



MENDOCINO WOMEN'S POLITICAL COALITION

August 2026 Newsletter

Here and There

Wow! We are in a hot election cycle. In the 3 major cities, all three incumbents have filed and are being seriously challenged. A challenge in the Ukiah School Board is also raising some interest. Are we involved? Of course!

The Candidate Forum with the Willits is on September 20th. It will include the Willits City Council and the 3rd District Supervisor Race at the Willits Grange at 2 pm.

The Ukiah Candidate Forum will include the Ukiah School Board, 8 Candidates for the Ukiah City Council and Congressional District 1 at the Ukiah Civic Center at 5:30 pm. Hope you see you there!

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino will have a Fort Bragg Candidate Forum on Thursday, October 1, 6-7:30 at Fort Bragg Town Hall. All Candidate Forums will be recorded and available on the internet. We will have a Zoom pros & cons on ballot measures - not yet scheduled

Members of the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition were invited to say why they are running for office.

Membership

New: Welcome to: Buffey Bourassa, Eric Hart, Gabriel Baca Meza, Dr. Jillian Tatum-Hart, Laura Blanch Limbird, Marilyn Puget, Mary Rose Kaczorowski, Susan Savage

Renew: Are you current? To vote for endorsement, you must be a current member.

Lynda McClure

After being diagnosed with Atrial Fibrillation (A-fib) Lynda spent a few weeks in and out of the hospital in St. Helena and Ukiah. An ablation

was done but A-fib returned.

A TEE Cardioversion is scheduled for early September. Aside from extreme weakness and fatigue, Lynda is doing well and is very grateful for the good wishes and healing thoughts being sent her way.

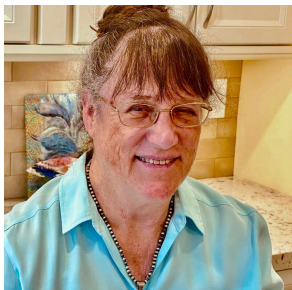
Buffey Wright Bourassa

Buffey Wright Bourassa is a dedicated public servant and candidate for Mendocino County District 3 Supervisor. Her roots in Mendocino County run deep. As a member of the Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians, she has a lifelong connection to the land, people, and communities she seeks to represent.

She has also raised her family here, including four sons, giving her a personal investment in the future she is building for the next generation.

Susan Savage

Greetings from the Mendocino Coast! I am now retired and living in Fort Bragg. Before retiring, I was a political organizer for the California Teachers Association, responsible for working with teachers throughout the Central Valley from the Oregon Border to Bakersfield to elect pro-public education candidates at the local and state level. Before that, I served as CTA field staff for Lake & Mendocino Counties after 20 years as a classroom teacher in Sonoma & Marin Counties. Since retiring, I have served in the leadership of the Mendocino County Democratic Party and the Coast Democratic Club. I also served one term on the Mendocino Coast Healthcare District Board.



Marilyn Puget for MCOE Board



Buffey Bourassa for 3rd District Supervisor

I'm running for Mendocino County District 3 Supervisor because our communities deserve experienced, accessible leadership that listens, shows up, understands how county government works, and is prepared to turn concerns into practical solutions. Over the past 12 years,

I have served Mendocino County in Human Resources, Public Health, Behavioral Health, and now the Sheriff's Office, where as a Program Manager I oversee public funds, contracts, programs, and resources; earlier in my career, I managed multiple program budgets and saw firsthand how county decisions affect employees, families, and the services our communities rely on.



I also served three terms on the Sherwood Valley Rancheria Tribal Council, helping make decisions involving multi-million-dollar budgets, government operations, policy, long-term planning, and

partnerships with other governments and community organizations. From

Willits to Laytonville, Covelo, our Tribal communities, and rural neighborhoods, District 3 is diverse, but we share many of the same priorities: safer roads and stronger infrastructure, public safety, housing, economic opportunity, water security, and responsible stewardship of county finances.

Being Supervisor requires more than attending Board meetings—it requires being present, asking hard questions, listening to different perspectives, understanding the budget, and bringing people together to get things done.

I am asking for your support and endorsement because I bring county government experience, Tribal leadership, fiscal oversight, labor experience, and a proven commitment to this community, and I am ready to put that experience to work building a stronger, more connected District 3.

Mary Rose Kaczorowski for Fort Bragg City Council

I am a candidate for Fort Bragg City Council. Please see the link "Why Vote for Me" at: [August 11, 2026 Mary Rose Kaczorowski for City Council](#) for more information about my background and experience.

I am running for Fort Bragg City Council because I believe my experience and perspective can contribute to thoughtful, informed decisions for our community—and deserve a seat at the table. In addition, my work supporting women and girls includes: UN NGO Representative and International Policy Experience



I have been a UN NGO Representative since 1996, with extensive experience working at the intersection of human rights, women and girls, the environment, climate change, and sustainable development. My current UN NGO work has included engagement with UNECE, the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mari Rodin for Ukiah City Council

I am running for a fifth city council term because the City of Ukiah and the greater Ukiah area are currently grappling with two hugely consequential issues—the future of a reliable water supply via the Potter Valley Project and Ukiah's potential annexation.



The way these issues resolve will determine whether our community will be vital and economically successful in the future or not. Because I am one of the two senior-most members of the council and have a thorough understanding of these issues, I play an active role in both of them.

Regarding the future of the Potter Valley Project, I am the City's representative to Inland Water and Power Commission, which is working hard with our partners in Sonoma County, Round Valley, and Humboldt County to implement the Two-Basin Solution.

With regard to annexation, I am on the City's ad hoc committee, which interacts with the County of Mendocino on this issue, and I sit on Mendocino County's Local Agency Formation Commission. In order for these two issues have the best chance of a positive resolution, I believe that continuity in our council's current policy direction is critical, as is the

institutional knowledge that I bring. I look forward to upcoming candidate forums and any other opportunities where I can elaborate on these and other issues.

Susan Sher for Ukiah City Council

I was elected to the Ukiah City Council in 2022 and currently serve as mayor. Prior to that, I was an attorney representing workers in employment matters and a mediator helping parties resolve conflicts. I enjoy collaborating with others including those with whom I do not necessarily agree.

While our beautiful natural surroundings and thriving arts and civic organizations make Ukiah an ideal place to live, we currently face significant challenges. Councilmembers are tasked with making informed decisions on expansion of city boundaries; economic development; homelessness and housing; fire safety and climate resiliency; and creating opportunities for future generations. Familiarity with these issues is crucial. I come to meetings prepared, do extensive research so I fully understand matters before the Council and am always available to assist constituents with questions or concerns.



I would like to see more public engagement at Council meetings and less reliance on potentially misleading information on social media. Participation in democracy requires people being informed, listening to each other and speaking out on community issues. I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve for a second term so I may continue working towards unifying our community and making Ukiah a place where all are welcome and thrive.

Juan Orozco for Ukiah City Council

I bring eight years of experience serving the residents of Ukiah and a deep commitment to ensuring that all members of our community have a voice in local government. When I first became involved in public service, I recognized that Ukiah's growing Latino population lacked representation on the City Council. I believed it was important for our local government to better reflect the diversity of our community and ensure that everyone had a seat at the table.



My commitment to service began long before I was elected. My father taught me the importance of serving others and dedicated nearly half of his life to helping those around him. His example inspired me to give back to the community that has given so much to my family. I have raised my children in Ukiah, and now I am blessed to have grandchildren growing up here as well. I want them to enjoy the same sense of community, opportunity, and small-town quality of life that has made Ukiah such a special place to call home.

Throughout my eight years of service, including one year as Mayor of Ukiah, I have worked to build consensus, bring people together, and address the issues that matter most to residents. I have also represented the City of Ukiah at several League of California Cities conferences, collaborating with leaders from across the state and bringing valuable ideas and perspectives back to our community. These experiences have prepared me to continue serving with integrity, accountability, and a long-term vision for Ukiah.

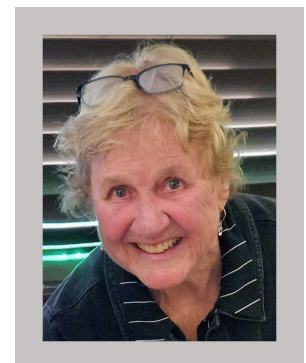
I remain committed to protecting access to clean water, strengthening fire safety, expanding affordable housing opportunities, supporting economic development, and building a more resilient future for our city and future generations.

Tess Albin- Smith for Fort Bragg City Council

Why am I running for city council again? Because I am deeply involved in, and want to finish, projects I helped create to improve the quality of life in this city. These projects include everything from hi-speed internet to city parks to marine science projects and studies.

I want to continue to serve because I believe the best way to serve a community is to get involved. That philosophy has guided my two terms on the Fort Bragg City Council and my service on more than 17 local, regional, and state committees and boards.

I support affordable workforce housing, skilled jobs with benefits, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. And, as one of the first two women hired as a Cal Fire forester, my special interest is in



mentoring and supporting women, especially in non-traditional careers, and especially in politics and science fields.

Women's Equality Day August 26, 2026

Please join me around noon - 4 pm at Santa Rosa Cths. Sq. to publicize Women's Equality Day - Aug. 26th. I'm making a sign from cardboard attached to an old broomstick w/ N.O.W. on one side and E.R.A. on the other side. I like to think of Wo/men as an inclusive word, hence, the diagonal punctuation. As you'll read in the first flyer, rally at your mailbox w/ or w/out others or any plaza/square/mailbox of your choice during Weds., Aug. 26th. This is an important ERA statement: "Wherever you are across the US, wear purple, gold, and/or white for Women's Equality Day." Spread the word and help us push for the inclusion of the Equal Rights Amendment in our Constitution. You may want to continue the day by attending the film Ask E. Jean at Rialto Cinemas in Seb. and staying for the Q/A w/ N.O.W. panelists. Info. below. Ticket link: <https://tinyurl.com/mu75jmuc>
<https://rialtocinemas.com/coming-soon/ask-e-jean-seb/> THANKS,
Marsha Dupree & NOW Son. County Board

Save Act

Four Republicans sided with Democrats to kill voter ID proposal. On Thursday, the Senate rejected an effort to push forward the SAVE America Act, a law supported by President Trump that would implement a restrictive national voter ID standard. Most notably, the law would have required voters to present proof-of-citizenship documents, such as a passport or birth certificate, in order to register to vote, in addition to having to prove their identity, as is currently standard. The act would have also required all voters to present photo ID while voting, restrict options for registering and voting by mail, and would have allowed the Department of Homeland Security to compile a national collection of states' voter rolls in order to root out noncitizens through a process that has been criticized for erroneously flagging citizens.

The Women Saved Hendy Woods

Kathy Bailey was at the Hendy Woods Old Growth Forest Network Induction Ceremony on June 14, 2026 and spoke.

Good morning. Welcome to Anderson Valley and Hendy Woods State Park! I'm Kathy Bailey, Chairperson of the Hendy Woods Community. We are the Park Partner Non-profit associated with Hendy Woods. As some of you will remember, we came together in 2011 when the state of California decided to close 70 parks statewide, including Hendy Woods, which is the only significantly sized public open space in Anderson Valley.

The local reaction was unanimous among every segment of our community. Everybody knew that closing Hendy Woods was a Very Bad Idea. It's rare for any issue to be met with both great interest and unanimous opinion. But I think it is fair to say I never heard anyone local ever say that closing the Park was OK. Thanks to the outpouring of community concern and the creative ways folks found to express our love for the park, one year later, on May 11, 2012, the state announced that Hendy Woods would remain open. I always like to point out that this decision happened well before the state realized that the premise of their overall closure action was wrong and relented about the other parks they had been planning to close statewide.

In fact, it has been local action all along that saved the ancient groves of Hendy Woods and allowed it to become a park in 1963. Fortunately, Joshua Hendy saw the value of keeping some of the old trees growing before he moved on to ship building and other endeavors in the Bay Area. Families living here in the early 20th century loved to spend time in the groves and along the river. Our local Unity Club worked hard to figure out how to permanently preserve the old groves. In their meeting notes, there is a record of an invited speaker from San Francisco in February, 1938, advising them on steps they could take to keep the groves safe. That speaker was from the Save the Redwoods League. The League continues to provide practical and financial assistance, not only with today's event, but, for instance, with helping to fund and plan the upgrading of the Day Use Area we are now sitting in and enjoying. After we Kept Hendy Woods Open, this area went from being a dusty field with a porta-potty whose door was always hanging open, to an area with a paved parking lot, picnic table, BBQs and a decent bathroom facility. So thank you Save the Redwoods League for your continuing interest in Hendy Woods!

Before I close, I want to make sure to acknowledge some other important milestones and people. Through a chain of good luck,

small-town connections, and a willingness to ask for help, some in our community asked our late neighbor in Elk, Kris Kristofferson, if he would perform to raise awareness of the threat to the park. He agreed. But this concert was only able to happen because the Mendocino Music Festival was willing to donate the use of their big tent for a night with Kris and talented producer, composer, and singer Bill Bottrell. It seems likely that the star-power of that event was a very helpful nudge in the Department's decision to Keep Hendy Woods Open!

Finally, I want to acknowledge the role played by the Occupy Hendy Woods folks, and importantly, the role played by Loren Rex, who at the time was the District Superintendent of the Mendocino Sector. Loren could have just called the Sheriff and had the Occupy folks, who were camping out here in the meadow, rounded up and arrested. But instead, he worked with the Occupy leadership to create a sanctioned event, complete with insurance and a permit. Loren's kind and positive leadership during this time cannot be overstated.

Any of us who have been involved with forest conservation knows that no tree or grove is ever permanently safe. We need to stay vigilant. So today we welcome more eyes and attachment to our ancient groves by welcoming our entry into the Old Growth Forest Network. The more folks who can spring into action when needed, the better. So Welcome Old Growth Forest Network. If Hendy Woods needs help, you'll be hearing from us!

250 Years Ago

Two hundred and fifty years ago, as the men who would found this nation argued over liberty and self-governance, one woman — watching from the edges of history — sent a letter that changed everything. Her name was Abigail Adams.

Her husband, John, was at the Continental Congress. She was running the farm, raising their children, and managing a household in wartime. And she wrote him a letter that contained three words now famous across two and a half centuries:

Remember the Ladies.

But most Americans stop there. They don't read what came next — and what came next is the part that matters most.

“Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.”

- Abigail Adams, 1776

She didn't ask. She warned. She promised rebellion. She declared that women would not be bound by laws made without them.

That was 1776.

The Equal Rights Amendment — which would make sex discrimination unconstitutional— has been ratified by 38 states, the exact number required.

But, 250 years later, Congress has yet to formally affirm it as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution.

Abigail Adams is still waiting. And so are you and I.

Delynne Harris Rogers

Delynne Harris Rogers, 73, of Ukiah, California passed away peacefully on June 11, 2026 surrounded by her family at Policlinico Umberto Hospital in Rome, Italy after suffering a cardiac arrest. Delynne was born on November 21, 1952 in Berkeley, California.

In 1982, Delynne and John Rogers moved to Ukiah to raise a family and pursue their careers. Delynne worked as a dental hygienist for 44 years (38 years in Ukiah) a career she loved due to the personal and professional connections with her patients. In 2000, Delynne's unconditional love for her family and a desire to build a more inclusive world, she became a passionate advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. She founded Ukiah PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and was president of PFLAG for 20 years.

In 2014, Delynn received a "Woman of the Year" award for her advocacy work for LGBTQ+ from the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition which celebrates women of character, courage, and commitment. In her final years and months, Delynn continued her work by connecting high school students to scholarships and local organizations to grants funded by the Rykken-Scull LGBT memorial fund. The grant funding supported this year's Pride events including: Ukiah Pride, Art Center Ukiah June art exhibit, Fort Bragg Pride, and Mendocino County Safe Space Project.

A Celebration of Life is set for October 10, 2026 at 2 pm at SPACE Theater.

Youth Empowerment Commissioner Application 2026

Calling all California youth! The Youth Empowerment Commission invites young Californians to apply for the Youth Empowerment Commissioner positions. This is an opportunity to develop leadership skills, influence positive change, and help build a stronger, more vibrant community for youth ages 14-25 who live, work, or attend school in California. Nicole Glentze at nqlentzer@gmail.com

No Offshore Oil Drilling Letters must be submitted by August 22.

Now is the time to speak up. Write a letter and make your concerns heard!

Everyone can make a difference. Please take a few minutes to submit a public comment and urge decision-makers to protect our coast from offshore oil drilling.

For others residing outside of Mendocino County-revise your letter accordingly to your coastal area!

To register a public comment regarding the expansion of oil drilling off our coast, the deadline is August 22, 2026. You can email your comments to NOAA's Office for Coastal Management at czma.california-evaluation@noaa.gov

For Coastal residents in opposition, here is a sample letter, cut and paste parts, or write your own:

Subject: Comments on Performance Evaluation of the California Coastal Management

Dear NOAA Office for Coastal Management,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any expansion of offshore oil drilling leases off the California coast.

I have lived on the Mendocino coast in (city you live) California. Our community is a coastal town that depends entirely on the health of our ocean. Our local economy relies heavily on commercial and recreational fishing, as well as a thriving ecotourism industry. Visitors come from all over the world to experience our pristine marine environment, including our unique coastal trails, tide pools, and whale watching.

Allowing offshore drilling directly threatens our livelihood in the following ways:

- * **Economic Devastation:** A single oil spill would ruin our local fisheries and halt coastal tourism, causing severe financial harm to our small businesses and working families.

- * **Habitat Destruction:** Routine drilling operations pollute local waters and disrupt the delicate marine ecosystems that sustain our fish populations.

- * **Visual and Environmental Impact:** Industrial energy infrastructure contradicts the natural beauty that drives our ecotourism economy.

For the future of Fort Bragg and the entire California coast, I urge NOAA to prioritize robust coastal protections and reject any new offshore drilling initiatives. The California Coastal Management Program must remain committed to safeguarding our coastal economies and marine resources from the risks of fossil fuel extraction.

Thank you for your time and for considering the feedback of our coastal communities.

Sincerely, [Your Name] (address and city you live)

Mary Rose Kaczorowski

New Endorsement Policy

Endorsement information will be sent out. There will be no recommendation by the viewers of the Candidate Forums. All Forums will be available on line. Members will vote. Only candidates who return questionnaires will be eligible to be endorsed. 60% of the vote for candidates who have not been endorsed. 50% +1 will endorse a previously endorsed candidate.

League of Women Voters of Mendocino

Please help share this Action Alert on SB 1164 and SB 1360 (Cervantes), which make up the California Voting Rights Act of 2026. LWV California (LWVC) is a strong co-sponsor of these bills as part of our work with the California Democracy Partnership. This crucial bill package would help protect against voting discrimination and ensure fair participation and opportunity.

We need your help getting this bill across the finish line! Please complete the action alert and share in your networks.

California Propositions

- 1 Affordable Housing Bond
- 2 Rainy Day increase
- 3 High Earner Income Tax Permanent
- 4 Public Campaign Finance
- 5 Recall Election Reform
- 37 Home Buying Loan Bond Middle Class
- 38 Immunology Research Bond

40 Billionaire Tax

39 Voter ID

41 Hamstring Billionaire Tax if passed

42 Hamstring Billionaire Tax if passed

43 Raise vote threshold Special tax measures

44 Clinic spend 90% on direct patient care

45 Amend CEQA

Tekla Broz

Mendocino County Rapid Response Network

Here is their website. [https://www.mer](https://www.mendocinorapidresponse.org/)

