



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

December 2016

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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:

Oregon Election Methods December 13th, 7 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
645 NW Monroe Avenue

How can we ensure fair, impartial and representative elections in Oregon?

Presentation – David Bernell, OSU Associate Professor; Director, MAIS Program; Political Science Program School of Public Policy. Dr. Bernell will explain the differences in the many election systems.

Q and A – Dr. Bernell and LWV of Corvallis' Election Methods Study Committee.

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

Come to the meetings on December 13th and 15th to learn about election systems and to formulate an LWV consensus. At these meetings we will present and evaluate election systems currently in use in the U.S. or around the world that could be considered for adoption in Oregon.

Is the current Single-Winner election system still the best option? Should it be by majority or plurality? Is delayed, instant runoff, or some form of ranked voting better? Or maybe we should be looking at Multiple Winner systems or sometimes called Multiple Member Districts. In addition to fighting voter disenfranchisement and the corrupting influence of money, are there ways to design the way we vote to ensure that our elected officials speak for the people and that our legislative bodies are more nearly a portrait of the people at large?

The LWV of Oregon has mailed Everymember material on election methods to all League members. If you have not received a copy, contact Paula Krane, 541-752-2361 or Laura Evenson, 541-753-6036. This material and other information also is available on the LWVOR website at lwwor.org/election-methods-study-update-2016/. It includes videos and active links to references.

Consensus Meetings: December 15th, 11:45 AM-1:15 PM and 7-9 PM

3363 NW Crest Drive – LWV members only participate, brown bags welcome.

Consensus questions are inserted into the center of this Bulletin.

Your Fruit Order is on its way...



Help Needed With Post-Secondary Education Study

You are invited to join the Corvallis committee of the LWV of Oregon study on Post-Secondary Education in the 21st Century. This involves three or four committee meetings in January and February. The committee will prepare for League's general meeting on Tuesday, February 16th and the consensus units on Thursday, February 16th. Learn more about this issue and help present the material to the membership. Contact Paula Krane, 541-752-2361 or kranep@peak.org to learn about this volunteer opportunity or to volunteer. – Paula Krane, Study Chair



President's Corner – Laura Lahm Evenson

While the election may be over (do I hear a collective sigh of relief?) the LWV's work is not. We continue to work on the local, state and national levels to improve and educate our communities and ourselves.

The November general meeting on Housing in Corvallis was very well attended. Thank you to the Housing Committee for putting on such an informative evening on this timely topic.

In December we will focus on one of our state League studies. Watch for the Election Methods Study Report in your mailbox. At our next general meeting, on December 13th, we will explore many different election methods used in the U.S. and around the world. Would any of these methods work in Oregon? Come to the meeting so that you will be informed for our consensus meetings on December 15th. In an effort to make it possible for as many members as possible to participate, there will be TWO consensus meetings. You can attend either during the day or in the evening. Call up a friend or two and carpool together!

What issues would you like your local League explore or study? What events would you like us to sponsor? January's meeting (Program Planning) provides members the opportunity to chart the local League's direction for the coming year. Your Board members will provide delicious soups and desserts to entice you to come. This is a great evening for both fellowship and business!

We are still looking for some dedicated people to step out of the shadows to help with several different positions. This bulletin will need a new editor in June, so you're welcome to join in production now to get your feet wet. We also need set-up help for our public meetings – getting keys, opening doors, making it a hospitable place for community participation. Our nominating committee is beginning to work on a new slate of officers for our League. If they call on you, give it serious consideration. Please consider helping us and enriching the League with your time and talent.



WELCOME New Members!

Cindy Bruce, Kayla Dunham, Ginny Lucker & Therese Waterhous

Mark Your Calendar Twice on January 10

Legislative Process Day, Salem, 9 AM-2:30 PM Information on 2017 legislative session. Registration will be sent to members and on www.LWVOR.org later this month.

League Program Planning & Soup Supper, 6-8:30 PM What would you like to see the state and local Leagues do in the coming year? Enjoy a delicious soup supper prepared by board members, followed by consideration of programs for LWV of Corvallis 2017-2018 and LWV of Oregon 2017-2019. Look for details in your January bulletin.

Consensus is mutual agreement of League members arrived at through discussion, not a vote. During discussion, members have an opportunity to express their viewpoints, and the issue is examined from all sides. Consensus questions, created by the study committee and approved by the Board, provide structure for the meeting. Members discuss the pros and cons until it becomes apparent that consensus has or has not been reached on each question. A committee then analyzes the consensus responses, looks for areas of member understanding and agreement and, using this information, creates a position statement, and forwards it to the Board.

LWV of Corvallis

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This is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis which is produced nine or ten 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.



Community Planning Update Benton County's Thriving Communities

In case you haven't yet participated, there is still time to take the Benton County 2040

Thriving Communities Survey. To share your thoughts and perspectives go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/XVPC9MB, and help Benton County plan for the future.

Corvallis Crustal Fault The Benton County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan's Steering Committee recently completed a risk assessment of nine potential hazards facing the County. They ranked the top two hazards as a Cascadia earthquake and Corvallis crustal fault earthquake. Yet, the

Corvallis crustal fault does not appear on the Corvallis Natural Hazards maps. The League supports regulation of natural hazard lands where development could endanger life and property.

Thus, in the interest of keeping our infrastructure sound and ensuring that future land development takes into account these recognized hazards, on November 7th, we respectfully requested that the Corvallis City Council direct City staff to amend the Land Development Code to include an Earthquake Hazards Map and update the corresponding sections of the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Code. The Council has referred the matter to staff for further study.

– Shelly Murphy, Community Planning Chair



Housing Committee Report

Much of the work of the Housing Committee has been on two fronts. Our first priority has been putting the final touches on our November program *Housing Problem Hurts Everyone*. We were fortunate to have had two excellent speakers –Benton County epidemiologist Peter Banwarth (peter.banwarth@co.benton.or.us) and Portland developer Eli Spevak (www.orangesplot.net/).

Our other area of focus has been more time consuming and intense but very informative. Our committee attended each meeting of the City Council-appointed Housing Development Task Force. The Task Force issued its final report in September. (For more detailed information on the Task Force and its charge, please see the City's website, then Housing Development Task Force). Once the report was issued, the League's Housing Committee reviewed it thoroughly and crafted a proposed response to each Task Force recommendation. We then met with League's Community Planning Committee to share the report and our response and to discuss next steps. Our goal is write a League response to the Task Force report for City Council to consider as they

review each recommendation from the Task Force. One recommendation from the report was that the City enact a Construction Excise Tax (CET). The Legislature's recent passage of SB 1534 allows local jurisdictions to implement inclusionary zoning provisions and collect a CET to support housing development. The League sent a letter and testified in support of City staff's recommendation to implement a CET as soon as possible. Potential revenue for housing could be as much as \$660,000. Staff's recommendation was accepted with the details of the tax to be worked out by the Housing and Community Development Advisory Board.

Finally, our committee continues to monitor plans to find a new cold weather shelter for homeless men. Committee members are attending outreach programs sponsored by Housing First and connecting with other groups and individuals interested in working for alternative solutions for providing shelter for our homeless population.

The Housing Committee meets on second and fourth Thursdays in the conference room of Benton Habitat for Humanity. Meetings typically are two hours, from 2-4 PM.

– Karyle Butcher, Housing Committee Chair

Hollingsworth and Vose (HAV) Particulate Matters

Since DEQ's Sep. 29th Informational Meeting in Corvallis about the permitting process for HAV, and because of pressure by State Sen. Sara Gelser and others, DEQ plans to put two particulate matter monitors adjacent to the plant, one to the south, and another to the north. These will sample ambient air outside of plant boundaries for around a year, to get maximum exposure with different wind conditions. The sites are not final, and there will be an informational meeting about the process.

HAV's previous air quality permit expired in 2013. The Draft Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit the company is operating under now will not be finalized for public comments for about a year. HAV is performing more emissions testing to determine what levels of emissions they will ask for in the next permit, the Federal Title V permit, required when emissions reach a threshold level.

In this case, the threshold for carbon monoxide emissions is 100 tons/year. HAV was found to be emitting 456 tons in

– Continued on page 4

Hollingsworth and Voss, *continued from page 3* –

2014. They are asking for 729 tons for the Title V permit. The fluoride threshold is 3 tons per year, and HAV is emitting 7 tons in 2014. They are asking for 13 tons per year. HAV may now be emitting over the 61 tons per year of PM^{2.5} (particulate matter size in microns) that they are asking for in the Title V permit.

Marilyn Koenitzer gave a short presentation of LWVOR testimony to Cleaner Air Oregon (CAO) Nov. 17 in Portland.

COA is under a mandate by Governor Brown to overhaul state air quality regulations. LWVOR has submitted a total of 12 pages of testimony for the two meetings in October and November, 2016. The next meeting will be December 8, 2016 in Portland. The meetings are dealing with very complicated issues. You can Google “Cleaner Air Oregon” to find out what is happening with the multilayered program. LWVOR hopes the failure of Measure 97 and the passage of unfunded ballot measures will not adversely affect the Cleaner Air Oregon program. – *Marilyn Koenitzer, Community Planning*

League’s Position On Selection Of The President

Statement of Position on Selection of the President, as Announced by National Board, January 1970, Revised March 1982, Updated June 2004 and Revised by the 2010 Convention:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished.

We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election.

We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

How this position was reached: A League study of the presidential electoral process culminated in a 1970 position supporting direct election of the President by popular vote as essential to representative government. The League testified and lobbied for legislation to amend the Constitution to replace the Electoral College with direct election of the President, including provisions for a national runoff election in the event no candidates (President or Vice-President) received 40 percent of the vote. The measure, which passed the House and nearly passed the Senate in 1971, has been revived in each Congress without success. In 1997, the LWVUS again called for abolition of the Electoral College and for direct election of the President and Vice-President in testimony before the House Subcommittee on the Constitution.

The League has supported national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections to ensure equity for voters from all states and to facilitate the electoral process.

The League believes strongly that the Electoral College should be abolished and not merely “reformed.” One “reform” which the League specifically rejects is the voting by electors based on proportional representation in lieu of the present “winner-takes-all” method. Such a system would apportion the electoral votes of a state based on the popular vote in that state. Instead of making the Electoral College more representative, such proportional voting would increase the chance that no candidate would receive a majority in the Electoral College, thereby sending the election of the President to the House of Representatives where each state, regardless of population, would receive only one vote. Election of the President by the House further removes the decision from the people and is contrary to the “one person, one vote” principle. The League also does not support reform of the Electoral College on a state-by-state basis because the League believes there should be uniformity across the nation in the systems used to elect the President.

The 2002 Convention voted to expand and update the position. The League came to concurrence on a new position in June 2004, which takes into account the entire presidential selection process and supports a process that produces the best possible candidates, informed voters and optimum voter participation.

The 2008 Convention voted to conduct a study of the National Popular Vote proposal, which would establish the popular election of the President through a compact among the states governing how they would cast their votes in the Electoral College. The 2010 Convention amended the national position to support the National Popular Vote compact as another method of selecting the President until such time as the Electoral College is abolished.



**Climate Change Update:
Our Children’s Trust**

On November 10, 2016, Eugene Oregon Federal U.S. District Court Judge Ann Aiken ruled in favor of 21 youth plaintiffs

in their landmark constitutional climate change lawsuit, *Juliana et al v. United States*. The judge denied motions by the federal government and the fossil fuel industry to dismiss the lawsuit, determining that the case can move to trial. She refused to dismiss their complaint asserting that in causing climate change the federal government has violated the youngest generation’s constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property and has failed to protect essential public trust resources. The judge’s order granted the motion of the LWVUS and LWVOR to intervene as *amici curiae*.

The lawsuit is one of many initiated by Our Children’s Trust, based on the Public Trust Doctrine, due process claims, standing to sue, injury in fact, causation, redressability, and constitutional rights to life and liberty.

West Coast Heads Commit to Climate Action

On November 18, the final day of the United Nations Climate Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco (COP22) Governors Kate Brown of Oregon, Edmund G. Brown Jr., of California, Jay Inslee of Washington, and British Columbia Premier Christy Clark issued this statement: “In California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia – from the Mexican border to the edge of the Yukon Territory – we stand with the international community. Our success demonstrates that taking action on climate change goes hand-in-hand with robust job creation and a thriving clean energy economy. “We know what’s at stake because we have seen the destruction firsthand — from year-round wildfires and historic drought to devastating sea-level rise. These impacts don’t respect borders or wait for the next election.”

More information can be found at <http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=41b11f32beefba0380ee8ecb5&id=e17ebacb99&e=907f2dd026> – Claudia Keith, Climate Change Chair



Voter Service Volunteers . . .

Thanks to the outstanding volunteers who helped with candidates’ forums and ballot measures meetings in October: Judy Ball, Ann Brodie, Laura Evenson, Marsha Feldman, Bouquet Harger, Corrine Gobeli, Paula Krane, Kate Mathews, Annette Mills, Jo Anne Trow, Doris and Dick Waring. With the Corvallis Chamber of Commerce, our thanks to: Cindy Dahl, Jon Kloor, and Cooper Whitman. Thanks also to League members who delivered 1,200 LWV of Oregon’s *Voters’ Guides*. – *Cathy Frischmann, Voter Service Chair*

Thanks to Donors On Behalf of the Corvallis League . . .

Our League’s budget is slim and benefits greatly by contributions directly to LWV of Corvallis (non-deductible), to League of Women Voters Education Fund (deductible) or to the League of Women Voters of Oregon (deductible) *when those checks are sent in by our League* and credited to our per member payments (national or state dues). Thanks to you who donated in 2016:

LWV of Corvallis

- Mike Beilstein
- Robert and Charlaine Beschta
- Claudia Keith and Marilyn Walker
- Ken and Paula Krane
- Peggy Lynch

Annette Mills and Dave Eckert

- Cliff and Jo Anne Trow
- Tony and Louise VanVliet
- Dick and Doris Waring
- Lois Marie Zaerr

LWV of Oregon

Louise Ferrell

Theresa Gibney

- Dave and Corinne Gobeli
- Nancy Leman
- Ann Smart
- Maryanne Staton
- Marolyn Tarrant
- Mike Wolf

LWVUS Education Fund

- Ken and Paula Krane
- Catherine and Chris Mathews
- Rochelle Murphy
- Ann Smart
- Tom and Mariol Wogaman
- Mary and Russ Youmans

To help us meet our 2016-17 budget, send checks to LWV of Corvallis, PO Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339. If your name should be on the list above and does not, I apologize. – *Sara Ingle, Treasurer*



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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541-753-6036 - www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

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Election Methods
in Oregon
December 13, 7 PM



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LWV Calendar

December

Fruit Delivered, December 1-10

- Tue 13** *General Meeting:* Election Laws 7 PM, Library
- Thu 15** *Consensus Meetings:* Election Laws 11:45 AM, 7 PM
Bill of Rights Day
- Tue 20** Board Meeting 12:30-2:30 PM

January

- Mon 9** Legislature convenes, Governor sworn in
LWV Founder Carrie Chapman Catt's Birthday
- Tue 10** LWVOR Legislative Process Day, Salem 9:30 AM
Soup dinner/Program planning meeting 6 PM
- Tue 17** Board meeting 12:30-2:30 PM
- Fri 20** Presidential Inauguration

February

- Sat 4** Legislative Town Hall 10-11:30 AM, Library
- Wed 1** Legislature re-convenes
- Tue 14** Happy Birthday to LWV and to Oregon!
General Meeting: Post-Secondary Ed. 7 PM, Library
- Thu 16** *Consensus:* Post-Secondary Ed.
- Tue 21** Board Meeting 12:30-2:30 PM

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 the League of Women Voters

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 October 1.
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.