



CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Volume 36 Issue 2

www.lwvcurry.org

October

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National Voter Registration Day

On Tuesday, September 24, the LWVCC set up tables at the Brookings Library, McKay's in Gold Beach and Ray's in Port Orford.

Brookings reported that nearly everyone was registered to vote, and they gave out eight voter registration forms to people to fill out and send in. Port Orford gave out eleven forms and registered one person. That form was carried down to the County Clerk's office the next day. Port Orford reported that many people were not registered to vote, nor were they interested in becoming registered.

Some comments were: "I'm mad enough in my life, I don't need to follow politics." Another: "I didn't understand the ballots I received in the mail, so there is no reason for me to register again." Another: "I can't vote." Another: "I'm so glad I don't vote anymore. What a relief." The reasons were so varied, it is impossible to point to one main reason people didn't want to vote. Everyone was very positive, and even those uninterested in voting thanked us for sitting there to sign up people. It would appear that after spending a day listening and talking to people, the three cities have very different voting issues.



HEALTHCARE TOPIC AT UNIT MEETINGS

President MJ LaBelle will be leading the discussion regarding HealthCare at the Brookings and Port Orford Unit Meetings. The Gold Beach Unit will have a round table discussion on HealthCare. See the calendar on page 6 for times and locations.



The League of Women Voters of Curry County

CoastLines

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President's Letter



The League is very busy as it kicks off a new year of responsibility respecting our nation's voting integrity. As you have read, we just finished Voter Registration, and held two Unit Meetings: one in Brookings and one in Port Orford. The Port Orford meeting centered around a presentation by Phoebe Skinner, the Social Studies, History, Government and US History teacher for Pacific Junior and Senior High School students. You will be hearing much more about the Harvard Project and the Case Study Method in the near future.

The LWVOR reports that 5,000 new voter registrations were received on September 24! We can't be sure what percent was due to our campaign, but we certainly made a difference. Thank you goes to all of you who helped!

Meanwhile, the October Unit Meetings will feature a discussion on the history and present issues in the HealthCare Cost Arena. We will be considering Universal HealthCare, Medicare for all, and other issues with plenty of time for sharing. I will be presenting to Brookings and Port Orford Units. I have been a medical auditor for over 30 years and have seen many changes. The title of my talk is "America's brand of National Healthcare: It isn't New."

Additionally, in a few days, I will be attending the LWVOR Fall Workshop on Equity, Discourse and Propaganda. We will be making a film celebrating 100 years of women's voting which will be distributed to all the Leagues throughout Oregon. I'm also looking forward to attending the Redistricting and Census workshop so that I can bring it all back to you in the next newsletter.

Meanwhile, let's get ready to toast our 100th Anniversary!

Mary Jane LaBelle, President

Scuttlebutt:

Our former President Shirley Nelson called to say that she and husband Milt are busy in their new digs in Florence and they continue to do some work for the League! They send their hello to all of us!

What are Special Districts? By Georgia Nowlin

Most of us (other than League members!) do not know much about local government, and we know less about special districts. According to the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO), special districts are a form of local government created by a local community to meet a specific need. All special districts are created based on laws passed by the State Legislature. These laws also determine which services the district can provide and how districts are managed and governed. Special districts of some type provide services to nearly every Oregonian.

In Curry County, we have thirty-six special districts that are also taxing districts. They are our port, cemetery, fire, sanitary, water, health, library and road districts, as well as Curry soil/water conservation and Curry County 4-H and Extension districts.

School districts are not special districts, though they are taxing districts. They exist to provide one service-public education. Special districts can deliver a variety of public services, excluding education.

County governments and cities are not special districts. They are general purpose governments and provide a broad array of services. Special districts are limited purpose governments. They can provide only the services allowed by state law and supported by their residents. Sometimes county commissioners are special district governing boards, but those districts are legally separate local entities.

Special districts operate under state laws as mentioned earlier. They deliver specific services to specific communities. They are autonomous government entities that are accountable to the voters or landowners they serve. However, state officials oversee special districts to some degree. Annual financial reports must be sent in to the Secretary of State Audits Division. Districts must also follow state laws for public meetings, public records, public contracting, bonded debt and elections. To learn more about Special Districts in Oregon and Curry County, come to the LWV Curry County's January forum on "Special Districts."

Aerial Spraying Update

A lot has been going on regarding Aerial Spraying. First from Lincoln County:

Lincoln County Community Rights Press Release

"Timber Corporations Have More Rights Than People of Lincoln County Says Court; Aerial Spray Ban Overturned"

Court rules that state preemption overrides local control; denies the right of local communities to protect their health and safety at a higher standard than the state.

On September 23rd Judge Sheryl Bachart issued her ruling in the case of Rex Capri and Wakefield Farms, LLC vs. Dana W. Jenkins and Lincoln County. After reviewing written arguments and hearing oral arguments on October 9th, 2017, the judge made the determination that Measure 21-177 is invalid based on state law regulating pesticide use. (continued page 4)

Aerial Spraying Update (continued from page 3)

Affirming the claims of the plaintiffs means the law known as Measure 21-177, enacted by the voters of Lincoln County in 2017 to prohibit aerial spraying of pesticides, has been overturned.

“The fight for our legal, constitutional, and fundamental right of local self-government marches on, and it is going to take the political will of the people to make it a reality if we ever want to stop living under the thumb of corporate government.” said Rio Davidson, President of Lincoln County Community Rights.

In her judgment decision, Judge Bachart said that Measure 21-177 is an adoption of an Ordinance regarding pesticide use and is therefore subject to the preemptive effect of the Oregon Pesticide Act, which prohibits local governments from making any ordinance, rule or regulation governing pesticide sale or use. She therefore overturned the measure. She based the decision squarely on state preemption laws dealing with pesticide use, whereby the state holds authority over local governments.”

From Jim Sweeney: “I saw helicopters flying in Hunter Creek last week. If they were spraying I was up wind from the exposure.”

What is the LWV doing? The LWVOR adopted a statewide study taking place out of Washington County. The person to contact is Amelia Nestler a.nestler@lwvor.org for those interested.

From our Natural Resources Portfolio Chair, Peggy Lynch, LWVOR more news. Keep in mind that the LWVOR will not take a position on Measures until they qualify for the ballot.

From Oregonians for Food and Shelter:

“Previously, we reported that the three anti-forestry measures, IP 35, 36 & 37, were thrown out by the Secretary of State for not meeting the constitutionally required single-subject rule. The single-subject rule exists to avoid voter confusion and to prevent proposals that are very popular with voters from being combined with other, unrelated proposals in the same ballot measure to garner voter approval of the less-popular proposal.

The petitioners refiled the measures with a few changes:

- IP 45 – becomes the broad encompassing measure, which includes harvest buffers along waterways, aerial application buffers and notification requirements, repurposing Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) fund and landslide assessments before harvest
- IP 46 – becomes the pesticide specific measure with buffers and notification
- IP 47 – becomes the clear-cut measure with harvest buffers

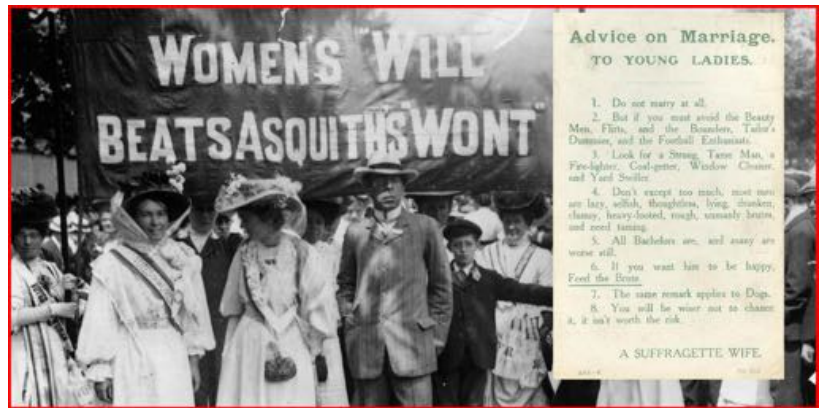
The limited changes in the measures include:

- Conflict of interest language is removed from all three measures. This likely will help them meet the single subject requirement.
- The 500-foot aerial pesticide buffers around homes and schools is removed
- The logging, landslide, OFRI and exemptions basically remain the same

Process wise, the petitioners are back at the beginning. They must again collect 1,000 signatures to have ballot titles drafted. It will likely be in the first quarter of 2020 before they will have certified ballot titles to begin circulation. Over 112,000 signatures are needed by the first week of July to qualify for the November 2020 ballot.”

“Vote for Us” Book Review — by Karol Simas

Fellow league of women voters, President Mary Jane LaBelle handed out copies of a book at our last board meeting. Any of us interested in voting and, I assume that is all of us in the league, would find value in “Vote for Us: How to take back our elections and change the future of voting” by Joshua A. Douglas. It is chock full of real life examples of how ordinary citizens improved elections in their communities. He is easy to read and has thoroughly researched the subject. The book is an inspiring and educational approach to American democracy and improving voter turnout. I highly recommend it.



VOTE411 by Mary Jane LaBelle

The concept of Vote411 was a puzzle to me until our last election, when (as Voter Services Chairperson), I was trained by LWVOR to enter all our county-wide ballot information. I did go through training, but luckily Tucker Nunn took over the data entry portion of the project. Thank you Tucker!

Here is the way it works: You enter vote411.org into your web browser. It will ask you for your name and zip code. Then it will bring up all the information on **your** ballot.

Voter Services LWVCC enters all the ballot information: Who is running for what and what ballot measures are on the entire ballot. We also notify the candidates that if they choose, they can enter their candidate statement. If the candidate has entered his/her information, it will be there for you to read. If not, it will say that there is no information. Your LWVCC Voter Services Chairperson (Tucker Nunn) then enters the information about ballot measures. As you know, we do not make any recommendations, we just provide the information available.

So let everyone you know to access vote411.org if they have questions about their ballot. For the November election, we do not expect anything on the ballot, so there will be no Candidate Forums. If these changes, you will hear from us!

League of Women Voters of Curry County

Calendar - 2019

| Month | Day | Events | Place | Time |
|--------------|------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| October | 14 | LWVCC Board Meeting | Tucker's House | 9:30 am |
| | 19 | LWVOR Fall Workshop | Eugene | 9a-3p |
| | 15 | Unit Meeting Topic - | Health Care | |
| | 17 | Unit Meeting, GB | Rogue Landing | 12 noon |
| | 23 | Unit Meeting, Brookings Unit Meeting, Port Orford | Chetco Library Annex Becky Flake's | 1 pm 5 pm |
| November | 5 | Election Day | Vote | |
| | 18 | LWVCC Board Meeting | Evergreen Bank, Brookings | 9:30 am |
| | 19 | Unit Meeting GB | Rogue Landing | 12 noon |
| | 20 | Unit Meeting PO | Becky Flake's Home | 5 pm |
| | 21 | Unit Meeting Brookings | Chetco Library Annex | 1 pm |
| December | 8 | Holiday Luncheon Party | Lorraine's House | 1 pm |
| January | 13 | LWVCC Board Meeting | Karol Simas', GB | 9:30 am |
| | TBA | Special District Issues Forum | Gold Beach Library | 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm |
| February | 10 | LWVCC Board Meeting | Karol Simas', GB | 9:30 am |
| | 14 | LWVCC 100th Birthday Fundraiser | TBA TBA/Gold Beach | TBA TBA |
| March | 7 | LWVOR 100 th Anni. Lunch | Salem Convention Center | TBA |
| | 9 | LWVCC Board Meeting | Tucker Nunn's, GB | 9:30 am |
| | TBA | Unit Mtgs or member teas | TBA | TBA |
| April | 13 | LWVCC Board Meeting | Brookings Library | 9:30 am |
| | TBA | Unit Meetings | TBA | TBA |
| | TBA | Candidate Forums | TBS | TBA |
| | 28 | Last day to Register to Vote | | |
| May | 11 | LWVCC Board Meeting | MJ's Home, Sixes | 9:30 am |
| | TBA | LWVOR Convention | TBA | |
| | TBA | Unit Meetings | TBA | |
| | 19 | Primary Election | VOTE | VOTE |
| June | 6 | LWVCC Annual Meeting | Gold Beach | 9:30a-1p |
| | | New/Old Board Meeting | | 1pm |





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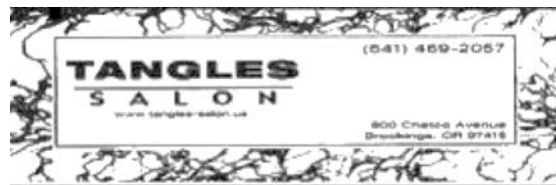
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