



Hello members of the League of Women Voters of Curry County,

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. It is hard to believe that it is getting close to Christmas already. The LWV-Oregon and LWV-US have been busy as usual. You can read about their efforts further down in this newsletter. If you remember, last month I asked each member of our league to think about what you can do to help the mission of this organization.

Here is the list of our committees and subgroups:

- 📌 Voter services
- 📌 Membership
- 📌 Unit meetings - South County
Central County (Central County has been having Unit meetings)
North County (North County has been having Unit meetings)
- 📌 Fundraising
- 📌 Coastlines Newsletter
- 📌 Issues of Emphasis and Studies



As I mentioned last month, we need people to help with any event that we try to hold. The board needs to know who is willing to help with specific tasks and we need the help of the entire membership to be able accomplish the mission of this organization. I am now asking you what event or task will you be able to help with?

- The most important events will be the candidate forums happening in 2024. We will need 6 to 8 people in each town to help with the forums, since we will hold a candidate forum in each part of the county, Port Orford, Gold Beach, and Brookings.
- Unit meetings. We need someone to help organize unit meetings in South County.
- Fundraising. We need to know if anyone is interested in helping with this task.
- Coastlines. As president, I have taken over the task of getting the Newsletter out each month. If anyone ever wants to put an article into the newsletter be sure to let me know.
- Issues of Emphasis and Studies – so far, we do not have much direction from our membership about this.

What would be most helpful is if you could email me, Louise Abbott, with what task you can help with.

Here is my email: lcabbott02@earthlink.net

Please let me know what you can help with, and I will record it to share with the Board.

Thank you very much!

**Respectfully, Louise Abbott
President, LWVCC**

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BOARD MEETING

Summary of the November LWVCC Board meeting held November 13, 2023, via Zoom.



- Board members attending: Louise Abbott, Susan Barke, Karen Cunningham, Debra Worth.
- The minutes of the October 9, 2023, board meeting were approved.
- The financial report for October 2023 was approved.
- The Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9th from 1-3pm at First Chapter Coffee House in Gold Beach.
- The League will pay for a tray of cookies/pastries and the first cup of coffee or tea for each person attending.
- According to our updated membership list, the LWVCC has 38 members.
- A LWVCC member proposed holding a series of all-unit meeting that would be brown bag lunches to discuss civics and presented by the Mayor of Gold Beach.
- The board suggested that we pursue this idea for the spring.
- The next LWVCC board meeting will be December 11th from 12-2pm via zoom.

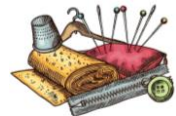


Congratulations to Becky Flake! On her book of poetry that has just been published – “Quilting Words”

(198 pages, ISBN number 979-8854233392, Published August 26, 2023)

Here is what Becky has to say about her book, which is available on Amazon.

“I believe each moment is affected by the thought we hold in that moment. That thought then defines how a moment is taken into our being. These little lines of thought are in many ways ordinary and moments that give way to beauty and inspiration – filling us with newfound faith. It is my hope you will think of the commonplace and the familiar with new eyes and new joy.”



Here is the link to her book.

https://www.amazon.com/Quilting-Words-Becky-Flake/dp/B0CGL7TR54/ref=sr_1_1?crd=183FW48BVWIYI&keywords=becky+flake&qid=1699911554&sprex=Becky+Flake%2Caps%2C454&sr=8-1





- 🇺🇸 **LWVOR** recently posted its December All-Members Newsletter, from Co-Presidents Lisa Bentson & Becky Gladstone. The full text of the newsletter can be found at <https://us10.campaign-archive.com/?u=eeaf5ca8c9497ff380afe253&id=24f344d8eb>. Here's an excerpt.
- 🇺🇸 **LWVOR Youth Council:** We are extremely proud of our new Youth Council, not even a year old! Please plan to attend the Youth Civic Engagement Summit, a hybrid event scheduled for January 19, 2024. Registration will open soon. <https://www.lwvor.org/events-1/youth-civic-engagement-summit>
- 🇺🇸 **COP28:** This global Climate conference regularly has Oregon members attending with the LWVUS delegation. A report on the first day is found in the newsletter.
- 🇺🇸 **Trusted Voices for Elections:** We join Secretaries of State around the US in protecting elections by promoting #TrustedInfo2024. More information is in the newsletter.
- 🇺🇸 **Capitol Renovation Update:** The latest information is detailed in the newsletter.
- 🇺🇸 **Initiative Petition Update:** Check the newsletter to see how you can help.

Happy Holidays all around, take care, rejuvenate, and hop aboard!



HR 14



(Information provided by the Brennan Center for Justice)

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/john-lewis-voting-rights-advancement-act>

Published: September 19, 2023

- 🔨 The United States House of Representatives recently reintroduced **HR 14**, known as the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.
- 🔨 **HR 14** will modernize and revitalize the Voting Rights Act of 1965, strengthening legal protections against discriminatory voting policies and practices.
- 🔨 The Supreme Court has hampered the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by gutting its preclearance provisions in *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013) and by making it harder to sue to stop discriminatory practices in *Brnovich v. DNC* (2021).
- 🔨 The John Lewis Act would strengthen the law, moving us closer to guaranteeing equal access to the ballot.

Two important points include:

1. Section 2 of the **HR 14** allows voters to sue to block voting laws and practices that are intentionally discriminatory or will yield discriminatory results. The recent *Brnovich* decision makes it harder to win those lawsuits. The John Lewis Act would strengthen protections against discrimination and codify prior standards.
2. A voter may bring a federal action for vote dilution when practices such as gerrymandered districts make it harder for candidates preferred by minority voters to win.





Upcoming Projects:

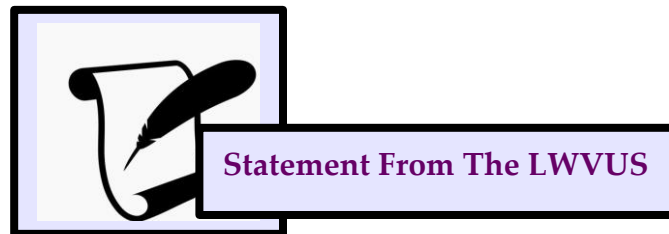
- ➔ The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) is planning for three voter registration projects for 2024. As part of these projects, LWVEF will award funding to state and local Leagues to empower young voters, new citizens, or formerly and currently incarcerated individuals.
- ➔ In engaging with these groups, the national league urges working through a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) lens. As a dynamic young leader recently pointed out, young voters are not all the same. We cannot achieve our vision — a democracy by the people, for the people — all of the people — without centering diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Importance of Empowering Language:

- ➔ As we go about our work to empower voters, it is critical that we use empowering language. LWVUS recently published messaging guidance for talking about voters in public messaging, centering people and positive possibilities. This guide will be especially useful for League spokespersons giving media interviews in the coming days. It can be accessed here: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/talking-points/how-we-talk-about-voters-public-messaging-guidance>

2024 Convention:

- ➔ The first call to Convention has been issued for the 2024 LWVUS Convention, to be held June 27-30 in Washington, DC, at the Washington Hilton and online.
- ➔ All League members are invited. Each League is entitled to a specific number of delegates. Delegates from all Leagues will vote on the national league's 2024-26 Program, Budget, Board of Directors, and Nominating Committee, as well as submitted bylaws amendments.



- ✔ The League of Women Voters of the United States CEO **Virginia Kase Solomón** issued the following statement regarding the rises in antisemitic and Islamophobic violence across the United States:
 - “The recent surges in antisemitism and Islamophobia are appalling and unacceptable. We cannot remain silent while our neighbors, friends, and families are targeted and harassed, forced to hide symbols of their faith.
- ✔ “Antisemitism and Islamophobia are pervasive sentiments that unfortunately are still embedded in the minds and institutions of many Americans. Certain people, motivated by politics, bigotry, or both, have taken advantage of international conflict to promote hateful and violent attacks against Jewish and Muslim Americans. Our Jewish and Muslim neighbors are feeling these attacks in person and online in the form of verbal, physical, and sexual assault, and harassment.
- ✔ “The exploitation of overseas conflict to promote religiously motivated hate is despicable and weakens America as a nation. Jewish and Muslim Americans are important and valued members of our greater national community and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
- ✔ “The League of Women Voters condemns these attacks on Jewish and Muslim Americans. We stand in solidarity with our Jewish and Muslim communities against discrimination and hate.”





**On the topic of Dark Money,
By Louise Abbott**



- \$ When considering the politics of voting in the United States, we often hear the term “dark money.”
- \$ This term is applied to money used to influence elections and public policy, but the actual source of the money is NOT disclosed to the public.
- \$ Thus, we do not know who is “footing the bill” to provide information to the public, which does not allow us to be fully informed as voters and participants in our democracy.
- \$ The following statements are from the League of Women Voters of the US <https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/money-politics>.
- \$ “In a democracy, politicians are expected to represent each person equally, regardless of their financial status.
- \$ The principle of “one-person, one-vote” means that no matter who we are, our rights to health care, education, housing, and other basic needs are equally important.
- \$ Money in politics complicates this system.
- \$ When politicians receive large financial contributions from organizations, corporations, campaigns, or individuals, they are inclined to be more responsive to their needs.
- \$ This puts the voices of everyday Americans at a disadvantage.

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/take-action-root-out-dark-money-0>

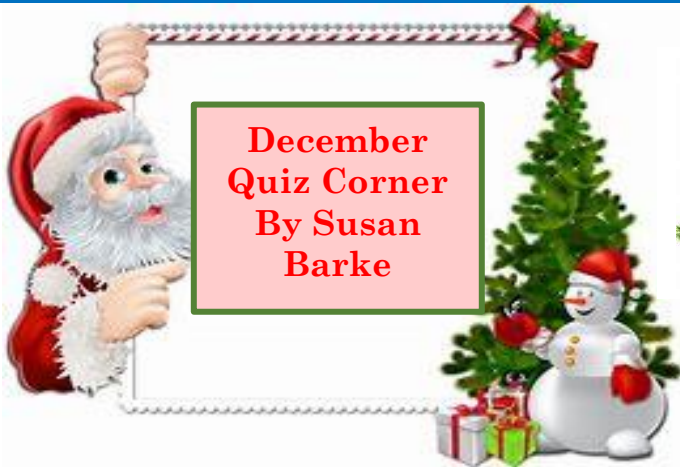
Corporations and wealthy individuals should not have the power to make undisclosed political contributions that influence elections. Disclosure of large political spending should be the bare minimum requirement to provide voters with critical information about who is spending money in our federal elections.

**Volunteer
Opportunity**

- ❄ Some of you might be interested in participating in the Homeless Census being held in January 2024.
- ❄ League members have done this in the past and it is a very worthwhile project for our community.
- ❄ You can contact Beth Barker-Hidalgo about volunteering for this project in January.

Here is Beth's email address:

Beth Barker-Hidalgo- curryhomelesscoalition@gmail.com



December "Traditions"

- This story is often watched as a movie during the month of December. It was published in 1843.
 - Twas the Night Before Christmas
 - Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
 - A Christmas Carol
- Nativity Scenes are very common at Christmas time. The first display was in Greccio, Italy on December 25, 1223. Who set up this display for all to enjoy?
 - Pope Honorius III
 - St. Francis of Assisi
 - King Frederick II
- The Grinch is now often seen at Christmas time. This Dr. Seuss classic was made into a cartoon and aired for the first time on December 18th, what was the year?
 - 1956
 - 1966
 - 1976
- New Year's Eve is celebrated in the United States by dropping a geodesic sphere, 12' in diameter, weighing 11,875 pounds in Times Square, NY. This Waterford Crystal ball is covered with 2,688 triangles that vary in size and range in length from 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches per side. What year did this New Year's Eve tradition start?
 - 1907
 - 1917
 - 1927
 - 1937

Answers: 1) C 2) B 3) B 4) A



Holiday Party!

Date: Saturday December 9, 2023

Time: 1 to 3 pm

Place: First Chapter Coffee House in Gold Beach

(Address: 29325 Ellensburg Ave, Gold Beach, OR 97444)

Phone: (458) 236-5135)

- ✿ We will have coffee cake and cookies available from the Coffee House for everyone and your first coffee or tea will be paid for by the board!
- ✿ Come, have fun, relax, and have good time with fellow members.
- ✿ We look forward to seeing you!
- ✿ Sincerely, the LWVCC board





Lessons About Democracy
By Rich Prudden, LWVCC Member

Like many citizens, I've been giving a lot of thought lately to the health of our American democracy.

My wife Alyce and I recently watched a very informative online program from the National Constitution Center, called "Democracy, Populism, and the Tyranny of the Minority." The program featured three political scientists, including Steven Levitsky, Harvard University professor and author. It was a very worthwhile presentation. The recorded video can be viewed at <https://constitutioncenter.org/news-debate/americas-town-hall-programs/democracy-populism-and-the-tyranny-of-the-minority>.

Levitsky, along with fellow Harvard University history professor Daniel Ziblatt, coauthored the 2023 book "Tyranny of the Minority," which I'm currently finishing. It's a fascinating read, starting from the first paragraph of the book jacket: "America is undergoing a massive experiment: It is moving, in fits and starts, toward a multiracial democracy, something few societies have ever achieved. But the prospect of change has sparked an authoritarian backlash that threatens the very foundations of our political system. Why is democracy under assault here and not in other wealthy, diversifying nations? And what can we do to save it?"

The authors draw on American history, as well as the experiences of democracies abroad. This short excerpt captures some key points that the authors later explore in great depth: "Politicians who are committed to democracy ... must always do three basic things. First, they must respect the outcome of free and fair elections, win or lose. ... Second, democrats must unambiguously reject violence (or the threat of violence) as a means of achieving political goals. ... But there is a third, more subtle action required of loyal democrats: they must always break with antidemocratic forces. Democracy's assassins always have accomplices – political insiders who appear to abide by democracy's rules but quietly assault them." [Pages 40-41.]





Lessons About Democracy
By Rich Prudden, LWVCC Member
-continued



In stark terms, the authors declare: “We stand at a crossroads: either America will be a multiracial democracy or it will not be a democracy at all.” [Page 225.]

The authors then offer fifteen long-term, institutional solutions aimed at democratizing our democracy. According to the authors: “These reforms would have a simple yet powerful effect: they would allow majorities to win power and govern. ¶ ... Making it simpler to vote, ending gerrymandering, replacing the Electoral College with a direct popular vote, eliminating the Senate filibuster, making Senate representation more proportional, ending lifetime tenure on the Supreme Court, and making it a little easier to reform the Constitution – all of these changes would simply catch us up to the rest of the” world’s established democracies.” [Page 236.]

Such changes are difficult, but not impossible. The first step is making them part of the national conversation. This book is a great way to start that conversation. I highly recommend it.





**League of Women Voters of Curry County
Calendar 2023**

MONTH	DAY	EVENTS	PLACE	TIME
December - 2023	9	Holiday Party	First Chapter Coffee House, Gold Beach	1-3 pm.
	11	LWVCC Board Meeting	Zoom	Noon – 2 pm
	15	Bill of Rights Day		
January - 2024	8	LWVCC Board Meeting	Zoom	Noon – 2 pm



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*South Coastal residents collaborating
to [promote climate action]*

LWVCC wants to thank our sponsors for their generous contributions to our programs.



CoastLines

League of Women Voters of Curry County
P O Box 1859
Gold Beach, OR 97444



2023-2024 Board Officers & Directors	
President	• Louise Abbott
Secretary	• Susan Barke
Treasurer	• Alyce Prudden
Board Directors	• Renee Kolen • Debra Worth • Karen Pringle Cunningham

The League of Women Voters of Curry County

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Election Information: vote411.org



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

LWVCC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit civics organization.
Our mission is to encourage informed and active participation in government.

Membership in LWVCC is open to everyone who supports the purposes and policies of the League.

Join us! Make your voice heard. Stay informed on issues that concern you.

LWVCC is a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (tax ID #98-0838450).
Dues & donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Individual & 70.00 _____ Household (2 adults, same address) \$105.00 _____ Student \$15.00 _____

Prorated Memberships from February to June – details at lwvcuury.org/join

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Volunteer Interest in the League _____

Please send your check to: LWVCC, P.O. Box 1859, Gold Beach, OR 97444

