

LWV Clackson Voter



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

DECEMBER 2023

REFLECTION ON A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

by Maureen Mader and Lynette Pierson, Co-Presidents president@lwwclackamas.org

As 2023 swiftly draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on a year marked by significant achievements, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our valued members. Throughout the past year, our membership has flourished, reaching nearly 90 members—a peak not witnessed in several years. Accomplishments of the past year include:

- Reinstated in-person meetings with outstanding outside speakers through Civics Education.
- Conducted a survey of our members to discern their advocacy interests and identify themes for our Civics Education program. Key interests, in order of popularity, were:
 - Democracy & Governance
 - Climate Change & the Environment
 - Infrastructure - including Transportation, Housing & Homelessness and Land
 - Other areas of interest included Criminal Justice, Education and Health Care
- Sought member input at our annual meeting on what we could do better and throughout the year have acted on those directives:
 - Monthly meetings with outside speakers from a vibrant Civics Education Program
 - Outreach to students working with LWVOR Mock Election in middle and high schools
 - Participate in and represent the League of Women Voters in the Rose Parade: We marched!
 - Activate Observer Corps: We have and are requesting you, our members, to JOIN!
- Expanded our communication outreach by using multiple social media platforms.
- Hosted our beloved parties to connect our members, old and new.
- Participated at the state League level with Mock Elections, Youth Engagement and Advocacy.

2024 is going to be an important election year at all levels of our government. Our goal is to provide our members and voters relevant, timely and nonpartisan information, aiding them in making informed decisions on candidates and ballot measures.

Your yearly dues and donations serve to fund our local, state, and national league to provide educational programs, workshops, voter related events, advocacy, legal actions, and social media communications. Your volunteer hours have helped us host events and meetings, provide communications (e.g. newsletter, social media), maintain our website, observe our elected officials, and participate in League sponsored programs. We couldn't do this important work without your generous financial support and commitment of your time and talent. We are deeply appreciative of your contributions and look forward to working with you next year!

Happy Holidays! Maureen & Lynette

FIRST WEDNESDAY LEAGUE ZOOM WITH GUEST CASSIE BRUSKE

3 JAN 2024 at 7:00pm on Zoom

By Diana DeMaria, Communications Team communications@lwgclackamas.org
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5515698259?pwd=75aobB2ObuYuuqRCSRyzCbtrdOpmny.1&omn=85614819163>

Please join us for our “What’s Happening” League tradition of First Wednesday Zoom Meetings! Save the Date to drop in and meet Cassie Bruske of Eames Consulting, who will provide a brief introduction to her work and role before sharing what we can expect from the 2024 Oregon Legislature short session, especially as it relates to Oregon’s Measure 110 and Addiction/Mental Health treatment. Your reminder email will go out on January 2nd with the zoom link.

BRIDGING THE GAP WITH REAGAN KNOPP AND BEN BOWMAN

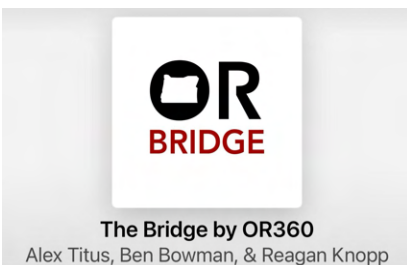
16 JAN 2024 at 7:00pm on Zoom

by Leslie Westphal, Civics Education civicsed@lwgclackamas.org
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5515698259?pwd=75aobB2ObuYuuqRCSRyzCbtrdOpmny.1&omn=82962338189>



Reagan Knopp is chief of staff to the Oregon Senate Republican Leader Tim Knopp. He’s also a political consultant who has run campaigns from local school boards to Congress. Reagan and his wife have two kids and live on their farm outside Albany, Oregon.

Ben Bowman is the state representative for House District 25 and an administrator in the Gladstone School District. Before joining the Legislature, Ben was the chair of the Tigard-Tualatin School Board and worked for the Oregon Department of Education. He graduated from the University of Oregon and earned a master's degree in education policy from Stanford University.



Ben Bowman and Reagan Knopp have very different political beliefs—but they co host a podcast together on Oregon politics, updated weekly, and available wherever you get your podcasts. Ben is a progressive Democrat, Reagan is a conservative Republican, and each week, they interview a guest (politicians, journalists, authors, and more) to discuss complex policy issues, learn about Oregon political history, and help build a more constructive civic dialogue. In this program, they will discuss why they started the podcast, how they’ve navigated challenging issues, the implications for broader political discourse—and they’ll share a few fun memories and highlights from the experience. See you on the 16th!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN GOVERNMENT: PROTECTING YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

By Mary Jensen localaction@lwvclackamas.org



Do you wonder what our government officials are doing at their meetings? What issues are they covering and what policies are being discussed and issued? We have just the opportunity for you!

Our Observer Corps is organizing now for 2024 so you can get in on the ground floor with the team. League members will watch meetings either in person, via zoom, or even watch videos around your schedule, then fill in a single-page Google form with observations.

What will we do with the information you submit to hold our elected and appointed government officials accountable? We will review and condense it for our Board, possibly share with members in the Clackson and incorporate this crucial information into League planning. Want to know more about the Observer program? Read the LWV of the United States guide for protecting your right to know at <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy/observing-your-government-action>. If you are interested, please contact Local Action Chair, Mary Jensen, at LocalAction@lwvclackamas.org.



REPORT ON CLACKAMAS COUNTY HOMELESSNESS

by Dolores Passarelle, Social Policy dolorespassarelle@lwvclackamas.org

The League continues to be concerned about homeless issues in Clackamas County. As reported by OPB on October 9th, 2023, Oregon has the fourth largest homeless population per capita in the country after Washington D.C., California and Vermont. In the Clackamas County FY

2022-2023 Annual Report of Supportive Housing Services, the most effective solution to address homelessness is coupling housing with social services such as employment and education support, physical and mental health care, substance use treatment and other needed services—a model called supportive housing. In the Executive Summary section of the report, housing services program reported the following outcomes:

- 665 people experiencing homelessness were placed in permanent housing.
- 643 people had evictions prevented.
- 676 people received rent assistance.
- 788 people were served through emergency and transitional shelter.
- Spending increased by 440% over the previous year.

For further details of housing services program goals and outcomes and to see their newly published FY 2023-2024 Annual Report, visit clackamas.us/housingauthority/supportive-housing-services.

IP 14 REDISTRICTING BALLOT MEASURE AND IP 9 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM Petition Sheets and Packages Available

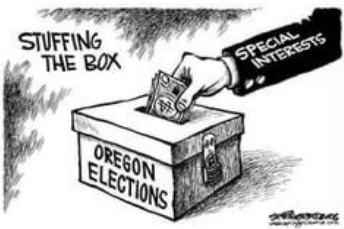
By Marge Easley, Action Co-Chair action@lwvclackamas.org
with a warm thank you to League Member, Teri Cummings, for presenting!



Marge and Teri reviewed the two important League-endorsed initiative petitions and how to gather signatures to qualify for the November 2024 ballot. It's easy to collect a few signatures and send them in. Every single signature counts! Copies of the petitions will be available at our meetings through the spring, or you can download your own copies for circulation to turn in by June 30th. If each of us prints, signs and returns a petition with their family and friends, both initiative petitions would have enough signatures to qualify for the 2024 ballot! TAKE ACTION TODAY

REDISTRICTING BALLOT MEASURE IP 14 is a constitutional amendment to create an independent commission to draw Oregon's legislative boundaries instead of the current political process in the state legislature. People Not Politicians is a broad coalition covering the whole political spectrum that includes the League, Common Cause, Forward Oregon, business groups and many Oregonians. Here is the drill to have an initiative succeed in Oregon:

- [volunteers and more volunteers](#)
- [gathering of qualifying signatures by circulators](#)
- [signature validators](#) (at home and online!)
- [donors!](#)



CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IP 9 is a statutory measure that would further limit campaign donations, place additional requirements on donation disclosure and penalties would be increased for violations. Candidates would not be able to carry over funds from one election cycle to the next, more information about campaign finance would be included in voter pamphlets and for-profit corporations could not contribute to political campaigns in Oregon. [Honest Elections](#) is

working to get dark money out of politics. Click on <https://linktr.ee/honestelectionsoregon> for more information and petition sheets or contact Marge Easley at action@lwvclackamas.org.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY ELECTIONS VISIT WITH CLERK MCMULLEN

By Maureen Mader, Marge Easley and Mary Jensen voterservice@lwvclackamas.org

On November 30, 2023, Clerk Catherine McMullen, who is also a League member, coordinated a visit for the League of Women Voters of Clackamas County to observe the Logic and Accuracy Test (LAT). A logic and accuracy test is the process used to validate that the optical ballot scanners are tabulating votes accurately. Election officials are required to test the tabulation machines three times for each election — twice before the election and again after all the ballots are counted. The public is welcome to observe this

process. We also talked with Clerk McMullen to learn her views on our current election processing ability. She has been in her position for 11 months and is fully gearing up for future elections. Her goal is to build public trust through good and responsive government via accuracy, transparency and inclusion. She is instilling her values of election integrity within her staff and through enhanced processes, ensuring each voter can vote as a primary objective, which she stresses through inclusion, accessibility and access for every voter. She and her staff conduct outreach to increase understanding of elections and the importance of voting. Further facilitating this outreach is her effort to include bilingual speakers on her staff. Like many government offices, she faces budgetary challenges to update equipment, improve security around the election process, and increase staffing.

According to Reed College's 2023 [Oregon County Election Staffing Research Study](#), resiliency will be the greatest challenge for local election officials during 2024. Here are key takeaways from the study, commissioned by the Oregon Secretary of State Elections Division:

- Staff recruitment and retention is a challenge.
- Staffing levels today are below what they were a decade ago due to budgetary pressures.
- The level of public records requests has exploded, creating new and unexpected demands.
- Training and workforce development is a high priority.
- Job satisfaction remains high, although many clerks reported high levels of stress and burnout due to the current corrosive political environment.



**LET'S GET CONNECTED
TO NEWS, EVENTS AND UPDATES**
Communications Team communications@lwvclackamas.org

**FOLLOW US
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Don't be shy! Friend and/or follow ANY OR ALL the different ways to get connected in 2024 so you don't miss the invitations, announcements, news and updates on everything League!



League of Women Voters
of Clackamas County



LWV of Clackamas County
@LWVClackamas

[Recordings on our Civic Education Channel](#)



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LWV ClackamasCounty



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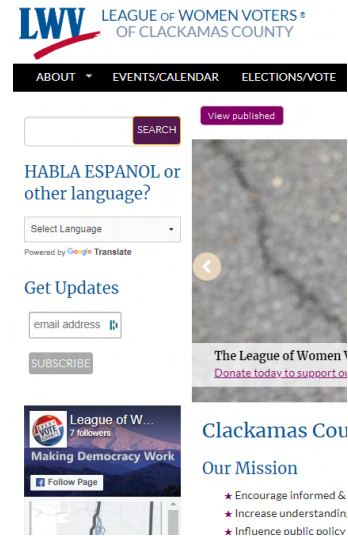
LWV of Clackamas County
@LWVClackamas

**NEW FEATURE:
SEE OUR FACEBOOK FEED ON THE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY WEBSITE!**

www.lwvclackamas.org

By Lynette Pierson, Technology technology@lwvclackamas.org

Our website now features the latest from our official League of Women Voters of Clackamas County Facebook page. Check it out in the website landing page in the left column under Get Updates where members and the public can sign up for email communications.



**YOUR 2024 DEMOCRACY MENU: NOMINATING TEAM WILL BE
CONTACTING LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK**

by Robina Ingram-Rich, Chair and Nominating Committee Team membership@lwvclackamas.org

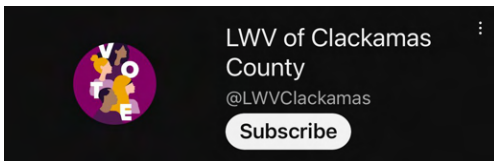
Are you determined to involve young and future voters, fight mis- and dis-information to keep the League a trusted nonpartisan source, protect your right to know what your government is doing, and team up with some of the best League members in the nation? We thought so! You will be hearing from your Nominating Chair, Robina Ingram-Rich, and the Nominating Team, Hilly Alexander, Betty Janes, Diana DeMaria and Nancy Murray, who will be connecting with you for some fun conversation on your ideas and how the right-sized task can make a huge difference to 2024. Join us in dreaming big.

JANUARY 2024 CALENDAR

Contact the Communications Team communications@lwvclackamas.org

<https://my.lwv.org/oregon/clackamas-county/calendar>

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
3 JAN	WED	7p	First Wednesday Zoom : Speaker Cassie Bruske on 2024’s Legislative Short Session
11 JAN	THUR	12p	LWVUS Nuts & Bolts of Program Planning Meetings LWVUS Web Event Link
16 JAN	TUE	7p	Bridging the Gap with Reagan Knopp and Ben Bowman Zoom
18 JAN	THU	1p - 3p	League of Women Voters of Clackamas County Board Meeting Venue TBD
19 JAN	FRI	10a - 3p	Youth Civic Engagement Summit, Salem LWVOR Hybrid Event Form Link



RECORDINGS AVAILABLE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

By Diana DeMaria and Judy Fulton, Communications Team
communications@lwwclackamas.org

Your League Board has subscribed to Zoom so the last three previous events and all future events and public meetings can be recorded for our members if you aren't able to attend in person! Please help us raise our League visibility serving our community in Clackamas County by following, friending, sharing and reposting our events and resources. We appreciate our members widening the circle of trusted nonpartisan information.

231202 Dwight Holton | Lines For Life

<https://youtu.be/LQBDQz0zvnU>

If you missed the 2023 Holiday Celebration where the League of Women Voters of Clackamas County celebrated our members and 2023 League accomplishments with goals for 2024, you can share this video and/or the resources below from our guest speaker, Dwight Holton, CEO of Lines of Life. Lines of Life is the leading suicide and substance abuse prevention nonprofit in the Pacific Northwest and beyond and offers access to trained peer counselors on their YouthLine, for teen2teen text at 839863 or teens can call 877-968-8491 for immediate free, confidential and anonymous help. Anyone in need can also dial, chat or text 988 to reach the main Suicide & Crisis hotline for free, confidential and anonymous help. Please share this important resource, and our gratitude to Dwight and everyone at Lines of Life doing this important work! <https://www.linesforlife.org>

231108 Mike Scott | School District Superintendent | Public Education

<https://youtu.be/44VKzFmR0N8>

The League of Women Voters of Clackamas County was honored to host Mike Scott, retired Hillsboro School District Superintendent, to speak on strengthening public education in a post-COVID world. Mike has over thirty years of educational experience, as a classroom teacher, advisor, counselor, assistant principal, principal and assistant superintendent. He cares deeply about educational opportunities for each individual student, and discusses mental and behavioral health, funding, curriculum, educator training and safety preparation for a changed educational environment for staff and families that now will always include remote options. We invite you to hear what Mike had to share with us, and to share it forward!

230912 Les Zaitz | Free Press and the Survival of Democracy

<https://youtu.be/nzR-6BPue74>

The League of Women Voters of Clackamas County was honored to welcome veteran editor and investigative reporter, Les Zaitz, speak on the importance of a vibrant free press in the preservation of a democracy. Les reported for the Oregonian for 25 years, owns several community newspapers and a digital news service. He is a national Society of Professional Journalists fellow, a two-time Pulitzer finalist, and a five-time winner of Oregon's top investigative reporting award. Les has been active in reforming the state's public records law and was appointed by Governor Brown to the Oregon Public Records Advisory Council. He received a standing ovation from League members and the public who attended this presentation. Enjoy the call to action to do your part to support independent and impartial journalism.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

of Clackamas County

PO Box 411

Lake Oswego, OR 97034

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www.lwvclackamas.org, <https://my.lwv.org/oregon/clackamas-county>

Join the League of Women Voters of Clackamas County!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- I am a new member!
- I am renewing my membership.
- This is a gift membership. (Please provide the recipient's contact information above.)
- I am interested in volunteering for the League. Please contact me.

Annual dues: \$70 Individual. \$105 Household. Full-time student attending an accredited institution or adult under age 25 free! Membership grants are available. Pay online

(<https://my.lwv.org/oregon/clackamas>) or mail this form. Please make checks payable to LWVCC, PO Box 411, Lake Oswego, OR 97034

Membership dues and donations are now tax deductible.

Total Enclosed _____