

## **Literacy Council offering voter education classes**

From staff reports

Blue Ridge Literacy Council continues to host its voter education class series, a new element to the nonprofit's U.S. Citizenship program.

These nonpartisan classes are offered in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Henderson County. The first class participants are graduates of BRLC's U.S. Citizenship program and their eligible family members.

Volunteers from the Literacy Council and Caren Kessler, Voter Services chair for the LWV of Henderson County, are offering classes via Zoom which include the following topics: the impact of one's vote on local, state and national elections; how to register to vote; how to request and return an absentee ballot; how to find information about candidates and issues, and how to vote during Early Voting and on Election Day.

The classes are held on Saturday afternoons or Thursday evenings. Those interested can contact BRLC at 828-435-2556 or 828-696-3811.

Jan Lanier, BRLC interim executive director, welcomed the new voters, saying, "We are excited to offer you the tools to educate yourselves about electoral choices. Your new right to vote is a fundamental step in participating in our democracy. Your voice and vote count."

President of LWV of Henderson County Rachel Poller said, "I'm impressed with the ability of Henderson County organizations to collaborate. The League

believes in empowering voters in a nonpartisan way. What could be better than educating new citizens in the voting process and helping them to become familiar with ways to learn about candidates and positions."

BRLC's U.S. Citizenship program has served over 200 adults seeking naturalization in the last ten years, according to a news release. Four adults from the program took their Oath of Citizenship in the last two months.

The Literacy Council currently has 25 adults studying with citizenship tutors.

Volunteers work with individuals or small groups of adults to improve English language skills while preparing for the naturalization interview and exam. All materials are free to students.

To learn more to go [www.litcouncil.org/](http://www.litcouncil.org/).