



Clackson Voter



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2022

February General Meeting Meeting the Housing Crisis in Clackamas County

Thursday, February 24, 1:30 p.m., via Zoom

For our program this month, we have the privilege of hearing from two county staff members: Vahid Brown, Housing Policy Coordinator; and Devin Ellin, County Senior Housing Developer. They'll be giving us an update on the county's progress on Affordable Housing Bond projects, as well as what emergency services are available for the homeless or soon-to-be evicted. Since housing was also one of the key topics in our recent meeting with Metro President Lynn Peterson, this will give us an opportunity to dig deeper into the specific needs of Clackamas County. Please join us! To sign up, **RSVP to Nancy Murray** at n.murray.01@hotmail.com. You'll be sent a Zoom invitation via email the evening before the meeting.

Marylhurst Commons Workforce Housing Project

Mary O'Reilly

When Marylhurst University closed its doors in June of 2018 the Sisters of the Holy Names began a process of discernment as to the best use of this wonderful property. They assembled many "focus groups" composed of people who had been associated with Marylhurst University and found that each group urged the consideration of affordable housing.

The Sisters began coordinating with Mercy Housing Northwest to provide a workforce housing development. The decision was made to replace existing dormitories and build the housing development there. Mercy Housing, a non-profit organization that was co-founded by the Holy Names Sisters and other religious communities, owns and operates 54 affordable housing properties in Washington and Idaho. This is its first development in Oregon.

At the end of last year, the Lake Oswego City Council unanimously voted to approve code amendments to allow for affordable multi-family housing at the site which is now called Marylhurst Commons. This past June, Mercy Housing received \$4.25 million in funding for the project from the Oregon Housing and Community Services office.

If approved, the development will be between three and four stories and feature about one hundred units that vary from one to three bedrooms. It will also offer an indoor community space for various adult and children's services - the latter of which will be offered year-round (including during school breaks and the summer).

The application will be reviewed by the Lake Oswego Review Development Commission at a date that has yet to be announced. The hope is for construction to begin in the summer of 2022, with the development opening in the fall of 2023.

LWVOR Legislative Advocacy

LWVCC Leaders

Executive Committee:

Marge Easley
Karan Kuntz
Nancy Murray

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Leslie Westphal

Treasurer: Nancy Murray

Directors:

**Action: Marge Easley and
 Maureen Mader**

Clackson: Karan Kuntz

Membership: Diana DeMaria

Voter Service: Maureen Mader

Website: Lynette Pierson

Hilly Alexander

Off Board:

Nominating Committee:

Robina Ingram-Rich

Unit Leaders:

Monday: Betty Barber

Wednesday: Mary O'Reilly

Thursday: Katie Lu

Friday: Lea Wells

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

Marge Easley

If you've been following the news, you're well aware that the Oregon Legislature is now in the midst of its "short session," which runs from February 1 to March 7. The League's state action team attended pre-session hearings last week and is now in high gear with a fast-paced schedule that includes weekly meetings, bill research, committee hearings, and testimony delivery, all accomplished from the comfort of home, since once again the session is virtual. The list of 2022 LWVOR Legislative Priorities is included in this newsletter.

If you've received the weekly LWVOR Legislative Report in the past, it will automatically come to your inbox, but if you're new to the League, here's the [sign-up link](#) to subscribe. Don't be turned off by the sheer volume of information. Pick an issue or two you're interested in and follow the links for more detailed information.

It's easy to view a legislative hearing. Just check out the Oregon Legislative [website](#) and click on the Video button (with the camera icon) in the upper righthand corner. Links to live and archived video coverage of floor proceedings and committee hearings are provided. And while you're on the website, please take time to explore a bit to get a sense of the sheer volume of information provided.

Jordan Cove Energy Project: Great News

You might have missed this in the news, due to the usual overload of political and Covid-related articles, but this is a big WIN for Oregon on finally shutting down a huge Canadian liquid natural gas (LNG) pipeline that would have crossed through a good portion of southern Oregon. Here it is:

LWV opposition to the project—based on natural resources, water and air quality, climate change, offshore and coastal management, land use, public health and safety, energy conservation, and seismic risks positions—began early on, but ramped up in earnest when the four affected local Leagues—Coos and Klamath Counties and Rogue and Umpqua Valley—began working together largely to stop state and federal permits in early 2018. LWVOR added their support shortly thereafter, including by contributing funding to the work of an attorney fighting local project permits. Defeating a massive project of this nature (\$10 billion price tag) took the tireless work of thousands of people and entities, from individuals acting on their own to lawyers, policy analysts, scientists, academicians, researchers, community organizers, landowners, and state and federal regulatory agency staff. This victory attests to both the independent and collaborative roles the LWV can play in making things happen. *Source: LWVOR, Shirley Weathers*

LWVOR Legislative Priorities

In this era of COVID-19, we continue to protect democracy. Our priority emphasis is on health, safety, and providing safety net services to the most vulnerable. As employment opportunities improve, it is important to assure all workers have a safe environment with adequate pay to allow Oregon to also generate adequate revenue for essential services. Continued work on the climate emergency and addressing homelessness and other underserved communities is integral to Oregon's future.

- **PROTECT DEMOCRACY** by supporting campaign finance reform statutes to implement the M 107 constitutional amendment. Advocate for an independent citizen redistricting commission as in IP 34. Expand automatic voter registration and fund up-to-date, efficient and secure elections' software.
- **GENERATE ADEQUATE REVENUE** for essential services while promoting equitable and progressive tax policy and addressing revenue needs due to COVID-19.
- **ADVOCATE FOR ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS AND HEALTH CARE REFORMS** by preserving adequate Medicaid funding to build on Oregon's innovation to cover all kids and vulnerable adults. Focus on services for seniors, people with disabilities, and foster youth.
- **SUPPORT STRATEGIES TO ASSURE HOUSING FOR ALL** by increasing investments in rental assistance, affordable and homeless housing, preservation, new units and home ownership
- **PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES** by seeking practical strategies to achieve police reform, revising mandatory sentencing of adults laws, instituting stronger gun safety regulations.
- **ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY** by supporting Governor Kate Brown's 2018-2021 Carbon/Climate Executive Orders, net zero greenhouse gas emissions before 2050 while ensuring environmental justice with a just transition for workers and impacted communities.
- **ADDRESS FORESTRY POLICIES** around the Elliott State Research Forest and the Private Forest Accord. Support creation of an Environmental Justice Council. **Follow the Oregon Water Futures Project.**

CONTACT LWVOR: Becky Gladstone, LWVOR President, and Alice Bartelt, LWVOR Legislative Action Chair, call our office at 503.581.5722 or directly contact these portfolio chairs:

CLIMATE EMERGENCY, Claudia Keith, ca.keith@comcast.net. Volunteers include: Julie Chapman, Shirley Weathers, Kathy Moyd, and Josie Koehne Advocates year round for a variety of agency rules, policies and budgets that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. (returning to < 350 C02 PPM and < 1.5 Degree Celsius warming by 2100). LWVOR supports the Our Children's Trust/Crag Environmental Law Center state and federal lawsuits and we oppose expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure.

LWVOR Legislative Priorities (Continued)

GOVERNANCE, PROTECTING DEMOCRACY, Norman Turrill, nturrill@mac.com. Volunteers include: Ensuring the right to vote for all citizens, including incarcerated citizens, Marge Easley; election security and E-Portal Advisory Board rep, Becky Gladstone; redistricting, Chris Cobey; voting methods, Barbara Klein.

Governance issues including ethics, efficiency, citizen participation and access, public access law, and contemporary privacy and technology issues. Election policies include laws and administrative rules, campaign finance, redistricting, and alternative voting methods.

HUMAN SERVICES, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH CARE, HOUSING, IMMIGRATION

Many volunteers work in this area. Contact them specifically to collaborate: DHS Human Services and Public Safety: Karen Nibler niblerk@comcast.net; Criminal Justice Reform: Barbara Ross bross7017@gmail.com; Death Penalty Repeal: Alice Bartelt alicebartelt@comcast.net; Gun Safety: Marge Easley marge.easley@frontier.com; Health Care and monitoring Universal Health Care Task Force; Housing: Nancy Donovan and Debbie Aiona nancy.donovan@icloud.com; Women's Issues: Alice Bartelt alicebartelt@comcast.net, Immigration, Refugee and other Basic Rights: Claudia Keith ca.keith@comcast.net

The broad social policy area includes: adult corrections, judiciary, juvenile justice, public safety, instituting stronger gun safety regulations, health care, mental health, housing, immigration, refugee, foster care, social services, and women's issues. Actively lobbies for anti-poverty programs to help low income and at-risk people move toward financial stability.

NATURAL RESOURCES, Peggy Lynch, peggylynchor@gmail.com. Volunteers include: Air Quality, Climate Change & Clean Energy, Kathy Moyd; Columbia River Treaty, Phillip Thor; Coastal Issues, Christine Moffitt; Drinking-Water Advisory Committee Representative, Amelia Nestler; Forestry, Josie Koehne; Hanford Cleanup Board Representative/Nuclear Waste, Marylou Schnoes; Land Use/Aggregate, Marge Easley; Northwest Energy Coalition Representative, Robin Tokmakian; Pesticides/Toxics, Amelia Nestler; Radioactive Waste, Shirley Weathers; Land Use/Housing, Water & Elliott Forest Issues and Natural Resource Agency Budgets, Peggy Lynch.

Works year-round on improved air quality, combating climate change, coastal management, clean energy, proper disposal of hazardous materials and solid waste, conservation, land use, parks, clean and abundant water supply for all, wetlands and other resource preservation, and budgets related to Oregon's 14 natural resource agencies.

TAX AND REVENUE POLICY, Josie Koehne, josephine.koehne@gmail.com

Addresses fair, equitable, and stable tax and revenue policies to adequately fund services and functions critical to Oregonians, including climate emergency investments. Consider extra revenue needs due to COVID-19 and wildfire for affordable housing and economic recovery for impacted small businesses, communities of color, and undocumented workers.

EDUCATION, Anne Nesse, annessevolunteerlwvor@gmail.com

Follows student success, early learning, career technical programs (CTE), PK-12 and higher education. We advocate minimizing barriers impacting education for children at risk or historically underserved and underachieving youth. We advocate for best mental health practices for teachers and students in an ever changing environment.

ACCESS, Paula Krane, kranep@peak.org

We work and advocate to make sure that the public/citizens have access to the process (at all levels).

In Remembrance of Vic Dahl

Our local League is sorry to note the passing of member Vic Dahl on Jan. 25. He was the husband of longtime member Beryl Dahl. After retiring from PSU as Professor of History, he attended many of our meetings, dinners and Lunch & Learn, always with interesting conversation. He and Beryl lived and traveled abroad throughout their marriage. When an obituary becomes available, we'll include a link. You can reach Beryl by phone and address, but she doesn't often use email. We send our condolences to Beryl, a valued and active member over many, many years.

Meet New Board Member: Diana DeMaria, Membership Chair

Diana joined LWV as a new member in 2020 after learning about the organization mission and being impressed with the voter service guide she found at the library. Newly retired, and newly relocated back to her home in Oregon, she was seeking neighbors in Clackamas County who were taking action to make a difference in the community as colleagues to join for information and engagement.

Her family moved extensively throughout the West so a childhood full of outdoor pursuits in Colorado, Washington, Utah and Arizona turned into a deep love for this country. After college graduation, Diana served active duty with the United States Marine Corps and then worked for the FAA as an Air Traffic Controller in North Carolina, California, overseas in Puerto Rico and finally here in Oregon as she followed her husband's career and raised two children.

The last five years before retiring from government service and the return to Oregon to be closer to her family living in the Pacific Northwest, Diana and her husband lived and traveled the San Francisco Bay aboard a 42' Hunter sailboat.

Diana enjoys volunteer work, and has served on a PTA Board as secretary, taught reading skills to remedy adult illiteracy, led her daughter's Girl Scout troop for several years, and learned how to bartend at the yacht club where they moored their boat. She considers it an honor to serve on Membership with the League of Women Voters of Clackamas County and is looking forward to meeting and getting to know more league members in person when circumstances permit.



Happy
Valentine's
Day



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Clackamas County
PO Box 411
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
lwwclackamas@lwwclackamas.org
www.lwwclackamas.org
<https://my.lww.org/oregon/clackamas-county>

Join the League of Women Voters!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email

- 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.lww.org/oregon/clackamas>) or mail this form.

Total Enclosed

Please make checks payable to League of Women Voters of Clackamas County.