The League of Women Voters of Oregon has taken a Yes position on Ballot Measure 101, the only item on the ballot for a special election on January 23, 2018. A YES vote means that the Medicaid expansion for over 200,000 Oregonians will stay in place, plus the Cover All Kids program will remain open.

Thursday December 14, 2017

Medford Main Library Large Meeting Room

11:30—1:30p.m.

Guest speakers: Dr. David Gilmour & Peter Buckley

will explain the issues and Ballot Measure 101

The state League has joined a bipartisan coalition of nearly 100 groups who are advocating YES on Ballot Measure 101. Go to www.yesforhealthcare.org for a list of members and more information. It is clear that large numbers of voters are unaware of the Ballot Measure 101 special election or are confused by what a YES vote versus a NO vote means. We will need an all-out effort to spread the word. Coffee and cookies provided. The library at 205 S. Central Ave. is closed that day, but volunteers will be on hand to let people in through the front and back doors.

We will have fact sheets and lawn signs, and the press is invited to help inform Oregon voters. We will need an all-out effort to spread the word to VOTE YES on 101.

Local Government Study........................p. 4
Observer Corps Reports..........................p. 3
411 Candidate filings ...........................p. 5
Natural Resources  Action News...............p. 6
President’s Pen Dec 2017

Here we are – in the middle of the holiday season. I hope this finds everyone in the best of spirits and enjoying the company of family and friends. We are, in our own particular circle, an extension of family with the added benefit of being friends with a shared mission. A toast to holidays, family, friends, and a common cause!

Due to the January scheduling of the election on Measure 101, and LWVRV’s desire to address the issue in a timely manner, our usual December program this year will be about Measure 101 and our January meeting will include what we have normally done in December – bring donations for a charity. We will have a Winter Solstice event at the January meeting where we bring warm clothing to donate, such as hats, gloves, scarves, coats, socks, etc.

In May of 2019, LWVRV will host the Convention for the League of Women Voters of Oregon. We almost have an official venue in Ashland and will soon begin our part of the preparations. There will be opportunities for everyone to participate so that we have the best convention ever! We get to share Southern Oregon and LWVRV with other Oregon Leaguers.

Have a happy, healthy, safe, appreciative, etc. December and January.

—Jackie Clary  LWVRV President

The League of Women Voters Rogue Valley welcomes submissions to the newsletter, *The Voters Voice*. Editor Kathleen Donham can be reached at 541-77-5044 and KDonham@gmail.com.

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The League’s November 9 meeting on universal healthcare issues was well-attended at Rogue Community College HEC Auditorium. Speakers included Dr. Julian Bell [pulmonologist at Providence] and Family Nurse Practitioner Lauri Hoagland [La Clínica]. League member Bill Walsh moderated the panel and questions.
Medford City Council Meeting, November 2, 2017

Three items of note: the “chicken” ordinance, expanded exclusion zone, and recyclables. Under Communications from the Audiences, with 30-40 supporters in attendance, several individuals commented on the recently passed ordinance that limited the number of chickens that city residents could have on residential properties (also provided health and safety guidelines and prohibited roosters) and requested the council for reconsideration. And, indeed, after 6-7 speakers the council approved a motion that directs city staff to not enforce of the ordinance until the council has an opportunity to consider new language.

At the request of Jackson County commissioners, Agenda Item 80.2 would amend the Medford Municipal Code pertaining to the downtown district exclusion zone. A few months ago the city’s exclusion zone that pertained to city parks was expanded to include the downtown district. The exclusion zone allows police to cite persons for certain behaviors and direct them to stay out of the designated zone. Repeat offenders could be fined and/or jailed. As predicted, establishment of the downtown exclusion zone has moved transient persons out of the zone and into other areas of the city, including several county buildings/grounds that are located just outside of the downtown zone. After much discussion (similar to the discussion that took place when the initial expansion was approved), the motion to approve Item 80.2 failed 3-4. The council will continue to work with the county government, business owners, and residents to address concerns.

Lastly, under City Manager and staff reports, a concern related to the collection of recyclables was discussed. Much of the recyclables collected on the West Coast, including the Rogue Valley, are sent to China. Starting January 1st of 2018, China plans to ban the import of 24 varieties of solid waste and recyclables, including mixed waste paper and specific types of plastic. It has also put a hold on imports while the new regulations are finalized. With few other outlets for recyclables, collections in the Rogue Valley are piling up. Disposal representatives asked the city council to allow them – temporarily – to dispose of recyclable waste in local landfills. The council approved 7-0 a motion to so while waiting for China’s final regulations and other long term solutions can be considered. For now, there is no change for city residents with regards to the recycling pickups.

Local Government Study Task Assignments
January 16, 2018   Phoenix Branch Library 5 -7 pm

To Do list. Chores taken on before next meeting are as follows:
1. Kathleen D will check on venue for next meeting.
2. Kathleen D will scan and send committee copy of AOC county structures.
3. Jackie will provide a list of offices (perhaps not yet with names attached) for interviewing
4. Jackie will send electronic versions of city charters etc.
5. Olena will finish scanning first batch of background materials.
6. Assignments - referenced above (please review):
   a. Jackie C and Bill M – start review of Overall summary
   b. Jackie C. and Margie P lay out necessary outline for needed information from Josephine County
   c. Sheila M – first report on highlights of resource list.
   d. Kathleen D. and Sally G. determine method for beginning research on attendance history (Jackson and Josephine).
   e. Unassigned: Tracking down the Job Description of a Commissioner in each county.
   f. Nancy S. and Rick B. Nancy will determine items that would be included in a budget covering funding commissioneRs. Rick B (assigned in absentia) - accept or decline task.
   g. Barbara K, Margie P, Rick B - start compilation of summaries from LWVOR election study report explaining different district structures that can be addressed. Kathleen D.-observer.
   h. Sheila M. – Citizen Participation. Report on any ideas of how to approach this goal.
   i. Kathleen D and Bill M - determine whether any further AOC information is important to our study.
   j. Barbara K – prepare draft of Interview Questions.
Action Alert—from LWVUS

Americans have a right to know who is paying for political advertisements—whether it be organizations with ties to foreign governments or wealthy special interests here at home. In the 2016 election, 65 percent of Americans identified the internet, or an online platform, as their leading source of information. Yet our outdated transparency rules — which still include references to telegrams and typewriters — don’t require adequate disclosure for online ads.

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) has asked for comments on whether they should modernize these rules or keep things the way they are. Act now to protect our elections. More than three in four Americans — 78 percent — want full disclosure of who paid for political ads posted to social media platforms. That includes 80 percent of Republicans and 82 percent of Independents. Tell the FEC to require online campaign ads to include disclaimers about who is paying for them — as is required for television and print advertisements. U.S. elections should be about U.S. voters not special interests — and especially not about the secretive influence of hostile foreign governments and entities. We must use every lever at our disposal — including ending secret online political ads — to prevent meddling in our elections and to ensure that Americans know the source of political messages. Demand that the FEC require online ads to include disclaimers identifying who paid for them. Federal Elections Commission: www.fec.gov/contact-us/ and 1-800-424-9530.

How to get information about candidates’ filings:

All national candidates, state candidates, judges and district attorneys file with the Secretary of State Elections Division. The County Clerk’s office (Jackson/Jefferson, etc.) is the location for filing papers to run for County offices and county special districts. The City Clerk’s office is the location for filing papers for the city offices or any special district within the city.

Information about candidates running for office can be obtained by contacting the City Clerk’s office for city candidates or by contacting the County Clerk’s office for county candidates (and all candidates) after the filing deadline. Often this information is available on the City / County website.

How to get information about ballot measures:

The official Voter’s Pamphlet from the Secretary of State (SOS) will contain:

- An objective evaluation from the SOS office on the impact of what a YES vote means and what a NO vote means
- **Pro** and **Con** arguments presented by organizations /persons supporting ballot measures (there is a fee).

How to get information about candidates:

Voters can contact elected officials or candidates and talk with them or a member of their staff about positions on issues.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon will provide ballot measure information on Vote411.org and also it will be available on lwvor.org.

Regarding Jan 2018 voting:

Vote 411.org will post Ballot Measure 101 on Jan. 1, 2018

Voters’ pamphlets will be mailed to every household between December 27 and 29

The voter registration deadline for the January 23 election will be January 2, 2018

OUR LWVRV will have an advocacy program for Measure 101 on 12/14/2017 at the Medford Library 11:30 – 1 pm. The public is invited.

County election officials will mail ballots to voters between January 3 and January 9. Ballots must be received until 8 PM Jan. 23, 2018. Mail in ballot should be mailed no later than Jan, 19 to insure they reach the County Clerk’s office before the deadline. Ballots can be deposited in the Ballot boxes provided.

—Contributed by Lorraine Werblow
As of this month, we have a new position from the LWVOR on Election Methods. I want to thank all the LWVRV members who took part in this study and the long hours of meetings that followed. Additionally, thanks to Jackie Clary who served on the committee as well. I believe it was one of the most comprehensive reports (and ultimately position) done by any League nationwide. We will excuse my bias.

Barbara Klein, Election Methods Committee

Election Methods Position

November 2017

The League of Women Voters of Oregon recognizes that election methods affect how voters participate in our democracy, who can run for office, and who can get elected. Therefore, the League supports election methods that:

- Encourage voter participation and voter engagement.
- Encourage those with minority opinions to participate.
- Are easy to use.
- Are verifiable and auditable.
- Promote access to voting.
- Promote competitive elections.
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting.
- Discourage negative campaigning.
- Prevent political manipulation (e.g. Gerrymandering).
- Are compatible with vote-by-mail elections.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon does not believe that plurality voting is the best method for promoting democratic choice in all circumstances. For single-winner systems, the League supports ranked-choice voting; we do not support range or approval voting.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports an election system that elects policy-making bodies–legislatures, councils, commissions, and boards–that proportionally reflect the people they represent. We support systems that promote stable government, but we do not support systems that protect the two-party system.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports enabling legislation to allow local jurisdictions to explore alternative election methods. If an alternative election method is adopted, then funding for startup and voter education should be available.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon does not support nonpartisan elections for state legislators.

Update of Non-Partisan Policy of the Rogue Valley League

Board member Barbara Klein reviewed and re-wrote the League’s policy after questions were posed last year. The LWVRV board approved that update this month. The entire policy is available at the local League website lwvroguevalley.org. An excerpt from that policy follows, and applies to the general membership. Board members have more stringent restrictions.

“All members are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the political process as individuals. That includes partisan activities such as running for public office, working actively for a candidate (canvassing, displaying a lawn sign, making campaign contributions, fundraising, etc.), as well as non-partisan activities such as speaking or writing in support of, or opposition to, government issues and policies.”

Only the League president can speak or write on behalf of the LWV, LWVOR, or LWVRV.
November’s news, updates, and some upcoming happenings:

*Juliana v. the United States* (AKA the federal Our Children’s Trust suit) is still scheduled for trial in federal court in Eugene on February 5, 2018. Last June, the Administration filed a writ of mandamus, asking a superior court (the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals) to review and overturn the decision of a lower court (the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon) to move forward with the trial. The DOJ attorneys will seek to convince the Court that pre-trial discovery for a climate change lawsuit would cause the federal government “irreparable harm.” If the Administration prevails, the government will avoid the discovery process and the suit would be dismissed before the trial is held. The League is still working hard in support of the Plaintiffs: the LWVUS and LWVOR released their second *amicus curiae* brief in opposition to the Administration’s writ of mandamus. The Ninth Circuit will hear oral arguments in San Francisco on December 11.

The complex permit process for the *Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline* and Jordan Cove Liquefied Natural Gas Export project Phase II is ongoing. Two members of the Natural Resources Action Group attended a two-day organizing and information-sharing meeting in Shady Cove last month. Here’s an update on LWVRV actions opposing the pipeline so far:

- Submitted testimony to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in June.
- In October we filed as Intervenors on the FERC application for the pipeline along with the LWV of Klamath County and LWV of Umpqua Valley
- Oregon state permits are critical components of the process, too. In November, the Environmental Quality Commission heard public testimony from a packed meeting room. All raised serious concerns primarily about the negative impacts on Oregon’s water quality if the pipeline and export facility are built. The LWVRV, LWVKC, and LWVUV submitted a joint letter of concerns about the pipeline project, 185 miles of which is slated to be built across three counties which our local leagues cover.
- The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is expected soon to open a 60-day comment period concerning the JCPCGPL projects’ applications for a 401 Water Quality permit. The 401 permit is supposed to ensure that a project will meet DEQ standards to prevent the impairment of water quality of the waters of Oregon.

Work is continuing to convince the Oregon Legislature to pass a cap and trade bill SB 1070, the *Clean Energy Jobs Bill*, during the 2018 Session. The LWV Oregon is part of a coalition working for passage. LWVRV action members are working with local advocates such as Rogue Climate and Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) while following Legislative Work Sessions and strategy sessions with coalition members. There’s more going on in the natural resources/climate change arena. We’re starting to post more frequently, so check in on League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley’s FB page.
January General Meeting: Program Planning Thursday January 11, 2018

At the beginning of each calendar year in January, the Rogue Valley League reviews its local positions on governance, natural resources, and social policy. We choose to confirm, update, re-study, or take action on each position. The most recent member directory [2017-2018] includes the current Ashland/Medford positions for your review. Our local League is also conducting an update of our position concerning local governance this year. An update of that process will be explained at the January meeting [see study announcements, page 3].

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome new members David Smith from Grants Pass, Annie Tekaha of Central Point, and Lynda Stevenson of Medford to the Rogue Valley LWV! Acknowledgments to renewing members Tricia Hahn, Kathy Uhtoff, and Carol Custudio. The League is now asking for renewal dues on the month one year from the last renewal. Blue stars (*** ) by your name on mailed newsletters can alert you to annual dues renewal dates.

SHIRLEY PATTON

The Rogue Valley LWV was delighted to participate in the celebration of Shirley Patton’s career in civic and artistic endeavors on November 13 in Ashland. Members Vanya Sloan, Olena Black, and Lorraine Werblow joined the participants. We are so proud of Shirley and pleased to be among her friends.

GOODBYE IONE

Long-time member Ione Kohn retired to California after years of service to the Rogue Valley League as a membership coordinator. We are grateful for her years of service to the League, and will miss seeing her at our general meetings.

WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR DUES CONTRIBUTIONS?

The Rogue Valley League collects $65 yearly from individual members. $32.50 goes to the state LWVOR and $32.50 goes to the LWVUS. Our local LWV Rogue Valley survives on the contributions of local members to sales, donations, and fundraisers, etc. Special thanks to contributors Agnes Chirgwin, Joyce Chapman, and Susan Rust. Rogue Valley LWV is in the process of becoming a 501(c)3 that can offer tax deductions to contributors.

Membership Application

Name_________________________________________
Address_______________________________________
City___________________________________________
Zip______________Phone________________________
Email__________________________________________

Single membership — $65.00     Spouse/student—$32.50
May we publish your information in the LWV Directory?
Y   N

Send check /application to P.O. Box 8555 Medford OR 97501
### League Activities December 2017

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|     |   |    |    | **11:30am Medford Public Library**
|     |   |    |    | **“Yes on Ballot Measure 101” LWV Advocacy Program** |     |     |
| 17  | 18| 19 | 20 | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24  | 25| 26 | 27 | 28  | 29  | 30  |
| 31  |   |    |    | New Year’s Eve |     |     |