



## Mendocino Women's Political Coalition 2026 Election Year Endorsements

*Thank you for your interest in seeking an endorsement from the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition. MWPC advocates for women's issues, economic equity, environmental sustainability, and the active participation of women in public life. Endorsed candidates will receive our official support and may receive a campaign donation. Please complete this questionnaire to be considered.*

### Response Format

This questionnaire consists of two parts: this Candidate Information and Contact Form (Part One) and a Question List (Part Two). Please submit both together.

For Part 2, you may respond in any format you choose, as long as your responses are complete and legible. You may type your responses directly into this Word document if you want. Your responses to Part Two will be posted as-is to the MWPC website at [mendocinowomen.org/endorsements/](https://mendocinowomen.org/endorsements/) to share with our members.

**Deadline:** Completed questionnaires must be received by **April 15, 2026**.

Email to: [jmjmj3@comcast.net](mailto:jmjmj3@comcast.net) | **Or mail to:** MWPC, BOX 1140, Ukiah, CA 95482

### PART ONE: CANDIDATE INFORMATION & CONTACT FORM

<b>Name</b>	Patrick M. Pekin
<b>Phone</b>	707-357-8249
<b>Email</b>	info@pekinforjudge.com
<b>Election Date</b>	June 2, 2026
<b>Office Running For</b>	Mendocino County Superior Court Judge
<b>Campaign Name</b>	Patrick Pekin for Judge 2026
<b>Website</b>	www.PekinforJudge.com
<b>Campaign Number*</b>	1489169
<b>Campaign Treasurer Name</b>	Amanda Pekin

\* California campaign committees may obtain a committee ID number by filing Form 410, Statement of Organization, with the California Fair Political Practices Commission. Form 410 must be filed within 10 days of raising \$2,000 or more. For more information, go to <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn.html>.



## Mendocino Women's Political Coalition 2026 Election Year Endorsements

### PART TWO: CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

<b>Candidate Name</b>	Patrick M. Pekin
<b>Office Running For</b>	Mendocino County Superior Court Judge

Please answer each question below. You may type your responses directly into this document, or submit a separate Word document, PDF, or email — as long as all questions are addressed. Whatever you submit will be posted as-is to the MWPC website. Please type your name and the date at the end of your responses before submitting.

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#### 1. Elevator Pitch

**Why are you the best candidate for this office?** Please provide a concise introduction that can be communicated in 30 seconds or less. (One short paragraph)

I have served Mendocino County as a judge since 2021. I hear criminal, family and civil matters every week. I preside over the Behavioral Health and Adult Drug courts; I worked to expand access to both. Currently, I am in the Ten Mile/Coast Court Monday through Wednesday every week and then in Ukiah Thursday and Friday. From 2021-late 2025, I was entirely in Ukiah. For some of that time, I rented an apartment there, from 2023-2025 I commuted daily. I always arrive early, to make sure I am prepared for the day, and I usually work through lunch.

I am endorsed by every sitting Mendocino County Judge and every retired judge from the last 15 years. I am endorsed by most attorneys in the county, both on the Coast and Inland, covering all areas of legal practice. I am proud to be supported by four county supervisors, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, and the Alternate Defender. I am also endorsed by the current Sheriff, the former Sheriff and the Fort Bragg Peace Officers Association. Finally, I am endorsed by fire chiefs from Willits, Fort Bragg, Hopland, The South Coast, Mendocino, Hopland, Westport, Piercy and two battalion chiefs from Ukiah.

I have 23 years of experience in law since passing the Bar in 2003. As a criminal defense attorney, I handled some of the most difficult cases that come to court including homicide, gang cases and in-prison crime. As a judge, I have gained broad experience in every type of case to appear in the Superior Court, and my temperament and performance in the courtroom is a matter of public record. Outside of court, I have a demonstrated commitment to the community through my membership and participation in various public service bodies.

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## 2. MWPC Core Principles

*Please respond to all of the following Core Principles questions in a short statement, noting which you support and explaining any reservations. If you support all of them without reservation, a single clear statement to that effect is also sufficient.*

**Reproductive Choice:** In recent years there has been an orchestrated effort to chip away at women's right to reproductive choice by dividing the issue into sub-issues, including parental consent and public funding of family planning and abortion. Do you support a woman's right to reproductive self-determination and public funding of abortion? If your answer is no, please describe why.

Yes, I support reproductive self-determination. California voters passed Proposition 1 in 2022 which enshrines the right to abortion the Constitution of the State of California. This is the law and California has the authority to regulate its own laws on this issue. As a judge, I am sworn to apply the law.

**Child Care and Dependent Care:** Do you support increased access to childcare and other dependent care programs funded from all available sources?

My wife and I both work and we have three boys, so yes, as a parent I support increased access to childcare. As a judge, however, I am ethically prohibited from commenting on legislation or engaging in political activity. I cannot ethically promise to increase access to childcare because that is not my role. No judicial candidate should comment on or support pending legislation. I am sworn to follow the law as drafted by the Legislature and approved by the Governor.

**Comparable Worth:** Comparable Worth is the effort to bring wages in female-dominated occupations to a level of pay equal to other jobs (often male-dominated) that require comparable skills, responsibilities, and education. Do you support the concept of Comparable Worth?

I support equal pay. My wife is a lawyer and we went to law school together. In my own personal opinion, sex and gender should not be a factor in pay. It is worth noting that the California Fair Pay Act, Labor Code 1197.5, requires equal pay for substantially similar work.

**Support of Ending Discrimination:** Will you make a commitment to ending discrimination based on race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, marital status, socioeconomic status and disability? Do you support Marriage Equality?

California has many laws that prohibit discrimination, for example: the Fair Employment and Housing Act, the Unruh Civil Rights Act, and the California Equal Pay Act. I am committed to applying the law, and as a judge, I cannot advocate for the passage of specific laws. That being said, I am in full agreement with our Declaration of Independence, which states that all [people] are created equal.

**Elimination of Sexual Harassment:** Will you work to ensure that laws and educational programs are in place to eliminate sexual harassment?

I will ensure that laws which are put in place by the Legislature are enforced in my court. California requires judges to attend training for harassment and discrimination, I have attended these training sessions and will continue to do so, as they come up.

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### **3. Campaign Information**

**Describe the demographics of your district.** What are the most pressing issues facing your constituents – particularly any communities or populations that are underserved – and how do you plan to address them?

The Mendocino County Superior Court does not have “Districts”. Mendocino County is a vast county with some areas that are the poorest in the State and others that are comparable to Marin. As with many parts of California, mental health and drug addiction are serious issues facing our county. I have presided over the Behavioral Health Court and Adult Drug Court for several years. I work with the public defender, the district attorney and social services to get people to treatment in order to reduce recidivism. I have expanded access and enrollment to both programs in recent years. I believe that they are an important part of addressing mental health and drug addiction in our county.

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## 4. Personal Information

**Please tell us about yourself (occupation, education, family, community involvement, etc.).**

My wife and I graduated law school from UC Law San Francisco in 2003. We moved to Mendocino County in 2008 and started a law office in 2009. It was tough during the Great Recession. We have three boys and my wife still practices law, albeit in a limited capacity.

I am currently a badged volunteer firefighter with the Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department since 2015. I respond to medical emergencies, traffic accidents and structure fires. I am on the ocean rescue team. I also fought large fires around the State such as the Redwood Complex and August Complex.

I was on the Mendocino County Behavioral Health Advisory committee for two years. I coached the Fort Bragg Mock Trial Team for four years. I worked closely with retired Judges Lehan and Luther and several Coast attorneys to keep the Ten Mile Court from closing during the California 2011-2012 financial crisis.

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## SUBMISSION

By submitting this questionnaire, you confirm that the responses are your own and that you give MWPC permission to post them on the MWPC website at [mendocinowomen.org/endorsements/](http://mendocinowomen.org/endorsements/).

In lieu of a signature, type your name and date below, or at the end of your document, to confirm that these responses are your own and that you authorize MWPC to publish them.

<b>Your Name</b>	<i>Patrick M. Pekin</i>
<b>Today's Date</b>	<i>April 11, 2026</i>

**Return completed questionnaire by April 15, 2026.**

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Or mail to: MWPC, BOX 1140, Ukiah, CA 95482