



# League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

May 2016

## Board of Directors 2015-2016

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Laura Lahm Evenson

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Annette Mills

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#### Climate Change

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#### Community Planning

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#### Bulletin Co-editor

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Corrine Gobeli

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#### Health Care

Louise Marquering

#### Bulletin Co-editor,

#### Special Taxing

#### Districts, Fruit Sale

Kate Mathews

#### Legislative Town Halls

Karen Nibler

#### Social Policy

Doris Waring

#### Event Arrangements

Janet Wolf-Eshe

#### Bulletin Mailing

#### Nominating Committee

Annette Mills, Shelly

Murphy, Marolyn Tarrant,

Doris Waring, Mary

Youmans (Chair)

## 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.



## LWV of Corvallis 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 6-8:30 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Meeting Room  
645 NW Monroe, Corvallis

Dinner at 6 PM, Business Meeting at 7 PM  
followed by guest speaker,  
Mark Shepard, Corvallis City Manager

"A Conversation With Corvallis"

Co-sponsored by Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Annual Meeting details are on pages 4-5 – Dinner Reservation form is on page 7



## Primary Election Day is May 17, 2016

Ballots must be received by 8 PM, Tuesday, May 17th. (Postmarks don't count.) Deposit marked ballots in any official ballot drop site in Oregon or mail with a stamp. Ballots are mailed to registered voters between April 27 and May 12. If you have not received a ballot by May 15 call Benton County Elections Department, 541-766-6756.

Check your ballot and voter registration status: 1) [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov); 2) Benton County Elections Department 541-766-6756; or 3) Email [elections@co.benton.or.us](mailto:elections@co.benton.or.us).

## Urban Renewal 101 Enlightened Leaguers



If your household was one of 11,000 in the city with no electric power on April 12, you would have been enlightened at League's meeting. A library generator lighted our meeting room, though the library was closed.

More enlightenment came from our speakers, who told of the Urban Renewal District experiences in the cities of Albany and Philomath.

Kate Porsche, Economic

Development Director of the City of Albany and Chris Workman, Philomath City Manager, gave enthusiastic, practical glimpses of the changes that Urban Renewal Districts made possible in their towns. Porsche had written her Master's thesis on these districts, which was a bonus. Attendees rated it League's best meeting of the year!



## President's Corner — Laura Lahm Evenson

I hope most of you can attend League's annual meeting and dinner on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. This is such a fun night! Old and new members get a chance to visit while enjoying a delicious dinner. After we complete our annual business meeting, Mark Shepard, our new city manager, will talk about his first year and his vision for our city. He would like this to be a conversation ... so think up some interesting questions to ask him!

June will be busy. We have a contingent going to the joint council of the Oregon and Washington Leagues. We also have three delegates attending the LWVUS Convention in Washington D.C. Check both the state and national LWV websites to keep abreast of what is happening.

The Special Taxing District Study group is finishing up the local study. The April meeting on Urban Renewal 101, which was very informative, will help us develop a position on this issue. The next piece of the puzzle was our meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> to come to consensus on criteria for evaluating Special Taxing District proposals. Finally, these will need to be approved by the Board.

I would like to thank members who served on the League's Board this year. This has been a really effective group and I have enjoyed working with all of them. The Board meets once in the summer to plan League's upcoming year. If you have suggestions for events or issues our League needs to address, please let a Board member know.

Now take some time off from League events to enjoy summer in Oregon. Come back in the fall reinvigorated ... this election season will be busy!



## Membership Matters

By the time you read this, the most recent version of the membership list should have reached your in-box or mail box. If you haven't received a copy or need to report corrections, please let Corrine Gobeli know at 541-745-7736 or [gobelic@comcast.net](mailto:gobelic@comcast.net).

Patty McClintock, one of our cherished 50-year members, has moved to Portland and, according to JoAnn Trow, enjoys getting phone calls from "home" at 503-709-1664.

Dues are now half-price for new members up to the beginning of the program year in October. This is a good time for anyone thinking about League to join at a reduced price and be able to enjoy all the benefits and activities.

Although general meetings are not held during the summer, committees continue to meet, monitor, and take action. Joining a committee is one of the best ways to learn about League and to meet other dedicated, knowledgeable members.

## Memorials

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis recently received two donations in memory of former League members:

**Kitty McPherson**

**Roberta Rainey**

These memorials and donations are much appreciated by our League.

## LWV of Corvallis

PO Box 1679  
Corvallis OR 97339-1679  
541-753-6036  
[www.lwv.corvallis.or.us](http://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](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org)  
[www.lwvor.org](http://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](http://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.

## Your Signature Is Valuable – Think Before You Sign A Petition

The League of Women Voters of Oregon encourages Oregonians to be careful when asked to sign initiative petitions. Beware when a petitioner asks you to sign “just so it can get on the ballot for voting.” Your signature is valuable, more valuable than your vote, considering that fewer signatures are required to approve initiative petitions than ballot measures. Only sign a petition that you believe should become law. Here are six questions to help you make up your mind about an initiative petition:



1. **Is it complex?** Some decisions can be simple yes or no votes. Complex issues may need thorough legislative examination.
2. **Is it confusing?** Some initiatives aren't well-written. They may have conflicts requiring court interpretation or resolution.
3. **Does it belong in our Constitution (or Charter)?** Initiatives can be local, statutory, or constitutional. Should this become a fundamental, constitutional law, protected from change?
4. **How will it be funded?** Is this an “unfunded mandate”? Would it force our Legislature to pull funds from other essential programs?
5. **Who is behind it?** Chief petitioners must file campaign finance transactions under the initiative's petition committee, which must be opened by the Elections Division before the filing officer approves petition circulation. Chief petitioners do not need to be citizens or even Oregon residents.
6. **Before signing, ask for ID.** Paid (not volunteer) signature gatherers are required to carry badges (ID# and photo) issued by the Secretary of State.



## LWV VOTEResources on the Internet

**The League of Women Voters of Oregon** announces online publication of our Oregon candidate and ballot measure information for the May 2016 Primary at [lwvor.org/front-page/voterresources/](http://lwvor.org/front-page/voterresources/). Our online info is web-friendly and screen reader accessible.

**By the numbers:** Online we are covering 335 Oregon races with 662 candidates and an additional 67 ballot measures from across the state. For local candidate information see [www.co.benton.or.us/elections/page/may-17-2016-primary-election-candidates](http://www.co.benton.or.us/elections/page/may-17-2016-primary-election-candidates), the Benton County Elections department site.

**The LWVUS presidential voters' guide** includes the candidates' stands on issues from the economy to foreign policy, as well as their position on the role money plays in

our political process. The guide is updated as candidates answer, and as candidates' campaigns end, so check it now— [www.vote411.org/voter-guide-2016#.VsENZdB0fxU](http://www.vote411.org/voter-guide-2016#.VsENZdB0fxU).

**Our traditional LWVOR print Voters' Guide** covers state-wide candidates only: US Senate & House, Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and three Oregon Supreme Court seats. They are available on our website as an audio reader—read by actual Oregonians, in Large Print, and in Spanish. For paper copies, please contact Voter Service chair Cathy Frischmann, [cathyberry13@hotmail.com](mailto:cathyberry13@hotmail.com), 208-406-4559. Please share these Voter Resources with friends and fellow League members!

## Agenda of the 2016 Business Meeting

Laura Lahm Evenson, President



Call to Order  
 Welcome and Introductions  
 Review of the Year  
 Introduction of Parliamentarian  
 Appointment of Committee to Review Minutes  
 Quorum Determination  
 Adoption of Agenda  
   Treasurer's Report  
   Presentation of the Proposed Program  
   Recommendation for the 2016-2017 Program  
   Presentation of the Budget  
   Discussion and Adoption of Program  
   Discussion and Adoption of the Budget  
   Report of Nominating Committee  
   Election of Board Members  
 Recognition  
 Directions to the Board from Members  
 Announcements  
 Adjournment

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### Nominating Committee Report

The following candidates are offered for election by the Nominating Committee of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis. – *Annette Mills, Shelly Murphy, Marolyn Tarrant, Doris Waring, Mary Youmans (Chair)*

#### Nominees for two-year term, 2016-2018

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President* Paula Krane  
*Treasurer* Sara Ingle  
*Directors* Marsha Feldman, Claudia Keith, Patricia Parcels

#### Nominees for a one-year term, 2016-2017

*Secretary* open  
*Nominating Committee* Mary Youmans (chair), Marolyn Tarrant, Doris Waring

#### Continuing their 2015-2017 terms

*President* Laura Lahm Evenson      *Directors* Karyle Butcher, Cathy Frischmann,  
*1st Vice President* Annette Mills      Beth Thoennes

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### Recommended Program, 2016-2017

With input from the membership at January's Program Planning Meeting, the Board of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis recommends that we update our Housing position and retain all other positions for 2016-17.

At Risk Youth	Corrections	Know Your Schools
Benton County Charter	Financing the Public Library	Local Food
Child Care in Benton County	Health Services in Benton County	Prevention of Violence
Community Planning	Housing	Special Taxing Districts Study

– *Annette Mills, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Program*

## Proposed Budget, 2016-2017

The budget committee again opted not to recommend an increase in membership dues. However, the budget relies heavily on members making donations to the League of Women Voters of Oregon and to the LWV of the U.S. Education Fund. These donations offset the Corvallis League's per member payments to LWVOR and LWVUS. The budget relies on an increase in fundraising and includes money for program promotion.

– Budget Committee: Judy Ball, Sara Ingle, Claudia Keith

	2015-2016 ACTUAL	2015-2016 BUDGET	2016-2017 BUDGET
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Annual dinner	\$ 592.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 600.00
Non-Member Contributions	700.00	700.00	700.00
Grapefruit Receipts	10,317.99	12,000.00	11,400.00
Interest	132.55	166.00	135.00
Member Contributions	475.00	500.00	500.00
Membership Dues	6,500.97	6,420.00	6,500.00
Thrift Shop, sale of LWV Merchandise	54.76	150.00	100.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$18,773.27</b>	<b>\$20,636.00</b>	<b>\$19,935.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Events offset by receipts	\$ 673.55	\$ 650.00	\$ 675.00
Grapefruit Expense	7,010.00	8,000.00	7,000.00
LWVOR Ed. Fund Per Member Payment credit	(639.95)	(625.00)	(625.00)
LWVOR Per Member Payment	3,099.68	3,123.00	3,123.00
LWVUS Ed. Fund Per Member Payment Credit	(1,091.30)	(1,303.00)	(1,303.00)
LWVUS Per Member Payment	3,406.61	3,331.00	3,331.00
Bulletin Postage/Printing	1,423.69	1,500.00	1,500.00
Website, <i>e-communication</i>	554.76	400.00	450.00
PO Box, Permit, Corp.	387.00	550.00	400.00
President, treasurer, secretary, board	108.66	60.00	100.00
Program, committee expense	512.42	425.00	400.00
Program PR	-	-	400.00
National Convention	-	1,700.00	1,700.00
State Convention/Council	1,016.55	1,000.00	1,000.00
Membership development	-	75.00	34.00
Insurance	-	750.00	750.00
Action	370.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$16,831.67</b>	<b>\$20,636.00</b>	<b>\$19,935.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,941.60</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
Restricted income	429.43		
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>429.43</b>		
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 2,371.03</b>		



## 2016 Legislative Housing Gains

Our League Housing Committee met with Peggy Lynch, LWV of Corvallis and LWVOR Action team member, to look at gains in this last legislative session for homeowners and renters. LWVOR is a member of the Oregon Housing Alliance and worked with them in the 2016 session. While much attention has focused SB 1573 which ends voter approved annexations, for those who care about providing homes for all, there was much to celebrate.

### Here is a brief rundown of housing gains.

**SB 1533 partially repeals** the statewide ban on inclusionary zoning. According to Peggy, this may not have a large impact on the local housing market, but it has statewide implications in terms of opening up options for more affordable housing because of its focus on multifamily structures. We expect the City of Portland and possibly Eugene to begin adopting policy immediately. We were encouraged to begin conversation in Corvallis even though the bill is currently very narrow. The Construction Excise Tax option should also be considered to begin setting aside a fund for affordable housing.

**HB 4143 is of more local import**, as it is aimed at protecting tenants who rent month-to-month from rent increases in the first year of occupancy. This law lengthens the required notice periods for rent increases by 90 days.

**SB 1582 sets the criteria for bonding** dollars approved in 2015 and directs Oregon's Housing and Community Services department to begin offering grants in its Local Innovation and Fast Track Housing (LIFT) program. The program's goal

is to expand the supply of affordable housing for low income households.

**HB 4081 will help keep families in their homes** by maintaining property tax exemptions for affordable housing developments.

**Finally, SB 5701 provides** real \$\$\$\$ to increase housing stability by helping to prevent and end homelessness, ensuring that we do not lose any affordable units, and by helping homeowners to avoid foreclosure.

The total funding package for these initiatives is just under \$15 million. Clearly, our city and our state have a distance to go before we end homelessness but the 2016 legislative session was a huge step in this direction and one we can all celebrate.

After a very informative discussion, the committee talked with Peggy about strategies to call attention to the homeless situation in Corvallis. While it is clear that there is much conversation around this issue, it is less clear how broad based these conversations are and who is having them.

One idea that surfaced is for the committee to begin conversations with service groups and others to help them understand the scope of the housing problem in Corvallis. It is especially important to remind them that many of the homeless are students and families—a group often overlooked in public discussion—and that many of us have lived or will live in rental housing in our lifetimes. It is also important to remember that many people are one hospital stay or lost job away from being homeless. Peggy gave us a handout on forums by League members in Curry County.

— Karyle Butcher, Housing Committee Chair



## LWV Considers Climate Change at State Council and National Convention

The LWVUS Convention, June 16-19, will include climate change caucus meetings working on water resource issues, no new fossil fuel infrastructure and 100% renewables before 2050. Cathy Frischmann and I are working with the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force to ensure the convention includes a vote on a resolution to clarify existing positions to meet and/or prioritize the COP21 Paris Climate Change conference's 1.5C goal to limit global temperature increase.

The LWV of Oregon and Washington Joint Council, June 3-5, will include University of Oregon law professor Mary Wood as the Saturday dinner keynote speaker on the topic of Atmospheric Trust. A climate caucus meeting will follow her talk. We hope that caucus will agree to a Climate

resolution that could be voted on by both state Leagues at their Sunday morning business meetings.

The LWV Corvallis Climate Committee encourages new folks to join. Our goal includes timely and provocative local climate change programming, partnering with OSU and other groups to advocate for government policy changes addressing responsible climate change adaptation and mitigation issues. We have provided programs on carbon pricing, public trust doctrine, local and state progress on climate change policy; tabling at Corvallis Sustainability Coalition events, farmers market, "Transformation without Apocalypse," the February 2014 SpringCreekProject event .

— Claudia Keith, Climate Change Chair



### Reserve Dinner for LWV of Corvallis Annual Meeting, May 25

Please clip this form and return it with your check for \$16.00 by May 20

Mail check to: LWVC Annual Dinner, c/o Louise Marquering, 1640 NW Woodland Drive, Corvallis 97330-1742

**Menu:** Spinach salad with strawberries, mangoes, coconut and almonds  
Seared chicken breast with grape tomatoes, parmesan (*gluten-free*) - Mushroom stuffed ravioli  
Roasted spring veggies – Assorted gourmet dessert bars

Catered by Valley Catering – Compostable utensils and dishes provided by EcNow Tech

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to attend the LWV Annual Meeting, May 25<sup>th</sup>     I would like a ride     I can offer someone a ride



### Community Planning Update: League Takes the Stand

You may have noticed League President Laura Lahm Evenson’s picture in the paper several times in the last few months. She has been delivering testimony on several current issues of interest to the League.

In January, League testified against the extension of King’s Boulevard because we believed the proposal was incomplete and not in keeping with the Comprehensive Plan which requires complete development plans for the property adjacent to the road. The road also encroaches on significant natural areas and wetlands. Our opposition was based on League’s Community Planning position which supports:

1. Comprehensive Planning effectively implemented.
2. Protection through identification, regulation and/or preservation of areas of critical concern, such as rare and valuable ecosystems, wetlands, unique scenic and historic areas and significant wildlife habitat.
3. Regulation of natural hazard lands where development could endanger life and property, such as flood plains and areas of unstable geology.

The Kings Boulevard extension project was turned down by the City Council and has been appealed by the developer to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA).

League testified in March on the proposed OSU-Related Comprehensive Plan Amendments. We supported most of the proposed new policies and made comments on others,

especially those policies regarding housing and parking. We enthusiastically supported a policy encouraging OSU to develop a means of development decision-making that is more transparent, and policies that direct the City and OSU to work to reduce carbon emissions and car dependence. We based our comments on our position that supports citizen-based land use planning, effectively implemented, and urbanization policies that foster complete, healthy, and diverse communities where people can live, work, shop, and play. The proposed amendments are still in the process of consideration.

Also in March, after the legislature passed SB 1573 which takes away the City’s right to vote on annexations, we asked if the City will defend our home rule rights which include authorization to vote on annexations. Watch to see how the City plans to address this issue.

If you’d like to receive notice of League’s Community Planning Committee meetings, which are open to all, email [shellym@peak.org](mailto:shellym@peak.org).

– Shelly Murphy, Community Planning Chair



Laura Lahm Evenson, Peggy Lynch  
Credit Godofredo Vasquez, Gazette-Times



# 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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Don't forget to VOTE  
by 8 PM, May 17

 Join us on Facebook –  
LWVCorvallis



## LWV Calendar

### May

#### Tuesday 17

Primary Election Day – VOTE!  
Board meeting 10 AM-12 Noon

#### Wednesday 25

LWV of Corvallis Annual meeting  
6 PM, Library

### June

#### Friday-Sunday 3-5

LWV of Oregon and Washington  
Joint Council, Vancouver, Wash.

#### Thursday-Sunday 16-19

LWVUS Convention  
Washington D.C.

## 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?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

LWV's membership year begins in October. *Half-year dues for new members are charged from April through September - \$30/\$45/\$15*

*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