

VOTERS VOICE

Rogue Valley League of Women Voters Volume 78

January supplement 2017

Program Planning 2017

Thursday January 12

OEA Bldg 2495 S. Pacific Hwy

11:30 am Medford

Members will review League positions in the area of 1) Governance, 2) Social Policy, and 3) Natural Resources. Copies of the lists of positions at the local, state, and national levels will be available at the meeting, and are included in the electronic version of this newsletter. This is the opportunity for membership to recommend new studies, re-study updates, or deletion of positions. Please review our positions, especially Jackson County Governance under the Rogue Valley League Positions.



Normally we publish only one newsletter for December and January. However, this year we wanted to provide more information for those who are new to program planning methods and an update to other committee work.

The Oregon Legislature Budget Shortfall

With the failure of Measure 97, state legislators will be forced to examine revenue sources to balance the budget. Follow the discussions in Salem as the 2017 Oregon Legislative session begins. The state LWV will send out updates on the progress of lobbying efforts and committee monitoring.

As a member, you should be receiving these reports as emails. Please take the time to register with the LWVOR website. Go to LWVOR.org, then "member resources" and set up your user name. The LWVORV local league number is OR305. You will need to assign yourself a password. Let membership know if you are having trouble with this process.

541-772-5044

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Opportunities to be Involved

Hearing on Ashland Rail Yard Clean-up: DEQ is accepting written public comments about the plan through 5 p.m. Jan. 31. The agency and Union Pacific will hold an informational meeting at **7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19**, at the Ashland Community Center, 59 Winburn Way.

LWVUS asks members to write to their Congressmen about the Affordable Care Act immediately. Representative Greg Walden is now chair of the Energy and Commerce House which according to Oregonlive “makes Walden a major player in the ongoing debate about the fate of the Affordable Care Act.” [Rep. Greg Walden contact the Medford Office (541) 776-4646]

April—Day at the Legislature in Salem

May—Oregon LWV State Convention in Clackamas County

The LWVORV conducts **interviews** with Legislators at the beginning of new sessions. If you would like to join another League member in these interviews, please contact the Action team or President Jacky Clary 541-479-4486. A list of questions is provided by the Oregon LWV state board.

Observer Corps/ JC Sheriff Notes

The League is grateful to Joyce Chapman for her continued monitoring of the Jackson County Board of Commissioner meetings. Joyce has decided to relinquish the role of coordinator of the Observer Corps, but plans to continue to monitor those meetings. New County Commissioner Bob Strosser will begin his term this month, and a new sheriff will be chosen. We look forward to Joyce’s updates and thank her for her perseverance in following county issues. **Member Barbara Klein has proposed that we re-examine our governance position on the BOC this year.**

According to the Medford Mail Tribune regarding sheriff selection panel:

Commissioners on Tuesday decided to ask retired Medford police Chief Tim George, Jackson County District Attorney Beth Heckert, Justice Court Judge Joe Charter, Racial Equity Coalition member Amanda Singh Bans, Jackson County Health and Human Services Director Mark Orndoff and rural resident Shayne Maxwell to serve on the panel.

Jackson County Development Services Director Kelly Madding, who is experienced with conflicts between marijuana growers and neighbors, will be asked to serve if Orndoff is not available. More substitutes could be named if other panelists are unavailable.

Commissioners will discuss potential panelists and the process for appointing a sheriff

No timeline has been set yet.

From the Editor.....

**If you have information or letters you would like to share, please contact the interim editor at :
kdonham@gmail.com
541-772-5044**

Our Childrens Trust

OUR MISSION

Our Children's Trust elevates the voice of youth to secure the legal right to a stable climate and healthy atmosphere for the benefit of all present and future generations. Through our programs, youth participate in advocacy, public education and civic engagement to ensure the viability of all natural systems in accordance with science.

Natural Resources News 2017

Shirley Weathers, Natural Resources Chair

Jordan Cove Pacific Connector Pipeline Project

The pipeline and liquefied natural gas project that has kept southern Oregon on a roller coaster for the past ten years continued the pattern as 2016 drew to a close. (For more background, see "NR News" in the last issue of the *Voters Voice*). Nine months after the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued its denial of applications for the two linked projects, on December 9 the agency formally denied the proponents' Request for Rehearing. This closes the book on those applications. Both the *Mail Tribune* and *The World* (Coos Bay) editorial boards agreed that it was time to end this decade-long saga.

We and other opponents of the projects understood that the decision was "without prejudice," meaning new applications could be filed. The parent Canadian company Veresen Inc. announced almost immediately that they would reapply. As noted in the last *Voters Voice*, there was a complex web of local, state, and federal permit processes in the works at the time of the denial. It's largely unclear at this point how reapplications will impact each one. This League will express support to FERC for standing firm on its final denial decision.

Our Children's Trust (OCT) Lawsuits

The federal OCT lawsuit, *Juliana et. al. v. United States et. al.* successfully cleared an enormous hurdle in November and is now moving forward! U.S. District Court Judge Judy Aiken ruled against the Defendants' motions to dismiss. According to Gordon Levitt, a Climate Law Fellow for Our Children's Trust, the discovery process is underway. Both the Obama Administration and the fossil fuel industry entities (Intervenors) are expected to submit their answers to the Plaintiffs' complaint before January 20, 2017.

[continued next page]

Contact Shirley at 541-690-7779 for more information

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Meanwhile, in early December the Oregon Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in the OCT lawsuit filed against the state of Oregon, *Chernaik v. Brown*. This case is one of dozens of cases similarly based on the “Nature’s Trust” doctrine featured in *Juliana*, but filed against state governments across the country in recent years. In 2015, Circuit Court Judge Karsten Rasmussen ruled that the state of Oregon has no responsibility to protect the atmosphere, water, or wildlife for present and future generations because they are not, as the Plaintiffs contend, public trust resources. Plaintiffs appealed and hope to hear a reversal of Judge Rasmussen’s ruling by spring. Mr. Levitt noted that, although three judges heard oral arguments, all thirteen judges on the appellate court may participate in the decision.

Climate Change Legislation in the 2017 Oregon General Session

Few details and no draft legislation is available to discuss at this time, but be aware that several concepts designed to move the state towards significant reductions in green house gas emissions are under consideration. Last year, the LWVOR supported what was known as the “Healthy Climate Bill” and is following discussions with collaborators as the session approaches. .

Contact Us

The League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley can be contacted by phone at 541-479-4486 or 541-772-5044.

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The LWVOR Legislative Action Team

prioritized four key areas for the 2017 session:

- **REVENUE AND TAX REFORM** by adopting stable and fair revenue policies and tax reforms to adequately fund services and functions critical to the well-being of Oregonians.
- **PROTECTING DEMOCRACY** by minimizing the influence of money in politics and promoting more representative elections systems.
- **ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE** by supporting legislation to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions fast enough to avoid serious damage to the global climate ecosystem.
- **ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS** to help low income citizens move toward financial stability.



How Does League Make Decisions about Issues?

Every year our local League reviews our positions. All of our local positions were arrived at by doing an initial study and review of the data, then having consensus meetings that established a position. These positions form the basis of our advocacy and action plans, so they require periodic review. Our January meeting serves as an opportunity to propose new studies or propose action on our existing positions. Furthermore, positions must be “actionable”—that is, something we can do something about!

Issue → **Study** → **Consensus** → **Position** → **Action**

Review Position → **Retain, Drop, Re-study, or Update** → **Action**

EXISTING PROGRAMS: When discussing program, members must consider existing programs and whether to retain, drop, update or restudy them.

Following are some definitions that may help as League members discuss existing programs.

RETAIN: means keep position as is; no change.

DROP: means to remove the position completely from our list. All further advocacy will be discontinued. It may not be incorporated into the program again without a new study.

UPDATE: means to study the position topic for informational purposes only, with no intention to update the position, only to update the knowledge base for the members.

RE-STUDY: means to undertake a review of the position in order to potentially change it.

How to choose issues for study

Encourage members to evaluate possible issues by asking, for example:

Is there widespread member interest?

Is this a timely issue?

Is government action the most effective way to address the problem?

Public Policy Positions LWV United States 2017

The following positions are not yet listed in the *“Impact on Issues”* document which defines the positions and actions of the LWVUS. They were formed at the 2016 Convention. The following is a summary:

1. **Considerations for Evaluation of Constitutional Amendment Proposals—**

The League will only support a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution if it advances and conforms to an LWVUS position.

2. **Constitutional Conventions under Article V of the US Constitution—**

League is concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. The League believes such a convention should be called only if certain conditions are in place: [LWVUS.org con_con_position.pdf](http://LWVUS.org/con_con_position.pdf)

3. **LWVUS Position on Money in Politics—**The League position statement is lengthy and not easily summarized. Please visit:

http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/mip_position_adopted_040216.pdf

4. **Concurrence on Redistricting—**Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

5. **Concurrence on Behavioral Health—**Every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality in- and out- patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care.

[continued LWWUS Positions]

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation. Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

[continued LWVUS positions]

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries.

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

[continued LWVUS Positions]

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services. Provide essential support services.

Housing Supply. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty

The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

[continued LWWUS Positions]

Sentencing Policy

The LWWUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWWUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment and Housing. Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Federal Role in Public Education. Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

[LWVUS Positions continued]

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Death Penalty

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League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley ---Local League Positions

Jackson County Government Adopted in 1999

GOVERNANCE

Concerning the overall functioning of county government, the League believes that the Board of Commissioners (BOC) as the legislative and principal policy making agency of the county should pass appropriate ordinances, approve all budget decisions and act in its quasi-judicial capacity in land use matters.

Composition: The League supports a Board of Commissioners of 5 or more members. The commissioners should be elected either at large or by a combination of district/at large and should be elected on a non-partisan basis. The League supports considering other options to full time paid commissioners.

County Administrative Officer: The League supports the BOC's delegation of administrative functions to a professional administrator, but reasserts the League's position that policy making shall be reserved to the BOC and that overall responsibility for all functions of the County's government ultimately rests with the Board of Commissioners.

The League believes that the position of **Administrator** should be incorporated in the County Charter in order to give more stability to that position. It further believes that the qualifications of that position should be established by ordinance.

Elected Department Heads: Concerning elected department heads, the League believes that those offices which require expertise in a professional field, are not required to make policy decisions, and are not politically sensitive, should be appointive rather than elective.

The League believes that the **Office of Treasurer** should be abolished with those duties assigned to the Finance Officer. That office should be made appointive and the Charter amended to reflect these changes. The League believes that Jackson County should establish by ordinance qualifications for the office of Financial Officer.

The League believes that the offices of **Assessor and Surveyor** should be appointive rather than elected and that the Charter should be amended to reflect these changes. The qualifications of those offices must conform to state requirements.

Citizen Participation in Jackson County Government: Concerning policies and procedures that facilitate citizen involvement, the League:

1. Continues to emphasize the importance of citizen involvement and citizen participation in the establishing of policy through citizen advisory groups and commissions.
2. Believes that the BOC should provide widespread notice throughout the County of all vacancies on advisory boards and commissions. The Board should establish terms of service and qualifications for such positions. It should conduct interviews and select candidates who will bring diversity and experience in their service to the County.
3. Reaffirms its belief in the importance of the Oregon Open Meetings Law. Notices and agendas for all public meetings of the BOC should be given widespread advance publicity in media throughout the County.
4. The League believes that more effort should be made to involve citizens in the budgetary process. This objective can be achieved by holding public meetings in September when the process begins, holding them throughout the County in the evening when more people are available, and publicizing the issues citizens need to consider. On the County's website, an executive summary of the budget should appear that would include an explanation of the budget format, noting the requirements under Oregon law; an overview of expenditures and sources of revenue, with a breakdown to indicate federal funds, state funds, county taxes and fees for service; an explanation with examples of dedicated vs. non-dedicated or discretionary funds, highlighting the appropriations under the General Fund; and an explanation and accounting of reserve funds. Because of the decisive role of the Budget Committee, the BOC should set term limits for the three appointed County Budget Committee members of three-year terms as the maximum.

Charter Amendments: The League believes that the Charter's election laws, (Charter, Chapter VII, Section 28: 1, 4, 5) should be amended to conform with state statutes. This would correct the current inconsistent time intervals regarding initiative and referendum.

MEDFORD CITY CHARTER

Adopted April 1975 - Revised 1999

The League supports the Medford City Charter of 1999.

Local Government Adopted March 1978

The League supports the concept of home rule in Jackson and Josephine Counties primarily because it gives the citizen greater control over local government and an initial charter similar to present county government because it would be understandable and workable. In the future, each change could be thoroughly explored and debated before adoption by the voters and the Jackson County Charter as submitted by the Home Rule Charter Committee for decision in 1978 (said charter adopted by the people).

Funding Ashland Parks (1992)

The League supports developing acquired parks and open space in Ashland by combining funds raised through private efforts with funds from public sources. The Ashland City Council should implement the parks and open space acquisition program adopted by the City Council and placed in the City Charter by amendment in 1990. The Council should propose and support a tax measure that produces adequate revenue to acquire all of the mapped properties. The tax measure should be equitable, stable, easy to administer, and should add balance to the entire tax system by providing for broad sharing of the tax burden.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Land Use Revised in 1982

The League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley supports the Statewide Planning Goals and guidelines adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC), from 1974-76. These goals provide overall planning standards and establish the framework for land-use planning programs of all governmental agencies and bodies in the state

Comprehensive Plans: The League supports planning which is based on optimum desirable population as related to resource limitations rather than pure population projection from past growth rates. The League supports coordinated and cooperative growth planning and policies among all governmental units, and comprehensive citizen participation in all phases of the planning process. The League supports the Urban Growth Boundary Concept, with development of increased density within the urban service boundary, which helps preserve outlying resource land and allows more efficient use of public facilities. The League supports planning that gives top priority to air quality in relation to growth development and supports the development and maintenance of a complete and diverse inventory/data base on which to evaluate present and long-range planning decisions. Adequate funding for personnel should be provided to strictly enforce ordinances and regulations as applied to private owners, business and industry, and public agencies.

Forest Lands:

The League supports management of Forest Lands for the benefit of appropriate inter-related uses:

1) timber production 2) livestock grazing with care to prevent over-grazing 3) watershed protection and aquifer recharge maintenance 4) wild life and fisheries habitat 5) recreation, and 6) carefully controlled mining.

The League supports adequate buffering techniques to protect forest lands from incompatible land uses. Present policies of state and federal administration in terms of amount of land and types of land involved and O&C revenue distribution formula should be retained. The League supports adequate standards for logging roads, based on future use or abandonment.

Agricultural Lands: The League promotes identification, evaluation and preservation of Agricultural Lands as defined in statewide goals for present and future use. The League supports adequate protection for Agricultural Lands provided through buffering lands to be designated on the adjacent non-farm land. Exemption of any farm land from the exclusive farm category should be documented with adequate findings.

Public Facilities and Services:

The League promotes availability and provision of services for current and future population growth to be a major factor guiding the planning and direction of growth within the County, with the Urban Growth Boundary designating the dividing line between establishing urban and rural densities. Provision of services beyond this line should be considered in light of the impact of development on rural areas, the cost involved in development, and the effect the development will have on non-committed resource lands. The League believes that county government should be recognized as the coordinating authority that must guide the decisions made when Public Facilities and Services are extended into rural and urban areas. System development charges should be implemented to equitably spread the cost of such facilities among those who will derive the most benefit from these services. The League supports actions that create a balance between providing public facilities and insuring orderly growth in a manner that is in harmony with the County Comprehensive Plan and its policies.

Air and Water Pollution:

The League promotes education programs that emphasize individual responsibility, as well as that of business and industry, to improve air and water quality.

Energy Conservation:

The League promotes planning that incorporates energy considerations (both long- and short-term benefits) in all components of the Comprehensive Plan, emphasizes alternative energy technologies, and restraint in the use of nonrenewable resources.

Economy

The League promotes development of programs that improve and diversify the economic base, with due consideration for air, water, land and human resources; development of programs that support and encourage expansion of existing small businesses; diversified new industries that emphasize the use of local skills and resource base; and development of tourism as an important part of our economy but balanced with the need to protect the livability and natural attractiveness of the area.

Transportation (Revised 5/95)

The League supports the Statewide Planning Goals and guidelines adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC). These goals provide overall planning standards and establish the framework for land-use planning of all governmental agencies and bodies in the state.

Planning. The League supports (1) environmentally acceptable, energy efficient, and equitable transportation alternatives to individual automobile use. These could include a public transportation system, car-pooling, park and ride, bicycles and pedestrian walkways--an integrated multi-modal system; (2) careful analysis of road placement in terms of impact on land use and need; (3) mixed-use subdivisions, grid street systems, and open cul-de-sacs; (4) inclusion of reserve corridors and greenways in urban planning; (5) co-operation in transportation planning among state, county and all cities in the county, (6) a public transit system responsive to commuters, disabled, and elderly, including covered facilities for passengers while they wait; (7) integration of bike lanes, signed routes, and paths into road and street systems, with secure bicycle parking facilities in commercial districts and high density residential areas; (8) use of bicycle security patrols downtown and on multi-use trails; (9) direct routes wherever possible to decrease circuitous vehicular travel; (10) citizen participation at all stages of planning and project development, including the establishment of a permanent Transportation Commission.

Funding The League believes that taxation and assessment policies should provide adequate support for transportation construction and maintenance, using federal, state and local sources.

Education The League believes that community education on transportation issues and alternatives is essential.

Ashland Positions—formerly Ashland LWV [merger RVLWV & ALWV]

Land Use (1971) (1973) (1990) (2009) The League recommends that governmental planning and action for land use in Ashland and the surrounding area should preserve and enhance Ashland's unique character, especially as reflected in the following: its small town atmosphere; its cultural and educational resources; the health, safety and welfare of its citizens; the natural beauty of its geographical site; its farm and forestlands; its historical heritage; its varied economic and residential pattern; its clean air and lack of noise pollution; and its concern for the safety of downtown streets.

Growth: The League recognizes that growth, especially if it is unplanned, threatens many of these characteristics (under Land Use) and therefore that any proposed growth should have to be justified.

1)The League recommends that Ashland's city government makes every effort to determine what population Ashland can support compatibly with the above values and bring its plan and policies into harmony with that figure.

2)The League recommends that the county government should determine what population Jackson County (and especially the Ashland-Pinehurst area) can support, consistent with the above values, and consider this factor in planning for orderly growth. Such growth should benefit rather than burden the existing community.

Preservation:

- 1) Taxing policies and building codes should encourage, rather than discourage, the restoration and improvement of existing residential and commercial property.
- 2) All multi-family residential, commercial and industrial building permits and subdivision plats should require the preservation, replacement, and/or the addition of trees and landscaping; the maintenance of water quality in streams; adequate parking; and a certain percentage of non-paved open space.

Open Space:

- 1) The city plan should anticipate parks, bicycle paths and walkways, recreational facilities, and the preservation of open spaces.
- 2) The City should begin now to obtain more land within the City and in the surrounding area for these purposes. The League urges the City and County to cooperate in acquiring lands suitable for park development in areas surrounding Ashland.

Coordination:

- 1) The City Comprehensive Plan should be coordinated with city zoning and with the revised county plan for surrounding areas.
- 2) City and county planners should cooperate and encourage more citizen participation in the planning process. Appeal: The League supports provision of reasonable procedures for appeal from Planning Commission decisions.

Annexation:

- 1) Annexation should be in line with the revised county plan.
- 2) Before allowing annexation, the City should take into account whether or not there is still land available for development within the City for the proposed use.
- 3) Adequate city services available for the annexation should be determined prior to approval.
- 4) Costs of the extension of city services beyond the city limits should be borne by the development.

Sewer & Water Services:

Extension of city and water services beyond the present city limits should be primarily contingent on the following:

- 1) The consistency of the projected land use with Ashland's revised Comprehensive Plan,

- 2) Structural and financial feasibility, with the cost of extensions and a compensation for existing facilities to be borne primarily by the annexed area.
- 3) Enforceable written agreement that the property will be annexed after it is developed.

Water Quantity & Quality (2009)

All water resources for Ashland should benefit the public and be an integral part of the ecosystem in which they occur. Applying this principle, the following should be supported:

- 1) Conservation as a major source of water.
- 2) Coordination of land use planning and water resources planning.
- 3) Comprehensive erosion, flood, and fire control measures in the Ashland city watershed.
- 4) Development and implementation of a comprehensive storm water management plan.
- 5) Access by the City of Ashland to all available sources of water.
- 6) Implementation of a meaningful Riparian Ordinance for Ashland.
- 7) Ashland's operation of high quality, efficient wastewater treatment systems.
- 8) Community education regarding all aspects of Ashland's water resources.

Alternative Energy (1983)

The League supports the continued independent monitoring of alternative energy resource development in and by the City of Ashland and the model plan developed by the Northwest Conservation Act Coalition.

Parks & Recreation (1969)

The League realizes that successful community development depends on a positive involvement of the people. With these concerns in mind, the League has analyzed and clarified some criteria for recreational development:

- 1) Coordination – Any criterion for development of parks and recreation cannot be isolated from the criteria for overall city development.
- 2) People orientation – All community development should aim to benefit the whole person and the entire community.

3) Versatility – Developments which are as diverse and all-inclusive as possible will encourage optimum use and thus allow optimum economy by giving the most satisfaction for the money. However, small neighborhood parks and walking and hiking paths are important in providing recreation and quiet areas for the enjoyment of the outdoors.

SOCIAL POLICY (RVLWV)

Juvenile Justice Adopted in 1999

The League promotes having adequate staff to provide comprehensive services to youth, including assessment, appropriate sanctions and treatment for juvenile offenders. The League supports development of facilities and strategies able to serve the growing population of Jackson County juvenile offenders. The League supports developing facilities and strategies for providing services to at-risk and non-offender youth and their families. The League supports development of cooperation between all parties dealing with children and youth including Juvenile Department, Services for Children and Families, schools, Jackson County Health and Human Services, other appropriate government agencies, parents and non-profit social service agencies.

Adult Mental Health in Josephine County (1978)

The League supports: 1) adequate hospital space for psychiatric patients 2) early treatment for pre-school and school age children 3) a separate detox center, and 4) an Interagency Coordinator.

Children at Risk (2013) RVLWV

1. LWVRV supports efforts to increase system integration and accountability by Jackson and Josephine Counties' children's services. We support continued communication between agencies involving children at risk to prevent duplication and provide services.
2. LWVRV supports the physical proximity of all service providers.
3. LWVRV encourages public awareness of services for children at risk (centralized website, multi-lingual brochures, and public service mailings).
4. LWVRV supports participation in the legislative process to assure adequate funding and encourages community volunteer involvement in the work of agencies.
5. LWVRV supports expanded access to mental health services for children at risk.

Homeless in Ashland (1995)

The League believes that the citizens of Ashland have a responsibility to help the homeless in the following ways:

- 1) Programs in Ashland should be for (a) people who are temporarily homeless because they have lost their jobs or have had other personal difficulties and (b) young people who have experienced various types and levels of abuse and/or parental neglect.
- 2) The League supports programs that provide short-term assistance/maintenance intervention with focus on each individual case.
- 3) The League is concerned that the community be educated about the types of homeless served.
- 4) The League supports coalitions and cooperative efforts between the City and various public and private agencies and organizations to address the problem of the homeless in Ashland.

Department of Health and Human Services (2011)

The League supports the efforts of the BOC to establish a centralized facility in Medford for the Department of Health and Human Services to house both public and private agencies so that they can provide integrated and efficient services for their clients.

[Listing of Oregon LWV studies/positions](#)

On-line:

Coastal and Nearshore Oregon

Water in Oregon

Election Methods

Redistricting in Oregon

Oregon's Homeless Youth

Oregon's Judiciary

The Trial Jury in Oregon's State Courts

Oregon Taxes: Myths and Facts

Funding Oregon

Campaign Finance Reform

Electricity Issues

Land Use

Oregon's Initiative System

Mental Health in Oregon

Farmworkers in Oregon

Juvenile Justice

Shift in Oregon Household and Business Tax Burdens

K – 12 School District Financing

State Parks

Election Laws

More study reports are available in print only

Children at Risk – 1995

Seismic Risks Study – 1994

Education Reform in Oregon: a Blueprint for the 21st Century – 1993

Adult Mental Health in Oregon – 1986 (Supplement – 1990)

Energy, Ecology, Economics: Oregon Offshore Development Issues – 1990

Oregon School Finance: Solving the Dilemma – 1988

Schools Project Report of Round I & II – 1988

Public Post-Secondary Education in Oregon – 1984

Adult Corrections in Oregon II – 1983

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices – 1982

Oregon's Emergency Board: One of a Kind – 1982

Economic Development and Revenue Bonds – 1982

Who Will Elect the President?

The Electoral College System – 1980
You and Your National Government – 1980

Go to

<http://voteoregon.org/issues/about-study-reports/study-report-library/>
for a complete review of these positions.

A NEW YEAR – A NEW FACE

One of our delightful new members who joined in the fall of 2016, was born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Newark N.J. Florence Slomowitz was an only child of Eastern Europe parents. She later married and had three children.

She attended Weequahic High School, and later completed her M.S. degree at the University of Rhode Island.

Florence made a career as a nurse (R.N.) and also as a marriage-and-family therapist.

Hobbies have been varied and amazing: Paper creating, making books, music and collages, reading real books.

Why did she join our League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley? She listened to Lorraine Werblow discussing the advantages of our LWVRV. Who could resist Lorraine?

With an intelligent, skilled person with such a varied background, we are **fortunate** to have her as a member. Add her humor, friendliness and her **talents**

Please welcome member Florence Slomowitz to our branch.

—Shiena Polehn, Hospitality

LWV OF THE ROGUE VALLEY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

May we include your contact information in the Directory? Y N

Annual dues \$65.00

Additional family member \$32.50

Areas of interest:

Education _____

Government _____

Natural Resources _____

Voter Services _____

Other _____

Please send this completed application to Rogue Valley League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 8555 Medford 97504 with your yearly dues. Thank you for your interest.

January 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun Jan 1 New Years Day
Jan 2		Jan 4 sign up for Legisla- tive Process		Jan 6	
	Jan 10 Legislative Pro- cess Day Salem		January 12 Pro- gram Planning at 11:30 am OEA		
			Jan19 Board Meeting 10 am OEA		Jan 21 Womens March various loca- tions
Jan 22					

LWVRY
P.O. Box 8555
Medford OR 97501