



September 2025

Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter



You are invited to the
**LEAGUE SPEAKER
SERIES KICKOFF
LUNCHEON**

WITH SPEAKER

**MAYOR
KAARIN KNUDSON**

When: Tuesday, September 30,
11:30am -1pm

Where: First United Methodist
Church Community Room
1376 Olive Street, Eugene

What: Three options
Buffet lunch - \$25 or
Coffee and dessert only - \$5 or
Program only - no food/drink - free

How: RSVP by making reservations
See how on page 3.



WHAT'S INSIDE

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UNITS

BY MARJ MAXWELL, UNIT DIRECTOR

LWV of Lane County Board and Off Board Roster 2025-26

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TERRY PARKER
president@lwwlc.org

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Nominations

PAULA GRISAFI

Program Co-chairs

**SHARON AMASHA &
LORI BARKER**
program@lwwlc.org
loribarker@lwwlc.org

Technology Director

RHONDA LIVESAY
technologydir@lwwlc.org

Units

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marjmaxwell@gmail.com

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voterservice@lwwlc.org

Webmaster

OPEN
webmaster@lwwlc.org

Director at Large

MORGAN VIERHELLER
morganv@lwwlc.org

Still seeking a Unit leader for an Evening Unit. Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, the second week of the month, starting at 5 or 5:30pm has been identified as the target time. The exact day or time has not been set as of the date of this article.

- Unit Leaders lead discussion,
- record feedback or have another attendee record the feedback.
- Feedback is sent to the Unit Chair.
- Subject resource people are provided
- and every member gets questions to guide the discussion.

Let me know if you are able to help.

Many thanks to everyone, new or continuing, who makes Units work. As usual, you are amazing, and it takes a village.

Contact Marj Maxwell:

marjmaxwell@gmail.com or
541-521-3051 cell, if you can help.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Briefing for Unit leaders or alternate
October 7, 2pm, League office
175 W B Street, Ste E 2, Springfield
Watch for the Zoom link

Mark your calendars!

Unit Study/ Discussion Groups will be resuming in October 2025.

The topic is *Emergency Preparedness*.

- Monday 1:30pm (in person) South Eugene/Anne Best's home (subject to change).
- Tuesday 10am (in person) Coburg Road/ The Springs at Greer Gardens
- Thursday 11am (hybrid) Middlefield Oaks, 1500 Village Dr., Cottage Grove
- Thursday 2pm (in person) Coburg Road/ Barbara French's home
- Friday, 10am (in person) First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene
- Friday, 1pm (in person) Cascade Manor, 65 W 30th Ave, Eugene, in the Solarium
- Evening Unit - zoom only. In development for Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, 5/5:30 start

HELP MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT AI

BY SHARON AMASHA AND LORI BARKER, PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

The evolving role of **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)** in democracy was approved as a topic for one of this year's Unit program studies. The scope of the study will critically examine the impacts of artificial intelligence on democratic institutions.

Anyone interested in participating in preparing the study for this topic and who has not already signed up is invited to contact:

Lori Barker at loribarker@lwwlc.org or Sharon Amasha at program@lwwlc.org to be added to the group.

CHANGE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IN THE NEW DIRECTORY?

BY LINDA FERDOWSIAN, OFFICE MANAGER

The *2025/2026 Directory* will be published this fall. Members have the option of what personal information they wish to be published. **We do not sell the information or publish the *Directory* on the website**, but if you would like your home address, email address, or telephone number withheld, please email your preferences to office@lwwlc.org by September 15th.

MAYOR KNUDSON AT LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES

Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knudson is an architect, writer, and educator with more than 25 years' experience in design, sustainability, and community building. Trained as a journalist before becoming an architect, her work has always focused on people and place. In 2017, after a decade in architectural practice, she organized the public-interest project Better Housing Together to address Lane County's housing crisis. This work supported the creation of Eugene's Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Lane County's first Affordable Housing Action Plan, and Oregon's landmark middle housing reforms. In 2024, she was elected with 73% of the primary vote and 96% in the general election. She is the first All-American runner to be elected mayor of TrackTown, USA.

Mayor Knudson teaches planning and urban design at the University of Oregon, and she speaks regionally and nationally about housing, sustainable cities, and the work of guiding community change. Her first book, *The Sustainable Urban Design Handbook* (Routledge), was published in 2024.

Submitted by the Mayor's Staff



HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT AT THE LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES LUNCHEON BY RUTH SEEGER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knudson will be our speaker at the League Speaker Series Kickoff Luncheon

You will hear first-hand from one of our hardworking local government officials about issues important to our community and how you can help make a difference.

Please make your reservations ASAP, and plan to join us for this important event which will kickoff our programs this fall.

Even if you don't plan to eat or drink, let us know you are coming so we can save a seat for you.

Please provide your name and the name of any guests.

When: Tuesday, September 30, 11:30am - 1pm

Where: First United Methodist Church Community Room at 1376 Olive Street, Eugene

What: Three options-

Buffet Lunch - \$25

Coffee and Dessert only - \$5

Program only (no food/drink) - free

How:

- Reserve and pay online at [Reservations](https://lwwlc.org/advocacy/speakers-and-forums/)
<https://lwwlc.org/advocacy/speakers-and-forums/>
OR
- Reserve by emailing contact@lwwlc.org - with the subject line -Speaker Series
OR
- Reserve by calling the League office @ 541-343-7917 and leaving a message

The email and phone reservations will be paid at the door.

In order to best manage our financial resources, if you make a reservation (for lunch or beverage/dessert) and your plans change but you do not cancel by 9/23/2025 - *you will be charged for the reservation.*

The deadline for food reservations is noon on September 20.

BE A CASHIER!

BY RHONDA LIVESAY, TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

Do you like greeting people? I am in need of one or two more cashiers for the monthly League Speaker Series luncheons. It is not hard, and you get to know your fellow League members. We take cash and credit cards through the Square app. Please contact me at technologydir@lwwlc.org for more information, or better yet, to volunteer!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS BY RUTH SEEGER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Motto of the Month:

Acknowledge your power – “One thing I believe profoundly: We make our own history. The course of history is directed by the choices we make and our choices grow out of the ideas, the beliefs, the values, the dreams of the people.” (Eleanor Roosevelt)

Welcome to our newest members.

We can't do the work of the League without our members. Please help us welcome

Flo Delaney, Heather Evans, and Erika Patterson.

We are glad you are here!

Did You Know?

We have 236 members from across Lane County. We have young and old. We have new and experienced. We have retired and working. We have urban and rural. We have YOU. Thank you!

If you need help renewing your membership or are unsure of your renewal date, please email us and someone will get back to you with help. It helps us (a lot) if you can renew on time, so we don't have to bother you with so many notices. We appreciate you!

Mark Your Calendars

Tuesday, October 21 - 5-7pm

New member training – Increase Your Impact. Join us for a fast-paced, action oriented new member training. Circulate to various tables where hosts will give you a quick overview of the League's emphasis areas and offer ways to sign up to help achieve our work of *Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy*. The training is designed for new or newish members who want to learn more about the League and hear about our upcoming action items (and everyone is welcome). We will be meeting at the Eugene Garden Club
1645 High Street, Eugene.
Please RSVP to membership@lwvlc.org with a subject line: Increase Your Impact.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, September 9, 2-3:30pm
At the League office. All are welcome.
For the Zoom link, contact membership@lwvlc.org

LANE LEAGUE ON WATCH ADVOCACY 2025

Thursday, September 18 - 5:30 to 7 pm
South Sister Room
The Springs at Greer Gardens
1282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene

ANNUAL FRUIT AND NUT SALE HAPPENING IN FALL

BY LAURA ENGLAND FLANIGAN, DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Our annual Fruit and Nut Sale/Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, December 6, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

We will offer cases of apples and bags of hazelnuts from our local Detering Orchards as well as working with our long-time fruit supplier, offering cases of premium grapefruit and oranges. We are hoping to keep costs close to last year's prices.

For new members of LWVLC, this is our annual fundraiser, raising operating monies for our local League but also providing an opportunity for our members to directly donate to FOOD for Lane County.

We need lots of folks to not only place orders for themselves or their families but also to reach out to friends, neighbors, and co-workers for potential orders because we all need to eat!

Check out next month's *Argus* for an order form and our website for prices and the timeline to order.

Please contact me at development@lwvlc.org or our office at (541)343-7917 if you wish to volunteer stuffing envelopes for orders and helping with fruit pick-up the day of the sale.

LWVLC AT SPRINGFIELD TOWN HALL

BY BEATRICE MCKENZIE, CO-VICE PRESIDENT

More than 150 community members attended a Town Hall that State Senator Floyd Prozanski and State Representatives Nancy Nathanson and Lisa Fragala held in Springfield City Hall on Saturday, August 23. Springfield Mayor Sean VanGordon moderated short



Left to Right: Rep. Fragala, Rep. Nathanson, Sen. Prozanski, Mayor VanGordon

presentations followed by a lengthy Q&A session. Attendees respectfully received clear, concise information mainly about legislation in housing, education, and healthcare. Worrisome funding gaps remain. The legislators head back to Salem Friday for a special session on Transportation.

In the area of **Healthcare**, legislators hailed the approval of \$14.5 million for the Lane County Stabilization Center for adults and youth in crisis, which passed with bipartisan support. Many problems remain. Nathanson talked about the impact on our community since 9,000 people lost access to their doctors when United Healthcare bought out Oregon Medical Group in late 2020. There is a lack of doctors, physicians assistants, and nurse practitioners across the region. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has approved McKenzie Willamette's plan to open an **emergency department in West Eugene**. Another problem is that **Urgent Care Centers are not regulated** in Oregon. There is no information online about 11 of the 14 Urgent Care facilities. Some have labs, or imaging, and others do not. There may not be medical personnel on duty so a telehealth appointment from the center may be necessary. OHA rejected a plan to list information about these centers online. Nathanson promised to continue working on this.

An even more urgent problem exists: because of provisions of the recent Big Beautiful Bill Act of July 2025, Oregon expects an \$11.7 billion shortfall. The Trump administration and the Republicans in the US Congress have prioritized tax breaks to the wealthiest in the nation.

There will be cuts of more than **\$15 billion in vital state programs** in the next six years, especially to SNAP benefits and medicaid, affecting 100,000 to 200,000 Oregonians. These cuts will be felt by families, seniors, and working Oregonians. The Oregon Attorney General has joined a lawsuit to keep state SNAP data from being politicized by the federal government.

In response to a question about **HB 2002, Trans Gender Affirming Care**, Prozanski said Oregon's Attor-

ney General joined other states in 37 lawsuits, one of which was about gender-affirming care. Fragala said that while other states have codified protective language from the Affordable Care Act, Oregon has not. In 2019 Oregon passed the strongest reproductive healthcare act in the country. Fragala emphasized a need to protect abortion and other reproductive healthcare. Planned Parenthood has been relied upon for more general healthcare, especially in rural and underserved areas.

There were many successes mentioned in the area of **Housing**, including significant improvements in previous legislation and expanded production of housing. The legislature invested \$1.14 billion in housing and homelessness. HB 2138 expands the Oregon Middle Housing Program. The Oregon Homes Program is an effort to bypass regulations by encouraging the use of pre-approved housing designs. A statewide shelter system was implemented. And legislation prohibits discrimination in housing based on immigration status. Nathanson promoted a financing tool called limited equity co-ops, where low income people get an ownership stake in a co-op. One example is Peace Village off River Road with 70 units.

In the area of **Education**, Representative Fragala spoke with pride about the historic investment of more than 11 billion dollars in K-12 education in Oregon. Many increases in K-12 spending were funded. Two other legislative successes were the Freedom to Read bill, which prohibits banning books in statewide school districts, and the Climate Education Bill, which implements climate science curriculum in K-12.

Although there is stable funding at adequate levels for now, some education funding by the Federal Government is in jeopardy, particularly for Title 1 programs. Attorney General Dan Rayfield has filed injunctions against these federal actions. Eugene 4J School District took the lead on one injunction against the federal government's plan to withhold funds based in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

EXPANDING THE IMPACT OF THE LEAGUE AND VOTER EDUCATION

BY NANCY MILLS, VOTER SERVICE CHAIR

I'm looking for writers, researchers, and content creators to expand voter education about the issues that matter most in Lane County.

A new campaign from the national office, **Unite and Rise 8.5**, points to tailored messaging as one way to mobilize 3.5% of the US population, or 8.5 million adults – the number of changed minds necessary to stop an autocracy.

This is based on the following finding from the Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights:

"Nonviolent protests are twice as likely to succeed as armed conflicts...and those engaging a threshold of 3.5% of the population have never failed to bring about change."

According to the University of Florida, approximately 245 million Americans were eligible to vote in the 2024 general election. According to the above research, if 3.5% of these eligible voters — 8,575,000 people — engage in nonviolent protests, we *will* bring about meaningful change.

There are many potential activities to reach the 8.5 million voter goal. The Voter Service committee, during its brainstorming meeting, identified "action on issues that matter in our community" as our priority through the 2026 mid-term elections. Specifically, creating more effective messages on the issues that matter to voters in all corners of Lane County.

Here is where I need your help, please.

1. Send me the issues that you would like us to consider, and, for example, immigration rights; redistricting; or the use of the National Guard in our cities.

2. Tell me how you can help. Would you like to research a topic, write a message for print or video, or present the information on camera? Could you help post content to social media? Do you have a unique perspective – younger than the average League member, different gender, race, orientation, or ethnic group? We are most effective when we can speak authentically to folks.

We don't need one person with all these skills but a community of people who can pitch in to help us get this right. Email me at voterservice@lwvlc.org and let's get started!

**VOTER EDUCATION
COMMITTEE MEETINGS
BEGIN IN OCTOBER
STAY TUNED.**

CONTINUED FROM TOWN HALL REPORT ON PAGE 5

The legislature did not do well funding higher education. Oregon's public universities and community colleges received funding at the current service level. But increased expenses and needs are not funded, and universities--especially SOU--and community colleges are struggling. One result is increased tuition and another is the loss of services and programs for students. Fragala called for a focus on Revenue Reform in Oregon, a matter the House Higher Ed and Workforce Development Committee discussed in a meeting with the Governor this week. Prozanski agreed and suggested looking at using half of the state's kicker fund, not for the General Fund, but for vital programs like Wildfire Suppression and SNAP.



Lane Leaguers left to right:
Morgan Vierheller, Beatrice McKenzie, Nancy Mills, and Peggy Dame



FEDERAL JUDICIARY - THE LEAGUE'S POSITION

Statement of Position on the Federal Judiciary, as announced by the national board, June 2025

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) believes that all powers of the US government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of the balance of powers among the three branches of government. The League believes that, within the bounds of the US Constitution, the overarching principles of transparency, accountability, independence, and ethics are essential to an effective federal judiciary.

These principles are not only essential for a strong democracy but foster public trust in the federal judiciary and adherence to the rule of law, the essence of our constitutional democracy.

For the federal judiciary, the League supports the essential principles of:

- **Transparency:** Federal court documents, proceedings, and rulings, including those in “shadow docket” cases, should be open and available to the public within the bounds of the law, recognizing the need for limited exceptions, such as legally protected sensitive information.
- **Accountability:** Federal judges and Justices should be held legally and ethically responsible for the integrity of their actions, with enforceable consequences for violations.
- **Independence:** Federal judges and Justices should act in accordance with the Constitution and statutory and case law, free from the influence of the other branches of government and free from shifting popular and political opinion.
- **Ethics:** Federal judges and Justices should adhere to ethical standards of conduct that apply universally at all levels of the federal courts. There should be a meaningful enforcement process with judges and Justices subject to penalties for failure to comply with the standards.

The League believes that standards of conduct for federal judges and Justices should include requirements to disclose non-judicial income; other financial benefits including, but not limited to, gifts and hospitality; and investment holdings. Federal judges, Justices, and their partners or spouses should be subject to penalties for failure to disclose accurately and in a timely manner.

The League believes that standards of conduct should include a process that requires a judge or Justice to recuse themselves upon evidence that a bias or reasonable perception of a bias exists for or against any party or issue raised in a case. A judge's or Justice's decision and rationale not to recuse, despite evidence raised in the court proceedings, should be disclosed in the court's record. The League believes that respect for precedent (*stare decisis*) under most circumstances contributes to a strong democracy and promotes predictability and stability of law. *Stare decisis* does not mean precedents cannot or should not be overruled, but that such instances should occur in exceptional circumstances.

The League believes that the elements of this position contribute to judicial integrity and are essential to a strong democracy. These elements exemplify what the League expects from the federal courts, building trust and buttressing the Courts' legitimacy. Adherence to the principles of accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics ensures both a strong federal judiciary and a stronger democracy.



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

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

***Thanks to our
2024-25 Directory
Advertisers***

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Folkways
Long's Meat Market
McKenzie Honey Farm
Pepperberries Kitchen Store
Quality Cleaning
Shelton McMurphy Johnson
House Museum*

**CALENDAR
SEPTEMBER**

9 - 2 to 3:30pm, Membership Committee meeting (pg. 4)

16 - 1pm, Board meeting

18 - 5:30 to 7pm, Advocacy Watch (pg. 4)

19 - Midnight, *Argus* deadline

30 - Kickoff Luncheon for League Speaker Series (pg. 3)

OCTOBER WILL BE BUSY WITH THE BEGINNING OF UNITS, VOTER SERVICE, AND OTHER MEETINGS.
WATCH FOR INCREASE YOUR IMPACT (FOR THE LEAGUE CURIOUS).
ALL IN NEXT MONTH'S *ARGUS*.

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

DONATE NOW

<http://lwvlc.org/get-involved/donate/>

MISSED A LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES?

<https://lwvlc.org/audio-visual-recordings-archives/>