

LWVOR Has a NEW Position Open Primaries

Thanks in part to three LWV Rogue Valley members

Sally Smith, Rick Bennett, and Barbara Klein were part of the group of six members around the state who ushered in a new position (adopted by concurrence with the LWV Maryland position).

The New Position

LWVOR supports:

More open primary elections, either through:

- Party primary elections in which unaffiliated voters as well as party members would be permitted to vote in a primary election to choose the nominees of the parties; or
• Individual candidate-based primary elections in which all voters choose among all candidates from all parties on the same ballot with the candidates' party affiliations listed. The subsequent general election ballot would include either
o predetermined number of candidates without regard to partisan affiliation or
o those candidates receiving a predetermined percentage of the total primary votes.

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Thanks to Jackie Clary

LWV Rogue Valley thanks previous member and president, Jackie Clary, for providing our local league a lovely Silent Auction Gift Basket.

It was a fundraiser for our League at the state convention.

We envy the Coos County League for their new member (Jackie). She also continues to serve on the LWVOR state board.

Election Reforms on Tap for 2024

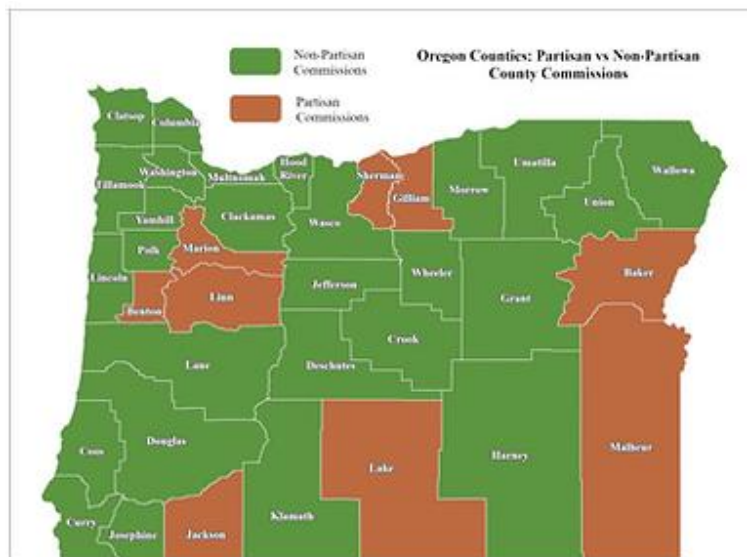
Barbara Klein

Keep your eyes open for **events in late October** (dates and locations coming in next newsletter). Both educational and advocacy get-togethers will be open to the public and League members.

The 2024 ballot may see some vital issues for voters' rights, representation, and election reforms. This is certainly our special bailiwick. We need, and ENCOURAGE, League member involvement both in educating ourselves and others and working for voters toward good election reforms. *Stay tuned for details!*

Subjects on tap include:

- **PNP – People Not Politicians.** Initiative petition (IP 14). A ballot measure to create a statewide Independent Redistricting commission. It has STRONG League support and some of the leadership is from the League. [For more information click here to go to the Oregon People Not Politicians website.](#) www.peoplenotpoliticiansoregon.com Signature gathering will be needed.
- **Honest Elections Oregon:** Fight Political Corruption and Require Disclosure and Transparency. This measure, IP 9, has League support and former LWVOR President Becky Gladson is a chief petitioner. [For more information click here to go to the Honest Elections web page for Petition 9.](#) www.honest-elections.com/petition-9.html Signature gathering is needed.
- **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)** has been referred to the 2024 state ballot by the Oregon legislature. RCV is supported by the League for state and local elections. [Click here for the Oregon RCV website.](#) www.oregonrcv.org
- **Jackson County initiatives (Jackson County for All of Us)** This includes multiple issues involving changes to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners (BOC). [Click here for Jackson County for All of Us website.](#) www.jacksoncountyforall.org
The campaign consists of 3 measures:
 1. **Change the county Board of Commissioners from 3 to 5 commissioners**
 2. **Change the election to non-partisan.** (In this case, different than our support of partisan elections for the state legislature, the League studied and supports local non-partisan elections until the time an alternative election system - such as RCV - is used.) Our 2017 county government study concluded that a non-partisan BOC will allow Non-affiliated voters to have a greater voice.
 3. **Decrease commissioners' salaries,** dividing the current budget among five commissioners. This would still be in line, or above, other Oregon counties. Signature gathering will be needed.



Voter Service News and Activities

Kathleen Donham

Voter Registration

Many thanks to League members Jim and Jean Buck and Trish Bowcock for managing voter registration tables at the Rogue Community College Constitution Day events in Grants Pass and downtown Medford. Trish introduced us to using the new Secretary of State QR code, making it easy for students to register using their phones!



Last day to register for November 7, 2023 election is **October 17**. Ballots will be mailed October 20. Ballot Measure arguments are due by September 11.



Items for the November ballot include:

- Rogue River Rural Fire Protection District
- Colestin RFPD Dissolution
- Eagle Point School District 9 funding
- Ballot Measure 15-218 Rogue River Mayor's Term lengthened
- Ballot Measure 15-219 Rogue River Term Limits removed
- Ballot Measure 15-220 Applegate RFPD 9 levy



**Check or update
your voter
registration.**



Election News

- Gold Hill passed Ballot Measure 15-217, Annexation of Gold Hill into the Rogue Valley Sewer Services, with only 32% of voters casting ballots (305 Yes and 22 No).
- Jackson County particularly welcomes League members to become poll workers (per Chris Walker). Contact the County Clerk for applications. Email elections@jacksoncounty.org or call 541-774-6148.
- Grants Pass will have a special election September 12 for a recall of city Mayor Sara Bristol.
- [Click here to learn more about the recall at the JPR website..](http://www.ijpr.org/politics-government/2023-08-25/grants-pass-mayor-to-face-recall-election-next-month)
www.ijpr.org/politics-government/2023-08-25/grants-pass-mayor-to-face-recall-election-next-month
- [Click here to read the LWVOR Recall Study Proposal by Anne Goldner, LWVOR Issue Positions Chair.](#)

Voter Education

League of Women Voters Oregon partner **The Classroom Law Project** has changed its name to **Civics Learning Project**. [Click here to go to the Civics Learning Project website](https://civicslearning.org). civicslearning.org Frank Honts (Ashland) gave the League a presentation last spring about his organization and programs at the Jackson County Courthouse and courtroom visits for school classes. The mock trials and mock election program will continue, and League members are invited to participate.

Ashland teacher Cambria Floren has requested 100 U.S. Constitutions for this semester, and is interested in our Civics Education program. Civics education is required in Oregon as of 2024. [Click here to see the LWVOR civics education curriculum document \(PDF\) "Vote: A Guide to Civic Engagement"](#).

The LWV Rogue Valley is planning a Voter Service Committee recruitment gathering in late November. Come join the activity. The May and November elections of 2024 will require everyone's participation.

League Members Attend Board Meetings

Sally Smith

Did you know that the **League of Women Voters has members that attend city, county, and school board meetings** to observe the meetings and keep us informed of the business discussed? That this observation and reporting back is essential for the honesty and transparency of good government? That this type of observation and information keeps our community informed of what our elected officials are doing? That this observation and relaying of information is essential to our democracy?

We have some observers who attend some of the meetings in Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, and Grants Pass, but many of the meetings are not covered. We hope that some of the media groups (paper, radio, TV, web) are covering these meetings, but maybe not. And should we rely on others to protect our democracy?

I've found most of the meetings can be attended from home via zoom. This makes it extremely convenient for the observer. And some of the meetings are recorded, which also allows viewing them at a time that suits the observer, like perhaps the following day.



We can always use more volunteers to cover the multiple meetings in our Rogue Valley.

If you're interested in becoming an observer for any of these community meetings, I'd love to hear from you. My name is Sally Smith and you can contact me at 623-229-9555.

Want to be part of LWVOR (state) Action Committee?

Members are welcome to join the LWVOR action committee. (Some of the members are shown below.) You can follow an issue of interest, or just one particular bill that's not already followed by someone else. You might even follow a state committee or work group. The committee meets weekly during the legislative season and reports to all members (and the public) through our weekly Legislative Reports. [Click here to see the reports on our website.](#) www.lwvor.org/legislative-report

If you are interested in joining the Action Committee, you can contact Barbara Klein locally at action@lwvroguevalley.org



Are You Receiving Your Full Membership Benefit?

If you are not receiving the LWV Oregon quarterly *Voter Newsletter*, [click here to sign up to get the newsletter emailed to you.](#)

[Click here to see the most recent LWV Oregon Voter Newsletter](#)

www.lwvor.org/post/voter-newsletter-summer-2023

LWVRV Members Attended the LWV State League Convention

The Rogue Valley Chapter had several delegates at the 2023 state convention in Eugene, held at the Graduate Eugene hotel. Voting delegates included Jean Buck and Barbara Klein. Observers were Jim Buck and Olena Black. Jackie Clary is with the state board.



From left to right are: Jim Buck, Jean Buck, Olena Black, Jackie Clary and Barbara Klein

Youth Council

Also attending the state convention were members of the LWV Youth Council in Oregon, an active new group. THREE of the members are from the Grants Pass area.



LWVRV Calendar

September

- Monday 18 Voter Registration at Rogue Community College, 10:00-1:00
- Wednesday 27 Newsletter articles due

October

- Saturday 7 LWVOR Fall Workshop, In-Person or Zoom, 10-2:00
[Click here for more information about the workshop on our website](#)
www.lwvor.org/events-1/fall-workshop-2023
- Friday 27 Newsletter articles due

- The League of Women Voters Rogue Valley welcomes submissions to our newsletter, *The Voters' Voice*. Editor Jim Buck can be reached at newsletter@lwvroguevalley.org and 541-830-0602.
- LWVRV
P.O. Box 8555
Medford, OR 97501
- Contact the webmaster: webadmin@lwvroguevalley.org
- Website: lwrv.org
- Facebook page: www.facebook.com/lwrv/
- Email: pres@lwvroguevalley.org
- If you must have a paper copy of this newsletter mailed to you, please call Jim at 541-830-0602 or email newsletter@lwvroguevalley.org
- LWV members should also be receiving newsletters by email from State and National LWV.
- **To join LWVRV or renew your membership** online using check or debit card, or to download a membership application form and mail it to us, [click here to go to our website](#)
- **To donate to the Rogue Valley Chapter of LWV**, [click here to go to the donation page on our website](#)