



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

November 2010

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Events

Patty McClintock,

Jo Anne Trow, Doris Waring

Nominating Committee

The League of Women Voters

is a nonpartisan political organization that—

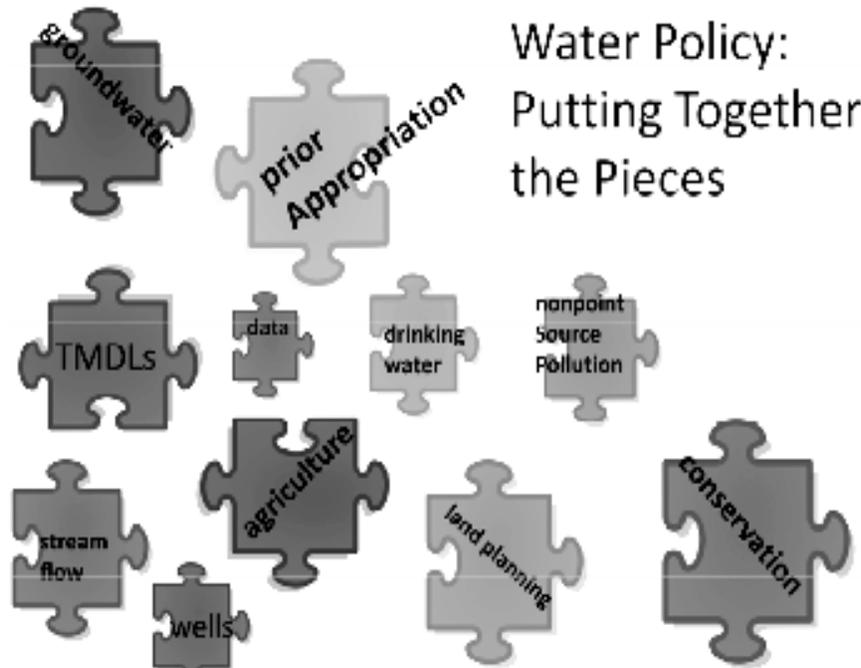
- * encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government,
- * works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and
- * influences public policy through education and advocacy.

General Meeting: Water in Oregon

Thursday, November 4, 7–9 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis



Members of the Corvallis LWV Water Resources committee will present information to help you prepare for consensus meetings the next week.

Co-sponsored by Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Consensus Meetings

Wednesday, November 10

10 AM – Ruth Gallagher’s 124 NW 7th St., #412

– OR –

Thursday, November 11

7 PM – Patty McClintock’s, 2826 NW Monterey Place

We urge Corvallis League members to participate in reaching consensus on water quality and water quantity issues and perspectives.

Every member material is enclosed with this bulletin

See also: *Water in Oregon* presentation at: www.lwvor.org/documents/WaterPart22010.html



President's Corner — Annette Mills

As I write this column in mid-October, our League is gearing up for two more candidates' forums. Our initial forum on October 5th featured candidates for state representatives and senators, who spoke to a packed room of more than 125 people. Local interest in this year's election is high, and the League has provided valuable services to voters through such resources as our forums, voter registration tables at Fall Festival and Farmers' Markets, and distribution of our Voters' Guides.

Another valuable resource is the League's new website, www.votesource.org, detailed below.

Special thanks to our Voters Service Committee (Kathy Conner, Kate Mathews, and Karen Nibler), forum moderators (Ann Brodie, Corrine Gobeli, and Ann Smart), Speakers Bureau (Paula Krane and JoAnne Trow), and many more League members who helped with voters service activities this fall.

League has also been busy on the advocacy side. In case you're reading this bulletin *before* turning in your ballot, please note that our local League strongly supports a "yes" vote on Measure 02-73 (renewal of the 509-J Schools local option levy). The state League advocates a "yes" on ballot Measures 71 (annual sessions of state legislature) and 76 (lottery funds for protection of water, parks, and wildlife), and a "no" vote on Measure 73 (mandatory minimum sentences for sex crimes and driving under the influence of intoxicants). See pages 3 and 4 for discussion of these measures.

When the League advocates for or against a local, state, or national issue, it's because we have standing positions backed by thoughtful, comprehensive study and member consensus. The League's process is unique among national organizations. Indeed, the League has been a strong, respected organization for 90 years largely because of this connection between the "grass-roots" (local members participating in study and consensus) and the state and national Leagues.

"Consensus" is the backbone of League positions, and YOU have an opportunity to participate in this important process during the month of November. Here's how it works:

- For the past two years, Leagues throughout Oregon have been doing a study on our state's water resources. On Thursday evening, November 4, our local Water Resources Committee will present an overview of the study's findings during a public meeting at the library.
- We'll hold our consensus discussions *for members only* on November 10 and 11. Choose the date/time that works best for you. This is YOUR opportunity to weigh in on this important topic. (What is more basic to life than water?!) During these members-only discussions, we'll respond to the consensus questions included in this bulletin and work toward consensus on each question. "Consensus" is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather, it is the overall sense of the group, as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions.
- Our local League board will submit the results of our discussions to the state League board, and the LWVOR board will use our input and that received from other local Leagues to craft a new position on Water Resources in Oregon. We can then use that position for advocacy.

Please plan to be part of this important process! We hope to see you on November 4 and again at one of the consensus meetings on November 10 and 11.

LWV of Corvallis

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This bulletin is the newsletter of the *League of Women Voters of Corvallis*, produced 10 times a year.

We welcome your input. If you have suggestions, story ideas, comments, or submissions for the Bulletin, contact Louise Marquering – lwvcLouise@AOL.com.

Submissions must be received no later than the 15th of the month.

Members subscribe through their dues. League membership is open to men and women of all ages.



Check Out Votesource.org

The LWVOR Education Fund has created a great new resource for Oregon voters at www.votesource.org. It provides easily accessible, valuable information on ALL local and state candidates and ballot measures, as well as basic voting information.

This website connects you to "vote411.org," the LWVUS Education Fund website that allows users to create a personalized sample ballot and to compare how candidates stand on various issues. Simply click on "See Candidates and Measures on Your Ballot" on the votesource.org home page. *Check it out – and share this excellent new resource!*

LWV Supports Measure 02-73 — You Can, Too

The LWV of Corvallis supports the local option levy for Corvallis schools (see text below). League members wishing to take individual action to support this measure have several opportunities:

- **Lawn Signs** (especially high visibility areas) - contact Donna Keim: willkeim@comcast.net
- **Phone Bank** every Weds, 5:30-8:00 - contact Jay Thatcher: jthatch@peak.org
- **Donations** - A prominent community member (who wants to remain anonymous) has offered to donate \$2000 for the campaign if it can be matched. Send contributions to: Corvallis Kids Count, 946 NW Circle Blvd #299, Corvallis, OR 97330, or pay on-line by going to the website: www.corvalliskidscount.org.
- **Letters to the Editor** at: opinion@gtconnect.com



Local Option Levy Renewal Ballot Measure 02-73

from Benton County Voters' Pamphlet

Question Shall district renew levy at a rate not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed value for five years beginning 2012-13? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Explanatory Statement In 2006, voters approved a 5-year Local Option levy to support the academic achievement, lower class sizes in core subjects, music skills/appreciation, and the health and physical fitness of all students. This measure would continue the current levy for another five years beginning in 2012-13. It would keep the existing levy rate which would not exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The following questions and answers have been provided to summarize this measure:

What does this measure do? Approval of this measure would continue funding for four educational areas:

- Reading and math for student academic success in kindergarten through grade five. This could continue to include updated learning materials, increasing time to learn reading and math skills, and training teachers in best instructional practices.
- Middle and high school academic and vocational/technical instruction. Sustained revenue would continue class sections and opportunities for more individual help in math, science, language arts, and humanities for middle and high school students.

- Opportunities for health, wellness and arts for all students. This would continue music and physical education time for elementary students as well as support for opportunities allowing students to be active and involved through athletics and other activities.

- Continues to provide the financial stability to maintain programs at their present level, including keeping class sizes in key academic areas as small as possible.

What would happen if this levy is not renewed? Loss of this revenue would reduce the district's budget for staffing and school operations by \$5,827,000 in 2012-13. It would mean increases in class size and reduced funding for educational programs. State school support has declined, reducing essential dollars to provide for a comprehensive student centered program. The 71 teachers funded by the existing Local Option levy represent 22 percent of the district's teaching staff.

When would this measure take effect? The Local Option renewal would take effect when the current levy ends after the 2011-12 school year. If approved, the existing levy rate (which cannot exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value) would be continued for five years.

Is this measure within the limits established by Ballot Measure #5? Yes, and all revenue gained remains in the Corvallis School District. The Local Option levy rate is calculated individually for each piece of property so that the total rate paid for school operations stays within the Measure #5 limits.



Voting in This Election

This is a vote-by-mail election. Ballots were mailed to every registered voter in October. If you have not received a ballot, call your local elections office – the Benton County office phone is 541-766-6756. If you were registered to vote by October 12, but now have a different address, call the elections office for instructions on how to update your registration and receive a ballot.

You can track the status of your ballot by going to My Vote at www.oregonvotes.org or you can call the elections office to ask if they received it. A record is kept showing each voter whose ballot has been returned.

Completed ballots must be RECEIVED either at an elections office or an official drop box site by **8 PM on November 2, 2010**. **Postmarks ON that date will NOT qualify the ballot.**

LWV Stands on Statewide Ballot Measures



Measure 71 (LWVOR supports) provides for annual sessions of the Oregon Legislature. It is a constitutional amendment referred by the 2010 Special Session of the Legislature and sets limits on the duration of each session.



Measure 73 (LWVOR opposes) is a statutory initiative establishing mandatory minimum sentences for certain sex offenders and drunk drivers. The proposal further erodes judicial flexibility in sentencing convicted persons and does not propose a funding source for the millions of dollars needed from the General Fund, taking away money for education, social programs, and public safety.



Measure 76 (LWVOR supports) puts into the constitution a 15% portion of the Oregon lottery for parks, natural resources (primarily water protection) and wildlife. The current statute allocating the lottery funds will sunset in 2014.

The League has no position on the other four state ballot measures.

League Housing Policy Committee



The LWV housing policy committee has been hard at work. Committee members chose three policy areas for concentration.

1. Making affordable housing units available to homeless persons through Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services (WNHS).
2. Getting user friendly information about services to volunteers and homeless persons.
3. Working with existing efforts to arrange dental care for homeless persons.

We have had two planning meetings and made site visits to a Portland transitional housing project and to Eugene to a housing program for homeless families. We are planning meetings with Jim Moorefield, director of WNHS, and with Sherlyn Dahl, Director of the Benton County Health Clinic, who chairs a work group on dental care.

In February we will have an evening program on the progress that is being made on the ten year plan to address homelessness in Benton County.

STAY TUNED!

— Barbara Ross, Chair



Community Planning Update

Creekside Center

On September 15th, the Corvallis Planning Commission voted to approve, with many conditions, the proposal for Creekside Neighborhood Shopping Center to be located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Philomath Boulevard and SW 53rd Street.

A Planning Commission decision is final unless someone files an appeal. League had testified earlier objecting to the variances requested that would allow encroachment into the highly protected riparian corridor of Dunawi Creek. We have strong positions in favor of protecting wetlands and Dunawi Creek has been designated by the City as a locally significant and highly protected proximate wetland.

We believe that the variances to our Land Use Code that were allowed in this development will have serious negative impacts not only on the wetland but on the Creek itself and its protected 100-year floodplain. League has appealed this development decision to the City Council. The appeal will be heard at the Council's November 1st meeting.

Land Use Appeals Fees

If you read your email around the first weekend in October, you may remember receiving a message asking you to contact your Council representative and request that the proposed increase in land use appeals fees be rejected.

Despite our testimony and pleas from citizens, Council voted on October 4th to approve the increase. Currently, a citizen or a non profit organization like the League pays a fee of \$250 to appeal a land use decision to the City Council. That fee will now increase to 10% of the application fee paid by the developer, which for large developments (like Creekside) could be close to \$1000. Our Community Planning Committee will be discussing this situation at upcoming meetings.

You are most welcome to join our committee or just visit. Meetings are scheduled for 1:30-3 PM on the following Thursdays: Nov. 11, Dec 2 and 15. Call or email Marilyn Koenitzer 541-754-0656, marwilko@comcast.net if you would like to attend. — *Shelly Murphy, Chair*

Low-Carbon Food Feast Was Delicious, Nourishing!

League's 10.10.10 event brought some amazing cooks together at the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center for a potluck meal that included soups, salads, casseroles, cassoulet, quiche, bread, savory vegetables, and desserts made from "low carbon" ingredients (i.e., local, organic, and/or low on the food chain).

While enjoying the meal, diners talked about the dishes they brought and shared information about where ingredients for these healthy, low carbon dishes can be obtained locally. Did you know, for instance, that you can mill your own flour at the First Alternative North Co-op and you can order local foods on line at www.corvallislocalfoods.com?



10.10.10 was the 350.org's International Day of Climate Action and the Low Carbon Food Feast was the League's activity meant to underscore how we can take individual action in response to the fact that one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions are linked to food production.

The League's local Climate Change team is soliciting ideas for future League activities that will help raise awareness and change behaviors in the effort to deal with the climate change crisis. We hope you will share your ideas with a League Board member and join in this important effort.



League Book Club Monday, November 8, 2:30 PM

I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced, by Nujood Ali

The LWV Book Club returns to Ruth Gallagher's (541-754-3112, ryall@peak.org) to discuss the story of a young Yemeni girl named by Glamour magazine in 2008 as a Woman of the Year.

I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced relates the true story of a 10-year old girl, sold by her poverty-stricken family to a 30-year old man, who raped and abused her. Nujood Ali ran away, and with the help of lawyers, judges and international media attention, was granted a divorce.

The book is hailed for its unflinching look, through the eyes of a brave child, at both "unbelievable abuse and ... courageous resistance."

Please call Ruth to let her know if you will be attending and to get directions to her home.

Upcoming books:

December 13 *La's Orchestra Saves the World*, Alexander McCall Smith

January 10 *The Help*, Kathryn Stockett

February 14 *And the Pursuit of Happiness*, Maira Kalman

March 14 *Every Man Dies Alone*, Hans Fallada

April 11 *Mr. Rosenblum Dreams in English*, Natasha Solomons;

May 9 *Father Joe: The Man Who Saved my Soul*, Tony Hendra;

June 13 *Meet to select 2011-2012 books*

Honorable Discharges: Wastewater Options for Corvallis City Club of Corvallis

Monday, November 8, 2010 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM

The Renaissance Building, Ground Floor Banquet Room, 136 SW Washington St., Corvallis

Tom Penpraze, Corvallis Utilities Division Manager & **Dave Eckert**, filmmaker, water conservation activist

Wastewater treatment has been called the greatest environmental success story, but meeting federal regulatory standards in the face of a growing population requires ingenuity and investment.

The City of Corvallis is considering three options for removing end-of-pipe discharges from the Willamette River: irrigation at the Trysting Tree Golf Course, irrigation at area farms, and biological treatment in created wetlands. Conservation may also play a role in reducing the amount of water flushed through the system and thus the "downstream" impact.

Attendance is free. An optional buffet lunch is available for \$10. Register online by Thursday, Nov. 4, or hold a seat w/out lunch by emailing: nickhoutman8@aol.com with "City Club Nov 8" in the subject line.



Dues reminder — The RED DOT on the label of your newsletter is a reminder to pay your Corvallis LWV dues. If you have already sent your renewal dues, thank you!

Membership in LWV of Corvallis is open to all persons who subscribe to the purposes and policy of the League. Your membership makes the League's voice stronger!



Order Your Grapefruit and/or Oranges by November 15

Our annual fruit fundraiser runs up to November 15. A box of ruby red grapefruit or fresh oranges is an excellent gift for yourself or someone special! Your order supports our local programs and activities, made possible by citizens who believe that what League does is important. You can support our work by purchasing grapefruit and/or oranges. League nets about 40% of the cost of each box. *If you do not order fruit, please consider making a donation.* The fruit arrives the first week of December and is delivered to your home.

Prices are: \$20 for a 20-pound box of grapefruit or oranges

OR \$12 for a 10-pound half-box of grapefruit

Make checks payable to LWV of Corvallis. Send your order by November 15 to:

Louise Marquering, 1640 NW Woodland Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330. *Fill out order form, clip, send and enjoy!*

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

___ Full Box/es of GRAPEFRUIT @ \$20 each \$ _____ ___ Half-box/es of GRAPEFRUIT @ \$12 each \$ _____

___ Full Box/es of ORANGES @ \$20 each \$ _____

Other Contribution to LWV of Corvallis \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

Note: Donations/contributions made through the grapefruit sales to LWV Corvallis are *not tax deductible*. To be deductible, contributions should be made out separately to the LWV Education Fund.

Corvallis Leaguers Attend State League Workshop

On October 16, six members of the Corvallis League carpooled to Eugene to attend the annual LWVOR workshop. They networked with other League members from around the state and participated in a full day of League work that included the following topics:

- *Updates* on the video and online Voters' Guides, a new LWVOR oral history project, the new state Coastal Management study, and membership materials;
- *LWVOR Action Committee reports* on state budget issues, redistricting, juvenile justice, and state environmental issues;

- *Overview of LWVOR action* on Ballot Measures 71 (we support), 73 (we oppose), and 76 (we support);
- *"The Federal Role in Education from a Local Perspective,"* a presentation by Eugene School Superintendent George Russell;
- *Oregon student mock elections;* and
- *Making a difference on climate change* at the local level.

Is one of these topics of particular interest to you? Ask Kathy Conner, Paula Krane, Peggy Lynch, Annette Mills, Shelly Murphy, or Karen Nibler for more details.

Take a look at Corvalligator.org *Corvalligator* is an aggregated Corvallis events calendar for the community of Corvallis, Oregon and the surrounding areas. It's an all-volunteer effort and we encourage anyone to import, create, and edit events.

This site is powered by the open source project *Calagator*. You can use it to:

- Find local events
- Share local events, and
- Get involved.



LWV of Corvallis
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Join the League

Name _____

Address *City, Zip+4 digits* _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

_____ \$55 individual membership _____ \$82.50 household

_____ \$27.50 student _____ Renewal _____ Contribution*

I would like to be considered:

Active _____ Inactive Member / Supporter _____

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

What special skills/ talents/ interests would you like to share with the League? _____

LWV 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. However, contributions to the *LWVUS Education Fund*, paid with a separate check, are deductible.



League Calendar

November

Tu 2 Election Day – Ballots due by 8 PM

Thu 4 General Meeting: *Water in Oregon*, 7 PM

Mon 8 League Book Club, 2:30 PM

Wed 10 Water Study Consensus, 10 AM

Thu 11 Water Study Consensus, 7 PM

Fri 12 Board Meeting, 10 AM

Mon 15 *Last day to order Grapefruit*

December

Grapefruit Delivery

Tue 7 Potluck & Membership Meeting

Mon 13 League Book Club, 2:30 PM

Fri 10 Board Meeting, 10 AM