

THE ALL-IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF CIVICS

by Freddi Weishahn

The League of Women Voters of Greenwich, Connecticut annually invites local Leagues across the country to nominate high school teachers to receive training in the Case Method for Teaching Civics offered through Harvard University. This year LWVLC is nominating LWVLC advisory board member



Clair Wiles, Social Studies teacher at North Eugene High School, to take part in the Case Method workshop this summer. The program,

based on the nineteen case studies in Professor David A. Moss's book, *Democracy - A Case Study*, has proven to be quite successful, and there is no cost to the schools for the teacher training. The material can be rigorous, but the team at Harvard provides ongoing support for teachers to adapt the material for those with reading difficulties.

The prevailing theme in Moss's book is the conflict that is so inevitable in our democratic process. The cases are full of historical context, and students discover why conflict can be quite productive in some cases - and so destructive in others. Students can take either side in the conflicts, and the outcome of each case is revealed only after much class discussion and debate. The following is a summary of one of the cases included in Moss's book.

Look for summaries of more of his cases in future Argus issues.

Democracy, A Case Study
by David A. Moss (2017)

Case #17 - Democracy and Women's Rights in America: The Fight over the ERA (1982)

At issue in 1982 was the hopeful ratification in the Florida Senate of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." The extension of time to ratify the ERA was running out.

Moss and his co-authors for this case take us back to the early days of our Republic when a woman was not allowed citizen status. Instead, she was forced to defer to her husband as a type of overlord. Over time, and when allowed, women proved to be very good at petitioning. They began with charters of incorporation for their charities, petitions restricting liquor sales, and petitions urging Congress not to expel the Cherokee Indians from their ancestral lands in Georgia.

In 1837, the first national women's convention was held in Philadelphia which intended to launch petitioning campaigns to abolish slavery. As canvassers and petitioners, women gained confidence and enthusiasm as they networked with other women within their communities. Their push for abolition gradually gave rise to their desire to see women legally, economically, and socially equal to men. A Declaration of Sentiments in 1848, written by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, called for women's full rights as citizens and an end to their oppression. It was approved by the

(Continued on page 5)

Virtual Third Thursday
Noon, May 20

CYDNEY VANDERCAR
Interim Superintendent,
Eugene School District

Educating with Creativity and Care

Open to the public

To register, go to lwvlc.org
click on Register for Third Thursday.



To learn more
see page 5



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MAY UNIT

GOT PLASTICS? WANT TO REDUCE AND RECYCLE?

by Terry Parker, Program Co-Chair

Monday, May 3rd at 1:30 pm will be the only unit meeting scheduled for May.

Join Terry for a presentation on the "State of Plastics Recycling in Lane County":

- Share how to avoid and reduce the accumulation of plastics
- Learn tips and tricks for cleaning and sorting plastics for local collection
- Update on modernizing Oregon's recycling system and achieving a circular economy

Try the Plastic Free July challenge at www.plasticfreejuly.org

Terry completed the Lane County Master Recyclers' nine-week course and is a "Registered Community Plastic Collector."

Email action@lwvlc.org to sign up for this Zoom session.

JUNE UNIT - BIOCIDES AND PESTICIDES IN OREGON

by Linda Ferdowsian, Program Co-Chair

Usually, we do not have a briefing or unit meetings in June, however, the LWVOR study/consensus on Biocides and Pesticides in Oregon will not be distributed in time for members to prepare for discussion during May units.

Mark these dates and times on your calendar:

Monday, June 7, 10 am

Contact Nancy Mills,
nmills@trinity.edu

Monday, June 7, 2 pm

Contact Mary Keating,
myrnalouise@hotmail.com

Tuesday, June 8, 10 am

Contact Linda Ferdowsian,
lferdowsian@yahoo.com

Virtual Briefing

Tuesday, June 1, 2 pm

Via Zoom - To receive the link
contact myrnalouise@hotmail.com.

All are welcome.

Links and more on the Biocides and Pesticides Study will be in the June *Argus*.

UNITS REPORT

Twenty-three members attended the April Zoom meetings and discussed addressing climate change and solutions through legislative action and individual measures. Some of the suggestions that attendees offered:

- Stress individual efforts to using composting, water collection and conservation, less driving, using electric vehicles, cycling, walking, and mass transportation more, reusing plastic materials.
- More League participation in demonstrations supporting climate activism.
- Partner with other organizations to raise awareness.
- Support restricting more natural gas in new construction.
- Encourage EWEB and SUB, etc. to provide more options to incentivize customers to more climate friendly energy use.
- Support national, state, and local efforts to support creation of more green jobs and equity for jobs for BIPOC and low-wage workers.

Linda Ferdowsian

ACTION PACKED

by Terry Parker, Chair Action Committee

Redistricting - On April 19, 2021 the Elections Division received Initiative Petition **2022-016**, proposed for the November 8, 2022, General Election from the LWVOR campaign *People Not Politicians*. Everyone of us can help! Information is just a click away; go to your League of Women Voters of Lane County website <https://lwvlc.org/> and click on LWVOR Legislative Reports.

Homeless Services and Support for Oregon Bills - The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports **HB 2578, HB 2838, and SB 852**. Freddi Weishahn is following the *Poverty and Homelessness Workgroup*. Consultants report that there is a 44,000 house deficit in Lane County. The lack of affordable and subsidized housing is too complex for any one group to solve, and the entire community must be engaged in the solution. One such solution is home sharing. For more information go to the Home Share Oregon website at: homeshareoregon.org

White Bird Clinic is working to develop safety and de-escalation training for camp leaders and any interested neighbors of the camps. They plan to continue to have BBQs to help bring the camp residents and neighbors together.

There is a need for accurate information sharing in regard to what is happening with Rest Stops and Safe Spots, and other projects focused on serving people living on the street. Go to the City of Eugene website and look for [Human Services and Homelessness Reports](#).

Climate - Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-04, directing state agencies to "exercise any and all authority and discretion" to achieve Oregon's greenhouse gas reduction goals. One year later, the Oregon Climate Action Plan (OCAP) coalition presented their progress report for those charged with turning OCAP into reality. You can find the report at the Renew Oregon website at [Renew Oregon Climate Report Card 2021](#)

Social Justice and Policing - Eugene and Springfield Reports: Community policing is on everyone's mind. Keli Osborn and Sabree Hamel report on Eugene and Springfield activities associated with community safety and policing, respectively. There are two City of Eugene work sessions coming up in May:

The *Community Safety Initiative* work session is scheduled for **May 10 at 5:30 pm**. The Eugene City Council passed the Community Safety Payroll Tax Ordinance in June 2019 to provide long-term funding for community safety services. Per city government, the tax is expected to generate funds to provide faster, more efficient safety responses, deter crime, connect people to services, engage and help at-risk youth, support more investigations and court services, and add jail beds to reduce capacity-based releases and hold those who commit crimes accountable.

The *Ad Hoc Committee on Police Policy* is scheduled **May 17, 5:30 pm**, with Eugene Mayor and City Council. The Eugene City Council created the Committee to review police policies and make recom-

mendations for changes and improvements. The committee is using ideas from [Campaign Zero](#) and [21st Century Policing](#).

Eugene Municipal Court - A recent study from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) found that graduates of the City of Eugene's Community Court program were less likely to be arrested, convicted, or sent to jail than those who did not participate in the program. More than 500 people have participated in Eugene's Community Court program since it began in 2016. Community Court is funded by the Community Safety Payroll Tax. For more information go to the City of Eugene website [Eugene Community Court Evaluation](#)

Two recent reports have recommended that the Springfield Police Department make changes to its use of force policy and their review process. An *Annual Report on the Use of Force* was presented to the Springfield City Council. For more information go to the City of Springfield website <http://www.springfield-or.gov/>

Action Committee Meeting
May 5, 10 am
 Via Zoom - To receive the link
 contact action@lwvlc.org.

RUN!

by Paula Grisafi, Chair Voter Service

Many officials besides those in national office can make our world better or worse, kinder or crueler. People running for school boards, water authorities or fire districts have the power to ensure that money is appropriated for the issues that affect us on a local level and that we care about. Yet many of us ignore local races like the elections that are occurring this May and even fewer people consider running for these local offices. In Lane County this May, about 75% of the races for office up for election have only one candidate running for them, and nearly 10% have no candidates at all running.



Local elected offices are closer to the world where decisions directly impact us, tend to be made fairly and by local populations. It is important to be aware just how crucial

local offices are in the everyday life of citizens. In

local elections, a candidate's constituency has the opportunity to get to know their officials, to spend time with them, debate them, and understand them more as people. These local officials are more readily available, which means they're even more likely to hear your concerns and represent them better when it comes to making decisions.

It is also important to realize that running for local office can allow you to impact for the better your life and the lives of your families, friends, neighbors, and community. Consider where your interests lie and contemplate running for local office. If you don't, you cede power to the people who are more willing to put in the effort, even if they do not reflect your point of view.

Voter Service Meeting May 13, 10 am

Via Zoom - To receive the link contact voterservice@lwwlc.org.

STAND FOR CHILDREN

by Joy Marshall, LWVLC Advisory Board

Each year at the Lane County Beat the Odds event \$16,000 college scholarships are awarded to students who have overcome incredible obstacles on their path to graduation day. More than a scholarship event, Beat the Odds is a huge celebration and a launching pad for the critical work Stand does to improve opportunities for Oregon students.

This year Beat the Odds once again will be virtual, share the stories of this year's local scholars, and speak to the critical work the organization is doing in this unprecedented and pivotal time. Wait until you meet these students - you won't want to miss this!



Lane County Stand for Children virtual Beat the Odds scholarship awards

Thursday, June 3, 5 - 6 pm

Go to www.stand.org/oregon/beat-odds-lane-county-2021 to RSVP

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

Technology/Website Assistant

- Assist in posting to LWVLC website. Keep calendar current. upload forms.
- Assist with posting to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Make lists and email blasts.
- Technical or computer savvy needed. Website is on WordPress. Contact Website and Technology Chair, Rhonda Livesay, webmaster@lwwlc.org.

Treasurer's Assistant

- Learn procedure for maintaining LWVLC financial and tax records.
- Maintain financial records in treasurer's absence.
- Help complete yearly tax reports. Contact Gary Harmon, treasurer@lwwlc.org.

Want to know the specific skills, training and time commitment of the task?
Please feel free to contact us.

Office Volunteer

- Handle incoming phone calls and mail.
 - Greet guests.
 - Organize and maintain office and files.
 - Print and scan materials.
- Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11 am-1:30 pm. Serve one day per month.
Contact Linda Ferdowsian, office@lwwlc.org.

MAY THIRD THURSDAY SPEAKER, CYDNEY VANDERCAR

By Linda Lynch

Eugene School District Interim Superintendent Cydney Vandercar has served in that position since July 1, 2020. She grew up in Lane County and has been a teacher and leader in the District for nearly 30 years. After starting out as a substitute teacher, she taught math for several years before becoming a school administrator. She most recently served as the District's Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, where she oversaw finance, human resources, nutrition services and public safety.

Ms. Vandercar is the second woman to lead the District in its 166 year history.



When she was named Interim Superintendent, School Board Chair Anne Marie Levis said, "Ms. Vandercar has a long history, deep knowledge, established relationships and unbounded caring for the Eugene School District and its students, staff and schools."

Her experience as a teacher, principal, director and assistant superintendent prepares her well for this job as the District has had to pivot through the changing COVID landscape and prepare for the changes that will come as we emerge from the pandemic.

To register to hear Ms. Vandercar speak, go to lwvlc.org and click on the "Register" button.

Continued from page 1 **Civics**

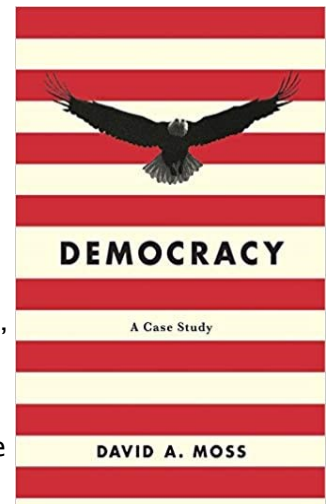
men (including Frederick Douglass) and women attending the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York.

Women slowly gained protections against violence and, by 1900, were finally able to raise the age of sexual consent from 10 to 16.

When the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments were passed, abolishing slavery and giving citizenship to male freedmen and immigrants, women were still not included in the language of the law. Suffrage associations eventually formed the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) in 1890. The NAWSA was sensitive to segregationists in the South and, disappointingly, did not oppose the emerging voter suppression of blacks. A more activist party led by Alice Paul became the National Women's Party (NWP) in 1916. With persistence and extreme sacrifice, the NWP helped bring the Nineteenth Amendment into law in 1920.

In 1923, the NWP and Alice Paul petitioned Congress for an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to ensure that women would be given rights such as equal pay for the same work, access to more occupations and professional schools, and the right to sit on juries. The proposal did not survive the Senate Judiciary Committee but in the ensuing years, the ERA would be ratified by dozens of states and later rescinded by four of them. Not counting the rescissions, thirty-five states had ratified the ERA by 1979. Three more states were still needed, and the deadline was extended to 1982. Florida was a key battleground state, with Illinois and Oklahoma likely to follow.

Moss includes the many voices and issues that made the ERA so controversial by 1982. Opponents worried about its effect on marriage, abortion, women in combat, and gay rights and gay marriage. In the follow-up, we learn that the ERA has again been defeated by the Florida Senate and the time extension has run out. However, since the publication of Moss's book (2017), three more states have ratified the ERA, and it appears that the courts will decide if going beyond the original deadline is legally viable.



HEY!

by Kathy Madison, Public Relations Chair

There's an important election coming up!

There are four money issues and 39 races for elected officials on the May 18 Lane County special election ballot. Voters will be asked to choose elected officials who will direct Lane Community College, School District 4J, Lane Education Service District, and fire, water, and library districts throughout the county.

Voters will also weigh in on taxes to create Mohawk Valley Law Enforcement, support 4-H and OSU Extension Programs and operation of Lane Fire Authority, as well as issue bonds to renovate, repair and improve McKenzie School District facilities.

Do you know how you'll vote?

Go to Vote411.org and enter your address to find which races will be on your personal ballot and who's running. For more information about the ballot measures, go to: <https://www.lanecounty.org> click on May 18, 2021 Special Election, scroll down, and click "Measure filings."



OUR ANNUAL MEETING

by Charlcie Kaylor, President

Locate and read the Annual Meeting Workbook so you'll be ready to Zoom into the meeting well prepared and raring to go. We have a quorum requirement so please attend. Can't find the workbook? Call the League office or email office@lwvlc.org to request a copy.



RESET, REBOOT, RECONNECT

The 2021 State Convention will be held Monday-Sunday, May 10-16, 2021, via Zoom. This year, as a virtual convention, events will be scheduled over the whole week with only two-four hours of events each day. Caucuses will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, with a short time slot available Friday afternoon.

LWVLC is allotted nine delegate seats (with a few still open) and an unlimited number of observers. The difference? Observers, of course, observe – and may also speak but may not vote. Interested? Call or email me with questions, comments and to sign up. Great way to “meet” other Leaguers and further your knowledge of the League. Charlcie Kaylor president@lwvlc.org or 541-686-0124

LWVUS NEWS RELEASE

Civil Rights Groups, Civic Organizations, Tribal and Local Governments Secure Broad Resolution in Census Lawsuit

4/22/2021

STIPULATED DISMISSAL, PRESENTED FOR COURT APPROVAL, GUARANTEES CENSUS BUREAU WILL NOT RELEASE RUSHED APPORTIONMENT NUMBERS, WILL NOT PROVIDE STATES WITH DATA TO EXCLUDE NONCITIZENS FROM REDISTRICTING, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE KEY ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION TO PLAINTIFFS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE QUALITY OF THE PARTIALLY SHORTENED COUNT UNDER THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION.

Civil rights groups, civic organizations, and tribal and local governments have secured and presented to the court for approval a final resolution in the federal lawsuit that stopped the federal government from severely truncating and skewing the results of the 2020 Census.

"Today's settlement affirms the principle that all our communities deserve fair representation," said **Virginia Kase**, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States. "The effort to rush the timeline set by our trusted census experts was a blatant attempt to force an undercount, deprive American communities of critical funding, and undermine the accuracy of our representative districts. With this agreement, our community leaders can reliably move forward with the work of serving their residents."

The previous administration had sought to cut short both census data-collection and census data-processing to announce incomplete and inaccurate census results before former President Trump's term ended. After a series of favorable rulings in the case, *National Urban League v. Ross* (now *National Urban League v. Raimondo*), the Census Bureau was required to continue collecting full data from tens of millions of US residents from September 11 through October 15. The court prevented the Census Bureau from ending the count on September 30; millions more US residents were counted through the end of the extended data collection period on October 15. And the Census Bureau agreed to continue the data processing period into spring 2021, as sought by plaintiffs, instead of improperly ending it before the Trump administration left office.

Under the terms of the stipulated order to dismiss the lawsuit submitted to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California for approval today:

- The Census Bureau will continue to process the population numbers for congressional apportionment on an appropriate full timeline and will release those numbers no earlier than April 26, 2021.
- The Census Bureau will include everyone, regardless of citizenship status, in population numbers for congressional apportionment and state-level redistricting.
- The Census Bureau has acknowledged that the "illegal alien" citizenship data it was preparing for former President Trump is statistically unfit for use in apportionment and redistricting.
- The Census Bureau will continue, with the assistance of third parties, to assess the data it obtained during the partially truncated data collection period under the Trump administration—and will provide plaintiffs and the public critical information and bi-monthly reports on its reviews of the quality of the 2020 Census data for the next year.

The plaintiffs in *National Urban League v. Raimondo* (formerly *National Urban League v. Ross*) are membership and advocacy organizations, counties, cities, federally recognized Indian tribes, and individuals representing a broad swath of US residents, including historically undercounted populations who were most likely to be missed by a rushed census process: communities of color, low-income individuals, undocumented immigrants, residents of Indian reservations, and persons with mental and physical disabilities.

The plaintiffs filed their suit last August in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California when the Trump administration, against the judgment of the Census Bureau's expert staff, attempted to drastically shorten the timeline for census data collection and processing efforts during the pandemic. The suit alleged that the administration's actions violated the federal Administrative Procedure Act and the US Constitution and threatened long-term harm in myriad ways, given that census figures are used to reapportion the U.S. House of Representatives, redraw congressional, state, and local electoral districts, and distribute more than \$1.5 trillion annually in federal funds for education, food, healthcare, and other needs. The lawsuit also alleged that the speed-up was designed to facilitate an illegal directive from former President Trump that sought to exclude undocumented immigrants from the congressional apportionment.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit are the National Urban League, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Black Alliance for Just Immigration, the League of Women Voters, the Navajo Nation, the Gila River Indian Community, Harris County in Texas, Commissioners Rodney Ellis and Adrian Garcia of the Harris County Commissioners Court, King County in Washington, the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, the cities of San Jose and Salinas (California), and the City of Chicago, Illinois.

The plaintiffs are represented by Latham & Watkins LLP, the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Brennan Center for Justice, and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, among others.



380 Q STREET, Suite 250, SPRINGFIELD, OREGON 97477
541-343-7917

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

CALENDAR

MAY

3 - 1:30 pm, Unit "Recycling in Lane County" (page 2)

Next month all Units will meet as usual (page2)

5 - 10 am, Action Committee (page 3)

8 - 10 am, LWVLC Annual Meeting (page 6)

13 - 10 am, Voter Service Committee (page 4)

18 - LAST DAY TO CAST A BALLOT - (page 6)

18 - 2 pm, Membership Committee

19 - 1:30 pm, Board meeting

20 - Noon, Third Thursday (pages 1 & 5)

21 - Midnight, Argus deadline

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

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

BRIEFINGS VIDEOS

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

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