



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

**FEBRUARY 2023** 

## Catherine McMullen to Discuss Priorities for County Elections at Our League Birthday Celebration

Saturday, February 11 10:30 am – Noon Wilsonville Public Library 8200 SW Wilsonville Road, Wilsonville, OR 97070

Join us to celebrate the LWV of the United States'  $103^{\rm rd}$  and the Clackamas League's 85th Birthdays.

2023 is a critical year for local elections. That's why for we are focusing on pro-voter action to inform and empower voters. Meet newly elected Clackamas County Clerk, Catherine McMullen, who will share her priorities for Clackamas County elections.



RSVP by Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> to Sonja Kollias: (503) 636-2187 or <a href="mailto:vskollias@aol.com">vskollias@aol.com</a>. Bring a friend or neighbor. We'd love to welcome them to the League! Need a ride? Please tell Sonja.

# Join us for our February General Meeting Thoughts on Primary Election Reform

Tuesday, February 21, 7-8:00 p.m. on Zoom

Does our current Primary Election system work for all Oregonians, and how can we make it better? We'll be mulling over those questions at our January General Meeting with the help of someone who is well-versed on the topic of election reform. Our speaker, **Barbara Klein**, is Action Chair for LWV Rogue Valley and serves on the LWVOR Action Committee. Formerly, she was state president of LWV Arizona, co-president of LWV Metro Phoenix; chairperson of FairVote AZ and member of the national LWV Task Forces on National Popular Vote and Redistricting. Currently, she is a lead volunteer



with *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute* at Southern Oregon University, a core team member for PROregon.org, and often organizes and speaks on voting topics. Barbara is a published author and runs the Aging with Pizzazz.com website and PizzazzEE.com exercise app. She holds a doctorate in chiropractic, an MPS in Hospital/Health Care Admin, an RMT in music therapy, and a BS in music and special education.

Please RSVP to Nancy Murray, <u>n.murray.01@hotmail.com</u>. The Zoom link will be sent to you the morning of the meeting.

#### **LWVCC Leaders**

**Executive Committee:** 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** 

**Administration: Sonja Kollias** 

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/cla ckamas-county

## A Busy Legislative Session for the League

Marge Easley

The Legislative Session is now in full throttle, and the LWVOR Action Team is hard at work following and submitting testimony on issues the League cares about. The Capitol is still a construction zone, so our work is nearly all done remotely. The weekly Legislative Report is the best way to learn more about our priority bills. If you're not receiving it in your inbox, please sign up <a href="here">here</a>. Links to League testimony that has been recently submitted can be found here. We can always use more action volunteers, so if you have an interest in advocacy but don't know where to start, it could be as simple as sitting in on an online action meeting or following one or two bills as they wend their way through the session. I'd be happy to be a mentor, so feel free to contact me (marge.easley1949@gmail.com).

I also want to share a great resource for learning more about how to use the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) and get a wealth of information about the session. It's called the Oregon Legislative Session Participation Guide, and you can find the link to it here and on the lwvclackamas.org website under "Advocacy." Although it was created by the House Democrats, its content is nonpartisan.

## **City Code Changes on Homeless** Camping

You may have read that many cities in Clackamas County and throughout Oregon are in the process of revising their camping codes, related specifically to homeless camps, in order to comply with a 2018 federal court ruling and two state laws passed in 2021. Cities that previously banned camping on city-owned property may no longer do so, but they can regulate where, when, and how people can camp to meet their community's needs. There has been an inevitable outcry from some city residents about the code changes, so it is important to be aware of the backstory and rationale. Here is League testimony on HB 3115 from 2021 that provides more information.

## **Our League Meetings: Two Types**

#### 1) PROGRAM AND INTEREST GROUPS

Every new year our League discusses program priorities for the year ahead. It is a vital part of how we focus on issues important to our members!

On January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Zoom General Meeting, attending members shared their active questions and suggestions for program priorities, which guided the Interest Group survey sent to every member by email (with a paper version sent to members without computer access). If you did not receive your survey, please email <a href="Membership@lwvclackamas.org">Membership@lwvclackamas.org</a> or click <a href="here.">here.</a> Return your survey by email or mail to focus program priorities for the year(s) ahead!

Program priorities have helped launch a few initial Interest Groups for researching and discussing important issues, that may lead to advocacy and/or further study in unit meetings. Interest Groups will be flexible, topic-based groups open to any member who wants to learn more, and we welcome participation in any or all Groups when your schedule permits. Interest Groups will be scheduled to suit the interested members, at a meeting initially mentored by a Board member to connect your Group. Members of the Board will also be attending Interest Groups, and we all hope to achieve our League goal for closer observation of our elected and appointed government decision-makers with more visible engagement and service with our community. Join in when you can!

#### 2) UNIT MEETINGS

Unit Meetings are different from Interest Groups, and are arranged for the following purposes:

- in election years, discuss local and state ballot measures with League of Women Voters of Oregon-prepared Speaker Bureau presentations
- guide League policy and action through consensus discussions when our local or state League need concurrence or consensus on studies
- deepen knowledge through community discussion and visit with new and old friends in small group settings

The League of Women Voters of Clackamas County Unit Meetings are led by the League members who host the Unit Meetings listed below, usually the third week of the month in which they are needed, and any member can attend one or more Unit Meetings that suit their schedule.

Monday PM Lake Oswego Betty Barber Wednesday PM Lake Oswego/Mary's Woods Mary O'Reilly Thursday AM Lake Oswego Katie Lu Friday AM Milwaukie Lea Wells TBD Wilsonville TBD **Evening TBD** Zoom Nancy Murray

## **Technology & Communications**

Did you know there are excellent resources on the LWVClackamas website? <u>LWVClackamas.org</u> The Navigation Bar (black bar in the image below) shows the menu of items. Four items have submenus, just hover over the down arrow to reveal the choices.



Click on **Events** to see what's planned for the month. **Coming soon** under Events, a **Civic Calendar** which will list important Civic events for our State, County, and towns in the County. **Articles** – read important topics from the LWV National office.

**Volunteer** – Come join us! We have many fun ways to volunteer, mostly on your own time and with minimal time commitment required. From volunteering to help with our Socials, our Communications Team, Voter Service or observing City Council meetings or the Legislature, we have many interesting ways to contribute!

## January 20, 2023 Senator Ron Wyden Town Hall Meeting

#### Attended by Diana DeMaria

Newly re-elected U.S. Senator Ron Wyden held the last of his initial Oregon in-person town hall meetings in Oregon City to a packed auditorium of all ages from all over Clackamas County. Some of us were late to the meeting when the venue changed that morning from Oregon City High School to Clackamas Community College, but we made it in time!

Senator Wyden and his team created an orderly and equitable question system with tickets so everyone who attended could be heard. One of the first and most significant questions requested his office's assistance with the issue of I-205 tolling. There is concern about the repercussions for the working families who commute and the communities closest to diverted traffic in Canby, West Linn, Oregon City and others.

Additional questions addressed the state's ongoing housing crisis; Wyden's proposal for a middle-income housing tax credit; health care and rising drug costs; Oregon's lack of access to addiction treatment; and workforce issues, especially in the healthcare sector.

He encouraged Clackamas County youth interested in politics who wish to work in his office to apply.

### **Member Spotlight: Carol Maggart**

Carol Maggart was born in 1936 and raised on a family farm in southern Idaho. She graduated from high school in Burley and left Idaho to attend Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois where she met and became friends with Art Wilson, a graduate student who was the instructor in her freshman chemistry laboratory. They started dating and became engaged during Carol's senior year at NU. She graduated from NU in 1958 and won a Fulbright Fellowship for postgraduate study. She spent 1958-59 at Karl Eberhart University in Tuebingen, West Germany. Art, who at that time was teaching at Wayne State University in Detroit, joined her and they were married in Germany on June 26, 1959. After a honeymoon in Europe, they returned to Michigan where Carol earned a PhD in biochemistry at Wayne State and their son, Dirk, was born in 1961.



.

They moved to Atlanta in 1962 and Carol joined the League of Women Voters in 1963 to learn more about politics in the local area. Art taught at Emory university, Carol had a postdoctoral fellowship and their daughter, Heather, was born there in 1965.

In 1966 Art joined Texas Instruments in Attleboro, Massachusetts and Carol joined the League of Women Voters in order to learn more about politics in her local area. She has been dedicated to women's issues, climate and environmental legislation and election and voting since that time. Art joined the League of Women Voters in 1974, the first year men were admitted to the League. He has been a strong supporter of League activities, delivering Voters' Guides to libraries and churches and attending League activities with Carol.

Art relocated to Dallas in 1970 with Texas Instruments, and they lived in Texas the next 35 years. Carol worked at Southwestern Medical School as a research scientist in the Endocrinology department for 25 years, and not only served as President of the League of Women Voters in Richardson, TX, but was elected as a Richardson city council member.

Their daughter, Heather, went to medical school, met Michael Moore (also a physician), married and settled in Portland. Carol and Art retired to Oregon in 2005 and joined the Portland League where Carol served as Treasurer and in other roles before they moved to Willamette View and changed their membership to Clackamas County.

Their two granddaughters are both carrying on the family tradition of higher education. Isabelle graduated from the London School of Economics, married an Englishman and remains in Cambridge, while Caroline is presently an undergraduate pursuing her degree at University College London.

Carol and Art welcome every new League member, and feel volunteering almost has an art to it, which needs to be practiced, and devoted to issues important to you. Carol reflected on her 60 years in the League and her public service by sharing, "You can learn a lot, and you can give a lot".



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  Membership dues and donations are now tax deductible.
Total Enclosed