



February 2026

Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter



LWVLC SPEAKER SERIES

FEATURES

OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dan Rayfield

FEBRUARY 24, 11:30am

At the Shedd Institute

See page 3 for details



WHAT'S INSIDE

- Unit Discussion Topic Information (pg. 2)
- February Speaker Event and Increase Your Impact (pg. 3)
- Voter Service and Local/Rural Support (pg. 4)
- Membership Matters and Remembering Cindy Sharp (pg. 5)
- League at All Levels and Happy 106th Birthday (pg. 6)
- Lane League on Watch Advocacy 2026 (pg. 6)
- League Looking Ahead and LWVLC Development Ideas Wanted (pg.7)
- Calendar and More (back page)

League Speaker Series in March
Representative **Lisa Fragala**, Oregon House District 8

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

President

TERRY PARKER
president@lwwlc.org

Co - Vice Presidents

**BEATRICE MCKENZIE &
LINDA FERDOWSIAN**
vicepresident@lwwlc.org

Secretary

JEANNE TAYLOR
secretary@lwwlc.org

Treasurer

PATTY SANDOZ
treasurer@lwwlc.org

Action

OPEN
action@lwwlc.org

Argus Editor & Historian

CHARLCIE KAYLOR
argus@lwwlc.org

Communications Director

JULIE KNESS
communication@lwwlc.org

Development Director

**LAURA ENGLAND
FLANIGAN**
development@lwwlc.org

Office Manager

LINDA FERDOWSIAN
office@lwwlc.org

Membership

RUTH SEEGER
membership@lwwlc.org

Nominations

PAULA GRISAFI

Program Co-chairs

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

Technology Director

RHONDA LIVESAY
technologydir@lwwlc.org

Units Director

MARJORIE MAXWELL
marjmaxwell@gmail.com

Voter Service

NANCY MILLS
voterservice@lwwlc.org

Webmaster

OPEN
webmaster@lwwlc.org

Director at Large

MORGAN VIERHELLER
morganv@lwwlc.org

FEBRUARY DISCUSSION TOPIC - UNIT CHOICE BY MARJ MAXWELL, UNITS DIRECTOR

- No Unit Briefing is scheduled in February
- January Unit Attendance: 38 members, five guests
- The Wednesday Evening Unit seeks someone to assist with facilitating meetings.

Coburg/Springs, February 10, Tuesday, 10am (in person)

Topic: Choice and description to be determined. Watch for email.

The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd., Eugene

Discussion Leader: Linda Ferdowsian, 541-579-1866, Lferdowsian@yahoo.com

Evening, February 11, Wednesday, 5:30pm, (Zoom only)

Topic: Bringing People Together from Opposite Political Spectrums.

January 14, Wednesday, 5:30pm,

Discussion Leader: Terry Parker, 541-344- 5924, president@lwwlc.org

Zoom Operator: Rhonda Livesay 541-228-4373, technologydir@lwwlc.org

For Zoom link to the discussion, please email technologydir@lwwlc.org

The Enemies Project and *Braver Angels* are among movements that work to bring people from opposite political spectrums together. We will watch an episode of *The Enemies Project* then discuss how to bridge political divides. Watching opposites connect as human beings can impact our own political beliefs.

Check out these links to learn more:

Enemies Project LINK: <https://www.enemiesproject.org/about>

Braver Angels LINK: <https://braverangels.org/>

Cottage Grove, February 12, Thursday, 11am Zoom and in person

Topic: Cultural Clashes in Intergenerational Workplaces.

Help build a study proposal for 2026-27.

Middlefield Oaks, 1500 Village Dr., Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Discussion Leader: Anna Strickland 509-733-6034, Ledal@middlefieldoaks.com

Zoom operator: Linda Ferdowsian, office@lwwlc.org

For zoom link and electronic copy of the discussion materials email office@lwwlc.org

Guest Discussion Leader: James Schaper, League Member

Explore issues, benefits, and strategies for today's workplace. Help build a study proposal for 2026-27. James has developed materials, with references, to help start the discussion.

Central Eugene, February 13, Friday, 10am-noon

Topic: Beyond Housing -

How ShelterCare Assists in Achieving Long-Term Stability.

First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene

Discussion Leader, Diana Grandberry, 541-342-8402, 76music79@comcast.net

Guest Speaker: Alyssa Gilbert

ShelterCare provides a range of housing programs and services to individuals and families who are experiencing, or on the verge of, homelessness. In 2024-2025, they helped 781 people in Lane County move forward on their journey toward housing stability and independence.

Cascade Manor, February 24, Tuesday, 3 - 4pm

Topic: College Hill Reservoir Replacements.

Cascade Manor, 65 W 30th Ave, Eugene, in the *Auditorium*

Discussion Leader: Carol Hildebrand, 541-434-4254, carodane1943@gmail.com

Guest Speaker: EWEB Project Engineer Laura Farthing

Learn about the drinking water reservoir being built near the top of College Hill between Lawrence and Lincoln Streets. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

DAN RAYFIELD - Biography from Oregon DOJ, Office of the Attorney General

Dan Rayfield is Oregon's 18th Attorney General. His leadership philosophy was shaped by his parents' contrasting worldviews—his mother, a Green Party member, and his father, a Republican. Rather than seeing these differences as obstacles, Dan learned to identify common ground while respecting diverse approaches to achieving shared goals – an attitude that shapes his leadership style. As Oregon's Attorney General, Dan is focused on strengthening community safety, protecting seniors and working families, and upholding Oregon's values and the rule of law.

Dan attended Tigard High School and earned his undergraduate degree at Western Oregon University. He attended Willamette University Law School and was admitted to the Oregon State Bar in 2006. Dan spent 18 years in private practice working on consumer protection cases, and served in the legislature for a decade representing the City of Corvallis.

In the legislature, Dan spent four years as Co-Chair of the Ways and Means committee before being elected Speaker of the House. His tenure as Speaker was marked by significant achievements and a commitment to advancing the health and economic well-being of Oregonians, from enacting the nation's strongest abortion protections to unprecedented investments in Oregon's semiconductor industry, education, and housing.



OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL DAN RAYFIELD TALKS ABOUT FACING OFF AGAINST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

BY JULIE KNESS, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

We're on a roll! Please join us on February 24, for the League's Speaker Series when we host Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield. Expect to hear him discuss the state's involvement in 53 lawsuits filed against the federal government in the past year.

"We have a very simple analysis. . . are Oregonians being harmed? If Oregonians are being harmed, is there a violation of the constitution or a statute... and if the answer is yes, then the state has standing and we move forward," the Attorney General explained. "When you look at all of those cases, right, 53, that's a ton... in almost all of them where we have sought immediate relief, we're winning those cases."

Rayfield is a key player in ensuring the people of our state are able to vote in November. Hear how he's enforcing laws that protect voters, prohibiting voter intimidation, and ensuring efficient and fair administration of elections.

Tuesday, February 24, 11:30 am - 1pm at The Shedd Institute, 285 East Broadway in Eugene.
Visit our website - lwvlc.org - or call the League office at 541-343-7917 to reserve your seats today.

The event is open to the public.

The \$5 required reservation fee is due by February 17.

INCREASE YOUR IMPACT WITH THE LEAGUE

BY RUTH SEEGER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Tuesday, March 17, 5 - 7 pm
Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St. Eugene

Discover all the ways you can help empower voters and embolden democracy, including:

- Helping citizens understand ballot issues
- Teaching them how to participate in the work of government
- Becoming a more informed and engaged citizen

Join us for a fast-paced, action-oriented member mobilization event. 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. Want to "do something" in 2026? Come and sign up to help. Bring some friends too. Everyone is welcome. Sign up opening soon....

VOTER SERVICE UPDATE

BY NANCY MILLS, VOTER SERVICE CHAIR

We are working with the local libraries to provide a program on how to prepare for the upcoming election including information about the need to register for a party in order to vote in partisan elections in the upcoming primary election, the importance of checking registration to confirm that it is complete, cautions about the need to vote early rather than relying on the postmark on your ballot, and suggestions for ways to determine if information about candidates, ballot measures, and election integrity is accurate. We are also providing an abbreviated description of this information via neighborhood association newsletters.

We are identifying community sites for voter registration tables and are exploring mechanisms for publicizing those sites on a weekly basis so that community members can make a plan to register rather than simply encountering a registration opportunity as they are running errands.

Many of you are interested in participating in **League activities related to the upcoming elections**. Voter Service is interested in connecting you to the activities that match your talents and schedule.

We have created an on-line **Voter Service Volunteer Interest Survey** for you, and the link will be sent to you by email. If you prefer a paper copy, one is included in this mailing. You can fill it out and send it to:

Nancy Mills, 65 W. 19th Ave., Eugene, OR 97401

Thank you in advance for filling out the Voter Service Volunteer Interest form. I look forward to working with you.

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 12 at 1:30pm Zoom

For Zoom link: nmills@trinity.edu

HOW TO SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

In February 2025, LWVLC did a study of local journalism, considering the value that a local paper brought to a community in terms of its coverage of local activities, including information about local governance, school boards, and city councils, which are essential for informed citizen participation. Loss of a local paper meant loss of a valuable watchdog as well as a diminished sense of community identity. When a local paper dies, the news vacuum is filled by social media, which doesn't have the same tradition of fact

Loss of a local paper means loss of a valuable watchdog...

checking and may confuse opinion and truth. The demise of local journalism is the result of the acquisition of smaller newspapers by large corporations whose primary interest is making a profit. As the study noted, "While cities and their suburbs might be able to sustain local news sources, rural areas often cannot."

One of the newspapers mentioned in the League study, the *Highway 58 Herald*, a digital newspaper in Oakridge, is in danger of failing because of these challenges. *The Herald*, which was started in 2021 because of concern that the Oakridge City Council was operating with insufficient involvement of the community, is now in danger of shutting down its operation because it can't bring in enough revenue to cover expenses. Camilla Mortensen, editor of the *Eugene Weekly* and board member of the *Highway 58 Herald*, noted the creation of a GoFundMe for the *Herald* in the on-line *Eugene Weekly Extra* to raise enough money to allow the *Herald* to continue to explore its options. You can make a tax-free donation at <https://highway58herald.org/donations/#sponsorship> or by going to GoFundMe and searching for Highway58Herald.

If we feel that local journalism supports our values and those of the League of Women Voters, this is an opportunity to support it.

Nancy Mills, Voter Service Chair

Motto of the Month:

We believe democracy is not something you inherit. It's something you practice, protect, and occasionally you have to fight for with everything you've got. 2026 is not a year for spectators.

Poet **Robert Arnold**

Welcome our newest members: Please welcome folks into the work of our League - Debbie Christensen, Ruth Anne Fraley, Laura Fischrup, Justin Lloyd Ludwig, Maureen McCauley, Kate Ostergren, Sara Roadman, Adriana Ryding, Barbara Scott, and Mandi Tribble. FANTASTIC! We are so glad to have you with us as we press forward to improve our democracy which is *of the people, by the people, for the people*. We are so grateful for our 249 members. You can invite your friends to join our Lane County chapter here: portal.lwv.org

With gratitude: Many thanks to the large team that worked tirelessly to bring us a successful visit by Secretary of State Tobias Read at our January 27 League Speaker Series.

It takes a village: Many thanks to Judy Abel, Callee Ackland, Susan Ban, M B Barlow, Pam Berrian, Peggy Dame, Flo Delaney, Dorothy Dilliplane, Beth Gerot, Julie Kness, Rhonda Livesay, Marcia Maffei, Marj Maxwell, Beatrice McKenzie, Victoria McMillan, Nancy Mills, Anne O'Brien, Terry Parker, Kitty Piercy, Michele Postal, Eva Promen, Judy Rideout, Patty Sandoz, and Carol Yahner. Special Shoutout to Linda Ferdowsian for co-leading this effort. Apologies if

anyone has been left out of this list!

Thank You: The League was well represented by Peggy Dame, Michele Postal, Camille Stewart and Morgan Vierheller at the Martin Luther King event at The Shedd on January 19. Gratitude also to Lenice Shaw for pulling things together to make it successful. About 30 public contacts were made and several folks checked their voter registration, party affiliation and/or expressed interest in joining the League.

Save the Date: Tuesday, March 17 5-7pm. This is a Member Mobilization event we hold at the Eugene Garden Club building. If you want to volunteer to "do something" in the coming months, this is our sign up event. Please add it to your calendar. You'll be able to sign up online soon or email us at membership@lwvlc.org.

Help Wanted: We need help on **Saturday, April 11** to set up/take down the Community Outreach Event booth at the Lane County Farmers Market. Please email us at: membership@lwvlc.org if you can help. Coming soon - We will be using "Sign Up Genius" (a method for volunteering) for those able to take a two-hour shift to staff the booth.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday February 10, 2-3pm
at the League office. All are welcome.
For the Zoom link, contact membership@lwvlc.org

CYNTHIA "CINDY" LOUISE SHARP DECEMBER 19, 1936 - DECEMBER 18, 2025

BY ANNA STRICKLAND, LIFE ENRICHMENT DIRECTOR - MIDDLEFIELD OAKS SENIOR LIVING

Cindy's embodiment of the League's values is unmatched by anyone I have met: civic engagement, community service, and empowering others were at the forefront of her life. With her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) from University of Redlands, and Pepperdine University, she demonstrated commitment to education and civic knowledge. She was a core SMART Coordinator, reading one on one with elementary students, with me being one of the lucky few.

Cindy helped with our local housing crisis - by being the Vice Chair of the Cottage Village Coalition, successfully helping low-income families secure permanent housing. She worked with SquareOne Villages and others to create permanent, affordable tiny homes. She developed an innovative, co-operative housing model where residents participate in governance and operations. She also helped secure \$1.7 million in funding for the project. She also helped provided housing for veterans, seniors, single parents, and others experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity

and worked with churches for asylum seekers.

She was also a member of Sustainable Cottage Grove and organized Earth Day celebrations in Cottage Grove. By providing detailed instructions to FEMA during Paradise, California fires in 2018, she helped tons of survivors not only in this instance, but FEMA copied and pasted the instructions with few changes to implement in future natural disasters across America.

With this work and much, much more, she modeled a life of integrity and joy, inspiring those around her to live with the same selflessness and passion that defined every chapter of her extraordinary life.



HAPPY 106TH BIRTHDAY, LWV - THIS IS WHO WE ARE

BY TERRY PARKER, PRESIDENT

To acknowledge the 106-year history of the League of Women Voters we extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of our volunteers and members. Whether you've been with the League for 50 plus years, recently joined, or anything in between, your showing up matters.

Mission: Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

Vision: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

Value: We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

This is who we are:

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a nonpartisan, grassroots nonprofit dedicated to empowering everyone to fully participate in our democracy. With active Leagues in all 50 states and more than 700 Leagues across the country, we engage in advocacy, education, litigation, and organizing to protect every American's freedom to vote.

Founded in 1920, the League was a merger of the National Council of Women Voters and the National American Women's Suffrage Association. Referred to as a "mighty political experiment," it aimed to help newly enfranchised women exercise their right to vote. Learn more about [our history](#).

Today, the League has expanded our vision of a [more inclusive](#) democracy where all Americans, regardless of gender, sex, race, ability, or party can

see themselves represented in our government. To build this vision, we bring an anti-racist, social justice lens to the issues of:

[Expanding Voter Access](#);
[Fighting Voter Suppression](#);
[Money in Politics](#);
[Redistricting](#); and
[Safe and Fair Elections](#);

Additionally, we promote social and economic justice through the lenses of [health care](#), [the environment](#), [immigration reform](#), and the [Census](#).
<https://www.lwv.org/about-us>

The League offers a plethora of ways to show up. Thank you again for your support and activism.

For the League's big picture priorities and work check out the latest press statements and news clips from the League of Women Voters (LWV) at <https://www.lwv.org/library/newsroom>

League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) recently posted an **ACTION ALERT: REJECT FEDERAL TAX GIVEAWAYS TO CORPORATIONS** and will be immersed in the Oregon legislative session. For details go to the LWVOR website at <https://www.lwvor.org/>

For local updates, calendar and Sunshine Reports from our dedicated Observer Corps go to League of Women Voters of Lane County (LWVLC) website at <https://lwvlc.org/>



LANE LEAGUE ON WATCH ADVOCACY 2026

Thursday, February 19 - 5:30 to 7pm
 South Sister Room
 The Springs at Greer Gardens
 1282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene

If you are reading this in the *Argus* on paper, the links are underlined. If you want to read the information they contain, go to the League site and find the current issue of the *Argus* <https://lwvlc.org/> and click on those links.

DEMOCRACY INTEGRITY - LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

BY TERRY PARKER, PRESIDENT

The Algorithmic Transparency Institute, a project of the National Conference on Citizenship, partners with the League of Women Voters to provide information about narratives circulating online related to elections, democracy, voting, and other key topics.

Heading into the 2026 midterms the Democracy Integrity Briefing under “Looking Ahead to 2026: Issues to Watch” reported:

As preparations for the 2026 midterm elections begin, several trends and policy debates are likely to shape the civic and electoral landscape. These issues have implications for voter access, election administration, and public confidence in democratic processes. Democracy Integrity Briefings will continue to monitor developments at both the national and state levels, with particular attention to how changes affect voters on the ground.

With many of us Leaguers having just attended the hearing in the U.S. District Court where Judge **Mustafa Kasubhai** tentatively ruled that the federal government lacked the authority to compel the release of sensitive Oregon voter data, the issues of (1) Federal intervention in election administration and (2) action on non-citizen voting seem close at hand.

Federal intervention in election administration:

Federal efforts to influence election administration are likely to remain an area of close scrutiny.

- Earlier this year, President Trump signed an executive order addressing aspects of election administration traditionally handled by states.
- Several provisions of the order—including re-

quirements related to proof of citizenship, vote-by-mail deadlines, and federal review of voter rolls—have been challenged in court, with parts blocked for lack of legal authority.

- In November, the White House signaled it was drafting a new executive order focused on vote-by-mail, singling out California’s system and alleging fraud without evidence.
- This announcement coincided with California voters approving a redistricting measure that could affect congressional representation.
- While no additional action has been announced, expanded federal involvement in elections remain an issue to watch as 2026 approaches.

Action on non-citizen voting:

Claims about non-citizen voting are expected to re-surface as a prominent theme, as they did in 2024

- The Trump administration has continued to emphasize immigration-related enforcement and policies that link immigration to election administration.
- In 2024, the SAVE Act drew significant attention; it would require documentary proof of citizenship when registering or re-registering to vote. While the bill passed the House, it faces substantial obstacles in the Senate.
- Similar state-level legislation continues to be proposed and debated, even as federal momentum has slowed.
- Rumors and misinformation about non-citizen voting are likely to persist, regardless of legislative outcomes, underscoring the need for clear voter education.

HELP WANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT IDEAS!

BY LAURA ENGLAND FLANIGAN, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

First and foremost, as a group, **YOU ALL WRITE MANY CHECKS** on behalf of League of Women Voters Lane County, and we thank you for your past generosity and help with our major fundraiser.

League of Women Voters Lane County has conducted a fabulous but exhausting Fruit & Nut Sale for many years with diminishing returns.

This is your turn to join **me for a beverage on March 3, place to be determined, and bring your ideas** for what you would like to see happen for future fundraising ideas, and remember, you all have fabulous suggestions.

Unable to make an early March meeting? Please email me at development@lwvlc.org with your ideas and/or what you might have done in a previous life. (Everything is okay except selling gift wrap!)



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

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

***Thanks to our
2025-26 Directory
Advertisers***

*Lane Forest Products
Antique Peddlers
Baker Bay Bead Company
Hazelnut Hill
Sundance Natural Foods/
Wine Cellars
Unique Properties
Aayres Appliance Repair
Art's Watch and Jewelry
Bel Ami
Cornucopia Restaurants
Dot Dotson's
Eugene's Flower Home
Folkways
Shelton McMurphy Johnson
House Museum*

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 10 -24 - Unit Discussion Meetings (pg. 2)
- 12- 1:30pm, Voter Service Committee meeting (pg. 4)
- 13 - 2 to 3:30pm, Membership Committee meeting (pg. 5)
- 15 - 5:30 to 7pm, Advocacy Watch (pg.3)
- 17 - 1pm, Board meeting at League office
- 19 - Advocacy Watch (pg. 6)
- 20 - **Midnight**, *Argus* deadline
- 24 - 11:30am, Speaker Series at the Shedd (pg. 3)

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

DONATE NOW

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

MISSED A LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES?

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