



Clackson Voter



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

JANUARY 2020

January Unit Meetings

What's On Your Mind? Issues of Engagement

At a time when our country faces multiple important problems, join us to discuss the issues of most concern to you. Where should League focus its efforts? What topics would you like as the focus of future meetings? How can you help with our mission? Two Zoom meetings will be available:

Tuesday, January 18: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Monday, January 24: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

To sign up for these meetings, email lwvclackamas@lwvclackamas.org or contact Nancy Murray. A Zoom invitation will be sent the morning of the meeting. A third meeting will be arranged for residents of Mary's Woods.

Democracy starts with YOU!

Marge Easley, LWVCC Action Chair

The wisdom expressed in this quote by Maud Wood Parks, the first national LWV President, is especially apropos in today's world, where it seems that the fabric of our country is coming unglued: *"The success of democracy doesn't depend on a few persons who do great things, but on many persons who do small things faithfully."*

If you've been watching the news with increasing alarm and wondering what you as a League member can do to counter the shrill voices of misinformation and anger in your community, I'd like to suggest a small, yet important, way for you to help, even during this time of Covid restrictions.

The League needs your eyes and ears at local meetings (county commission, city council, school board, planning commission), most of which can now be viewed online. If you have a computer and internet access, and are willing to spend a few hours online, you can be part of our **Observer Corps**. The purpose is to report back to the board on issues the League cares about, as well as provide examples of well-reasoned decisions or instances of incivility, misinformation, and lack of transparency. Firsthand experience tells us that just having a League member present in a meeting can have a positive effect on civility and productive discussion.

In the League, observation is a precursor to advocacy, and next steps (following board approval) might be testifying, emailing, writing a letter to the editor or op-ed piece, or volunteering to serve on a task force. If the League lacks a position on which to act, then proposing an in-depth League study may also be in order.

If you're willing to take that first small step and become an observer, please let me know, even if you need a bit of training. I'll be happy to answer your questions or provide one-on-one assistance. We'll be talking more about this during our January Unit Meetings, so I hope to see you there.

Marge Easley, marge.easley@frontier.com

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: 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)

2022 Initiative Petitions to Reduce Gun Violence

Although the League does not officially endorse initiatives until they qualify for the ballot, we do have strong positions on gun safety and would like to make you aware of two initiative petitions, sponsored by Lift Every Voice Oregon, which are currently circulating:

IP 17: Requires permit to acquire firearms; police maintain permit/firearm database; criminally prohibits certain ammunition magazines

IP 18: Prohibits manufacturing/possessing/transferring many semiautomatic firearms; criminal penalties; exceptions require firearm registration, restrict use

The complete text of each initiative, as well as instructions for circulating and/or signing the petitions can be found [here](#).^{*} E-petitions are also available that allow you to download and print single signature petitions.



Marge Easley collects signatures at Clackamas Town Center

* <https://www.lifteveryvoiceoregon.com/>

Welcome to a New Member!

Nancy McAuliffe joined in December 2021. Her email and information can be found in the Members Only section of our website at <http://www.lwvclackamas.org/>.

Meet New Board Member: Maureen Mader, Voter Service Chair

Maureen is a new member of the LWV joining in 2020. Being newly retired she was looking for a way to become more knowledgeable about local issues and informed about city, county, and state elections. Having heard about the LWV through the years she decided to learn more by researching online and engaging with League members. The knowledge, commitment, and passion of these members encouraged her to join the League.

Raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Maureen is still an ardent Cleveland baseball and football fan. Although she has lived in many other U.S. cities, Portland is her favorite with its abundance of outdoor activities and cultural events. She moved to Portland over 25 years ago (almost a native) with her husband and four children. Although her husband was not a farmer by occupation, his family had a long history of growing grass seed in the Willamette Valley, and this connection brought them back to the area.



Maureen has worked in health care in many different roles over her career. Her first introduction to health care policy and legislation came as an intern on Capitol Hill during college. (Regrettably no legislation came out of that experience.) After college she became a registered nurse working in intensive care units at university hospitals in both Cleveland, Ohio, and Rochester, New York. Deciding to continue her education she earned an MBA and worked in various aspects of health care including consulting, project management and insurance software development. These experiences gave her a well-rounded view of health care and a desire to improve health care access, delivery and quality. She is looking forward to working on Voter Services and helping to provide Clackamas County voters with information to evaluate candidates running for political office.

Deborah Ogden, in memoriam

Deborah Ogden passed away on October 30, 2021. Debby joined our League in 2015 and was an active member of our Mary's Woods unit and regularly attended League meetings. She was a delightful and positive woman with an infectious smile.

Debby graduated from Vassar College and worked in the publishing industry. Debby's skills and interests were varied. She volunteered at Intertribal Friendship House in Oakland, as a docent at Audubon Canyon Branch in Marin County, a guide for the San Francisco Walking Tours, and years later at the Lake Oswego Library.

A true raconteur and Renaissance woman, she will be missed. To view her obituary, go to <https://obits.oregonlive.com/us/obituaries/oregon/name/deborah-ogden-obituary?id=31747001>

New Feature in the Membership Directory

If you have a smartphone and would like to access the shortcut to the LWVCC website located on the front cover of the Member Directory, just open your camera function over the QR code and then tap on the link.

Any feedback or suggestions for the directory are welcome and encouraged to be submitted to Diana DeMaria, Membership at email dianademaria4@outlook.com.



Excerpts from a LWVUS Blog on the Climate Crisis

Emily Polakowski (<https://www.lwv.org/blog/what-i-learned-un-climate-change-conference>)

During the first two weeks in November, the United Kingdom hosted the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland. I was the lucky recipient of a scholarship to attend this event as a delegate observer for the League of Women Voters of the United States.

The Severity of Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released [their most recent report](#) in August 2021: “AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis.” This report was written by the world’s leading climate scientists and can be viewed in its entirety on their website along with an interactive atlas and regional fact sheets.

This report states that recent climate changes are “widespread, rapid, intensifying, and unprecedented in thousands of years” and are indisputably attributed to human activities. “Unless there are immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to 1.5 and even 2 [degrees Celsius] will be beyond reach” (hence “keep 1.5 alive”).

Even the hot temperatures in the Pacific Northwest this summer would have been labeled “statistically impossible” in the past, but these events are becoming more and more common. Events called [Atmospheric rivers](#) result in rain bombs, mud slides, and the flooding of homes and transportation systems. Permafrost melting in Siberia results in greenhouse gas and methane emissions. The UN predicts that there will be up to [1 billion climate refugees](#) by the end of the century because their current homes will become incompatible with human life.

Countries in the Global South are facing devastating impacts from climate change that threaten their economy, livelihood, and mortality. Island countries, such as Fiji and Tuvalu, spoke out about the impact of sea level rises that are removing their land. Madagascar is facing the [first climate-driven famine](#), impacting more than one million citizens due to drought and coral bleaching.

These countries are seeking monetary support for “loss and damage” as they are facing impacts today from changes to the climate that have occurred because of the Global North’s carbon emissions. Loss and damage remained a controversial subject throughout COP. In the closing agreement, the costs of loss and damage were acknowledged, but there has been no established fund to provide assistance to these countries yet. There are talks for an official financial mechanism for loss and damage compensation to be introduced at next year’s event, COP 27.

Feminism and Climate Justice

Women are often more impacted by climate change than men, as they are responsible for the majority of food preparation, childcare, and care of the home, and are therefore more vulnerable to infrastructure disasters. It’s estimated that as many as [80% of climate change refugees are female](#).

Deforestation

Deforestation was a hot topic in the first week of COP, as more than 100 countries promised to end and reverse deforestation by the year 2030. Over \$19 billion was pledged; however, there is a history of countries pledging money at international conferences with limited follow-through, limiting the impact of these statements.

Takeaways

At the end of the conference, an official agreement, “[The Glasgow Climate Pact](#),” was reached by all members of the conference. However, even if all of those commitments are followed, the Earth’s temperature would still raise 2.4 degrees C above pre-industrial levels, far above the goal of 1.5 degrees. Additionally, there is no established way to enforce these commitments or to ensure that they will be followed.

December League Events

The League members who attended the general meeting (via Zoom) were treated to a very informative and forthright presentation by **Metro president, Lynn Peterson**. She acknowledged the important role the League of Women Voters played in moving the regional provision of planning and services to a directly elected government entity, Metro. Since 1979, Metro has provided services across the boundaries of 24 cities and 3 counties. Its portfolio is breathtaking: Metro oversees 17,000A of parks, trails and natural areas; waste management and recycling; a Data Resource Center; operation and management of Portland 5 Centers for the Arts, the Portland Expo Center, the Portland Convention Center, and the Oregon Zoo; management of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) by working with communities to plan for future population growth and meet needs for housing, employment, transportation, and recreation.

The recently passed Metro bond is paying for construction of affordable housing to begin to make up for the shortage of 45,000 public and private housing units we already had in 2016. A few are completed, many are presently under construction and others at pre-construction status. Clackamas County has an important role working with Metro to meet its housing requirements, and our League will be following up to see that the County is on target and on time. If this or any of the other area of Metro interests you, their website is full of information at www.oregonmetro.gov.

Our **Holiday Luncheon** on December 11 brought 27 of us together for the first time in a very long time. We met at the cheerfully decorated Oswego Heritage House, dined at decorated tables, and enjoyed a tasty lunch prepared by Elephant's Deli. It was wonderful to see familiar faces, meet four guests from Wilsonville, and catch up on each other's lives. We are tentatively planning for Patio Party early June and a resumption of in-person meetings when better conditions allow.



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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.