

## Calendar

### December 9

**Women's Wednesday**  
Patrona's, in Ukiah.  
5 pm.  
No Agendas  
Just Strong Women Talk

### December 13

**NWPC Holiday Party**  
Mary Ann Villwock's,  
1580 James St. in Ukiah.  
462-3059.  
Potluck.  
Bring friends.

### January 9

**Candidate Training.**  
Ukiah TBA  
9:30 - 4 pm  
Trainers: Val  
Muchowski, Estelle  
Clifton, Susanne LaFaver

### January 14

**Meet the Women  
Judge Candidates.**  
Ukiah TBA

### January 30-31

**NWPC State Board**  
Los Angeles

### March 14

**27th Annual Women's  
History Celebration**  
"Write Women Back  
into History"  
Ukiah.  
Doors open at 1:30 pm.  
Program from 2 -4 pm.  
TBA

## Mendocino Happenings

**December 9** – Women's Wednesday  
Women's Wednesday! Patrona's, Ukiah. 5pm.  
No Agendas - Just Strong Women Talk

**December 13** - NWPC Holiday Party at Mary Ann  
Villwock's, 1580 James St. in Ukiah. Potluck. 462-  
3059. Bring friends.

**January 9** - Candidate Training. Learn more about  
how campaigns are run. If you are a candidate bring  
your supporters and get an overview of how to run a  
campaign and develop a network of supporters.  
Fundraising, Endorsements, Grassroots development.  
Online campaigning. And lots more. Trainers: Val  
Muchowski, Estelle Clifton, Susanne LaFaver in  
Ukiah. TBA

**January 14** – Meet the Judge Candidates. After years  
of trying to get a woman judge elected in her own  
right, we now have two excellent candidates for  
judge. The NWPC, which is a network of political  
involved women, have set up an opportunity to get  
to know them better. We are sponsoring an evening  
meeting in Ukiah for members to talk to them and  
hear their views. TBA

**March 14** - 27th Annual Women's History  
Celebration, "Write Women Back into History"  
featuring Local Heroes who have made a difference  
in their communities and Political Luminaries who  
will enlighten us about the political landscape. Don't  
forget Music, Dance and Poetry. Will be in Ukiah.  
Doors open at 1:30 pm. Program from 2 -4 pm.  
TBA

## Election of Officers

We will be electing officers for NWPC Mendocino  
in January. If you would like to join the NWPC  
Executive Board please contact Katarzyna Rolzinski  
at 468-9003.

## MENDOCINO COUNTY JUDICIAL ELECTION

There is a good chance that the number of  
women sitting as judges on the Superior Court of  
Mendocino County will double as of our next local  
election in June 2010. Mendocino County has 8  
Superior Court Judges who serve for terms of 6 years.  
Currently, Presiding Judge Cindee Mayfield is the  
only woman on our local bench. Judge Mayfield  
and Judge David Nelson are due to stand for re-  
election in 2010 but, to date, no attorney has indicated  
an intention to challenge either of them.

A vacancy on the bench is being created by Judge  
Leonard LaCasse's announcement that he will not  
seek re-election when his term ends next year. Since  
Judge La Casse will be serving out his term, his  
successor will be elected by the voters of the entire  
county rather than being appointed by the governor,  
as is the case when a judge retires in the middle of a  
term.

Three local lawyers have announced their intention  
to run for this seat, officially designated as Superior Court  
No. 1. These candidates are Ann Moorman, Caren  
Callahan, and David Basner. Both of the women  
candidates are members of our caucus. Thus, this election  
holds special interest for us. An opportunity to meet these  
candidates and to assess their qualifications will be  
January 14th in Ukiah.

*Mary Ann Villwock*

## Coast NWPC Open House

What a beautiful day on the coast!!! Everyone  
seemed happy and most appreciative of Patti Darland and  
all that she did.

I could totally feel your spirit with us all the time at  
Patti's home — I think everyone who knows you, Val,  
could feel you there with us. Patti's home was beautifully  
set up with two parking attendants and caterers and a  
winery there to pour and a pianist.

Twenty-four women in attendance — that's how  
many signed in, anyway

\$241 from the Silent Auction — I was up until  
4:00a.m. finishing the fringes on my scarf — Mary Ann  
Villwock got it.

\$148 from passing the beautiful black hat that you  
gave me — see this is your legacy, passing the hat!

Mary Ann & I got the traditional circle going at about  
3:10 and we talked about NWPC and had all of the  
electeds, candidates, and former candidates speak as well  
as the other attendees. We talked about our mission, our  
events, and how we help candidates — and the  
endorsement process.

So, I think it was a wonderful, successful event for  
bringing forth the coast women, our current candidates,  
and interfacing the inland women with the coast women  
— and for everyone to meet and mix and enjoy the  
loveliness — under the tent of NWPC — what a beautiful  
tent, too.

*Katarzyna Rolzinski*

Thank you Patricia Jauregui-Darland for the terrific  
fund raising event hosted in your gorgeous Mendocino  
home Sunday, Nov. 1.

The weather was perfect and all who turned out really  
enjoyed themselves!

It was great to meet and greet local elected women  
and candidates. Good luck to new candidates! When  
women run, all women win!!

In Val's absence, State Rep Katarzyna Rolzinski  
passed the hat for additional cash donations.

Thank you all for a successful event and gathering  
of political women!

*Susanne La Faver*

Val was in Tucson enjoying the desert but missing the  
women

*Val Muchowski*

## HELLO EVERYONE!!

I can hardly believe a year has almost gone by since  
I assumed the seat of First District Supervisor. I thought  
I knew a lot about County government and I did. However,  
in this first year I have learned about the inner workings

A publication of the National Women's Political Caucus of Mendocino County, PO  
Box1440, Ukiah, CA 95482-1140. Published 6 times a year. Editor - Val Muchowski

Do you have an item to include in the next newsletter?

Call Val Muchowski (895-3543), or e-mail it to valmuchowski@yahoo.com

I never knew, thought about or been involved with. The procedure and process by which the Board of Supervisors (BOS) does business also threw me another curve I wasn't expecting. I do feel now I have my feet solidly on the ground having gone through the first year whirlwind and better understand what it takes to do the work I promised constituents I would do as their elected representative.

Going into office on January 5th, I was assigned to serve on 12 boards and commissions, two BOS standing committees and one ad hoc committee that eventually multiplied to three. Besides volumes of reading, research and fact-finding for these responsibilities, I have been committed to attend as many meetings as possible of special districts within my area, meet with constituents on a wide array of issues, assist with grassroots initiatives and take part in the many activities/events around our beautiful County. It has been a very challenging year given the downturn in the economy, the shortfall in revenues bringing about difficult budget decisions and the evaluation of the overall financial well being of Mendocino County. The severe drought faced by all constituents in the Russian River watershed was and continues to be a priority issue for me. All these challenges will likely continue in the coming year and well beyond by all indications.

I do feel I have made a difference on how the First District Supervisor works with fellow board members, with County departments, with constituents and on the resolution of key issues.

I want to publicly acknowledge and thank other elected and appointed County officials along with numerous department heads who have helped me through the County maze and educated me along the way during my first year in office. I especially want to thank County Counsel Jeanine Nadel and the Clerk of the Board Kristi Furman for their guidance. Both present and retired Mendocino County employees are truly to be commended for keeping good faith and morale high during these trying times.

Last, but not least, I am thankful to all of you who have had a listening ear, given me good advice and loads of encouragement when I was feeling overwhelmed.

In the coming year the BOS will continue their updates on planning documents as revenue and staff resources allow. Now that the General Plan is adopted, 24 applicants are continuing in the process to complete their rezoning applications. Planning and Building staff is still working to complete the 2009 Housing Element through the adoption process. The Ukiah Valley Area Plan (UVAP), along with the completion of the associated EIR is back up and staff has set an aggressive timeline for completion by June 1, 2010. The Mendocino Town Plan will be initiated at the conclusion or near conclusion of the UVAP. Because of staffing and funding resources, the comprehensive Local Coastal Plan update was not programmed for 2009/2010 year. However, the BOS directed staff to address the issues in the Noyo Harbor proposing an interim policy that would provide for individual cases of proposed uses, yet retain the Fishing Village component to each parcel. Staff was also directed to work with the Air Quality Management District to secure funding and commence the preparation of a greenhouse gas assessment for the County.

Many boards, commissions and councils have vacancies. Contact your District Supervisor if you are interested in serving. For the latest list the Clerk of the Board's office can help you and applications are available on the County website. The BOS considers appointments at the first meeting of each month. The next date is January 5, 2010.

Financial challenges for the 2009/2010-year will continue. The 2010/2011-year doesn't appear to be better according to all information available to date. Local government continues to struggle with budget shortfalls and unfunded mandates. The County, Cities and School Districts are left wondering what funds the State will raid next. Numerous major proposals to reform California government are being debated with a deadline fast approaching for submittal to the State in order to gather the needed signatures to qualify for the 2010 ballot. It is extremely important that we educate others and ourselves about each initiative that qualifies. Stay tuned.....

I send season greetings to all. I am honored to serve the people of Mendocino County.

Sincerely,  
Carre Brown, First District Supervisor



NWPC	Mendocino County	Executive Board
Chair	Val Muchowski	895-3543
Vice Chair - Inland	Mary Ann Villwock	462-3059
Vice Chair - Coast	Patricia Darland	937-1798
Treasurer	Estelle Clifton	462-6620
Secretary	Arleen Shippey	462-7173
State Board of Directors	Katarzyna Rolzinski	468-9003
PAC Treasurer	Lynda McClure	
Membership	Estelle Clifton	462-6620

### National NWPC Report

#### Dear Northern California NWPC Caucuses:

I attended my second national board meeting November 7-8, 2009, in Washington, DC. It was the first full board meeting since the biennial convention last August in Newport Beach.

New goals and budget were approved. With NWPC almost 40 years old, we discussed how to move our organization forward and accomplish the real work of electing women to political office.

Top 2010 priorities:

1. Fundraising
2. Effective membership
3. Visibility and communications

Action taken by the National Board:

1. Approved change to candidate endorsement policy: The declared policy and mission of the National Women's Political Caucus is to promote the election of women; therefore, there will be no process for considering male candidates in political races under any circumstances.
2. Endorsed ERA Once and For All, a national movement with the mission statement that includes:
  - \* support all strategies for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment
  - \* distribution of information on the current status of the ERA
  - \* education on the history of the ERA

Next full board meeting is May 1-2, 2010, tentatively in North Carolina.

Susanne LaFaver

Northern California National Representative  
susanne.lafaver@att.net Phone/fax: (707) 987-1142

### Mendocino Coast Children's Fund

I will be retiring from my seat of six years on the Mendocino Unified School Board this December 1 but my interest in community building continues with my volunteer work as Executive Director of the Mendocino Coast Children's Fund. We are doing an outreach to the community to fund hundreds of low income children who reside on the coast from Rockport to Gualala and inland to Comptche with Winter Warmth Sleeping Bags, needed items of winter clothing, shoes and holiday toys and games. These items are being distributed through local non profits and public agencies up and down the coast.

Please let folks know they can help us make the holidays warm and wonderful for kids by going to our web page [www.mccf.info](http://www.mccf.info) or contacting us at Mendocino Coast Children's Fund, P O Box 1616, Mendocino, CA 95460. Please read our latest newsletter written by D'Ann Garcia on our home page and donate if you can.

The MCCF children will be the beneficiaries of the Fort Bragg Holiday Lights Parade that will be sponsored by the Fort Bragg Fire Department and the North Coast Hot Rodder's Club on the evening of December 5, 2009 starting at the Fort Bragg Depot at 7 pm. Lastly, please let the entire community know that the CV Starr Aquatic Center is open, staffed and is a wonderful opportunity for young and old alike to swim and exercise. It is a beautiful facility and it is open for business. The schedule is on line at [http://www.mendocoastrec.org/aquatic\\_center.html](http://www.mendocoastrec.org/aquatic_center.html) and the pool is open seven days a week.

Happy holidays to all.  
Gloria Liner,  
President  
Mendocino Coast  
Children's Fund  
P O Box 1616  
Mendocino, CA  
95460



P.O. Box 1918 Fort Bragg, CA 95437 Tel 707/964-0118

### Nancy C. Nanna, MSW

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*Ms. Judy Pruden  
Ukiah Historical Specialist  
Bldg. Preservation & Research  
304 South Hortense  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
707-462-4945*

### Membership

**New Members:** Shannon Cox, Katherine Elliott, Noreen Evans, Carol Gottfried, Terry Gross, Mary Ann Landis, Carole Loudd, Holly Madrigal, Wendy Roberts

**Thank You Renewals:** Carre Brown, Jody Cole, Katharine Cole, Meg Courtney, Betty Malmgren, Ann Moorman, Nancy Nanna, Wendy Pollitz, Mary Ann Villwock

**Due in December:** Judy Campbell, Patricia Darland, Pat Ford, Martha Hyde, Marj Moore, Dorothy Sugawara, Irma Turner, Maggie Watson, Sallie Werson, Joe Louis Wildman

**Due in January:** Linda Bailey, Rachel Binah, Jone Lemos, Janet Seaforth, Diane Zucker

**Due in February:** Kathy McDonald, Anne Molgaard, Sonja Nesch, Janet Orth, Katarzyna Rolzinski,

### Noreen Evans

California Assemblywoman Noreen Evans, candidate for state Senate in California's 2nd Senate district, is a reform-minded Democrat working to put Californians back to work and make California government perform for Californians again.

A Bay Area native, daughter of a Marine Corps drill sergeant and product of California public schools and its state university system, Evans is committed to an economic development and education agenda to restore the California dream for working people and families. She is running for Senate because she believes that cherished values that made California a beacon and a great place to grow up and raise a family need experienced champions in Sacramento.

"I'll make sure I do everything I can to protect and renew the quality of life that made California known as the Golden State," Evans said.

As a state legislator since 2004, Evans has consistently fought for priorities most valued by Californians—education, health care, state parks, agriculture and open space, open and transparent government, support for foster children and for services that allow the disabled and elderly to live lives of dignity in their own homes.

Evans was raised in the Bay Area town of Livermore and spent her summers in Laytonville working in her grandparents grocery market, the A1 Food Store on Highway 101. At the end of the summer, she and her grandparents would do her back-to-school shopping at the J.C. Penney in Willits.

For Evans, summer vacations were camping trips to nearby Standish-Hickey State Park in Leggett where she and her family would hike, fish and swim on the south fork of the Eel River, a tradition she has continued with her own children.

Evans worked her way through college and law school, earning a bachelor's degree from Cal State University Sacramento and a Juris Doctorate from McGeorge Law School at University of Pacific in Stockton. Like many attorneys of today, she was inspired to the law by

the film To Kill a Mockingbird and Atticus Finch's defense of a wrongly accused black man in the Depression-era South.

After law school, she studied international law at the University of Austria in Salzburg.

In 1982, Evans moved to Santa Rosa where she started a family and practiced law as a litigation attorney representing plaintiffs and defendants in civil cases in state and federal courts. She has spent her entire career meeting the challenges faced by all working parents.

Her public policy and political career began with appointment to the Santa Rosa Planning Commission in 1993. In 1996, she was elected to the City Council and helped lead the charge for passage of one of the state's first smart growth measures. Approved by Santa Rosa voters in 1996, Measure G encouraged housing and commercial development in urban areas while protecting open space, supporting development of parks and preserving agricultural land.

As a political leader, Evans works to make it possible again for all Californians to pursue their dreams, whatever the obstacles.

As chair of the Assembly Budget Committee since 2008, Evans has been the legislative point person fighting to preserve basic human services, maintain state parks and prevent extremists from using the current economic crisis to reverse California's environmental and workplace protections. She successfully fought against the recent attempt to re-introduce offshore drilling to California's coastline.

Evans serves on the California Coastal Conservancy, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Select Committee on Foster Care. She chairs the Assembly Select Committee on California Wine.

Today, she and her dog Marley live in downtown Santa Rosa. Her son Joel is a student at Sonoma State University, her daughter Rachel is a student at CSU Long Beach, and her daughter Erin is a student at McGeorge School of Law.

### Wendy Roberts

Wendy Roberts holds an MBA from the University of San Francisco and an AB from Stanford University, where she graduated with honors in Psychology and Communication. She was among the founders of Peninsula Oral School for the Deaf and worked in non-profit management and development from 1980 through 2004, including ten years at Stanford University, five at University of San Francisco and more than a decade of consulting with Bay Area and Mendocino County non-profits including the North Coast Rural Challenge Network and Mendocino County Office of Education. Wendy has participated in many community and professional organizations including two terms as president of the Knolls of Belmont Homeowners Association and one as a member of the Belmont Heights Neighborhood Association. She trained and volunteered as a Nature Education docent and leadership team member at the FILOLI National Trust property in



## Jone Lemos

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## LINNEA MATTHEWS, MSN, FNP

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

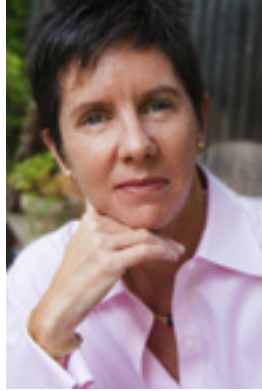
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Woodside and is a U.C. Agricultural Extension Master Gardener Volunteer at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. She served on the Mendocino County Grand Jury from July 2007 through June 2009 and is currently a member of the Temple of Kwan Tai Board of Directors and the Mendocino Historical Review Board. She lives in Mendocino with Don, her husband of 26 years. Between them, they have four children and six grandchildren.

**Why You Should Elect Caren Callahan as Your Next Superior Court Judge**

I believe all those who appear in court, including attorneys, clients and those representing themselves, should be treated with dignity and respect. After almost 20 years in private practice, I have decided to seek the open judicial seat in District One, which is a nonpartisan county-wide elected position. I care passionately about the law, the legal system, and those that use the legal system, whether it is a civil disagreement or a criminal matter. I bring a wide range of experience to this position as a former law enforcement officer, an attorney with a civil practice, a mediator, judge protem, pro bono advocate and arbitrator. I have the temperament necessary to be a judge – unbiased, fair, patient, willing to listen impartially and able to apply the law to the evidence. A judge is faithful to the law. The task of a judge is not to make law, it is to apply law. The process of judging is the process of keeping an open mind. My personal and professional experiences help me listen and understand, with the law always commanding the rule in each case, enabling me to render justice fairly to each party. These attributes will allow me to serve the people of Mendocino County with the integrity and professionalism this position requires.



**Holly Madrigal**

I am happy to announce my candidacy for 3rd District Supervisor to the NWPC membership. I am building on my record of energetic leadership offering fresh creative solutions to our local issues, as well as a proven accessibility to my constituents. My experience serving as Mayor and City Councilwoman has made me an effective leader for Willits, and I look forward to expanding that advocacy to the North County's 3rd District.



I was raised in Willits, and returned to the area with my husband, Gabe, after graduating with a degree in Business Management and Economics from UC Santa Cruz. I serve on numerous boards and community organizations including the coordinating committee of Willits Economic Localization (WELL), Willits Shop Local First, the Economic Development and Finance Corporation (EDFC), and the Commonwealth Community Farm at Howard Hospital. As Mayor, I started regular "office hours" every week with a table at the Thursday Farmers Market, "providing a model of open government" and a chance to collect public input from many who don't regularly attend city meetings.

I was reelected to a second term on the Willits City Council with the help of NWPC, and I want to thank local NWPC members for going door to door on my behalf during the last city council campaign. Your support for myself and other local female candidates has been wonderful. This is a

key moment in the history of Mendocino County. Fiscal challenges are substantial, but we also have a great opportunity to support and develop a sustainable local economy, and to create the future we want. There is a new generation of leadership that we can engage in our communities. We are working for a victory in the June election, so I will join you all at the polls on June 8th. You may reach me via email at holly4supervisor@gmail.com or visit my website at www.holly4supervisor.com to learn more. One easy way to support the Holly Madrigal for Supervisor campaign right now? Become a supporter on my Facebook page Holly4Supervisor.

**MEREDITH LINTOTT**

After primary, general and "special" elections, in 2007 the voters of Mendocino elected me as District Attorney. I made promises to the people of our county that, if elected, I would make prosecution of violent crime and protection of victims of violent crime a priority, that I would work collaboratively with law enforcement and other agencies to prevent crime and to protect our children, and that I would provide ethical and responsible leadership, I have kept my promises and ask for your vote to continue my work.



**Public Safety First**

During my tenure, murderers, child abusers, gangsters, and drug dealers have been convicted and sent to prison. Crimes involving domestic violence are now being prosecuted. In 2007 and 2008, all cases filed by the District Attorney's office were up about 11% each year over 2006. And felony filings for 2007 and 2008 exceeded the average number of felonies filed for the period 2000 through 2006 by 37%.

I received a recognition award from Crime Victims' United in Sacramento in 2008 and I am currently the Chairperson of the statewide California District Attorneys' Association Domestic Violence Committee. In 2009, I reinstated the Crime Victim's Luncheon to honor and remember the victims of crime.

**Crime Prevention & Collaboration**

Our youth are receiving direction through interagency collaboration. Programs like AIM (Attendance Improvement Monitoring) launched in 2007 and IMPACT, launched in 2008, a program implemented by our Probation Department, develops life skills for juvenile offenders. These are steering our children away from crime and toward productive, meaningful lives. I worked with our legislators in Sacramento in 2009 to restore funding to important grant programs like these. And, through interagency cooperation, I sponsored the first Intergovernmental Agreement for crime prosecution with the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians. Because of a rise in home invasion robberies and in an effort to make our neighborhoods safer, I supported the passage of Measure B to limit the amount of medical marijuana allowed to be grown.

**Effective Leadership**

Despite deep budget cuts, prosecution of crimes has increased and important training for prosecutors as well as vital support for victims of crime has continued. Upon assuming office, I found vacant attorney positions, which I have filled. As a result of the unionization of the attorneys, new civil service classifications were developed and progressive and equitable discipline has been implemented a new concept for previously "at will" attorneys. A key vacancy occurred due to the criminal actions of the fiscal officer that left me in charge of additional duties including the preparation of the 2007-2008 budget. As a result of our negotiation of the MCM settlement funds, my office now has funding for and has hired a prosecutor dedicated to environmental/elder abuse crime.

Mine is a record of promises kept and progress made toward a better safer Mendocino County for our children and our responsible citizens. I want to continue this work and ask for your vote of confidence.

**For**  
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### Michela Aliota Pier

Dear fellow Californian,

Americans want health reform that delivers affordable healthcare to all Americans without denying needed services. The legislation recently passed by the House of Representatives doesn't do that because it includes an amendment by anti-choice Congressman Bart Stupak that limits women from accessing the full range of reproductive health services.

That's why I introduced a resolution to put San Francisco on record in opposition to the Stupak Amendment and directing the City to act on behalf of women.

After Congress passed the anti-choice amendment, Congressman Stupak said "My goal has always been to ensure that the voices of the

majority of Americans who oppose federal funding for abortion were heard in this important debate."

Now it's our turn.



In San Francisco, I'm fighting to ensure that the voices of women, San Franciscans and all Californians are heard. In Sacramento, I'll work to ensure that women have access to the health insurance they need to protect all of their family planning and reproductive health needs.

I am privileged to represent a district where many constituents have financial resources. Most of the people I grew up with will never have to worry about access. So many of the legislators supporting the Stupak Amendment come from the same circumstances. That's why it is morally wrong to use our position to deny low-income women access to reproductive choice.

I've given birth to three beautiful children; it's why I know that women must be able to choose whether and when to start a family. I believe in the right to choose, and know that San Francisco - and all of California - must lead the way.

With women's health being attacked at the national level, it makes it even more important to be vigilant here in California. As the first female Insurance Commissioner in California history, I will make sure our voices are heard and our rights are protected.

Thank you for your support for women in San Francisco - and nationally.

*Supervisor Michela Aliota-Pier*

### CALIFORNIA'S REDISTRICTING COMMISSION DON'T LET YOUR COMMUNITY BE DRAWN OUT OF THE PROCESS

#### What is Redistricting and Why Should Our Community Care?

Redistricting is the once-in-a-decade opportunity to redraw the State's legislative districts. This single act may do more to influence the make-up of the Legislature and its agenda over the next 10 years than all of the elections during that period combined. Every single policy issue is affected by who is elected to the Legislature, and every single legislative election for the next decade is affected by redistricting. It's that simple.

For the first time, this critical task will not be performed by elected officials but by a new Citizens Redistricting Commission. Those communities that participate will have more power to shape the state than ever before; those that do not will allow others to decide who will represent them for the next decade.

### What is the Citizens Redistricting Commission?

The newly formed 14-member Commission will consist of 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 4 individuals who are Independents or members of a third party. The goal is to create a commission that is representative of California's diversity including racial, ethnic, geographic, economic, and gender characteristics. The Commission will be selected in 2010 and will do most of its work to redraw State Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalizations districts in 2011.

#### How Can Members of Our Community Apply?

Applications will be accepted by the State from December 15, 2009 to February 12, 2010. Applicants must provide background information, answer four short essay questions about their qualifications and interest in serving, and gather three letters of recommendation. The top applicants will be asked to participate in interviews in the summer, and final selections will be announced in December 2010.

Additional information, as well as the online application when it becomes available, can be found at: [www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov](http://www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov). What Types of People from Our Community Can Serve?

A person must (1) have been registered continuously with the same political party for at least 5 years; and (2) have voted in 2 out of the last 3 state general elections.

Prior experience with redistricting, while beneficial, is not a requirement to be on the Commission.

#### Who from Our Community Can't Serve?

Staff or consultants (or immediate family members) to the Governor or any member of the Legislature, Congress, or State Board of Equalization, or anyone under contract with any of those governmental entities, cannot serve. In addition, an individual cannot serve who, in the last 10 years, has done any of the following:

- \* Run for or been elected to federal or state office;
- \* Been appointed to a board or commission by the Governor, a Legislator, or Member of Congress;
- \* Served as an officer, employee, or consultant of a political party or candidate campaign for state or federal office;
- \* Served as a member of a political party central committee;
- \* Been a registered lobbyist;
- \* Served as paid congressional, legislative, or Board of Equalization staff; or
- \* Contributed \$2,000 or more to a candidate running for local, state, or congressional office.

#### Who from Our Community Should Be Encouraged to Apply?

It is important that individuals who apply for the Commission understand how important redistricting is to enhancing or diminishing the political power of individual communities. Potential commissioners need to understand that redistricting is not a simple process of drawing circles and squares. Redistricting is a nuanced process that requires time and attention to fairly balance the different interests of various communities.

It is important to remember that the Commission must reflect the State's diversity, including its racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity. Therefore, communities that encourage a diverse range of members to apply are also more likely to be successful.

Finally, the Commission must consist of 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 4 individuals who have not registered with either party. Therefore, communities that can recruit strong candidates in all three groups and encourage them to apply are more likely to gain representation on the Commission.

Visit the official website, [www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov](http://www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov) to get the information you need.

*Rachel Binah*

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**Health Bill: Mikulski Amendment**

The Senate voted Thursday to increase access to preventive health care and screening services for women and to retain previous mammogram guidelines in its health care overhaul bill.

The Senate voted 61-39 to adopt an amendment from Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., that would eliminate co-payments and other cost-sharing requirements for many preventive health care services for women.

It also includes a provision from David Vitter, R-La. that would prevent the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force's most recent recommendations on breast cancer screening from being used for coverage determinations. That language was added to Mikulski's measure by voice vote Wednesday.

Vitter and fellow Republicans Olympia J. Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine voted for the amendment, and Democrats Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Russ Feingold of Wisconsin voted against it.

Immediately after accepting Mikulski's amendment, the Senate voted, 41-59, to reject a more restrictive measure offered by Alaska Republican Lisa Murkowski. Nelson again voted with Republicans in favor of the amendment.

The two roll call votes were the first on the measure (HR 3590) since debate began Nov. 30. Under a unanimous consent agreement, both amendments required a 60-vote threshold for adoption.

The Mikulski amendment would add preventive care and screening measures for women to a list of items for which health insurers would not be allowed to impose cost-sharing requirements. The covered preventive and screening measures for women — such as tests for cervical cancer and annual health screenings — would be those covered in guidelines from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services. Abortion services, which are not defined as preventive services, would not be included, Mikulski said.

"Women often forgo those critical preventive screenings because they simply cannot afford it, or their insurance company won't pay for it unless it's mandated by state law," Mikulski said. She based her amendment language on the benefits package provided to federal employees.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) said the amendment would cost \$940 million over 10 years. However, Mikulski said the cost would be offset by surplus funds available in the bill.

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he did not include the amendment provisions in his initial version of the bill, even though similar language was in the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee's health care measure, because CBO had not yet scored the cost.

The underlying bill would ban insurers from imposing cost-sharing requirements on recommended immunizations, certain recommended services, and preventive care and screening services for infants, children and adolescents.

**Mammogram Language**

Mikulski's amendment originally stated that it would not prohibit an insurer from providing additional coverage beyond services recommended by the task force or deny coverage for services not recommended by the task force. Vitter said that language did not directly address the latest task force recommendations that there was insufficient evidence for or against performing mammograms in women in their 40s.

"None of it directly, specifically takes back the impact of these recommendations," he said.

He offered an amendment to Mikulski's measure stating that the task force's November recommendations would not be considered the most current for coverage purposes. Instead, recommendations made before November would be used.

The original bill text did not specifically address coverage for mammograms.  
*Emily Ethridge, CQ Staff*



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*Frances Moore Lappe*

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