



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County, Oregon

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

October 2013

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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.



General Meeting: The Future of Agriculture Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 to 8:45 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Library Meeting Room
645 NW Monroe Avenue

Presentations and panel discussion will feature:

Karla Chambers, Stahlbush Island Farms

Jason Bradford, Vitality Farms & Farmland LP

Tim Winn, Winn's Livestock and Hatchery

Moderator: Dr. Dan Arp, OSU Dean of Agricultural Sciences

The League of Women Voters of the US has launched a national re-study of the League's Agricultural Policy position. To begin the study at the local level, our Local Food Committee decided to ask area farmers for an on-the-ground reading of the issues. Three local farmers representing diverse backgrounds and points of view have been asked to address these key questions:

- What do you see as the current issues in agriculture?
- What is your vision for the future of agriculture?
- Are there any policies you would like to see changed?
- What steps do we need to take to achieve your vision?

These questions and more will be explored and discussed. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a program that is sure to spark many questions and a lively discussion.

As always, please invite your family, friends and colleagues.



Voter Service Forum: October 23, 7-8:30 PM

Corvallis Benton County Library Meeting Room

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis presents this forum to help voters make informed decisions on these Special Election ballot measures:

City of Corvallis:

Measure 02-86 Livability, Public Safety and City Services Local Option Tax Levy

Measure 02-87 Proposed 49th Street Annexation

County Estates Road District: Measure 02-85 County Estates Road District 5 Year Local Option Local Option Tax Levy for Operations

Mayor Julie Manning will present the pro arguments for Corvallis Measure 02-86, the Local Option Tax Levy. Information for a no vote will be available. Wording of each measure is on page 4 of this bulletin. (See the Benton County Voter's Pamphlet for more pro and con arguments.)

These programs co-sponsored by League of Women Voters of Corvallis and Corvallis-Benton County Library



Vice-President's Corner – Annette Mills

The year is off to a great start for the LWV of Corvallis!

Our kick-off meeting in September was highly successful, with a diverse crowd filling the library meeting room to hear our amazing speaker, Dr. Jane Lubchenco. Her riveting presentation on her experiences in Washington D.C. emphasized the importance of relationships and good science.

Prior to her talk, representatives from our various League committees gave informative mini-presentations on their committees' activities. Many thanks to: Karyle Butcher – Housing, Corrine Gobeli – Membership, Sara Ingle – Voters Service, Shelly Murphy – Community Planning, and Karen Nibler – LWVOR studies, for engaging our audience and impressing them with all that the League is doing. We are also grateful to Doris Waring and Laura Lahm Evenson for setting up the room and welcoming everyone. Our president, Ann Brodie, was out of town and unable to join us, but we owe her a debt of gratitude for arranging to have Dr. Lubchenco be our speaker. Thanks to all who helped to make this meeting a special one!

October will be another busy month for our League. On October 15th, we'll launch our part of the national League study on Agricultural Policy with a special program on "The Future of Agriculture."

The November election is just around the corner and your mail-in ballots will arrive later this month. To help voters become better informed about the issues, we are sponsoring a Voters Service Forum on October 23rd.

Please mark your calendar for both of these important events. We look forward to seeing you!



Board Notes – September 12 Meeting

In President Ann Brodie's absence, Vice President Annette Mills presided over a full agenda.

Non-Partisan Policy: The Board reviewed our local policy with upcoming elections in mind.

Programs: We reviewed the next four months' programs and the October 23rd Election Forum.

December's "Higher Education" topic was questioned, since that LWVOR 2-year study is just beginning. Perhaps the topic should be "Citizen Participation." This will be decided at the October meeting.

Legislative Town Halls: There will be two Town Halls next year, one in February and one in March, which will cover the one-month session of the 2014 Legislature.

Committee reports were distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting in an effort to make things more efficient. These were clarified.

League 101: Corrine Gobeli, Membership co-chair, proposed League 101 sessions

preceding general meetings to acclimate new members to the League; we discussed topics that might be covered.

Website: Shelly Murphy needs suggestions for the LWV of Corvallis website.

.Special Funds Grants: Treasurer Sara Ingle reported that investment funds have been spent on three programs: the Oregon Women Vote program in 2012, the dental project, and on an on-going Sustainability water project. Grant money is available but no applications have been received. Information will be repeated in the bulletin.

LWVOR Kick-off Workshops will be held in October and November, one in Roseburg, another in Oregon City. Registration forms will be in the bulletin. Carpooling can be arranged after people have registered.

Archives: We also discussed locating local League archival material. We will ask members in the bulletin to help us locate the files and boxes in various members' homes.

LWV of Corvallis

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

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 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.

Forum - Affordable Health Care for ALL Oregon: A Moral Imperative

Tuesday, October 1, 6:30 PM – First United Methodist Church, 11th and Monroe, Corvallis

Will Oregon's affordable health care legislation be inclusive, accessible, affordable, accountable? Does it match our values?

Speaker: State Rep. Michael Dembrow, sponsor, Affordable Health Care for ALL Oregon Act

Panelists: Rabbi Benjamin Barnett, the Rev. Simon Justice, and Michael Huntington, MD

Strategy report: Camilo Marquez, M.D., Health Care for ALL Oregon Legislative Committee

Sponsored by Interfaith Health Care Network – *Co-sponsors* League of Women Voters of Corvallis, Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates, Physicians for a National Health Program Corvallis



Community Planning Update: Why Creekside Matters

Nearly three years ago, the Corvallis League became aware of a development proposal at Philomath Boulevard and SW 53rd Street called Creekside Center. The property is zoned commercial and is within the City Limits.

The Corvallis League appealed the City's approval of the project to the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). LUBA then sent a remand to the City (i.e. sent it back to the City stating what needed changing). In June of this year, the developer made some minor changes and the City approved. Our League chose not to appeal the City's remand decision.

At no point did the League challenge the entire 6.64 acre Creekside Center development. The League's challenge was to the intrusion of the proposal into the riparian zone protecting Dunawi Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) into the floodplain, and into the highly protected wetlands to the north of the Creek. In 2008, an earlier project with a considerably smaller footprint had received a Removal/Fill Permit from the Division of State Lands allowing access to the property. This development proposal was later withdrawn. The current expanded proposal that the City ultimately approved was appealed by the our League to LUBA.

The League's justification for arguing against the City's approval of the Creekside Center proposal centered principally on League's strong positions regarding protection for natural resources; in particular, stream corridors, wetlands and the floodplain.

In 2006, a Natural Features Inventory had been added to the Land Development Code (LDC). This Inventory, after much study, identified certain significant natural features and floodplain provisions for protection.

The outcome of the League's appeal resulted in some decrease in intrusion into the riparian zone. The fate of a highly argued Multi-Use Trail, almost entirely within "Highly Protected Wetlands" is still somewhat obscure.

The value of the League's considerable effort, however, lies in the future. The League found, for example, that the LDC's protection for natural resources can be diluted by the Code's Minimum Assured Development (MADA) provisions.

MADA makes intrusion into protected areas possible. Intrusion can be allowed as a "balanced, clear, and objective" means "to avoid an undue burden for the property owners." If a certain percentage of an owner's property is in a protected area, MADA kicks in. MADA credits for the area lost to development are given, and development can take place in significant protected areas and areas subject to natural hazards.

The League believes that the "balancing" of protection and burden to the owner was considered when the Natural Features Inventory was developed. It does not require yet another "balancing." Thus, MADA should be the subject of a major public discussion.

Understanding values and process are what the League's wonderful principles and energetic volunteers are good at.

It's not too late for a Special Funds Grant – Applications due October 15

Do you have an idea for a League project that could use funding? The Corvallis League has unrestricted memorial funds that may be used by League members for League projects. *The current application deadline is October 15, for project start-up in January.* Download an application form from the

League's website (www.lwv.corvallis.or.us/funds.php). Applications go to Ann Brodie, President of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis, who will forward them to the Board and the Review Committee.

Nonpartisan Policy of the League of Women Voters

From the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States:

Article II Section 1. “The purpose of the League of Women Voters of the United States is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.” Thus, the League advocates and takes action on public policy issues based on adopted positions.

Article II Section 2. “The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.” Though the League is a political organization, it is nonpartisan. League support for any particular position does not constitute support for any candidate or partisan group.

On the Ballot, November 5 Special Election



Measure 02-85 – Five year local option tax levy for operations. [Country Estates Road District] Shall the District impose a tax of \$0.520/\$1,000 valuation for maintenance operations for five years beginning in 2014? This measure may

cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary: The Country Estates Road District submits a local option tax levy intended to continue funding for necessary major repairs. The permanent tax base (\$0.560/\$1,000 valuation) is sufficient only for routine crack sealing and minor pothole repair.

This request will replace the two levies expiring at the end of the fiscal year (total) \$0.494/\$1,000 valuation), and will allow the rebuilding process to continue. Without the new levy, District roads will deteriorate at a rapid pace, resulting in higher costs in the future.

This measure will cost approximately \$140 per household per year, providing about \$13,000 per year revenue.

Measure 02-87 – 49th Street Annexation

The 10.74-acre area proposed for annexation is located between SW 49th Street and SW 53rd Street, north of SW Nash Avenue. The area includes 0.25 acre of adjacent right-of-way and 10.49 acres of private land which currently has residences on it. The Comprehensive Plan Map designation for the property is Residential-Low Density. If annexed, the property would be zoned RS-6 (Low Density Residential). The proposed zone is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan Map designation.

Measure 02- 86– Livability, Public Safety and City Services Local Option Tax Levy.

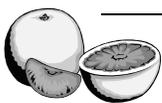
Shall Corvallis impose \$8181 per \$1,000 of assessed value, for five years beginning July 1, 2014, for operations? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary: Tax revenue from this measure would be restricted in the following percentages (with FY 2015 estimated dollar amounts):

- 13.33% (\$426,640). Maintain operation of the Osborn Aquatic Center;
- 9.97% (\$319,010). Maintain operation of the Chintimini Senior Center;
- 33.22% (\$1,062,790). Maintain Library services, books, materials, and Monday hours; restore Sunday hours;
- 3.32% (\$106,340). Maintain social services grants;
- 3.04% (\$97,340). Long-range Planning;
- 1.21% (\$38,700). Code Enforcement;
- 4.33% (\$138,550). Fire Prevention;
- 9.64% (\$308,560). Three additional Police Officers to address livability;
- 3.19% (\$102,180). School Resource Police Officer; and
- 18.75% (\$600,000). Replaces unrestricted revenue lost from the Hewlett-Packard judgment. Must be underlevied the same amount as revenue increase resulting from final judgment.

By fiscal year, this levy is estimated to raise:

2015 - \$3,200,110; 2016 - \$3,296,114; 2017- \$3,394,997; 2018 - \$3,496,847; 2019 - \$3,601,753. Total \$16,989,821



Fruit Fundraiser Begins This Month! Coming very soon to your mailbox will be an order form for the delicious fruit that League offers for sale each year at this time. We have been waiting for the harvest, when prices are established, to set prices for individual fruit boxes and combination boxes.

We DO count on you and all your friends and relatives to order fruit to benefit League. This is our major fundraising effort for the year. So when you get the form in the mail, make your choices, fill in the blanks and order right away to receive your boxes of delicious, juicy fruit the first week of December! – Louise Marquering, Fruit Sale Chair

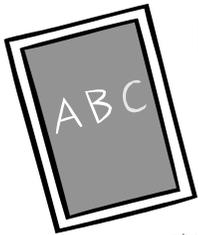
October is Membership Month!

Why join or rejoin League? Through participation in League projects, you can contribute valuable service to the community, gain knowledge and experience through study and discussion of timely and important topics, discover new interests, develop new skills and learn about crucial issues in your community, make professional contacts, and develop lasting friendships as you meet others in League who share your interests.

How much time does it take? It's up to you! Many members choose only to support the League with their annual dues. Your membership alone gives us the political influence needed to build a voice for citizens and a force

for change. We cover a broad spectrum of issues and concerns; you may choose to become involved in one or more of them by actively participating in a group study, listening to a panel of experts at a meeting or just reading about them in one of our publications. We welcome all levels of participation.

Are you a new member? The Membership Committee has new member packets available now. If you would like a packet, contact Corrine Gobeli - gobelic@comcast.net, 541-745-7736, or Laura Lahm-Evenson – evensonlahm@gmail.com, 541-753-6036. You may also pick them up at a *League 101* meeting (see below).



New! *League 101*

Consensus, concurrence, units, positions, portfolios, PMP. . . Like every organization, the League has its own language, mission, organization and structure. Starting in October, we'll host a

series of small presentations on League topics to introduce new members and remind experienced members what the League of Women Voters is, what we do and why we do it. Join us at 6:30 PM, just before general meetings in the Main Meeting Room of the Library to hear about League. This will be a great time to ask questions and meet others.

Here's the upcoming schedule. We hope to see you!

October 15: Who We Are – League Mission, Principles, Structure: Shelly Murphy, League member since 1967, past president of the LWV of Corvallis.

November 19: Nonpartisan, but Political: Voters Service and Advocacy, Kate Mathews, Voters Service chair and past president of the LWV of Corvallis.



WELCOME!

New Member Suzanne Ortiz

December 10: The Program Planning Process (prep for January meetings) Corrine Gobeli, Membership co-chair, and past president of the LWV of Corvallis.

January – no League 101 meeting – join us for the January 21st soup social and program planning.

February 18: The Study Process – Consensus, Concurrence, Positions, Action: Paula Krane, past president of LWVOR and LWVOR action expert.

March 18 – A Brief History of League (in honor of Women's History Month), Jo Ann Trow, Life Member.

– Corrine Gobeli, Membership Co-chair



Jean Leach, Aug. 8, 1925–Sept. 1, 2013

Longtime League member Jean Leach grew up in Sacramento, California. She earned a degree in social work from the University of California, Berkeley. In 1950 Jean and her husband Charles moved to Corvallis. She served efficiently as the Corvallis League's treasurer in the '70s. Jean actively contributed to women's rights in the community and health care for all. She will be greatly missed by our League and the entire Corvallis community.

Full obituary in Corvallis Gazette-Times September 10, 2013.

Register NOW! League of Women Voters of Oregon / Education Fund Cradle to Career – LWV Education Studies Kick-Off 2013

Launch LWVOR’s studies: Children at Risk and Post Secondary Education.

Kick-off workshops will focus on League studies, inform League members and the public, and help with fund- and member-raising.

Umpqua Community College. Roseburg

Register by October 2

Danny Lang Event Center - 1140 Umpqua College Rd.

Saturday, October 12 10 AM - 2:30 PM
Check-in begins at 9:30 AM

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Nancy Golden
Oregon Education Investment Board

Panel: John Amoroso, Christy Cox, *Ford Family Foundation*
Dr. Joe Olson, *President, Umpqua Community College*
Gwen Soderberg-Chase, *UCC Early Childhood Education*
Pat Sublette, *Assistant Director Douglas ESD Special Education*
Susan Weeks, *Special Assistant to President, University of Oregon*

Register by October 2, 2013: Register & Pay ONLINE at www.lwvor.org/umpqua-registration OR make checks payable to LWVOR & return with this form to: LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302. *Questions?* Call 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org.

Umpqua Registration: Cradle to Career Workshop, October 12 – *Advance registration required*

Name _____

LWV Member? Yes No

If yes, indicate League _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Workshop \$25.00 (includes lunch)

Lunch choice: Roast Turkey Wrap
 Vegetarian Wrap Barbeque Beef Wrap

Clackamas Community College, Oregon City

Register by October 25

Gregory Forum – 19600 Molalla Avenue

Saturday, November 2 10 AM - 2:30 PM
Check-in begins at 9:30 AM

Keynote Speaker: Pam Curtis
Oregon Early Learning Council Chair

Panel: Whitney Grubbs, *Oregon Education Investment Board - Karen Gorton, Clackamas Co., Children Youth and Families*
Dr. Joanne Truesdell, *President Clackamas Community College - Lois Davis, Portland State University Chief of Staff*

Register by October 25, 2013: Register & Pay ONLINE at www.lwvor.org/clackamas-registration OR make checks payable to LWVOR & return with this form to: LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302. *Questions?* Call 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org.

Clackamas Registration: Cradle to Career Workshop November 2 – *Advance registration required*

Name _____

LWV Member? Yes No

If yes, indicate League _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Workshop: \$25.00 (includes lunch)

Lunch choice: Chicken Caesar Salad
 Turkey Spinach Wrap Portabella Spinach Wrap



"Eat Well, Be Well" – National Food Day

Thursday, October 24, 5:30- 9 PM, Dennis Hall, First Presbyterian Church

Mark your calendar for a fun and informative local event on National Food Day! "Eat Well, Be Well" will feature delicious food samples, speakers, workshops, and opportunities for action. The theme is how our daily food choices impact our personal and planetary health.

Co-sponsors are First Alternative Natural Food Co-op, Ten Rivers Food Web, Linus Pauling Institute, League of Women Voters of Corvallis, Slow Food Corvallis, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, and Corvallis-Albany Farmers' Markets.

Food Day is a nationwide celebration and a movement for healthy, affordable, and sustainable food. For more information on what's happening around the country, go to www.foodday.org.



Do You Have League Records?

Do you have old files or boxes of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis' records? Members and past officers in

our League have graciously stored our records in their basements, garages, and spare rooms for many years. It's time to get them all together where they are accessible, if needed, or into historical archives. The Archives committee, recently appointed by the Board, seeks committee reports, studies,

board minutes, workbooks, newsletters, membership lists, photographs, and newspaper stories, etc.

If you have any of these materials or know where they are, we'd like to hear about it and, possibly, take them off your hands. If you'd like to help sort and distribute our League's files and papers, let us know – we think it's a great winter project. Call or email me at 541-752-7201, bakerbt@comcast.net. – *Beth Thoennes, Archives Committee*

League Weighs In On Measure 02-86

This statement in the Benton County Voters Pamphlet was approved by the Board at its August 30 meeting, based on League positions.

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis supports the passage of Measure 02-86. The League, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League supports Measure 02-86 because it maintains and adds key services that are critical to the economic well being of our community. We base this support on League's Community Planning and Library Financing position. Formulated after study and member agreement, these positions call for support of services which foster a complete, healthy and diverse community where people can live, work, shop, and play; and funding to maintain quality of services and facilities consistent with community social and educational standards.

The current three-year levy that helps to stabilize services at the Library, Aquatic Center, Senior Center and social services expires in summer 2014. While this levy protected some city services, others were eliminated as a result of budget cuts of nearly \$4.1 million and the elimination of more than 27 jobs.

The League of Women Voters urges a YES vote for Measure 02-86 because passage will:

RENEW funding for

- Osborn Aquatic Center to keep the facility open year-round and available for swimming, sports teams, classes, lessons and other activities;
- Library materials and services and keeping the Library open on Monday;
- Keeping Chintimini Senior Center open year-round for classes, support groups and the Meals on Wheels program;
- Social services grants to local non-profits to ensure that our neediest citizens have access to important health services.

RESTORE funding for

- Community Development long-range planning and code enforcement— to enhance livability now and plan for Corvallis' future;
- Strengthening Public Safety by rehiring a school resource officer, three neighborhood officers and a fire prevention officer;
- Library materials and services that were reduced and Sunday open hours.

REPLACE tax revenue lost due to the Hewlett-Packard judgment.

PROTECT these valuable services by avoiding significant reductions in the future.



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

P.O. Box 1679
Corvallis, OR 97339-1679
541-754-1172
www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

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Agriculture: What's it to you?

Come to hear –
October 15, 7 PM

League Calendar

October *Fruit Sale* October – November

- Tue 1** Health Care for All Oregon, 7 PM, 1st UMC
- Thu 10** Board Meeting, 2-4 PM
- Sat 12** LWVOR Kick-off 2013, Roseburg
- Tue 15** *General Mtg*, Agricultural Issues, 7 PM
League Special Funds grant apps. due
- Tue 16** Voter Registration Deadline
- Fri-Tue 18-22** Ballots mailed to voters
- Wed 23** *Voter Service Forum*, 7 PM
- Thu 24** National Food Day, 5:30-9 PM, 1st Presb.

November

- Sat 2** LWVOR Kick-off 2013, Oregon City
- Tue 5** *Vote!* Ballots due by 8 PM
- Thu 14** Board Meeting, 2-4 PM
- Tue 19** *General Meeting* Children's Health, 7 PM
- Sat 30** **Fruit Fundraiser Ends**

December

- Tue 10** *General Meeting, Topic TBA* 7 PM
- Thu 12** Board Meeting, 2-4 PM
- Sun 15** Constitution Day

Join the League!

Name _____

Address *City, Zip+4 digits* _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ \$60 individual membership _____ \$90 household

_____ \$30 student _____ Renewal _____ Contribution*

I would like to be considered:

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 LWV/US Education Fund, paid with a separate check, are deductible.