

Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter

ACTION - Pick Your Passion by Terry Parker, Action Chair

Redistricting

Paula Grisafi, Freddi Weishahn and Linda Lynch have been tuned into local redistricting. Join them:

Eugene City Council Work Session

Ward Boundary Update

5:30 pm Monday, November 8

Information on city council meetings is on line including instructions on how to access meetings online or phone and how to participate in any public forums or public hearings. Eugene Website:

[City of Eugene - Webcasts and Meeting Materials](#)

Lane County's Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) mapped "out the final stages of narrowing down proposed maps and ultimately voting on the maps that will be sent forward to the commissioners."

Lane County Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) 6 pm, Monday, November 1

[Lane County Independent Redistricting Committee/IRC](#)

To View Maps: [Redistricting Maps - Lane County](#)

Homelessness

Unhoused Response Update

You can listen to the report and discussion. Go to the City of Eugene's website.

[City Council Work Session: September 29, 2021](#)

Middle Housing

City of Eugene Land Use Code Amendments

The Oregon State Legislature passed HB 2001 in June 2019 requiring large cities in Oregon, including Eugene, to allow more housing types of all shapes and sizes to be built in more places. The city held three information sessions in October in preparation for the planning commission's hearing.

Public Hearing: Middle Housing Code Amendments November 16 at 5:30 pm on line.

When the planning commission completes its work, the city council will hold its own work sessions and
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LWVLC's LEAGUE LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS...

by Linda Lynch

Alexis Biddle

Great Communities Program Director - 1000 Friends of Oregon
will speak on

Housing Goal of Oregon's Land Use System

November 18 at Noon Via Zoom - go to lwvlc.org to register

The League Speaker Series in November will feature Alexis Biddle, Great Communities Program Director for the nonprofit organization 1000 Friends of Oregon. Founded in 1974, 1000 Friends was created in response to Oregon's iconic land use laws. Its mission is to enhance our quality of life by building livable urban and rural communities, protecting family farms and forests, and conserving natural areas. Biddle will focus his remarks on the Housing Goal of Oregon's land use system and how 1000 Friends is working to help close the statewide 155,000-unit housing shortage without creating sprawl.



He promises to touch on other current Friends' work and studies, including the recent report *A New Vision for Wildfire Planning: A Report on Land Use and Wildfires*.

As Great Communities Program Director, Alexis works on housing, transportation, and infrastructure issues in towns and cities outside of the Portland Metro region. Based in the Eugene field office, he travels the state to work with residents, city planners, and local decision-makers to ensure that Oregon's

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UNITS

Mary Keating, Chair

LWV of Lane County Board and Off Board Roster 2021-22

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For the month of November units, we will be discussing Wildfire Risks and Recovery in Lane County. Committee members interviewed local and county officials to obtain up-to-date information on the work being done in Lane County for rural, urban, and individual action and preparedness. In-person meetings as well as virtual meetings will be available for members.

A virtual Thursday evening meeting will also be held for anyone wishing to attend.

Friday, November 5, 2 pm,

Cascade Manor View Room, Merle Bottge, 541-434 4191.

Monday, November 8, 10 am,

discussion leader, Nancy Mills. For Zoom link contact: nmills@trinity.edu

Monday, November 8, 2 pm, Mary Keating.

For Zoom link contact: myrnalouise@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, November 9, 10 am,

Linda Ferdowsian. For Zoom link contact: lferdowsian@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, November 10, noon,

Cottage Grove, in-person, Middlefield Oaks, 1500 Village Dr., Cynthia Sharp.

For Zoom link: cynthiasharp01@gmail.com; If you wish to eat lunch, \$3/person.

Wednesday, November 10, noon,

Springfield, Linda Ferdowsian, League office, bring a sack lunch.

Thursday, November 11, 6pm,

Linda Ferdowsian, for Zoom link contact: lferdowsian@yahoo.com.

Linda Ferdowsian

PROGRAM

Linda Ferdowsian and Sabree Hamel, Co-Chairs

At our October unit meetings, participants discussed two voting methods, Ranked Choice and STAR. Both methods are being looked at for local and state locations throughout the country.

We had 31 members and one guest participate in the unit meetings. The topic was Ranked Choice and STAR Voting: What Are They and Can They Narrow the Partisan Divide? We had some excellent discussion and several conclusions voiced by all of the units. The conclusions included:

- If either were adopted, a major effort would be needed to educate voters.
- The complexity of either might discourage some voters. We, League members, will probably be called upon to assist in educating voters, as well as field inquiries we receive from voters.
- Changing voter method would not be sufficient to narrow the partisan divide. Changes to money in politics, the electoral college, and suppression of voters' rights would be necessary to reduce the division.

- STAR has more positives, such as tabulation of ballots could be done locally with fewer complicated runoffs. One unit thought that RCV would be easier for voters to understand, and it has already been tested.

- It is too early to be put on a ballot, due to the climate of distrust and the task of educating voters.

It was proposed that LWVLC create some mock elections and test the two methods. One unit is planning to create a mock ballot for their members and try out the two methods.

December Unit Topic: Open discussion of current issues, local, state, or national. If you have a topic that you would like to see discussed, present it to the discussion leader at the November unit meeting or email your suggestion to program@lwwlc.org.

Linda Ferdowsian

BRIEFING

Tuesday,
 November 2, 2 pm
 For Zoom link contact
 Mary Keating
 myrnalouise@hotmail.com

FUNDRAISING LOGISTICS

by Freddi Weishahn

Our membership drive is coming to an end, and we extend a special thank you to those members who were able to give above and beyond their membership dues. We have more opportunities to help the League as our fiscal year unfolds. As costs rise for our operations, such as printing and postage, your donations, no matter how small, will help us continue our mission of voter education and engagement.

The upcoming **LWVLC fruit sale** is a popular fundraiser, not only for the high-quality products but for the opportunity to donate fruit to Food for Lane

County. Last year alone, our members and supporters donated well over 100 boxes of fruit to that organization.

We will also have an end of year campaign culminating in **Giving Tuesday, November 30th**. And with so much disinformation in some media outlets, our campaign in the spring will help us prepare our community for the important November 2022 elections. We hope you will plan for and choose the opportunities to give that work best for you.

FRUIT AND NUTS SALE

by Katie Loughary, Fruit loops Chair

It's time to order and sell fruit and nuts! Members and League friends who have purchased fruit in the past, have received the fruit sale mailing, marked with the familiar red apple stamp. Several community businesses and organizations will be mentioning our sale and listing the website in their newsletters. Check out the website at lwvlc.org. You can download order forms or pay electronically. Additional forms can be downloaded from the website, picked up outside the League office, or you can request a packet by calling the office.

Every member is an important, active part of this project! Help support your League by selling or buying three, four or more boxes of fruit or bags of nuts. Follow up with people you have sold to in the past. Check in with friends, neighbors, colleagues, and business acquaintances that will appreciate the chance to experience sweet juicy oranges, luscious grapefruit, crisp apples or large, sweet hazelnuts. Mention the sale on your Facebook page. Use the Fruit Order Form, (white) for individual orders. Fruit and nuts will last weeks when stored in a cool place!

Support two organizations with one purchase The Food Order Form, (green form), is used to order fruit boxes for Food for Lane County. FOOD will pick up the fruit from the League office. Businesses and friends can order fruit to be donated to Food for Lane County too. A win-win!

Review the basics ...

- Orders are due at the office by Monday, November 15, 5 pm. Mail them early, drop them off, or order on-line.
- Checks are made out to LWVLC. You may write one check to cover both FOOD and individual orders.

- Thank you for printing clearly on order forms. (Using an address label on your order form is an easy way to do this.)
- Fruit is expected to be ready for pick up the first week of December. Buyers will receive an email or phone message with pick up times. Please provide email only if your customers check their email regularly.
- Pick-up will be outdoors and curbside, with limited or no contact.
- All or part of your purchase may be tax deductible.

Thank you for your orders and the extra effort it takes to have a successful 2021 sale!

Questions may be directed to Katie Loughary: (541) 393-8986 call or text: or email: katie_fruitloops@lwvlc.org



Masked Fruitloops preparing packet mailing. Photo by Janet Calvert.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NOTES

by Karla Rusow, Action Chair

I know it has been a while since the LWVLC general membership has heard anything from the Membership committee and for that I apologize. First, let me introduce myself since I have only met those of you involved in other committees over the past few months. My name is Karla Rusow and I have been the Membership committee chair since June even though I have only been a member since last fall. I joined in time to help with the annual Fruits and Nuts fundraiser and enjoyed that very much. I have lived in Springfield since 1998. My husband works for a local heavy equipment company and my daughter graduated from Thurston High in 2004.

As most of you know, at that time the League was beginning to plan the September kickoff. Since I did not know anything about anything, I leaned heavily on the existing committee members to help me pull things together for the event. They did a tremendous job, and we had everything planned and in place for the "live" event. It was a disappointment to all of us to not be able to hold an in-person event.

Since the event was cancelled, we have started to turn our energies to other tasks. I have read through the *2019 Membership Survey* compiled by Helen Bearden and hope to start focusing on some of the suggestions contained in it. We are also investigating setting up some tabling events to promote our organization and hope to pull in other voices from our community. Our November meeting may be both via Zoom and hybrid.

I look forward to meeting more of our members. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions for our committee.

Membership Meeting
November 16, 2 pm
 In the League office and
 Via Zoom - To receive the link
 contact membership@lwvlc.org

LANE COUNTY REDISTRICTING

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT

Paula Grisafi, Chair

The Lane County Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) is working hard toward producing redistricting maps that can be viewed on the county website. There are also explanations of what rationales were used to develop each map. At its meetings there has been much discussion about how to balance different communities of interest and the county charter's impact on the maps because of the limitations caused by its descriptions of county districts.

The committee is asking for public comment on the maps. Currently there are nine maps, but committee members are trying to combine or consolidate similar maps. Members have decided that they will present three or fewer maps to the County Commissioners, listing pros and cons for each. They are using a form of preference voting to cull the maps down.

Their work should be completed by early November. To see what district your home falls into with each map, go to the webpage section on County Advisory Committees, and under the IRC look under Redistricting Maps. You may make public comments at the IRC meetings or at the County Commissioner meetings once they have been presented with the committee's map options.

Voter Service Meeting
November 11, 10 am
 In the League office and
 Via Zoom - To receive the link
 contact voterservice@lwvlc.org

ACTION - Pick Your Passion

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public hearing, anticipated for January 2022. The Land Use Code will be amended to allow middle housing in residential areas by June 2022.

To learn more about the project, go to the city's website and look for "Middle-Housing."

Climate and Energy

Utilities and Fossil Free Eugene

At the City of Eugene and **Eugene Water and Electric Board** (EWEB) joint work session in October, EWEB's general manager mentioned a possible electric/natural gas pilot concept that is sure to garner some interest. The relevant discussion starts after eight minutes on the work session recording.

[Eugene CC and EWEB October 2021 Work Session Recording](#)

Fossil Free Eugene is a local coalition of grassroots organizations in Eugene promoting a transition from natural gas.

[Letter to Eugene CC re: Moratorium on Natural Gas Infrastructure](#)

Third Act Coming together on climate change:

We invite you to join Third Act, a community of experienced Americans determined to change the world for the better. Together, we can make a difference.

<https://thirdact.org/>

[City of Eugene - Future Mtg Tentative Working Agenda](#)

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/>

[Lane County - Future Agenda Items](#)

<https://lanecounty.org/>

All public meetings are conducted on line and made available to the public, as required by Oregon House Bill 4212 (June 30, 2020). See web pages for links to these meetings and recordings. This new requirement is in effect until the 30th day after Oregon Governor Kate Brown repeals her COVID-19 state of emergency declaration.

Rally to Support Lane Transit Drivers Tuesday, November 9 at Noon

Public transit bus operators and service staff have been at the front lines throughout the pandemic without a reprieve due to driver shortages. It hasn't been easy. Let's join Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation (BEST) and others to give LTD drivers a well-deserved thank you and recognition for having stepped up.

Rosa Parks Plaza at the LTD Eugene Station

Get creative! Bring a hand sign.

Terry Parker - action@lwvlc

ALEXIS BIDDLE

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urban and rural communities are not just livable but thriving. Alexis holds a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning as well as a law degree from University of Oregon. He discovered his interest in land use when he witnessed great social inequity while he was putting himself through law school as a taxi driver. Since then, he has worked with transit districts, city, and state planning departments, and as a transportation consultant. His position with 1000 Friends has allowed him to pursue his passion and work on both land use and transportation to

serve all residents of communities across the state.

In Oregon, his favorite place is the Wallowa Mountains. Beyond Oregon, his favorite place is the Chagrin River Valley in Ohio.

Away from work, Alexis loves to bike and swim at local swimming holes, and when he's got a little more time on his hands, he snowboards and backpacks to explore Oregon. He is also a champion stone skipper!



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541-343-7917

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

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

2 - 2 pm, Unit briefing (page 2 for link)

3 - 10 am, Action meeting (League office and Zoom - contact action@lwvlc.org)

5 thru 11 - Units (pg 2)

11 - 10 am, Voter Service (page 4)

16 - 2 pm, Membership meeting (page 4)

17 - 1:30 pm, Board meeting

18 - Noon, League Lecture Series (page 1)

19 - Midnight, *Argus* deadline

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

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- Ambrosia*
- Bel Ami*
- Dot Dotson's*
- Eugene's Flower Home*
- Folkways*
- Long's Meat Market*

MANY, MANY THANKS
to all who have generously contributed
to our League in the past year!

MISSED A THIRD THURSDAY?
<https://lwvlc.org/third-thursday-audio-presentations/>
BRIEFINGS VIDEOS
<https://lwvlc.org/publications/everymember-details/>

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