



# Clackson Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MARCH 2022

## March General Meeting “League Advocacy on Climate Change”

**When: Thursday, March 24, 4:00 p.m.**

The ripple effects of climate change are being felt around the globe: intense drought, storms, heat waves, rising sea levels, melting glaciers, and warming oceans. Oregon is taking bold action to respond to this emergency in the form of the Oregon Climate Action Plan (OCAP). Our March program will focus on the League’s climate change advocacy during the 2022 Legislative Session. Which bills were successful? Is Oregon on track to meet its ambitious goals to reduce carbon emissions? To answer these questions, we’ve invited LWVOR Action Portfolio Chairs Peggy Lynch and Claudia Keith to join us for an informative discussion on this critical issue. Mark your calendars today!

To sign up for this Zoom event, contact Nancy Murray, [n.murray.01@hotmail.com](mailto:n.murray.01@hotmail.com).

## Items of Interest for LWVCC Members

### Sign up for Clackamas County E-Newsletters:

We are very grateful to Vahid Brown, Housing Policy Coordinator, and Devin Ellin, County Senior Housing Developer, for their informative presentation last month on “Meeting the Housing Crisis in Clackamas County.” If you’d like to stay up-to-date and learn more about county departments, including Supportive Housing Services, consider [signing up](#) for the county’s monthly e-newsletter and any other e-newsletters on specific issues that the county sends out on a regular basis.

### League of Women Voters of Portland Programs

- Watch a panel discussion about the 2021 International Climate Change Conference (COP26), featuring seven League members from around the country who attended. You can find a link to the video on the [LWVPDX.org](http://LWVPDX.org) website.
- Watch a [November 2021 panel discussion](#) on Immigration and Refugee Resettlement in Oregon. Every year, Oregon offers new homes and a new start to hundreds of refugees who have escaped intolerable conditions in their home countries. As Oregon prepares for resettling as many as 1,200 new Afghan refugees, learn about the many ways in which Oregon is preparing for their arrival.

## LWVCC Leaders

### Executive Committee:

**Marge Easley**  
**Karan Kuntz**  
**Nancy Murray**

### Secretary:

**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>

## A Personal Take on the 2022 Legislative Session

*Marge Easley*

The legislation session is coming to a close, and I, along with all the other LWVOR Action Committee members, can breathe a sigh of relief. The whirlwind of researching and monitoring bills, submitting testimony, and attending virtual hearings and weekly action committee meetings ended on March 7. In days past, before Covid restrictions forced us all online, legislative advocacy meant lots of trips to and from Salem, a scramble for parking around the Capitol, the bustle of hearings and floor sessions, and catching up on the latest political gossip. I have to admit it's much more convenient to sip coffee while watching hearings from the comfort of home, but not nearly as much fun.

This session I continued working on two portfolios that I care deeply about—gun safety and the rights of incarcerated people. I started the session with a list of 10 bills to monitor, but legislative leadership soon decided that most of those bills were dead on arrival, presumably in the interest of avoiding controversial policy changes that might precipitate a Republican walk-out. So, to my disappointment I didn't get a chance to testify on bills that would ban ghost guns, allow incarcerated citizens to vote, or make changes to mandatory prison work requirements.

I'm happy to report, however, that my list did include two bills and one budget allocation that did make it through the gauntlet. To deal with increasing gun violence in our state, [HB 4045 A](#) allocates a total of \$5 million for hospital-based and nonprofit community services for violence prevention and intervention. In addition, a line item in the end-of-session omnibus bill allocates another \$15 million for community-based violence prevention grants. [SB 1584 B](#) provides a long-sought process for restitution for those who have been wrongly convicted. It sets a restitution cap of \$65,000 for every year of incarceration and \$25,000 for every year of parole or probation. If you follow the links above and click "Testimony" you can find my League testimony on these issues.

Although not in my portfolio, I'd also like to report on [SB 1566](#), which sought to raise lawmakers' pay and provide compensation for child care. Because it failed to pass this session, Clackamas County just lost three veteran female legislators. Representatives Karin Power, Rachel Prusak and Anna Williams, respectively a lawyer, nurse practitioner, and social worker, announced on March 1 that they weren't running for re-election, because they could not afford to work full time for the part-time pay of only \$33,000. To my mind, the question is how can Oregon promote equity and inclusion, as well as attract excellent candidates, when it compensates its legislators so poorly?

## Meet LWVCC Communications Administrator, Linda Rinnan

Linda grew up on a wheat farm in the rolling hills of the Palouse in eastern Washington. Following high school, she moved to urban Seattle and attended Seattle Pacific University where she obtained her BA in History and an elementary teaching certificate in 1980. After college she moved back to Spokane where she spent most of the next twenty-four years.

Her professional career can, for the most part, be tied up fairly neatly into three distinct decades. The first decade was spent teaching elementary school, primarily third grade in Spokane. Her final year of teaching, though, she ventured away from Spokane temporarily and taught in a first-grade classroom on the Hawaiian island of Molokai. Because the residents of Molokai to this day continue to fight against development and tourism, there is a high percentage of Native Hawaiians on the island who are committed to maintaining their indigenous lifestyle. Teaching there gave her the memorable experience of living as a minority in a completely different culture where racial biases were much more overt. Following her time there, Linda spent the next ten years back in Spokane in the Human Resources field working in, among other specialties, recruiting and employee relations. The last several years in that field were spent in a growing high-tech company, developing and implementing Human Resources policies.

In 2004 she married her husband Ron and moved to West Linn to join him here. She began volunteering at CASA of Clackamas County and shortly thereafter joined their staff as a CASA Manager. CASAs are volunteers who are appointed by the court to advocate for children who've been removed from their homes and are in the foster care system, watching out for their best interest and working for a permanent solution for them. This is good work, although challenging and often heart-breaking. Linda has great respect for the many bright, dedicated volunteers she supervised doing this work.

Since her retirement from CASA several years ago, Linda has gotten involved in a variety of ways volunteering to support families who are living on the edge, perhaps one financial mishap away from losing any stability, and sometimes having to lose custody of their children because of the stresses involved. Just prior to the pandemic and the shutdown, Linda attended a Clackamas County LWV meeting and was drawn toward the possibility of being more engaged in the work of this important group. About a year later as the political divide in the country was weighing on her, she remembered again her desire to get involved more locally. She appreciates the non-partisan nature of this organization, and the opportunities to dig more deeply into important issues such as those that would strengthen families and enhance the future of the children of our county and state.

### Check Out the LWV Clackamas website!

Don't forget that much of the information you see in the *Clackson* as well as weekly Legislative reports (when the Legislature is in session), voter information for the upcoming elections, new events, our roster and more are posted on our website. Click on this [link](#) to access the site. The more times you go to our website, the higher LWV Clackamas will rise in searches by the general public this election season. So click away and help your League deliver unbiased voter information.



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## 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.