



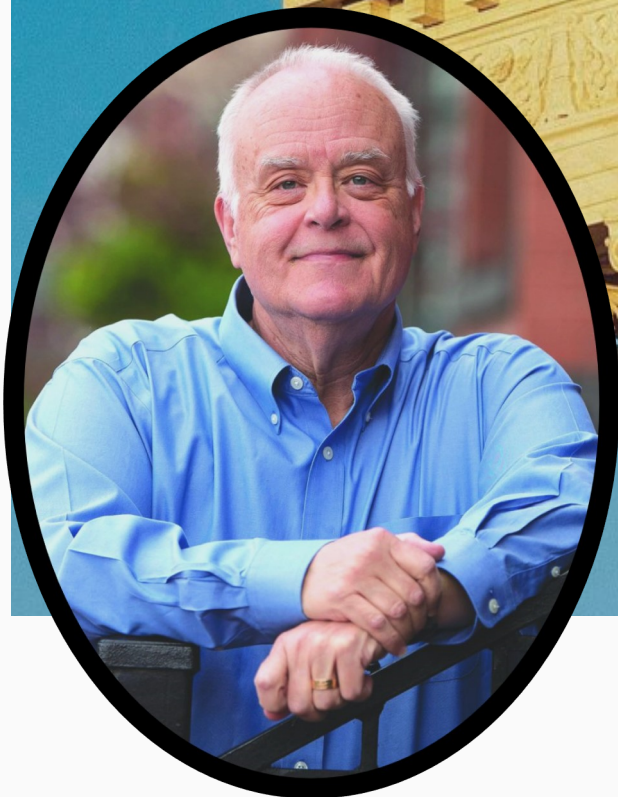
FEBRUARY 2024

# *Argus*

*League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter*

## THE SHADOW DOCKET

How today's Court really works.



**PROFESSOR GARRET EPPS**  
**AMERICAN LEGAL SCHOLAR,**  
**NOVELIST, AND JOURNALIST**  
**League Speaker Series - February 27**  
More information on page 3.

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## LWV of Lane County Board and Off Board Roster 2023-24

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### Webmaster

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### Director

**RUTH SEEGER**  
ruthseeger1@lwvlc.org

## FEBRUARY UNITS - THE SUPREME COURT'S SHADOW DOCKET BY MARJORIE MAXWELL - UNIT CHAIR

The League is known for a nonpartisan, research-based approach to decision making. Units provide the vehicle for thoughtful discussion of topics, researched by study committees. Information gathered from unit (study) discussion provides feedback to the Board. In January 31 members and three guests attended one of five unit meetings. Is your voice missing from the discussion? Attend a Unit meeting! Bring a friend!

LWVLC works because everyone does a little bit. My personal "bits" include secretary, working with the nomination and fruit sale committees. You probably have seen me at the Lecture Series registration table. My latest adventure is Unit Chair. Every step of the way I have worked with supportive people, learned new skills and gained a better understanding of the League and issues that matter. If you have questions or suggestions about units contact me. Phone or text 541-521-3051 or marjmaxwell@gmail.com.

### February Unit Meeting Schedules and March Unit Choice decisions

#### February 9, Friday, 10am (in person only)

First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene  
Discussion Leader, Diana Grandberry, 541-342-8402

#### February 9, Friday, 1pm (in person only)

Cascade Manor, 76 W 29th Ave, Eugene, in the Solarium.  
Discussion Leader: Merle Bottge, 541-434-4191

#### February 12, Monday, 1:30pm (in person only)

Anne Best's home, 3433 Olive Street, Eugene  
Discussion Leader, Nancy Mills, [nmills@trinity.edu](mailto:nmills@trinity.edu)

#### February 13, Tuesday, 10am (in person only)

The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd., Eugene  
Discussion Leader, Linda Ferdowsian, 541-578-1866

#### February 15, Thursday, 11am (hybrid)

Middlefield Oaks,  
1500 Village Dr., Cottage Grove  
Discussion Leader,  
Cindy Sharp, 509-733-6034

### FEBRUARY UNIT BRIEFING

Tuesday, February 6, 2pm - New office  
175 W B Street, Ste E2, Springfield  
For Zoom link: [office@lwvlc.org](mailto:office@lwvlc.org)

## EVENING UNIT OPPORTUNITY BY FREDDI WEISHAHN, DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

It has been a while since we have had an in-person evening unit meeting for the convenience of our members who may be unavailable because of employment or family commitments.

We are considering an evening unit in Springfield, day of the week and time to be determined.

Planktown Brewing Company, one of our sponsors, could be an option, as well as the PublicHouse, both located in downtown Springfield.

This would be a once a month in-person meeting and a time to discuss the studies and issues assigned to us in our Everymember Material. Please call our office if you would be interested in joining.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### "THE POWER OF NATURE AND A COLLECTIVE VOICE"

Wishing you all a warm, safe month ahead! Emerging from the January ice storm offers any number of lessons in resilience and preparedness: the importance of neighbors and friends as well as strangers willing to lend a hand and herculean efforts by first responders, medical teams, road crews, utility workers and more. Yes, nature's lessons are often profound. In this case and in a multitude of other extreme weather and climate associated events, nature is raising her fist and has a lot to say.

As members of the League of Women Voters, we have something to offer through advocacy and action, the arm of the League that can lend a helping hand by taking positions on well researched and scrutinized topics. Climate change is a prime example. Several of you were "in the room" in 2015 when the case of *Juliana v. United States* was born.

In summary:

The League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Oregon filed an amicus brief supporting youth plaintiffs seeking an order for the federal government to prepare a plan to phase out fossil fuel emissions. The plaintiffs, a group of young Americans under the age of 21, argued that by promoting the export and production of fossil fuels and failing to mitigate climate change, the government violated their rights under the Public Trust Doctrine and both

the Fifth and Ninth Amendments to a stable climate system.

Subsequently between September 2017 and March 2020 the LWVUS and LWVOR submitted second, third and fourth amicus briefings supporting the plaintiffs.

Fast (er, slow) forward to December 29, 2023 when the U.S. Department of Justice's motions to dismiss and for early appeal of the case were denied. As per a press release from Our Children's Trust, the Eugene-based non-profit public interest law firm is working to secure the legal rights of youth to a safe climate:

On Friday, December 29, 2023, U.S. District Court Judge Ann Aiken issued an order and opinion denying the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) motions to dismiss the second amended complaint in the children's constitutional climate lawsuit *Juliana v. United States*.

The case continues.

Links to online resources:

<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/press-releases-2023>  
<https://www.lwv.org/legal-center/juliana-v-united-states-0>  
[https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/2023-12-29\\_USDC-D-Or\\_order-deny-mtd-second-amend-complaint.pdf](https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/2023-12-29_USDC-D-Or_order-deny-mtd-second-amend-complaint.pdf)  
<https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/juliana-v-united-states/>



## LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES

SPEAKER

### PROFESSOR GARRETT EPPS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 11:30

The Community at Marquis, 565 Country Club Road

LUNCHEON \$20, BEVERAGE/DESSERT ONLY \$5

Reservations due by Tuesday, February 20

TO RESERVE - Email to [contact@lwvlc.org](mailto:contact@lwvlc.org) or

Call League office at 541-343-7917

**Garrett Epps** is Professor of Practice at the University of Oregon. He returned to U of O from the University of Baltimore Law School, where he was professor from 2008 to 2021. Before heading east, Professor Epps taught Constitutional Law at Oregon Law, where he was Orlando John and Marian H. Hollis Professor of Law for 16 years. He also has taught at the American University, Boston College, and Duke University.

While at Baltimore, he served for ten years as Supreme

Court Correspondent of *The Atlantic*, publishing more than 400 essays analyzing the Supreme Court's evolving jurisprudence and constitutional issues generally.

His scholarship has appeared in prominent law journals, including *Duke Law Journal*, *North Carolina Law Review*, and *American University Law Review*.

Epps received his LLM and JD from Duke University and an MA from Hollins College.

**Charlie Kaylor, Editor**



# VOTER SERVICE MOVING INTO HIGH GEAR

BY NANCY MILLS - VOTER CHAIR

The Voter Service committee is moving into high gear as the May election comes closer.

We are focusing on voter registration, which includes making sure the folks whose addresses may have changed, like moving from one room apartment to another in retirement communities, know that they need to update their registration.

At the other end of the spectrum, we are exploring ways to make sure that eligible students, high school and college, are registered AND comfortable with the voting process, such as the role that affiliation plays in a primary election.

We are also excited about voter education for initiatives on the May ballot such as STAR voting.

State-wide, the data collection for Vote411 - one-stop shopping for information on candidates on the ballot from Federal elections for Oregon Congress folk to local elections for dog-catcher (I made that last office up, but you get the idea) is beginning.

There are opportunities, large and small, for all League members in these activities. I invite you to talk or email me 210-685-8253, [nmills@trinity.edu](mailto:nmills@trinity.edu) or come to the

## VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 1, 1:30 pm

For Zoom link: [nmills@trinity.edu](mailto:nmills@trinity.edu)

# HOW TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT ELECTIONS WORKERS

*We can't have a functioning democracy if we don't have election officials who feel safe to conduct free and fair elections.*

Following our January Speaker Series with Lane County Clerk Dena Dawson, what are your thoughts on how to best support our election workers? The Brennan Center for Justice, an independent, nonpartisan law and policy organization that has been tracking states' legislation on voter ID laws and other barriers to voting says that, "State legislators, local administrators, and advocates must strengthen and clarify election processes, preempt disinformation, and enact stronger measures against intimidation."

Further, when referring to the *Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act of 2022* (ECRA) passed by Congress, Alice Clapman of the Brennan Center's Voting Rights Program reports that while enacting some reforms:

Congress has failed to pass broader protections, including baseline national election standards. This failure puts the onus on states. Each state has different vulnerabilities and different options for addressing them. Every state should start with these five measures:

**Strengthen laws requiring timely certification based solely on verified vote totals**, with effective enforcement mechanisms.

**Strengthen laws channeling election disputes through the state judiciary**, and set clear standards governing how these disputes are resolved.

**Finalize a plan for putting out accurate information about the election process and preempting disinformation**, starting well before Election Day and backed by adequate state resources.

**Bolster election administration** with training, written guidance, and investment in equipment, security, scenario planning, staffing, and supplies.

**Enact stronger measures against intimidation of voters and election workers**, including gun restrictions and privacy protections for election officials.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/how-states-can-prevent-election-subversion-2024-and-beyond>

All that said, what does that mean for you and me here at home? Let's zero in on what we can do to put out accurate information about the election process and preempt disinformation, starting well before Election Day. Right up our alley! As well informed voters, LWVLC members have both the tools available and interest in speaking truth to power.

Start by regularly checking our League website at <https://lwvlc.org/>. Rhonda Livesay and June Sedarbaum, our dynamic tech duo, put in long hours to improve and update this resource for you. And, we will be rolling out a number of voter education sessions in preparation for the May 21 election. Look for more details to come as we reach out asking for your help and support.

**Terri Parker, President**

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEEDS NEW MEMBERS AND HELPERS!

BY SHARON AMASHA, COMMITTEE MEMBER AND PROGRAM CHAIR

Important elections are fast approaching and both outreach for and support of new members is crucial for Leagues all over the country - and here too! Our committee meets at 2 pm, the second Tuesday of each month. We would love to have new ideas from any member that can join us. You don't have to make a permanent commitment, just be willing to roll up your sleeves for a short while.

There are outreach events for voter information, new member events and then community tabling events such as during Black History Month, Asian Celebration and others.

If the opportunity to work with this lively group sounds appealing to you, please contact Richard Cundiff or Ruth Seeger. Many hands, make light work!

We are happy to announce two new members of the Lane County League...please reach out to welcome:

**Jane & John Wagner**

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 13, 2pm - New office  
175 W B Street, Ste E2, Springfield  
For Zoom link: [office@lwvlc.org](mailto:office@lwvlc.org)

## ODE TO A COMMITTEE

Oh, committee, thou art a wondrous thing,  
A gathering of minds that collectively bring,  
Ideas and perspectives, diverse and bright,  
Working together, we reach new heights.

In unity, we collaborate and share,  
Pooling our expertise with genuine care,  
Each member contributing their unique skill,  
A tapestry of talents, a true thrill.

Through discussions and debates, we refine,  
Our goals and visions, a grand design,  
With every challenge, we find a way,  
craft solutions and seize the day.

Committee work fosters cooperation's art,  
Building bridges, connecting every part,  
For in unity, we find strength and might,  
Achieving what one alone might not ignite.

The power of synergy, we embrace,  
As we navigate obstacles, we embrace the chase,  
Together we conquer, united we stand,  
Making a difference, hand in hand.

Through shared responsibilities, we grow,  
Learning from each other, we sow,  
Seeds of knowledge, blooming with grace,  
Expanding horizons at a steady pace.

Oh, committee, your benefits abound,  
Enhancing our skills, profound,  
Networking opportunities, friendships formed,  
A tapestry of connections, warmly adorned.

*Anonymous*

## CONSIDER A COMMITTEE

BY SHARON AMASHA - PROGRAM CHAIR

We hope you will join one of the following committees:

### VOTER SERVICE

You can make a difference.  
This committee will play a critical role in the upcoming 2024 elections.  
Contact: [nmills@trinity.edu](mailto:nmills@trinity.edu)

### MEMBERSHIP

If you are a people person that cares about community this is your committee.  
Contact: [ruthseeger@aol.com](mailto:ruthseeger@aol.com)

### ACTION

Want to witness government bodies in action and recommend varied efforts to help influence public policy? Sign up.  
Contact: [action@lwvlc.org](mailto:action@lwvlc.org)

### PROGRAM

Study leads to action. Bring members up to speed on local, state, national, international issues of the day.  
Contact: [program@lwvlc.org](mailto:program@lwvlc.org)

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

BY FREDDI WEISHAHN, DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

### GRANT UPDATES

Umpqua Bank has given us another grant of \$400 for general operating support. Our advocate at Umpqua Bank is Traci Collins, Vice President and Branch Manager of Umpqua Bank at 25 Division Ave. in Eugene. Traci was instrumental in obtaining funding in 2022 to help with our printing costs for "They Represent You."

### FUNDING TO WORK WITH INCARCERATED AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED.

LWVUS recently notified us that they have chosen our League to receive a grant (amount to be determined) to provide incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals from January to November 2024 with information about voter registration, ballot information, and civic education opportunities and materials. Do you have a social work background or experience working with the formerly incarcerated? Whether or not you have experience, would you like to be part of our committee to choose materials and meet with representatives from the Lane County Jail, Sponsors Inc., and Lane County Community Corrections Supervision?

We want to give a special Thank You to Sharon Posner for bringing author Lauren Kessler to our January Table Talk. (See at right.) Lauren has written two books about her experience teaching and mentoring incarcerated individuals and their experiences in community reintegration - *A Grip of Time: When Prison Is Your Life*, and *Free: Two Years, Six Lives, and the Long Journey Home*. Meeting Lauren, who is truly inspiring, and finding out soon after that we would receive this grant was serendipitous!



### FUNDRAISING APPEAL

Our LWVLC Board is grateful for the generous response to our recent fundraising appeal. Your belief in our work to engage and inform voters has brought us \$2,059 closer to our membership fundraising goal for this fiscal year, including a \$1000 anonymous donation. We would also like to acknowledge a gift from Ruth Seeger in honor of Nancie Peacocke Fadeley who received the Annabel Kitzhaber Award from our League for her outstanding contributions as a state representative and her work for the betterment of our communities.

Our plan is to reach out to even more non-member donors for our spring appeal. Our tabling events have shown that community members truly value our efforts to strengthen our democracy by working with our elected officials to keep governance as transparent, fair, and as inclusive as possible.

Do you know neighbors, friends, family, and businesses who would benefit from learning more about our League? If so, please submit their contact information to Freddi Weishahn, [development@lwvlc.org](mailto:development@lwvlc.org). Our goal is to increase our non-member donor contact list 30% by March 2024. Please help us get there!



### LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER LAURIE TRIEGER AT TABLE TALK BY SHARON POSNER

The commissioner is the next Table Talk speaker. February 21, 3pm at the usual place, the Da Ra Restaurant in the Community building at Marquis, 565 Country Club Road, across from the Cancer Institute.

## RECALL STUDY UPDATE

### BY LINDA LYNCH & KELI OSBORN

As LWVLC members and regular *Argus* readers know, a recall election enables voters to remove an elected official from office *before* the official's term has ended. Oregon was one of the first states to adopt the recall, with voters in 1908 amending the state Constitution to make every elected official subject to recall.

LWVOR members approved a study of the recall at the May 2023 state convention. LWV members around the state have interviewed subject-matter experts including elections officials from Deschutes, Lane, Lincoln, Marion, Multnomah and Washington counties. Our team has also dug into Oregon's recall history and assembled information from other states. And, we have identified a few key issues and begun writing the report's first draft.

One under-scrutinized issue that has risen in our work is the question of filling vacancies in elective office. We say "under-scrutinized" because, in Oregon, filling such vacancies is separate from the recall process itself. This may not become part of a LWV future position on recall, but consider these facts:

- If the governor is recalled or the position becomes vacant for any reason, the Secretary of State becomes governor.
- If the Secretary of State position is vacated, the governor appoints an Acting Secretary of State who serves until the next election.

## IT'S THE LAW, NOW

*The House of Representatives is known as the "People's House," because the framers wanted it to be the body of the federal government that is most sensitive to voter opinion.*

[https://fairvote.org/press/the\\_people\\_s\\_house/](https://fairvote.org/press/the_people_s_house/)

Wondering if anything of interest is happening at the People's House? The Library of Congress' "Bills Presented to the President" lists bills that have passed by both the House and Senate and have been sent to the White House for the President's signature.

**H.R.2839** This bill was introduced in the House by Representative Val Hoyle (Oregon District 4) in April 2023, "To amend the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and for other purposes." It was presented, signed and became **Public Law No: 118-33** on

● If the position of a state legislator is vacant, it must be filled by a person from the same political party. The elected precinct people from that legislator's district recommend three candidates to their Board(s) of County Commissioners, who then choose the replacement legislator from that list.

● If a county commission or city council or school board or special district board has a vacancy, the remaining members of that board appoint someone to fill the vacancy, according to their own rules and adopted procedures.

Are these differences a problem for democracy? Should LWV spend time thinking about this or make suggestions for changes? These questions were not explicitly part of the Recall study when we started, but this is such a good example of how working on a League study helps you or maybe forces you to think about many semi-related topics.

**It's not too late to join this committee!**  
**Contact Linda or Keli, and we will plug you in!**

Study committee members are Alice LaViolette, LWV Marion/Polk; Rhonda Livesay, Linda Lynch and Keli Osborn LWVLC; with an assist from LWVOR Board member Annie Goldner, LWV Deschutes. Stay tuned for updates as we move toward presenting positions to the LWVOR Board for approval in March 2025—unless we can complete this journey sooner!

December 26, 2023.

**H.R.1722** The Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023, introduced by Representative Andrea Salinas (Oregon District 6) revises the land claims of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. In particular, the bill specifies that only the tribe's claims to the 84 acres of land known as the Thompson Strip, rather than the tribe's claims to any lands within Oregon, are extinguished.

Additionally, the bill prohibits gaming on any real property obtained by the tribe as part of a land claim settlement approved by the United States, including any real property purchased with funds granted as part of any land claim settlement. It was presented, signed and became **Public Law No: 118-32** on December 26, 2023.

**Terry Parker, President**



175 West B Street, E2, Springfield, OR 97477  
541-343-7917

For the latest information visit our website <http://lwvlc.org/>

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

### No Action meeting in February

- 1 - 1:30 pm, Voter Service (pg 4)
- 6 - 2 pm, Unit Briefing (pg 2)
- 9 - 15, Unit Meetings (pg 2)
- 13 - 2 pm, Membership (pg 5)
- 21 - 3 pm, Table Talk (pg 6)
- 20 - 1 pm, Board Meeting
- 23 - Midnight, *Argus* deadline
- 27 - 11:30 am, League Speaker Series (pg 3)

### ***Thanks to our 2023-24 Directory Advertisers***

*Lane Forest Products*  
*Baker Bay Bead Company*  
*Christine Dambach*  
*Farmers Insurance*  
*Lohring Miller, DMD PC*  
*Sundance Natural Foods/  
Wine Cellars*  
*Unique Properties*  
*Aayres Appliance Repair*  
*Ambrosia*  
*Art's Watch and Jewelry*  
*Bel Ami*  
*Campfire Collaborative  
Architecture & Design*  
*Folkways*  
*FusedGlass.Art*  
*McKenzie Honey Farm*  
*Mi Café*  
*Pepperberries Kitchen Store*  
*Plank Town Brewing Co.*  
*Quality Cleaning*  
*Shelton McMurphy Johnson*  
*House Museum*

### **Mark Your Calendars!!!**

#### **League 101 Event**

Learn more about the League  
With snacks and beverages  
Evening of the 18th of April  
**Tsunami Book Store**

#### **LWVLC Office Hours**

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
(except holidays)  
11 am - 1:30 pm**

#### **MISSED A LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES?**

<https://lwvlc.org/third-thursday-audio-presentations/>

#### **BRIEFINGS VIDEOS**

<https://lwvlc.org/publications/everymember-details/>

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