



# The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

June 2011 Special Edition

Jane Person, President

Charlene McAllister, Editor

## CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION CONSIDERS INPUT FROM PUBLIC, PREPARES TO MAP NEW CONGRESSIONAL, SENATE, ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS

*Editor's Note: Following a mandate by voters, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission will make history in August, 2011, when a group of citizens (instead of state legislators) creates new political districts. Our League has studied federal, state and local redistricting for eight months and this special edition of the VOTER picks up the story that currently is unfolding in the state and in our county.*

*By Jane Person*

Four Mendocino County League members were among the 95 speakers at the State Redistricting Commission public hearing in Santa Rosa, May 20, 2011. There was standing room only at the meeting in Santa Rosa City Hall.

The hearing was one of several held around the state to receive public input. With this input



*Twelve members of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission met May 20 in Santa Rosa to gather public testimony about redistricting Congressional, State Senate and Assembly and Board of Equalization districts. Twenty-one regional meetings were held around the state in the first series of public hearings. The commission draws maps due to be complete by Aug. 15.*

the Commission has already posted its first draft maps of the Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly and Board of Equalization Districts. You can access this first set of maps June 10, 2011, at

[www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov](http://www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov)

All LWCMC speakers asked the Commission to draw the lines north and south, rather than east/west as a vocal group proposed at the public input meeting held in Redding in April.

League member Becky Bowen, spoke as a

representative of the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society. Ken Matheson spoke about the educational continuity characteristic of the north coast counties.

Barbara Matheson, the relative easy access of north/south roads as opposed to the sometimes tortuously winding roads traveling east/west. Jane Person provided a chart that League member Charlene

McAllister drew up showing how to combine counties so as to meet the target population requirements of each district. In all cases League members strived to show the economic similarities, common interests, and networking that coastal

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VOTER Staff—Barbara Auerbach, Becky Bowen, Susan Eveleth, Louis Hough, Barbara Matheson, (honorary), Susan Mitchell, Jane Person

# ACTION

BY BARBARA MATHESON

## ORNER

This year, the League's "Issue for Education and Action" is redistricting. Members monitor the work of the new state redistricting commission and have taken the following action:

- Placed articles in county newspapers
- Asked Fort Bragg City Council and County Board of Supervisors to write letters to the state commission
- Spoke to various organizations like the Chamber of Commerce
- Sent an action alert to all members asking them to write letters to the state commission (many responded)
- Reached out to Humboldt and Sonoma Leagues for support
- Sent four members to testify before the state commission hearing on May 20, 2011

*Jane Person...continued from page 1*

counties have built up through the years.

Marin County League of Women Voters also sent a contingent. Many speakers at the meeting asked the Commission to put Marin in the same districts as Sonoma County, citing Marin's rural nature.

The newly posted maps show that the Commission did, indeed, draw the lines on a north/south axis. During the month of June

more public hearings will be held for comment on the draft maps. A second set of draft district maps is set to be posted July 1; the rest of July will also be dedicated to public comment.

July 26 is the proposed date for the Commission to post the final maps, with August 15 the deadline for the Commission to approve the final maps. More information may be obtained at [www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov](http://www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov).



*League Member Ken Matheson addresses the Citizens Redistricting Commission May 20, 2011*

# Redistricting of Congressional, State Senate and Assembly Districts In California—A Look At the History and A Glimpse of the Future

By Barbara Auerbach

California voters twice voted to amend the California Constitution and the Government Code. The “Voters FIRST Act” (Proposition 11) passed in the November 4, 2008, state election. Proposition 11 became a law that placed the power to draw electoral boundaries for State Assembly and State Senate districts in a citizens redistricting commission.

California voters extended that power in 2010, pursuant to Proposition 20, to draw electoral boundaries for U.S. House seats. The act amended Article XXI of the state constitution and enacted Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 3.2 of the Government Code. These changes transfer authority for establishing Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization district boundaries from elected representatives to a fourteen member commission.

## How the Citizen Redistricting Commission is Selected

- Government auditors select sixty registered voters from an applicant pool (in 2010, more than 30,000 people applied to serve on the first Citizens Redistricting Commission).
- Legislative leaders are permitted to reduce the pool.
- Finally, commissioners pick six additional members for a total of fourteen.

Five of the fourteen commissioners selected must represent the largest political party in California. The next five commissioners must represent the second largest political party in California. The remaining four commissioners must be affiliated with other political parties in California.

## Approval of Boundaries

Approval of district boundaries must be agreed upon by nine commissioners: Three commissioners from each of the largest political parties, and three from neither of the parties. These boundaries are subject to change every ten years pursuant to the new federal census reports.

## Rules for selecting boundaries

**Districts** shall comply with the U.S. Constitution and Section 2 of Article XXI of the California Constitution: Congressional districts shall achieve population equality as nearly as is practicable, and Senatorial, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts shall have reasonably equal population with other districts for the same office, except where deviation is required to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act or allowable by law.

**Districts** shall comply with the federal Voting Rights Act .

The Voting Rights Act is a nationwide prohibition against voting practices and procedures, including redistricting plans that discriminate on the basis of race, color or membership in a language minority group. It prohibits not only election-related practices and procedures that are intended to be racially discriminatory, but also those that are shown to have a racially discriminatory impact. The United States and private parties may file a lawsuit against a redistricting plan alleging that it violates Section 2.

**Districts** shall be geographically contiguous.

The geographic integrity of any city, county, city and county, local

neighborhood, or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes their division to the extent possible without violating the requirements of any of the preceding subdivisions.

A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

**Districts**, to the extent practicable, and where this does not conflict with the criteria above, shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for more distant population.

**Each Senate district**, to the extent practicable, and where this does not conflict with the criteria above, shall be comprised of two whole, complete, and adjacent Assembly districts, and each Board of Equalization district shall be comprised of 10 whole, complete, and adjacent Senate districts. The place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate shall not be considered in the creation of a map. Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.

**Mapmaking Process and Timeline**  
Proposition 11 requires that commissioners be selected by December 31 of the year of the census. The commission then has 8.5 months until September 15 of the following year to make and approve the maps.

## Challenges to Final Maps

Under both current law and Proposition 11, maps may be subjected to a

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## Following the California Redistricting Commission Deadlines and Timelines

*By Charlene McAllister*

The first 14-member California Citizens Redistricting Commission began meeting in February, 2011. Two months ago, commissioners went on the road to hold 21 public meetings around the state, largely in urban areas. Written public comments also were accepted in this open process before any maps were drawn. Commission meetings are streamed live and archived on [www.wedrawthelines.org](http://www.wedrawthelines.org)

Prior to holding public meetings, the commission divided the state into nine regions. All of Northern California north of Sacramento was put into Region 9. Region 9 hearings were held in Redding, Marysville and Auburn.

On **June 10, 2011** the commission publishes the first draft maps of State Senate, Assembly, Board of Equalization and Congressional districts after which there will be a 5-day public review period ending June 15, 2011. Regional meetings will be held again and the next Region 9 meeting is scheduled in Sacramento June 28, 2011, when the commission plans to do a “Regional Wrap-up” prior to the second drawing of district lines.

On **July 7, 2011**, the second draft maps and first report drafts are scheduled to be released followed by a public review period from July 8-13, 2011. The follow-up public meetings are yet to be scheduled, but will take place between July 13, and July 20, 2011. The 14-day noticing period will have lapsed and the commission will continue to work on the final product.

The final draft maps and reports are scheduled to be done by **July 28, 2011**. The draft schedule notes the public then has another 14 days to respond, that end date being August 11, 2011. From August 13-24, 2011, the line drawer will present the final maps and reports to the commission and on **August 15, 2011**, the commission is to certify the maps and report to the Secretary of State.

When the maps are cleared by the U.S. Department of Justice and certified by the Secretary of State, they are final.

It is possible that lawsuits can be filed and petitions can be circulated to have a referendum on the maps. One cannot predict when will happen in this case.

*Barbara Auerbach—continued from page 3*

referendum, challenged in court or rejected for violating the federal Voting Rights Act. Under both options the California Supreme Court may appoint special masters if necessary. The current law regarding challenges to a final plan is very similar to Proposition 11.

Further information may be obtained from U.S. Dept of Justice  
[www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/redistricting.php](http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/redistricting.php)

League of Women Voters of California Education Fund  
<http://cavotes.org>

**U.S. Census Interactive  
Map Widget**

[http://2010.census.gov/2010  
census/data/](http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/)

## The Local Redistricting Story: What About Mendocino County?

*By Barbara Matheson, Val Muchowski and Becky Bowen*

Redistricting means re-drawing boundary lines of all population-based political districts. It happens every ten years after the federal census and it is dictated in large part by numbers. When population changes, moves, increases or decreases, political districts change—and so do politics. So redistricting is everybody's business—from the U.S. House of Representatives to County Supervisors.

In Mendocino County, supervisorial districts are redrawn after every federal census and the process follows California Elections Code, Division 21, that provides for district population as equal “as may be” or “as practicable” and compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act. The code also says consideration “may...be given to topography, geography, cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity and compactness of territory and community of interest.”

At the state level, a Citizens Redistricting Commission will draw the lines for the first time in history for U.S. Congressional, State Senate and Assembly districts, and the Board of Equalization (state legislators drew the lines in the past). At the county level, the Board of Supervisors has the job for supervisorial districts. The board may appoint a citizens advisory committee to study boundary changes and that is the case this year in Mendocino County.

Two names per supervisorial district were randomly selected at a Mendocino Board meeting this spring. No residents from District 3 applied, so 8 members sit on the committee. The committee began to hold weekly public hearings May 4 and works with county staff to recommend supervisorial boundary changes by no later than August 1. By November 1, the Board will approve a new district map after at least one public hearing. By December 31, 2011, the new map goes into effect.

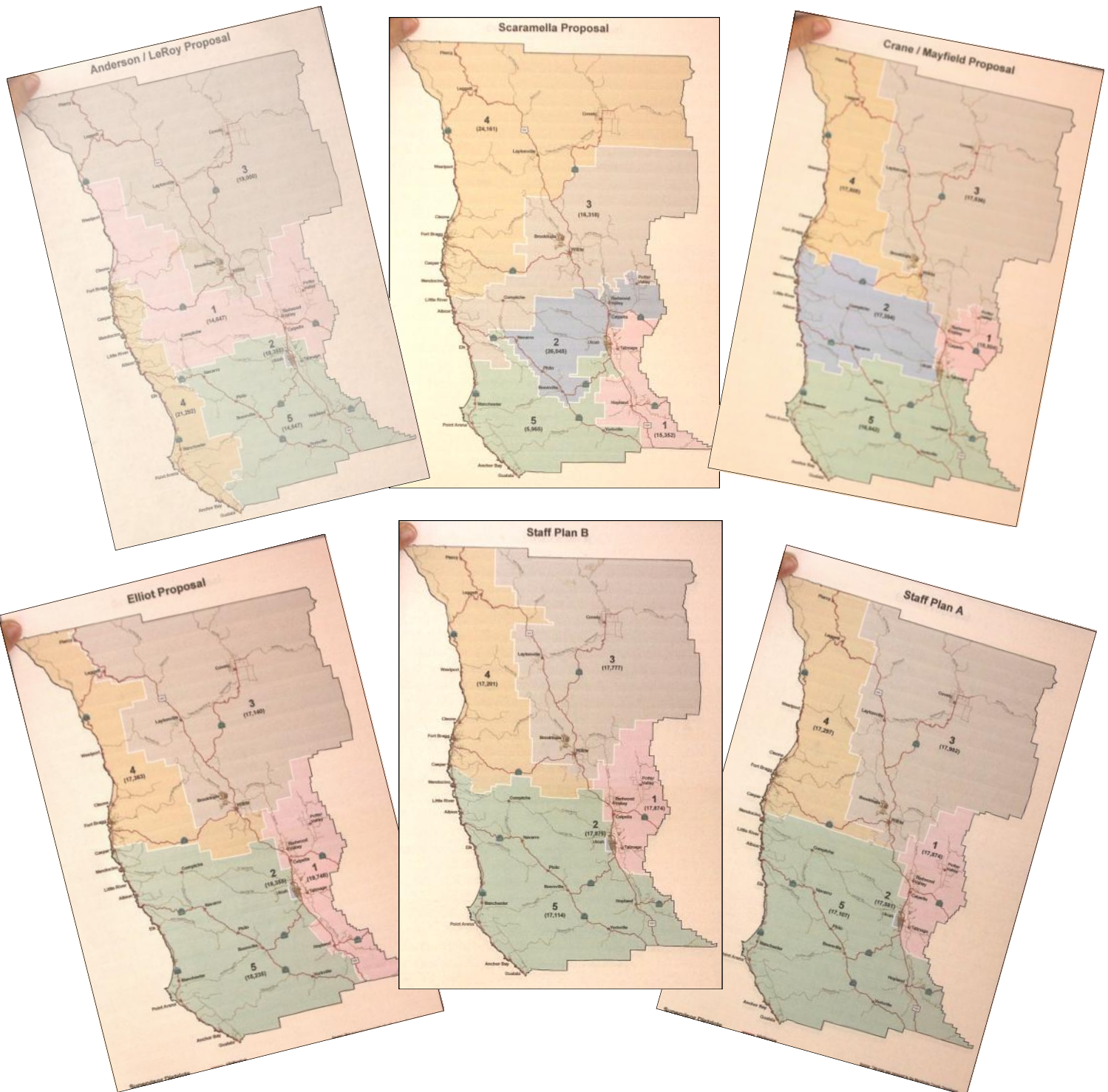
The citizens redistricting committee chair is Jim Mayfield and remaining members are Maribelle Anderson, Eric Crane, Katherine Elliott, Tiffany Gibson, Mark LeRoy, Christian Luiz and Mark Scaramella. Draft maps are available at the public hearings and may be available on the county website before August 1. This citizens committee recommendations are advisory only.

Public hearings have been conducted in Ukiah, Fort Bragg, and Willits and a hearing is scheduled June 22, 2011, in Point Arena. League Member Val Muchowski is the League's official observer. Remaining hearing dates:

Wednesday, June 15	3 p.m. Conference Room C, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah
Wednesday, June 22	5 p.m. Point Arena Library, 225 North Main Street, Point Arena
Wednesday, June 29	3 p.m. Conference Room C, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah
Wednesday, July 6	3 p.m. Conference Room C, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah
Wednesday, July 13	3 p.m. Conference Room C, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah
Wednesday, July 20	3 p.m. Conference Room C, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah
Tuesday, July 26	Time TBD Presentation to Board of Supervisors, Board Chambers,

## Mendocino County—Rolling Out The Preliminary Draft Maps

The Mendocino County citizen advisory committee looks at possibilities for redistricting county supervisorial districts. The goal is five districts with some 17,500 people in each county (based on the 2010 census) with a deviation of less than 3 per cent. The committee also is charged with drawing boundaries that respect geography, typography and communities of interest. The meetings are open to the public and the schedule is on page 5 of this VOTER. The County Board of Supervisors makes the final decision and the committee’s recommendation will be presented to the board at the regular Board of Supervisors meeting July 26, 2011, in Ukiah. Below are some preliminary drafts discussed in early committee meetings.



## How Do Neighboring Counties Approach Redistricting?

*By Susan Mitchell*

All counties in California are redrawing their district boundaries due to population changes reflected in the 2010 US Census.

In Humboldt County according to Carolyn Crnich, the County Clerk, she is working with the planning department using their geographic information system (GIS) to identify where ideally, the new lines should be drawn. They are planning to present the suggestions to the Board of Supervisors in August and then present them to the public for suggestions and input. Like all other counties, the project must be in place by November 1, 2011. Because Humboldt County operates under UDEL (uniform district election law) all elected county officials must be voted on in odd-numbered years – 2011. As a result, the new districts will not be used for this November's election but will be in effect for the 2012 elections. Once the new district lines are approved and put in place, the information will be available on the county website.

Lake County Registrar of Voters, Diane Fridley is going before the county BOS on June 7, 2011, to ask how they would like to proceed. She will be suggesting the county Assessor/Recorder and the Deputy Redevelopment director join with her to make up a three person committee to work with the county Information Technology (IT) department (which has all the GIS information) to redraw district lines. If the Board agrees, the committee will have evening meeting in each of the 5 districts asking for public comment and input. The new lines would, like other counties have the new district lines in place for 2012 elections.

Yolo County has a redistricting advisory committee made up of one person in each of the five districts, appointed by each of the District Supervisors. They will have recommendations to the Board of Supervisors by August 1, 2011, and will adopt the revised boundaries by September 30, 2011. Their newly drawn boundaries will be in effect for the June, 2012, primary elections.

Sonoma County has a three-member advisory committee made up of the Sheriff, District Attorney and the Clerk-Recorder-Assessor overseeing the process. The committee met in April, and expects to have recommendations by early July. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors will then hold at least two public hearings before they approve the final plan by November 1, 2011. Sonoma is one of the local counties that will have lines dramatically changed due to population gains and losses. As a result, many supervisors are having their district lines altered geographically and this seems to be causing some consternation. As one supervisor said, "If you have 2,000 more people from Santa Rosa, that's big," referring to the First District which historically has been the town of Sonoma and Sonoma Valley.

Each county arrives at new supervisorial district boundaries in slightly different ways, but the final decision in every case lies with a county's Board of Supervisors.

## Judy Brooks, A Friend We'll Miss

By Shirley Kirkpatrick

Former League president Judy Brooks died May 30, 2011 in Santa Rosa. A memorial service will be July 16 in the Great Room at Spring Lake Village, Santa Rosa. Our sympathy is extended to Judy's family and cards can be sent to Grace Purcell, 726 Ridgeview Drive, Bozeman, Montana 59718.

Ever since I heard of Judy's recent death, I have been thinking of the impact she has had on our community, as well as my life, and I would like to share some of the gifts she has given us.

When our family moved to the coast 36 years ago we became instant friends. Judy and Don, my husband, spent time together on a committee which was considering the possibility of allowing college classes on the coast to affiliate with the Mendocino College in Ukiah. The committee opted to affiliate with the Community College of the Redwoods in Eureka. Eventually Judy agreed to be on the Board of Trustees. She became a strong advocate for the Coast and drove alone to Eureka almost every month for twenty years before she retired.

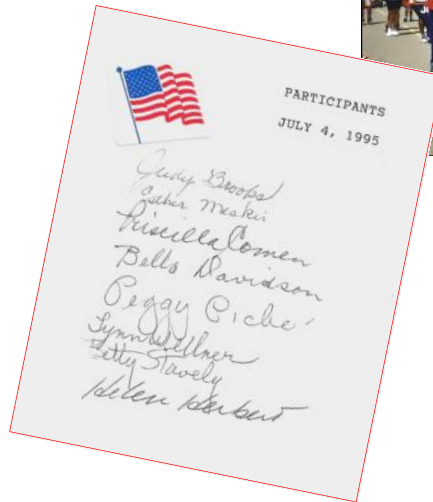
Judy became an early member of the LWV and often served as president. She was a strong leader. Judy routinely practiced her grand piano and was active in the piano workshop directed by Caroline Steinbuck. She was Big Sister to elementary students and would teach them piano and calligraphy.

Judy was also very active in the Elder Hostel organization. She participated in many programs around the world, and at the time she talked us into participating in the Malta program, she had been in thirty-seven different locations. She was also the leader of an Elder Hostel group she established in Mendocino.

Judy and her husband lived a mile east of us on Little Lake Road. They had a healthy vegetable garden and several bee hives. We always had homemade bread when dining with them.

Judy attended political meetings, graduations, board meetings, concerts, plays and visiting speakers. It was difficult to find her in a crowd as she was vertically challenged (her words). She barely touched five feet.

She influenced my life by getting me to join LWV, inviting me to attend piano workshops, to play piano duets together, and she made great recommendations for travel, especially to outstanding elder Hostel programs. We're thankful for her many contributions. We'll miss her.



From the League archives: Former League President Judy Brooks signed in as a participant in the League march in the 1995 Fourth of July Parade in Mendocino Village. Below, Judy connected with her friend, Betty Staveland at last year's annual May League of Women Voters meeting in Mendocino Village.



### 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.

## Marie Jones Outlines Ideas, Concepts, Dreams of GP Property Development At League's Annual Business Meeting



*Fort Bragg Community Development Director Marie Jones and LWVMC President Jane Person at annual meeting*

Marie Jones, Community Development Director of the City of Fort Bragg, was guest speak at the League's Annual Business Meeting May 10, 2011, at the Hill House in Mendocino. Jones outlined possibilities for development of the 400-acre former Georgia Pacific mill site currently owned by Koch Industries, Inc.

Jones has worked closely with city planners and residents to prepare for future cultural, recreational and science and technology development of the property.

At the meeting, League members also adopted a budget, voted for local program positions and elected officers, board members and off-board budget and nominating committee chairs for 2011-2012.

### *You are Cordially Invited*

*Our League Board of Directors Meetings are open to all League members and we welcome your participation in planning and organizing programs, observing public meetings, helping with candidate forums, helping new members and writing for the VOTER. We need your help and welcome you to join us for service on a League committee. Contact is Jane Person at [janeperson@hotmail.com](mailto:janeperson@hotmail.com)*

### *LWVC Convention Elects Officers, Makes Recommendations for 2012*

Jennifer A. Waggoner, of San Francisco, was elected president of LWVC at the state organization's May convention in Ventura.

Other elected officers are 1st Vice President Sharon Holdt, Capistrano; 2nd Vice President Helen Hutchinson, Oakland; Secretary Caroline deLlamas, East San Gabriel Valley; and Treasurer Tom Carson, Glendale/Burbank). Delegates also elected seven directors and three members of the state nominating committee.

Vice President Helen Hutchison also issued an invitation to all California League members to apply to participate in a Initiative and Referendum Update Study approved by convention delegates.

The League will study the process to determine whether members support changes to the current position and will provide material and resources on the initiative and referendum process for community education.

If you would like to apply to be on this state-wide study committee, please contact our Action Chair Barbara Matheson at

[ken@mcn.org](mailto:ken@mcn.org)

References are required as well as a background in research, writing and editing. The application deadline is June 24

**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 are due at the September 20, 2011 opening meeting.**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please send me more information:**

**Name/Names:\_\_\_\_\_**

**Address\_\_\_\_\_**

**City:\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP\_\_\_\_\_**

**Phone\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail:\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please make checks payable to: League of Women Voters of Mendocino County**

And mail to: **LWVMC**

**P.O. Box 1128**

**Fort Bragg, CA 95437**

### **Please Hold These Dates For 2011-2012 League Programs\***

- **Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011 Kickoff 2011-2012 Year**  
Speaker: MUSD Supt. David Miller
- **Tuesday, October 11, 2011**  
The November Elections and Ballot Measures
- **Tuesday, November 15, 2011 (note 3rd Tuesday in November)**  
Ken Matheson leads an all-day presentation and discussion of the national League of Women Voters study about the role of government in public education
- **December—No Program—Happy Holidays**
- **Tuesday, January 10, 2012—LWVC Program Planning**
- **Tuesday, February 14, 2012—A Presentation From the Program Committee with Love**
- **Friday, March 16, 2012—Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials**
- **Tuesday, April 10, 2012—Growing Political Leaders in Mendocino County**
- **Tuesday, May 8, 2012—Annual Business Meeting, Board Election**

**\*Times and Locations to be Announced**

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

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

**[www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)**

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

**Library of Congress  
Legislation Status  
[www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov)**

**Mendocino County  
Public Television  
Meeting Coverage  
[www.mendocoasttv.org](http://www.mendocoasttv.org)**