

THE ADVOCATE

January 2010

Newsletter for the League of Women Voters of Ashland

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SPECIAL ELECTION January 26th

As you know the League of Women Voters of Oregon and local leagues across the state are in favor of the passage of Measures 66-67. The League has taken this position based on our League's Fiscal Policy which states that fair taxation is needed to ensure vital services are available to all citizens. Talk to your friends and family about why these measures need to pass. Without the revenues generated by Measures 66-67 school days will be cut, teachers will be cut and social services will be cut.

There is still time to join the GOTV (Get Out the Vote) phone bank in support of the passage of Measures 66-67. Phoning in Ashland begins January 18th and runs through the Sunday afternoon before the election, January 26th. The hours will be 6-8p.m. during the week and 2-5p.m. on the weekend. To sign up to phone bank, email Christine Haynie at Christineh1@charter.net.

ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANNING

Thursday, February 25th, potluck lunch at 11:30 AM, meeting at noon, at the Ashland Public Library.

If you only attend one meeting a years, this is the one to attend. You can influence the direction of our local League and our national League. The annual local League Program Planning meeting provides the opportunity for all League members to indicate their support for current League positions, as well as their interest in potential new issues for study and action in the coming year.

At our meeting in February, the LWVA is asking each member to have a direct role in program development in the following ways:

- Suggest new government issues that League members might choose for concerted study and action
- Evaluate current positions for change, update or deletion
- Suggest topics and activities for meetings, special events, fundraising and/or field trips

If you are unable to make the meeting but wish to weigh in, let us know and we will provide a form for you to complete and email back to us.

National LWVUS – If you have a suggestion for a national study topic, bring it to our Program Planning Meeting on February 25th. We can make recommendations to the national League on whether to:

1. Update a study
2. Propose a new study
3. Concur on an existing study
4. Make no recommendation.

Prior to the meeting go to <http://www.lwv.org> and click on “issues”.

Local LWVA – A new study could be for the purpose of adding a new section to an old position or it could be a topic on which we have no position. Remember that we can use state and national positions on local issues, so check those before suggesting a new study.

When proposing a new study, please keep the following in mind:

- What local issues are most critical in our community?
- Would the study give LWVA greater visibility and credibility?
- Would the issue stir members’ imaginations and willingness to work on the study?
- Would the issue help LWVA link with individuals and organizations that represent different viewpoints, ages, racial or ethnic identities that are underrepresented in the League?

If you propose a new study, please bring the following to the Program Planning Meeting:

1. Title: The topic to be studied
2. Scope: A statement defining the limits and direction of the study item (two or three specific issues you want to learn about)
3. Committee: Are you willing to chair or co-chair the study committee or serve on the committee?

The Board of Directors will host a POTLUCK lunch prior to the meeting at 11:30a.m., at the Library. The meeting starts at Noon and will be hosted by our Voter Services Chair, Pam Vavra.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Our elected Nomination Committee will be contacting League members over the next few months to determine who is interested in serving on the 2010 - 11 Board of Directors. The term of office for serving on the Board of Directors is 1 year beginning May 2010 at the annual business meeting and continuing until the next business meeting in May of 2011. In order for our League to continue to do the important work we do in the community, we need a vibrant, energized Board of Directors. The League appreciates all our members whether they are active or not, but we can not continue to

generate relevant local programs without members who want to get involved. Please consider joining our Board of Directors.

Two Board members are needed right now to fill two key positions; Secretary and E-Bulletin and Website Communications. We did not elect a Secretary at our May 2009 meeting and have not been able to find a person to fill this important position. Since September 2009, the Board has rotated the task of taking minutes at our meetings. And recently, Grace Weil, resigned as our E-Bulletin and Website Director. Contact Regina Ayars at 482-5019 or reginariley@jeffnet.org, if you are interested.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS STATE COUNCIL

The Council is the biennial state meeting of the League of Women Voters, held on alternate years to the State Convention. First Call is issued so local Leagues can begin to plan and discuss matters that should be presented at Council.

The 2010 Council will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16, 2010, at the Riverhouse Hotel and Convention Center in Bend. Early arrivals are encouraged on Friday, May 14th, as there will be a dine-around that evening. Council will begin with a luncheon and guest speakers at noon. The opening of Council will be at 1:30 p.m. The host League is Deschutes County.

The purpose of the council is to:

1. Elect Second Vice President and Treasurer for two-year terms and three elected Directors for two-year terms
2. Adopt a budget for the year
3. Other business as directed by the LWVOR Board.

The delegates are composed of local League and inter-League Organization Presidents and one delegate chosen by each local League for a total of two delegates per League. Regina Ayars, President, and Pam Vavra, Voters Services Chair, will attend for the LWVA. Expenses for the two delegates are paid by the League.

Observers are encouraged and any member of a local League can attend. Observers may not vote but may have the opportunity to address the Council, if recognized by the Chair. Please get in touch with Regina Ayars, if you plan on attending. Reminders about the Council will be sent out between now and May 2010.

CALENDAR

January 26	Special Election	VOTE YES
February 19	Board of Directors Meeting	Library
February 25	Program Planning Meeting – Potluck	Library
March 19	Board of Directors Meeting	Library
March 25	County Homelessness Meeting	Library
April 1	Census Day	BE COUNTED
April 16	Board of Directors Meeting	Library
April TBD	Primary Election Forum	TBD

May 14	Board of Directors Meeting	Library
May 15-16	State Council Meeting	Bend
May 20	Annual Business Meeting	Library