



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

December 2018

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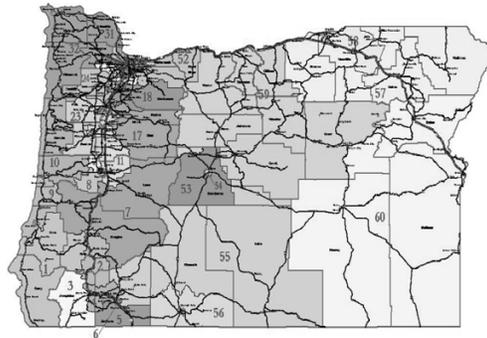
(Chair)

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.

Redistricting: What it is and Why it Matters

Wednesday, December 5, 7-8:30 pm
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
645 NW Monroe Avenue, Corvallis



In our first program of the month, we will tackle the issue of gerrymandering in Oregon. We will also examine:

- Oregon's current redistricting process,
- How redistricting impacts Oregon elections, and
- What reforms look like.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon will present this event.

What We Learned from the 2018 Mid-Term Elections

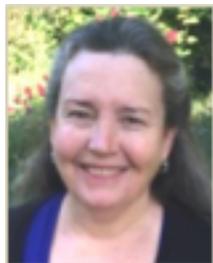
Wednesday, December 12, 7-8:30 PM
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
645 NW Monroe Avenue, Corvallis



Three OSU Professors from the School of Public Policy will present what the results of the 2018 Mid-Term elections meant and how that might affect the November 2020 Presidential Election. They will look at the impact race, ethnicity, women, younger voters, gerrymandering, voter suppression, and hacking had on this election.

They will also discuss the impact of Oregon's legislative super majority in both houses. Will this enable the Legislature to work together or will it be like the US Congress?

Our three panelists are OSU Political Science professors, **David Bernell**, Director of the Interdisciplinary Political Science Graduate Program; **Brent Steel**, Director of the Public Policy Graduate Program; and **Christopher Stout**, Political Science professor. They shared their perspectives with us in September before the election. Now we will take a look at what we have learned from the post election analysis. This event is co-sponsored by the Corvallis-Benton County public library.



President's Corner

Behind the Scenes of Our Corvallis League

Last month's bulletin contained our testimony on the proposed South Corvallis Urban Renewal Plan. What you may not know is that behind all League testimony is a group of people who have worked long and hard on it. They first study and understand the issue. Then they formulate questions and opinions, always keeping our League positions in mind. After testimony is written, a group of editors review it for quality, clarity and accuracy. All of this work is often done under very short time lines. I would like to thank all of the committee and board members who step up every month to do this hard work.

We are happy to announce that Ann Schauber has stepped forward and volunteered to take over as Bulletin Editor. Thank you, Ann!

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Cathy Frischmann and Beth Thoennes for keeping the bulletin afloat during our search for an editor. Working together, they were able to produce the bulletins without a hitch. Thank you, Cathy and Beth!

We have an extra meeting this month. On December 5th we have an opportunity to hear a presentation by LWVOR on *Redistricting (a.k.a. Gerrymandering)*. Bring a friend and join us as we learn about this important issue. On December 12th we will have a follow up to our September Kick-off Meeting: *Changing Demographics, Institutional Impediments, and the 2018 Midterm Elections*. It will be interesting to find out if the projections were correct and if there were any surprises.

Finally, I want to give a special thank you to members who supported our fruit sale. We appreciate your generosity and your support of LWV's mission.

Laura Lahm Evenson, President

December Fruit Delivery Help Requested

Just one afternoon of your time is needed



The big semi-truck carrying our boxes of grapefruit and oranges is scheduled to reach Beth Thoennes's house the first week of December. She needs help delivering the boxes of fruit. Have you ever dreamt of being a mail carrier or a UPS delivery driver? This is your opportunity. Call (541-753-0012) or email Louise (lwvclouise@aol.com) if you can help her out. This is a fun volunteer opportunity!

Louise Marquering, Fruit Dispatcher

LWV of Corvallis

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Facebook – LWV Corvallis

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

Contact Ann Schauber, ann@caracolors.com, with suggestions, comments, submissions, 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.

Written Testimony Sent to Corvallis Planning Commission Regarding Transportation Plan

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis, Second Vice President Paula Krane presented written testimony to the **Corvallis Planning Commission** regarding the city’s draft Transportation System Plan. The following is the content of the November letter:

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) supports aggressive efforts to restore balance to the planet’s climate systems by reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide. In addition, the League of Women Voters of Corvallis (LWVC) has a strong commitment to effective community planning, including planning and management of transportation systems that promote good land use, conserve natural resources, and maintain environmental quality.

The most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that, globally, we must dramatically reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 in order to avert the worst effects of climate change, including the triggering of runaway feedback loops. In other words, the next 11 years will be critical in our efforts to reduce GHG emissions. In recognition of this responsibility, both the LWVUS and the LWV of Oregon have *amici* standing in the *Juliana v. US* case brought by Our Children’s Trust in support of the youth plaintiff’s fundamental and constitutional right to a livable climate.

While there are many positive features of the draft Transportation System Plan (TSP), such as new multi-use paths and bike lanes and transit improvements, we are concerned that the draft TSP has not made GHG emissions reduction an overarching goal. The Corvallis Climate Action Plan calls for the community to reduce its total 1990 GHG emissions 75 percent by 2050. Transportation is the largest GHG emitting energy sector in Oregon, and one over which the State, the MPO Region, the County, and the City have some

control. Addressing the magnitude of changes required to meet GHG emissions targets will require a focused commitment to reduce fossil fuel use, improve efficiency, and decrease car dependency.

We understand that the TSP has involved considerable investment of time, effort, and funds during the four-year TSP planning effort, and we expect that City Council will approve it. The LWV of Corvallis would like to offer the following recommendations as the City moves into the implementation phase:

- **Ensure that the TSP is a “living document”, informed by the Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory that is on a two-year schedule.** We support those statements on page 6 of the draft TSP that call for more frequent TSP reviews and updates and for City staff to explore ways to modify the TSP that are more streamlined than the current Comprehensive Plan amendment process.
- **Support extending current and new forms of transportation systems in new developments to discourage dependency on automobiles.** The City’s Climate Action Advisory Board has determined that land use/development to reduce car dependency is one of its top three priority strategies.
- **Building new or widened roads to ease congestion should not be a priority.** Transportation analysts report that past experience over decades has shown that new roads do not solve traffic congestion in populated areas; they simply allow increases in traffic and new congestion to form.

Laura Evenson, President



Housing Committee Studies Affordable Housing

Many households pay more than 50% of income for housing

The goal of the League's Housing Committee is to advance affordable housing initiatives; to build strong alliances with others working on affordable housing and homeless issues; and to raise awareness of these issues with city leaders and the Corvallis community.

Sara Ingle with the help of other committee members prepared a series of questions related to affordable housing that we submitted to each of the four mayoral candidates. We heard from three of the candidates. After some discussion and based on a fairly short time line, we agreed to send the questions to the Gazette-Times for use when they interviewed candidates for potential GT endorsement.

At our October 25 committee meeting, Karen Rockwell, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity provided us with an excellent overview of the economics of housing in Corvallis. In her presentation, Karen gave us these statistics regarding the cost burden for housing for renters and owners:

- 43% of renter households are paying more than 50% of their income for housing;
- 23% of owner households are paying more than 50% of their income for housing;
- **38% of all households with incomes below median are paying more than 50% of their income for housing.**

This means these families and individuals will have fewer dollars for food, health care and any emergencies. As we look to the future of Corvallis, it is clear that to have a strong, diverse and vibrant community, we desperately need more housing.

Karen shared with us the work that Benton Habitat for Humanity is doing to provide affordable housing as well as programs such as the home repair program that enable those with homes to remain in them. For information on how you can help, contact Karen Rockwell at Karen@bentonhabitat.org or view their website at bentonhabitat.org

Our Committee heard from Cassandra Robertson from the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition who is working with others to find transitional housing for our homeless population. The group is using SquareOne Villages in Eugene as a model for developing their program. Cassandra noted that the group is in the beginning stages of crafting a plan and that anyone interested in working with her can reach her through the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.

We have two new committee members – Nancy Wood and Erin Kanzig



Housing Committee meetings are the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, 2:00-3:30 Conference Room, Benton Habitat for Humanity.

Karyle Butcher, Housing Chair

Have You Renewed Your League Membership?

Our League's fiscal year begins in October. If you have not renewed your membership for this year, please fill out the membership form on the back cover of this newsletter and send it in with your dues. While you are renewing for yourself, consider asking one of your friends to join League with you.

The Corvallis League of Women Voters has had a successful first half of the year with a large amount of our focus on voter service and the election. As always, the success of our programs is reliant on our members.

Briar Bullock, Membership Chair

Coming in January

KNOW YOUR CITY (League's version of Civics 101)



- How is City government structured?
- How do we pay for City services?
- How do we manage urban growth and preserve neighborhoods and natural resources?

✓ Mark your calendars to find the answers to these questions and more.

Thursdays — January 10, 17, and 24 — 7 - 8:30 PM
at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

This will be good preparation for your vote on the 3 local ballot measures coming in 2019.

Count 'em Up!

How many years have you been a member of the League of Women Voters? Include the years you were in other Leagues anywhere in the country. If you have been a member for 50 years or more, contact our membership chair. You can email her (bullock.briar@gmail.com) or you can call her with your number of years (503-569-9675).

Briar Bullock, Membership Chair



December is that Ooh-Aah Time of Year



It seems fitting somehow that I begin my editorship of this newsletter – and revive my active participation as a League member – during December, when we pass the longest night of the year and the days begin to lengthen again, thus beginning a new solar year.

We observe this time of year by being cozy indoors, lighting candles, and decorating our homes with festive lights. Neighborhoods around the city literally light up to brighten our spirits and we marvel at our neighbors' creativity. When our children were young, we used to drive around the neighborhoods to look at the lights and we would hear “ooh” “aah” coming from the back seat. Thus I always call this season the “ooh-aah” time of year. And so it is, that I renew my engagement with the League during this season filled with light, and I have been touched by the light of all the members who have helped put this issue together. You are a key part of what makes this newsletter happen every month.

During this “ooh-aah” time, may we celebrate the magnificence of who we are as individuals, as families, and as a community. However you choose to celebrate these days, through religious or cultural traditions, we wish you moments of pause in your day, to reflect on the beauty all around us.

May December bring you experiences that have you laughing so hard with joy that your belly hurts! Best wishes!

Ann Schaubert, Editor



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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Besides the news of the month,
we send you the warmest
greetings of the season.



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LWVCorvallis



LWV Calendar

December 2018

- First Wk Grapefruit/Orange Delivery (**please help!**)
- Tue 4 Board Meeting, 11:30-1pm
- Wed 5 Redistricting (pg 3) 7pm, Library
- Wed 12 Post Election Analysis (pg 1), 7pm, Library
- Thur 13 Housing Committee (pg 4) 2 pm, Habitat
- Thur 27 Housing Committee, 2 pm, Habitat

January 2019

- Tue 8 Board Meeting, 11:30-1pm
- Thur 10 Know Your City Charter, 7pm, Library
- Tue 15 Program Planning, 6 pm, Unitarian Fellowship
- Thu 17 Know Your City, Funding Services, 7pm, Library
- Thu 24 Know Your City, Land Use Process, 7pm, Library

Join the League of Women Voters

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.