



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

April 2016

Board of Directors 2015-2016

President

Laura Lahm Evenson

First Vice President

Annette Mills

Second Vice President

Paula Krane

Secretary

Janet Throop

Treasurer

Sara Ingle

Directors

Judy Ball

Social Media

Carolyn Brumley

Public Relations

Karyle Butcher

Housing

Cathy Frischmann

Voter Service

Claudia Keith

Climate Change

Shelly Murphy

Community Planning

Beth Thoennes

Bulletin Co-editor

Off Board

Corrine Gobeli

Membership

Dagmar Johnson

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

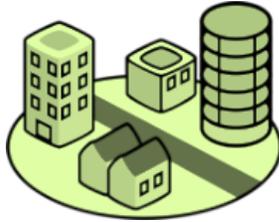
Murphy, Marolyn Tarrant,

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.



General Meeting:

Urban Renewal 101

7 PM, Tuesday, April 12th

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 645 NW Monroe Ave.

An Urban Renewal District (URD) is a type of special taxing district used as a tool for community improvement. If and when a proposal for a local URD comes down the pike our League can address it only after a study which has established our position. Our program on April 12th is part of our study on special taxing districts, and we'll learn the basics of Urban Renewal Districts from people who have dealt with them:

Kate Porsche, Economic Development Director, City of Albany

Chris Workman, Philomath City Manager

Basic questions on Urban Renewal Districts:

Why have an Urban Renewal District? What are its purpose and benefits?

How are they established, funded, and administered?

Is the funding mechanism sufficient to support the district's goals?

Are its goals clearly stated?

What impacts do they have on other city functions or taxing districts?

How does the URD end, by what authority is it ended?

Is the URD still a viable tool for city improvement?

What newer tools are communities starting to use?

Come and explore these questions with us!

Co-sponsored by the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library and LWV of Corvallis

Primary Election Candidates Forum

Thursday, April 28, 6:45 PM – Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Join us and become an informed voter! Candidates for contested *and* uncontested races on the Benton County May 17 ballot will have tables around the room and campaign literature for the public to greet and question them. Candidates for contested positions will speak—

7:20 PM Oregon House District 23 – Republicans Beth Jones and Mike Nearman

8 PM County Commissioner Position 2 – Democrats Xanthippe (Xan) Augerot and Jay Dixon

FYI April 26, 2016 – Last Day to Register to vote in Benton County Primary Election.

May 17, 2016 – Primary Election Day Marked ballots must be received by 8 PM. Deposit ballots in any official ballot drop site in Oregon *or* mail with a stamp. (Postmarks don't count.)

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



President's Corner – Laura Lahm Evenson

Are you, too, inspired when you read about historical figures in the LWV? They show how the LWV has grown from a small group of women to a national organization of women and men that has a reputation for fairness and measured opinions.

What do I get out of the League? I have been reflecting on this question as I work to formulate ways to attract new members. What I get out of League is intellectual engagement and challenge, a feeling of

participation, a sense of contribution to the community, camaraderie, and lots of homework! I value the LWV for its reliance on education and non-partisanship. As we approach local, state and national elections think about relaying these values to your friends and neighbors of all political persuasions. In such a rancorous season as this, joining the League of Women Voters can be even more appealing.

Conversely, what can you contribute to this worthwhile organization? Very soon we will have openings on the board and in some key positions. Please think about contributing your precious time by volunteering to serve in some capacity. We are always willing to have co-chair jobs/tasks so that no one is overwhelmed by their duties. We need YOU! Join us!

A special thank you goes this month to the Post-Secondary Education Study Committee which put together a very informative program last month. We were given a better picture of post-secondary education in Oregon at both community college and university levels. We are now better prepared for our consensus meeting on this study which will be in the fall.

Kudos to: Loretta Rielly, Ann Smart, JoAnne Trow, and Paula Krane (chair)!

Two general meetings are left to round out our year. On April 12th we will cover *Urban Renewal Districts 101*. This is part of our local study on special taxing districts. Learn the basics so that if you see a URD measure on the ballot you will be up to speed and able to ask discerning questions.

Be sure to look at the URD Everymember material enclosed with this bulletin. *Please note:* We will take consensus on criteria for Special Taxing Districts on the following Tuesday, April 19 (place to be announced).

Finally, at our Annual Meeting in May (which includes a scrumptious dinner) we will do League business, then hear our new city manager, Mark Shepard, talk about Corvallis and what his first year has entailed. Mark your calendars today and reserve Wednesday, May 25th for the LWV!



Mark Your Calendar!

LWV of Corvallis Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 25th, 6-8:30 PM

Dinner & Business Meeting, followed by our speaker—
Mark Shepard, Corvallis City Manager
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Meeting Room

Now you can join the League online!

www.lwv.corvallis.or.us/join.php - Pay with PayPal

Note: April through September dues are half price because our membership year begins in October!

LWV of Corvallis

PO Box 1679
 Corvallis OR 97339-1679
 541-753-6036
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
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 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.

Consensus Meeting Will Consider Criteria for Special Taxing Districts

Join us on April 19th at 7 PM (place to be announced) to consider criteria for Special Taxing Districts, which we have studied for the past two years. Having these criteria in place will enable the League to take a stand on proposals that may come in the future.

Proposed Criteria—

LWV of Corvallis criteria to be used to evaluate any Special Taxing District:

1. The new taxing district will provide more or new benefits not currently available.
2. A new taxing district will meet needs not currently available (e.g. stable funding.)
3. Other options to meet the needs have been explored.
4. Establishment of a new taxing district will lead to long-term stability.
5. All statutory requirements have been addressed.
6. Administrative costs will not unduly impact services.
7. The new taxing district will not create unnecessary competition with other entities.
8. There is no duplication of services in the new taxing district.
9. The impact of the new taxing district on the funding of other services has been evaluated.
10. There has been adequate public process in establishing the new taxing district.



Community Planning Update

Our Votes on Annexation Negated by the Legislature

On March 9, 2016, Governor Kate Brown signed SB1573, which allows annexation without a vote of the electorate. The bill is aimed at solving affordable housing problems, but the annexation part was passed at the last moment in the short legislative session.

The bill allows any owner (or owners) of land within the urban growth boundary and contiguous to the city to request to be annexed to the city. All owners have to agree. The annexation request has to follow the regulations of the Land Development Code. It does not, however, have to be put out for vote by us, the citizens of Corvallis.

The housing part of the bill enacts new legislation intended to increase the supply of affordable housing, but it is not clear that the land allowed to be annexed without a vote has any tie to the intended legislation.

Corvallis was the first city to use our Home Rule authorization to pass a City Charter Amendment in 1976 to allow us to vote on annexations. In 1995 other cities followed our example, and now 30 cities have the right to vote on annexations. Approximately half a million people are affected.

As of 1997, Corvallis has passed all but three annexation requests. The largest not passed is Highland Dell, but the threat of a vote caused negotiations between citizens and developers in order to accommodate citizen concerns. That's the value of voter annexation. We are in the process of updating the annexation data to the present day. A large majority of annexations have passed on the first vote.

Some of the larger ones have had multiple votes. Most people agree that the annexation process has made the developers take more care with layout and livability issues. By the time you read this article, the City Council will have heard and discussed comments by one of our city attorneys, Jim Brewer. He gave the Council several options both pro and con regarding possible actions the city can take to defend our right to vote, or not. It is a virtual certainty that this matter will end up in court, if not by the City of Corvallis, then by other cities, or as a coalition, OR by owners whose request may be rejected because the application doesn't meet city criteria.

Over the years both the Corvallis and the League of Women Voters of Oregon have adopted positions in favor of our right to vote on annexations. You can find the local League position in the Urbanization section of Community Planning position. The LWV of Oregon LWVOR testified in both the Senate and House against the bill and wrote a strong letter to Governor Kate Brown outlining our reasons for supporting the right to vote on annexations and the reasons we did not support SB1573. The LWV of Corvallis endorsed an Action Alert intended to lobby *the* Governor, but she had already agreed to support the package of affordable housing bills.

What can you do? Tell your City Councilor your opinion on our right to vote on annexations. I hope you will urge your councilor to defend this right.

— Marilyn Koenitzer, Community Planning Committee



2016 Climate Change Legislation: Two Key Pieces

Our Climate Change Committee followed two key pieces of legislation in the 2016 legislative session:

- **Healthy Climate Bill – SB 1574,**

a comprehensive climate policy framework based on a greenhouse gas cap and invest program, and

- **Clean Electricity and Coal Transition – HB 4036**

Both were supported with testimony by the League of Women Voters of Oregon. SB 1574 did not get traction, even though the mayors of Oregon's major cities wrote . . . "Climate change is more than the defining issue of our time; it is the defining issue for all time. Continual failure to act with strength, audacity and focus will result in massive displacement and political unrest as sea levels rise, temperatures increase, and our food supply is threatened. That is literally what hangs in the balance and yet we continue to treat it as a political football. If we maintain the status quo, our children will look back on us and wonder if we suffered from mass insanity. Our scientists have been very clear on the subject; we cannot claim ignorance. We must take decisive action immediately."

(www.reneworegon.org/mayors_support_the_healthy_climate_bill)

The Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Bill was crafted by the unique collaboration of energy stakeholders, environmental groups, consumer advocates, and Oregon's two largest electric utilities Pacific Power and Portland General Electric (PGE), which together supply about 70% of the state's electricity. This landmark legislation, which became SB 1547-B, commits Oregon to eliminate its use of coal power by 2035, and doubles the amount of clean, renewable energy serving Oregonians to 50% by 2040.

The bill's passage and signing by Governor Kate Brown makes Oregon the first state in the nation to legislate going coal-free, and represents the first state-level renewable energy victory following the Paris climate agreement. The plan will reduce carbon pollution across the western states by 30 million metric tons – the equivalent of taking 6.4 million cars off the road.

The legislation also includes provisions to keep electricity prices affordable and ensure reliable electric service for utility customers.

– *Cathy Frischmann, Climate Change Committee*



March 8th Post-Secondary Forum Was Educational

On March 8th the LWV of Corvallis and the Corvallis –Benton County Public Library co-sponsored a forum to update our League and the community on issues and changes in post-secondary education in the 21st century.

In the educational and exceptionally informative meeting we were presented with many concepts and problems to think about before our consensus meeting in the fall of 2016. We learned more about what is, and perhaps what is *not* a typical student; the future cost and indebtedness involved in getting a degree and especially in leaving college without a degree; and the positive and negative results of the new higher education governance structure in Oregon.

Our distinguished panel accomplished their task well: Bob Brew, administrator for the Oregon Student Access

Commission; Debbie Colbert, secretary of the OSU Board of Trustees; Michael Green, VP of Finance and Administration, OSU; Dave Henderson, VP of Finance and Operations, LBCC; Larry Roper, member of the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission and OSU faculty member. Tony Van Vliet, former member of the Oregon Board of Higher Education and Oregon Legislature was our moderator. We heartily thank them all!

Post-Secondary Education committee: Loretta Rielly, Ann Smart, JoAnne Trom, and Paula Krane (Committee chair)

Need Info About League Matters, City Council, Community Development, Schools, Benton County, Legislature, Congress, Elections, Voter Registration?
www.LWV.corvallis.or.us *It's all there!*

Voter guides to the May 17th Primary Election: LWV Informs

Oregon's primary election is Tuesday, May 17. Keep tabs on candidates and issues at League's voter information sites. For local candidate information see the Benton County Elections department site, www.co.benton.or.us/elections/page/may-17-2016-primary-election-candidates.

The LWV of Oregon publishes a *Voters' Guide*, which will be available at the public library and other sites around the county. Check the LWVOR website for more voting information: lwvor.org/front-page/voterresources/.

The LWVUS presidential voters' guide includes the candidates' stand 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 bookmark it and check back as primary election date nears! www.vote411.org/voter-guide-2016#.VsENZdB0fxU.

In this critically important election year the League provides the information voters need on Election Day. This is your opportunity to support your community and have a say in its future. Every vote counts and each vote makes a difference. Just as our founders did nearly 100 years ago, the League works with the power of women and men in communities across the country to get more voters participating in the electoral process.

While voters in many states have already weighed in on the presidential primaries, primary elections and caucuses will occur in every state over the next few months. Primaries give a crucial opportunity for voters to take control and influence the presidential election process by selecting their top candidate to represent a political party in the general election. For more about the presidential primaries—lwv.org/blog/everything-you-need-know-about-presidential-primaries.



We have surpassed 100 LIKES to our Facebook page! If you haven't found us there, please do so today—it's easy: to find our Facebook page, search Facebook.com for "League of Women Voters Corvallis" or enter "LWVCorvallis." To get League updates on your own Facebook timeline, make sure you

LIKE the League on Facebook

LIKE the League's page, and set Notifications ON (desktop version) or FOLLOWING (mobile app). You can also INVITE your friends to view or like the League's page. All of these actions are available at the very top of the Facebook homepage. — *Judy Ball, Social Media Chair*



Corvallis Members Attend Day at the Legislature

On February 22nd, nine LWV of Corvallis members joined forty-six from other Leagues to learn about 2016 legislative issues.

Shelly Murphy, Cathy Frischmann, Marsha Feldman, Doris Waring, Paula Krane Paul Warner, the

Legislative Revenue Officer, spoke about revenue reform in Oregon, with many ideas to change our tax structure.

Ben Cannon, the Executive Director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), gave a history and an overview of the new state agency, established in 2011. HECC is responsible for all aspects of post-

secondary education in the state and oversees universities, community colleges, private universities, for-profit schools, certificate programs, state scholarship programs, and work-force training providers. The advisory committee is in the process of doing strategic planning. The agency is also responsible for the distribution of funding provided by the legislature to state schools. It must also approve any new programs that a state institution seeks to implement and give permission to raise tuition more than 5% a year. The HECC is vitally important to all aspects of higher education in Oregon.

Coordinators and portfolio chairs Marg Easley, Kappy Eaton, Paula Krane, Peggy Lynch, Karen Nibler, Norman Turrill, and Chris Vogel shared information about measures they follow to conclude our full and informative day.

Celebrate Earth Day 2016 in Corvallis, Friday, April 22nd



Earth Day Tour of Energy Positive Homes

Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club will hold its 8th annual Corvallis Earth Day Tour from 4-7 PM, co-sponsored by Corvallis Environmental Center.

You'll see three retrofitted homes that produce more energy than they use, and also provide fossil-free energy to the community. Each home has different energy-related features, and they are near each other in central Corvallis. Participants may carpool or take a short, guided bicycle trek (bring your own bike).

The tour is free, but pre-registration is required for the limited spaces. Register and get information from Dave Eckert at deckert@willamettewatershed.com or (541) 230-1237. The homes' addresses will be given to participants as the tour begins, at the tour's meeting place.

Be (or Find) a Recycling Block Captain

Does your neighborhood have a recycling block captain? If not, you and your neighbors may miss out on important information. Recycling block captains tell neighbors about recycling, composting, and waste prevention, and encourage participation in the opportunities that Republic Services provides. This takes about an hour every few months. Recycling block captains have two primary responsibilities:

- Distribute recycling information to neighbors three to four times a year, and
- Serve as a liaison between neighbors and the Sustainability Coalition's Waste Prevention Action Team.

The action team provides the handouts; the captains define their own neighborhood (number of homes and location).

The Recycling Block Captains program is co-sponsored by the Waste Prevention Action Team and Republic Services. To volunteer (or if you know someone who's right for the job), call Annette Mills at 541-230-1237.

OSU's Spring Creek Project:

The Thin Green Line: Creative Resistance to Fossil Fuel Development in the Pacific Northwest

April 23, 1-9 PM, LaSells Stewart Center, OSU

The Pacific Northwest stands squarely between the most voracious energy markets in the world and huge fossil fuel deposits in the interior of North America—Powder River Basin coal, Bakken shale oil, Alberta tar sands, and remote natural gas fields.

Big energy companies plan to unearth these vast reserves of carbon-intense fuels and put them up for sale in Asia. If they are successful, these energy firms will unleash the carbon equivalent of roughly five Keystone XL Pipelines.

But to get their products to market, energy companies first have to build new terminals and pipelines to move all that fuel. They need destinations for the scores of oil and coal trains that they plan to run across the Northwest, and they need right-of-ways to lay new pipelines. In short, they need our permission.

So it is by geographic accident that the Northwest, perhaps the greenest corner of North America, will play an outsize role in determining the planet's climate future. Will we double-down on coal and oil use, thereby jeopardizing our

chance at a stable climate? Or will we act as a thin green line, and insist that we must do better—that our economy and our children demand a cleaner future?

Featuring speakers, workshops, and seriously joyful movement building, The Thin Green Line will gather activists, artists, writers, scientists, policy makers and engaged citizens from all over the Pacific Northwest to learn and strategize about resisting fossil fuel development.

The possibility of a clean energy future for the Pacific Northwest is imminently endangered by our strategic location. Standing together to defend the Thin Green Line is essential to safeguarding a resilient green economy for our children.

Speakers include: Ryan Pierce, artist and activist; Taylor Brorby, editor; Kathleen Dean Moore, author of "Fracture: Essays, Poems, and Stories on Fracking;" Eric de Place, policy director, Sightline Institute; and Patrick Mazza, "Delta Five" activist. www.sightline.org/research/thin-green-line/



LWV at Sustainability Fair & Town Hall

On March 10th the LWV of Corvallis table was staffed from 5 to 7 PM by Climate Change committee volunteers Bud and Jan Ames, Louise Ferrell, Cathy Frischmann and Marilyn Koenitzer.

Bud and Jan Ames discuss League efforts

The League’s display invited the public to “SHARE YOUR ACTION(s) . . . to reduce Carbon/Greenhouse Gas emissions and move USA to clean alternative energy!”

A sample of the responses written on fluorescent post-its: Bike to work, Solar panels, Solar electric, Attend rallies, Solar hot water, Climate change reduction ordinance, Zero emissions car, Townhouse/downsize living, Getting a degree in Ecological Engineering, VOTE!, More insulation in attic & walls, On-demand hot water, Line drying clothes, Bus to work, Planting trees, Buying used stuff vs new, Travel out of town by bus or train, LED lights, Do not buy beef, Car free, Energy smart home, Recycle & Compost, Fuel efficiency, Drive less than 7500 miles/year, Thermostat at 60 degrees, Allow tiny houses, Avoid the consumption of paper, Change building codes so all new construction is net zero for energy consumption, Garden organically, Carpool, Sign petitions, Drink tap water



Housing Committee at Work

On February 26th Kenny LaPoint from Oregon Housing and Community Services met with our LWV of Corvallis Housing Committee. Our interest was twofold—to ask how his group was able to increase the stock of housing for low income families in Bend, Oregon, and what measures we could take in Corvallis to have similar success.

He had a number of suggestions; among these were allowing for small cottages, increase in accessory dwellings, change density requirements, and modify System Development charges. Since the same state land use laws govern the city of Bend as Corvallis it seems logical that there is more our city could do to increase housing stock.

Our subcommittee on data gathering continues to meet with various social organizations to get a better picture of who the homeless in Corvallis are. When this aspect of our work is complete, we envision meeting with different groups in town, such as Rotary to help them better understand that homelessness is an area that touches all parts of our community.

At our March 11th meeting we invited Janet Farrell from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to talk with us about

the work she and others are doing to identify alternative housing for seniors. Her group is in the early stages of their work; they have looked at the CoHo model in Corvallis and in Eugene and have met with city planners to learn if there are code issues that might prevent them from building.

The subcommittee on data gathering gave its report. They continue to meet with those groups and people working with those who are homeless and are getting a good picture of who the people are and who is chronically homeless, as opposed to being temporarily without a home.

Karen Rockwell reported on her visit with the Director of St. Vincent DePaul in Eugene. It is doing some bold things to provide affordable housing, including buying trailer parks and repairing or purchasing new modules that are available to low income families. She will do more follow up on this. Members of the committee attend meetings of the Housing Opportunities Action Council, the Corvallis Affordable Housing Task Force, as well as City Council and other meetings focused on the issue of homelessness.

– Karyle Butcher, Housing Committee Chair



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

P.O. Box 1679
Corvallis, OR 97339-1679
541-753-6036
www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Corvallis OR
Permit #145



Urban Renewal 101

Tuesday, April 12th

7 PM – Library

Consensus on STD Criteria

Tuesday, April 19th – 7 PM



Join us on Facebook –
LWVCorvallis



LWV Calendar

April

Tue 12 *General Meeting:* Urban Renewal 101 7 PM,
Library

Tue 19 Board meeting 10 AM-12 Noon
Consensus on Special Taxing Districts
Criteria 7 PM, (place to be announced)

Fri 22 Earth Day

Wed 27-Th May 12 Primary ballots mailed.

Thu 28 Voter Service: May Primary Election
Candidate Forum 7 PM, Library

May

Tue 17 *Primary Election Day*
Board meeting 10 AM-12 Noon

Wed 25 LWV Corvallis Annual meeting 6 PM,
Library

June

Fri-Su 3-5 LWV of Oregon and LWV of Washington
Joint Council

Thu-Su 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 to 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 deductible.