

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



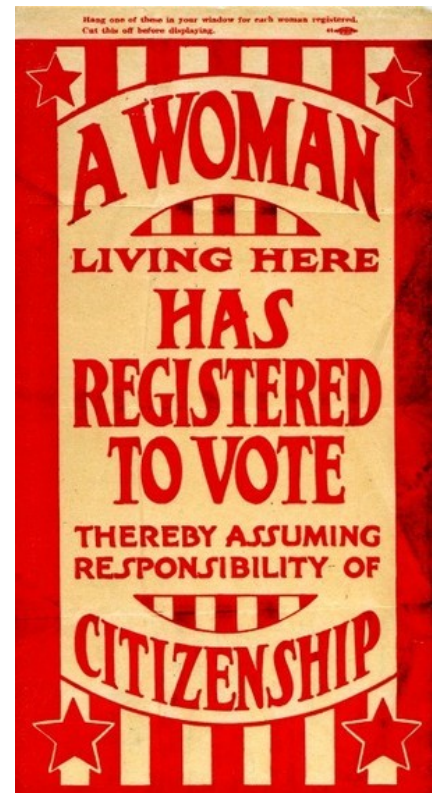
LWVOR President's Letter August 2020

Dear Oregon League members,

August 2020 is momentous for us as the 100th Anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment!

An August leading into a presidential election is always invigorating for the League of Women Voters! This year we have the gravitas of reflecting on 100 years of League history as we prepare for a profoundly challenging election. This month should have been chock full of parades and public events and commemorative meetings! We didn't foresee a pandemic. Here's one way we can celebrate, "Chalk the Vote," from the Oregon Women's History Consortium and The Oregon Historical Society, details below! I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter because it represents so much work done by committed League members. Thank you all for your work in so many areas of our League!

Yours in League, Becky Gladstone



Action - Special Session

Governor Brown has called for a second 2020 Special Legislative Session, starting August 11th and LWVOR Action has been working consistently as COVID-19 hammers state budgets and deals with urgent issues. See Networking below on the Portland Protests, and here for proposed legislation, below. [Subscribe to our Legislative Reports.](#)

CARES Act action in Oregon

LWVOR supports disconnecting the first four income tax provisions in the federal CARES Act, for which we wrote to our congressional members in March, coordinating with LWVUS, [see](#)

[our letter](#). These are expected to reduce the General Fund revenue by \$250.6 million, as highlighted in the [May 2020 Legislative Revenue Office Report](#). We do not support giving an additional tax break to predominantly white millionaires. We should use that revenue to support social services to help those suffering most from the pandemic—minority-owned businesses and people of color, who are disproportionately suffering. Watch for an Action Alert to call your legislators and ask them prevent cuts to services by supporting legislation to disconnect Oregon taxes from the income tax breaks in the CARES Act this year.

Racial Justice and Policing Reform

Our Action Committee is addressing proposed legislation in our newly formed [Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform](#).

- [LC 742](#) Regulate “chemical incapacitants, kinetic impact projectiles, and sound devices; define riot conditions”. Think of tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, and sound bombs.
- [LC 743](#) Establish police ID and visible identification requirements (show ID on request), define police uniform and vehicle marking requirements.
- [LC 744](#) Officers are required to intervene and report misconduct by another officer.
- [LC 745](#) Restrict “choke holds”; amendments are being discussed to ban them.
- [LC 746](#) Establish state-wide policing standards. If an arbitrator finds misconduct, discipline cannot be overturned and discipline matrix/guidelines will not be part of collective bargaining.
- [LC 748](#) Police who relocate to avoid discipline will be tracked in a state-wide police database being established. Those hiring police must consult previous employers.

Redistricting

Our advocacy is exciting! We are still collecting signatures, [get an e-petition here](#); read this statement from the campaign on Friday:

People Not Politicians is a large, broad and diverse coalition of Oregonians who care about removing the conflict of interest in Oregon’s redistricting system and in ending gerrymandering once and for all. Our campaign engaged in an extraordinarily energetic and creative effort to gather signatures safely during a pandemic. We hope the court ultimately lets the public decide whether everyday Oregonians—not politicians—should draw our legislative and congressional districts.

Networking

League members around the country are increasingly on a first-name basis! Leaders are chatting in Facebook and google groups to ask for help with ZOOM candidate forums, getting Vote411 updates, comparing redistricting lawsuit notes, and discussing racial justice and police reform. Our Privacy & Cybersecurity LWVUS concurrence group met last week and our Oregon local League Leaders will meet by ZOOM on Monday, where I will encourage monthly meetings.

Our new LWVUS President, Deb Turner has started monthly state President calls, adding to monthly Litigation Review video chats, fortnightly LWVUS Technology webinars, and more! One LWVUS webinar covered press releases, helpful information we put to use right away.

Press Release

Read the [LWVOR Statement on the Portland Protests](#), on our [LWVOR Newsroom page](#). We invited LWVUS and LWVPDX to collaborate, reaching out after getting far-flung queries and calls for action. Press release networking included our Public Safety Advocate, Barbara Ross, and Rep Janelle Bynum, one of the Co-Chairs of the new [Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform](#).



Thanks to LWVOR staff for ongoing LWVOR Newsroom and Voter Service website revision, which cannot wait for our planned website rehab after the election!

Voter Service

Ballot measure certification in early August from the Secretary of State initiates our formal comprehensive research and Speaker's Bureau preparation. We can record and share Speakers' ZOOM presentations this year!

COVID is still limiting in-person event planning and curtailing print Voters' Guide distribution. Our video coverage is expanding as more candidate events will be virtual and recorded. We will again consider local League media ad support requests for [Vote411.org](#) publicity because they proved helpful in the primary. We have updated Vote411 candidate questions for many races around the state. Vote411 will again invite all Oregon candidates to post their campaign information, without charge. Vote411 will cover all ballot measures online and is making its debut in Spanish! Candidate's Spanish replies will be included if provided.

Ballot Measures

Formal measure endorsement consideration begins with certification though LWVOR has been working extensively with two campaigns, initiating redistricting work and in coalition for campaign finance reform. COVID-19 constraints are affecting initiative work this year, and the crystal ball says fewer initiatives and referrals look likely:

- IP 34 [Oregon Psilocybin Services Act](#) Legalizing psilocybin and establishing a program
 - IP 44 [Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act](#) Drug decriminalizing, establishing drug addiction treatment, pulling funding from marijuana taxes
 - IP57 [People Not Politicians](#) Independent State and Congressional Citizens Redistricting Commission
 - [HB 2270](#) Tobacco taxation with revenues to be dedicated to medical and health programs
 - [SJR 18](#) For Campaign Finance Limits, "C&E", contributions and expenditures, limit campaign C & Es, requiring C & E disclosure and identify who pays for political ads.
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DEI Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

LWVOR is committed to viewing all of our activities through a DEI lens. We will be reaching out to our Native American communities, beginning with a trusted advocate, the NAYA Family Center in Portland, which serves communities around the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Look for more in our summer edition of The Voter, arriving soon.

Chalk The Vote

In late August, people throughout Oregon will join others across the country to mark the 19th amendment, recognizing women's right to vote. It was an important milestone in the larger struggle of diverse groups to guarantee voting rights for all Americans. 2020 is the...

- 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment: right to vote cannot be denied on account of race
- 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment: right to vote cannot be denied on account of sex
- 56th anniversary of the 24th Amendment: prohibits poll taxes as a condition to vote
- 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act: an act to enforce the 15th Amendment
- 49th anniversary of the 26th Amendment: right to vote cannot be denied on account of age for those 18 or older

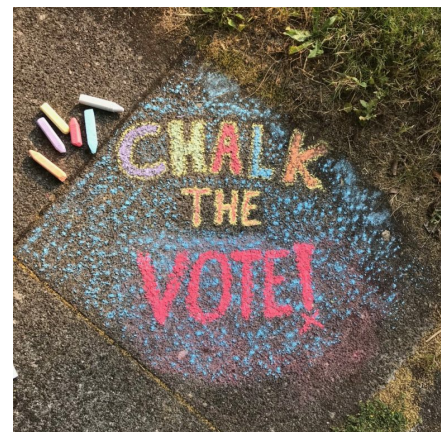
Each milestone righted previous wrongs and added new voices to the body politic. In recognition of this ongoing struggle for voting rights, the Oregon Women's History Consortium and the Oregon Historical Society invite the League of Women Voters to help sponsor Chalk the Vote! A DIY activity to mark these voting rights milestones.

- Grab some chalk
- Find a sidewalk or other outdoor surface
- Use text of the voting rights amendment/act of your choice. (find the text [here](#))
- Be creative, add flair, and have fun with your Chalk art.

When is Chalk The Vote?

The week of August 23-29. August 26 is the centennial of the 19th Amendment (aka Women's Equality Day).

This non-partisan activity is intended to raise awareness of these historical milestones and discover new twists and turns in the American story. Find exciting women's suffrage history at the [Oregon Women's History Consortium](#) (OWHC) website. The [Oregon Historical Society](#) (OHS) will post a toolkit of resources with historical information, connections to the present, and Chalk the Vote! ideas.



We invite the League of Women Voters of Oregon to join OWHC and OHS as a sponsoring partner of Chalk the Vote! We are asking Chalk the Vote! partners to --

- Commit to organizing a Chalk the Vote! location of your choice
- Send the date & location of your planned Chalk the Vote! to OWHC (by Aug. 15)
- Send a picture of your Chalk the Vote! to OWHC to post (by Aug. 29)
- Inform and encourage your members and coalition partners to Chalk the Vote!

We hope you'll join us as a sponsoring partner on this fun, easy-to-socially-distance

activity. We look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact us with questions or for more information. We'll plan to follow up with a phone call in the near future.

[Janice Dilg](#) and [Nikki Mandell](#)
Oregon Women's History Consortium
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Here's to celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment!

Transcript of 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Women's Right to Vote (1920)

Sixty-sixth Congress of the United States of America; At the First Session;

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the nineteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislature of three-fourths of the several States.

"ARTICLE ———.

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

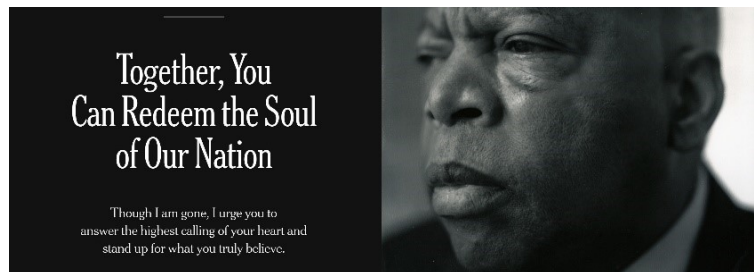
Source: <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=63&page=transcript>. U.S. National Archives & Records Administration. 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408 • 1-86-NARA-NARA • 1-866-272-6272

August Reading - Homegoing

There is so much that deserves our reading attention and I welcome your recommendations!

US Representative John Lewis

was remembered this week as one of the "Big Six" leaders of the US Civil Rights movement, and I can't help but share his NYT's farewell essay, printed posthumously, [Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation](#).



Yaa Gyasi On Homegoing

17,313 views • Jan 10, 2017

👍 476 🗨️ 3 ➦ SHARE 📌 SAVE ...

I happened to be reading Homegoing, a first novel by author Yaa Gyasi, born in Ghana. It brings to life eight generations of a family physically separated by the slave-trade and how it affected them, both in Africa and in the United States, from 1775 to 2006. I'm learning a lot from her perspective and recommend her novel to all! Meet [Yaa Gyasi in this YouTube about writing Homegoing](#).

In League,

Becky Gladstone
President, LWVOR

Connect with us



A printable version of this newsletter can be found on our website [here](#).