



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

November 2015

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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.

League Consensus Meeting:



Amending the U.S. Constitution

Tuesday, November 10

7:00–8:45 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
645 NW Monroe Avenue

An introduction to the evening's discussion will be given by
Christopher Stout

OSU Assistant Professor, Political Science, School of Public Policy

Article V of the U.S. Constitution

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution

We have not had a constitutional convention since 1787, when the original one was called to modify the Articles of Confederation—and in the end an entirely new document was written. Since the constitution was formally adopted in 1789 we have added 27 amendments (of which one, the 18th, was repealed by another, the 21st). In its national study, the LWVUS asks you to consider:

- What is the best way to amend our constitution?
- Should the League support a convention –always or under certain conditions?
- Could a convention address only one issue or amendment, or would it become open to all issues?
- And, finally, how does the League decide on which amendments to support or oppose?

The November meeting is a consensus meeting and we will discuss how and when we would support adding amendments to the constitution. **Be part of the discussion – let the League know your opinions and help us to formulate a strong position.**

For background and more information to help with the discussion, see the enclosed Everymember material and the LWVUS website: forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study.

Co-sponsored by the LWV of Corvallis and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library



President's Corner – Laura Lahm Evenson

Voter Education has always been a major emphasis for the LWV. The LWV of Corvallis has a long history of providing balanced programs in order to help voters get accurate information. A special thank you to Cathy Frischmann for organizing last month's voter information program on the Benton County Jail Construction Bond. The event was well attended, which speaks to the community's respect for LWV. Our thanks go to Ann Brodie for her capable moderating of the evening's discussion.

Thanks also to Ann and Doug Brodie for hosting a Health Care House Party at their home. This is a great way to get information about a topic in a more informal setting.

A Social Issues committee is forming, with Karen Nibler as its chair, and you can get in on the ground floor! Join us as we study and address issues. League committees continue to be energized—it's amazing how much can be accomplished by a small but dedicated group!

Your delicious fruit can be ordered now! Don't forget that all of our local projects and events are funded by this sale. Order a few boxes and support the great work the LWV does!

In November and December you get to see how the League of Women Voters develops positions through consensus. In November we discuss Amending the Constitution, while in December we cover Money in Politics. Read the Everymember information provided, do some research, then meet for a spirited discussion as we reach consensus.



WELCOME!

New Members

Bart Bolger, Charlie Bruce, and John Watson
and

Returning Members Marcia Cutler and Bob Stebbins

REMINDER

If there is a RED DOT on your bulletin label, we have not yet received your 2015-2016 League dues.

Your membership is important to the League, so use the form and envelope that came with your September bulletin or the coupon on the last page of this issue. Return your check and form to the address listed. Thanks to everyone who has renewed already—your timeliness is much appreciated!

Why be a member of the League of Women Voters? The information you receive as a League member from the local, state and national Leagues keeps you a step ahead on issues that affect your life. You can play a role in helping to make our community better. Even if you don't have time for active participation, your membership alone will strengthen the League's voice.

– Corinne Gobeli, Membership Chair

LWV of Corvallis

PO Box 1679
Corvallis OR 97339-1679
541-754-1172
www.lwv.corvallis.or.us
Facebook – LWV Corvallis

LWV of Oregon

1330 12th Street SE, Suite 200
Salem OR 97302
503-581-5722
E-mail: lwvor@lwvor.org
www.lwvor.org

LWV of the United States

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



This is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis and is produced 10 times a year.

Contact Beth Thoennes or Louise Marquering with your suggestions, submissions, comments, or story ideas. We welcome your input.

Submissions are due no later than the 15th of the month.

Members subscribe through their dues. Membership in the League of Women Voters of Corvallis is open to men and women of all ages and includes membership in the League of Women Voters of Oregon and the League of Women Voters of the United States.



Legislative Update

Progress on Improving Health Care

Meet with and hear your state legislators on –

- How did the 2015 Oregon legislature improve health care and health for all Oregonians?
- What health issues and legislation will your Oregon legislators support in 2016?

Representative Mike Nearman

Representative Andy Olson

Representative Dan Rayfield

Senator Sara Gelser

There will be plenty of time for questions.

Thursday, November 19, 7:00 PM
Corvallis Benton County Public Library
645 NW Monroe Avenue

Free and open to the public

Simultaneous English-Spanish Interpretation

Provided

Facilitator: Tim Roach, Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates, Interfaith Health Care Network

Sponsored by: Health Care for ALL Oregon-Albany, Interfaith Health Care Network, League of Women Voters of Corvallis, Linn-Benton Health Equity Alliance, Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates, Oregon Public Health Association, Physicians for a National Health Program – Corvallis.



New Social Policy Committee Forming

League is starting a local Social Policy committee. The jail construction bond measure has stirred our community conversation, to which League can make a contribution. A Social Policy Committee might also study Circuit Court operations and the impact of jail size and court-ordered programs, the jail construction plans and new programs (if the levy is approved), and new state investment in community corrections. Other study possibilities are: adult homeless shelter decisions and services, or juvenile shelters and services. Does this spark an interest in you? If so, please contact Karen Nibler, Social Policy Chair, at niblerk@comcast.net.

LWV of Corvallis Supports Jail Bond Measure

Based on our League's positions on corrections and social policy, the League of Women Voters of Corvallis supports Measure 02-91, the Benton County Bond Measure.

The current jail is inadequate, unsafe and unhealthy. Shipping prisoners to other counties thwarts intervention programs and the smooth flow of justice as well as taking unnecessary transport time for law enforcement officers. Corrections should carry out justice for both the community and the prisoner. More information is online at bentoncountyjailnow.net/.

Note: Ballots must be received by 8 PM, Tuesday, November 3.





Climate Change

On October 21st, LWV Climate Change Committee members Marilyn Walker, Jean Townes, and Claudia Keith participated with ten others in an interactive, three-hour simulation. This World Climate Project looks ahead to the upcoming UN Climate Conference in December. We hope to bring this simulation to League members to see how an international climate agreement is negotiated.

More information: www.climateinteractive.org/world-climate-project/.

We are hard at work arranging our February 7, 2015 program. It will include updates on climate change activity at the State and local levels. The LWV of Oregon is a member of the *Renew Oregon* coalition, with Claudia Keith as our representative. *Renew Oregon* has a ballot initiative for 2016 entitled “Clean Energy, Clean Air—Eliminating Coal by 2020.” You can learn about the initiative at League’s February meeting. We will also update you on the Corvallis Climate Action Plan.

Our fearless leader, Claudia Keith, keeps us updated with hopeful news about climate change activities around the world. We are pleased to know that many people are working to effect change for our planet and we hope to keep you informed on the actions that bring positive news. — *Marilyn Koenitzer, Climate Change Committee member*



League needs YOU! *Several areas of the LWV of Corvallis could use your help*

Membership Committee needs a co-chair for member interface – contact League president Laura Lahm Evenson, evensonlahm@gmail.com.

Social Policy Committee needs committee members – contact Karen Nibler, niblerk@comcast.net.

Money in Politics Committee for December consensus – contact Annette Mills, amills@virginiavillageproductions.com.

Fruit Sale will need delivery people in the first week of December – contact Louise Marquering, LWVCLouise@aol.com.

Post-Secondary Education Study in April needs committee members to prepare – contact Paula Krane, kranep@peak.org.



You can make a financial difference to the League of Women Voters of Corvallis when you write a *separate* check to the LWV of the US Education Fund (LWVEF) and enclose it with your dues check. This donation makes it possible for us to meet up to 50% of our per member payment to the national League.

Donations may also be made to the LWV of Oregon (LWVOR), which allows us to replace 25% of our per member payment.

Note: Because of the recent LWVOR and LWVOR Education Fund consolidation, all LWVOR funded activities are tax-deductible. Contributions to both funds are tax deductible.

— *Sara Ingle, Treasurer*



Grapefruit & Oranges—Order NOW

Enjoy some wonderful fruit and benefit the League! Mark your choices on an order form from your October bulletin, or our website: www.lwv.corvallis.or.us/fruit-sale.php (which has a PayPal option). Delivery will be in the first week of December—perfect for holiday gifts!



Housing Committee Update

The LWV of Corvallis Housing Committee has reaffirmed that as a League Committee our task is to educate and advocate for issues related to housing, as they affect the quality of life in Corvallis.

We want to interact with OSU Housing officials at a future date, either inviting them to be on the committee or meeting with them on an *ad hoc* basis.

We engaged in conversation with Jim Moorefield of Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services (WNHS) about how we could be most effective in moving forward the conversation and actions on housing. Moorefield was there with two hats – one as Executive Director of WNHS and the other as a member of the City Council’s Housing Development Task Force.

We talked with Moorefield about the role of that task force and how it did or did not intersect with the work our committee is doing. We see that one role we have vis a vis the task force is to get a better sense of the issues they are pursuing, what if any outcomes they may see, and essentially how they see the City Council changing the housing landscape in Corvallis. Karyle Butcher will draft a letter to the Task Force, after review from our committee and Jim Moorefield.

We also discussed the overarching concept of what housing would look like in Corvallis if we defined Corvallis as a

healthy community. This is broader than simply saying we need more affordable housing but looking at how neighborhoods are formed and what types of housing contribute to healthier, more interactive neighborhoods.

We agreed that the issue of housing is complex with many players. But for a start, we would look at these areas:

1. Housing for seniors,
2. The work being done by national Housing First groups.

Specifically, we want to know: What work is being done in these areas? Are there cities that have made strides in either area? What sort of changes might be needed in the Land Development Code and other areas to create a community that both encourages senior housing and initiates a program similar to the national Housing First? (*We are aware that the local Housing First organization is not the same as the national organization.*)

3. Finally, we will look at City policies that seem to work against the creation of housing for low income and working families. This could include System Development Charges, the seeming prohibition against “tiny houses,” and others. We will coordinate with the City Council’s task force to avoid duplication of effort.

Housing Committee members: Judy Ball, Shelley Ries, Karen Rockwell, Bob Stebbins, Karyle Butcher (chair).

Change of Date

League’s December meeting date

has been changed to—

Monday, December 7th

for the

Money in Politics Consensus Meeting

Mark your Calendar!

Money in Politics Consensus, December 7th

The League’s Money in Politics study will update the national LWV position on campaign finance. To do this we seek a new consensus. Times are changing, and in light of recent Supreme Court decisions we need to readdress this issue.

Money in Politics study material is available at: forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/two-page-summary-lwvus-money-politics-mip-review-and-update-background.

If you’d like to help prepare for League’s December consensus meeting, contact Annette Mills, 541-230-1237 or amills@virginiavillageproductions.com.



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

P.O. Box 1679
Corvallis, OR 97339-1679
541-753-6036
www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

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Does The Constitution Need a Change?

Consensus, Nov. 10th 7 PM



Join us on Facebook –
LWVCorvallis



LWV Calendar

November

- Tue 3** Special Election: Benton County Jail
- Tue 10** *Consensus Meeting*, Amending the Constitution 7 PM, Library
- Tue 17** Board meeting 10 AM-12 Noon

December

- Mon 7** *Consensus Meeting*, Money in Politics 7 PM, Library
- Tue 15** Board meeting 10 AM-12 Noon
- Tue 15** Bill of Rights Day

January

- Sat 9** Carrie Chapman Catt's Birthday
- Tue 12** Soup & Program Planning 6 PM, Unitarian Fellowship
- Tue 19** Board meeting 10 AM-12 Noon

Join the League

Name _____

Address City, Zip+4 digits _____

Phone _____

Email _____

___ \$60 individual membership ___ \$90 household

___ \$30 student ___ Renewal ___ Contribution*

___ Dues assistance information to help you join LWV

I would like to be considered:

Active ___ Inactive Member / Supporter ___

I first joined the League in ___ (year) _____ (place).

What special skills/talents/interests can you share with League?

Our membership year begins in October.

Make checks payable to the LWV of Corvallis and mail to:

LWV of Corvallis, Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679

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