

February 3, 2025

Good Evening Commissioners, County Manager, County Attorney, and Hard Working County Staff Members,

My name is Sharon Burlingame, and I am a member of the League of Women Voters of Henderson County. I have enjoyed observing Monday night Commission meetings for the past several years, and have met with some of you individually to discuss the League's role.

While the League of Women Voters US was founded in 1920, our local league of Women Voters Henderson County is now more than 60 years old. The League is a grassroots, nonpartisan, political organization committed to empowering voters and defending democracy. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate. To those ends, the League:

- Encourages informed and active participation in government
- Increases understanding of major public policy issues
- Influences public policy through education and advocacy
- Welcomes all members of our community

While the League of Women Voters is nonpartisan, it is not neutral on many important national, state, and local issues. Visit the websites of our national, state, and/or local league (LWVHCNC.org) to learn more about our positions on issues.

In addition to serving Henderson County, LWVHC also serves the voters of Transylvania and Polk Counties in North Carolina.

The League of Women Voters has promoted open government processes since its founding. LWVHC Home/Observer members attend public meetings and report to the League and interested citizens on any issues that might concern the League. Having League members visibly in attendance at meetings helps ensure that our government is conducting open meetings and encourages the accountability of public officials. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

(On a personal note, I would like to encourage you all to please speak into the microphones so that it is easier to hear you!)

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