



# THE ADVOCATE

## League of Women Voters of Ashland

OCTOBER 2007

P.O. Box 1296, Ashland, Oregon 97520  
[www.ashland.or.lwvnet.org](http://www.ashland.or.lwvnet.org) [info@ashland.or.lwvnet.org](mailto:info@ashland.or.lwvnet.org)

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, A NONPARTISAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, ENCOURAGES INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT, WORKS TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF MAJOR PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES, AND INFLUENCES PUBLIC POLICY THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.

### LWVA BOARD 2007-2008

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Vanya Sloan (531-8457)

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Valentine Jones, Special Projects  
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Grapefruit Fundraiser, Susan Rust  
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Webmaster, Kate Culbertson  
Local Chair of LWVUS Immigration Study, Iris Milan  
Local Chair of LWVOR Water Study, Elin Silveous

**Websites:**

LWV Ashland: [www.ashland.or.lwvnet.org](http://www.ashland.or.lwvnet.org)  
LWV Rogue Valley: [www.lwvrv.org](http://www.lwvrv.org)  
LWVOR: [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org)  
LWVUS: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

## OCTOBER MEETING

### MEASURE 49 FORUM

#### The Legislative Revision of Statutory Measure 37 Affecting Land Use Regulations

*Thursday, October 18, 2007*  
*7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.*  
*Ashland City Council Chambers*  
*1175 E. Main St.*

**Come and hear your elected officials present  
their viewpoints on this important legislation**

**Panelists:**

**Peter Buckley, Oregon State Representative**  
**Sal Esquivel, Oregon State Representative**  
**Dave Gilmour, Jackson County Commissioner**  
**Jack Walker, Jackson County Commissioner**

**Moderator:**

**Chris Hearn,**  
**Former Ashland City Councilor**  
**And specialist in land-use law**

**Forum will be televised by RVTV**

**Election Day is November 6**  
**Ballots will be mailed October 19-23**

**Members Renewals Due**

**If you have not yet paid your dues for this year, please do so soon. We need you! You can mail in the form on the last page of the *Advocate* with your check.**

**Thank you for your support.**

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

With the Town Hall Meeting providing the kick-off, we expect the momentum to continue through the fall season. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding a forum on Measure 49, with State Representatives Peter Buckley and Sal Esquivel and County Commissioners Dave Gilmour and Jack Walker discussing this measure designed to control development resulting from Measure 37. This forum and the *Voters' Guide* the League will be distributing are in keeping with the educational side of our mission. On the advocacy side, we'll be asking our League members to help with registering, telephoning and canvassing voters in support of Measure 49, the position adopted by the Oregon League.

Besides Measure 49, the ballot in November also will include Measures 50 and 15-80. The State League favored a comparable bill to Measure 50, which failed in the legislature, to fund children's health care by raising the cigarette tax, but the League has not taken a position on Measure 50 because it does not approve of amending the State Constitution to achieve the purpose. Turned off by the barrage of publicity in the mail and on network TV, financed by large tobacco companies, many League members, however, may decide to vote "yes." The third measure on the November ballot, 15-80, applies specifically to voters living in the Ashland School District and is for a Youth Activities and Academics Levy. (See p. 3)

Especially important for LWVA in November will be our focus on immigration (see p. 4). A guest speaker will address the topic at our general meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>, with smaller unit meetings to follow two weeks later for discussion and consensus on the national League's immigration study.

At the September meeting we distributed copies of our new *LWVA Member Handbook*. Inserted were two forms, one for an "Interest Inventory," the other for "Member Information." The "Interest Inventory" lists specific LWVA activities and asks you to check any in which you'd like to participate. "Member Information" leaves it up to you to decide what information to include in your biography. In the next few days or weeks, you'll be receiving a call from a League board member to deliver the handbook, if you don't already have a copy, and talk with you about it. This will give all of us a chance to get better acquainted.

Until then . . .

Warm regards, Judith and Vanya



**Town Hall Meeting, September 20**

### A GREAT BEGINNING!

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, we may have had the largest turnout ever for a LWVA meeting at the Elks Club. Estimates ranged from 90, according to a quick survey of materials distributed, to 200, cited in the front-page story in the *Mail Tribune*. And publicity was fantastic! Besides the Medford paper, the *Ashland Daily Tidings* also carried a front-page article, and each of the three TV networks featured the event on its 6:00 p.m. news broadcast.

The people who attended the meeting felt it was well worth the effort. Comments on the evaluation sheets ranged from "enlightening," to "helpful to hear many views," to "This is a good beginning," and applauding the LWV and AAUW "for starting this process." Tam Moore's presentation on the county's source of funds and how the money is spent was rated "excellent," and Geoff Riley received equally high marks as a "very good, well-informed" moderator.

The focus of the discussion was on the libraries and the county's action in closing them without involving the public to consider other alternatives. Comments and questions indicated the concern of many in the audience with the county commissioners, a few suggesting that the county charter should be reviewed and revised to include expanding the number of commissioners from three to five or even seven. One member of the audience pointed out, to loud applause, that Dave Gilmour, who was there and frequently answered questions, was the only county commissioner who ever attended such public meetings.

Interest expressed in funding the libraries through library districts brought a response from Kathleen Davis, who chairs the county's Library Advisory Committee and was at the meeting. She noted the problem of citizens' approving any levy, the time and complexities of getting a measure on the ballot, and the loss to the libraries of county funding that would occur if federal timber revenues are renewed. Dave Gilmour noted that the Board of Commissioners could set up library districts, but then the commissioners would be in charge. If instead, citizens circulated a petition to establish such districts under special library boards, the process would need to begin now for a November 2008 ballot measure.

On funding services in general, the feeling, as one person noted, was that "we need more transparency." Someone else in the audience mentioned how little confidence people have in how county government spends the taxes raised and therefore are reluctant to support any new levies. As another person commented, "Fiscal restraint needs to be practiced by all county departments, including law enforcement.

One comment that produced agreement was that we need leadership at all levels of government – national, state, local – to set service priorities and determine the resources to fund them. As former Ashland librarian John Sexton said, "The libraries are just the canary in the coal mine." His suggestion as a possible revenue source was a sales tax, particularly as a way to capture tourist dollars. Tam Moore in his review had noted the regressive nature of a sales tax, so someone suggested writing it to exclude such necessities as food and clothing. Whatever taxes are recommended, the general conclusion was that people need to be made aware that "services require money." On the evaluation sheet, one person suggested a questionnaire, which "would list services and the cost of each. Let citizens prioritize what they want for what they want to spend. This might help people understand what county taxes do for them."

Subsequent town hall events will be: October 4<sup>th</sup>, at the VFW Hall in Rogue River; October 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Ruch Elementary School; and October 17<sup>th</sup>, at the City Council Chambers in Medford. All are in the evening, at 7:00 p.m.

For more information on county funding, see the LWVRV website, which has the summary of the report recently presented to the county commissioners by the task force on Jackson County Services. A full report of the county's budget is on the county website, [www.co.jackson.or.us](http://www.co.jackson.or.us).

#### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND ACADEMICS LEVI (YAAL)**

The current Youth Activities Levy, which supports the Ashland schools' extra-curricular program, is due to expire in June. This year the School Board is asking the community to extend and expand that levy to include academics. The monies that accrue from this new Youth

Activities and Academics levy will go into the general school fund to be used however the administration decides.

Although expanding its use, the amount of the levy will be reduced from its current level because it will apply to all property owners who live in School District 5, which includes the outlying areas of Precinct 18, as well as the City of Ashland. With this additional population, the rate will be reduced from \$1.38 to \$1.29 per \$1,000 assessed value. The Ashland School District will collect the tax.

Voters will be asked to approve this three-year levy in November through Ballot Measure 15-80. As this is a tax measure in a special election, the double majority will apply. If approved, the first payment will be in July 2008.

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### **SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2007**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

\$917.00 transferred from the reserve fund to the operating budget.

#### **Membership:**

Total of 64 local members and 9 national members.

#### **Voter Services:**

League will host a Measure 49 panel discussion at the October general meeting, October 18, with state and county officials presenting different viewpoints. Moderator will pose questions and invite the public to ask questions of panel members.

#### **Fundraising:**

Possible December/January meeting with a local speaker addressing the state of the Constitution as a fundraiser. \$10 tickets will be sold and deserts made by members will be served. Annual fundraising letter will be delayed to early 2008.

#### **Library Levy Position:**

Lengthy discussion with two votes resulting in a YES position with qualifications. A letter to the editor of the Tidings was drafted by the co-presidents.

#### **Immigration Position:**

Member units will meet to discuss the issue, which will be the focus of the November 15<sup>th</sup> general meeting. There will be a speaker at that meeting. The LWVA consensus statement submitted to the LWVUS will result from the unit meetings.

## NOVEMBER IS IMMIGRATION STUDY MONTH AT LWVA

At our November 15<sup>th</sup> general meeting, John Almaguer, an immigration attorney who works for Catholic Services and formerly was President of the Human Rights Coalition of Jackson County, will be the principal speaker. He will talk about how immigration law works now, how it affects people living in our valley, and what the immigration bill that failed in the U.S. Congress was meant to achieve. The questions and comments that follow his presentation should be a good prelude to the discussions that will take place during the last week in November when we hold our unit meetings to reach consensus on LWVUS's immigration study.

Unlike previous League studies, the results of this one are not appearing as one published report mailed to all members. Instead, they appear as a series of materials -- reports, briefs, bibliographies, and even a video -- on the national League's website, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). The most important reports for the consensus discussion are the eight background papers that are listed on the left side bar of the LWVUS home page. Their titles are as follows: *Economic Aspects of Authorized and Unauthorized Immigration; Effects of Global Interdependence on Migration; Immigration and the Economy; Immigrants – Diversity and Inclusion; Overview – Federal Immigration Policy and Proposed Reforms; What Motivates Immigration to America; U.S. Immigration Policy – Family Reunification; and Federal Immigration Policy – Enforcement Issues*. For those of you with limited time, the website also lists briefs for several of these papers. Issues of the *National Voter* this year (February, June and October) also had these briefs and related articles. Members without access to the Internet will also find a few copies of the principal papers available to them at the LWVA general meeting. Iris Milan has a CD copy of the one-hour video cited on the website, *Immigration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Contact Iris at 488-9493, [irismil@charter.net](mailto:irismil@charter.net), if you'd like to see it.

Another departure from standard procedure, at least for the LWVA, is to have our consensus discussions in unit meetings, rather than at the general meeting. We felt that in this way, we could have a more in-depth discussion. We plan to have three, all in the last week of November – Tuesday, the 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, noon; and Thursday, the 29<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. Sign-up sheets will be circulated at the general meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The discussions will be led by members of our local immigration study committee chaired by Iris Milan and including Anita Nevison, Eleanore Perkins, Susan Shaffer and Ruth Walsh.

In preparation for the consensus, the LWVUS has prepared a series of statements, described as questions, which have been posted on its website. These are intended as the basis for discussion as members try to reach

consensus on the immigration issue. Each of these statements relates to a specific concern about immigration, and with respect to the first four of these, members are asked to consider whether they rate it high priority or lower priority, disagree with the statement, or can't reach agreement about it. We are reproducing all six of the statements here for members to come prepared for a full discussion at their unit meetings.

1) Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following:

**Part A:** (a) ethnic and cultural diversity; (b) economic, business and service employment needs; (c) environmental impact/sustainability; (d) family reunification of authorized immigrants and citizens with spouses and minor children; (e) history of criminal activity; (f) humanitarian crises/political persecution in home countries; (g) immigrant characteristics (health and age); (h) rights of all workers to safe working conditions and livable wage; rights of families to remain together; rights of all individuals in U.S. to fair treatment under the law (fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal, and humane treatment); (k) education and training.

**Part B:** Select the three most important of the above criteria and list them in order from 1 to 3.

2) Unauthorized immigrants currently in the US. Should be treated as follows:

(a) Deport unauthorized immigrants; (b) some deported/some allowed to earn legal adjustment of status based on length of residence in U.S.; (c) some deported/some allowed to earn legal adjustment of status based on needs of U.S. employers; (d) all allowed to earn legal adjustment of status by doing things such as paying taxes, learning English, studying civics, etc.; (e) if deported, assess fines before possible re-entry; (f) assess fines before allowed to earn legal adjustment of status.

3) Federal immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are:

(a) Immediate family members joining family member already admitted for legal permanent residence in the U.S.; (b) entering the U.S. to meet labor needs; (c) entering the U.S. as students; (d) entering the U.S. because of persecution in home country.

4)(a). In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, federal immigration law should include: Social Security card or other national identification card with secure identifiers for all persons residing in the U.S.

4)(b). Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including:

(i) physical barriers (such as fences) and surveillance at borders; (ii) increased personnel at land, air, and sea entry points; (iii) more effective tracking of persons with non-immigrant visas until they leave the country; (iv) verification documents, such as green cards and work permits with secure identifiers; (v) improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee visa status; (vi) improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies; (vii) a program to allow immigrant workers to go in and out of the U.S. to meet seasonal and sporadic labor needs; (viii) significant fines proportionate to revenue for employers who fail to take adequate steps to verify work authorization of employees.

5) Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

6) Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to pro-actively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

- 4 Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m. (Benjamin's).
- 6 LWVOR's Fall Workshop in Eugene.
- 18 Measure 49 Panel Discussion (see page 1), City Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Book Group/Immigration, 9:30 a.m. (Perkins') (see pages 4-5).
- 23 62nd Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, SOU Stevenson Union, 6:30 p.m.

### NOVEMBER

- 1 Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m. (call 488-3827 for location)
- 15 General Meeting on Immigration, John Almaguer speaker
- 27 Immigration Study Consensus Meeting (Unit Meeting)
- 28 Immigration Study Consensus Meeting (Unit Meeting)
- 29 Immigration Study Consensus Meeting (Unit Meeting)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Lucy Dobson

Lured westward by the younger generation from the lovely New England village of Washington, CT, Lucy Dobson quickly made herself at home in Ashland. With a history of volunteerism behind her, Lucy joined Tudor Guild, this year heading its membership committee. She also serves as a docent at the Schneider Museum. An avid tennis player and world traveler, Lucy decided to join LWVA to become better informed about local and state elections. She believes the *Voters' Guide* exemplifies the League.

### Sara Johnson

Sara has supported the League for years and decided it was time to get actively involved. Sara keeps busy working as a part-time accountant, volunteering with Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS), and enjoying hiking in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter. Originally from Washington State, she has lived in Ashland for 20 years, having moved here from the Bay Area. She is an international traveler and in September is off again to Scotland. She will be traveling with two local musicians and is looking forward to hearing traditional songs and watching local dancers perform.

### Ann Magill

Ann is a native of Wallowa County, Oregon. After serving as a bookmobile librarian in East Los Angeles, Ann became an English teacher and school librarian in Enterprise and North Bend, where she joined the League. She became enchanted with Ashland as a musician for OSF during her college years. She settled here when she was hired as Ashland High School's librarian. Upon retirement in 2004, she served as an AmeriCorps volunteer coordinating the ASPIRE post-secondary mentoring program at Ashland High School. She volunteers for numerous activities, with ASPIRE, at Trinity church, and on such community efforts as promoting adequate school funding and reopening Jackson County's public libraries. Her hobbies are reading and study, walking, music, movies, camping, political activism, research, spreading optimism, and writing. Ann has a partner, Florence, a son and a grandson. She believes two simple things every capable citizen can do is vote and give blood.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ASHLAND  
P.O. BOX 1296  
ASHLAND, OR 97520**

**ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>**

**JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

**Annual Membership Dues:  
Individual Membership: \$60 \_\_\_\_ Household Membership: \$90 \_\_\_\_  
Student Membership: \$30 \_\_\_\_**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION: \_\_\_\_\_

My Special Interest/s: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to League of Women Voters of Ashland (LWVA)  
Mail to LWVA, P.O. Box 1296, Ashland, OR 97520**