



Show Me the Money!!

Benton County Revenue Budget Problem and Solutions

Introduction by **Linda Modrell**, Benton County Commissioner

Presentation by **Pat Cochran**, Budget Manager

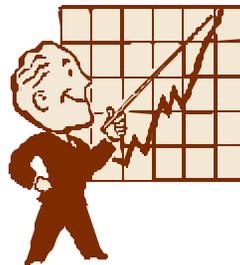
Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Corvallis/Benton County Public Library (Co-sponsor)

Celebration of LWVUS 86th Birthday and Oregon's 147th Birthday

7:00 to 7:30 pm for desserts and socialization!

7:30 to 9:00 presentation followed by questions



DISCUSSION OF COUNTY BUDGET REVENUE PROBLEM AND SOLUTIONS

Linda Modrell, discussion leader

JoAnne Trow, facilitator

**Monday, February 27th at the
United Way Office**

104 SW Second St. (next to Squirrel's)

11:30 to 1:00 pm (Bring your lunch)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – BIRTHDAYS and VALENTINES

In February we celebrate the birthday of LWVUS, which was formed in 1920 after the women suffragists gained the right to vote on the national level. This year will be the 86th Birthday of the inception of the league. Last year we celebrated by honoring 5 local members who had been continuous members for 50 years. We plan to host another party for the next set of 50 year members, but this year we invite you to come and socialize with your fellow league members. We will have cake and coffee or tea and time to visit before the meeting. Come and meet new members and old friends.

The State of Oregon has a birthday in February, too. The Oregon Seal has the year 1859 on the rim, which means Oregon is 147 years old this year. We should look forward to many celebrations around the state in 2009. LWVOR celebrates its start with LWVUS in 1920, but LWV Corvallis records don't start until the late 40s and early 50s. However, Corvallis was one of the early local leagues and one of the most active local leagues. We have many things to celebrate, and Valentines Day is another one. Come visit before the serious side of the meeting begins.

Your league board has been busy working on the two state studies and planning future programs for the spring general meetings. The State Judicial Study Committee has formulated questions for local presiding judges and trial court administrators and the interviews will be due in February. Future plans are to expand the inquiry to professionals who work with the court system. The Homeless Youth Committee has completed most of its interviews and is in the compilation of the local report stage. The next steps may be interviews in Linn County and in State of Oregon agencies.

The Nominating Committee plans to start calling members to see who will remain on the board for next year and who might like to join the board. After almost four years on the board this stretch, let me give some advantages and (cont'd page 3)

Board of Directors '05-'06

President Karen Nibler
VP, Communications – vacant
Secretary Pat Bishop
Treasurer Shelly Murphy

Directors:

Kathryn Conner (Voter Service)
Liz Frenkel (Growth Mgmt)
Carolyn Brumley (Bulletin Editor)
Paula Krane (Action)
JoAnn Trow (Events)
Kate Matthews (Grapefruit Sale)
Corrine Gobeli (Nominating Committee)
Jean Nath & Patty McClintock (Membership)
Leah Bolger (Publicity)

Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LWVOR

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 Salem, OR 97302,
 503-581-5722, e-mail: lwvor@lwvor.org, www.lwvor.org

LWVUS

1730 M Street NW, Suite 1000
 Washington DC 20036-4508
 202-429-1965
 FAX 202-429-0854
www.lwv.org

LWV Corvallis

P.O. Box 1679
 Corvallis, OR 97339-1679
 541-758-2922
www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

The bulletin is the newsletter of the LWV Corvallis and is produced nine times a year. Members subscribe through their dues. Membership is open to anyone 18 years or older.



disadvantages to board participation. A few advantages to board membership: **you are in the know.** You get the benefit of early notice on local government actions and the opportunity to give input to local governments. You get all the information from the state and national leagues first. You learn to find the sources of information and become a more knowledgeable citizen.

What are the disadvantages: You know, you are responsible for your board position, and you are expected to be available each month for board planning meetings. If you are on the board, you will be interacting with challenging women, can you hold your own? As part of a program, you may have to learn something new, about a topic you have never explored. You may feel obligated to attend night meetings, i.e. go out into the cold when you feel like curling up in a warm house. Too daunting?

League membership helps you become better informed, but board membership means you are able to chose the direction of the local league's inquiries and programs. If you feel strongly about some issues, the board is the place for you. It's your opportunity to contribute to advocacy and education on any issues and on voter participation in general. A mind is a terrible thing to waste. We need yours to be active and agile in the pursuit of good public policy. Consider taking a board position.

Karen Nibler

*** GET INVOLVED ***

Corvallis Growth Management Committee
February 10 (Friday) 10:00 to Noon
At Frenkels -- 1431 NW Vista Place

Meetings are lively, informative, and provocative. All League members are welcome. Call before the meeting for current agenda...

lizbobfrenkel@proaxis.com , (541) 754-6790

SHOW ME THE MONEY!!!

Where does the county get its funds? What are your priorities for county services? Expanded parks? Health Department clinics? Sheriff deputies? Jail beds? Road maintenance? County Planning staff? Local extension agents? **Commissioner Linda Modrell** will introduce the problem and the Budget Manager.

Pat Cochran will present the resources and expenditures in the County Budget 2005-07 and the forecast for Budget 2007-09. Cochran will show various revenue solutions as options. Questions from the audience will be encouraged.

Revenues for local governments have become restricted by property tax limitations and expenses have increased for medical care and pensions. The county projects a growing gap between revenues and expenses. In addition, federal forest revenue is due to be reauthorized. The deficit will be even greater if the federal forest funds are not part of the county revenue source. How does the county resolve the decrease in revenue with the current service costs in county departments?

The Commissioners appointed a General Fund Revenue Solutions Committee, which met from October 12 through December 1, 2005. They had the task of recommending a budget strategy. JoAnne Trow, a member of the committee, will help facilitate the league discussion on Monday afternoon, Feb 27. Commissioner Linda Modrell will attend the discussion meeting in order to gather input from league members. The Commissioners seek community input regarding revenue options and desired service levels within the county.

We hope you'll join us. Come at 7:00 for dessert and League conversation beforehand!



Read a Good Book

In honor of Black History Month, February's book is "*Why are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?*" and *Other Conversations About Race* by Beverly Daniel Tatum. This is a sensitive, even-handed discussion of the development of personal and racial identity - and the challenges of living in a multicultural society. It was a selection of the OSU Diversity Book Club with the discussion led by President Ed Ray. We'll meet at Jane Woodward's, 7:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 13. Please call Jane at 738-8362 to let her know you'll be attending and to get directions to her apartment.

Upcoming selections are as follows: March 13, *Buffalo Soldiers*, Chris Bohjalian; April 10, *Shanghai Diary*, Ursula Bacon; May 15, *Breaking Clean*, Judy Blunt; October 9, *The Crack in the Earth*, Simon Winchester.

The Oregon Blue Book contains the following information concerning ballot measures.

--From Kathryn Conner, Voter Service Chair

Initiative, Referendum and Recall Introduction

In 1902, the Oregon electorate overwhelmingly approved a ballot measure that created the initiative and referendum, a system of direct legislation by the people. In 1904, the electorate enacted the direct primary and, in 1908, the State Constitution was amended to include recall of public officials. These victories were the culmination of efforts by the Direct Legislation League, a group of political activists that progressive leader William S. U'Ren founded in 1898.

The initiative and referendum became known nationally as the "Oregon System," and adoption of these popular legislative tools put Oregon in the vanguard of progressive and enlightened politics, allowing the people to propose new laws or change the

State Constitution through a general election ballot measure.

Since 1902, the people have passed 115 of the 330 initiative measures on the ballot and 21 of the 62 referenda on the ballot. During the same period, the legislature has referred 407 measures to the people, of which 233 have passed.

Both houses of the legislature must vote to refer a statute or constitutional amendment for a popular vote. The governor cannot veto such referrals.

To place an initiative or referendum on the ballot, supporters must obtain a specified number of signatures from registered voters. The number required is determined by a fixed percentage of the votes cast for all candidates for governor at the general election preceding the filing of the petition. In the 2002 general election, 1,260,497 votes were cast for governor.

--Referendum petitions require four percent, or 50,420 signatures.

--Initiative petitions for statutory enactments require six percent, or 75,630 signatures.

--Initiative petitions for constitutional amendments require eight percent, or 100,840 signatures.

The constitutional amendment passed by the people in 1902 that created the initiative and referendum provided that a fixed percentage of the votes cast for justice of the Supreme Court would determine the number of signatures required to place an initiative or referendum on the ballot. Both a statutory enactment and a constitutional amendment required eight percent of the votes cast, while a referendum required five percent of the votes cast. In 1954, the people amended the State Constitution to increase to 10 percent the number of signatures required for a constitutional amendment. The current requirements were established by a vote of the people in 1968.

Because measures were not assigned numbers until 1954, measures on the ballot at previous elections are listed in order of appearance on the ballot.

The 1993 legislature amended state law to require ballot measures to be numbered 1-99 before numbering begins again at 1.

GRAPEFRUIT SALES SUMMARY

Our Grapefruit Fundraiser started slowly due to Hurricanes in the Gulf and gas price increases. Rio Queen did not set their prices at the expected time. We went ahead and raised ours \$1.00 to \$16. However, the company raised the price by \$1.50 per box! We coordinated with Newport to bring the price down. Our final order to Rio Queen was 535 boxes. We received 11 extra boxes to account for spoiled fruit. Newport ordered 146 and we gave them 2 of the extra boxes. 2 boxes were left for U-Haul as a thank you for giving us a storage area for the Saturday morning. There were about 2 boxes of spoiled fruit. I ordered several extra also for late orders. There was no difficulty selling the extra boxes. And the fruit was excellent.

We took in \$7800.00(Corvallis plus Newport) and paid Rio Queen \$5082.50. **Our gross was \$2717.50!** Expenses were \$43.32 for xeroxing and \$94.28 for mailing total \$137.60. **This makes our Net: \$2579.90.** This includes \$124 in donations

The budgeted return for the fundraiser was \$2700. Had the cost not risen an extra \$.50 above what we had anticipated, we would have met our goal. The success of the sales should be given to League members who went out and sold so many boxes. And a VERY big thank you goes to all those who then helped with the delivery on a rainy Saturday morning.

-Kate Mathews

Pat and Norm Bishop
Ann and Doug Brodie
Diana Carsten
Louise Ferrell
Liz and Bob Frenkel
Ruth and Thomas Gallagher
Paula and Ken Krane
Corrine and David Gobeli
Marilyn and Will Koenitzer
Craig and Nancy Leman
Carolyn Madsen
SueMariner/Kathryn Conner
Shelly Murphy
Jean and Jack Nath
Karen and Joe Nibler
Jo Overton
Marolyn and Bob Tarrant
Charlie Tomlinson
Jo Anne and Cliff Trow
Doris and Dick Waring
Lois and Joe Zaer

Seeking Justice in Health Care Workshop

Panel:

Dr. Chunhwei Chi, OSU Public Health
Mitch Greenlick, State Representative
Chinh Le, MD Pediatrician
Mark Lindgren, Health Care for All
Ellen Pinney, Oregon Health Action
Foundation for Medical Excellence Representative

February 25, Saturday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2945 NW Circle Blvd. Corvallis

This forum will address health care reform options in Oregon. Please register by 2-21, fee \$5., book \$14. payable to: First Congregational United Church of Christ, 4515 SW West Hills Rd., Corvallis 97333

Asking for your Input

Below is a web page link for the House Interim Task Force on Department of Human Services Review. In an effort to obtain as much information as possible, Rep. Richardson is soliciting feedback from anyone who knows, understands and has suggestions on DHS. The Task Force web page has five (5) topics that have individual links to a Comment page. Please use our website to communicate your interest to the Task Force, http://www.leg.state.or.us/dhs_review

Contact me if you have any questions.
Thanks!

Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Adm, Committee Services
900 Court St. NE., RM 453
503-986-1286 fax 503-986-1814

League Announces Support for Six-Point Lobby Reform Plan

On Monday, LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate and the leaders of six other national reform groups held a press conference in Washington, DC releasing six benchmarks for judging the lobbying reform proposals being considered by Congress. Read the [benchmarks](#), the [press release](#) about the event and [Executive Director Tate's remarks](#) on the LWVUS website.

Upcoming Events: February 2006

- **Thurs. Feb 9** - Governing and Civic Involvement Day for Leadership Corvallis, Public Safety Meeting Room, Ann Smart and Pete Bober
- **Mon. Feb 13** – Book Club at Jane Woodward's, 7:30pm, call 738-8362.
- **Tues. Feb 14** - Benton County Revenue Forecast and Solutions - 7:00 pm - Corvallis Public Library - Linda Modrell and Pat Cochran
- **Sat. Feb 25** - Health Care Forum - Health Care for All – Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2945 NW Circle Blvd., 8:30-12:30
- **Mon. Feb 27** - Discussion Mtg, United Way Conference Rm - Linda Modrell & JoAnne Trow 11:30- 1:00

**Another Easy Way to Raise Funds for LWV!
Thrift Shop Consignment Days**

Open Thursdays for consignments.
Call ahead to make arrangements
Miriam Miller 753-7261

Thrift Shop consignment number: 1073

Join LWV Corvallis

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, Zip+ 4 digits _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

\$50 individual membership

\$75 household membership

\$25 student membership

Contribution*

I'm a new member! Please call.

I'm renewing my membership.

I'm interested in working with LWVC this year.
Please call.

Membership in LWV Corvallis is open to all citizens 18 years and over. The membership year begins in October. Please make checks payable to the LWV Corvallis and mail to: LWV Corvallis, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679

* Regular dues are not tax-deductible. However, contributions to the LWVOR or LWVUS Education Fund, paid with a separate check, are deductible.