Thursday May 16, 2019

Annual Meeting
OEA Building 2495 S. Pacific Highway

11:30 am—1:30pm

Please bring a dish to share along with your plate and silverware. Glassware will be provided. Be advised that the OEA will allow us to serve alcohol if you would like to bring wine or beer.

Many members’ anniversary dates come up in May. While there is no fee for the Annual Meeting this year, you may want to pay your dues and make the membership committee’s job much easier.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the OEA Bldg this year rather than at a local restaurant, which has been our tradition. This is in order to simplify our activities in preparation for the State Convention to be held in Ashland. We hope members will try to attend both events. In addition to approving the new board for the coming year, we will be approving our Local Government Study, the annual budget, and celebrating our new non-profit status. It is important to have a quorum.
The Rogue Valley League will host the **2019 LWVOR State Convention, May 17-19**, at the Ashland Springs Hotel in downtown Ashland. Convention will begin with a Friday night Dine-Around and continue until Sunday noon. Scheduled speakers include Peter Buckley for luncheon talk on Oregon finance, and Dr. Dominick DellaSala as the banquet keynote speaker with the topic of climate change in Oregon. We look forward to seeing many of you in Ashland that weekend.

**LWVOR State Convention in Ashland**

“A Beacon of Democracy... for 99 Years”

LWV Rogue Valley will be sending three voting delegates to the Convention. However, observers are encouraged to attend as well. Please call Jackie 541-479-4486 to register as an observer. Full-time observers pay a registration fee of $45. Meal tickets for lunch on Saturday are $30, and dinner on Saturday is $45. Payment and registration information is due by MAY 5. Checks should be made payable to LWVOR. Workbooks can be purchased for $15, but there is a mailing fee of $10. The workbook is also available online.

Attending convention is a wonderful learning experience. All members are encouraged to attend. LWVRV will be selling merchandise at the event in the Ashland Springs Hotel. Friday night will include a dine-around in Ashland.
CALL TO ORDER
- Introduction of Parliamentarian and Secretary
- Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes (see page 5)
- Appointment of a Committee to Approve Minutes of 2019
- Adoption of meeting Rules (see page 4, Parliamentary Procedure)
- Adoption of agenda with flexibility

SELECTION OF LOCAL PROGRAM
- Presentation of Current Local Positions (See positions document pages 19-24)
- Discussion
- Adoption of Local Positions
- Proposed Local Study/update from the floor
- Discussion
- Approve Local Study Update (pages 16-18)

FINANCIAL REPORT
- Treasurer’s Report
- Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Budget (pages 12-14)
- Adoption of Budget by Members

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- Report of the Nomination Committee (see Slate page 15)
- Nominations from the floor
- Election

ADJOURNMENT
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Parliamentary procedure is necessary for the orderly conduct of a local League Annual Meeting. A parliamentarian will be present, who may be consulted about questions you may have.

PROPOSED RULES

Composition: Only members of the League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley in good standing have the privilege of participating. Visitors are welcome, but they may not speak without the consent of the Chair and may not vote.

Quorum: Twenty (20) members constitute a quorum at all general membership meetings of the LWVRV.

Debate: Only members shall have the privilege of the floor. When addressing the chair, a member shall first clearly state his or her name. No member shall speak more than once until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so. Debate shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker unless otherwise specified.

Motions: Paper and pencil will be available to members. After a motion has been made it shall be put in writing, signed by the mover, and sent at once to the Secretary.

Voting: A majority vote of those present and voting shall be required for adoption of any measure except where bylaws specify otherwise.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A MEMBER

To demand orderly procedure.

To appeal the decision of the chair.

To be informed on the question of procedure.

To make, second, debate, or amend motions, if debatable or amendable.

To vote and to be assured of an accurate count.
League of Women Voters Rogue Valley

ANNUAL MEETING

May 10, 2018

Taprock Northwest Grill, Grants Pass

Attending: 29 members and 2 guests

Meeting called to order, Jackie Clary, President: 1:05 pm, Quorum established, Bill Mansfield, Parliamentarian.

Adopt meeting rules on p 6: M/S/P: Klein/Chapman

Adopt meeting agenda: M/S/P: Walsh/Bennett

Minutes from 2017 M/S/P: Donham/Weathers. Committee to review for 2018: Mary Sinclair, Normary Barrett, Judy Benjamin.

Selection of Local Program: Maintain local positions: M/S/P: Klein/ Mary Lou


Voter Services Update: Barrett


Budget: (p. 19 in packet) M/S/P: Bennett/Werblow

President’s Report: Jackie Clary. Thanks to Kathleen Donham, various secretaries, Werblow, Klein, Black, other volunteers.

Nominating Committee Report: (p. 20 in packet). Still need a volunteer for Fundraising, Margie Peterson on Nom comm. Vote on new Board Members: M./S/P: Sinclair/Barrett

Chair of Nominating Committee: Judy Benjamin, passed, Margie Peterson will be on Nominating Committee.

Adjourn at 1:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Culbertson, Secretary
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE ROGUE VALLEY, INC. BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Name

Sec. 1 Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley, Inc.; hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVRV or as the League. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS, and of the League of Women Voters of Oregon.

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Policy

Sec. 1 Purposes. The purposes of the LWVRV are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues. LWVRV is organized and operated primarily for charitable, educational and advocacy purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, LWVRV shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of LWVRV shall be attempting to influence legislation.

Sec. 2 Political Policy. The LWVRV shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Sec. 1 Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVRV shall be eligible to be a voting member or an associate member.

Sec. 2 Types of Membership.

Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWVRV shall be voting members of the local League, State League and of the LWVUS. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members, excused from paying dues.

(1) Individuals who live within an area of a local League may join the League or any other local League;

2) Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be a state Members-at-large;

Associate Members. All others who join LWVRV shall be associates.

ARTICLE IV

Officers and Board of Directors

Sec. 1 Enumeration of Officers. The officers of LWVRV shall be a president or co-presidents, a first vice-president, secretary or co-secretaries, and a treasurer or co-treasurers. In the absence of a president or co-presidents, an executive committee will hold the office of president.
Sec. 2. **Enumeration of the Board Members.** The LWVRV Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the LWVRV, not more than six elected directors and not more than six appointed directors.

Sec. 3. **Election of Officers and Directors of the Board of Directors.** The officers shall be elected by the general membership for a term of two years at the Annual Meeting, and shall assume office at the end of the Annual Meeting. The president or co-presidents, and the first vice-president, secretary or co-secretaries, and treasurer or co-treasurers shall be elected in even numbered years. Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each annual meeting and shall serve a term of two years, taking office on June 1st.

Sec. 4. **Executive Committee.** In place of a president, an executive committee, consisting of no fewer than three members selected by the nominating committee and placed on the slate to be elected at the Annual Meeting. The newly elected Board may select no more than 2 additional members to serve on the executive committee. Revised May 2013

The executive committee shall have such usual powers of supervision and management, as may pertain to the office of president and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the board.

Sec. 5. **Number, Selection and term of Office of Appointed Directors.** The elected officers and directors shall appoint such additional directors, not exceeding six, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the LWVRV. The term of office of the appointed directors shall expire concurrently with the term of office of the elected directors.

Sec. 6. **Qualifications.** No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this corporation who is not a voting member of the LWVRV.

Sec. 7. **The President.** The president shall preside at all meetings of the corporation and of the LWVRV Board of Directors. The president may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The president shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee, and shall have the usual powers of supervision and management, as may pertain to the office of the president, and perform such other duties as may be designated by the LWVRV board. The past president may be a member of the board a year after she/he serves as president to preserve continuity and help the new president or executive committee.

Sec. 8. **The Vice President.** The vice-president shall, in the event of the absence, resignation, disability, or death of the president, possess all the powers and perform all the duties as president.

Sec. 9. **The Secretary or Co-Secretaries.** The secretary or co-secretaries shall keep minutes of the meetings of the LWVRV Board of Directors and the Annual Meeting, shall notify all officers and director of their election; shall sign with the president all contracts and other instruments so authorized by the LWVRV Board; and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

Sec. 10. **The Treasurer or Co-Treasurer.** The treasurer or co-treasurers shall collect and receive all monies, shall be custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in a bank or banks designated by the LWVRV Board of Directors, and shall disburse the same only upon order of the LWVRV Board. The treasurer shall present statements to the LWVRV board and membership at regular meetings and the annual report to the Annual Meeting.

Sec. 11. **Resignation and Removal of Officers and Directors.** Three consecutive absences from a board meeting by any member without valid reason, as determined by the board, shall constitute a resignation. Failure to observe the procedures outlined in Article V, Sec. 2, when a board member has a conflict of interest with the LWVRV will result in the board member’s resignation or removal. Any officer or board member may be removed for cause, as determined by the Board, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors.
ARTICLE V

LWVRV Board of Directors’ Operations

Sec. 1. **Powers and Duties.** The LWVRV Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the corporation with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the membership. The LWVRV board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program on national, state and local governmental matters as adopted by the membership. It shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the Board of Directors of the LWVOR for carrying out the program. The LWVRV board shall have authority where circumstances require, to make reasonable and prudent adjustments in the existing budget approved at the Annual Meeting to implement, so far as feasible, the general emphasis of the budget. The LWVRV board shall create and designate special committees, as it deems necessary.

Sec. 2. **Conflict of Interest.** A conflict of interest is not cause for a board member’s resignation if the following procedure has been observed:

- The material facts of the activity have been disclosed to the Board of Directors.
- The activity is not contrary to the interests, financial or otherwise, of the League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley.
- The Board of Directors approves, by a majority vote, of the board member’s activity.
- Any board member who has material interest in a specific issue shall not vote on matters relating to that issue.

Sec. 3. **Regular Board Meetings.** There shall be at least eight (8) regular meetings of the LWVRV Board of Directors annually. The president shall notify each member of the board of all regular meetings. No action taken at any regular LWVRV board meeting attended by a majority of the members of the board shall be invalidated because of the failure of any member or members of the board to receive notice.

Sec. 4. **Special Meetings.** The president may call special meetings of the LWVRV Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the request of five members of the board. Members of the board shall be notified of the time and place of special meetings by telephone, e-mail, letter sent at least six days prior to such meeting.

If an occasion arises which necessitates immediate action, remote communications (e-mail, teleconferencing, telephone) may be utilized to make a decision. In this case, the 6-day requirement for special meetings is waived. All LWVRV board members shall be notified of the meeting and its purpose by e-mail or telephone. Before any decision can be made, all members must be given an opportunity to participate in a remote discussion. A simple majority of all LWVRV board members is required for approval or disapproval. In the case of e-mail, response must be made within 24 hours of the notice. The president shall fully inform all board members of the results before acting on the vote. Results of e-mail or teleconference voting shall be reported at the next regular board meeting and recorded in the minutes.

Sec. 5. **Membership General Meetings.** The LWVRV Board of Directors shall determine the times and place of membership general meetings.
Sec. 6. **Annual Meeting.** The board of the LWVRV shall call an Annual Meeting before May 31, the exact date to be determined by the board. The Annual Meeting shall:

a. Adopt a local program for the coming year.

b. Elect officers, directors, and three members of the Nominating Committee (chair and two members);

c. Adopt an adequate budget; and

d. Transact such other business as may properly come before it.

**ARTICLE VI**

**Financial Administration**

Sec. 1. **The Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the LWVRV shall commence on the first day of June each year.

Sec. 2. **Dues.** The amount of the dues of the LWVRV shall be determined by a vote of the members at the Annual Meeting, if the board has recommended a dues change.

Sec. 3. **Budget.** A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall be sent to the membership four weeks before the Annual Meeting. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Sec. 4. **Budget Committee.** A Budget Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least four months prior to the Annual meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The treasurer or co-treasurers shall be, ex-officio members of the Budget Committee, but shall not be eligible to serve as chair.

Sec. 5. **Independent Review.** The Board of Directors shall provide for an annual independent review of the books of the treasurer, which shall be made within the two weeks following the end of the fiscal year.

**ARTICLE VII**

**Nominations and Elections**

Sec. 1. **Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the LWVRV Board of Directors. The chair and two members, who shall not be members of the LWVRV Board of Directors, shall be elected by membership at the Annual Meeting for a one-year term. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The Board of Directors shall appoint the other members for a one-year term, immediately following the Annual Meeting. Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors. In the event a vacancy occurs in the chair position of the Nominating Committee, the LWVRV Board of Directors shall designate an off-board member to serve in this capacity. Any voting member may send suggestions for nominations for officers and directors to this committee.

Sec. 2. **Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations From the Floor.** The report of Nominating Committee of its nominations for Officers, Directors, and members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to all members four weeks before the date of the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.
Sec. 3. **Elections.** The elections shall be by ballot provided that when there is but one nominee for each office, the secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority vote of members present and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Sec. 4. **Vacancies.** Any vacancy, other than in the office of the president, may be filled until the next annual meeting by a majority vote of the remaining members of the LWVRV Board of Directors. In filling the vacancy, the LWVRV Board of Directors shall consider names submitted by the Nominating Committee.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**The Program**

Sec. 1. **Authorization.** The governmental principles adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of the Program.

Sec. 2. **Program.** The program of the LWVRV shall consist of the following:

- Action to protect the right to vote of every citizen;
- Those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action; and
- Encouragement of informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Sec. 3. **Adoption.** The Annual Meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures:

- The Board of Directors shall consider the suggestions sent by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.
- The proposed program shall be sent to all members four weeks before the Annual Meeting along with a list of program items suggested by members but not recommended by the Board of Directors.
- A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors. The proposed program may be amended by a majority of those voting at the annual Meeting.
- Suggestions for the program submitted by voting members prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that: The Annual Meeting shall order consideration by majority vote, of those present and voting, and The Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by two-thirds vote of members present and voting.
- Changes in the adopted program may be made provided that:
  - Information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed, and
  - Final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

Sec. 4. **Member Action.** Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized to do so by the LWVRV Board of Directors.
ARTICLE IX

National Convention, State Convention and Council

Sec. 1. National Convention. The LWVRV Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall select delegates to that Convention in the number allotted the LWVRV under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS.

Sec. 2. State Convention. The LWVRV Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state offices, shall elect delegates to that convention in the number allotted the LWVRV under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVOR.

Sec. 3. State Council. The LWVRV Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office, shall elect delegates to that Council in the number allotted the LWVRV under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVOR.

ARTICLE X

Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the corporation in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE XII

Dissolution

In the event of the merger or dissolution of the corporation for any reason, all money and securities or other property of whatsoever nature which at the time be owned or under the absolute control of the corporation shall be distributed at the discretion of the board, or such other persons as shall be charged by law with the liquidation or winding up of the corporation and its affairs, to any member organization of the League of Women Voters national organization which is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; or if none of these organizations are then in existence or exempt under those tax provisions, then, at the discretion of the board, to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under designated tax provisions.

Revised May 2017
League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley
Budget Committee - 2019-20 Proposed Budget

### Income

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Join us on April 29th, from 9:00am-3pm at the Willamette Heritage Center! Day at the Legislature is hosted by the League of Women Voters of Oregon. Registration begins at 9:00, lunch at noon. Deadline to register is April 21st.

[http://lwvor.org/day-at-the-legislature-2019/]
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Nominations for 2019-2020 Board of Directors LWVRV

All terms are for one year

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<tr>
<td>Director # 6</td>
<td>Peggy Byrnes</td>
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Portfolios for League functions over the next year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Chair</th>
<th>Barbara Klein</th>
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<tr>
<td>Committee: Observer Corps—Barbara Davidson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resources—Shirley Weathers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare Issues—Bill Walsh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>Shiena Polehn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voters Service</td>
<td>Normary Barrett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Lorraine Werblow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominating committee members (2)</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Kathleen Donham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>Bill Walsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>Olena Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>Nancy Swan</td>
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Nominations from the floor are accepted at the Annual Meeting. From the By-laws: *Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.*

Nominating committee 2018-19: Judy Benjamen, Chair; Lorraine Werblow, Kathleen Donham, Barbara Davidson, Bill Mansfield.
The League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley believes that Jackson and Josephine counties have much in common, despite their differences. We support county governments via the Board of Commissioners (BOC) that act primarily as a policy making body. We continue to support their work to pass appropriate ordinances, approve all budget decisions and act in their quasi-judicial capacity in land use matters. We believe in a role that is more policy focused than administrative.

**Administrative Duties**

The League supports the BOC's delegation of administrative functions to an appointed, professional administrator, but reasserts the League's position that policy making shall be reserved to the elected BOC and that overall responsibility for all functions of county government ultimately rests with the BOC(s).

The LWVRV believes that in both Rogue Valley counties there should be a position of full-time administrator, whether such a role is titled County Administrator, Chief of Staff, or other similar designation, and whether established by charter, appointment or delegation of duties.

Qualifications and criterion of that position should be established by ordinance to provide transparency. An administrator reports to commissioners and relieves commissioners of administrative duties, allowing commissioners more time for proactive policy decision-making and interaction with the public.

**Appointments**

The League believes that appointments for any position, especially a county administrator, must have total transparency, including open application process, accessible public information regarding applicant pool, open meetings, professional criterion and requirements, and easily available information on determination of the selection panel. Standardized and open process is most important.

**Appointments of Non-Partisan County Offices.** The League believes that offices requiring expertise in a professional field, that are not required to make policy decisions, or are not politically sensitive, should be appointive rather than elective.

The League believes that the offices of Assessor, Surveyor, Treasurer (Josephine County) and County Counsel (as of this writing elected in Josephine County) should be appointive rather than elected, and that qualifications conform to state requirements. (ORS 249.031)

We retain our previous LWVRV position, supporting the election of a County Clerk and Sheriff. It is our belief that the County Clerk and Sheriff hold a special place in the minds of residents in both counties. A County Clerk works for the voters, oversees elections and maintains county records (ORS 205.110). A Sheriff works for the people, and is the conservator of the peace for the county (ORS 206.110).

**Partisan and Nonpartisan Elections**

Partisan labels may help some voters, and may not pose a problem. However non-affiliated voters, and members of ‘third’ political parties, cannot vote in the two major partisan primaries, thus the vote of this growing number of registered voters is diluted or weakened. While there may be other reasons to support
nonpartisan elections, the League believes that we must support nonpartisan elections for the Board of Commissioners until some alternative structural change to the primary system is adopted in our counties.

**Composition**

The League continues to support a Board of Commissioners of 5 members or more in both Josephine and Jackson Counties to best serve residents.

The increased number of Commissioners (including related administrative duties and personnel costs) should be accomplished by reorganization. Both counties need restructured budgets to accomplish this, despite the possibility that they may have different solutions. Neither county should increase the number of commissioners at the same current pay rates (and corresponding work hours). We believe there are alternative ways to increase the number of commissioners without taxing the taxpayer more. While part-time positions (or other options to full-time wages) may offer various opportunities, we reject volunteer positions, especially in full time situations. We believe that the concept of volunteers functioning as commissioners clearly restricts the pool of candidates to only those able to afford serving without pay.

**Electoral Systems and Structure**

LWV Rogue Valley joins the state League in recognizing that certain electoral system criteria are important in electing the Board of Commissioners (as well as other offices within the counties).

Most preferred are systems which:

- elect a commission that proportionally reflects overall electorate;
- enable commissioners to serve all voters of their County;
- are easy to use and understand;
- encourage voter turnout and voter engagement;
- encourage those with minority opinions to vote;
- discourage negative campaigning;
- are resistant to Gerrymandering; and
- provide for the greatest level of voter representation.

Secondarily, we support systems that: are easy to administer by elections officials; encourage cooperation across party lines and are not overly burdensome to taxpayers.

We do not believe that it is important for an electoral structure to protect the two-party system.

**Districts and At-large geographical boundaries.** We recognize that frequently like-minded populations assume that districts would be the solution to achieving a fairer voice in elections. We are doubtful that a change from at-large to districts would be successful in combating the issue of inadequate representation.

LWVRV supports a change to a full proportional representation electoral system (one such as, but not limited to, Ranked Choice Voting) for *multi-winner* elections in an at-large area (such as our counties). Secondarily, we support a semi-proportional system. Recognizing disadvantages to large portions of the electorate, we oppose ‘at-large bloc’ elections which use a winner-take-all approach. Further, we are mindful that Ranked Choice Voting for *single winner* elections (aka Instant Runoff Voting) achieves less representation than a full or semi proportional system, but would be an improvement over use of plurality in single winner elections.
**Funding Alternatives.** LWVRV believes that the public should be made aware of better options to our electoral systems. Financial support for such changes in Jackson or Josephine County may be situational to each county, and must be flexible. If such an electoral change is on the ballot, we believe it is vital to provide voters clear telage regarding advantages and disadvantages, as well as transparent naming of funding sources.

**Citizen Participation in Rogue Valley County Government**

LWVRV strongly supports the 4 principles of:

- Accountability,
- Citizen Influence,
- Early involvement of Citizens, and
- Transparency.

Concerning the policies and procedures that facilitate citizen involvement, the League:

- Continues to emphasize the importance of citizen involvement and participation in the establishment of policy through citizen advisory groups and commissions.
- Believes that committees, advisory groups and commissions should not exist for Public Relations purposes, and that their work should be heard, respected and considered in a timely fashion.
- Believes that the BOC should provide widespread notice throughout their county of all vacancies on advisory boards and commissions. The Board should establish terms of service and qualifications of such positions. It should conduct interviews and select candidates who will bring diversity and experience in their service to their respective counties.
- Reaffirms its belief in the importance of the Oregon Open Meetings Law (ORS 192.630). Notices and agendas for all public meetings of each BOC should be given widespread, advance publicity in media throughout Jackson or Josephine County.

**Charter Amendments:**

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

--- End of Position ---

Presented to LWVRV Board on behalf of the committee, March 2019, by Barbara Klein, Study Chair
League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

Local League Positions

GOVERNANCE

Jackson County Government

Adopted in 1999

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: 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

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)
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.

**League of Women Voters of Oregon** (LWVOR) positions can be viewed on its website: [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org)

**The National League of Women Voters** (LWVUS) positions can be viewed on its website: [www.lwvus.org](http://www.lwvus.org)
The LWVRV Board has asked several members to draft policies, procedures and/or guidelines related to our new tax-exempt status, 501(c)3. However, while that work is being done, you should know that your membership dues are considered to be charitable contributions. Because you receive no goods or services for this contribution, it is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by U.S. tax law. Please note that you will not receive a receipt or acknowledgement of your dues payment and you are responsible to keeping a record of your contribution.

Membership dues payable on your anniversary date. Many members currently pay in May during the Annual Meeting. As a League member, you are automatically part of the National League (LWVUS) and the Oregon State League (LWVOR). The Membership committee adds you to the databases, so let them know if you are not getting content from the state League or if you need your anniversary date.

If you are reading this newsletter on-line, maybe you don’t need a mailed paper copy. Call the newsletter 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 Committee:** Lorraine Werblow, Debra Har, Iris Milan, Judith Kurinsky

These members can answer questions about dues, anniversaries, and changes to addresses and phone numbers. Email them at membership@lwvroguevalley.org or call them at numbers in the Directory. Directories were distributed in January. Let membership know if you didn’t receive one.

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**Membership Application**

Name_________________________________________
Address_______________________________________
City___________________________________________
Zip______________Phone________________________
Email__________________________________________

Single membership — $65.00  Spouse/student—$32.50

May we publish your information in the LWVRV Directory?
Y  N

Send check / application to P.O. Box 8555 Medford  OR  97501

Would you like a phone call reminder about meetings? Yes  No

**Areas of Interest:**

- Land Use Issues
- Education
- Election Issues
- Transportation
- Observer Corps
- Healthcare Issues
- Environment
- Local Government
- Children at Risk
- Climate Change
- National Issues
- Voters Service
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<td>LWV Rogue Valley Annual Meeting 11:30-1:30p OEA Bldg. Potluck.</td>
<td>LWVOR State Convention Ashland Springs Hotel Dine-around</td>
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League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 855
Rogue Valley
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Medford OR 97501