

The Argus

October 2026



November Midterms: Pulling Out All the Stops - Terry Parker, President

As of this writing there are fewer than 45 days to the November midterm election. Your League has already been pulling out all the stops!

- Multiple voter registration events are scheduled along with a Community Voter Registration Training to give other community organizations essential information.
- Lane County candidates are asked for information that is to be compiled in Vote411.
- Training and a background tutorial are complete to guide a variety of presentations and member discussion sessions scheduled throughout October. (You can go to the League website for details at: <https://lwvlc.org/>).
- Following an already busy summer, LWVLC will have voter information at special events including Cottage Grove, Oakridge, the UofO and LCC.

- The League will schedule more postcarding events.
- There are four ballot measures in Lane County. Explanation videos will be available on our League website.
- The Fall Harvest Festival at the Row River Grange in Cottage Grove on October 3rd is a special feature event. Don't miss it.

And if that isn't enough, we have our annual Fruit & Nut sale getting underway.

Now is the time. Join in. Find your place.

I am overwhelmed with gratitude for all of our hardworking board members, every volunteer, and all new and returning members. You make us who we are and get the job done.

Thank you!

In this newsletter look for:

Speaker Series
pg. 2

Events/Fruit Sale
pg. 3

Units and Briefing
pg. 4

Membership pg. 5

Voter Service pg. 6

Board and Advocacy pg. 7

October 27 Speaker Series

Tommy Gong - Lane County Clerk



Tommy Gong is the County Clerk for Lane County, Oregon. Completing his 23rd year in election administration, Tommy previously served in California counties - Contra Costa, San Luis Obispo, and Stanislaus. Tommy is a Board of Director for the Election Center/National Association of Election Officials and the California Voter Foundation.

Earning his B.A. at the University of California at Berkeley and a M.B.A. at the San Francisco State University, Tommy was one of the first graduates of the California Professional Election Administrator Credential (Cal PEAC) in 2005 and completed the national Certified Election Registration Administrator (CERA) program in 2021. Amongst Tommy's hobbies is the practicing and teaching of martial arts. His instructor was a student of Bruce Lee, which led to his serving on the board of directors for the Bruce Lee Foundation for many years. His book, Bruce Lee – The Evolution of a Martial Artist was the culmination of a five-year project that chronicles Lee's development in the martial arts.

Event details:

Please make your reservation by calling the League office at 541-343-7917 or click [Registration](#) to register online.

Speaker Series Cont.

Location: The Community At The Marquis; 565 Country Club Road; Eugene.

The Fire Marshall limits the room capacity. Please make a reservation to save yourself a seat (even if you do not want beverage, dessert, food).

Parking: There is ample parking, however we are not permitted to park in front of the restaurant.

Day/Time: Tuesday, October 27, 2026;
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Food options

Options:

1. Attend only-free to everyone.
2. Attend & purchase beverage & dessert: \$5/person

No lunch will be offered as part of the program.

If you would like, you may bring your own lunch or pre-order at the Da Ra Cafe.

The Da Ra Cafe is in the lobby of The Marquis. You can pre-order food online & pick it up on arrival.

<https://www.daracafeandbrew.com/>.

You may also call the cafe @ 458-240-2200, by 9 am on 10/27, with your pre-order.



Welcome New Americans at the Next Local Naturalization Ceremony

The next Naturalization Ceremony in Lane County will be at 10:30am October 22 at the Wayne L. Morris Federal Courthouse, 405 E. 8th St., Eugene. Members of the public are welcome to attend. A valid, government-issued ID is required to enter the courthouse. Metered parking is available on 8th and Ferry Streets, and several small paid lots are available nearby.



Celebrate 'Democracy at the Grange'

Mark your calendar for a day of history, community, and civic spirit! Join the League of Women Voters of Lane County and the Row River Grange on Saturday, October 3 (11am–5pm) for Democracy at the Grange – an official America 250 Oregon Commission event.

[Read more](#) at "The Grange"

Annual Fall Fundraiser by the Fruit Loop Committee

NEW DATE | NEW LOCATION | NEW PRODUCT

Our annual fundraiser is here!

If you are new to LWVLC, this annual fundraiser is a wonderful tradition. It provides essential operating funds for our local League, offers great produce, and gives you the opportunity to donate directly to Food for Lane County.

What's Available:

Local Favorites: Fresh apples and hazelnuts from Detering Orchards

Citrus Classics: Premium grapefruit and oranges from our longtime supplier

NEW THIS YEAR! Hazelnut Hill Pancake Mix & Marionberry Syrup. The 24 oz. mix makes light, fluffy pancakes that pair perfectly with local marionberry syrup.

Good news: We're keeping prices the same as last year!

Key Dates & How to Order:

Oct. 1: Paper order forms mailed

Oct. 5–Nov. 20: Sale opens

Beginning Oct. 5, online ordering will be available at www.lwvlc.org

Dec 5: Pick-up day. Preordered fruit will be ready for pickup at First Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene.

You can also make a tax-deductible donation directly to the League by mail or online.

Questions or Interested in Volunteering?

We'd love to have your help. Please contact us.

Email: development@lwvlc.org

Phone: 541-343-7917



Marj Maxwell
Unit Coordinator

Discussion Group Options Have Expanded:
Please Welcome Heather Sielicki as Our
Newest Discussion Leader!

Heather will be hosting an in-person discussion at 6:30pm Tuesday at her south Eugene home. Location and contact information can be found in the Discussion Group List.

Please contact Heather at 541-579-4407 or sielicki@gmail.com if you are interested in joining her group.

A second evening discussion group option is at 5:30pm Wednesday by Zoom.

This group was designed to meet the needs of members who have daytime commitments or would find travel a barrier to participation. Everyone is welcome. Contact Rhonda Livesay, 541-228-4373, technologydir@lwvlc.org to receive the Zoom link.

You may notice "TBD" listed as the Unit Leader for several discussion groups. This means leadership of that group is in transition and could not be verified by the submission date.

If you are available to share these responsibilities, please let Marj Maxwell know at marjmaxwell@gmail.com or units@lwvlc.org.

Many thanks to Lori Barker who has stepped up to lead the South Eugene unit at 2pm Monday while Nancy Mills focuses on Voter Service activities.

October Program: Ballot Measures

Briefing: Oct. 6 @ 2pm

Briefing is held in the League office and on Zoom.

Email: technologydir@lwvlc.org for a link

Unit Meeting Times & Locations

October Discussion Unit Topic : Ballot Measures

Monday 2pm, Oct 12 (in person)

Anne Best's home, 3433 Olive St., Eugene,
541-521-9136, annieb49@gmail.com

Discussion Leader: Lori Barker,
loribarker@lwvlc.org

Tuesday 10am, Oct. 13 (in person)

Coburg / The Springs at Greer Gardens,
1282 Goodpasture Island Rd., Eugene
Discussion Leader: Linda Ferdowsian, 541-
579-1866, Lferdowsian@yahoo.com

NEW! Tuesday 6:30 pm, Oct. 13 (in person)

Helen Sielicki's home, 1555 E. 31st Ave.,
Eugene

Discussion Leader: Heather Sielicki, 541-
579-4407, sielicki@gmail.com

Wednesday 5:30pm, Oct. 14 (Zoom only)

Discussion Leader: Keli Osborn, 541-968-
7628 (leader needed)

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

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87394925647>

Thursday 11am, Oct. 8 (hybrid: in person and Zoom)

Middlefield Oaks, 1500 Village Dr., Cottage
Grove

Discussion Leader: TBD

Zoom operator: Linda Ferdowsian

Request Zoom link: office@lwvlc.org

Friday 10am, Oct 9 (in person only)

First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive
St., Eugene

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

Friday 1pm, Oct. 9 (in person)

Cascade Manor, 65 W 30th Ave., Eugene, in
the Solarium

Discussion Leader: Merle Bottge, 541-434-
4191

Ruth Seeger
Membership Chair

Membership



Welcome to Our Newest Members

Please help us welcome the following 14 new members!

If you recognize someone you know, reach out to say hello and thank them for joining. If you don't know them, introduce yourself at an upcoming League event and tell them how delighted we are to have them among us. Ellen Arietta, Sharon Schooley, Maura Kriner, David Sanders, Linda Eaton, Claudia Rich, Rina Eide, Isabelle Kull, Sue Curtis, Shannon Cadden, Mary Sue Backus, Nancy Woolfson, Laura Curtis, and Janet Bott.

If you need assistance or have questions about your membership, please reach out to Roster Manager Margaret Conover at mconover@lwvlc.org or membership@lwvlc.org

KUDOS to Margaret Conover and Volunteer Coordinator Kate Ostergren for a terrific session of Increase Your Impact. We had a lively group of 21 new League members and guests who all seemed to find great ways to become involved in the priority work of our League. Onward to the election and thank you all for a great evening!



Increase Your Impact



Increase Your Impact



Increase Your Impact

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: PORTAL.LWV.ORG

Your League membership keeps our work moving — and we'd hate to lose you over a missed email! Find out how the renewal process works, when to expect reminders, and how a quick login to the membership portal can save everyone some hassle. Plus: details on our sliding-scale dues, because we want renewing (or joining!) to be simple for every budget. [Read More](#)



Nancy Mills
Voter Services Chair

**Concerned about the Midterms?
Worried about Election Security?**

Members of the League of Women Voters of Lane County are fanning out across the Eugene-Springfield area to reassure voters that this election is secure and that their vote will be counted. League members are talking to community groups, retirement centers, educational groups like OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute), and churches about election security, starting with concerns about voter registration and ballot processing and addressing the role of the federal government in changing how elections have been run.

The presentation will begin with voter registration at the Department of Motor Vehicles, where 75 percent of voter registrations originate in Oregon, describe online and paper voter registration, and move to the independent audits of voter rolls. The careful and secure processing of ballots by the Lane County Elections Office is described, along with the security of ballot boxes. The presentation ends with federal laws that support and encourage voting and attempts by the current administration to affect the way that elections have traditionally operated. Election security is also the focus of discussions at our LWVLC monthly discussion meetings. To provide information outside the Eugene-Springfield area, the presentation will be recorded with a link on our website (lwwlc.org).

Speaking of our website, please encourage friends and family to use League resources when filling out their ballots.

The League of Women Voters website is gradually being populated with resources like information about candidate forums, including recordings that can be accessed after the forums; ballot measure explanations that are available in print but will also be available as videos; and the presentation on election security.

Electronic copies of the League Voter pamphlet will be available as well as paper copies at libraries and community centers. Don't forget to consult Vote411 (vote411.org), which has all the information on races and ballot measures tailored to your ballot.

Finally, recent changes in mail processing have resulted in your ballot being shipped to Portland for postmarking. Use one of three options to make sure your ballot is postmarked by 8pm on Election Day, November 3:

- Mail your ballot at least a week ahead of time, or
- Put it in an official dropbox by 8pm on Election Day, or
- Take it to your local post office and ask for a manual postmark. Ask to watch the postmark process.

You check your registration to confirm that it is active and up to date (especially your mailing address), make corrections to that information, and track your ballot at oregonvotes.gov.

2026/2027 Board Members

President: Terry Parker

president@lwvlc.org

Co-VP: Beatrice McKenzie

vicepresident@lwvlc.org

Co-VP: Susan Ban

susanban@lwvlc.org

Advocacy: Morgan Vierheller

advocacy@lwvlc.org

Communications: Vacant

Development: Laura England Flanigan

development@lwvlc.org

Historian: Charlcie Kaylor

historian@lwvlc.org

Membership: Ruth Seeger

membership@lwvlc.org

Program Co-Chairs:

Sharon Amasha

program@lwvlc.org

Lori Barker

loribarker@lwvlc.org

Secretary: Jeanne Taylor

secretary@lwvlc.org

Technology: Vacant

Treasurer: Patty Sandoz

treasurer@lwvlc.org

Voter Services: Nancy Mills

voterservice@lwvlc.org

Off Board:

Office: Linda Ferdowsian

office@lwvlc.org

Nominating Committee: Paula Grisafi

paligril@gmail.com

Technology: Rhonda Livesay

technologydir@lwvlc.org

Units: Marj Maxwell

units@lwvlc.org



Morgan Vierheller
Advocacy Chair

Support the Expansion of Voting Rights!

From LWVUS Call to Action

More than 50 years after the Voting Rights Act was passed, full protections for voting rights are not guaranteed for all voters. While we have made progress in expanding voter access, many people still face challenges to participating in elections due to factors including income, health, age, race, disability, and gender. Voting is a fundamental right, and all Americans deserve an equal opportunity to make their voices heard in our democracy.

Increased accessibility to the electoral process ensures that every eligible voter can exercise their right to vote. Congress must know how the people feel: Empowering eligible voters to cast their ballot strengthens our democracy. Please add your name to show Congress that we support voting rights!

Leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties have made proposals during this Congress that would impact voting. The League would like to see the introduction of bipartisan legislation that includes expanding early voting, allowing no-excuse absentee voting, implementing automatic and online voter registration, improving operations of the Election Assistance Commission, improving language access, and ensuring proper voter list maintenance. Through our work supporting voter access, the League also advocates for same-day voter registration, access for disabled voters, and access for native voters.

Voting rights impact everyone. Urge Congress to protect the right to vote!

To submit your name click:

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/support-expansion-voting-rights>

**Membership Renewals continued:
portal.lwv.org**

If you have an email listed with the League, you will receive a notice 60 days before your membership renewal date. If you choose to wait, you will receive a second email 30 days prior to the renewal date.

These are all “auto-generated” messages from our national membership system. Locally, we try to reach out to folks who generally don’t use email and those who got busy and forgot to renew.

PLEASE - save us some work and log into the LWV membership portal to check and see if it is time to renew your membership. We don’t want to “lose” any of you from this important work or from our membership!

We also want to make it easy to join and renew. Dues are structured on a sliding scale with \$75 being the recommended annual rate, but any amount \$20 or over is great!

Reach out ANYTIME! Right now we have:

If you don’t want to create a profile online and would like help checking your membership record, please call the office or **email our Roster Manager, Margaret Conover at mconover@lwvlc.org**. Margaret can also help you with a paper renewal form. Reach out, we are here to help!



Celebrate ‘Democracy at the Grange’

Join us for Democracy at the Grange, a celebration of Oregon's democratic history, at the historic Row River Grange on **Saturday, October 3, from 11am to 5pm** at 34360 Row River Road, Cottage Grove.

The celebration will stimulate an appreciation of local history and civic learning to encourage citizen participation in a more inclusive democracy. The event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lane County in partnership with the Row River Grange’s annual Harvest Festival. It is designated as an official event of the America 250 Oregon Commission.

Included will be voter registration conducted by League volunteers, a chili feed, cider pressing, musical entertainment, vendor booths, and a silent auction to benefit the Row River Grange. The program is interspersed with free time to enjoy the chili and live music, support a local vendor, or put in a bid on silent auction items. The tentative program is:

11-11:45am Opening by League and Grange representatives

11:15-11:45am “Cottage Grove’s Native American Roots and the Applegate Settlers: Bridging the Divide”

1-1:40pm “1912 Suffragists Stop at the Grange”

1:50-2:05pm “Helping Voters Vote: A Look at League Resources”

3:40-4pm “The Row River Grange and How Oregon Granges Have Impacted Rural Communities”

All are welcome to come out to the Row River, support the Grange and democracy, and have some fun!