



# League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County, Oregon

November 2011

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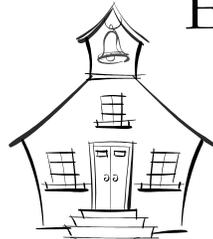
Karen Nibler Social Policy

Pat Bishop, Patty McClintock,  
Ann Smart  
Nominating Committee

## 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.



## Equity, Standards & Funding

### The Federal Role in Education Past, Present & Future



Part I: *History & Common Core Standards - Tuesday, November 8, 7-8:45 PM*

Part II: *Funding & Equity - Monday, November 14, 7-8:45 PM*

**Location both nights: Corvallis-Benton County Public Library**

### Presented by LWVC Education Study Committee

Craig Leman, Nancy Leman, Victoria Martinez, Annette Mills, Shelly Murphy, Anne Schuster

Both of November's LWV of Corvallis consensus meetings will follow a similar format:

1. Brief presentations (10-20 minutes each, for a total of 30-40 minutes)
2. Round-table discussions in groups of eight, facilitated by members of our local League's Education Study Committee.

*These topics and more will be explored and discussed during these very important meetings:*

- What should be the role of the federal government in public education?
- Should common core standards be federally mandated?
- If so, how should mandates and funding be related – or should they?
- What is “equity” in public education?

“The Federal Role in Education” was selected at the 2010 LWVUS Convention for a two-year national League study. Leagues all over the country are discussing and debating the same issues and questions that we explore this month.

If consensus is reached, the LWVUS will be able to adopt a new Education position that can be used to lobby elected officials. Make sure your voice is heard!

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for these landmark meetings. Invite your friends and colleagues to come with you to hear from our presenters, to ask questions, and to observe League members in action as we work through the consensus process. Be there!

*Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Corvallis and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library*

**Coming Soon! December 6, 6-9 PM**

### National & Local League Program Planning + Soup & Sociability!

**This is where we start the ball rolling** toward a program of study and action for the Corvallis League 2012-2013 and for national League 2012-2014. Come and bring your dreams and ideas. More details coming in December.



## President's Corner – Kate Mathews

The Corvallis League has several ongoing committees which have been very active already. We started off with a presentation by our new 509J Superintendent, Dr. Erin Prince, telling us her vision for our schools.

This was a good trigger to get you thinking about League's national study of "The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education." Our Education Committee will hold two sessions in November to present the material to us and lead us through to consensus. *Note:* Our last three bulletins have had green pull-out papers on this for you to study, and they give a website where you can obtain more information if you want. The consensus questions are on pages 3-4 and the final background pieces are inserted in this bulletin. I hope you attend and participate in this important consensus.

Our Community Planning Committee has been tracking land use issues in our area. The Housing Committee meets regularly. Our Dental Committee is coming along also. Our most active committee at the moment is Local Food. This committee has been working on a National Food Day event that was held on October 24.

I hope you attended the presentation on Climate Change and Wildlife by Dr. Audrey Hatch on October 20. Climate change is an issue that's very important to League.

And thinking about all these issues, be prepared to participate in the National and Local Program Planning Meeting and Soup Dinner in December. The Board provides soup and dessert for you (what a deal!) and we discuss topics we might like to study or update on both the national and local League levels. This is a great time to get an overview of the League's programs.

Our Fruit Fundraiser will be over and the fruit will be mostly delivered by then. You might be able to buy an extra box if you did not order enough with your first order—we always get some extra fruit.

I suppose finally I should mention that your yearly membership is due. And of course you did get your fruit order in?



## Health Care is Changing in Oregon: Be Part of the Story

**Wednesday, November 2, 2011, 6-8 PM**

Dennis Hall, First Presbyterian Church, Corner of Monroe and 9th, Corvallis

**We all have a role in improving health care**

**Help guide the future of how health care is provided in Benton County**

*Speakers:* Kevin Ewanchyna, MD, Samaritan Health Services; Mitch Anderson, Benton County Health Department; Kelley Kaiser, MPH, Samaritan Health Plan; Kristin Bradford MD, MPH, Community Health Centers, Linn & Benton Counties

*Discussion facilitated by Charlie Tomlinson – Free child care and light refreshments*

**Sponsored by:** Benton County Health Department; Community Health Centers of Linn and Benton Counties; Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates; Physicians for National Health Program; Benton-Linn Health Equity Alliance; National Alliance on Mental Illness; Mid-Valley; League of Women Voters of Corvallis; Samaritan Health Services

### LWV of Corvallis

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

If you have suggestions, comments, submissions, or story ideas for the Bulletin, contact Louise Marquering or Beth Thoennes. We welcome your input.

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

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

## PUBLIC EDUCATION STUDY – CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

Take some time to review the Everymember material on Education from your August, September, October and November bulletins. Then use the questions below to prepare yourself for the November 8 and 16 consensus meetings on Public Education. *These questions are for your personal preparation only. Our League's official response will be submitted online by the Board.*

### *General Questions*

1. The current role of the federal government in public education is  
*Much too small      Too small      About right      Too large      Much too large*
2. What should be the role of the federal government in public education? (*Rank*)
  - a. To ensure that all students preK-12 receive a quality education.
  - b. To develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so that they achieve adequate yearly progress.
  - c. To mandate Common Core Standards for all students K-12.
  - d. To monitor state efforts for funding
  - e. To measure teacher effectiveness through test data.
2. A quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy.  
*Strongly agree      Agree      No consensus      Disagree      Strongly disagree*

### *Common Core Standards*

4. Currently the governors and state education officers have developed Common Core Standards that are national but not federal. Should the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding? (*Choose one*)
  - a. Special grant programs such as Race to the Top
  - b. All programs under Elementary and Secondary Education Act where the needs qualify for funding.
  - c. All programs receiving federal funding from any source
  - d. All of the above
  - e. None of the above
5. Should there be a national assessment aligned with the common cores standards?  
*Yes      No*  
 If *Yes*, Should implementation be voluntary or federally mandated? (*choose one*)
  - a. Voluntary
  - b. Mandated
  - c. Mandated, if fully funded
 If *No*, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (*choose one*)
  - a. Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments
  - b. Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the Stanford Achievement Test or Iowa Test of Basic Skills
  - c. Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically
6. National standards should lead to: (*choose one*)
  - a. A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments
  - b. A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated
  - c. A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum
  - d. No national curriculum
7. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (*Rank order*)
  - a. Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards
  - b. Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards
  - c. Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers
  - d. Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement
  - e. Provide diagnostic information on each child

*Continued on page 4*

*Consensus questions, continued –*

8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (choose one)
- Data should be “norm referenced” (where students are ranked) for district comparison only
  - Data should be “criterion referenced” and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level
  - Data should be used to determine “cut” scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels
9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (*Choose one*):
- Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
  - Reward schools that achieve high scores
  - Rank teachers based on student test score data
  - Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
  - Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs

*Do you have other comments concerning the topics covered in the Common Core Standards questions?*

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### *Funding and Equity*

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10. In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need. All/Any Schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive grants are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain federal requirements, such as Race to the Top. Which would be appropriate: (*choose one*)
- Non-competitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements
  - A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants
  - Competitive grants only
  - No federal funding
11. If the federal government’s role is the concern of the “common good” then: (*choose one*)
- Mandates only should be sanctioned
  - Mandates and funding should both be provided
  - Funding should be provided through grants only
  - A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply
  - No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available
12. Equity in public education means equitable access to: (*Rank order*)
- High quality teaching/learning
  - Adequate and current learning materials
  - Clean and well maintained physical facilities
  - Food and health care
  - Safe and secure neighborhoods
  - Secure housing
13. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered “categorical” rather than for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs.
- |                       |              |                     |                 |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Strongly agree</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>No consensus</i> | <i>Disagree</i> | <i>Strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
14. The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children.
- |                       |              |                     |                 |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Strongly agree</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>No consensus</i> | <i>Disagree</i> | <i>Strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
15. Federal support for early childhood education programs (e.g. Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health as needed.
- |                       |              |                     |                 |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Strongly agree</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>No consensus</i> | <i>Disagree</i> | <i>Strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
- b. This funding should be extended to:
- |                     |                                      |                            |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>All children</i> | <i>Only those with special needs</i> | <i>Special needs first</i> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|

*Do you have other comments concerning the topics covered in the Funding and Equity Questions?*



## Community Planning Update

### Corvallis Residents Can Play a Role in How the Community Grows

**Suddenly, after a quiet summer,** the Corvallis Community Development Department has received and is

processing a number of large development proposals, and permits have been granted for a 73-unit multi-family development called 7<sup>th</sup> Street Station. Improvements have begun on this 5-acre development that borders the railroad tracks along Western Boulevard.

Among the land development applications under review are Walnut Creek—80 apartment units in ten buildings and 66 sq. ft. of industrial development across Circle Blvd from HP on the corner of Walnut. A Planning Commission Public Hearing on this proposal was scheduled for October 19. The redevelopment of the Heart of the Valley site into Harrison Apartments with 91 units is scheduled for a public hearing on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and a proposed annexation of the McFadden industrial property south of Hewlett Packard will be heard on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the above, a developer from Charlotte, N.C. called Campus Crest has indicated an interest in building a large student housing development on the Witham Oaks site, though no application has been submitted as yet.

All are welcome to speak at Corvallis Planning Commission public hearings held in the Downtown Fire Station Meeting Room at 7 PM. Information about the development to be heard can be obtained from the Planning Division at City Hall or found online at:

[www.ci.corvallis.or.us/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1968&Itemid=2225](http://www.ci.corvallis.or.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1968&Itemid=2225).

#### Help Assure Protection of Streams and Riparian

**Corridors.** League supports Benton County's efforts to establish a stream and riparian corridor protection overlay

zone. There is still time for individuals to lend support and provide suggestions on this proposed overlay zone. *Write your letter now.* The draft code and background information can be found at: [www.co.benton.or.us/cd/riparian/index.php](http://www.co.benton.or.us/cd/riparian/index.php). The LWVOR Water Position is at: [www.lwvor.org/lwvorpositions.htm#quality](http://www.lwvor.org/lwvorpositions.htm#quality).

Send your input to: [greg.verret@co.benton.or.us](mailto:greg.verret@co.benton.or.us), or mail to Community Development Dept., 360 SW Avery Ave. Corvallis, OR 97333-1139

Public hearings will be held by the Planning Commission in November and by the Board of Commissioners in December.

**Town & Gown Plan Together.** The 2011-2012 City Council established a goal: *Working with the OSU President and his staff, by December 2011, the Council will create a plan to seize opportunities on parking, code enforcement, infill design, rental code, traffic design and other important issues.*

An initial step in implementation of this goal was the formation of a joint scoping committee to determine projects to be initiated; the resources needed, and desired outcomes. Representatives from the City and OSU have agreed upon a memorandum of understanding to officially begin the initiative.

**The Scoping committee will conduct a public meeting on November 16 at 7 PM** at the Corvallis Senior Center, 2601 NW Tyler to provide an update on recommended priorities and next steps, and to hear public comments.

For more information, contact City Manager Jim Patterson or call 541-766-6901.

**The League's Community Planning Committee** needs more eyes and ears. Please email me if you would like to be notified of our meetings – *Shelly Murphy (shellym@peak.org)*.

**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 dues, thank you!

Membership in LWV of Corvallis is open to all persons who subscribe to the purposes and policy of the League. Corvallis LWV members look forward to a very active year and your membership makes the League's voice stronger!

– Janet Wolf-Esbe, Membership Co-chair



# WELCOME!

New Member, Sandra Helmick

## Order Fruit by November 15!

There's still time to order a delicious box (or boxes) of your choice of fruit—Texas grapefruit, California oranges, Oregon pears, Washington apples, *or* a Festival of Fruit box with a selection of fruit. The fruit arrives the first week of December and is delivered to your home. An order blank was in your October newsletter *or* you can print the fruit order form from the League's website home page. Just click on "order" at [www.lwv.corvallis.or.us](http://www.lwv.corvallis.or.us). If you don't order fruit, please consider a donation to League. (Remember, gifts to LWV Corvallis are *not* tax deductible.)



# League of Women Voters of Corvallis

P.O. Box 1679  
Corvallis, OR 97339-1679  
541-757-2276

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## Join the League!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address *City, Zip+4 digits* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 individual membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$82.50 household

\_\_\_\_\_ \$27.50 student \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution\*

*I would like to be considered as an:*

**Active Member** \_\_\_\_\_ **Inactive Member/Supporter** \_\_\_\_\_

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

LWV's 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 the LWVUS Education Fund, paid with a separate check, are deductible.



## League Calendar

### November

- Wed 2** Board Meeting 10 AM  
Health Care Meeting, First  
Presbyterian Church 6-8 PM
- Tue 8** General Meeting & Consensus:  
Education Study, Part I,  
Library 7 PM
- Mon 14** General Meeting & Consensus:  
Education Study, Part II,  
Library 7 PM
- Tue 15** ***Fruit Fundraiser Ends***

### December

#### ***Fruit Delivery***

- Tue 6** Soup Potluck – National &  
Local Program Planning 6-9 PM
- Wed 7** Board Meeting 10 AM