



Clackson Voter



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2022

September Kickoff Event!

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

5:30 pm

Location

Oswego Pointe Condos Clubhouse

5065 Foothills Dr.

Lake Oswego Oregon 97034

The United States Supreme Court: Important Case Decisions

We are excited to welcome Dr. Christopher Shortell who will highlight the most important case decisions of the Supreme Court and how they impact Oregonians.

Dr. Shortell is an Associate Professor of Political Science in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University and also serves as a pre-law advisor for the university. He writes and teaches on the relationship between law and the broader political system, with a particular focus on the interactions between law and society, law and elections, and federalism. Current projects explore the relationship between courts and local regimes as well as the impact of women's presence on high courts around the world. His work has been published in journals such as Political Research Quarterly, Justice System Journal, Publius: The Journal of Federalism, Election Law Journal, University of Pittsburgh Law Review, and Judicature. He is the author of Rights, Remedies, and the Impact of State Sovereign Immunity (SUNY Press). He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego and previously taught at California State University, Northridge.

Please join us! The dinner cost is **\$15 per person** (pay at the door; cash or check) and includes wine. Or just join us at 6:45 for the informative discussion. Reservations are required. Please RSVP either way by September 17th and bring your questions for a lively Q&A. If you need transportation, please let us know in your RSVP email.

RSVP to

Sonja Kollias by email

vskollias@aol.com

Or telephone 503-636-2187

Guests are welcome. Bring friends and family.

Directions: From State Street (Highway 43) turn east onto Foothills Road towards the Willamette River. Follow Foothills Road to a 3 way stop. Turn right (Oswego Pointe Drive). Turn left to 5065 Foothills Drive from the left-turn lane. The Clubhouse will be on your left. There is parking for guests in the parking lot. Parking on Foothills Drive is also available.

LWVCC Leaders

Executive Committee:

Marge Easley
Karan Kuntz
Linda Rinnan

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

Linda Rinnan: Communication

Sonja Kollias: Administration

Off Board:

Nominating Committee:

Robina Ingram-Rich
Hilly Alexander

Unit Leaders:

Monday: Betty Barber
Wednesday: Mary O'Reilly
Thursday: Katie Lu
Friday: Lea Wells

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

LWVOR 2022 Mock Elections Coming to a School Near You

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is sponsoring 2022 Student Mock Elections in late October with ballots that look like our exciting November 8th midterm elections.

The Secretary of State Department of Education will be sending all public school educators the Mock Election Toolkit with a Google Form to tabulate and report the Mock Election Results. If you are available to drop off Voters' Guides at your local high school in October, please contact Diana DeMaria at lwvccmembership@gmail.com.

Some responses from educators after the previous Mock Election:

- "The students felt like they were part of something bigger than just a classroom activity or assignment. They felt it was important. They felt like they had a voice, one of the most important aspects of being a citizen."
- "Well done Mock Election. I feel it is very important to model our democratic system to our youth. We can hope that by giving them a "feel" for the importance of voting and having their individual voice heard as a young person that they will continue that lesson into their adult life."

Click on the link [Student Mock Elections with Civics ED curriculum](#) for more information to talk to the junior/senior high school students in your families and their teachers! They may not be aware of the 2015 law that lowered the age to 16 for who can register to vote in our state. Oregon citizens must register to vote at least 21 days before election day, which is October 18th, 2022 for this year's mid-term elections. Criteria are:

- Be a United States citizen
- Be a resident of Oregon
- Be at least 16 years old to become eligible to receive their first ballot in the mail when they are at least 18 years old.

Welcome Back!

A heartfelt WELCOME BACK to returning member Muriel Woolley, who rejoined the League of Women Voters of Clackamas County July 2022. Her contact information can be found in the Members Only section of our website. If you need help to access that section, please reach out to Membership Chair Diana DeMaria at lwvccmembership@gmail.com.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

7:00pm on Zoom Tuesday, September 27

(Any interested member welcome!)

Marge Easley will host a friendly and informative Member Orientation via Zoom at 7:00pm on Tuesday, September 27th for new and interested members. The topic: all things League. Questions will be welcome and you may stay "in the room" as long or short as you like.

All new members from the last 12 months will receive an invitation. Anyone else interested please email Membership Chair Diana DeMaria by Monday, September 26th at lwvccmembership@gmail.com or call 503.319.8601 to request the link.

VOTE411

Don't go into the 2022 Election unprepared! VOTE411.org has everything you need, from registration deadlines to personalized election information! Get ready for your Election Day at VOTE411.org. Give our QR code a try.



A Bit of League History

The League of Women Voters of Oregon was established in March 1920. Locally, a Clackamas County League formed in 1930.

The national League's name was changed to the League of Women Voters of the United States in 1946.

By 1955, the local county League had split into two Leagues: Milwaukie (east of the Willamette) and Lake Oswego (west of the Willamette).

The League of Women Voters of Lake Oswego was organized in 1955 with 90 original members. The Lake Oswego League broadened its base by organizing a West Linn unit. It changed its name to the League of Women Voters of West Clackamas County in April 1972.

Men were admitted to membership in the League nationwide in 1974.

In May 2002, the League of Women Voters of Milwaukie East Clackamas County Area (MECCA) and the League of Women Voters of West Clackamas County voted to merge under the name the League of Women Voters of Clackamas County. In October 2002, the Mount Hood unit formed and extended the League's presence in the county.

Remaining Nonpartisan in Hyper-partisan Times

(From the LWV.org website)

The League of Women Voters of the United States is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

So many issues today are framed in partisan terms that it can feel impossible to communicate at all without being accused of taking a side. “If you believe this, then you must be a progressive.” “If you oppose that, then you align with conservatives.” Being painted into ideological corners because of a stance our organization takes is not a new phenomenon, but it continues to be one that undermines a vibrant democracy: discussion, discourse, and listening to other points of view are what makes democracy work.

More than 100 years ago, the League of Women Voters of the US was founded to be a nonpartisan voice for American women who wanted free, fair, and open elections, above all else. Our founders believed that voters must always have the facts, no matter how difficult those facts could be to accept, especially when it challenges one’s deeply held beliefs about a candidate or political party. Our founders were attacked for taking positions rooted in fact back then, and today, not much has changed. League leaders continue to face this challenge and often stand accused of being partisan.

ISSUES ARE NOT PARTISAN

The League’s advocacy work is issue based, and we arrive at our positions based on careful study and input from our members in communities across the country. We never derive our positions from politicians, and even when candidates or parties support the same issue, we never endorse them. Issues may evolve over the years, but our allegiance will always be first and foremost to the voters. If a party changes its position on an issue, that doesn’t mean the League has to change our position to remain neutral. And one politician taking a similar position to the League on any one issue does not make the issue or the League partisan.

However, in this hyper-partisan environment, political connections and assumptions are made that simply aren’t accurate. Supporting the democratic processes of registering eligible voters and casting and counting ballots is seen by some as subverting one political party, even though these are sacred tools of our democracy. Likewise, empowering voters who previously have been left out of the process and supporting the anti-racism movement does not mean we are in alliance with one ideological segment of American government; rather, it means we are doing what we were founded to do: stand up for what is right.

Wanting every eligible voter to have equal access to the ballot box is not partisan. Wanting a robust democracy in which everyone has an equal voice and equal representation is not partisan. Wanting to see more elected officials that reflect the diverse makeup of our country is not partisan – it is American.

No party has a claim on any particular issue. Sometimes a candidate or political party agrees with our position—they may even champion them—but that doesn’t make the issue or the League partisan. We have seen an evolution of popular support and public opinion shift on issues over time, and the League has reevaluated and shifted priorities—but we have never compromised our values.

(Continued on page 5)

Nonpartisan (Continued from page 4)

NONPARTISAN DOES NOT MEAN APOLITICAL

In the hundred years of the League's existence, we have endured challenges to our democratic principles, policies, and practices. We witnessed in live video the violation and prevention of rights of American citizens due to racial and structural inequities, and the growing anti-racism movement responding to it. We've observed the pandemic obstacles faced and overcome by our election processes, resulting in secure, effective elections across the country.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in [the League of Women Voters of the United States] on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

—Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy, passed by LWVUS members in 2020

League members are not a monolith. We represent opinions and positions that can be found across the American political spectrum. What brings us together is our commitment to voter empowerment—especially empowering women voters—and defending democracy. Standing up for these values is not a partisan narrative but a way to advance inclusion.

As we do this, we must ask ourselves and others within our election and democratic systems if we are walking the talk and prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion within our own organizations. Are we living our values, and are those values aligned with the ideals that we have as a country?

This self-reflection may be painful. It's difficult to acknowledge that actions taken in the past with the best of intentions may have been hurtful or undermined the values we claim to honor. It will require us to be open, transparent, and willing to admit when we are wrong.

DEMOCRACY IS A CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE

Webster's definition of democracy:

a: government by the people
especially: rule of the majority

b: a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections.

Our mission to 'empower voters and defend democracy' has not changed in our 100 years. What has changed is the need to defend democracy, especially in the face of voter suppression. There is a wealth of misinformation out there that is aimed to divide us as a nation and undermine our democracy. We have to stand up to this attack on our democratic ideals, regardless of what some may say.

While it may be a challenge, especially at the state and local level, to avoid the appearance of partisanship when publicly addressing racial injustice in this heightened climate, we must. We may be accused of being partisan in those moments, but we must stand on the side of justice. It is our moral obligation to demand a more just and equitable world for people of color in our communities. (Continued on page 6)

Nonpartisan (Continued from page 5)

We will continue to uphold our nonpartisan values for fairness, justice, and equity because they form the foundation of a representative democracy. If we don't strive to dismantle and improve the systems and structures that exclude individuals from their democratic rights to vote and participate, we will never be able to achieve a "democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate."

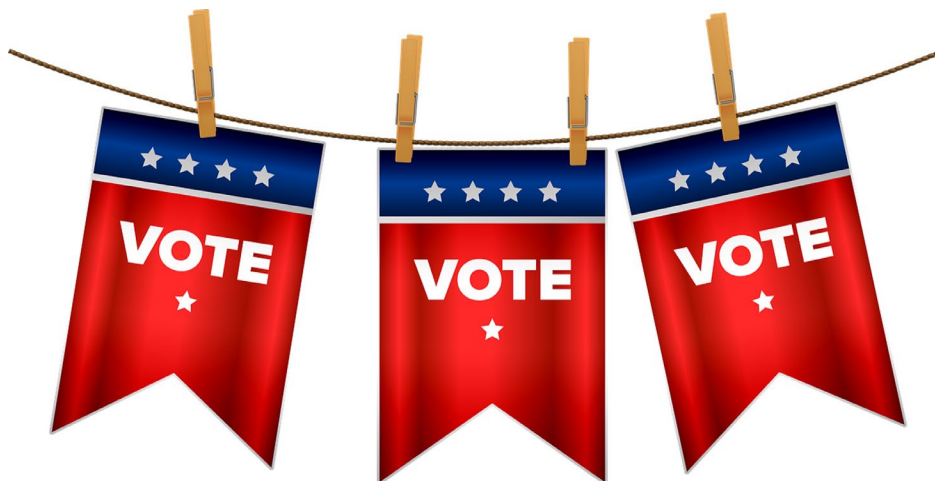
Whether you identify politically as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, Libertarian, conservative, liberal, moderate, progressive or another political perspective, you have a place in this democracy and a place within the League, as long as you are committed to our belief in an inclusive democracy. While we may disagree on how we accomplish it, if you value democracy, then you must also value human rights, social justice, and equity.

WE CAN BRIDGE THE PARTISAN DIVIDE

In 2020, we marked the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which afforded women in the United States the right to vote. However, even then, women of color were largely excluded from the movement that brought about the amendment. It wasn't until the passage of the 1965 *Voting Rights Act* that people of color could fully exercise their right to vote and our country began to reflect the values of all its people. We've made strides in the past 100 years, but we have so much more work to do, especially when it comes to fairness, justice, and equity for all.

The League will continue to fight for the nonpartisan, anti-racism issues and policies we have worked to advance for a century. We will work to elevate more diverse voices from within our membership and our communities. With our partners, the League will strive to create a stronger, more inclusive, just, and equitable democracy for American voters—a place where everyone has a voice.

As we move forward, we remain open to conversations about our history and the ways we can improve our democracy. Let's do this work together and make the next 100 years a century of real diversity, inclusion, and equity in American elections and democracy.



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Voter Service

Please contact me (Maureen Mader - momader@comcast.net) for more information or any questions you may have. We are busy trying to organize in-person candidate forums for the fall general election. Details will come in future editions of the Clackson.

If you are interested in volunteering, there are several opportunities that might suit you. The commitments will be in September or October and can be divided into manageable time frames.

- Follow-up with candidates to provide information for Vote 411.org (at home)
- Distribute printed Voters’ Guides to libraries, schools, and retirement centers throughout the county (driving)
- Assist with publicizing our forums to various community organizations
- Greeter, set-up or clean-up for in person forums.

Calendar

September 2022	October 2022: Voter Education Month
<p>Tuesday, 5 Labor Day</p> <p>Tuesday, 20 National Voter Registration Day</p> <p>Tuesday, 20 Fall Kickoff Event, 5:30 pm</p> <p>Tuesday, 27 LWVCC Board Meeting, 10 am</p> <p>Tuesday, 27 New Member Orientation , 7:00 pm by Zoom</p>	<p>Week of 3-7 National Voter Education Week</p> <p>Tuesday, 18 Oregon online voter registration deadline</p> <p>Week of 17-21 Unit Meetings: Ballot Measures, TBD</p> <p>Tuesday, 25 LWVCC Board Meeting, 10am</p>



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Clackamas County
PO Box 411
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
lwvclackamas@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

Total Enclosed _____