

Programs

1. **Electronic Candidates' Forum**, Thursday, March 31, 6 PM, Zoom
(see page 4)
2. **Rogue Valley Water Status**, Thursday, April 14, 11:30 AM, Zoom
 - Cody Scoggins, Water Efficiency Specialist, Medford Water Commission
 - Shavon Haynes, Jackson County Watermaster, Oregon Water Resources Department

Mr. Scoggins and Mr. Haynes will discuss and answer questions about the status of Rogue Valley water this year and beyond.

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President's Pen

I hope you are all enjoying the bloom of spring and the green on the hills. My plum tree is all decked out in white and bulbs and tubers are thrusting up to the light.

My hip replacement has been very successful and I'm now walking without a limp! This is just in time for the endless process of packing and getting ready for the move. We hope to be on the road by April 21st, traveling across the country to Pennsylvania and the newly renovated house in Fairfield.

I hope you have a chance to hear James Crary's ideas about better communication with candidates on March 31 at 6 PM (Zoom) and that you will join us for the Water Panel on April 14 at 11:30 AM (Zoom).

May will be our Annual Meeting and elections. We are looking for people to step up and join the Board or consider standing for an office. Now is your time!

Margie Peterson, President LWVRV

Welcome new member, **Sue Privitera**, who lives in Medford. Sue expressed interest in Immigration, Voters Voice, Healthcare Issues, National Issues, Government Oversight/Observer Corps, and Voters Service.

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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Historians credit Lotte Scharfman, a refugee who escaped with her family from Austria during World War II, with coining the phrase “*democracy is not a spectator sport.*” Scharfman devoted her life to working for the democratic process and to helping citizens gain access to government. The president of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts died on her 42nd birthday in 1970, but her spirit lives on.

Please consider answering “**yes**” to a call from the Nominating Committee. We are looking for new leadership at a time when civility and constructive participation are sorely needed in both our valley and the state.

Needed:

- President Treasurer Nominating
- Vice-president Membership Co-chair Voters Service Committee members
- Publicity Website proofreader Hospitality
- Fundraising Events Planner

What about you?

—Kathleen Donham, Voters Service

OREGON VOTERS WILL BE ABLE TO USE THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AS IDENTIFICATION

Oregon voters have previously been required to use driver's licenses or state issued IDs to cast a ballot. [House Bill 4133](#) became law this month and becomes effective January 1, 2023.

The bill:

- Requires the electronic voter registration system to allow qualified individuals to register to vote if individuals have Social Security numbers.
- Requires the system to enable individuals to electronically submit images of signatures.
- Authorizes the Secretary of State to have a system allowing approved third-party organizations to submit registration cards electronically on behalf of individuals.
- The Secretary of State shall implement the amendments to ORS 247.019 by section 1 of this 2022 Act no later than January 1, 2026

Those using the Social Security number option will have to register on-line because registration requires a digital signature. Voter Registration Services will be best prepared if they are electronically registering voters.

Kathleen Donham, Voters Service

Electronic Candidates' Forum Discussion, Thursday, March 31, 6:00 PM
(Zoom)

An Electronic Candidates' Forum ("ECF")

Many voters see politics as a rigged game that favors the rich, special interests (and their lobbyists) but leaves them, the common citizens, out. Those voters feel their vote means nothing and, consequently, they do not vote. The ECF would be a website that would allow voters to question the candidate(s) and get answers. This would address voter apathy and cynicism by making candidates run campaigns that are:

- Responsive
- Informative

- Substantive
- Interactive, and thereby
- Empower voters

The ECF website will:

1. Be open to viewing 24/7 by anyone, but only registered voters who reside in the district where the candidate is running could ask questions.
2. Allow questions to be asked 24/7 from any device that connects to the internet.
3. Have all questions and answers in writing.
4. Allow no anonymous questions.
5. Not limit the number of questions a voter can ask.
6. Allow questions to be directed to all or just some of the candidates.
7. Have all questions and answers date stamped to identify when a question was asked, answered, updated/changed.
8. Not require candidates to answer any question (but if a candidate does not answer, they do so knowing that the questioner is a registered voter who will decide how the non-response will affect his/her vote).
9. Email the questioner/voter when a candidate answers the voter's question or if a candidate changes or updates his/her answer.
10. Contact candidates when they file for office and tell them about ECF. Whether a candidate chooses to participate is up to him/her, but regardless, all questions received will be emailed to the candidate.
11. Memorialize all questions and answers for future reference and accountability.
12. List all the donors and the amounts they gave to a candidate.

Questions or comments? Contact: Jim Crary; Ashland, Oregon; Cell: 541-531-2912; Email: craryja@gmail.com



LWVRV Calendar

April

- Thursday 14 Membership meeting, 11:30 – Water Panel, Zoom
- Thursday 21 Board meeting, 10:30 – Zoom
- Wednesday 27 Newsletter submissions due

May

- Thursday 12 Annual Meeting, 11:30
- Tuesday 17 **Primary Election**
- Thursday 19 Board meeting, 10:30
- Friday 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>