



# THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Vol. 52 No. 4—revised

April 2010

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## President's Message

Here is a robust "hoorah" for volunteers! In this still new year, the League has:

- held a successful program planning session;
- conducted a forum on the US Census;
- received a Sunshine Week proclamation from the Arcata City Council;
- conducted a Bear River Tribal election;
- made arrangements and sent invitations for the State of the Community Luncheon;
- participated in an Access Humboldt Freedom of Information Act broadcast;
- conducted candidate forum volunteer training;
- answered questions from members and voters;
- attended a Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF) session on HAF investments which include our Education Fund; and
- scheduled candidate forums throughout the county and on KEET-TV during April and May.

In addition, some of our members have applied for the California Redistricting Commission. We have again been and will continue to be very busy. So, I repeat, 'hoorah' for volunteers and an even more heart-felt 'thank you'! Where would our League, our community, and our nation be without you?

The 'Making Connections' interview series is taking a break this month. We will have a LWVC legislative interview when Representative **Wesley Chesbro** returns to his Eureka office, and the results will be forwarded to Sacramento. Later this month, look for the candidate forum for the State Superintendent of Instruction on April 30 when LWVC President **Janis Hirohama** will moderate. As a League, we continue to support adequate funding for education in California and universal health care for the citizens of our nation.

As always,

*Dr. Sharolyn Hutton, President*

## LWVHC Candidate Forums—June 8 Election

Thanks to all who came to the Voter Service training meeting. It was a wonderful show of support for our mission from new recruits as well as long-time veterans. We're launched on a record-setting season of candidate forums. -Carol Masterson, Candidate Forums

### COMMUNITY FORUMS

- ☆ **Sheriff** April 14, Wednesday, 7-8:30 P.M.  
Veterans Memorial Hall, 483 Conger, Garberville  
Cosponsor: Civil Liberties Monitoring Project
- ☆ **County Offices** April 22, Thursday, 5:30-10 P.M.  
Trinity Valley Elementary School  
730 North Highway 96, Willow Creek  
**Auditor/Controller** 5:30-6:05 P.M.  
**Assessor** 6:10-6:55 P.M.  
**Sheriff** 7-7:35 P.M.  
**Supervisor, 5th District** 7:40-8:45 P.M.  
**District Attorney** 8:50-9:55 P.M.  
Cosponsor: Willow Creek Kiwanis
- ☆ **Supervisor, 5th Dist.,** April 26, Mon., 7-8:30 P.M.  
Azalea Hall, 1656 Sutter Road, McKinleyville  
Cosponsor: Healthy Humboldt
- ☆ **District Attorney** April 27, Tuesday, 7-8:30 P.M.  
Veterans Memorial Hall, 483 Conger, Garberville  
Cosponsor: Civil Liberties Monitoring Project
- ☆ **Sheriff** May 6, Thursday, 7-8:30 P.M.  
Mad River Grange, 110 Hatchery Road, Blue Lake
- ☆ **District Attorney** May 10, Monday, 12:45-1:30 P.M.  
Wharfinger Building, 1 Marina Way, Eureka  
Cosponsor: Rotary Club of Eureka

### KEET TV Channel 13 FORUMS

- ☆ **Sheriff** April 28, Wednesday, 7-8 P.M.
- ☆ **District Attorney** May 3, Monday, 7-8:30 P.M.
- ☆ **Supervisor, 4th District** May 5, Wednesday, 7-8 P.M.
- ☆ **Assessor** May 10, Monday, 7-8 P.M.
- ☆ **Supervisor, 5th District** May 12, Wednesday, 7-8:30 P.M.

### Our Mission Statement...

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!**

## Voter Service

### *Pros & Cons*

There will be a Pros & Cons presentation at the Eureka Main Library meeting room on Wednesday, May 12, beginning at 7 P.M. The presenters will provide nonpartisan information about each of the five propositions on the ballot for the June 8 primary election. Plan to attend if you can and also encourage others to attend.

**Proposition 13: Property Tax: New Construction Exclusion: Seismic Retrofitting** A YES vote means: Earthquake safety improvements made to unreinforced masonry (such as brick) buildings would not result in higher property taxes until the building is sold. A NO vote means: Earthquake safety improvements made to unreinforced masonry buildings would continue to be excluded from property taxes but for only up to 15 years.

**Proposition 14: Elections: Open Primaries (Top-Two Candidate Open Primary Act)** A YES vote means: All voters would receive the same primary election ballot for most state and federal offices. Only the two candidates with the most votes—regardless of political party identification—would advance to the general election ballot. A NO vote means: Voters would continue to receive primary election ballots based on their political party. The candidate with the most votes from each political party would continue to advance to the general election ballot.

**Proposition 15: Political Reform Act of 1974: California Fair Elections Act of 2008** A YES vote means: The state ban on public funding for political campaigns for elected offices would be lifted. For the 2014 and 2018 elections, candidates for the office of Secretary of State could choose to receive public funds to pay for the costs of campaigns if they met certain requirements. Charges related to lobbyists would be increased to pay for these costs. A NO vote means: The state ban on public funding for political campaigns for elected offices would continue. Candidates for the office of Secretary of State would continue to pay for their campaigns with private funds subject to current rules. Existing charges related to lobbyists would not change.

**Proposition 16: New Two-Thirds Vote Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers** A YES vote means: Local governments would generally be required to receive two-thirds voter approval before they could start up electricity services or expand electricity service into a new territory. A NO vote means: Local governments generally could continue to implement proposals involving the start-up or expansion of electricity service either through approval by a majority of voters or actions by governing boards.

**Proposition 17: Allows Auto Insurance Companies to Base Their Prices in Part on a Driver's History of Insurance Coverage** A YES vote means: Insurance companies could offer new customers a discount on their automobile insurance premiums based on the length of time the customer had maintained bodily injury liability coverage with another insurer. A NO vote means: Insurers could provide discounts to their long-term automobile insurance customers, but would continue to be prohibited from providing such discounts to new customers switching from other insurers. [As of 2-11-2010; subject to court ordered changes]

-Nan Nieboer,  
Voter Service Director

### *Board Briefs...*

#### From the March 1 Board Meeting:

- ☆ President **Sharolyn Hutton** has appointed **Lois Busey** as Finance Director.
- ☆ Members should receive their Annual Meeting Kits by April 17, the Date of Record is May 1, and the Annual Meeting is May 17 at the Humboldt Area Foundation.
- ☆ **Beth Matsumoto** will represent LWVHC at the LWVC State Leadership Council in Sacramento on May 15-16.
- ☆ The Board approved a two-year contract for hosting our Web site in order to qualify for a discount.
- ☆ President **Sharolyn Hutton** will present a letter to the Board of Supervisors to express concern over the level of public participation in preparing the update to the housing element of the proposed General Plan.
- ☆ **Judy Bennett** is researching options for D&O liability insurance.
- ☆ Treasurer **Nancy Kay** submitted a proposed budget for membership approval at the Annual Meeting.
- ☆ The Board recommended that a \$10 increase in annual dues be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting.

-Peg Gardner,  
Secretary

News from the LWVUS

*We Did It!*

March 22, 2010—Last night was monumental for all Americans - and it was because of you. The historic votes in the House to pass comprehensive health care reform were the first steps in dealing with the current health care crisis.

There is still work to do to ensure that all have access to quality, affordable health care, and to educate citizens on what this bill will accomplish. But today we celebrate this victory, and the efforts of so many who came together to speak with one voice.

Thank you for whatever contribution you made -- whether it was taking action, supporting the League, or spreading the truth about health care reform.

In League,  
*Mary G. Wilson*

News from the LWVC

*Redistricting Commission Moves Forward*

Over 30,000 Californians applied to serve on the Citizens Redistricting Commission before the initial application period closed February 16. Public response at the end was so great — 600 applications in one eight-hour period — that the State Auditor extended the deadline four days. Using webinars, workshops, and personal outreach, League members throughout the state enthusiastically recruited applicants. Now the Applicant Review Panel (ARP) begins the work of sifting through the applications to select pools of the most qualified candidates who represent the diversity of our state. Visit the Auditor’s Web site to learn more and to watch webcasts of the public meetings of the ARP that began February 25.

*Thank You!*

The League thanks **PA WinterSun** and **George WinterSun** for their contribution to our annual operations!

*Welcome!*

Welcome new members:  
***Robin & Richard Marks***

*Avenue of the Giants Volunteer Opportunity*

I just got the call from the Avenue of the Giants Marathon organizer wanting to know if we will do the aid station this year. We meet on May 2, between 9 A.M. and 10 A.M. and can leave around noon or stay to have a tailgate picnic. Have a nice day in the redwoods and help earn around \$100 for the League purse! No experience necessary. Please call or email me to volunteer: 442-7495 or k.escarda@sbcglobal.net

*-Kay Escarda*

*The League of Women Voters  
of Humboldt County*

434 7th Street, Eureka CA 95501

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 3219

Eureka, CA 95502

(707) 444-9252 www.lwvhc.org vote@lwvhc.org

Who’s Who in Your League 2009-2010

☆ YOUR LEAGUE BOARD ☆

- President ..... Sharolyn Hutton
- Vice President ..... Beth Matsumoto
- Past President ..... Lorey Keele
- Secretary ..... Peg Gardner
- Treasurer ..... Nancy Kay
- Director ..... Byrd Lochtie
- Director ..... Carol Masterson
- Director ..... Beth Matsumoto
- Director ..... Willa Mauro
- Director ..... Nan Nieboer
- Director ..... Sarah Reid
- Director ..... Amanda Windsor

☆ ACTION ☆

- Government ..... Helen Andrews
- Natural Resources ..... OPEN
- Social Policy ..... Sarah Reid
- Program Director ..... OPEN

☆ ADMINISTRATION ☆

- Financial Development Director ..... Lois Busey
- Historian ..... Carole Ziskin
- Membership ..... Judy Bennett, Judith Stoffer
- Nominating Committee Chair ..... Nancy Quintrell
- Publications ..... Lorey Keele

☆ FUNDRAISING ☆

- Poll Workers Coordinator ..... Carolyn Otis
- State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL)  
Committee Co-Chairs ..... Maggie Fleming,  
..... Byrd Lochtie
- SOCL Committee Liaison ..... Beth Matsumoto

☆ MEDIA ☆

- Media Chair ..... Amanda Windsor
- Access Humboldt Rep ..... Peg Gardner
- Publicity Director ..... Beth Matsumoto
- VOTER Publication ..... Amanda Windsor
- VOTER Circulation ..... Carolyn Otis
- Webmaster ..... Amanda Windsor

☆ VOTER SERVICE ☆

- Voter Service Director ..... Nan Nieboer
- Candidate Forums ..... Carol Masterson
- Citizen Education ..... Willa Mauro
- Election Service Chair ..... Byrd Lochtie
- Smart Voter ..... Amanda Windsor

# The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

434 7th Street, Eureka CA 95501 - (707) 444-9252

www.lwvhc.org - vote@lwvhc.org

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30	31					

## Calendar

April 5

**Board Meeting** 6-8 P.M.  
434 7th Street, Eureka

April 14, 22, 26,  
27, 28

**Candidate Forums**  
See Page 1 for Schedule Information

April 23

**State of the Community Luncheon**  
Adorni Center, Eureka, 12-1:30 P.M.  
1011 Waterfront Drive, Eureka

May 3

**Board Meeting** 6-8 P.M.  
434 7th Street, Eureka

May 3, 5, 6, 10, 12

**Candidate Forums**  
See Page 1 for Schedule Information

May 12

**Pros & Cons Presentation** 7-8:30 P.M.  
County Library, 1313 3rd Street, Eureka

May 17

**Annual Meeting, time to be announced**  
Humboldt Area Foundation  
373 Indianola Road, Bayside

For changes to the calendar and lots of other information  
check out our League Web site at:

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

## The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County Diversity Policy 2009-2010

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief in and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to membership nor to participation in LWVHC on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, economic status, or political affiliation. The LWVHC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The LWVHC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of the community in its membership, board and programs.

## THE VOTER

**April 2010**

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County  
P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

Editor: Amanda Windsor

*Join Us on April 23*

*For the 18th Annual State of the Community Luncheon.  
Support the League as we honor local civic heroes.*