



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

January 2018

Board of Directors 2017-2018

President

Laura Lahm Evenson

First Vice President

Annette Mills

Second Vice President

Paula Krane

Secretary

Ann Brodie

Treasurer

Sara Ingle

Directors

Judy Ball

Social Media

Karyle Butcher

Housing

Marsha Feldman

Public Relations

Camille Freitag

Voter Service

Cathy Frischmann

Bulletin Editor

Bouquet Harger

Membership

Claudia Keith

Climate Change

Off Board

Dagmar Johnson

Health Care

Louise Marquering

Fruit Sale

Kate Mathews

Legislative Updates

Shelly Murphy

Community Planning

Karen Nibler

Social Policy

Janet Wolf-Eshe

Bulletin Mailing

Nominating Committee

Marolyn Tarrant, Doris Waring, Mary Youmans (Chair)

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.

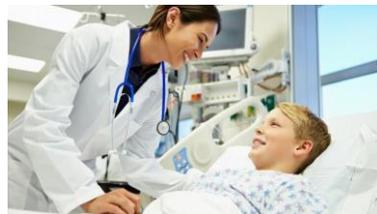
Annual Social & Program Planning

Tuesday, January 9th, 6-8:30 PM

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2945 NW Circle

Delicious Soups, Breads & Desserts provided by your Board - Bring a bowl, plate, cup, and table utensils for a waste free supper.

This gathering for League members is your opportunity to set the coming year's program. *Continued p. 3*



Ballot Measure 101- Election Forum

Thursday, January 11th, 7:00 – 8:45 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
645 NW Monroe Avenue, Corvallis

Healthcare Provider Assessments to Fund Medicaid and Stabilize Individual Insurance Premiums

Panelists

- Cedric Hayden, recommending a no vote**, Oregon State Representative, District 7 and Petitioner to Refer the Measure to the Voters
- Janet Bauer, recommending a yes vote**, Policy Analyst covering Healthcare for the Oregon Center for Public Policy
- Val Hoyle, recommending a yes vote**, Former Majority Leader of the Oregon House of Representatives

Moderator: Tony Van Vliet, former Oregon State Representative from Corvallis

Please join the League of Women Voters of Corvallis and the Corvallis-Benton County Library for an election forum on Ballet Measure 101. The special election date is on January 23rd. It is a Veto Referendum to repeal parts of the bill (HB2391) passed by the 2017 Legislature to provide funding for health care for low-income Oregonians, through a temporary assessment on insurers and some hospitals.

- A **YES** vote retains the funding and the federal matching funds.
- A **NO** vote removes the funding provisions in the bill.

There will be plenty of time for audience questions. Mark your calendar and attend to learn more about this important issue before you cast your ballot. For more information on the measure see the League of Women Voters of Oregon guide at:

<http://lwv.or.org/home/voterresources/>

Community Planning:**KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH
CITY GOVERNMENT**

Check out the new website the City of Corvallis has just launched <https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/>

You may have noticed that a paper copy of the City newsletter no longer comes in the mail. There is, however, an online newsletter that you can subscribe to. You can also elect to receive online meeting notices, agendas and packets for Council and Advisory Boards and Commissions. Go to <https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/subscribe> and check the notices you wish to receive in your email box.

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

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

LWVOR Biennial Report 2015-2017

Our Biennial Report for 2015-2017 is now available online! Take a look at this summary of our program achievements for the last biennium.

<http://lwvor.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Biennial-Report-11-9.pdf>



Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates, the LWV of Corvallis and additional



organizations are sponsoring a **Forum on Measure 101**.

When: Wednesday, January 3, 2018, 7-8:30 p.m.

Where: Corvallis-Benton County Public Library.

The public is invited to learn about the potential impact of the measure. In addition to the panelists listed, three people will describe how 101 could affect them personally. Alex Polikoff

will moderate; bring your questions.

Panelists:

Janet Bauer, Oregon Center for Public Policy
Dan Rayfield, Oregon State Representative, District 16
Bruce Thomson, MD, Family Medicine
Benton County Public Health Dept. representative

**Important dates for the January 23rd
Oregon Special Election:**

- December 27, 2017 – Voters' Pamphlet mailed by Secretary of State
- January 2, 2018 – Voter Registration deadline
- January 3, 2018 – Ballots Mailed
- January 23, 2018 – Special Election Day

Get League's Voter Guide to Measure 101 at

<http://lwvor.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/BM-101-VG-12-5.pdf>



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

Contact Cathy Frischmann 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.

Annual Social & Program Planning *Continued p. 1*

It's League's basis for education and action in the coming year. **Prepare** for the evening's planning:

1. **Read** the program planning information and summaries of state and local League positions on pages 3-5.
2. **Reflect** on community issues that would benefit from

our study or action. What new studies or directions at national and local League levels might address these issues? What practical considerations might be involved?

Come and add your voice to League's decision making process.



League of Women Voters of Corvallis - Current Positions

For more details <https://lwv.corvallis.or.us/about/where-we-stand/>

COMMUNITY PLANNING Support of: Comprehensive Planning which involves consideration of social, cultural, and aesthetic factors, land use, public facilities, and major streets; Urbanization policies which fosters healthy and diverse communities where people can live, work, shop and play; Open Space; and energy conservation through an efficient, local Transportation system. (Adopted 1974)

CORRECTIONS Support the provision of adequate corrections, with emphasis on appropriate alternatives and diversionary services facilities for adults and juveniles.

HEALTH SERVICES IN BENTON COUNTY *Public Health.* Support for public health services including dissemination of public health information adequate personnel and facilities in the County Health Dept., family planning information and techniques, and *Health Care of the Elderly*, (Adopted 1967). Recognition of drug abuse as a health problem in Benton County, (Adopted 1971).

KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS Support rules, notification, and procedures for citizen participation in all Corvallis School District board and committee meetings. Support a policy for handling citizens' complaint and commendations letters concerning teachers. (Adopted 1983)

FINANCING THE CORVALLIS-BENTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY Support adequate and stable funding that provides free access to quality library services for all Benton County residents. (Adopted 1985)

BENTON COUNTY CHARTER Support inclusion in the Charter provisions that give responsibility for policy and communications to the Board of Commissioners and specified administrative duties to an appointed County Manager. Support for an appointed Assessor and a Sheriff that is a nonpartisan office. Support for required public hearings by the Charter Review Committee. (Adopted May 2000)

CHILD CARE IN BENTON COUNTY Quality, affordable child care for all children. Support for enforced standards for childcare facilities, government programs to train providers, referral services, and low-income subsidies. Promote the consideration of childcare issues in policies and benefit packages of employers. (Adopted April 1987)

AT RISK YOUTH Support of programs addressing needs of children with educational, health, family, substance abuse, socioeconomic or legal problems that contribute to leaving school early. Prevention and early intervention programs should be available from early childhood to emancipation and should be comprehensive, coordinated and community based, with adequate, consistent funding to insure continuity.

PRIMARY PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE IN LINN AND BENTON COUNTIES Support for comprehensive and integrated violence prevention and intervention programs that involve all sectors of the community, including but not limited to education on all aspects of societal violence, programs to foster physical, mental and emotional health of individuals of all ages and groups. (Adopted 1996)

HOUSING Promote partnerships between public and private entities to establish low income housing units and year-round homeless shelters. Include funds for emergency shelter in county and city budgets, applying for federal and state funds to do so. County and city should support of efforts of volunteer organizations to meet emergency shelter needs and aggressive support development of low income housing units through use of state and federal funds, contributing land, addressing zonal barriers, adjusting transit routes, and working with the community.

LOCAL FOOD Access to safe, local, nutritious, affordable and culturally appropriate food, with convenient access to grocery stores, food service businesses, food banks and soup kitchens. Encourage preservation of space for food production, local agricultural businesses, and sustainable farm practices. Local agencies should be responsible for enforcement of food safety and disease prevention. Education for all ages in food production, preparation and preservation and in food choices for health. (Adopted 2010)

SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS Formation of Special Taxing Districts and Urban Renewal Districts may be desirable in certain situations. The formation of any such district must be considered only after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications to all government provided services. See the criteria list at website above. (Adopted May 2016)

LWV of US Summary of Public Policy Positions - Impact on Issues 2016-2018



REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

- **Citizen's Right to Vote** - Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.
- **DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation** - Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

- **Apportionment** - Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.
- **Redistricting** - Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.
- **Money in Politics** - Campaign finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that campaign spending must be restricted but not banned. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing Super PACs and creating an effective enforcement agency.
- **Selection of the President** - Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

- **Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation** - Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making).
- **Individual Liberties** - Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.
- **Constitutional Amendment Proposals** - In addition to League positions, consideration should be given to whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic or protects individual rights, could be achieved by less difficult legislative or political approaches, and is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.
- **Constitutional Conventions** - Concerned that there are many unresolved questions about a Constitutional Convention. Certain conditions must be in place: limited to a single specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by state.
- **Public Policy on Reproductive Choices** - Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

- **Congress** - Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.
- **The Presidency** - Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

- **United Nations** Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.
- **Trade** Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.
- **U.S. Relations with Developing Countries** Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.
- **Arms Control** Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.
- **Military Policy and Defense Spending** Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

Continued next page



NATURAL RESOURCES Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

- **Air Quality** - Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.
- **Energy** - Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.
- **Land Use** - Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.
- **Water Resources** - Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.
- **Waste Management** - Promote policies that reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes).
- **Nuclear Issues** - Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

- **Federal Agriculture Policies** - Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. The federal government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply.

SOCIAL POLICY Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

- **Education, Employment and Housing** - Support equal access to education, employment and housing.
- **Equal Rights** - Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.



Federal Role in Public Education Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

Fiscal Policy

- **Tax Policy** - Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.
- **Federal Deficit** - Promote responsible deficit policies.
- **Funding of Entitlements** - Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents, including behavioral health, and controls health care costs.

Immigration Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

- **Income Assistance** - Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.
- **Support Services** - Provide essential support services.
- **Housing Supply** - Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Continued next page

Child Care Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

Sentencing Policy The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

Human Trafficking Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

PRINCIPLES Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

More details at: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/book/impact-issues-2016-2018-online-edition>

Climate Change Report

Oregon is on the verge of passing a bold law, the Clean Energy Jobs (CEJ) bill, to cap and price climate pollution. The LWV of Oregon is a coalition partner with Renew Oregon the leader of coordinating support for CEJ legislation. LWVOR has supported bills each session to reduce greenhouse gases emissions. As shared at the LWVC's December general meeting, the CEJ legislation is scheduled for the 2018 legislative session. An Action Alert went out last month to all LWV Presidents in Oregon from President Turrill asking them encourage their local officials to endorse CEJ.

Mayor Traber has done so and the LWVC Climate Change Committee wants to present to our board a letter urging our city counselors and county commissioners to do likewise. You too can take action on CEJ by contacting your legislators and ask them to support the bill. More details at www.oregonlegislature.gov/helm/Pages/clean-energy.aspx and [www.oregonlegislature.gov/helm/workgroup_materials/4 PROGRAM OVERVIEW \(final\) 12 20 17.pdf](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/helm/workgroup_materials/4_PROGRAM_OVERVIEW_(final)_12_20_17.pdf)



Securing a Legal Right to a Safe Climate *JULIANA v. U.S.*

The youth are at the threshold of bringing “the most important lawsuit on the planet” to trial. Their attorneys say they are optimistic that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth

Circuit will refuse the Trump administration’s efforts to prevent the trial from moving forward and they are preparing every day to be ready for trial the moment they do so.

On December 11th at the library, the LWC CC provided a live viewing of that hearing being held in San Francisco before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The group of youths’ attorneys and the US Justice Department argued over whether Americans can claim damaging environmental policy as a violation of their constitutional rights to due process and equal protection under the law. The three-judge panel will decide if the case moves to trial in February 2018.



– Claudia Keith, Climate Change Committee Chair

EPA Accepting Comments on Plan to Repeal the Clean Power Plan

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its plan to move forward with the repeal of the Clean Power Plan, which would regulate the carbon pollution from existing power plants. Members of the public can submit comments to the EPA through the online rulemaking portal at <https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0355-0002> through January 16, 2018.



Housing Committee Report

The committee invited Carl Christiansen of G. Christiansen Construction and Lori Stephens of Broadleaf Architects to discuss what they see as the barriers to building more affordable housing in Corvallis. It was an interesting and provocative discussion especially as we talked about ways to bring in more land into the city – e.g. the role of voter approved annexation and code changes that might need to be in place to increase the supply of affordable homes. Clearly, this is a complicated subject and reaching agreement on all points is difficult. Some general thoughts from both of them but not necessarily points they both agreed upon:

1. We need more buildable land
2. More density to build up
3. Establishing a fund that developers who are not building affordable housing pay in to support those building affordable homes
4. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) – more non-owner occupied
5. Easing parking requirements – parking adds to costs
6. Simplify of the Land Development Code
7. Easing on setback – they take up land
8. No SDC or modest SDC for those building affordable homes

This was followed by committee members reporting out on conversations they have had with City Councilors on how the City could move more quickly to implement the recommendations of the Housing Development Task Forces. There appears to be general agreement that our community needs to increase the supply of affordable housing, but mixed views if implementing the TF report would result in significant change.

At our next meeting we outlined a process for moving forward with our work on SDCs. We plan to present to City Council our recommendations on how the city might waive or exempt certain organizations from all or some SDCs.

The remainder of the meeting was selecting a topic for our February program. Although no final agreement was reached, the consensus is to focus on the economics of housing affordability and the role not having a sufficient stock plays in term of community participation and livability.

- Karyle Butcher, Housing Committee Chair



Mark Your 2018 Calendar for Key Sustainability Events

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis is a member of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition – a network of 350 organizations in Corvallis and Benton County working to create a more sustainable community. The Coalition includes non-profits, businesses, government agencies, educational institutions, and faith-based organizations. League members are invited and encouraged to participate in the following upcoming events:

Friday, January 12 - Sustainability Coalition Annual Meeting (12 noon – 1:30 pm at Corvallis-Benton County Public Library) - The annual meeting includes an overview of the past year’s accomplishments and plans for 2018. The Coalition’s action teams have many exciting projects under way and committees that are hard at work to support them, so this will be a good time to find out what’s happening and to give your input. This event is open to the public.

Monday, March 12 - Sustainability Fair & Town Hall Meeting (5–9 pm, CH2MHill Alumni Center, OSU Campus) - This event focuses on the sustainability efforts of the whole community. It begins with a Sustainability Fair that features Coalition partner organizations (including the League!), and provides an opportunity for partners to tell attendees about their activities and to engage them in projects. During the Town Hall Meeting portion of the evening, participants gather in the ballroom to learn what various organizations have achieved in the past year related to sustainability, as well as to share individual stories and perspectives. The evening includes food, entertainment, and plenty of opportunities to visit with old friends and meet new ones. Center Ballroom holds just 350 people, so everyone is encouraged to sign up early.

Carrie Chapman Catt (January 9, 1859 – March 9, 1947)

On January 9th, the League of Women Voters observes the birthday of our founder, Carrie Chapman Catt. Born in Wisconsin in 1859 and raised in Iowa, Catt campaigned for women’s suffrage for decades. On February 14, 1920, shortly before the passage of the 19th Amendment, Catt founded the League of Women Voters. Designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters, Catt called the League “a mighty experiment.” *She also said:* “The vote has been costly. Prize it . . . understand what it means and what it can do for your country.”



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



Program Planning/Soup Social
 Jan 9, 6-8:30 PM



Ballot Measure 101
 Jan 11, 7 PM - LIBRARY

 Join us on Facebook
 LWVCorvallis



LWV Calendar

January

- Wed 3 Board Meeting, 12-1:30 PM
 MVHCA Measure 101, 7 PM, Library
- Tue 9 Annual Soup/Program Planning, 6 PM
- Thur 11 Ballot Measure 101, 7-8:45 PM, Library
 Housing Committee, Habitat Ofc, 2 PM
- Tue 23 Election Day - last day drop off ballot
- Tue 30 Climate Change Committee Mtg, Noon

February

- Sat 3 Legislative Update 9:30-noon, Library
- Wed 7 Board Meeting, 12-1:30 PM
- Thur 8 Housing Committee, Habitat Ofc, 2 PM
- Tue 13 Monthly Meeting: *Housing*, 7 PM, Library
- Wed 14 Happy Birthday LWV and Oregon!
- Fri 23 LWVOR Day at the Legislature, Salem
- Tue 27 Climate Change Committee Mtg, Noon

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.