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Mendocino Women's Political Coalition

February 2024 Number 1

Candidate Forum - February 15 at 6 pm

In preparation for the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election, the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition will host a CANDIDATE FORUM for Assembly District 2 Candidates with the AAUW-Ukiah on February 15, 2024 at the Ukiah City Council Chamber located at 300 Seminary Avenue in Ukiah.

This Forum will begin at 6 p.m. These forums will present the candidates for the California Assembly District 2. Our organizations have jointly hosted candidate forums on a regular basis for over 25 years. It is our experience that these forums generate a great deal of voter interest and we hope and expect that all candidates will participate. Our goal is to educate voters and encourage voter involvement.



Each candidate will have the opportunity for short opening and closing statements. Questions from the audience will be submitted to the moderator on index cards and each candidate will have equal time to answer the questions and to respond to each other. The moderator will ask as many questions as possible but will use her discretion to choose questions of most interest to the voting public. Tables will be located in the foyer for your campaign literature, but campaign signs are not permitted.

We need questions. Send your questions to Christine Rodrigues at christine@randpassociates.com

2nd Assembly District

The 2nd Assembly District is one of the largest and most diverse legislative districts in California. It includes all of Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt and Mendocino counties, plus northern and western Sonoma County, including the northern half of Santa Rosa.

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Candidates and Websites

Ariel Kelley:

<https://www.arielkelley.com>

Ted Williams:

ted@ted.net

Rusty Hicks

rusty@rustyhicks.org

Chris Rogers:

<https://chrisrogersforassembly.com>

Cynthia Click:

Cynthia Click for CA2 State Assembly

Frankie Myers:

<https://votefrankiemyers.com>

Michael Greer:

mikegreerassembly2024@gmail.com

Endorsement

Candidates will be sent questionnaires. Only candidates who complete the questionnaires will be considered for endorsement. MWPC members who attend the Candidates forums may recommend a candidate for endorsement. Their recommendations will be sent to the membership. 60% for endorsement. 60% money



Ted Williams



Chris Rogers

for women candidates.

Women's History

We would like to invite you to come on Sunday, March 3, 2023, noon - 3:30p.m. at the SPACE Theater, for our Women's History Gala Celebration. Betty Yee will be our guest speaker.

The Mendocino Women's Political Coalition (MWPC, previously NWPC) has been leading this annual event for over 40 years. In these times when reproductive choice is being threatened, horrific domestic violence escalating, and the challenges of our aging community increasing, MWPC has been working even more diligently to help committed women and men be elected to office.



Our 2024 Women's History theme is Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. The MWPC will encourage the recognition of women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling. Our story-telling sisters in the media are essential to make our collective history visible; together, we can know the story landscape.

Our Women's History Gala will honor Women in Mendocino County who have persisted in the face of official opposition and other obstacles to pursue their goals, helped others and contributed to the public good.

Betty Yee for Governor 2026

Betty will focus on California's affordability crisis — specifically the ways that the economic disruptors of climate change and technological innovations in the workplace will affect the financial insecurity of California workers and families. Betty will focus on policies that address the impacts of these changes on California workers, affordable housing, healthcare, education, and economic growth.



Betty believes that California's diverse economic sectors hold some of the answers to these challenges. California is the fifth largest global economy, yet home to the highest effective rate of poverty among the 50 states. Betty understands the sustained economic

health of California rests upon the economic and financial health of individual Californians and their ability to attain good-paying jobs, affordable housing, health care, and a high quality education. That's what she fighting for, and it's how we know Betty is always on our side.

<https://bettyyee.com>

A New Venue for Women's History

Near & Arnold's School of Performing Arts & Cultural Education (SPACE) is an acclaimed afterschool performing arts program serving youth ages infant through 18. SPACE, located near downtown Ukiah at 508 West Perkins, offers an innovative year-round program that has become a vital beacon for hundreds of children and their families.



Our program emphasizes diversity, youth leadership, cross-cultural arts, social issues, and exemplary training in the arts. The curriculum may address issues of social, environmental and cultural awareness.

SPACE's mission is to empower our youth to discover and trust in their innate ability to be creative, responsible and compassionate individuals through effective training in dance, theater, music and cultural education.

Ariel Kelley

Ariel's campaign for State Assembly is in full swing! In the last couple of weeks, she has knocked on hundreds of voter's doors, met with voters at house parties across the district, and talked to community leaders in Crescent City, Eureka, Hopland, Cloverdale, Santa Rosa, and pretty much everywhere in between. She is focused on hearing about the needs of the community and charting a path forward. Her stellar volunteer team is knocking on doors, making phone calls, and even writing postcards to voters in the hard to reach corners of the district. Ariel wants to make sure that no matter where folks live in our large district, they have the opportunity to help shape our campaign. Recently Ariel was endorsed by Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry and NARAL (now called Reproductive Freedom For All.)



Ariel has been getting on the airwaves, joining radio shows like The Drive with Steve Jaxon and airing television ads letting voters know what her plans are as Assemblymember on critical issues - like access to reproductive healthcare, homelessness,

and wildfire prevention.

She is always looking for new folks to join the team! You can sign up at arielkelley.com/volunteer or email her at team@arielkelley.com.

Thank you!!

Ariel Ariel U. Kelley

Email: arielkelleyhbg@gmail.com

Cell: 541-914-8889

Cynthia Click

I am honored to introduce myself, Cynthia Click, as your candidate for the 2nd District Assembly. With unwavering dedication to justice, equality, inclusion and the environment I will focus on solutions and community-centered leadership. I am committed to advocating for real change that uplifts every individual in our district. I stand firm against the influence of big money and special interests. My commitment to running a grassroots campaign, free from donations, underscores my dedication to prioritizing issues over fundraising. With me, you have a candidate who is uncompromised, not motivated by political ambitions, and committed solely to working for you—not for big money.



As your Assembly Member I will advocate for real solutions to our housing crisis including changing the tax code to incentivize affordable housing development, giving local governments the responsibility to distribute LIHTC (Low Income Housing Tax Credits) as they best understand the housing needs of our communities. I support banning the sale of single-family homes to investment groups and properly funding the PHA (Public Housing Authority) so they have the resources they need to facilitate our communities housing needs. Additionally, we need process reform within the RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Assessment) to achieve accuracy and properly plan for our actual needs and not expose our county governments to litigation.

Our district has become one of the national epicenters for renewable energy. Windpower is coming to the North Coast. Hundreds of millions of dollars will be pouring into our district and we need to take full advantage of the opportunities to create jobs and develop education and training programs for the wind workforce of the future, all while safeguarding our fisheries, and remaining stewards for the environment, and wildlife.

Climate change demands immediate action. I am committed to science-based solutions, sustainable practices, and initiatives that protect our environment for future generations. Wildfire prevention and preparedness are paramount. I will prioritize supporting communities with education and resources to become fire-adapted and resilient.



Our cannabis industry needs reform and legislation that will afford cannabis businesses agricultural equity. I would like to reduce the state excise tax, establish a testing facility in our district, expand distribution licenses & support a license that would afford cultivators retail opportunities. I will advocate for consumption licenses and supporting cannabis entrepreneurs with the legislation they need to create experiences and attract tourism.

I am committed to ensuring that every resident has access to quality healthcare services, regardless of location or socioeconomic status. I will work tirelessly to expand healthcare infrastructure, improve access to medical professionals and address the healthcare needs of our communities.

The challenges of houselessness, mental health, and addiction are intertwined. I pledge to work closely with partners in law enforcement, healthcare, and social services to develop comprehensive solutions. Together, we will prioritize initiatives offering compassionate support, addressing root causes, and fostering a community where everyone thrives.

I humbly ask for your support and partnership on this journey toward an inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous tomorrow.

With gratitude and determination,

Cynthia Click

Mo Mulheren

I announced my Re-election campaign back in May of 2023 and now we are in the home stretch with less than 45 days to the election and ballots coming out in just a few short weeks.

Last week I was named Chair of the Board of Supervisors and I am very proud to represent our County as the Chair. I believe in open communication, ensuring that decisions are made with the community's best interests in mind.

Over the last three years we have made considerable strides in adding housing stock, increasing financial transparency, reducing homelessness and working to prevent drug overdoses. There is more work to do to make sure that the will of the voters through their approval of voter-led initiatives Measure B, Measure P and Measure O are carried out in a way that voters intended. The goals of Measure B have mostly been met with the critical need to have Crisis workers working with Law Enforcement, the build out of a Crisis Residential Treatment Center and the construction of the Psychiatric Health Facility on track. We have more work to do to support families helping a loved one through Behavioral Health Challenges, and meet



the needs of those that are struggling with substance misuse disorder.

We have added over 200+ units of subsidized and market rate housing units to our County Housing stock and have 171 units of Market Rate and Senior housing on the way, that project Bella Vista is scheduled to break ground this spring. There are a couple of additional key projects waiting in the wings in the City of Ukiah and just outside of the City limits. We are reevaluating the County Planning and Building Department and are working to find every effort to streamline processes so that permits can be issued more timely and updating the planning policies across the County to prepare for the future needs of our community. We have been able to connect with the State of California to streamline our cannabis permit policies and created a cannabis tax reduction plan that allowed more cultivators to stay in the regulated market and reduced the tax burden to temporarily react to market constraints.

By adding more inventory to our subsidized housing stock and service providers working collaboratively with the Homeless Management Information System we have been able to reduce our Point in Time Count for street level homelessness by 20%. There is more work to do and we have an opportunity to collaborate as a community with the Continuum of Care stakeholders to create next steps for housing homeless individuals. I see the need for sober living transitional housing to provide folks an opportunity to remain sober when exiting incarceration so that they can be successful and we can reduce recidivism in our jail. There are other ideas in the community so we need to get together and find the best way to meet the needs of some of the folks on the streets that we have thus far been unable to house.

As a former City of Ukiah Councilmember and Mayor I know that we need to continue to break down the silos that have been built over time between the agencies. This is why it's so important that I continue my work on the Board of Supervisors as we are now nearing completion of the Master Tax Sharing Annexation agreement with the County of Mendocino and the four incorporated cities in the County. I currently serve as the Chair of LAFCO and we have been able to complete a few key annexations including the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority merger of the City of Ukiah Fire Department and Ukiah Valley Fire District. As well as an agreement with the City of Ukiah and the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District which is an incredible accomplishment and shows that our current electeds understand and recognize the need to lay down past challenges for the betterment of the entire community.

This of course is just a short highlight of some of the work I've been doing for Mendocino County. I serve on 21 Boards and Commissions covering everything from 0-5 year olds with First 5 Mendocino to Behavioral Health and Substance Misuse and the Russian River Watershed Association and Mendo Recycle. If you are interested in catching up on the work I've done please visit my website and feel free to contact me about anything of interest.

<https://www.maureenmulheren.com/blog>

On my webpage we have also added an endorsement link so if you'd like me to add you to my list of supporters or would like a sign in your yard please let me know.

<https://www.maureenmulheren.com/donateMo>

Mulheren TheMoYouKnow@gmail.com

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1908

MaureenMulherencom Ukiah, CA. 95482



**PAINT THE
TOWN PINK**



SIGN'S AVAILABLE!



**ITS TIME TO ADD A
LITTLE COLOR TO THE
SECOND DISTRICT!
LET ME KNOW IF
YOU'D LIKE A SIGN!**



#MO4MENDO



Malia Cohen

I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who has supported me this year, and every year.

Your contributions go a long way in making a positive impact on the cause we are supporting. It warms my heart to know that together we can make a difference.

I am truly blessed to have such incredible people in my life who are willing to support not only me, but also the causes that are close to my heart. Your selflessness and generosity inspire me, and I am grateful beyond words.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your kindness and support mean the world to me.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Malia Cohen

State Controller



Sojourner Truth

In 1851, Sojourner Truth was a speaker on a lecture tour through central and western New York State. In May, she attended the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, where she delivered her famous extemporaneous speech on women's rights, later known as "Ain't I a Woman?". Her speech demanded equal human rights for all women. She also spoke as a former enslaved woman, combining calls for abolitionism with women's rights, and drawing from her strength as a laborer to make her equal rights claim.

"Ain't I A Woman?" by Sojourner Truth

Delivered at the 1851 Women's Convention in

A kron, Ohio

Well, children, where there is so much racket there must be something out of kilter. I think that 'twixt the Negroes of the South and the women at the North, all talking about rights, the white men will be in a fix pretty soon. But what's all this here talking about?

That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?

Then they talk about this thing in the head; what's this they call it? [member of audience whispers, "intellect"] That's it, honey. What's that got to do with women's rights or Negroes' rights? If my cup won't hold but a pint, and yours holds a quart, wouldn't you be mean not to let me have my little half measure full?

Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him.

If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it. The men better let them.

Obliged to to say.

Don't forget to renew your Membership 2024

1. Send a check \$25. to MWPC, PO Box 1140 Ukiah, CA

2. Go to our website

<https://mendocinowomen.org/about/join/> with Pay Pal

CANDIDATES' FORUM

Join us for an evening of Questions and Answers with the
Candidates for the Second District Assembly seat.

Primary election will
be held March 5, 2024



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024, AT 6:00PM

UKIAH CIVIC CENTER IN THE UKIAH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
300 SEMINARY AVENUE IN UKIAH

Moderated by Christine Rodrigues

THE CANDIDATES FOR SECOND DISTRICT:

- Cynthia Click, Sales Manager, Willits
- Mike Greer, Retired Educator, Del Norte
- Rusty Hicks, Educator/Non-Profit Director, Humboldt
- Ariel Kelley, Mayor of Healdsburg, Healdsburg
- Frankie Myers, Yurok Tribe - Vice Chair, Del Norte
- Chris Rogers, Councilmember, Santa Rosa
- Ted Williams, County Supervisor, Firefighter, Mendocino

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We want to know what questions you have for the candidates!
Submit questions in advance by using this QR code:



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Questions may also be submitted at the event. We will try to answer as many as time allows.

Presented by the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition (**MWPC**) and the American Association of
University Women (**AAUW UKIAH**), with the help of Northern California Youth Policy Coalition (**NCYPC**)

