

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON



VOTER

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## ***LWVOR POSITIONS ON BALLOT MEASURES***

### **Measure 102 – the LWVOR Board endorsed a Yes vote**

**LWVUS Position:** Government at all levels must make available sufficient funds for housing-assistance programs.

When families or individuals cannot afford decent housing, government should provide assistance in the form of income and/or subsidized housing.

Government programs providing subsidies to the building, financing and insuring industries for housing for lower-income families should be evaluated in terms of units produced rather than in terms of benefits accruing to these industries.

**Ballot Title:** Amends Constitution: Allows local bonds for financing affordable housing with nongovernmental entities. Requires voter approval, annual audits.

LWVOR recommends support of this referral from the legislature. Housing for low income people is difficult to find. Homelessness is an increasing problem. This measure will allow local jurisdictions to partner with non-governmental entities to help pay for housing through the sale of bonds.

### **Metro Housing Bond Measure – on behalf of the Washington County Unit, the LWVOR Board endorsed a Yes vote**

This is consistent with LWVOR's endorsement of Measure 102, the referral from the Legislature that allows bonding for housing. The Metro Housing Bond would allow money to go to Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas Counties for affordable housing. The two county Leagues and the one state unit in these counties have voted to support this bond measure. If Measure 102 passes, then monies raised with this Metro measure could be used in partnership with nongovernmental entities, allowing the money to go farther.

### **Measure 103 – the LWVOR Board endorsed a No vote**

**LWVOR Position:** Evaluating Taxes. The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes any tax proposal should be evaluated with regard to its effect on the entire tax structure. The League supports the following criteria for evaluating taxes and tax systems.

1. A tax system that is based on ability to pay, but that applies a benefits-received principle wherever reasonable and that recognizes the role of social expediency;
  2. A tax system that is equitable, adequate, stable, easy to administer and as simple as possible;
- (Continued on page 2.)

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**VOTER** Editor: Karan Kuntz

**LWVOR Mission**

The League of Women Voters® of Oregon is a grassroots, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government in order to build better communities statewide. The state League's purposes are to influence public policy through education and advocacy and to provide support for League members and the League organization.

***Ballot Measures (Continued from page 1)***

3. A tax system that takes into account the taxes levied by all levels of government covering the same tax base;
4. A tax system that is flexible enough to adjust to social and economic changes (e.g., population shifts, development of new industry, demands for more services and changes in business cycles);
5. A tax system that recognizes the individual's responsibility for government services by providing for broad sharing of the tax burden.

**Ballot Title:** Amends Constitution: Prohibits taxes/fees based on transactions for "groceries" (defined) enacted or amended after September 2017.

The LWVOR opposes this measure because it does not share the tax burden. An entire segment of business would be exempted from paying any taxes if a sales tax were to be enacted. It would also result in revenue loss from businesses involved in any aspect of groceries.

**Measure 104 – the LWVOR Board endorsed a No vote**

**LWVOR Position:** A tax limitation is justified if it provides safeguards in the regulation of state and local services and economy. A limitation is not desirable if it prevents provision of services, disrupts government functioning, inhibits progress or results in loss of local control.

**Ballot Title:** Amends Constitution: Expands (beyond taxes) application of requirement that three-fifths legislative majority approve bills raising revenue.

The LWVOR opposes this measure. The measure is about fees, tax credits and any other measures that could be construed as raising revenue. Fees are vital to the funding of many state agencies. An agency would have to get a 3/5ths majority from the Legislature to raise any fees for services or adjust credits that might be construed as raising revenue. The legislature currently approves fee increases or retroactively acknowledges fees that agencies are allowed to raise between sessions. BUT only a majority vote is required. Without fees, many state agencies would not be able to provide the services that they are supposed to be providing.

**Measure 105 – the LWVOR Board endorsed a No vote**

**LWVUS Position:** The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment. (Continued on page 3.)

## ***Ballot Measures (Continued from page 2)***

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

**Ballot Title:** Repeals law limiting use of state/local law enforcement resources to enforce federal immigration laws.

This measure repeals the law limiting use of state/local law enforcement resources to enforce federal immigration laws – The LWVOR opposes this ballot measure. Local governments should not have to aid the federal government in arresting immigrants without there being a warrant or valid order for such an arrest. The law that this measure seeks to overturn has been in effect since the 1980's.

### **Measure 106 – the LWVOR Board endorsed a No vote**

**LWVUS Position:** Every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality health care, including birth control and the privacy to make reproductive choices.

**Ballot Title:** Amends Constitution: Prohibits spending "public funds" (defined) directly/indirectly for "abortion" (defined); exceptions; reduces abortion access.

The LWVOR opposes this ballot measure because this law would not only impact services to women on the Oregon Health Plan but would also take away the coverage that employees of the State of Oregon now have for abortion services.

## ***100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary LWVOR Celebration***

*Becky Gladstone, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee*

Please plan to join us for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary LWVOR celebration in March 2020!

As we prepare during this election season, we know our work is more important than ever. Our foremothers fought and died for women's access to the ballot. Today we strive to help all voters cast informed votes, assured that they can be confident in understanding issues and candidate perspectives, with League help.

Getting ready for this 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary salute to League efforts, past and future, means we don't want to miss any old and new friends, members, partner organizations, and donors. We could use your help in making our lists. This is a golden opportunity to recognize and thank our supporters! Our goal is to prevent hearing, "Nobody told me!"

We want to prepare well and keep attendance costs affordable. That takes planning and funding! Think of reaching out and putting together your list for reserving a full table of 10 friends. You can help by suggesting table sponsors, including corporate sponsors. We're looking forward to hearing from you. ☺ Thank you!

## ***Student Mock Elections***

*Toni Lampkin, Mock Election Coordinator*

The League needs **YOU** to be a resource for teachers across the state as they gear up for the Student Mock Election to be held from October 15-26. Once again, we will be partnering with the Youth Leadership Initiative to provide a classroom electronic voting system.

Principals have been invited to have their schools participate, and online registration will be starting soon.

**BUT**-----the program will be most successful with support from the local League!

A couple of more resources are available that would assist you in working with the high school population. Look for these at the [LWVOR website](#):

*Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow*

*Leading a High School Voter Registration Drive*

For further information on how you can help, please contact the League office at [lwvor@lwvor.org](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org).

## ***Sampling Community Views***

*Janet Calvert, MLD state coach and Finance Chair LWV of Lane County,*

Leagues across the country are challenged to become more diverse and to reach out to more groups and to a variety of individuals. Often a stumbling block to this challenge is “not knowing those people”.

About 55 years ago the Eugene League established a League of Women Voters Advisory group/committee/board whose primary purpose was to advise and actively help raise money for League activities. When this group gathered, usually in a home with fine refreshments, they also discussed the local political atmosphere, burning issues (probably included field burning) approaches to involving voters in public discourse, and their own personal or professional viewpoints.

The 1978 Lane LWV Member Directory listed 18 advisory members who were from the judiciary/attorneys, university/community college, business leaders, activists, and civic leaders. There is no record that students, people of color or individuals of lower “socio-economic status” were recruited or were part of the group. Of course, it was also a chance to hear views from men.

The Advisory committee shrank to about five members in 2000, and Advisory members no longer were active fund raisers, but they provided valuable comments and insights to the growing urban community and practical help. When the Lane LWV needed to a new office space, they reached out to Advisory committee members. One member made a space in “his” building available at a very favorable rent. This group also strongly urged the Lane Board to use a special significant memorial gift to spend on updating and maintaining League’s website.

The current Advisory committee has eight members including the general manager of the public radio station, the Eugene Chamber of Commerce president, a high school teacher, community college public affairs director, Associate Professor/director of Latino and Latin American Studies, a youth advocate, a Holt International Vice president and a Springfield business person. They suggested meeting twice a year to keep up to date and provide continuity. These individuals provide valuable input and suggest additional community contacts to reflect on future League activities and/or action. There are no formal terms of service. Like all Leagues, Lane County League struggles to involve persons of color and the young voter. Over the years, the League Advisory Committee has proven to be a real asset.

## ***LWVOR Voter Service May 2018 Primary Summary***

*Becky Gladstone, Voter Service Chair*

Looking for our Voter Services online? Use [LWVOR VOTEResources](#) – easy to remember! Let's review our Primary 2018 accomplishments. Renew your memberships this fall, help us out, and share!

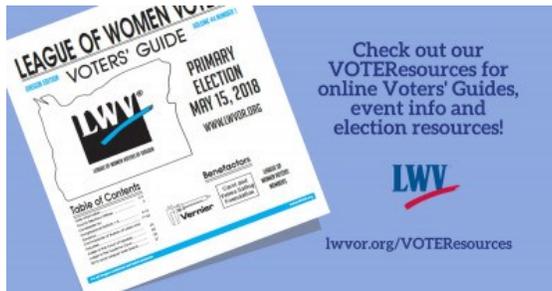
### **Events**

Our local Leagues shared 21 election events on [our state events calendar](#) this spring, pretty good for a mid-term, primary election. Most of us have our annual meetings in the spring, too. Be sure you [send event news to our office](#) this fall.

### **Our 411**

This spring, LWVOR published information on **638** Oregon local and state candidates and **152** ballot measures. This was indexed by county, by race and by candidate name/ballot measure numbers. Our local Leagues can use this to produce local Voters' Guides, if desired. We list contacts and links for county elections, Dropbox locations, registration and voting deadlines, and explain political party ballot access, all updated and verified. We still purchase access to [Vote411.org](#) and feed Oregon's data into it, so the public can look up their individual ballot listing by address.

### **Voters' Guides**



We analyze state ballot measures and pose targeted questions to state candidates in our Voters' Guides. Compared to the state Voters' Pamphlets, our League Voters' Guides have been described as insightful candidate job interviews, while the state Voters' Pamphlets are more like job applications, including purchased endorsements.

On our [Voter Service website](#), we feature our in-depth, smaller State Voters' Guide. This only covers state race candidates, less than 9% of our online voter service coverage. This May we covered 58 state candidates. For the fall general election, research on the five state ballot measures will be included.

Our online state "Voters' Guide" is web formatted, mobile friendly, and audio reader compatible. You can print PDFs, if you like, in English, Large Print, and Spanish. We hire Oregonians to read and a studio to master recorded tracks for the State Library TBABS (Talking Books and Braille Services), also posted on our website. We are looking forward to spring google analytics for our website usage

### **Printed Voters' Guides**

Our printed guides are invaluable outreach to introduce the League. We are very grateful to our local Leagues for their devoted distribution work!

Our print distribution has decreased (save a tree!), yet concurrently we are reaching new audiences, too. This spring we printed and distributed 19,200 copies in English and 5,000 in Spanish. (Continued on page 6.)

## ***Voter Service Primary Summary (Continued from page 5.)***

### **Video Voters' Guides**

We are very proud of our Leagues in Clackamas, Marion-Polk, Portland, and newly forming in Washington County. They produced and shared **43** candidate interviews and event recordings to our "[Video Voters' Guide](#)", another set of valuable voter tools. The professionally produced interviews were costly with temporary studio setup available for limited times. All candidates in contested races were invited to participate. Some had unavoidable scheduling conflicts.



Prefer links spelled out?

<http://lwvor.org/home/voterresources/>

<http://lwvor.org/home/joinus/events-calendar/>

email to our office: [lwvor@lwvor.org](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org)

<http://www.vote411.org/>

<http://lwvor.org/home/voterresources/>

<http://lwvor.org/video-voters-guide-primary-election-2018/>

## ***Second Amendment Preservation Ordinances***

*Marge Easley, LWVOR Gun Safety Portfolio*

You may have noticed the alarming trend to place Second Amendment Protection (SAP) Ordinances on the ballot in many Oregon counties. This is part of a nationwide effort, led by gun rights groups and spurred on by the Patriot movement and the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA), to grant county sheriffs the authority to determine the constitutionality of federal and state firearm laws and decide which gun laws not to enforce.

SAP ordinances have already been enacted in three Oregon counties: by the boards of commissioners in Wallowa County (2013) and Wheeler County (2015), and by initiative petition in Coos County (2015). In 2018, SAPs will be on the ballot in Lincoln, Columbia, Klamath, and Douglas Counties, but initiative petitions in Benton, Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, and Jefferson Counties were either denied or failed to gather the required signatures. The Linn County SAP is in the process of being challenged.

The League believes that federal and state laws are clear that the power to interpret firearm laws does not rest with county sheriffs and that SAPs will ultimately be deemed unconstitutional. Under the U.S. Constitution Supremacy Clause (Article VI, Section 2), county and state law cannot supersede federal law. Also, under ORS 166.170, "the authority to regulate in any matter whatsoever the sale, acquisition, transfer, ownership, possession, storage, transportation or use of firearms or any element relating to firearms and components thereof, including ammunition, is vested solely in the Legislative Assembly."

We applaud local Leagues who have taken part in previous efforts to prevent SAPs from being enacted. In the upcoming election, we urge you to actively oppose SAP ordinances and to educate voters through advocacy forums, op-ed columns, and letters to the editor. If your county already has such an ordinance, please help advocate for its nullification. [Ceasefire Oregon](#) is an excellent resource for information and assistance.

## ***President's Column***

### ***Remembering Kappy Eaton***

Norman Turrill, [n.turrill@lwvor.org](mailto:n.turrill@lwvor.org)

The LWV of Oregon lost one of its most significant members in early August. Kappy Eaton passed away at her home at age 94, and I attended her memorial service August 25 in Eugene. These are some of my memories of Kappy.

I only knew Kappy for the last 16 years, but she was always an inspiration to me. We first met when I began to work with the LWVOR Action Committee in the early 2000's. When I became Action Chair, Kappy was our Governance Coordinator, but also worked on a wide variety of other issues including revenue, budget, mental health and women's issues. I quickly learned that she was widely known and respected in the Capitol.



I remember one incident early in my Oregon experience when Kappy was testifying before the House Rules Committee lead by Chairman Dan Doyle. I don't remember the issue before the committee, but I do remember that Doyle openly criticized Kappy. Kappy was privately but righteously angry. I don't think that it was a direct consequence, but later Dan Doyle was convicted of using campaign funds for personal use, which in turn led to reforms of Oregon's conflict of interest and nepotism laws, all supported by the LWVOR and Kappy.

With my interests in elections and campaign finance, I remember attending many meetings with Kappy and then Director of Elections John Lindback. When John was appointed to the position by Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, John found that he was often opposed in his efforts in the legislature by various lobbying groups including Kappy for the League. John decided that he needed to coordinate better with Kappy and others on legislation, and therefore invited us to meet weekly with him during legislative sessions.

I was appointed to Secretary of State Bill Bradbury's Campaign Finance Task Force, mostly because it met in Portland and Kappy could not conveniently attend from Eugene. With Kappy's support, this Task Force resulted in the ORESTAR system, which was the first in the nation to require continuous campaign finance reporting, and which remains today one of the best disclosure systems in the country.

When Kappy was ill and could no longer travel much, for a while the Action Committee arranged to meet at her apartment in Eugene. She later recovered enough that she could drive herself to the Capitol(!), but she had to use a walker to get around with a bag of papers and bills hung over one side.

One day I was escorting Kappy with her walker out the accessible door at the east end of the Capitol and down the ramp to her car in a handicapped parking place. Then out of an open window popped the head of then Secretary of State Kate Brown. Kate just wanted to greet her friend Kappy. Now Governor, Kate Brown spoke at Kappy's memorial service in late August.

Kappy remained sharp until near the end. She was a mighty force in Oregon politics for many decades. Rest in peace Kappy.

*Kappy's obituary by her son David can be found [here](#), and you can leave your own memories of Kappy [here](#).*

## ***Local Leagues from Coos to Klamath Counties and LWVOR Ask State and Federal Agencies to Deny Permits for Jordan Cove Energy Project***

*Local Leagues of Coos County, Umpqua Valley, Rogue Valley, and Klamath County,*

At the 2018 Convention of the LWVUS, grassroots membership from around the nation approved a LWVOR-proposed resolution that “. . . supports a set of climate assessment criteria that . . . require that the latest climate science be used to evaluate proposed energy policies and *major projects* . . .” The Resolution was relevant to the four local Leagues in southern Oregon counties that would be affected by the proposed Jordan Cove Energy Project (JCEP)—LWVs of Coos County, Umpqua Valley, Rogue Valley, and Klamath County. Based on the Resolution and longstanding LWV of Oregon policies regarding water quality and quantity, and offshore and coastal management, the four local LWVs jointly submitted substantive comments addressing permit criteria to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE, 26 pp.) and Oregon’s Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ, 38 pp.) regarding the JCEP. They urged the agencies to deny the permit applications currently before them, including Clean Water Act Sections 401 and 404 and USACE’s Section 408 regulations. The LWVOR submitted a comment with the same message.

The potential impacts of the project were addressed in joint submissions to DEQ and USACE. The LWV group found that the JCEP project would not be in the public interest, as it would serve the business needs of a private, for-profit Canadian corporation planning to export liquified natural gas (LNG) to other countries, without serving Oregon’s own energy needs. In the process, the JCEP facility and its operations would increase Oregon’ greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 2.6 million “new” metric tons of emissions per year. In addition, the project would place water quality and quantity resources at risk and disrupt existing uses of the watersheds and bay. The use of eminent domain to take property of hundreds of unwilling private landowners without a public benefit is also troubling.

A 229-mile, 36-inch buried natural gas pipeline from Coos Bay to Malin would require a 95-foot wide clear-cut and cross almost 500 rivers, streams, wetlands, and other waterbodies. This activity is likely to affect water temperatures and turbidity and pose risks to fish, drinking water, and other water uses covered by Oregon water quality standards. The dredging to bury the pipe may release into the waterways soil contaminants from current and historic industrial activity. Construction activities may trigger wildfires.

The Project development in the Coos Bay area would include extensive modifications of the bay’s aquatic and riparian habitat and navigation channel for access and LNG liquefaction operations. The LNG storage and chilling operations and size of the facility and proposed operations would conflict with existing ecosystem services of the estuary and bay that support fisheries, shellfish, aquaculture, recreation, and critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. If JCEP were to be built, its needs can be expected to take precedence over other navigation uses of the channel, including for other commercial activities and recreation.

The LWV joint comments question installing a facility with highly explosive and flammable gasses and liquids on a site near a population center, an airport, and in an earthquake and tsunami zone. Pipelines leak (methane) and can also rupture and explode, raising health and safety concerns for residents and communities along the pipeline.

This joint action by local Leagues, supported by the LWVOR and taken in solidarity with other community members, organizations and tribes, is a step on a long journey to stop this project.

## **LWVOR Redistricting Campaign**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has received a grant from the U.S. League of Women Voters Education Fund to create a program for state-based advocacy that aims to promote a reform to our current redistricting process here in Oregon. Redistricting reform would allow voters to hold legislators accountable and to change district lines to properly reflect the changes in the numbers and interests of legislators' constituents. However, when legislators have control of where the lines get drawn, the risk of gerrymandering drastically increases.

The League supports redistricting reform that would promote putting the process of redistricting back into the hands of voters to create fair and representative districts. We believe that voters should be choosing their representatives, not representatives choosing their votes. This reform would require an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to create an independent redistricting commission with strict criteria for drawing district boundaries. This is what the LWVOR redistricting position calls for.

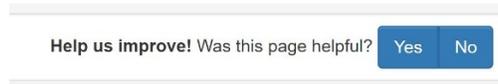
The League is currently working with community partners to move forward with reform efforts. We will also be reaching out to local Leagues across the state to hold public forums in the months of November and December about what the current problems are in our redistricting process and what reform could look like here in Oregon. For more questions about what the League is doing for redistricting reform, or if your organization would like to become a partner, then please contact our campaign coordinator, Candalynn Johnson, at [Candalynn@lwvor.org](mailto:Candalynn@lwvor.org).

## **e-Government Portal Advisory Board**

*Becky Gladstone, August 2018*

Over the years, many LWVOR members have served on state boards, commissions, task forces, and work groups. We ask them to report to our members. I went to my first quarterly meeting of the [e-Government Portal Advisory Board](#) in August. It advises the Department Administrative Services on state agency websites that may be administered by third parties. Did you know:

Oregon has over 350,000 state webpages, with 2,000-4,000 being concurrently visited at any time during the day. About two and a half trillion dollars (\$2,482,745.53) were securely processed last year in 3,645,280 transactions in state electronic commerce. This board wanted to see if users were finding what they needed, without slowing down our many pages by asking. Any tool needed to be simple yet track individual comments or help requests. They decided on this, which you can see at the bottom of state public user webpages:



Last year, there were almost 3,500 entries from assorted pages, with most being addressed within an hour. Those reporting were pleased with many reports that sites were helpful. We encourage you to use them and ask for help if you need it. That's how these sites get attention to improve.

At our August meeting, one issue was Ballot Measure 104, which could affect how fees are administered and processed online. The Executive Director overseeing state Commissions (Asian and Pacific Islander, Black Affairs, Hispanic Affairs, and Women) testified, asking to discuss passing a proposed \$1.00 state processing fee for online donations to donors.

(Continued on page10.)

## ***Advisory Board (Continued from page 9)***

A Legislator noted that this discussion would need to be passed on for review by the legislature if Measure 104 passes. LWVOR Action opposes Measure 104.

Oregon state website spotlight: On the Oregon DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) [Wildfires and Air Quality](#) page, you'll find a link to the [Oregon Smoke Blog](#), coordinating current city, county, state, tribal and federal agency information.

Need the links?

<https://www.oregon.gov/epab/Pages/index.aspx>

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/aq/Pages/Wildfires.aspx>

<https://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/>

## ***Membership Recruitment and Retention in the Deschutes County League***

The Deschutes LWV had a very successful year in increasing membership and engaging those new members in League activities. Rather than have one person in charge of Membership, they have a several folks involved, with shared responsibilities. At their annual meeting in April, the team presented a list of membership duties, which they've then divided up. Here is that edited list; other leagues may want to follow their checklist.

### **Recruiting:**

- Seek ways to attract new members and encourage everyone to ask others to join the League.
- Look for ways to use the talents of the current members in order to keep their interest in League.
- Send email and/or hand-written notes and membership brochures to prospective members.

### **Meetings:**

- Attend monthly public meetings.
- Attend Board meetings.

### **Welcome:**

- Welcome guests and members at monthly meetings and other events. Give out League materials to guests.
- Welcome New Members: Present a welcome packet of information about League to all new members at meeting (or send through mail, if necessary).
- Write up introduction blurb for the newsletter for new members.
- Send emails welcoming new members and announcing LWV events to prospective members/guests for several months after they have attended a meeting.
- Host periodic New Member Social events.

(Continued on page 11.)

## ***Recruitment and Retention*** (Continued from page 10)

### **Maintain Member Rosters and Forms:**

- Update the local roster with contact information.
- Update LWVUS list of members and Board.
- Update LWVOR (state League) member list.
- Print and distribute member list for local Board and members as needed.
- Create sign-in sheets for public meetings and nametags as needed.
- Update membership forms with current logos.

## ***Legislative Process Day, Friday, November 16***

Plan now to join LWV members from across the state for our Legislative Process Day, Friday, November 16. We have an exciting day lined up: legislators, lobbyists, and of course our own Action Team members. Get a preview of likely legislation in 2019 -- in health care, in education, gun safety, energy and jobs -- and learn techniques for effective grassroots action.

**Friday November 16**

**10AM – 2PM**

**Oregon State Library (just across from the Capitol)**

**Cost: \$30, includes breakfast pastries, coffee and lunch**

Sign up today at [lwvor.org](http://lwvor.org).



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## **In This Issue:**

LWVOR Positions on Ballot Measures	1
100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	3
Student Mock Elections	4
Sampling Community Views	4
Voter Service Primary Summary	5
Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance	6
President's Column	7
Jordan Cove Energy Project	8
LWVOR Redistricting Campaign	9
e-government Portal Advisory Board	9
Recruitment and Retention	10
Legislative Process Day	11