# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS\* OF CURRY COUNTY





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

Fall is here bringing our much-needed rain. I am sure that everyone is like me, busy with many tasks to undertake, people to see and help, and traveling for appointments or business. I would like to take this time to ask each member of our league to think about what you can do to help the mission of this organization. As you may know, thus far, we do not have anyone who has been able to assume a leadership role for any of our committees or subgroups.

Here is the list:

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

I understand the reluctance to be named as a leader or a "person in charge." Furthermore, there are some things that have developed organically, such as the Unit meetings that have been held thus far this year, which is excellent. In addition, a plan has been developed to try to hold the candidate forums when the time comes, even though there is no Voter Services Chair.

Here is what I am asking each of you to consider. We need people to help with any event that we try to hold. The board needs to know who will be 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 putting this call out this month and next month, in December, we will which specific task you will be able to help with.

- The most important events will be the candidate forums that will happen in 2024. There will likely be a single forum in the Spring, in advanced of the primary election, and three forums in the Fall, one in each city.
- We will need 6 to 8 people to help with each forum. Since we will be holding a candidate forum in each part of the county, Port Orford, Gold Beach, and Brookings we will need 6-8 people to help in each town.
- 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.
- Program so far, except for a proposed Issue for Emphasis that is still undeveloped, we do not have much direction from our membership about this.

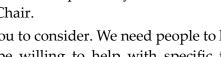
So, think about what might be of interest to you and let us know next month!

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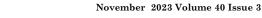
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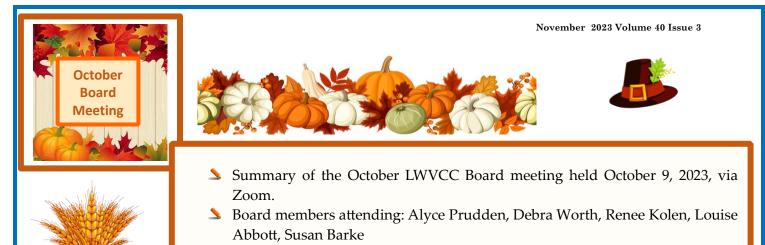












- **S** The minutes of the September 11, 2023, board meeting were approved.
- **S** The financial report for September was approved.
- **S** The 2023 LWVCC Financial Review Report was presented, discussed, and approved.
- Alyce Prudden presented an amendment to the records policy, which was discussed and approved.
- Changes to the sound system owned by the LWVCC were discussed and approved.
- **Solution** The day and time for the Holiday Party were decided and a venue will be sought.







WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF OREGON News From State League

- The League of Women Voters of Oregon is busy with a variety of projects.
- Here are some highlights from the LWVOR Fall Voter, which can be read in its entirety at <a href="https://www.lwvor.org/post/voter-newsletter-fall-2023">https://www.lwvor.org/post/voter-newsletter-fall-2023</a>

# 2024 BALLOT PROPOSALS

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- The state league is busy collecting signatures on two proposed 2024 Oregon Initiative Petitions: IP 9 and IP 14.
- Initiative Petition 9 is directed at campaign finance reform. Entitled "Honest Elections: Fight Political Corruption and Require Disclosure and Transparency," IP 9 would set strict campaign contribution limits and reveal dark money sponsors of campaign advertising.
- Initiative Petition 14 addresses redistricting. Entitled "People Not Politicians: Legislative Redistricting," IP 14 would end gerrymandering in Oregon by creating an independent redistricting commission.
- The deadline to qualify for the November 2024 ballot is July 5, 2024. By that date, IP 14 must collect about 160,000 valid voter signatures.
- IP 9 is a statutory measure, so it must collect about 120,000 signatures by the deadline.
- The signature gathering phase is well underway. Information on how to help is available at these links: <u>https://www.honest-elections.com/what-you-can-do.html</u>; <u>https://www.peoplenotpoliticiansoregon.com/sign-ip14/</u>

# **RECALL STUDY**

- At the LWVOR 2023 Convention, delegates voted to undertake a study on recall elections. LWV of Lane County proposed the two-year project, and now works with LWVOR support and resources.
- The state-mandated timeline for recall elections has implications f
- or voter education and turnout, which directly ties into the League's goal of protecting and expanding voting rights to ensure everyone is represented in our democracy.
- Becoming part of a study committee is a great way to learn about an issue, gain a better understanding of League process, and make a positive difference. If you'd like to join the committee, contact Keli Osborn, Lane County LWV, <u>kelimosborn@gmail.com</u>.

### **MOCK ELECTIONS**

- **LWVOR** will be hosting Oregon Student Mock Election (OSME) for both the May Primary and November General Elections in 2024.
- The League is partnering with educators across the state to provide nonpartisan information and materials, giving students a greater understanding of participation in the Oregon electoral process, now and in the future.
- OSME helps students recognize the real-world relevance of civics education.
- If you're interested in helping by contacting educators or volunteers in your area, email mockelection@lwvor.org





November 2023 Volume 40 Issue 3





**News From National League** 

Things are always busy at the League of Women Voters of the United States. Here's a sampling of October news from our national league.

#### **VOTE EARLY DAY**

- → On October 26<sup>th</sup>, LWVUS celebrated Vote Early Day.
- ➡ Vote Early Day is a nonpartisan movement of media companies, businesses, nonprofits, election administrators, and creatives working to ensure all Americans have the tools to vote early.

#### **VOTE411**

- VOTE411 celebrated its 17th birthday on October 27th.
- A timeline of favorite 411 moments is at <u>https://www.lwv.org/blog/our-favorite-vote411-moments</u>. VOTE411.org has everything needed to make a voting plan.
- ➡ It's a one-stop shop for nonpartisan, personalized voter information.
- ➡ In 2020, more than 6 million people found nonpartisan voting resources on VOTE411, including 2.2 million Spanish speakers. LWVUS plans on making VOTE411 a household name!

#### PROGRAM PLANNING

- IWVUS is gearing up for its National Convention next June in Washington, DC.
- ➡ It kicked off with a program planning webinar series.
- Program planning is the national league's grassroots process for recommending and selecting its program, and it depends on the participation of local leagues to succeed.
- For those interested in program planning, the webinar series offers a guide to the process.
- To sign up, go to: <u>https://web.cvent.com/event/04138360-2255-4055-9b79-66e194e3a1ae/regProcessStep1</u>







# **News From Neighbors**

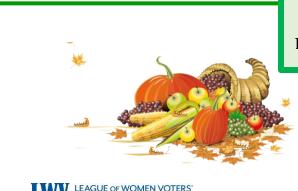


Our neighboring local league, the League of Women Voters Rogue Valley, presented meetings in October to educate voters about initiatives that will or may appear on the 2024 Ballot. The title of the talks was: LWVRV Sneak Peek of 2024 Ballot Issues - Election Reform.

Reporter Damian Mann of the Rogue Valley Times interviewed Barbara Klein of the League of Women Voters Rogue Valley prior to the October meetings. The resulting news article — '*Think before you ink': League of Women Voters to explain election-reform measures* — was published on October 19th, 2023. https://www.rv-times.com/localstate/think-before-you-ink-league-of-women-voters-to-explain-election-reform-measures/article b7aab472-6e04-11ee-b59f-87dfc4e55987.html.

The article discusses three local Jackson County initiatives, as well as three state-wide measures. Here's an excerpt from the article about the state measures:

- Only the legislatively sponsored, ranked-choice voting measure is already qualified for the ballot and would allow voters to select their first choice for an elected position and then rank the remaining candidates in order of preference.
- Also being discussed are Initiative Petition 9, which offers statewide campaign finance reform, and Initiative Petition 14, which would create an independent commission to create legislative districts.
- The initiatives will be gathering signatures over the coming months, and one of the goals of the League is to educate voters on its rationale behind supporting them.
- C "Think before you ink is important for us," said Barbara Klein, action chair for the League.
- She said the meetings will present the reasons why the League endorses them, and members will respond to questions from the audience.
- Political finance reform is the goal behind Initiative Petition 9, which would place limits on contributions to candidates and would seek greater disclosure on where the money comes from.
- The initiative would also prohibit placing anonymous advertising by dark money groups to support or oppose candidates, an issue that has plagued local candidates running for state office. The campaign website is honest-elections.com.
- Initiative Petition 14 would require an independent commission to redraw legislative districts in Oregon rather than by politicians in Salem. The campaign website for Petition 14 is peoplenotpoliticiansoregon.com.



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is supporting Initiative Petitions 9 and 14 and the LWVOR Advocacy Fund is actively promoting them.



October All-Member Unit Meeting Summary



- On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, LWVCC hosted an in-person, all-member event at the Curry Public Library in Gold Beach.
- The public was invited as well.
- 🔸 The program was entitled "Celebrating Voting Rights: The Importance of Voting, Local, State & National."
- Its purpose was to celebrate National Voter Registration Day, using a different approach than in past years.
- Instead of setting up voter registration tables throughout the county, the LWVCC Board hoped to focus more broadly on voting rights.
- The goal for the meeting was to present the complex history of our right to vote in a way that would be both educational and engaging.
- Unfortunately, the event drew only four participants: Louise Abbott, Alyce Prudden, Karol Simas, and Phoebe Skinner.
- Despite the disappointing turnout, the attendees enjoyed popcorn, soft drinks, and a convivial, wideranging discussion of topics including voter turnout, the importance of voting, and the history of voting rights.
- The program featured an excellent video summarizing voting rights history.
- 🔸 The 2022 video, produced by the National Constitution Center, is "Constitution 101: Voting Rights."
- This 15-minute video is highly recommended for all. It can be viewed at:

https://constitutioncenter.org/education/videos/constitution-101-voting-rights







# November 1, 2023 At Becky Flake's home.

7 people were present.

Guest Speaker was Ann Vileisis, a city council member.

- Ann gave us a very informative presentation on Port Orford's water system and the problems we are facing, such as our reservoir is supposed to be 12-15 feet deep yet is only 2-3 feet deep due to lack of annual dredging.
- Need for a new dam gate is another problem with the reservoir.
- She also discussed the need for pipes to be replaced.
- / They are made from asbestos and are brittle, so leaks are a constant problem.
- The city is applying for a FEMA BRIC Grant (hopefully by the end of the year) and one component is community participation.
- It was asked what the League can do to help, and a flurry of ideas and suggestions were given.



October 27, 2023 LWVCC Central County Unit Meeting Landing North 4:00 pm

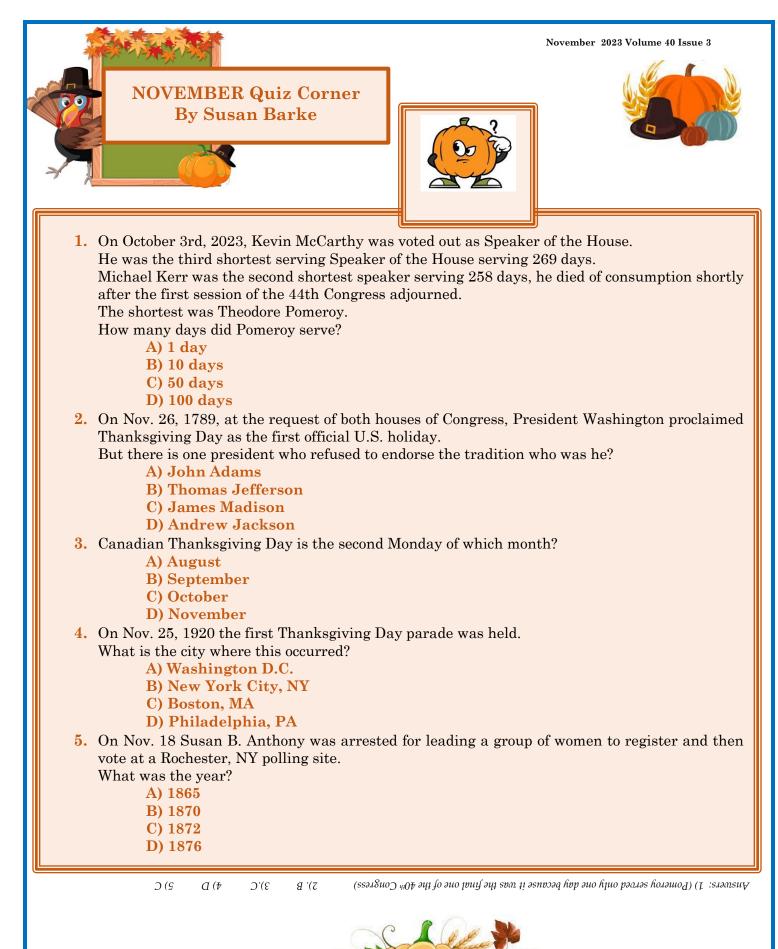


**Submitted by:** Cindy Myers, typed by Lucie. **Present:** Karol Simas Phoebe Skinner, Billy Smith, Cindy Myers, Lucie La Bonte, later joined by Ria Shannon

- Wind Energy Update Opposed by County and City of Brookings.
- S Update on Proposed Gold Beach Gas Levy- Phoeb.e
- \$0.01/ gal off season, \$0.04/gal during tourist season May-Sept.
- S This would be in place of a \$2.00/mo. fee on water bill for City of GB residents.
- "The more we have in our street reserve, the larger the Federal and State grants the City can get."
- Lucie was concerned about taxation without representation for non-residents.
- Some questioned whether that is in the constitution?
- Solution City is raising more money with this tax not applying it to boat and lawnmower gas.
- S Holiday Party- Louise is looking for a private home to hold party, 12/3 Sunday.
- S The group felt we could use the Landing North if no one volunteers.
- If no party, we should have our 12/1 meeting. If the party happens, we will cancel our 12/1 meeting.
- A new book, "Democracy Awakening" by Heather Cox Richardson was brought up.
- Some of the group enjoys and subscribes to her daily emails that put current events in historical context.
- She is a historian at Boston College.
- Our friend, Ann Vileisis, also released her book, "Abalone: The Remarkable History and Uncertain Future of California's Iconic Shellfish" – recommended by Phoebe.
- Solution: Ria shared about her online support job and reasons for K-12 students to go online.
- ▶ Mostly K-8 students.
- She helps with their programs, mostly administration.
- ▶ Her job is the director of the program.
- S Homelessness is suggested as a topic for January's meeting.
- Study what our cities are doing.
- Seattle, WA is asking homeless people what they need.
- Sould invite Beth Barker-Hidalgo.











#### The History of American Voting Rights – prepared by Alyce Prudden

Through American history, the right to vote has seen massive change and expansion. Here are some major milestones.

#### 1776

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Voting Rights

- The Declaration of Independence is signed.
- / It states that governments derive "their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."

#### 1788

- The United States Constitution is adopted.
- The Constitution establishes the Electoral College. It leaves voting rules largely to the states, and for the most part, only white male property owners can vote.

#### **1870**

- The 15th Amendment is ratified.
- Black men get the vote, but Jim Crow laws thwart its exercise.

#### **1920**

- The 19th Amendment is adopted.
- ✓ Women get the vote, though minority women still face state restrictions.

#### **1924**

- The Indian Citizenship Act is enacted.
- Native Americans get the vote, but some states bar them from voting.

#### 1**943**

- The Chinese Exclusion Act is repealed.
- Chinese -American immigrants can become citizens and gain voting rights.

#### **1961**

- The 23rd Amendment is ratified.
- ✓ District of Columbia residents can vote for president and vice president.

#### 1**964**

- The 24th Amendment is ratified.
- Poll taxes are banned in federal elections.

#### **1965**

- The Voting Rights Act is enacted.
- The VRA aims to enforce the 15th Amendment. Among its provisions is a ban on literacy tests and a requirement for preclearance, which required certain states to get federal approval before changing voting laws.

#### 1971

The 26th Amendment is approved.

EAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

This amendment lowers the voting age from 21 to 18.

#### 1975

- Amendments to the Voting Rights Act are enacted.
- Voters who don't speak English can get assistance registering and voting.





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#### 1**984**

- The Voting Accessibility for Elderly & Handicapped Act is enacted.
- In federal elections, polling places must be accessible.

#### 1**99**3

- The National Voter Registration Act is enacted.
- The "motor voter" law permits DMV voter registration. In its first year, over 30 million voters completed or updated their registration.

#### 2002

- The Help America Vote Act is enacted.
- The law directs the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to improve and certify voting equipment, maintain the National Voter Registration form, and administer a national elections clearinghouse.

#### **2013**

- The 1965 Voting Rights Act is partly invalidated.
- The United States Supreme Court holds that the VRA's preclearance provision cannot be enforced.

#### 2021

- The President signs an Executive Order to facilitate registration and voting.
- Federal agencies are ordered to increase opportunities to register and vote.

#### 2023

- The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act is introduced.
- The bill aims to restore and modernize the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- The League of Women Voters of the United States issued a press release in support, saying in part:
- "Today our elected leaders are taking the necessary steps to preserve our democracy."

#### Sources:

- / https://www.history.com/news/voting-rights-timeline
- <u>https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/finishing-job-voting-access-next-big-election</u>
- <u>https://sewell.house.gov/2023/9/on-national-voter-registration-day-rep-sewell-and-house-democrats-introduce-the-john-r-lewis-voting-rights-advancement-act</u>
- <u>https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwv-applauds-house-reintroduction-john-lewis-voting-rights-advancement-act</u>











League of Women Voters of Curry County Calendar 2023



MONTH	DAY	EVENTS	PLACE	TIME
November	13	Board Meeting	ZOOM	Noon – 2 pm
December	1	Central County Unit Meeting	The Landing, Gold Beach	4-5 pm
	11	Board Meeting	ZOOM	Noon -2 pm





# **Sponsors**

Re/Max Ultimate Coastal Properties Karen Kennedy 2955 Ellensburg, Gold Beach <u>www.ILoveCoastalOregon.com</u> 541-425-7494

Blue Pacific Realty 16289 Hwy 101. Brookings <u>www.blupac.com</u> 541-412-8424

Pacific Coastal Real Estate Lynn Wegner 94150 1oth, Gold Beach <u>www.PacificCoastalRealEstate.com</u> 541-247-7925 Chetco Brewing Company 830 Railroad Street Brookings, OR 94415 541-661-KEGS

Coastal SOCAN <u>Bill@socan.eco</u> https://SOCAN.eco

Brookings Harbor South Coastal residents collaborating to promote climate action.

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





	November 2023 Volume 40 Issue 3
CoastLines	LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
eague of Women Voters of Curry Cor O Box 1859	
old Beach, OR 97444	2023-2024 Beard Officers & Directors
	Board Officers & Directors President
	Louise Abbott
	Secretary
	Susan Barke Treasurer
	Alyce Prudden
	<ul><li>Board Directors</li><li>Renee Kolen</li></ul>
	Debra Worth
	Karen Pringle Cunningham
CoastLines – A publication	gue of Women Voters of Curry County n of the League of Women Voters® of Curry County to 10 by the League of Women Voters of Curry County lwvcuury.org vote411.org
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTER	RS' MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
LWVCC is a nonpartisan, nonpartisan Our mission is to encourage participation in go	e informed and active purposes and policies of the League.
Join us! Make your voic	e heard. Stay informed on issues that concern you.
1	ed 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (tax ID #98-0838450). ons are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.
	NNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:
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