



Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter

REMAINING NONPARTISAN IN HYPER-PARTISAN TIMES

The League is both nonpartisan and political. How do we do that? Nancy Mills' Voter Service article on page 5 describes the misunderstandings that causes. What follows is the beginning of an excellent article on the LWVUS website. Follow the link to finish the article, learn the reasons, and pass it on to a skeptic.

Charlcie Kaylor

The LWVUS is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, and always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

So many issues today are framed in partisan terms that it can feel impossible to communicate without being accused of taking a side. Being painted into ideological corners because of a stance we take is not new, but it continues to be one that undermines a vibrant democracy: discussion, discourse, and listening to other points of view are what makes democracy work.

ISSUES ARE NOT PARTISAN

The League's advocacy work is issued based, and we arrive at our positions based on careful study and input from our members in communities across the country. We never derive our positions from politicians, and even when candidates or parties support the same issue, we never endorse them. Issues may evolve over the years, but our

allegiance will always be first and foremost to the voters. If a party changes its position on an issue, that doesn't mean the League will change our position to remain neutral. A politician taking a similar position to the League on an issue does not make the issue or the League partisan.

In this hyper-partisan environment, political connections and assumptions are made that simply aren't accurate. We do what we were founded to do: stand up for what is right.

Wanting every eligible voter to have equal access to the ballot box is not partisan. Wanting a robust democracy in which everyone has an equal voice and equal representation is not partisan. Wanting to see more elected officials that reflect the diverse makeup of our country is not partisan – it is American.

No party has a claim on any particular issue. Sometimes a candidate or political party agrees with our position, but that doesn't make the issue or the League partisan. We have seen an evolution of popular support and public opinion shift on issues over time, and the League has reevaluated and shifted priorities—but we have never compromised our values.

Blog / Last Updated: February 10, 2021
Read the [full blog post on the LWV website](#).

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LWV of Lane County Board and Off Board Roster 2026-27

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NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

BY MARY KEATING, MEMBER

The next naturalization ceremony will be July 30, 10am at the Wayne L. Morse U.S. Courthouse, 405 East Eighth Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401. League members are encouraged to attend. Government ID is required. Contact Mary Keating myrnalouise@hotmail.com or (541)344-4889.

The Eugene Courthouse is located at 405 East Eighth Avenue, between Mill and Ferry Streets. Metered parking is available on East Eighth and Ferry Streets, and several small paid parking lots are nearby. A gender-neutral restroom is located on the first floor, on the left side of the hallway leading to the Office of the U.S. Trustee.

The Eugene Division of the United States District Court of Oregon hears cases from the following counties. ([click here for map](#)): Benton, Coos, Deschutes, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, and Marion.



SEEKING ARGUS EDITOR

BY BEATRICE MCKENZIE, ACTING PRESIDENT

Are you a writer or editor? Are you willing to step up and help LWVLC go digital? The *Argus*, our chapter newsletter, goes out once a month. Board leaders and other members submit articles about our work and ways to engage with the League. The editor will draft the newsletter on Canva (said to be one of the easiest platforms to use), send it to a League editor, and submit it to our website manager to post. Expected time commitment: 8-16 hours per month. If interested to learn more about this important task, please contact Beatrice McKenzie, Acting President, vicepresident@lwvlc.org. 608 358-4111

DESCRIPTION

Argus, our chapter newsletter – Focuses on sharing information with our members about our work and ways to engage with the League via the monthly member newsletter

TASKS FOR ARGUS EDITOR

- Send out call for articles
- Receive articles and cut and paste them into the digital platform
- Share with a League editor
- Share with the website manager

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS BY RUTH SEEGER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

To reach us send an email to: membership@lwvlc.org or call the League office.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: “When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.” **Henry Ford**

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Debra Greenberg and Judy Grubbs, we are delighted you are here. Welcome!

GRATITUDE for the ongoing work of Margaret Conover, helping us remind members to renew their membership on time so we can keep the work and momentum of the League moving forward. *Thank you, Margaret.*

All members can log into portal@lwv.org to check your membership record. We can help.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS: Thank you to all the members who say yes when we need volunteers for our public-facing outreach events. Last month, we participated in the following:



WE ARE BETHEL
Neighborhood Celebration

NAACP Health Fair



B.L.A.Q. Juneteenth Celebration

PRIDE
Celebration



Summer is a busy time. We will be tallying the number of contacts and provide that info next month.

Thank you to **Lenice Shaw**, the backbone of our efforts here. Please email us at volunteer@lwvlc.org if you are willing to help.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

A new printed membership directory is in the works and will likely be mailed in August. Stay tuned.

WHAT'S COMING UP? *(to participate in any of these, email us at—volunteer@lwvlc.org)*

August 8: If you live in Cottage Grove, Dorena, Creswell or Pleasant Hill, we will be at the South Valley Farmer's Market in Cottage Grove. Want to help? Email us!

September 15 Our next member mobilization/volunteer sign up event called Increase Your Impact will be September 15 at the Eugene Garden Club.

The election is coming. Come and find out how to help. This is for everyone that wants to find out how to help. New or recently joined members, this is for YOU! Want to help? Email us!

October 3: Interested in reaching folks in rural Lane County? Join us and help with “Democracy At The Grange” in Cottage Grove. Want to help? Email us!

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: Want to help sustain the League? Please consider trying out the Membership Committee. We are undertaking a self-review of the committee structure, workload, skill mix, etc. If you might like committee work and are willing to help lead one of the committee's several important tasks, please give us a try. You are welcome to attend the July membership meeting as a guest with no commitment to do more. Take us for a ride and see if this is a good fit for you. Please email us for details.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, July 6, 2–3:30pm at the League office.
All are welcome.

For the Zoom link, contact membership@lwvlc.org

ACTION IN ADVOCACY

BY MORGAN VIERHELLER, ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Action alert: Look for an important email coming to all Lane County members regarding an effort to change how we vote by mail and how you can make a difference by taking action!

2026-27 Advocacy Priorities

The LWVLC Advocacy Committee works to advance the League's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. Through research, education, and nonpartisan advocacy, the committee helps ensure that the voices and values of League members are represented in the public policy process. League stewardship of democratic systems monitors how legislation, institutions, and policies shape who can participate and whose voices are heard.

In the spotlight for 2026-27:

- Elections & Voting: Open Primaries, Citizen Right to Vote
- Environment: Transfer of Federal Public Lands, Privatization, Data Centers
- Health Care: Reproductive Health
- Tax Funding: Effects of Measure 5 on the State Budget
- Education: K-12, Federal Role in Education
- Social Justice: Immigration

Do you have questions about local government plans and policies? How do the positions established through study shape the focus of our actions? What prompts us to act?

Every first Thursday of the month—come join us in our work to protect voting rights and election systems, ensure government transparency and accountability, and employ League policies that strengthen free and fair participation in civic life.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING
July 2 at 1pm
 At the League office. All are welcome.
 Contact Morgan Vierheller, Advocacy Committee Chair
 at advocacy@lwvlc.org for more information.
PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US
FOR THE WORK AHEAD



BRAINSTORMING WITH VOTER SERVICE BY NANCY MILLS, VOTER SERVICE CHAIR

Fourteen League members met in June to talk about ways to build on the voter service activities for the Primary election. **Peggy Dame** described the voter registration events held at the YMCA, Eugene libraries, retirement centers, and, led by **Lenice Shaw**, voter registration at the University of Oregon. Spurred by a discussion at the Indivisible Eugene Springfield meeting about voter registration, the group discussed the opportunity to work with community members like Indivisible, NAACP, and other interested organizations on voter registration training. The intent was to train members of the community organizations to register voters using their own members rather than League members. This would allow us to amplify our own efforts through the use of their volunteers. The LWVLC board has approved exploration of this concept.

More extensive interaction with community groups was also a consideration in voter education.

The normal voter education focus in a general election is on the explanation of state-wide ballot measures. This fall Nancy will run training sessions on these measures, with pairs of League members doing presentations at retirement centers, civic organizations like Rotary, and community organizations like Church Women United and AAUW. We will expand these presentations to other community organizations like NAACP, Indivisible, and groups such as residents at condominium associations.

We are exploring the opportunities for postcard writing to groups under-represented in voting such as young voters and those voters not affiliated with political parties. This latter group, indicated as NAV (non-affiliated voters), is the largest group of voters in Lane County. Please let me know (voterservice@lwwlc.org) if you would like to be part of this postcarding effort.

There has been concern about information provided by the League on voting and elections from groups that view the League as partisan. We need to explore ways of explaining and defending our nonpartisan stance so that we can regain faith as a “trusted messenger” to Lane County and beyond. We are exploring using media like television and social media to give broader access. If you are a member of an organization that might view the League as an organization that leans left or right and has ideas for combating this, please email me at voterservice@lwwlc.org.

Thanks. We are all working toward a common goal, protecting elections and the freedom to vote our conscience.

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Is taking a break until August
Resting to get ready

DEMOCRACY AT THE GRANGE, THE INDEPENDENT SPIRIT OF OREGON AT 250

JOYCE BERMAN

How can the League reach more rural voters in Lane County to provide its valuable non-partisan resources for increased citizen engagement? Our collaboration with Cottage Grove's Row River Grange is looking forward to **Saturday, October 3** as just one small step.



As part of the Row River Grange's annual **Fall Harvest Festival**, the League will be registering voters as well as highlighting the ways in which granges throughout Oregon's history have served as focal points for policymaking and elections.

Look for program details to be announced in coming *Argus* publications as well as e-mail blasts.

For just one small morsel of the day's activities, we'll be featuring a program telling the story of the suffragist movement and its use of granges to gather and help propel the freedom for women to vote. The reenactment "**1912 Suffragists Stop at the Grange**" will take participants back in time to hear some key arguments made by both the crowd and those fighting for the bill's passage. Program volunteers are working on creating sashes and costumes, researching material, and developing scripts for audience actors. The goal is to show the historical underpinning of granges and their impact on the democratic progress.

Thanks to **Mary Sue Backus, Patti Barkin, Barbara Cowan, Rachel Cummings, Sherrill Kirchhoff, and Tricia Tate**, who have stepped up to make this a successful part of the day's activities. Cottage Grove member **Bruce Kelsh** will be the MC for the event as well. More volunteers will be featured in future newsletters.

Other activities at the free event will include cider pressing, silent auction, vendors, and music as well as unannounced League programming. We don't want to give it all away at once!

Hats off to **Kate Ostergren**, League Volunteer Coordinator assisting with our efforts to provide volunteers for the day. Speaking of volunteers, if anyone knows young people who might assist in assembling a fairly heavy stage the day before the event, please reach out! The stage requires some effort to put together, and we need some muscle power for this effort.

LWVLC HISTORY BY CHARLCIE KAYLOR, HISTORIAN



GENEVIEVE TURNIPSEED

The first president of
our League, in 1939.

VOLUNTEER AT THE OFFICE

BY LINDA FERDOWSIAN, OFFICE MANAGER

Our League office continues to be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11am to 1:30pm during the summer.

An excellent way to become involved in the League is to volunteer to serve in our office in Springfield.

Volunteers serve once a month. If you are interested, please contact Linda Ferdowsian by email, office@lwvlc.org, or by phone, 541-579-1866.



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

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Eugene's Flower Home
Folkways
Shelton McMurphy
Johnson House Museum

CALENDAR

JULY

2 - 1pm, Advocacy Committee meeting - pg. 4
9 - 10am, Executive Committee meeting
16 - 2 to 3:30pm, Membership Committee meeting - pg. 3
21 - 1pm, Board meeting at League office
30 - 3pm, Naturalization Ceremonies - pg. 2

LWVLC Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
(except holidays)

DONATE NOW

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

MISSED A LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES?

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