives them more opportunities to earn credits for good behavior
- 58:** Repeals Prop 227 of 1998, thus allowing for bilingual education in public schools
- 59:** Indicates whether voters approve of California State Legislators using what influence they have over federal issues to overturn [Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission](#) and "to make clear that corporations should not have the same constitutional rights as human beings."
- 60:** Requires the use of condoms in all pornographic films featuring sexual intercourse produced in California
- 61:** Prohibits state agencies from paying more for a prescription drug than the lowest price paid for the same drug by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- 62:** Repeals the death penalty in the state of California
- 63:** Prohibits possession of large capacity ammunition magazines and requires individuals to pass a background check and receive authorization from the [Department of Justice](#) in order to purchase ammunition
- 64:** Legalizes marijuana and hemp under state law and enacts certain sales and cultivation taxes
- 65:** Redirects money collected from the sale of grocery and retail carry-out bags to a special fund administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board
- 66:** Changes procedures governing state court appeals and petitions challenging death penalty convictions and sentences
- 67:** Ratifies SB 270, thus prohibiting plastic single-use carryout bags

[LWVCA recommendations](#) are indicated by red (NO), black (no recommendation), or green (YES) measure numbers.

MENDOCINO COUNTY MEASURES ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

AF	COUNTY WIDE - REGULATE MEDICAL CANNABIS "Shall an Initiative of the People of the County of Mendocino to Regulate Medical Cannabis Cultivation, Processing, Testing, Distribution, Transportation, Delivery and Dispensing be approved? YES or NO
AG	COUNTY WIDE - MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE "Shall an initiative of the people of the County of Mendocino to add a temporary half-cent sales tax to fund facilities in Mendocino County to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health and drug dependence be approved?" YES or NO
AH	COUNTY WIDE - ENACTING LANGUAGE FOR MEASURE AG "Shall an ordinance be adopted containing specific enactment language that will allow for the collection of taxes pursuant to the initiative to add a temporary half-cent sales tax to fund facilities in Mendocino County to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health and drug dependency, if said initiative is passed by the voters at the November 8, 2016 election, without which, no taxes will be collected pursuant to said initiative?" YES or NO
AI	UNINCORPORATED AREAS - MENDOCINO COUNTY - CANNABIS BUSINESS TAX "Shall Chapter 6.32 be added to the Mendocino County Code, placing a business tax on cannabis cultivation and dispensaries (not to exceed 10% of gross receipts) and cannabis distribution, delivery, manufacturing, nurseries, testing laboratories and transportation businesses (\$2,500.00 per year, to be adjusted in accordance with consumer price index increases) of medical and nonmedical cannabis where legalized by state law, potentially generating millions of dollars annually to help fund county services be approved?" YES or NO
AJ	AN ADVISORY MEASURE ON SPENDING CANNABIS BUSINESS TAX REVENUES Advisory Vote Only. "If Mendocino County adopts business license taxes on cannabis businesses by the adoption of the measure adopting Chapter 6.32, Measure AI, should the County use a majority of that revenue for funding enforcement of marijuana regulations, enhanced mental health services, repair of county roads, and increase fire and emergency medical services?" YES or NO

CITY MEASURES ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT	
UKIAH	
Y	<p>CITY OF UKIAH - SALES TAX INCREASE Shall Ordinance No. 1165 be adopted to impose as a general tax and additional transaction (sales) and use tax of one-half percent within the city limits of the City of Ukiah to fund essential City services, including street repair and maintenance? Such tax increase is estimated to raise \$2,470,000 annually at a rate of .5%. The duration of the tax will continue unless or until the tax is repealed by majority vote in a municipal election. YES or NO</p>
Z	<p>CITY OF UKIAH - ADVISORY MEASURE ONLY Should street repair and maintenance and related public infrastructure improvements be the exclusive use of the revenues from an additional .5% sales tax in the City of Ukiah and add to and not replace current spending for street maintenance and repair? YES or NO</p>
FORT BRAGG	
AA	<p>CITY OF FORT BRAGG - TOT INCREASE Shall Ordinance No. 924-2016 amending portions of Chapter 3.12 of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code to increase the City of Fort Bragg's existing Transient Occupancy Tax (a bed tax paid when overnight visitors rent a room) from ten percent (10%) to twelve percent (12%) to fund public services and maintain public areas, effective April 1, 2017, which proposed rate increase and amendment is anticipated to raise an additional \$400,000 per year in revenue and which will continue until repealed by the City Council or the city voters, be adopted? YES or NO</p>
AB	<p>CITY OF FORT BRAGG - ADVISORY MEASURE If Measure "AA" is approved by voters, shall the People of the City of Fort Bragg advise the City Council to use the additional funds in the following manner: (i) One-half of the revenues to substantially increase promotions, events, and marketing for Fort Bragg; (ii) One-quarter of the revenues to enhance Coastal Trail maintenance and security; (iii) One-eighth of the revenues to support establishment of the Noyo Center for Marine Sciences as a premiere visitor attraction; and (iv) One-eighth of the revenues to undertake special projects that support tourism and benefit the community including, but not limited to, repair and enhancement of local athletic fields? YES or NO</p>
POINT ARENA	
AC	<p>CITY OF POINT ARENA - TOT INCREASE Shall Ordinance No. 227 amending portions of Chapter 3.30.030 of the Point Arena Municipal Code to increase the City of Point Arena's existing Transient Occupancy Tax (a bed tax paid when overnight visitors rent a room) from ten percent (10%) to twelve percent (12%) to fund public services and maintain public areas, effective April 1, 2017, which proposed rate increase and amendment is anticipated to raise an additional \$17,000 per year in revenue and which will continue until repealed by the City Council or the city voters, be adopted? YES or NO</p>
AD	<p>CITY OF POINT ARENA - ADVISORY MEASURE If Measure "AC" is approved by voters, shall the People of the City of Point Arena advise the City Council to use the additional funds generated by the additional 2% of the Transient Occupancy Tax in the following manner: (1) One-quarter of the revenues to substantially increase promotion and marketing for Point Arena; (2) one quarter of the revenues to support events such as the Independence Day Celebration and Harbor Festival; (3) one quarter of the revenues to fund maintenance and improvement to the Arena Pier and City Property at the Cove; and (4) one quarter of the revenue for Park and Parking Improvements in the downtown area that support tourism and benefit the community? YES or NO</p>
AE	<p>CITY OF POINT ARENA - MARIJUANA & CANNABIS BUSINESS TAX MEASURE "In order to help fund general municipal services, including but not limited to such matters as maintenance of public facilities such as parks and buildings, economic development and general improvements throughout the City, shall an ordinance to impose a tax at a rate of not more than seven (7) cents per each \$1.00 of proceeds or fractional part thereof on non-medical cannabis or marijuana businesses and a tax at a rate of not more than three (3) cents per each \$1.00 of proceeds or fractional part thereof on medical cannabis or marijuana businesses operating in the City of Point Arena be adopted?" YES or NO</p>

Dear Members,

Every year at this time we begin a new program year, and we also solicit your annual dues. If you are reading this now in the *Voter*, please take a minute to mail your dues, or mark your calendar to bring them along to our Kickoff Meeting on the 27th. The more dues we collect at this time, the less we will spend on postage asking later on.

As you know, our dues support the national, state and local League. Our dues are now \$60.00 for an individual membership, and \$90.00 for a 2-member household. The vast majority of your dues is passed on to the U.S. and the California Leagues, leaving less than \$2 of your dues for local use. In addition to our regular and household memberships, we are pleased to include two additional levels of membership for you to consider when you make your renewal. Each membership level is named after a woman of the past who chose to make a difference:

- Susan B. Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton.
- Amelia Bloomer was the first woman to own, operate and edit a newspaper, *The Lily*, which promoted women's rights issues.
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the National Woman Suffrage Association and served as its first president.
- Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters: "Winning the vote is only an opening wedge -- learning to use it is a bigger task."

Thank you for remaining a member of a committed group of women and men who are working to make a difference in the future of our country.

Jary Stavelly
Membership Chair

Membership Renewal, 2016-2017

Please make checks payable to LWVMC. Print this page and mail with your check to the address below. Sorry, only Education Fund donations are tax-deductible.

Name _____	
Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership \$60	_____
Amelia Bloomer Household Membership \$90	_____
Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership \$100	_____
Carrie Chapman Catt Membership \$250	_____
Donation to LWVMC	_____
Donation to LWVMC Education Fund (tax deductible)	_____
Total	_____

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Readers of the VOTER are encouraged to read about
(and 'like') our [Mendocino County League on Facebook](#).
You don't even have to sign up
in order to see what is posted there.