

League launches new website

League of Women Voters of Henderson County looks back at busy year

By Derek Lacey

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With the 2018 midterm elections in the rearview mirror, the League of Women Voters of Henderson County is looking back on a busy and successful

year and celebrating the launch of its new website, www.lwvhcnc.org.

The League announced the new site earlier this week, designed as a place for members and the public with a wide range of information on League events as well as news and information about local, state and federal issues.

Co-convener Rachel Poller said the group is

excited about the website's launch, noting just how much information can be found there. The "Know Your Local and County Government" handbook is included, and is a more than 50-page document that Poller said lets county residents know everything from who their elected officials are to what to do if they find a wild turkey in their backyard.

Poller noted the contributions of Jan Allen, Linda Hansma, Caren Kessler and Nan Jennings in getting the website up and running and for the successful 2018.

Looking back on the year of League activity, Poller noted the massive amount of work the League did leading up to November's midterms and beyond.

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The only local non-profit, nonpartisan organization serving county voters and providing opportunities for members to volunteer in support of democratic institutions, the League this year held 53 election-related events. These included candidate events and voter registration drives, which also registered about 200 students in Henderson County.

The League also helped to publish the 411 Voters Guide at www.vote411.org. Residents could enter their

information and learn about races, candidates and events, with League members sending questions to every single candidate running for each office across the state.

Students all over Henderson County participated in mock elections this year, "hugely successful" events that drew even more participation than in 2016, she said.

The county League also handed out voter guides, around 750 postcards with information about the proposed constitutional amendments, distributed more than 5,000 Vote411 bookmarks, around 700 postcards with general information about the election and voter

registration information, and more.

"We feel fabulous about the work we did," she said, adding that the League has increased its membership and community involvement, and is currently very excited about the momentum it's gained, especially with students.

The next meeting is 4 p.m. Nov. 29 at First United Methodist Church, 204 Sixth Ave. W., Hendersonville. Poller said students age 16 or older qualify for free membership, and so far two have joined.

"We're really focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion in absolutely everything we do from now on in," she said. They're eager to get to

work on the LWV centennial next year, and to get to work supporting reasonable redistricting reform, "to address the issue of gerrymandering in a reasonable way."

The League's mission statement is empowering voters, defending democracy, which Poller said the League is very committed to achieving through education and advocacy. She said it's a very committed organization, with the emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion, and civil discourse about bringing people together across the political spectrum to work as a community for a better Henderson County, a better North Carolina and a better country.