



Clackson Voter



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

JUNE 2023

Patio Party – June 17, 11:30 am 1843 Boca Ratan Dr., Lake Oswego

By Betty Janes, Socials co-chair



We hope you can join us for our Spring luncheon and visit with new and continuing members and guests. The format is potluck, so please bring either a salad or a dessert to share. We need more salads than desserts. The board provides beverages. Bring your checkbook too, because it's also a good time to renew your membership.

Bring a friend! Guests are encouraged. The Patio Party is a good way to introduce friends to the League.

Our speaker is Rob Walton, who will share with us the fascinating story of his grandmother, Harriet Fish Backus, author of *Tomboy Bride*, a classic of Western literature. Her memoir is an account of the life of a young pioneer woman in a rough and tumble mining town of the Old West. Rob, a retired senior policy advisor for the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will have copies of the 50th Anniversary Edition of *Tomboy Bride* on hand to purchase.

Thank you to host June Hensala for making the Red Fox Hills Clubhouse available to our League once again. Please RSVP by June 15, 2023 to Socials@lwvclackamas.org or call Betty Janes at 970-560-2364.

Red Fox Hills Clubhouse can be found on google maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/CLPxCs1tioNEQXVUA>
Directions: Coming from Boones Ferry, turn east onto Knaus Rd. and follow the road about ½ mile. Turn left on Timberline and go about ½ mile to the stop sign. Turn right and go two blocks. The clubhouse is opposite the cul de sac Dapplegray. Proceed another block and turn around to the other side of the road and park in front of the condos. Walk up the driveway into the condos to the clubhouse in the center (look for the weathervane on the roof). Balloons will indicate the walkway up to the clubhouse. There are a few parking spaces by the clubhouse, but plenty of parking on the street.

Need a Ride? Transportation is always available via our League volunteers! Just call Diana DeMaria - Membership Director at 503-319-8601 to arrange.



Taking Carbon Out Of Transportation

Leslie Westphal, Program Chair

The League of Women Voters of Clackamas County hosted Matt Noble, Public Affairs Specialist for the Oregon Department of Transportation at the West Linn Adult Activity Center on Wednesday, May 17th that was open to the public. Twenty-two members attended, and brought neighbors and guests to learn about Oregon Departments of Transportation, Energy, Environmental Quality and Land Conservation and Development working together to surpass current 60% emission reduction (mainly due to new vehicle and fuel technology) to achieve the goal to reduce emissions to 80% below the 1990 levels by 2050.

To reach that goal, one objective is using incentives, land use law, and policies to reduce the number of driving trips people take, and how far they drive each trip. Categories that drive this objective are [Land Use](#); [Transportation Options](#); [System Operations](#); and [Pricing, Funding and Markets](#). The second objective is to clean up each vehicle mile with human-powered or electric personal and mass transit modes of transportation, along with the kinds of fuels to power those vehicles. Categories that drive this second objective are [Vehicle Technology](#), [Fuel Technology](#), and [System Operations](#).

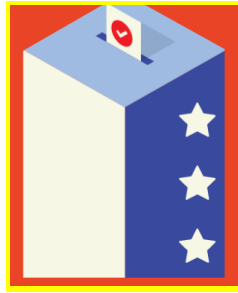
Low-and-no-carbon alternative transportation has to be safe and reliable for people's behavior to change from the convenience and safety of their automobile to switch to biking, walking, rolling, carpooling, transit and passenger rail. Not every Oregonian owns or has access to a car, and all urban and rural transportation modes must be easy to access and equitable for all Oregonians. Matt noted that Oregon doesn't have goals or metrics for air travel yet, but airplanes produce over 10% of Oregon's emissions when counting both passenger and freight flights. Aviation, freight trains, and freight trucking will require federal and neighboring state agency partnership. [Changes to Oregon's Transportation Planning Rules](#) in 2022 will require Oregon's eight metropolitan areas to plan for Climate Friendly Areas with increased density, mixed use, and multimodal transportation options including recent [changes to Oregon's Transportation Planning Rules](#) that include a reduction in parking mandates to free up land for housing and other services.

Road cost recovery is challenged with drastic reductions in fuel tax revenue from an increase in electric vehicles. Road use charging programs like [congestion pricing](#) and carbon pricing that incentivizes use of lower emission fuels and funds non-driving options are proposed and in various stages of viability. The present Oregon program, [OREGO](#), where drivers pay a tax according to the miles they drive, rather than a gas tax, based on the gallons they consume, is voluntary. State lawmakers need to mandate OReGO for it to be a viable long-term revenue source.

Matt Noble (matt.a.noble@odot.oregon.gov or (503) 779-9868) welcomes your questions on road system growth, intelligent transportation systems, eco driving, and more efficient freight through and around Oregon.

Tour of County Clerk Office

By Maureen Mader, Voter Service



Nine members of our League had a private tour of the election process and offices at the Clerk's office. It was impressive to see the step-by-step process from the time votes are received in the Clerk's office until the votes are tallied. The process provides security to make sure votes are not lost, both major political parties, minor parties and non-affiliated voters are represented in the counting, voter anonymity is maintained and votes with aberrant marks or write-in information are reviewed and properly tallied. The workers can be observed at all times through glass windows that separate the voting activities from observers. Anyone can observe the process. It is an impressive operation and it is highly recommended for anyone interested to observe when ballots are being counted. A big THANK YOU to Catherine McMullen and And Burke Jones for answering our questions and providing a wonderful tour.

May Special District Election Results

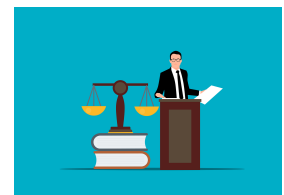
By Maureen Mader, Voter Service

The May Special District election in Clackamas County consisted of a mayoral election for the City of West Linn and Special District races throughout the county. The city of West Linn elected its youngest-ever mayor in Rory Bialostosky who is 23 years old. Unofficial results indicate 29% of registered voters participated in this election. Preliminary election results can be found on the Clerk's website [here](#) and the election will be certified June 12th.

Measure 114—will it ever get implemented?

By Marge Easley, Action Chair

Last November, Oregon voters passed Measure 114, with the help of a broad coalition of supporters across the state, including the League. But the successful implementation of the measure, which authorizes a permit requirement for firearm purchases and bans the ownership and sale of large capacity magazines, now hangs in the balance as we await the passage of a budget bill and the results of two upcoming lawsuits.



The funding bill is SB 348, assigned to the Joint Ways and Means Committee following Senate passage. As you know, the entire legislative budget process has slowly ground to a halt as the Republican walkout continues into its third week, based partly on opposition to gun bills, such as this one and HB 2005, an

omnibus bill that bans ghost guns, raises the firearm ownership age to 21, and expands the number of jurisdictions that can create gun-free zones.

But another major hurdle is getting past both federal and state trials, as well as subsequent appeals. The federal trial is scheduled for June 5-9 at the federal courthouse in Portland. There will also be a motion at that time for summary judgment in the state case originating in Harney County. If that motion fails, the Harney County case will be heard in mid-September. So watch the news for the outcomes of these trials, which may very well set legal precedent for gun cases across the country. You can find an excellent, more detailed summary of all of these issues at <https://www.lifteveryvoiceoregon.com/implementation-updates>.



Lifetime Member Spotlight on Pat Saffir

By Diana DeMaria, Membership Chair

Pat Saffir was born and raised in a small town of 5,000 people near Yellowstone National Park in a community based on a combination of railroad repair industry and tourism in Livingston, Montana. She was the oldest sibling of three, with a homemaker mother while they were small who later turned to feature writing and reporting for local newspapers, and a father who served as County Attorney and then as County Judge.

She had an ordinary childhood until winning a national science award in high school, which raised her perspectives, and she went on to receive a M.S. in Chemistry from the University of Chicago, where she met and married Oliver Saffir. After they graduated, they moved to Palo Alto, California where Ollie worked at Lockheed Aircraft and then transferred to a similar, although nicer job in Wakefield, Massachusetts where they promptly had their only child, a daughter. After two years in Massachusetts, they moved back to Palo Alto where Ollie worked again as an electrical engineer and eventually ran his own business as a consultant.

When they first moved to Palo Alto, Pat had trouble finding a job, partly because of prejudice against women in chemistry. One recruiter told her that women weren't strong enough to lift heavy solvent bottles, and men would have to interrupt their own work to assist, which was inefficient. She began volunteering at a medical research group which later became a salaried position, but didn't work again until their daughter was grown. She went back into the workforce in the quality control lab at Syntex Pharmaceutical Company and was promoted to lab supervisor. She thoroughly enjoyed physical lab work, both the work and supervising others, who were very nice and pleasant to work with. Pat felt satisfied to know she was keeping drugs safe for patients, but retired at 55 to be with her grandchildren was too hard to resist. Pat and Ollie traveled extensively, driving between Michelin-starred restaurants in Europe and driving tours up and down the Pacific coast and into Canada or to the east coast a few times a year to explore this country. She didn't learn to ski until she acquired a skiing son-in-law, and enjoyed a lot of time in the mountains in the years after that. She enjoyed the outdoors, and hiked once a week with a Palo Alto hiking group after retirement, and now just walks her neighborhood. When they moved to Wakefield, their real estate agent thought Pat would enjoy League of Women Voters and Pat joined in 1960 because she was right! League members were very friendly, and she

enjoyed the lively unit meetings and learning about government. Her League membership transferred to Palo Alto and she became active in study groups and was elected as Program Vice President to arrange consensus meetings and programs and generally support the Study Chairs. She continued being very active in League until she went back to work, and then after retirement immediately jumped back in.

At the time, their Housing Action Committee was actively working to increase affordable housing, which is always badly needed in the Bay area, and still is today. She eventually chaired this committee for several years, and also became active in Voter Service, registering voters and presenting pros and cons for ballot measures, and also served on the Board as Treasurer for several years. The first study she remembers was the national League study on China, followed by various Natural Resource studies at all levels.

Pat has found active League involvement very satisfying, learning about the actual working of government at all levels, meeting local government leaders and knowing her activity and time was contributing to solving fascinating societal challenges. Best of all, she met other women who shared her interests who became lifetime friends, and often included their husbands for couple friendships that have lasted as well. Pat moved to West Linn about 18 months ago and thoroughly enjoys the worthwhile LWV of Clackamas County program and activities.

#ClackCo PublicAlerts

Clackamas County Corner
By Diana DeMaria, Membership Chair

On September 1, Clackamas County will upgrade how it communicates with residents during times of disaster by replacing its emergency software system. Lake Oswego has partnered with Clackamas County to have a countywide system. Those residents previously enrolled in CodeRED must re-enroll in the new system to receive future messages in the new #ClackCo Public Alerts system at <https://www.clackamas.us/dm/publicalerts>. For questions, call the Public Information Office at (503) 635-0257.



TIME TO RENEW ANNUAL DUES

By Diana DeMaria, Membership Chair

We have an exciting year educating and informing voters ahead of the spring 2024 Primary Election and the fall 2024 General Election, and every dollar of your dues AND donations are a tax-deductible way to support the member guidance received from Annual Meeting for program, voter service, civic education for young or future voters and more. Send in the form on this newsletter or better yet, bring to the Patio Party in person, [RENEW](#) and [DONATE](#) online! We thank you for your support and involvement making a real difference in bridging divides as a trusted nonpartisan resource.



LWV OF OREGON STATE CONVENTION - Eugene, OR

By Diana DeMaria, Membership and LWVOR Youth Outreach

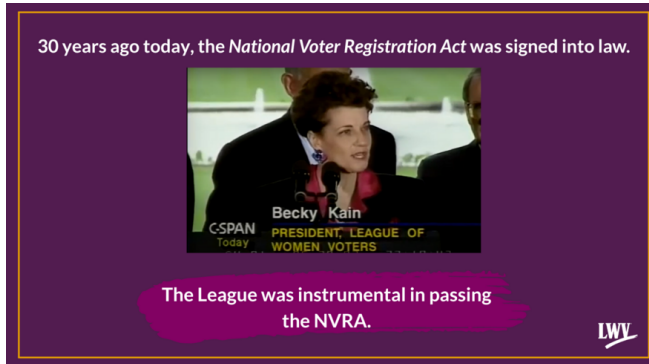
LWV of Clackamas County supported strong and involved member attendance at last weekend's state League convention in Eugene. Previous LWVOR President Marge Easley was honored as a past LWVOR President and received enthusiastic Action Committee recognition for her current Criminal Justice portfolio work at the state level. Libby Medley attended virtually so her LWVOR Nominating Committee report was presented by committee. Maureen Mader and Lynette Pierson attended as voting delegates and Diana DeMaria as an observer. Recordings for the two incredible speakers will be shared as soon as they become available: Regina Lawrence, PhD, Agora Journalism Center, University of Oregon who shared her expertise on "The Decline of Local News: What's Happening to Local Journalism in Oregon and How It Matters" and the evening keynote address by Les Zaitz, owner/editor of Malheur Enterprise and Salem Reporter on "Free Press and the Survival of Democracy".



Six of the new LWVOR Youth Council members led a Youth Engagement workshop on DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion), OSME (Oregon Student Mock Elections) and young voter outreach in Oregon for local Leagues to a packed room. Pictured here are Chris Walker, LWVOR Youth Liaison, and LWVOR Youth Council President Celine Ioffe. The other workshops were a 1st Amendment Panel, the Nomination Taskforce and LWVUS UN Climate Activities presented by Robin Tokmakian, who attended the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Egypt in 2022. Read

more at <https://www.lwv.org/blog/championing-equality-home-abroad-my-experience-un-observer>.

LWV of Clackamas County donated a fun batch of items for "Explore Oregon and Travel the World" that brought home a winning donation of \$130 to our League! Several caucuses on Voter Service, Communications and Initiatives will inform our goals in the year ahead as we stay vigilant in observing our government in action, inform and educate voters and offer a civil, nonpartisan voice to bridge the divides in our county and our state.



League of Women Voters Marks 30th Anniversary of NVRA

Press Release / Last Updated: May 20, 2023

The League of Women Voters of the United States CEO Virginia Kase Solomón released the following statement on the 30th anniversary of the NVRA:

“Thirty years ago, the League was instrumental in the passage of the *National Voter Registration Act* (NVRA), leading a grassroots campaign that engaged a coalition of groups who got the law passed. For 30 years, the League has been a chief enforcer of the law through legal advocacy, which has paved the way for states to increase voter access through automatic voter registration, online voter registration, and same-day registration. The NVRA ensures that registering to vote is easy, fair, and accessible for everyone. Passed with bipartisan support in 1993, the NVRA transformed voter registration, making it easier for people to register to vote and protecting voters from being purged from the voter rolls. This landmark legislation paved the way for states to increase voter access with pro-voter reforms the League advocates for.

“While we’ve made advancements in expanding voter access, some 30 years later, the fight for voting rights is far from over. Many people still face disproportionate challenges to participate in elections due to factors including health, age, race, and gender. And without federal legislation to protect voting rights, certain communities continue to lack full representation in our democracy. We call on our elected leaders to make voting rights a priority once and for all. “Our democracy is strongest when every voice is heard. Until every eligible voter has equal access to the ballot, the fight for voting rights must go on

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of Clackamas County
PO Box 411
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
info@lwvclackamas.org
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 _____