

# LWV Clackson Voter



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MARCH 2024

## GETTING LEADERSHIP READY FOR 2024

by Maureen Mader and Lynette Pierson Co-Presidents [president@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:president@lwvclackamas.org)

It is that time of year when we are preparing to pass the baton to a new slate of Officers and Directors. Mark your calendars for the 2024 Annual Meeting on **May 4th** at the Oswego Pointe Community Room! Many thanks to **Betty Barber** for securing this lovely location for our ideas and deliberations! We give our heartfelt thanks to the Nominating Committee: **Robi Ingram-Rich , Diana DeMaria, Hilly Alexander, Betty Janes and Libby Medley**. We still have leadership openings in several areas and would love to see your faces there. We have leadership and committee openings in Civic Education, Communications, Local and State Action, Membership, Technology, and Voter Service. Without your participation we are going to be a weaker team, and we truly would love to hear your new ideas for giving our League a greater impact in the local community. If you are interested in learning more about a role, please reach out to us or another Board member to get your questions answered. You don't need experience, just need a willingness to learn!

On February 10th, we had a lovely celebration of the League's 104th birthday with cake, refreshments and **Marge Easley's** excellent presentation on "*The Long Road to Woman Suffrage*". Thank you to **Betty Janes** and her committee of helpers including **Janet Brumbaugh, Julia Simpson, Nancy Leavens, and Mary O'Reilly**. New member **Margie Whitmore** passed out flyers providing information on a book club she is organizing modeled after the one she left in Sequim, Washington. The focus will be on books relating to politics, government, or history. The book group will be starting in April so please contact **Margie Whitmore** by email at [froulady@gmail.com](mailto:froulady@gmail.com) for more information.

We are thankful for your ongoing commitment to our League and to our mission to promote democracy!

Maureen & Lynette

## WELCOME NEW LEAGUE MEMBERS

by Diana DeMaria, Membership Chair [membership@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:membership@lwvclackamas.org)

A heartfelt WELCOME to new League members Charlie Bloomer, Anne Sullivan-Smoot and Teri Danielson. Their contact information can be found in the Members Only section of our website. If you need help to access that section, please email [membership@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:membership@lwvclackamas.org).



Join us for a free community forum:

**Envisioning after Dismantling --  
The Past, Present, and Future of DEI  
in Clackamas County.**

Saturday, March 2, 2024  
Tabling from 1- 2:00 pm  
Speakers beginning at 2:00 pm

Lake Oswego United Church of Christ  
1111 Country Club Road | Lake Oswego, OR 97034  
Live stream at [youtube.com/@respondtoracismlo](https://youtube.com/@respondtoracismlo)

**FREE COMMUNITY FORUM 2 MARCH 2024  
FOR DEI - DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION  
AT 2:00PM IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY**

With the League's mission to empower voters and defend democracy, we commit to equity for all voters and the recognition that democracy is strengthened by the inclusion of all the diverse voices within the community. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) are not buzzwords; they are commitments to our organizational mission and values. This starts with the organization's [DEI policy](#), which applies to all levels of the League. [Resources](#) are available for individual

reflection/learning, for organizational change, and for wider community engagement. If you have questions or success stories for the LWVUS DEI Committee, please contact [aatterberry@lwv.org](mailto:aatterberry@lwv.org).

**MARCH UNIT MEETINGS**

**by LWV Clackamas County Unit Leaders**

You're invited to meet up in our League Unit Meetings in March! Unit Meetings are small group discussions (and they can get lively) on current issues for Clackamas County and Oregon, including League plans and priorities for *Making Democracy Work®*. Stop by one (or more!) unit meetings that may work for your schedule and in locations that are convenient to you. Your guests are more than welcome and carpooling can be arranged. The topics and discussion resources will be shared beforehand with the mailchimp reminder by your unit leader, and two additional locations with different days and times will be available in April.

**March 19 at 7 pm on Zoom**

**Virtual Unit Meeting on Tuesday Evening**

RSVP to Nancy Murray at [n.murray.01@hotmail.com](mailto:n.murray.01@hotmail.com) to receive a link

**March 20 at 2:30pm in Wilsonville**

**In-Person Unit Meeting on Wednesday at Portera, 8945 SW Ash Meadows Circle**

RSVP to Dolores Passarelle at [dpassar97@gmail.com](mailto:dpassar97@gmail.com) or call (503) 577-9011 for directions

**March 18 at 5:30pm in Lake Oswego**

**In-Person Unit Meeting on Monday at the Fireside Room, Oswego Pointe Condominiums**

5065 Foothills Drive, Lake Oswego RSVP to Betty Barber at [barberbc@yahoo.com](mailto:barberbc@yahoo.com)

## ELECTION SECURITY AND FIGHTING MIS AND DIS INFORMATION

**SPEAKER: CLERK CATHERINE MCMULLEN**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 12 AT 7:00PM ON ZOOM**

by Communications Team [communications@lwwclackamas.org](mailto:communications@lwwclackamas.org)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5515698259?pwd=75aobB2ObuYuuqRCSRyzCbtrdOpmny.1&omn=85231244953>

Clackamas County Clerk Catherine McMullen will discuss safety and security preparations from a multi-agency state-wide tabletop training exercise earlier this month in advance of the 2024 election cycle. She will discuss measures that she and other county clerks and elections administrators are taking to safeguard the public, elections staff and ballot security and will also discuss mis- and dis-information and how voters can help protect democracy and safeguard our right and responsibility to vote.

The Elections Division of the Oregon Secretary of State's Office, the Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) coordinated the exercise, attended by elections officials from all 36 of Oregon's counties, representatives from the Oregon Secretary of State's Office, representatives from CISA, and representatives from other state and federal partners, including the FBI and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

The goal of the exercise was to expose elections officials to realistic scenarios that may occur during an election. In doing so, elections officials could explore strategies on how best to prepare for and respond to such scenarios and protect Oregon's election infrastructure. The topics covered included

- physical security of elections offices
- threats to elections administration
- the proliferation of misinformation
- cybersecurity risks

For more information on how Oregon officials are working to ensure the integrity of elections, [visit OregonVotes.gov](https://www.oregonvotes.gov).

## ACTION IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY

By Mary Jensen [localaction@lwwclackamas.org](mailto:localaction@lwwclackamas.org)

**BOARD OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** BCC Chair Smith reminded Commissioners to include Clackamas County's number 1 financial request, \$21 million for courthouse funding, in their discussions with legislators during this short session. On March 14th at 6:00pm <https://www.clackamas.us/meetings/bcc/business/2024-03-14> BCC invited legislators representing Clackamas County to attend and speak with the specific intention of discussing what happened in the short legislative session, which ends on March 10th.

## VOTER SERVICE

by Maureen Mader [voterservice@lwwclackamas.org](mailto:voterservice@lwwclackamas.org)

Voter Service's focus this month has been on the Oregon Student Mock Election (OSME) work group. Next month we will begin to engage candidates who have filed to run in Clackamas County on [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org).

The State League under the leadership of Mimi Alkire and Diana DeMaria has spearheaded OSME this year. The purpose of the program is to introduce students, grades 6-12, to participate in the electoral process and demonstrate the importance of voting. OSME is [endorsed by the Oregon Secretary of State](#) and provides educators the opportunity to register their students to participate in a realistic mock election with turnkey educational materials (i.e. OSME lesson plan and a civic education curriculum) to use in their classrooms.

A work group consisting of Diana DeMaria, Betty Janes, Meg Thompson, Pat Walls, and Mary Pat Silveira has been tasked with contacting over 50 public and private middle and high schools in Clackamas County. The goal is to encourage these schools to participate in OSME by providing them with information on the [state website](#) to learn more about the program and register their students. The work group is very enthusiastic about this work and has been sharing best practices on how to contact these schools and get their attention among all the competing demands they have.

A new work group will be created this month to focus on inviting candidates to complete their profiles on [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) and to organize candidate interviews for Tualatin Valley Cable TV for the Video Voters Guide. Please contact [voterservice@lwwclackamas.org](mailto:voterservice@lwwclackamas.org) if you have some time and would like to volunteer to be on this work group.

## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN REPORT FINAL *draft* COMPLETED FOR CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Judy Fulton, Climate Action Plan Observer [communications@lwwclackamas.org](mailto:communications@lwwclackamas.org)

Originally scheduled to be completed in 2023, the Clackamas County Climate Action Plan (CAP) and supporting documents have been shared with the County Administrator and made available to the public. This plan outlines possible ways to reach emission goals by 2050 by reducing emissions from buildings (residential, institutional, commercial, industrial), transportation and waste. *Read the draft [Climate Action Plan](#)*

In addition, two supporting documents have been submitted. The first is the *draft [Implementation Guide](#)* that lists specific actions recommended by the consultants. The second is the *draft [Climate Lens](#)*, a tool the County Staff can use to qualitatively assess the impact of a project, service, operational change, policy or other initiative in relation to the county goals to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

The staff reports that “These draft documents are an option for consideration in future climate action efforts. They provide a possible plan and strategies to achieve the requested climate objective. *If and when the Board of Commissioners chooses to advance one or more of these strategies, the next step would be to provide more information for Board consideration by conducting feasibility studies on specific implementation steps, costs and benefits, and viable financing methods.*” There is still a long path ahead before implementation. Community members making climate-friendly decisions and engaging with each other and our county officials are crucial to reducing the county’s carbon footprint.

### Learn ways you can make a difference

<https://www.clackamas.us/news/2022-04-04/become-an-earth-day-champion>

### Sign up for renewable electricity: PGE’s Renewable Power Options

<https://portlandgeneral.com/energy-choices/renewable-power>

### Lower energy bills and gas use at home

<https://www.nwnatural.com/ways-to-save/manage-energy-use>

Energy cash incentives, resources and guidance <https://www.energytrust.org>

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Marge Easley, Action Co-Chair [action@lwwclackamas.org](mailto:action@lwwclackamas.org)

People Not Politicians, the sponsors of IP 14, have just announced a pause in their campaign to end partisan gerrymandering in Oregon by setting up an independent redistricting commission. Many thanks to those of you who collected signatures for this campaign. Petitioners hope to file a new petition in 2028. **IP9 IS STILL GOING STRONG** for vital **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM** to fight political corruption and require disclosure and transparency. [Honest Elections](#) is working to get dark money out of politics.

In legislative news, campaign finance reform (CFR) has recently become a hot topic. The reason is that two competing CFR initiatives are likely to make the 2024 ballot, and legislators have come to realize that it would be better to head off a costly ballot measure battle and pass their own legislation. However, the devil is in the details, and the legislative solution may turn out to be a weak compromise. Honest Elections, supported by the League and other good government groups, are behind IP 9 while unions and business groups have teamed up to support IP 34, which contains a number of questionable loopholes. If you are currently collecting signatures for IP 9, please continue to do so, as it would put much stronger campaign finance limits in place and provide greater transparency for campaign advertisements.

For an interesting read on how we arrived at this long-awaited moment to achieve campaign finance reform in Oregon, please read this article in the Oregon Capital Chronicle by Tim Nesbitt. If you can’t read this amazing article through a paywall, request an email version from [communications@lwwclackamas.org](mailto:communications@lwwclackamas.org).





## A NEW LIFETIME MEMBER IN 2024! SPOTLIGHT ON NANCY MURRAY

by Nancy Murray, Treasurer

[treasurer@lwcclackamas.org](mailto:treasurer@lwcclackamas.org)

Like a lot of people making Oregon their home, I was born and raised in California. My father, a Naval officer, was away at sea, at Annapolis, then Navy bases, so my early years were itinerant ones. As I started first grade, my parents divorced, and what seemed like a stable life from a child's point of view was anything but that. I attended four elementary schools, lived with both grandmothers, and every summer from age 7 flew by myself to be with my dad in Virginia or his family in rural Arkansas when he was at sea. I was that little girl who proudly wore plastic junior stewardess wings passing out Chiclets gum to fellow passengers. Coming from California suburbs to a small rural Southern town where my father's family owned a cotton gin, spoke with an accent, ate different foods, and where my playmates had no indoor plumbing became my first intercultural experience. At ten, I gained two loving step-parents.

These details of early life are relevant to all that came after. With excellent schools that led to college at UC Santa Barbara, I began with a major in political science. I had attended the Youth & Government program in Sacramento the year before and found it really interesting. The college course, however, I found boring and switched my major to French, which would eventually be a running theme throughout my life. I spent a summer in France with Experiment in International Living. My years in a sorority house allowed me to be mentored in sorority and campus leadership. My foreign languages and leadership experience gave me an edge over the beautiful blonds vying for a stewardess job with Pan American. It was hugely exciting flying the Pacific routes, almost always flying to Vietnam, taking and returning soldiers on their week of R&R. Those were sobering flights.

Marriage to my college sweetheart ended my short stint with Pan Am. After another short job as a junior high teacher, my husband and I decided to live abroad. He found a position in London at Rank Xerox, then was selected to open a new branch office in Tehran, Iran for seven months, then back to London. After two years abroad and a baby due, we moved to the NW and settled in. In 1974, my neighbor and I watched the Watergate hearings every day, and she suggested that we join the League of Women Voters. I was new to Oregon, knew nothing about local government either, so I joined a study committee on state land use and was hooked. Again, I was mentored by talented and smart women who inspired me with their activism. In 1979-81, I served as president of the West Clackamas County League that was very active in Lake Oswego. The City was writing its first Comprehensive Plan and dealing with developers who wanted to build out the city. Having already studied land use and observed City Council meetings, I felt prepared, though nervous, to testify.

By the mid-1980s, I was ready to serve as Action Chair on the LWVOR board. I organized what was then a hugely popular Day at the Legislature where we fanned out through the Capitol to interview legislators with the Governor stopping by to address us. We had and still have the reputation for knowing our issues and asking good questions. By this time, I had learned you didn't need to know everything to run for office and serve, so I gathered my courage and ran for Lake Oswego School Board with the help of my League friends. I served four years and the skills I learned in the League served me well in this role. I didn't run for re-election, as I was finishing my master's coursework at PSU and was ready to go back to work.

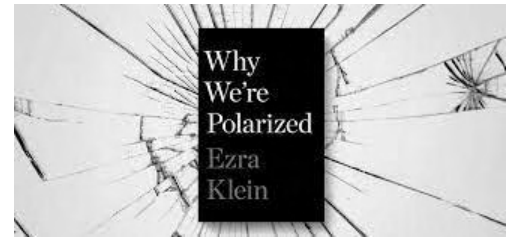
I found a job with an organization that ran study abroad programs for two consortiums of NW public and private universities as well as travel programs for secondary teachers and their students. In 1994, my boss gave me the assignment to write a Fulbright-Hays grant proposal for anywhere I wanted. I chose South Africa. The proposal was funded and off I went the next summer with a dozen Oregon teachers and a project director for six weeks of interesting intercultural activities, including two homestays, mine with a Zulu family. We also visited about 20 schools of all types where I was able to do some research for the thesis I was about to write. The trip was fascinating and deeply impactful.

At the end of the decade, I was on my own. I told my boss I wanted to direct our France program that no longer had a local director. Within months I left my house and cat in good hands and found a new perch in a lovely, historic city in the Loire Valley. Rebuilding my French skills, intercultural understanding, working with college students and visiting professors made for full days that often made my head spin. I made French friends who invited me into their world over the two years I was privileged to live there. However, my aging parents needed care, plus a grandchild on the way, brought me home in August of 2001 to assume family responsibilities.

With no real job prospects following the attacks of September 11th, I eased back into home life and traveled regularly. In 2006, I wanted to go back to South Africa, so I chose volunteer work as a way to do something useful and exciting. I spent four months there on two extraordinary adventures. One was on a game farm in a rural region, observing local wildlife, doing bird counts, removing invasive plants and taking trips out to wildlife sanctuaries to view the extraordinary variety of African species. The second was at a children's home in a township outside Cape Town. It was three days there, three days off at the volunteer house in Cape Town, on rotation for two months. Throughout the day, our team of four volunteers helped staff care for 38 preschoolers, orphans or children removed from their home. Apartheid was officially over, but its effects, then and now, still linger almost untouched in the townships.

Political issues, French, the Oregon Humane Society, books, my two daughters and their families, and friends take up my days. However, with democracy on the line in 2024, it is time to pull out all the stops to keep our laws and government functioning for the people and by the people. Our League needs to redouble its efforts, and I feel called to help.

**LEAGUE BOOK CLUB LAUNCH**  
**SAVE THE DATE AND DIVE INTO READING!**  
**THUR, APRIL 11 AT 1:00PM, MARY'S WOODS**  
by Margie Whitmore [froulady@gmail.com](mailto:froulady@gmail.com) 360-621-9112



It is more fun and most of us get more out of a book when we can discuss it with others. In addition, as League members, we know how important it is to educate ourselves about history, government, current events, and policy issues. Our solution? We are launching a League of Women Voters of Clackamas County Book Club! The idea is to gather in person, or by Zoom (depending on the weather), every other month starting April 11th at 1:00pm.

The first book of the LWV Clackamas Book Club is *Why We're Polarized*, by Ezra Klein. It is available on Amazon and in local bookstores. At future meetings book title offerings can be presented for consideration. There is no RSVP required, just read the book and be prepared for a lively discussion (and snacks). We are meeting at:

**Mary's Woods Retirement Community**  
**Pepin Bldg (Village Section on the right side of Mesnard Street)**  
**565 Mesnard Street, Lake Oswego, OR**

**Directions:** Turn onto Holy Names Drive from Hwy 43. Take the first right onto Mesnard. There is a sign on the building. There is parking between Pepin and the building to the west.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ANNUAL MEETING!**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024 AT 10:00AM WITH REFRESHMENTS**  
by Nancy Murray, Treasurer [treasurer@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:treasurer@lwvclackamas.org)

Mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 4, at 10:00 a.m. This year's annual business meeting is critically important to all of us. We are developing a new trial leadership format for the coming League year, as we have too few active members available and willing to serve on a traditional-sized board. The format is based on one proposed by LWVUS, our national League. A Core Team of three to four members will be supported by teams of volunteers who will plan four general meetings and re-introduce our interest-based small group unit meetings held throughout the county. Stay tuned!



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

of Clackamas County

PO Box 411

Lake Oswego, OR 97034

info@lwvclackamas.org

[www.lwvclackamas.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_