



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

October 2015

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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.



Photo credit Benton County

General Meeting

Special Election: Benton County Jail Construction Bond

Tuesday, October 13th, 7 PM

Corvallis Public Library
645 NW Monroe Avenue

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis and Corvallis-Benton County Public Library will sponsor a debate on Benton County Measure 2-91: "Bonds to construct a jail, reduce early release, and increase staff safety."

You are invited to bring your questions, to become an informed citizen on the issue before our community. Mark your calendars. Bring a friend or neighbor.

Points for and against passage of the measure will be presented:

David Grappo will speak AGAINST passage of the measure.
Sheriff Scott Jackson will speak FOR passage of the ballot measure.

Listen and learn, then VOTE!



Benton County Special Election
Tuesday, November 3rd

Ballots will be mailed October 14-29. Your voted ballot must be received by 8 PM on November 3rd at an official ballot drop site anywhere in Oregon or mailed—postmarks do not count.

The last day to register to vote is October 13th. You may register online at sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/default.aspx.



President's Corner – Laura Lahm Evenson

Election Season is upon us! The League is renowned for its clear, non-partisan voter information. At the local level, October's public meeting will be a presentation on the Benton County Jail Bond measure. In the Spring the LWV of Oregon will again produce the highly respected *Voter's Guide* for the May primary election. The *Guide* has versions in Spanish and for voters with disabilities. Cathy Frischmann, our Voter Service

Chair will be busy this year! Maybe you can help with an event or deliver *Voter's Guides*. Give Cathy a call if you'd like to be involved.

October means Grapefruit & Oranges! Louise Marquering efficiently spearheads this great fundraiser again. Do you have neighbors or friends who might buy a box of fruit? Send their names to Louise so she can send them an order form. This is our *only* fundraiser and it supports all of our local programs and action. This year, you can use PayPal on our website to pay! (Don't forget, you can always donate a box to your favorite charity.) An order form and envelope are enclosed in this bulletin.

Board Actions: Approved making PayPal available for fruit sale orders, donations, and dues. Approved supporting the jail bond measure in the November 3rd Special Election.

There's a place for everyone in the League! Our many active committees are working hard on city, state and national issues. Join one and help make our community a better place.



You can make a financial difference to the League of Women Voters of Corvallis when you write a *separate* check to the LWV of the US Education Fund (LWVEF) and enclose it with your dues check. This donation makes it possible for us to meet up to 50% of our per member payment to the national League. Donations may also be made to the LWV of Oregon (LWVOR), which allows us to replace 25% of our per member payment.

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

LWV of Corvallis Supports Jail Measure

Based on our League's positions on corrections and social policy, the Board voted to support Measure 02-79, the Benton County Bond Measure.

The new jail will allow continuity of programs for education, job training and drug treatment. Those with mental illness will have access to medication and treatment. Prisoners can be near their families and can be put in work release programs. They will be available for court appearances. Judges can give effective sentencing that can be enforced. Jail populations can be appropriately segregated. Operational costs will be reduced with the

new corrections facility and will not rise as the cost of bed rental elsewhere rises.

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

Online information on the Benton County Jail is at bentoncountyjailnow.net/.

LWV of Corvallis

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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.



WELCOME!

New Member Pamela Hood Szivek



Grapefruit & Oranges—Order Now!

Enjoy some wonderful fruit and benefit League! Mark your choices on the enclosed order form, fill in the blanks, and order right away to receive your box of delicious juicy fruit the first week of December!

Be sure to tell your friends about our fruit sale. You may also send names and addresses of possible buyers to Louise Marquering, Fruit Sale chair at LWVCLouise@AOL.com. She'll send an order form to them. You may also order with PayPal from our website www.lwv.corvallis.or.us, or Facebook page www.facebook.com/LWVCorvallis.

HEALTH CARE House Party

Wednesday, October 21st at 7 PM – 3145 NW Seneca Place

Some questions which may come up at the Health Care House Party are—

Doesn't America have the best health care system in the world?

How can we have Universal Health Care without raising taxes?

Wouldn't providers make much less money in a system of universal health care?

Wouldn't a universal system limit my choice of physician or other providers?



Come and learn more about this important League issue. Dr. Mike Huntington, from Physicians for a National Health Plan, and other resource people will facilitate discussion. Bring a friend and enjoy wine, cheese, and stimulating discourse.

Thanks to hosts Ann and Doug Brodie



Join Community Planning!

If you feel it is important to—
maintain livability in our neighborhoods,
preserve wetlands, natural areas and clean

drinking water, improve our transportation system (bicycling, walking, and transit), and keep our downtown vibrant—then you should consider joining the League's Community Planning Committee. We are an ACTION Committee, not a STUDY Committee.

Our League has a Community Planning position, adopted some years ago, that says in brief: *Support of Comprehensive Planning, effectively implemented; Support of Adequate Local*

Transportation; Support of Open Space. Support of urbanization policies which foster complete, healthy and diverse communities where people can live, work, shop and play.

Using this position we testify at public hearings and during public participation, lobby local officials, serve on advisory boards, organize public educational meetings, and even hire a lawyer to appeal a decision that went against our position.

Community Planning's next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20th at 7 PM. If you'd like to attend, contact me at shellym@peak.org or 541-754-1184, for an agenda. — Shelly Murphy, Community Planning Chair



Housing Committee Update

At their September meeting League's Housing Committee established these goals for the year:

1. Expand our charge to look at *all* housing needs but especially look at housing for working families.
2. Monitor the work of the City Task Force on Housing; invite Jim Moorefield to update us on the Task Force's work.
3. Learn more about Oregon's program on housing, including Governor Brown's housing initiative. Shelley Ries will invite Representative Dan Rayfield to update the committee on what the state is doing and to talk about how dollars are to be distributed. What are the priorities and who sets them? If Rayfield is unable to come to a meeting, Ries will meet with him to represent our concerns.

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

4. Provide each committee member with the Oregon Opportunities Network handbook on potentials for addressing housing needs.
5. Invite Kent Weiss to update us on the buildable lands inventory – what is the status and what does he expect to learn from it?
6. Plan a future League program on housing.
7. Look at options for housing such as the “tiny” house, manufactured homes, and more infill.
8. Learn the status of inclusionary zoning and what other Leagues in Oregon are doing to advocate for this idea. What is the City's policy on mixed housing?
9. Monitor Systems Development Charges fees to see if there is a way to waive these for non-profit organizations providing low income families housing.



Tokens for Kids, “Apple Crunch” for All at National Food Day, October 24th

Get ready to take a big bite out of a crisp, delicious local apple! Celebrate National Food

Day October 24th at the Corvallis Farmers' Market, as hundreds of celebrations take place across the U.S. on this fifth National Food Day.

Children 12 and under get two free tokens – a \$4 value – while supplies last, be spent at Farmers Market booths. They will be distributed at the Food Day table, NW 1st and Jackson.

There'll be crisp, delicious local apples for *everyone* at the market, as well as food samples and information about local food opportunities and initiatives.

The community “Apple Crunch” will take place at 10:30 AM, when bells ring throughout the Farmers' Market. At the sound of the bells we'll crunch in unison! Around the country people will crunch an apple on Food Day for better diets for health and the environment, access and affordability of fruits and vegetables, and support of local farmers.

The Apple Crunch originated in New York City in 2012. The Crunch spread across the country, and thousands of locations had Apple Crunches for Food Day 2014. Join us for the Food Day 2015 Apple Crunch on October 24th!



Celebrate Harvest at Local Eats Week October 25-31

Savor autumn's bounty with treats from local restaurants

during the 6th annual “Local Eats

Week.” Local restaurants will each offer a \$6 sample plate or appetizer featuring Local 6 ingredients. (Local 6 refers to products grown, produced, or processed by farms or businesses owned and operated within the six counties touching and including Benton County.) More than a dozen restaurants are participating. See the complete list at www.sustainablecorvallis.org, then choose a restaurant for each day of Local Eats Week and put it on your calendar.

Local Eats Week is a feature of the Local 6 Connection, a campaign that encourages local restaurants to source more of their ingredients from the Local 6 area. The broader goal is to increase the percentage of locally-produced food that is

consumed by the community in order to create a vibrant and secure local food system. For details and to see daily updates on Local Eats Week menus, see www.sustainablecorvallis.org.

Nationally, the goal of Food Day is to bring together Americans from all walks of life to advocate for healthy, affordable food produced in a sustainable, humane way. For more about National Food Day, go to www.foodday.org.

This year's event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Corvallis in collaboration with: Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Food Action Team, Corvallis Farmers' Market, First Alternative Co-op, Slow Food Corvallis, Corvallis Environmental Center's Edible Corvallis Initiative, Linus Pauling Institute's Healthy Youth Program, OSU Food in Culture and Social Justice Program, Ten Rivers Food Web, and Timberhill Athletic Club Health Promotion Program.

October is Membership Month

It's time to join or rejoin the League of Women Voters!

You can serve the community, gain knowledge and experience through the study and discussion of timely and important topics, discover new interests, develop skills, 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! Our yearly program covers a broad spectrum of issues and concerns; you may actively participate in a group study, listen to a panel of experts at a meeting, or read about them in one of our

publications. If your time is really tight, you may choose to support the League only with your annual dues. Your membership itself gives us political influence to build a voice for citizens and a force for change. We welcome your participation at *any* level.

The Corvallis League offers dues assistance to prospective members who need it. Contact the Membership Chair or any member of the League Board.

New member packets are available electronically or as hard copy. If you are a new member, contact Corrine Gobeli (541-745-7736, gobelic@comcast.net) to request your copy. You may also pick them up at a League general meeting.



Gavel Down or Up — November and December National LWV Studies

Look ahead to these intriguing studies! Join a committee!

Amending the Constitution, November 10th

Article Five of the U.S. Constitution provides for two ways to amend the Constitution:

[1] “The **Congress**, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, **shall propose amendments** to this Constitution, or [2] on the application of the **legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention** for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress”

We have amended the Constitution 27 times with the first option, but never yet with the second option. Some propose we try a Constitutional Convention. In this LWV study we will look at:

- Guidelines to evaluate amendment proposals, in order to have a position on what amendments to support or oppose
- Under what conditions (representation, state population, etc.) would we support a constitutional convention?
- How would we put guidelines and positions into practice?

You'll find the study guide at: forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/constitutional-amendment-study-guide.

If you'd like to help us prepare for the November consensus meeting, contact Paula Krane, Governance Chair, at 541-752-2361 or kranep@peak.org.



Money in Politics, December 8th

While we're thinking about amending the Constitution, let's consider Money in Politics.

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

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

If you'd like to help us prepare for League's December consensus meeting, contact Paula Krane, Governance Chair, at kranep@peak.org or 541-752-2361.



Take A Look At League's Website – www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

Tons of links! LWV at all levels including calendar, newsletters, board members, League positions, voter information, PayPal, Facebook. We also have links to elected officials, as well as state, city, county, school district websites, local Chamber of Commerce and MORE!



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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**League's Fruit Sale
Begins October 1st**
Order Form Inside



Join us on Facebook –
LWVCorvallis



LWV Calendar

October

- Tue 13** *General Meeting: Jail Measure 7 PM, Library*
- Tue 13** Registration deadline for Nov. 3 election
- Wed 14** Special Election ballots mailed
- Tue 20** Board meeting 10 AM-12 Noon
- Wed 21** Health Care House Party 7 PM
- Sat 24** National Food Day
- Sun-Sat 25-31** Local Eats Week
- Sat 31** LWVOR Fall Workshop, Eugene

November

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

December

- Tue 8** *General Meeting: Money in Politics 7 PM, Library*
- Tue 15** Board meeting 10 AM-12 Noon
- Tue 15** Bill of Rights Day

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 would you like to share with the League?

Our membership year begins in October.

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

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

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