

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



LWVOR President's Letter September 2020

Dear Oregon League members,

Now that we are solidly in the 2020 election season, let's take a cue from our Voter Service Reps call this week. MJ in Curry County says their League is very busy and they recommend League work to keep a positive frame of mind under our trying conditions. Your help is still needed and can make a big impact on our coming election. Let's make a difference together!

Thank you,
Becky Gladstone
President, LWVOR

Here's an overview of this letter:

- GOTV means Get Out The VOTE! You can help with Outreach Circle and postcards
- [LWVOR Newsroom page](#) (new!) Please send us your local news links!
- Election Protection 866-Our Vote!
- Consensus Committee members needed for two LWVOR studies
- Ballot measure positions from Action, information from Voter Service
- Redistricting; sadly, not for this fall's ballot in Oregon. See our positions on other measures
- Suffrage quilt show in Sisters, in lieu of a book recommendation this month :)

Get Out The Vote (GOTV)

Our Voter Service team continues to improve and I am So Proud of this work!! Here's what you need to know:

OutreachCircle

LWVUS is sponsoring "[Outreach Circle](#)" with Oregon among the pilot states. This app can help each of us organize our own efforts to reach out and urge our



personal contacts to register to vote *on time*, to look at VOTE411.org, to watch a League candidate forum, to fill out GOTV postcards, even to be sure to VOTE!

If our family and friends hear from us directly, they recognize us and pay attention! It really makes a difference, compared to getting generic phone calls, emails, texts, and social media messages. The best part is, this app will help you keep track of who you've called, emailed, posted to, etc. It'll let you know if they opened your message, if they followed through, so you will know if you're making a difference. LWVUS wants us to develop this direct networking so we can be able to make a Rapid Response Impact! Our goal for GOTV is to increase Voter turnout.

Postcards

LWVOR will be printing postcards that Leagues can order, for members to write and send out to urge friends to vote. Please contact your League Leaders ASAP if you are interested since we will be printing very soon. LWVOR is paying for production and distribution but not for postage. Domestic postcard stamps now cost 35¢.



Voter Service Publicity Grants

LWVOR is repeating our primary 2020 subsidies for local League voter service ads. Feature your events, VOTE411.org, the [LWVOR Vote Oregon page](#) with our Voters' Guides, etc. Contact your local Voter Service Rep for details.

Have you seen the new USPS Suffrage stamp? These are 55¢ stamps. [Order directly from the USPS!](#)

Election Protection 866 OUR VOTE

Did you know that LWV is a coalition member in this national Voter Protection hotline? Check it out and call with any concerns (866.687.8683, also in Spanish, Arabic, and Asian languages). I called and they're getting calls about USPS mailbox removal in Oregon.



Portland Ballot Dropbox Removal

We need to protect voter confidence against misinformation! Concern arose over a Multnomah ballot dropbox removed this week; it was removed due to nearby construction, not voter suppression. This letter to the editor from [The Skanner](#), closes with the publisher adding "I'm sorry for the inconvenience. Please still vote as if your life depends on it." [The Skanner](#) is a website and newspaper published in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington. Established in 1975, the Scanner News Group advances the cause of the Black Press in the North Western United States.

LWVOR New Newsroom Page

With coaching from LWVUS publicity staff, we have expanded our publicity presence for press releases and blogging. We will be posting links to comments from the press about our Leagues. Please send links for your League's "earned press," i.e., when any media features or mentions the League. We'll post highlights!

Look at our newly revised [LWVOR Newsroom](#) webpage. You'll find:

- Our Press Releases, our [LWVOR statement on the Portland protests](#), July 27th.
- [News clips](#), OPB on the IP 57 court ruling, September 2nd.
- Blogs and Newsletters, our [Vote By Mail in Oregon](#) and [USPS cutbacks in Oregon](#), August 21st.

Thanks to our staff, Sarah and Amanda, as they prepare for extensive post-elections website revision.

Member Agreement Committees Need Volunteers

By Alice Bartelt

Two LWVOR studies, Hard Rock Mining and Cyber Security, need member agreement committees for the final step in the study process formulating our position. Meeting virtually, these committees are made up of several study authors, the Action Committee Chair, and members from small and large leagues.

Each committee member reads the study and the consensus results. Committee members will then meet to formulate the League's position stating where we stand on these issues. Our positions will be used by the Action Committee as they work in the Legislature and with various government agencies.

By meeting virtually, we hope that members will be able to participate more easily than if we were meeting in person. These studies and consensus are the product of hard work by the study committees and local leagues, culminating in a position that articulates their findings.

- **The Hard Rock Mining study** consensus was done over a year ago. That committee can meet as soon as members are found.
- **The Cyber Security study** member agreement committee will meet in the early December.

Please let Alice Bartelt know if you would like to be on a member agreement committee, alicebartelt@comcast.net.



This is from the tail end of the LWV Curry Cyber Study consensus meeting. You can still join in a group; contact Mary Sinclair, cksinclair@gmail.com, to compare schedules.

2020 Ballot Measures

LWVOR Voters' Guides comprehensively present state ballot measure information, balanced with supporter and opposition statements, financial impact, result of yes or no votes, official explanatory statements, etc. We will work on videos of Speakers' Bureau presentations you can share. See our [LWVOR Vote Oregon](#) and [VOTE411.org](#) websites for full information soon.

LWVOR Ballot Measure Positions

By Alice Bartelt, Action Chair

The LWVOR Board takes these positions for Oregon November 2020 ballot measures.

Measure 107: Campaign Finance – SUPPORT

“Amends Constitution: Allows laws limiting political campaign contributions and expenditures, requiring disclosure of political campaign contributions and expenditures, and requiring political campaign advertisements to identify who paid for them.” Campaign finance reform has been an issue at all levels of government elections for many years. LWVOR has supported contribution limits for local and state elections whenever there has been the opportunity. This is a referral from the Legislature and is a Constitutional amendment. Until a recent Oregon Supreme Court decision, courts had held that the Constitution’s free-speech provision was contrary to contribution limits. This ballot measure will make sure that campaign contributions are not speech and that campaign contribution limits may be imposed.

Measure 108: tobacco taxes – SUPPORT

Another legislative referral, that “Increases cigarette and cigar taxes. Establishes tax on e-cigarettes and nicotine vaping devices. Funds health programs.” It will help to stop some young people from taking up unhealthful habits. Oregon’s taxes on these items are below those in Washington and California. This will raise the taxes to be on a par with those states.

Measure 109: psilocybin – NO POSITION

“Allows manufacture, delivery, administration of psilocybin at supervised, licensed facilities; imposes two-year development period.” The League has no position to support or oppose this ballot measure.

Measure 110: decriminalizing, then funding addiction treatment – SUPPORT

Finally, after much conversation, the Board voted to support. This measure states, “Provides statewide addiction/recovery services; marijuana taxes partially finance; reclassifies possession/penalties for specified drugs.” The League has several positions on which to base our support, including:

LWVOR Health Policy, Adult Mental Health in Oregon (1987, 2001, 2008): This position states that the mental health delivery system should include adults with alcohol and drug addiction and that the concept of care, treatment, and support should occur “in the least restrictive environment possible.”

LWVUS Sentencing Policy (2012): Alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.”

LWVUS Principle: “No person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.”

There is a long list of organizations working toward racial justice that support this measure. The Board concluded that because people of color make up a disproportionate group of those who are incarcerated, many for drug related charges, the League should stand in solidarity with them in supporting this ballot measure.

Redistricting

This is forwarded from the IP 57 People Not Politicians campaign.

"Yesterday, after weeks of waiting, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals [issued a decision in our case](#), sending the case back to the Federal District Court for additional proceedings. Unfortunately, this means that we believe it is unlikely that we have enough time to get IP 57 on our ballot this November.

But our fight to reform Oregon's redistricting process isn't over.

We've been saying it for months - democracy doesn't stop and neither do we. This has been a years-long fight to reform Oregon's redistricting process to put people, not politicians in charge of drawing district lines, and we are still committed to ensuring that Oregon's 2021 redistricting is done fairly, transparently, and impartially.

We couldn't have done any of this without your tireless support for fair redistricting in Oregon. You signed the petition, asked friends and family to sign the petition, made phone calls, shared messages, and more. This has truly been a grassroots campaign and you are the backbone of it.

We made history this year. In the midst of a global pandemic and in the face of significant opposition, we ran an unprecedented mail and e-petition campaign and tens of thousands of Oregonians stood up for redistricting reform. While we wish Oregonians had the chance to vote for an independent commission on the November ballot, our coalition is committed to a fair, transparent, and community-focused redistricting process in 2021 - and we will keep working to make it a reality.

With you on our team, we know we can continue our fight to put people, not politicians, in charge of Oregon's redistricting process. Soon, we will be connecting with you on how you can continue the good work that's been done. For now, we want to thank you for fighting alongside us to make sure redistricting works for everyone. Contact Norman Turrill (nturrill@mac.com) if you have questions."



Suffrage Quilts 2020

By Paula Grisafi

And now for something entirely different, in place of our usual book recommendation. Thanks to Paula Grisafi, LWV Lane County, who organized Suffrage quilt outreach on behalf of the LWVOR, with numerous quilt shows around Oregon.

On Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at noon the clocks in Beacham's Clock Company in Sisters, OR chimed quietly in unison. It was significant in that it was a small reflection of the thousands of church bells that chimed across America at exactly noon 100 years prior to celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment. A gathering of mostly women, some from the LWV and some from several local quilters guilds and some who were just happy to celebrate the occasion were present to view the 14 quilts that had been designed and sewn

by the women of the guilds to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the realization of women's suffrage through its passage. It was an achievement that had required 70 years of effort from several generations of women.

The quilts were as varied as the women who made them. Many incorporated the colors of purple, white and yellow, the colors of the suffragist movement of a century ago. While the event was only an hour long there were several speakers to commemorate the occasion: Carol Loesche, the President of the LWV of Deschutes County, Mayor Arlene Burns, and two of the quilters, Kristan Collins and Diane Tolzman both of whom spoke about what or who had inspired their designs. For Ms Collins it was her great-grandmother Ethel who represented the strong and passionate women whose service and struggle expanded opportunities for modern women.

While the quilts will hang in the clock shop for a week, another chance to view them will occur during the month of November when they will be exhibited in the Black Butte Lodge in Black Butte, OR. Here are pictures of a few of the quilts and a group photo of the women who made them.



"Dear Ethel" by Kristan Collins



"Rebel for Rights" by Karen Hewer



The Quilters



"Equality" by Susan Cobb

Thank you for reading! Your participation, keeping and staying informed, are valued! Have a safe and rewarding September!

Becky Gladstone
President, LWWOR



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