

Share Your Thoughts With Us

1. Review the text: [Pesticides and Other Biocides LWVOR](#)

2. Watch the Portland League Video: "Balancing Benefits and Risks" [Video link](#)

3. Review and discussion:

October General Meeting, Monday, October 11 at 11:30 AM-12:30 PM on Zoom invitation

4. Consensus Questions:

Monday, October 25 at 11:30 AM, Zoom discussion of the consensus questions. Consensus questions provided here [Consensus Questions](#)

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President's Pen

I hope you all had a chance to join us on Zoom for Liz James' presentation this last month. A stellar advocate for LGBTQ+ equity, she presented many alarming statistics and showed us areas which need vast improvement in physical and mental health for an extraordinarily diverse part of our society. If you are interested in pursuing positive change in healthcare and aging for the LGBTQ+ community, let me know.

Save the dates for our state study: "Pesticides and other Biocides." On October 11th @11:30, Kathleen Donham will present the essence of the study to us. On October 25th @11:30, we will again meet to consider the consensus questions related to the study.

On a personal note, my husband, my mother, and I have been looking for a house with a mother-in-law suite. We've come close several times in the last three months but after the last one fell through, I started looking within 90 minutes of our daughter. We found the perfect house on a small lake in Fairfield, Pennsylvania. This puts us close enough for day trips to Baltimore, D.C., and Philadelphia. We hope to close on October 20th and move in the Spring. We're excited for a new adventure but sad to leave our friends and neighbors. For me, the League has been a life support during these last difficult years. It's given me a sense of purpose which I will carry with me to Pennsylvania.

Margie Peterson, President LWVRV

The League of Women Voters Rogue Valley welcomes submissions to the newsletter, *The Voters' Voice*. Editor Jim Buck can be reached at 541-830-0602 and newsletter@lwvroguevalley.org

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Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – LWVRV – Our Ongoing Challenge.

--- By Joyce Puccini Chapman, for now

Our primary focus during the first year of this column was the history and abuse of our Black citizens. This year we will expand our view to include a broader range of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ people.

Liz James educated us about LGBTQ+ issues, focusing on transgender abuse and healthcare inequities. We learned there are about 20,000 transgender teens in Oregon and 186,000 people who identify as LGBTQ+. Among transgender teens, 77% are depressed; from kindergarten to 12th grade, 77% had been mistreated; and among transgender adults, 31% said their healthcare providers did not know they are transgender. When I asked Liz to do the presentation, she thanked me. Puzzled, I asked why are you thanking me? You will be doing the work. Her answer surprised me. She said that by raising her to speak to our group I was doing the “equity and inclusion” part of DEI. I have been thinking about that ever since.

In September, Shirley Weathers wrote about DEI efforts at the state level during the legislative session. Today I will offer articles concerning treatment of Native Americans and how monetary policy institutionalizes racial inequity in our banking system. Transgender rights and challenges, genocide of Native Americans and enslavement, and racial discrimination of our Black citizens all carry the thread of (dare I say it?) white supremacy upon which much of our nation was founded and continues to burden us to this day. I offer these articles hoping you will read them, be motivated to learn more, and incorporate this knowledge in your work with the League. All of the policymaking we attempt to influence holds the opportunity to right some wrong, be it LGBTQ+ discrimination, Native American genocide and systematic cultural assimilation, or systemic racism against non-white Americans that pervades every institution, including the Federal Reserve.

I leave you with this question that I borrowed and edited from Jane Eliot, a white woman and race educator: I want every white person in this room who would be happy to be treated as this society, in general, treats our citizens – our black, BIPOC, LGBTQ+ citizens – if you, as a white person, would be happy to receive the same treatment that our Black, BIPOC, LGBTQ+ citizens do in this society, please stand.

Articles

[Colorado governor rescinds 1864 policy encouraging murder of Native Americans - Axios](#)

[Colorado's Sand Creek Massacre Site Confronts U.S. History of Racial Violence \(skift.com\)](#)

[How Native students fought back against abuse and assimilation at US boarding schools \(theconversation.com\)](#)

[Monetary policy and racial inequality | VOX, CEPR Policy Portal \(voxeu.org\)](#)

The League of Women Voters Doesn't Support Women Candidates

Obvious to long-time members, the League doesn't support women candidates, because we don't support (or oppose) candidates of any stripes. YET, we do support parity in government and fair representation.

Do these Figures Sound Fair?

The US is currently rated 71st among nations of the world for women's representation. In recent years, Afghanistan was tied with us, but has now fallen to 76th. Many countries graded worse than us are often described as "struggling" or "developing" nations. Currently, while the US population is made up of more than half women (over 51%), their representation in government is 25.8%.

Are there solutions to gain parity? Yes, more than one. But I will focus on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Between 2010 and 2019, when women ran for office under an RCV system, they won 48% of the time. (Actually, this has helped to nudge the US up to that 71st position; it was slightly worse before this time period.)

Problems with Plurality

Why does RCV help? Let's first look at the disadvantages women face when running in our typical, single-winner, first-past-the-post elections (plurality). We considered these issues in both our Local League County Government study (2018-19) and the LWV of Oregon Election Systems study (2016-17).

1. Single Winner plurality **does not guarantee majority support**. Any candidate elected without such a base is considered not to have a "mandate." This can lead to awkward governing scenarios; women must be stronger than male counterparts to overcome their lack of mandate.
2. The "**spoiler effect**" happens when two (or more) SIMILAR candidates run and split the vote from their area. To avoid this, party leaders often ask women—particularly women of color—to "stand down for now" and "wait their turn."
3. **Incumbents have an advantage** in these typical elections, and as such, challengers face a disadvantage. [Monopoly politics](#) developed by FairVote, demonstrates that 80% of ALL congressional districts are "safe" and not truly competitive. Women tend to do even more poorly than men as challengers.
4. **Negative Campaigning**, which is the heart-n-soul of our typical single winner election, is inhospitable to women, who are characterized more unfairly if demonstrating combative, "strong" personalities. Women have done better with an emphasis on issues.

5. **Delayed runoff elections**, where a second election is demanded to accomplish a majority, are more costly for women who tend to have less funded “war-chests.” The runoffs cause longer election periods, creating more expense, further disrupting household issues, and ending in lower rates of turnout. [Women do better when more than one winner is picked.]

Ranked choice voting seems to be successful at addressing the structural barriers women candidates face. In part, it does so by minimizing each of the problems stated above.

According to RepresentWomen.org:

“Out of the 156 local-level ranked choice elections that took place between 2010 and 2019,

34% of all candidates were women, and 35% of these women won.

Of the women who won, 38% were women of color.

Overall, women won 48% (109 of 227) of the individual seats up for election.

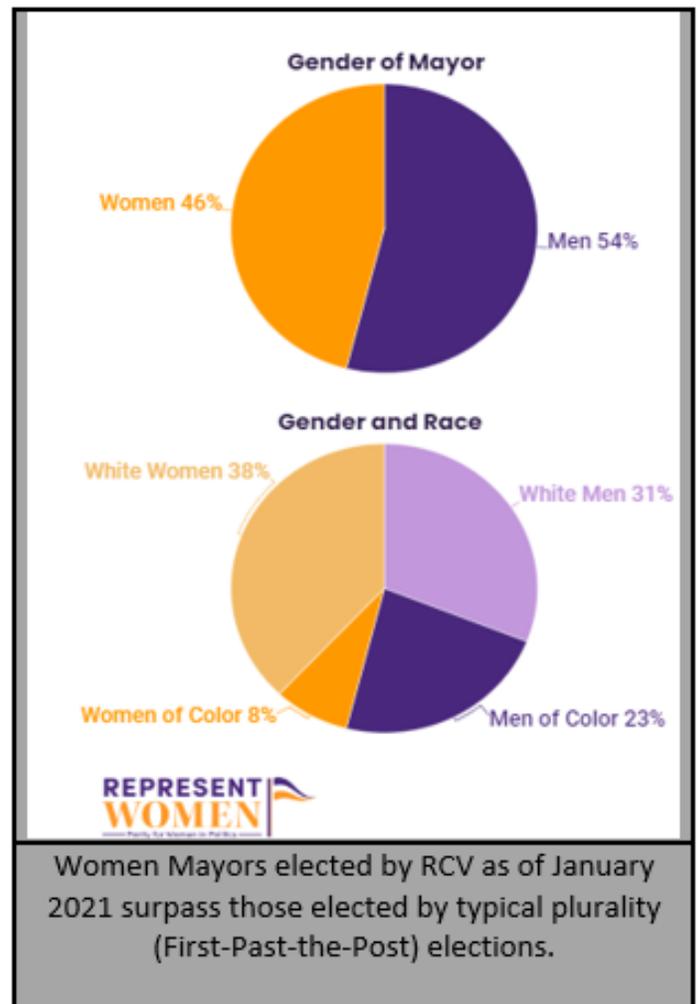
By the start of 2020, half of all mayors and nearly half (49%) of all city council members elected by RCV were women.”

Refer to their [2020 report](#).

Even Better Results of Parity and Leveling the Playing Field

[Research demonstrates](#) that the most FAIR representation model for women would be to use Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) AND multi-winner elections. This is **Proportional Ranked Choice Voting**. [The RCV system can be used to elect both single and multiple winners.]

RCV elections around the world show substantially better results for women when using multi-winner systems. Averages show a greater portion of the population represented by at least one woman when voters can rank (and pick more than one winner). [See [The Ripple Effect of Multi-Member Districts on Women’s Representation - RepresentWomen](#)] While the LWV does not support candidates, we do support a level-playing field.



Barbara Klein

LWVRV Action Chair and Electoral Reform Coordinator

Share Your Thoughts With Us – Pesticides and Other Biocides

Kathleen Dunham

The state study titled *Pesticides and Other Biocides* follows a 2020 study about farmworkers in Oregon. The authors of this new study hope that we will add 20 years of new information that may help encourage implementation of the unfulfilled recommendations that were presented in that first study. Members are encouraged to order a printed copy of the study if they do not want to print it out. Sometimes it is easier to be able to refer to a paper copy if you do not have a second computer screen to use during Zoom discussions or the bandwidth to support it. The League phone number is 503-581-5722.

The video referenced on page 1 introduces the League authors and includes a PowerPoint discussion and guest speakers. There are examples of pesticide/biocide issues in the Rogue Valley that can be referenced during our Zoom meeting on October 11. The [consensus questions](#) will be addressed during our Zoom meeting on October 25.

Members without online access can mail responses to Kathleen Donham, 776 Devils Garden Road, Medford, Oregon 97504.

Help us Help the LWVRV Observer Corps

The LWVRV Observer Corps, coordinated by **Barbara Davidson**, has been functioning under “ACTION” for a while now. The Board has determined that this effort would be better addressed as a stand-alone portfolio overseen by an elected (or appointed) board member.

Observer Corps have had a long, proud history within the League of Women Voters at all levels. By simply watching, listening and reporting back to members, we learn much about the activities of governmental bodies—good and bad. It’s an important function.

Barbara Davidson will continue in this role; however, due to illness, she would like to co-chair it with another member. We have guidelines already established. Having email is required. Both Barbara Davidson and other board members are here to help. It would be great to grow our corps and support it in whatever way we can.

YOU can fill this role. Please let Margie Peterson or Barbara Klein know you are willing; we already know you are “able.”

Barbara Klein, Action Chair

Josephine County Charter Review – Jackie Clary

Josephine County Board of Commissioners has created a nine-member commission to review the Josephine County Charter. This is of primary interest to LWVRV because most of the issues they will be reviewing are the same as our recommendations in the recent update of the LWVRV Local Government study and relate to both Jackson and Josephine Counties. We are lucky to have LWVRV member, Dorothy Yetter, appointed to the commission. They meet every other week, in person and through Zoom. We will be following the progress of this commission and will keep you posted.

Books, Blogs, Pods (podcasts) Jackie Clary

So often, I read or hear something I want to share. So, just because I can, I have created (I didn't even ask!) a spot in our newsletter to do that. Next month it's your turn!

A while back, I was listening to a Sunday morning NPR podcast of "[Innovation Hub](#)." The guest was a professor of law who had just written a book about "the thin line between constitutional fidelity and constitutional fundamentalism." I found the talk fascinating, so I purchased the book, [The Cult of the Constitution](#) (an unfortunate title, I think). It is giving me lots to think about.

Send your suggestions for the next "Books, Blogs, Pods entry to jackieclary@gmail.com

FROM MEMBERSHIP – Jackie Clary

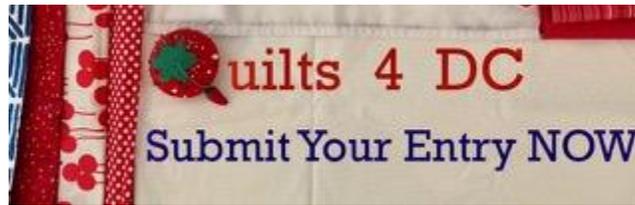
New member

We welcome new member, **James Crary**, who comes to LWVRV from the Klamath County League. We have already learned he brings with him enthusiasm and new ideas.

Phone tree

The Phone Tree volunteers are about to ring your phone. We will be checking in to see how you are doing and to pass on the latest from LWVRV. Please share your LWVRV ideas, opinions, questions, etc. We will pass them on as needed.

Fun with a Cause (even outside Oregon). Enter YOUR Quilt



As most of you know, the LWVUS has long had a position supporting statehood for the District of Columbia. The DC League is trying to get the word out in an unusual way. Maybe you will take part.

The LWVDC's #Quilts4DC Statehood Quilt Challenge entry portal is now OPEN! Click [HERE](https://www.lwvdc.org/quilts4dc) (<https://www.lwvdc.org/quilts4dc>) for detailed instructions, and click on **Submit Your Entry** to fill in the online entry form.

You must complete a separate entry form for each quilt if entering more than one quilt. A photo of each entry is to be sent via separate email to quilts4dc@gmail.com.

(Detailed instructions for file type, size, and naming is found in the quilt entry portal and will also appear after completing each entry).

Submitted by Barbara Klein

LWVRV Calendar

October

- Monday 11 Members meeting, 11:30, Pesticides and Other Biocides - ZOOM
- Thursday 21 Board meeting, 10:30
- Monday 25 Pesticides and Other Biocides Consensus Questions, 11:30, ZOOM
- Monday 27 Newsletter submissions due

November

- Thursday 11 Members meeting, 11:30 – ZOOM
- Thursday 18 Board meeting, 10:30
- Wednesday 27 Newsletter submissions due

- If you must have a mailed paper copy of this newsletter, please call Jim at 541-830-0602 or email newsletter@lwvroguevalley.org
- You should also be receiving newsletters by email from State and National.
- For a membership application, go to <http://lwvroguevalley.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/MembershipApplication501c3AsOf20190725.pdf>