Thursday, September 13, 2018

Rogue Valley League Networks with the Region, the State, and adjoining Counties and what the League says about State Ballot Measures 102, 103, 104, 105, & 106

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

OEA Building 2495 S Pacific Hwy

The 2018-19 LWVRV will be expanding its purview to include Josephine County, network with other local Leagues on issues of mutual interest, and, very importantly, host the State Convention. We also have new information on the League’s recommendations for new Ballot Measures. Join us for an informative update on the activities and offer suggestions and advice for our success.

2018 Election Timeline

Deadline for Voter Pamphlet filings for candidates and measures—September 10

Deadline for Voter Registration—October 16

Ballots mailed—October 19

Election Day—November 6

IN ORDER TO COVER EVERYTHING AND GIVE TIME FOR Q AND A,
WE NEED TO START AT 11:45 ON THE DOT.
PLease bring a bag lunch.
Coffee and tea will be provided.

President’s Pen......................................................p. 2

Voters Service Report...........................................p. 3

Action Committee Report.................................p. 4

Announcements....................................................p. 5

LWVOR Ballot Measure Endorsements..................p. 5

Letter to the Editor.................................................p. 7

League Calendar....................................................p. 8
President’s Pen  September 2018

September already! My calendar year has always seemed to begin in September. School was the reason. My life revolved around the traditional school year: a parent and a spouse who were teachers, children, and myself as a student, even as an adult. Now, September is not school, but League, with the same sense of expectation and excitement (minus the dread).

September’s meeting will have a “What are we doing?” theme. We want to bring members up to date on all that has been happening lately with our League, what we expect to be doing in the near future, and how you can get involved if you choose. Among other activities, we are already receiving more than normal requests for forums, and ballot measure presentations. We have been working with neighboring Leagues to argue against the Jordan Cove Pipeline. We have begun discussions with local Rotary Clubs, possibly partnering in ways to practice civil discourse in our Rogue Valley communities. We will also be concluding our local study this year.

There’s more. The LWV Oregon Convention is coming to town this coming May and as hosts we will want this event to be memorable (in a good way). Everyone will be involved with the Convention one way or another – from a smile of appreciation to chairing the overseeing committee (thanks, Kate and Vanya!).

This is an important year for us. Be part of the excitement, starting at our September meeting.

—Jackie Clary

2018 HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

Imagine a rainy, cold winter’s day, perfect for reading a good book with a cup of hot coffee, chocolate, or tea nearby. What could possibly make it more perfect (other than a nice fire – in the fireplace, of course - a sleeping cat, a mortgage-free house, etc.)? How about a small bite or two of delicious biscotti? We will be selling biscotti this fall to be delivered to you at our meeting in December. Biscotti could be used as a small gift (it has a fairly broad appeal, travels well, lasts forever, locally made, tastes really good, etc.). We will have samples at our September meeting as well as order forms.
November 6, 2018 General Election

Selected Rogue Valley Races & Measures

**Josephine County**

*Commissioner, Position 1*
Ron Smith
Darin Fowler

*Sheriff*
Dave R. Daniel
Jonathan L. Knapp

*County Clerk & Recorder*
Rhiannon Henkels
Sandi Cassanelli

*Local Measures*

#17-85 City of Grants Pass-Retail Marijuana Sales Tax

#15-176 Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District #9

**Jackson County**

*County Clerk*
Chris Walker

*Sheriff*
Nathan Sickler
Bill Froehlich

*Commissioner Position 1*
R-Rick Dyer
D-Amy Thuren
L-Frank W. Brannen

*Commissioner Position 3*
R-Colleen Roberts
D-Lanita C. Witt
L-Edward Stanton

*Measure 15-181*
Should Jackson County expand constitutional definition of firearms and prohibit enforcement of laws that regulate their manufacture, sale and possession?
Local Leagues from Coos to Klamath Counties and LWVOR Ask State and Federal Agencies to Deny Permits for Jordan Cove Energy Project

By the LLs of Coos County, Umpqua Valley, Rogue Valley, and Klamath County

At the 2018 Convention of the LWVUS, grassroots membership from around the nation approved a LWVOR-proposed resolution that “... supports a set of climate assessment criteria that ... require that the latest climate science be used to evaluate proposed energy policies and major projects ...” The Resolution was relevant to the four local Leagues in southern Oregon counties that would be affected by the proposed Jordan Cove Energy Project (JCEP)—LWVs of Coos County, Umpqua Valley, Rogue Valley, and Klamath County. Based on the Resolution and longstanding LWV of Oregon policies regarding water quality and quantity, and offshore and coastal management, the four local LWVs jointly submitted substantive comments addressing permit criteria to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE, 26 pp.) and Oregon’s Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ, 38 pp.) regarding the JCEP. They urged the agencies to deny the permit applications currently before them including Clean Water Act Sections 401 and 404 and USACE’s Section 408 regulations. The LWVOR submitted a comment with the same message.

The potential impacts of the project were addressed in joint submissions to DEQ and USACE. The LWV group found that the JCEP project would not be in the public interest, as it would serve the business needs of a private, for-profit Canadian corporation planning to export liquified natural gas (LNG) to other countries, without serving Oregon’s own energy needs. In the process, the JCEP facility and its operations would increase Oregon’ greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 2.6 million “new” metric tons of emissions per year. In addition, the project would place water quality and quantity resources at risk and disrupt existing uses of the watersheds and bay. The use of eminent domain to take property of hundreds of unwilling private landowners without a public benefit is also troubling.

A 229-mile, 36-inch buried natural gas pipeline from Coos Bay to Malin would require a 95-foot wide clear-cut and cross almost 500 rivers, streams, wetlands, and other waterbodies. This activity is likely to affect water temperatures and turbidity and pose risks to fish, drinking water, and other water uses covered by Oregon water quality standards. The dredging to bury the pipe may release into the waterways soil contaminants from current and historic industrial activity. Construction activities may trigger wildfires.

The Project development in the Coos Bay area would include extensive modifications of the bay’s aquatic and riparian habitat and navigation channel for access and LNG liquefaction operations. The LNG storage and chilling operations and size of the facility and proposed operations would conflict with existing ecosystem services of the estuary and bay that support fisheries, shellfish, aquaculture, recreation, and critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. If JCEP were to be built, its needs can be expected to take precedence over other navigation uses of the channel, including for other commercial activities and recreation.

The LWV joint comments question installing a facility with highly explosive and flammable gasses and liquids on a site near a population center, an airport, and in an earthquake and tsunami zone. Pipelines leak (methane) and can also rupture and explode, raising health and safety concerns for residents and communities along the pipeline.

This joint action by local Leagues, supported by the LWVOR and taken in solidarity with other community members, organizations and tribes, is a step on a long journey to stop this project.
Announcements

- **Voters Service**— October 11 will be a candidate forum for Jackson County Commissioners.

- **Kappy Eaton**, long-time LWVOR leader at the state legislature, died August 14, 2018 in Eugene. Memorial gifts can be made to the League of Women Voters, 338 West 11th Avenue, Eugene 97401

- **Legislative Process Day**: The LWVOR Action Committee has scheduled its Legislative Process Day for Nov. 16 at the State Library in Salem.

- **Convention Planning**: May 17-19, 2019: LWVRV will be the host League for the 2019 LVWOR Convention at the Ashland Springs Hotel. Stay tuned for more details, as well as volunteer opportunities, as the year progresses. We will need your help to make this convention a success.

- **Local Government Study Meeting** is at 7pm Sept. 11 Location TBA

State Ballot Measure Decisions LWVOR Board

**Measure 102 – the LWVOR Board endorsed a Yes vote**

**LWVUS Position**: Government at all levels must make available sufficient funds for housing-assistance programs.

When families or individuals cannot afford decent housing, government should provide assistance in the form of income and/or subsidized housing.

Government programs providing subsidies to the building, financing and insuring industries for housing for lower-income families should be evaluated in terms of units produced rather than in terms of benefits accruing to these industries.

**Ballot Title**: Amends Constitution: Allows local bonds for financing affordable housing with nongovernmental entities. Requires voter approval, annual audits.

LWVOR recommends support of this referral from the legislature. Housing for low income people is difficult to find. Homelessness is an increasing problem. This measure will allow local jurisdictions to partner with non-governmental entities to help pay for housing through the sale of bonds.

**Metro Housing Bond Measure – on behalf of the Washington County Unit, the LWVOR Board endorsed a Yes vote**

This is consistent with LWVOR’s endorsement of Measure 102, the referral from the Legislature that allows bonding for housing. The Metro Housing Bond would allow money to go to Washington, Multnomah and Washington Counties for affordable housing. The two county Leagues and the one state unit in these counties have voted to support this bond measure. If Measure 102 passes, then monies raised with this Metro measure could be used in partnership with nongovernmental entities, allowing the money to go farther.
**Measure 103 – the LWVOR Board endorsed a No vote**

**LWVOR Position:** Evaluating Taxes. The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes any tax proposal should be evaluated with regard to its effect on the entire tax structure. The League supports the following criteria for evaluating taxes and tax systems.

1. A tax system that is based on ability to pay, but that applies a benefits-received principle wherever reasonable and that recognizes the role of social expediency;
2. A tax system that is equitable, adequate, stable, easy to administer and as simple as possible;
3. A tax system that takes into account the taxes levied by all levels of government covering the same tax base;
4. A tax system that is flexible enough to adjust to social and economic changes (e.g., population shifts, development of new industry, demands for more services and changes in business cycles);
5. A tax system that recognizes the individual’s responsibility for government services by providing for broad sharing of the tax burden.

**Ballot Title:** Amends Constitution: Prohibits taxes/fees based on transactions for "groceries" (defined) enacted or amended after September 2017.

The LWVOR opposes this measure because it does not share the tax burden. An entire segment of business would be exempted from paying any taxes if a sales tax were to be enacted. It would also result in revenue loss from businesses involved in any aspect of groceries.

**Measure 104 – the LWVOR Board endorsed a No vote**

**LWVOR Position:** A tax limitation is justified if it provides safeguards in the regulation of state and local services and economy. A limitation is not desirable if it prevents provision of services, disrupts government functioning, inhibits progress or results in loss of local control.

**Ballot Title:** Amends Constitution: Expands (beyond taxes) application of requirement that three-fifths legislative majority approve bills raising revenue.

The LWVOR opposes this measure. The measure is about fees, tax credits and any other measures that could be construed as raising revenue. Fees are vital to the funding of many state agencies. An agency would have to get a 3/5ths majority from the Legislature to raise any fees for services or adjust credits that might be construed as raising revenue. The legislature currently approves fee increases or retroactively acknowledges fees that agencies are allowed to raise between sessions. BUT only a majority vote is required. Without fees, many state agencies would not be able to provide the services that they are supposed to be providing.

**Measure 105 – the LWVOR Board endorsed a No vote**

**LWVUS Position:** The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

**Ballot Title:** Repeals law limiting use of state/local law enforcement resources to enforce federal immigration laws.

This measure repeals the law limiting use of state/local law enforcement resources to enforce federal immigration laws – The LWVOR opposes this ballot measure. Local governments should not have to aid the federal government in arresting immigrants without there being a warrant or valid order for such an arrest. The law that this measure seeks to overturn has been in effect since the 1980’s.

**Measure 106 – the LWVOR Board endorsed a No vote**

**LWVUS Position:** Every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality health care, including birth control and the privacy to make reproductive choices.

**Ballot Title:** Amends Constitution: Prohibits spending "public funds" (defined) directly/indirectly for "abortion" (defined); exceptions; reduces abortion access.

The LWVOR opposes this ballot measure because this law would not only impact services to women on the Oregon Health Plan, but would also take away the coverage that employees of the State of Oregon now have for abortion services.
Letter to the Editor

Men as LWV Members….  

During this past LWVUS convention, which I was unable to attend, there were (as always) multiple issues and subjects to cover. One of the main themes was “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.” Various images and notions may fill our heads when these words are spoken. And for women it can feel very personal. For those who have fought for parity so long, still not achieving it (whether in government, the board-room, or on the pay-stub), equity sometimes feels a long way off. Without question, we need change, and we need women-power to do it. Yes, like every member I know, I support diversity, equity and inclusion.

However, as one league member, I simply wanted to voice my opinion, that I am particularly gratified that “inclusion” in the LWV includes men. Generally, the men brave enough to join an organization with the word ‘women’ in the title, are the kind of men who do us proud. My observations have shown me that this is often the situation.

We are our best selves in League – the best role models we can be – when we honor and include all our members equally.

Barbara Klein  
LWVRV Action Chair

If you are reading this newsletter on-line, maybe you don’t need a mailed paper copy. Call membership at 541-772-5044 if you would prefer not to get the newsletter by U.S. Mail, or leave a note at KDonham@gmail.com.

= 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
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