



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

October 2020

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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.

Transformation

The League Looks Ahead

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH (5-6PM)

Keynote: Virginia Kase, CEO League of Women Voters of United States

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81923162356>



Join the League of Women Voters of Corvallis as we hold a special event to kick-start a year of advocacy and education! Fresh on the heels of celebrating 100 years of the 19th Amendment, we are now asking ourselves what the next century will bring and what transformation looks like in the League as we work towards a more perfect democracy for all. We are thrilled to have the CEO of LWVUS, Virginia Kase, join us for this event from Washington DC.

Since 2018, she has led the 100-year-old organization through a period of rapid transformation and growth focused on building power by engaging in advocacy, legislation, expanded litigation, and organizing efforts to ensure voting rights for all.

This meeting is open to League members and the public - all are welcome! Take this hour before the first Presidential debate to join in community with the League of Women Voters.

November 2020 Election Countdown

September 29, October 15, October 22 – US Presidential debates

October 5 – Out of state ballots mailed

October 6 – LWVCorvallis/NAACP - Candidates Forum – Corvallis City Council, Ward 7, see details pg. 5

October 7 – US Vice-presidential debate

October 13 – Last day to register to vote

October 13 – Corvallis City Club City, Candidates Forum - 6:00 PM

October 14-20 Local ballots mailed

October 14 – LWVCorvallis/NAACP - Candidates Forum - Benton County Commissioners, see details pg. 5

October 27 – Recommended last day to safely return ballots by mail

October 28 – Voters asked to use ballot drop sites, not mail, from here forward

November 3 – Election Day

Ballots must be returned to election offices by 8:00 PM –

Postmarks Do Not Count

*President's Corner***Smoky Week: Reflections on Regeneration**

Amidst this apocalyptic haze of unprecedented wildfire and smoke, I search the news repeatedly for updates on the homes of family and friends. While looking at photos of southern Oregon, my parents remark at how they met in Phoenix, Oregon just about 45 years ago. Today, we look at the path of destruction that has lain waste to the town, and I reflect on the mythical Green phoenix itself, rising from the ashes to be born again. Oh, how we look forward to the cycle of renewal and life. I send prayers of safety and health for you and your families.

With my thoughts on the powers of regeneration, I want to share with you what we are thinking at the League. As we emerge from the celebratory anniversary of 100 years of the League and the 19th Amendment, we must now attend to the century before us.

- How will we be relevant in 2120?
- How will we have embraced a changing world?
- Whose voices will lead us in 100 years?
- What will democracy look like?

These are the questions that drive me every day at the League – ensuring that the solid foundation of advocacy and education we have worked so hard for continues to thrive and build into the next generation.

As we plan for the coming year, the Board has taken on a theme of TRANSFORMATION to help guide our programs, advocacy, and outlook. I am eager to envision together with you, our members, what that transformation roadmap might look like.

To kick-start this conversation we are hosting a special meeting on September 29th at 5pm to focus on what transformation might be for your League. I am delighted that we are joined by the CEO of LWV of the United States, Virginia Kase. Since 2018, she has led the 100-year-old organization through a period of rapid transformation and growth focused on building power by engaging in advocacy, legislation, expanded litigation, and organizing efforts to ensure voting rights for all. Take an hour before the first Presidential debate to envision the next 100 years of the League with us!

In community,
Jessica McDonald, President

Citrus Sale Will Be Normal: Arriving in December

Neither disease nor fire can stop the LWV fruit sale. Fruit will be at least three days from the processing plant when it arrives in Corvallis and deliverers will wear gloves and masks! You can enjoy oranges and grapefruit at \$25 a box and share them with friends and family. **The order form is with this newsletter.** If you have friends or neighbors who might like to order send their mailing addresses to Louise Marquering at: lwvclouise@aol.com.

LWV of Corvallis

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Facebook – LWV Corvallis

LWV of Oregon

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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 Schaubert, annschauber@gmail.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.

The Way We Vote in Benton County is Changing

Benton County voters approved ranked choice voting for County Commissioner in 2016, but this will be the first election in which we will use it. At least three candidates are required for ranked choice voting and there are three for each position up for election. Check the Benton County Elections site (bentonbetterballot.com) where you can fill out a mock ballot and watch a video that explains how votes are counted.

CANDIDATES	1ST CHOICE	2ND CHOICE	3RD CHOICE
strawberry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
chocolate	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
vanilla	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>




VOTE411.org is a one-stop election resource. By entering your address, you can find information on all the candidates on your ballot. For most, you will see answers to written questions posed by the League and for some, there will also be audio or video interviews or recorded forums, including House District 16.

As we get closer to election day, The League of Women Voters of Oregon Vote Oregon webpage (lwvor.org/home/voteoregon) will have links to the Voter’s Guide in English, Spanish, large print and audio versions, as well as forums for Statewide candidates such as Secretary of State and Congressional Districts and information on Statewide ballot measures.

Please help get the word out about these valuable election resources.

Camille Freitag, Voter Service

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Mail in your LWV Corvallis Dues for 2020-2021

LWV of Corvallis dues are payable as of October 1. You will receive a separate mailing of the membership form and a return envelope for your dues and other donations within the next couple of weeks. Please be sure we have your correct email, mailing address and phone number.

If you would also like to give a donation to LWVOR or to LWV Education Fund, you can include a separate check and our treasurer will send the money into the state or national office and send you a receipt. This becomes a bonus gift for us because it reduces the payment we must make to the state and national offices.

Laura Lahm Evenson, Membership

Community Planning

Join our Book/Webinar Discussion Group

Explore what a liveable/walkable/sustainable Corvallis looks like, what it would take to get there and what LWV can do to help

RSVP conboz@comcast.net

Join the Community Planning Committee of the Corvallis League of Women Voters as we discuss webinars and books by influential urban planners.



We will meet via Zoom at 5pm in October, November and December.

Watch the webinar/read the book, tune in and prepare to discuss one or all! When you RSVP, you will receive a link to the Zoom meeting.

Oct 15, discuss webinar **Missing Middle Housing** by Dan Parolek (1 hour 47 min)

Ebook \$9.95 on Amazon

Dan Parolek is an urban designer, architect, and a champion of the ‘Middle Housing Movement’—a term he coined.

<https://smartgrowth.org/missing-middle-housing-thinking-big-and-building-small-to-respond-to-todays-housing-crisis/>

Nov 12, discuss Donald Shoup’s **High Cost of Parking** TED Talk

Donald Shoup has been referred to as a ‘Parking Rock Star’.

He is an Urban Planning Prof at UCLA and the author of the book *The High Cost of Free Parking*.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Donald+Shoup+TED+talk&docid=608031536622667764&mid=12437213F16C05E737A312437213F16C05E737A3&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>.

Dec 10, discuss Jeff Speck’s **Walkable City** TED Talks

Jeff Speck is a city designer, urban planner and former Director for Design at the National Endowment for the Arts (2003-2007).

He is a strong advocate for more walkable cities.

“The Walkable City” (16 min)

https://www.ted.com/talks/jeff_speck_the_walkable_city

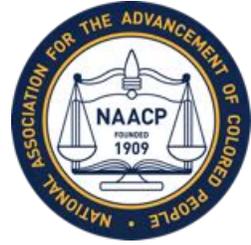
“4 Ways to make a City core Walkable” (18 min)

https://www.ted.com/talks/jeff_speck_4_ways_to_make_a_city_more_walkable

More information about LWV available on our website: <http://www.lwv.corvallis.or.us>.



Candidate Forums



Corvallis City Council Ward 7, Tues, Oct 6: 7:00 – 8:30pm

Benton County Commissioner, Wed, Oct 14: 7:00 – 8:30pm

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis and the NAACP Corvallis/Albany are holding two candidate forums. Both will be recorded for later viewing.

Corvallis Ward 7

Candidates: Nic Bowman and Paul Shaffer

Zoom Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88560351849>



Benton County Commissioner candidates:

Voting for both of these seats will be ranked choice voting. See page 3.

Position 2 (4-year term)

Xan Augerot (DEM), Mike Beilstein (PGP & PRO), Tom Cordier (REP)

Position 3 (4-year term)

Nancy V. Wyse (DEM), John E. Sarna (REP). Cody Serdar (LIB) is unable to attend.

Zoom Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88172866240>

You can still submit questions for County Commissioner at lwv.corvallis.or.us. Some of the questions will be asked during the forum, but all will be given to the candidates.

Learn about the candidates' plans and goals for Corvallis and Benton County.

Camile Freitag, Voter Service

*Community Planning***City Seeking Effective Parking Management**

The City of Corvallis is conducting a parking audit to evaluate its current parking operations and policies with the intent of identifying inefficiencies and making recommendations for improvements. Last November and February, the League co-sponsored public meetings focused on parking with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's Land Use Action Team (LUAT). The purpose of these meetings was to explore what community members thought were significant parking issues in Corvallis and to provide some new ways to think about parking management.

Many cities around the country are beginning to recognize that their public streets have purposes in addition to automobile travel and parking, and the Pandemic has greatly increased the use of streets for restaurant and commercial uses. Corvallis has recently done this by allowing restaurants to put table settings in parking places.

LUAT assisted by two local traffic safety organizations, Corvallis Right-Of-Way and Vision Zero crafted the following list of reasons for the existence of streets.

1. **Public Safety:** Ambulance, fire, police, disaster evacuation and recovery.
1. **Commerce:** Deliveries and shipments of goods and services to support a vibrant economy; commercial and public purposes; uses to support local businesses.
2. **Connectivity:** Transportation routes to move people from activity to activity such as jobs, school, shopping, visiting, health and personal care, cultural events, pet walking, recreation, and any other activities. Connectivity should prioritize persons who are mobility challenged, pedestrians, commercial vehicles, transit, bicycles, personal motorized vehicles.
3. **Utility and Ecological Pathways:** Water, sewer, storm water, gas lines, electric and digital cables, rain gardens, bioswales.
4. **Culture:** Celebrations, parades, and events such as Saturday Market, Open Streets, Fall Festival, protests, Safe Routes to Schools, food booths and tables/bike corrals during events; community-provided art and sculpture, street painting and integration, plantings in roundabouts and adjacent to streets.
5. **Vehicle Storage:** Convenience and accessibility for shoppers, clients, patients, workers, residents, students and others.

At the conclusion of the parking audit, we expect proposals for changes in our parking policies. All uses for city streets merit consideration as we decide on priorities for an updated parking policy and management system.

Anyone interested in how we manage urbanization as Corvallis grows is most welcome to join League's Community Planning Committee. We usually meet once a month after workday hours. Email shellym@peak.org if you have questions or would like to receive meeting notices.

Shelly Murphy, Community Planning Chair

Housing Committee

Focus on Diversifying our Committee and our Outreach

I am happy to say that we have two new members to the Housing Committee -Cheryl Stevenson and Susan Melero-Tripp. Both will bring new perspectives to our work.



Spurred on by national and local LWV initiatives, the Housing Committee is looking for ways to both diversify our committee and also to diversify our outreach into the community. I suspect many of us are homeowners and may not be aware of the barriers - in addition to cost - many encounter when they choose to rent or buy a home. Some of these barriers were pointed out to us during a conversation we had with local NAACP President, Angel Harris. Harris noted that while some of the more obvious ways to limit who can rent or buy a home are illegal such as redlining, there are still subtle (and not so subtle) ways to limit who has access to home ownership. Our committee is following up on the conversation with Harris as we move forward to develop our next League program.

At our September 24 committee meeting, Susan Melero-Tripp will take the lead in discussing the issues and concerns those with disabilities experience in their search for affordable housing. It is key to the work of the Housing Committee that we expand our education and advocacy work to ensure that all members of our community are able find housing that is both desirable and affordable. If Corvallis is to actualize its 2040 Vision statement, we must ensure that we have a more than adequate supply of affordable and appropriate housing - both for renters and for home ownership.

Committee members are thrilled with the new look of our LWV website. By having a distinct location on the website, each committee has an opportunity to spotlight its reports and other activities. Most recently, we added a new report by Beverly Hobbs and others that includes a glossary and a housing publication resource list.

Committee members continue to follow housing related issues such as the work of the Unity Shelter, Stone Soup and Benton Habitat. Sometimes in our discouragement we forget how many individuals and organizations are working to improve the lives of our most vulnerable population.

Karyle Butcher, Housing Committee, Chair

Privacy and Cybersecurity Today



On Wednesday, August 5th LWVC had a general meeting by Zoom, a presentation and discussion on the League of Women Voters of Oregon study on *Privacy and Cybersecurity Today*. The panel consisted of Sheila McGinnis and Mary Sinclair (LWVOR state study committee), Darla Rush (Benton County Elections office) and Ron Talwalkar (member of the IT Industry working on these issues). We all ended the presentation with a better appreciation of the problems of maintaining our privacy. This was followed by two consensus Zooms on August 10th and 11th. Camille Freitag, Nancy Roberts, and Kathy Seeburger were our recorders for these meetings. We had a very well thought out discussion about the role it plays in our lives today. Thanks to our recorders, Jessica McDonald who acted as the IT person and Sheila McGinnis and Mary Sinclair from the state study committee who joined us both days and were extremely helpful by adding another level of background and understanding. We decided that it is “essential” and important that we advocate and work toward strong privacy and cybersecurity legislation.

Paula Krane, Governance



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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November Election Ballots will
be mailed out between
Oct 14-20



Join us on Facebook
LWVCorvallis



LWV Calendar

September/October/November

All Meetings are on Zoom

September

Tue 29 Transformation of League, 5:00 pm

October

- Tues 1 LWVC membership dues due, pg. 3
- Tue 6 City Council Candidate Forum,
7:00 pm, pg. 5
- Wed 7 Board Meeting, 4:00 pm
- Wed 14 Benton County Commissioner Forum,
7:00 pm, pg. 5
- Thu 15 Discuss "Missing Middle Housing"
pg. 4
- Tue 27 Last day to mail ballots

November

Tue 3 Election Day, ballots must be delivered
to election offices by 8:00 pm.

Join the League of Women Voters

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, Zip+4digits _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

_____ \$60 Individual Membership _____ \$90 Household

_____ \$15 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.