



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

December 2017

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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 public policy issues and major
- influences public policy through education and advocacy.



General Meeting

Cap and Invest: A Solution to Grow Oregon's Clean Energy Economy While Addressing Climate Pollution and Our Vulnerable Communities

It's time for Oregon to transition from polluting energy to a clean energy economy, with justice for all.

Wednesday, December 6th, 7 PM
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

645 NW Monroe Avenue, Corvallis

Panelists:

Sara Gelser

Oregon State Senator, District 8

Shilpa Joshi

Coalition Director, Renew Oregon

Labor Representative

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 280

NAACP Representative

This past summer Gov. Brown announced support

for a bill to: cap greenhouse gas emissions; charge some of the state's largest companies for their carbon output; invest the proceeds into clean energy; mediation of climate impacts

affecting low-income and rural communities, communities of color, and impacted workers in Oregon. It is referred to as "Cap and Invest." Gov. Brown currently has legislative work groups finalizing the bill's details. It is a revision of the 2017 legislative session Senate Bill 1070 known as the Clean Energy Jobs Bill.

See: olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Measures/Overview/SB1070

Please join us and our panel to learn how you can get behind environmental justice action to reduce Oregon's carbon emissions.



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



President's Corner – Laura Lahm Evenson

Study + Action = LWV! Claudia Keith, chair of our active Climate Change Committee, has taken local action to international levels! She is currently attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany. We are proud of her level of commitment to solving the planet's problems. Check the calendar to see when this forward thinking committee meets and join them!

Local Action? The deadline for comments for Clean Air Oregon is December 22nd. If you need some help with your testimony contact Marilyn Koenitzer, our clean air guru, for help.

Letters to City Council regarding the agenda placement of Council Community Comments are also needed. When there is a public hearing scheduled, this opportunity to address City Council has been moved from the beginning of the meeting to after the public hearing, which means that citizens wishing to address the Council on any topic (other than the public hearing) may have to wait long hours for their three minutes.

Thank you to everyone who voted in the November election. The LWV of Corvallis endorsed the passage of the County Levy and we were happy to see it win.

LWVOR supports Measure 101, which will be on the January 23, 2018 ballot. Check the state website to get more information on this measure. The Corvallis League will have a Voter Service event on January 11 to provide non-partisan information to voters, as well as co-sponsoring a forum with Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates on January 3rd.

First Call: The League of Women Voters of the US 53rd will hold our National Convention in Chicago from June 28 – July 1, 2018. We invite you to save these dates, and plan to join this national gathering in Chicago; the LWV of Corvallis will send several delegates.

A special thank you to members who donated this year to LWV! (You will see a list on page 5 of this bulletin.) We appreciate your generosity and your support of League's mission.

Meeting Dates Changed – Correct your calendars! Both the December and January meeting dates have changed.

Welcome, New Members!

Gail Argenbright, Nancy Evenson, Barb Kralj, Nick & Sandy Houtman



Forum on January Ballot Measure 101

January 3rd, 7-8:30 PM - Corvallis-Benton County Library

Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates will sponsor (the LWV of Corvallis will co-sponsor) a forum, "Measure 101 Impacts" at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. The moderator will be Alex Polikoff and panelists will include a public policy specialist, a physician, a public health representative, and a legislator. The focus is on the potential impact of this measure, three individuals will describe how 101 could affect them personally. The public is invited.

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 Cathy Frischmann 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. A membership form is on the last page.

Your Fruit Order is on its way ...





Community Planning Update

The Community Planning Committee has been monitoring activity by City government and taking action to make sure policies and regulations are in line with our long-standing Comprehensive Planning position:

1. *Support of comprehensive planning which involves consideration of social, cultural, and aesthetic factors, as well as land use, public facilities, and major streets. (Adopted in 1970)*
2. *Support of extensive, representative community (city, county, region) participation and of emphasis on livability and environmental quality in the development and implementation of the plan.*
 - A. *The LWV of Corvallis concurs: Support for citizens' right to determine by ballot the expansion of municipal limits resulting from proposed annexations, delayed or otherwise, excepting only state-mandated annexations. (Adopted April 1997)*
 - B. *The LWV of Corvallis concurs: Support for development impact fees, such as system development charges (SDC), which require new development to pay a fair share of the costs of development impact on the community. (Adopted April 1997)*
3. *Support of measures to insure effective, impartial, prudent, and lawful or legitimate enforcement of the implementation of the plan.*
4. *Support of a highway bypass to protect the riverfront, enhance*

revitalization of the downtown and improve traffic circulation and air quality.

5. *Support for a strong central core of urban and governmental activity, including commercial, residential and recreational facilities. Encourage energy conservation through promotion of an efficient transportation system.*

The Community Planning Position also includes sections on Urbanization, Open Space, and Transportation. The complete position can be found on the LWV Corvallis website: lww.corvallis.or.us/about/where-we-stand/ League's strong support for citizen participation originates in the Principles of the League of Women Voters:

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The Community Planning Committee welcomes new members with new ideas to join us. We generally meet on the second Thursday of the month at 4 PM. Email Shelly at shellym@peak.org if you wish to receive meeting notices.

— Shelly Murphy, Community Planning Chair



Air Quality Comments due Dec. 22

Have you noticed more smelly days and nights in our air over the past year? I have, and it's not just the tar smell from the asphalt paving project on Highway 20 this summer. I've been smelling burning odors different from woodstove smells. It may be the Covanta incinerator in Brooks. It's noticeable along I-5, and may spread here. Other times I smell sulphur and other unidentifiable compounds. These smells are new for me. I want to smell fresh air, not industrial pollutants. Notice when you smell foul odors and realize that air isn't all local. If you notice that your outside air isn't fresh, email me: marwilko@comcast.net.

Did you miss the November 20 Department of Environmental Quality hearing in Corvallis on the new air quality regulations for toxic emissions? You can still comment until December 22 to:

Joe.WESTERSUND@state.or.us.

Talking points: Current draft rules say the permits of new sources (factories) will be denied when 50 people/million are killed because of cancer caused by the emissions. But permits for existing sources will be denied with 500 people/million dying of cancer.

- Regulate existing sources the same as new sources.

In Corvallis, our major polluting source emits a toxin on the EPA's and Oregon's Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP) list. It is fine mineral wool in the form of insoluble glass fiber less than one micron in diameter, produced in Plant 2 at H&V. Plant 1 produces mostly size 3 microns or greater. The DEQ averages these sizes and doesn't specifically regulate for the smaller size.
- Regulate for single emission units instead of the whole plant in sensitive areas adjacent to residential areas and for facilities with hazardous air pollutants.
- Discontinue averaging of HAPS particles.

— Marilyn Koenitzer



Housing Committee

The Committee welcomes two new members – Kristin Ostrom and Lynn Jarvis. They bring interest and

knowledge about housing issues, as well as energy, to the committee.

We continue to investigate alternative approaches to increase affordable housing stock in Corvallis. Members met recently with city planners in Newport and Lebanon, as well as Corvallis planners, to learn what has been successful in those cities and what Corvallis might learn from them.

Both cities encourage partnerships with local developers and both are interested in trying new approaches. Lebanon, because it has land available for development and is encouraging a multi-pronged approach to economic development, sees housing as key to attracting new businesses.

While neither city has experienced the growth in student population that Corvallis has seen, they do have concerns about having an adequate supply of mid-range, particularly workforce, housing and are willing to try new approaches to encourage developers to build these homes.

Newport is more direct in their approach – doing partial SDC waivers for smaller and mid-size homes, having tax exemption for low income homes and working closely with local developers to increase their affordable housing supply. Neither city has the extended public process we see in Corvallis.

What we are learning from these conversations (with other cities, with local developers and with city planning staff) is there is a perception that Corvallis is hostile to developers, that public process can be expensive (we need to remember that public participation is a means of having community voices not an end in itself), that annexations need to be simplified and that affordable housing needs to be included in our city's economic development planning.

Ongoing work is encouraging the Housing and Community Development Advisory Board to move forward on the recommendations of the Housing Development Task Force recommendations. We are meeting with our city councilors to urge them to put the report higher on their agenda.

Members of the committee provided public comment to the City Council and to the Corvallis Planning Commission on the League's letter supporting fewer restrictions on Accessory Dwelling Units. – *Karyle Butcher, Housing Chair*

LWV Membership and Leadership Training Inspired



Bouquet Harger and Barbara Ross at MLD

have available—not only information that is readily

Leaguers at the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) training, shared outreach strategies, got to know our Oregon Shur Fellows and state coaches who are here to help mentor and guide local Leagues. We learned about the wealth of resources we

available online but also an amazing network of people with whom to connect.

We also talked about the two biggest factors for the League to consider as we look to the future: the changing roles of women as well as the speed, volume, and medium of communication that is evolving at a rapid pace.

What most resonated with me was a talk by Elisabeth MacNamara reminding us of the vision of the League of Women Voters, of “creating a more perfect democracy” that supports the greater good and not any political party or candidates. She concluded her talk with this quote by Maude Wood Park, first League of Women Voters president in 1924: “Democracy does not depend on a few persons doing great things, it depends on many persons doing small things faithfully.”

This training solidified my sense of pride in being part of this distinguished organization that has achieved so much and I am excited to be part of a community of people who will continue to work towards building a better democracy.

– *Bouquet Harger, Membership Chair*



LWV of Corvallis member at Bonn Climate Change Conference

I just returned from the first week of the UN Climate Change

Conference, Conference of the Parties (COP) 23, in Bonn Germany. I and three other League members from California and Florida represented LWVUS and LWVOR, as NGO (non-governmental organization) observers. Over 26,000 folks from more than 197 countries were expected to attend.

It was life changing and I am thankful for the opportunity. I am filled with experiences ranging from “observing” at formal UN meetings, to walking, biking, taking public transportation, while talking with folks from almost every continent. These memories have certainly given me a better understanding of the serious global challenges—especially with mitigation and adaption funding—and yes, the unbelievable possibilities.

On a number of occasions I talked with individuals about the importance of the judiciary branch of government, which historically has been used successfully to address many civil rights cases. As Judge Aiken stated in her Nov 2016 ruling, the constitutional “right to a healthy planet” is part of the Our Children’s Trust historical lawsuit (see [National Geographic](#) article). It’s not clear to me that the 22 previous COPs have elevated human rights litigation as an important element in global climate change efforts.

The COP23 President, Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama thanked the 400+ NGOs for attending as he commented on how the UN had been able to make room for more groups—basically more ‘public’ observers. He commented on improved transparency, access, and improving assessment processes. (On a side note, I was a rarity—very few women attending were over age 55 and very few had silver hair.)

One important item: I attended [#uspeoplesdelegation](#) press conference, which included a representative from Our Children’s Trust ‘Juliana v. U.S.’. This press conference provided a forum for their five major demands. I have recommended/proposed a LWVUS/ LWVOR COP23 public statement concerning the League’s *amici* standing with the Our Children’s Trust lawsuit. There will be more information on this soon as we prepare for Oregon’s 2018 short legislative session.

[#uspeoplesdelegation](#) [press-release](#).

Our local League Climate Change committee hopes to have a COP23 LWV program this coming spring. I also hold the Climate Change Portfolio for LWVOR Action Committee and am actively involved in lobby efforts for the Clean Energy Jobs Cap and Invest 2018 Legislative Senate bill (2017 SB1070). Please contact me if you would like to have further COP23 details.

– Claudia Keith, *Climate Change Chair*



Thank You, Donors!

The Corvallis League depends heavily on contributions to meet our budget. We are grateful to our generous donors. Contributions can be made 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*; they will be credited to our per member payments (national or state dues). We would like to thank and recognize those who have donated since December 1, 2016:

LWV of Corvallis

Linda Modrell
Stevenson-Cannon Family
Foundation
Maryanne Staton
Tony and Louise VanVliet
John Watson

LWV of Oregon

Robert and Charlaine Beschta
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Norma Massier
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Marilyn Tarrant
John Watson
Mary and Russ Youmans

If you would like to help us meet our budget for 2017-2018, please send a check to LWV of Corvallis, P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339. If your name should have appeared on this list and does not, I apologize. – Sara Ingle, *Treasurer*



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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Cap and Invest for Clean Energy
December 6, 7 PM - Library



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LWVCorvallis



LWV Calendar

December

- Wed 6 Board Meeting, 12-1:30 PM
General Meeting: Cap and Invest, 7 PM, Library
- Fri 15 *Bill of Rights Day*

January

- Wed 3 Board Meeting, 12-1:30 PM
Ballot Measure 101, MVHC, 7 PM, Library
- Tues 9 LWV founder Carrie Catt's birthday
Annual Soup Social/Program Planning, 6-9 PM,
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Thur 11 *Voter Service: January 23 Election, 7 PM, Library*
- Tues 23 Election Deadline, 8 PM

February

- Thur 1 Legislature convenes, Salem
- Wed 3 Legislative Update, 9:30-11:30 AM, Library
- Mon 5 Legislative session begins, Salem
- Wed 7 Board Meeting, 12-1:30 PM
- Tue 13 *General Meeting: Housing, 7 PM, Library*
- Wed 14 *Happy Birthday, LWV and Oregon!*
- Fri 23 LWVOR Day at the Legislature, Salem

Join the League!

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip+4digits _____

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.