



# Clackson Voter



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2021

## A Visit with Metro President Lynn Peterson

### November Program – Date and Time TBA

There's lots going on at Metro lately, and Metro President Lynn Peterson has offered to provide us with an update and answer any questions we might have. Watch your email for further information as to date and time and how to register for the Zoom presentation. In case you're not able to join us, we'll be recording the event so you can watch it at a later time.

The LWVCC Board of Directors wishes you a Happy Thanksgiving, and we look forward to seeing you very soon!

## Did you miss the LWVOR Fall Workshop?

No worries, it's not too late to view the presentations.

The state League's virtual Fall Workshop was held October 13-16 and included several outstanding presentations on the topic of "Discourse in a Diverse World." All were excellent, and they're now available on YouTube to watch at your leisure. A list of presenters and links to the Zoom presentations can be found at <https://www.lwvor.org/fall-workshop-2021>.

If you have time to watch only one presentation, LWVCC board members Nancy Murray and Marge Easley strongly encourage you to view the very timely and impressive [keynote speech](#) by Garrett Epps, a legal scholar, novelist, and journalist, and a constitutional law professor at the University of Oregon for 16 years. He is currently the *Washington Monthly* legal affairs editor, after 10 years as *The Atlantic* Supreme Court correspondent, analyzing the U.S. Supreme Court's evolving jurisprudence and constitutional issues. He has also taught constitutional law at American University, the University of Baltimore, Boston College and Duke.

Professor Garrett Epps



## LWVCC Leaders

### Executive Committee:

**Marge Easley**

**Karan Kuntz**

**Nancy Murray**

### Secretary:

**Leslie Westphal**

**Treasurer: Nancy Murray**

### Directors:

**Action: Marge Easley and  
Maureen Mader**

**Program Chair: Robina Ingram-  
Rich**

**Clackson: Karan Kuntz**

**Membership: Hilly Alexander  
and Diana DeMaria**

**Voter Service: Maureen Mader**

**Website: Lynette Pierson**

### 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](https://my.lwv.org/oregon/clackamas-county)

## What is the League's stance on CAFOs?

*Marge Easley, LWVCC Action Chair*

A CAFO, or Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation, is an industrial-sized livestock operation, most commonly for beef, dairy, chicken, or hog production. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) reports that by the end of 2019 there were 508 permitted CAFOs within the state.

With the pending application for a CAFO near Vale, Oregon, allowing up to 10,000 dairy cows on the property, the League has joined with other voices to urge for greater scrutiny on the permitting process and the impacts of industrial dairies. The League supported a bill this past legislative session that sought a moratorium on dairy CAFOs in Oregon until the environmental and health impacts could be thoroughly studied. Unfortunately, due to heavy pressure from dairy industry lobbyists, the bill died in committee.

ODA has subsequently proposed a change in the CAFO permitting process to increase monitoring of water quality impacts, prescribed by the Clean Water Act. However, the League believes that water quality is just one of many issues to consider and on October 25 submitted a [letter](#) to ODA and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to urge change in three areas:

- Oversight of CAFOs by DEQ instead of ODA on issues related to environmental and health impacts
- Increased regulation of emissions, taking into account the health impacts of ammonia and hydrogen sulfide and the relationship between methane and to climate change
- Consideration of environmental justice issues when siting and monitoring CAFOs and greater opportunity for community input

While the League strongly supports Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 3, "to preserve and maintain agricultural lands," we believe that large-scale CAFOs, with their huge holding tanks and waste ponds, have taken advantage of their protected agricultural designation to gain tax breaks and subsidies and should more appropriately be regulated as the industrial operations they are.



## Meet new LWVCC board member, Leslie Westphal

Leslie grew up in eastern Montana on her grandfather's homestead, where her family raised wheat and cattle. She attended the University of Montana and upon graduation in 1975, she moved to Idaho for a year. She then moved to Petersburg, Alaska where she worked for the U.S. Forest Service. She decided to return to school and moved to Eugene, Oregon where she attended the University of Oregon School of Law. During law school she worked for the Oregon Counsel to Higher Education.

Upon graduation Leslie was hired as a Deputy District Attorney in Multnomah County. After 4 years, she became a criminal appellate lawyer in the Oregon Department of Justice. Dave Frohnmayer then selected Leslie to be the first prosecutor on a newly formed Gang Task Force.

In 1989, the United States Attorney for the District of Oregon hired Leslie as their first Asset Forfeiture lawyer. During her 25-year career at the U.S. Attorney's office she managed a staff investigating and prosecuting crimes involving illegal proceeds and forfeiting illegal property which was returned to victims and used for law enforcement purposes. During her career, she developed training courses and conducted classes in several foreign countries, including Suriname, Serbia, Latvia, South Africa, and Indonesia. She retired in 2014 but continues to work as a part-time contractor with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Leslie has two grown daughters, one living and working in Washington, DC as a risk management specialist and the other here in Portland working in the Oregon Legislature on health care and education issues.

Leslie has always had a keen interest in public policy and current affairs and joined the League of Women Voters because of its stellar reputation for thorough, fact-based education and voter information. Leslie said she is honored to be a member of an organization filled with such remarkable people who are dedicated to the success of democracy and civic involvement.



**Saturday, December 11** for a holiday luncheon at the Oswego Heritage House. No raffle, no fuss, no cooking, no speakers, just dining and enjoying our friendships. Watch for more information about time and reservations. Please join us!



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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.