



Clackson Voter



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MARCH 2021

LWVCC Leaders

Executive Committee:

Hilly Alexander
Robina Ingram-Rich
Nancy Murray
Linda O'Malia

Secretary:

Sonja Kollias
Treasurer: Nancy
Murray

Directors:

Action: Marge Easley
Program Chair: Robina
Ingram-Rich
Clackson: Karan Kuntz
Membership: Hilly
Alexander
Action: Marge Easley
Voter Service: Lynette
Pierson
Emma Burke

Off Board:

Nominating Committee:
Sherry Finnigan
Budget chair: Sarah
Chaplen

Unit Leaders:

Monday: Betty Barber
Wednesday: Jean
Hoffman
Thursday: Katie Lu,
Sylvia Smith
Friday: June Routson,
Lea Wells

March General Meeting

The Corporatization of Oregon's Forests
Monday, March 15, 2021
6:30-7:30 p.m.

How to sign up: RSVP to Marge Easley, marge.easley@frontier.com by March 14. She will send you confirmation along with the Zoom link to join the meeting.

Timber harvesting has historically been one of Oregon's most important industries. You may have read recent news articles revealing the fact that timber counties have not been getting the revenue they deserve. Large out-of-state corporations have been buying up huge tracts of valuable timberland, reaping the benefits of tax cuts that have cost rural counties billions. Small timber communities around the state are also finding out how clear cuts, pesticides, fertilizers, and weak stream buffers are impacting local water supplies.

Please join us for a conversation about revenue restoration for forested counties, tax fairness, funding essential local services, and protecting drinking water. The presentation will include opportunities to ask questions and explore possible solutions.

Guest Speakers:

Jody Wisner, tax policy expert, Tax Fairness Oregon
Josie Koehne, LWVOR Portfolio Chair for Forestry Issues
Catherine Thomasson, MD, Retired Executive Director of Physicians for Social Responsibility

League Origins

When was the Clackamas County League founded? 1920, 1938 or 1947? How was the National League founded out of the suffragette movement? Find the answers on our website at <https://my.lwv.org/oregon/clackamas-county/about/history>.

Action Briefs

Marge Easley, Action Chair

Thoughts on the Legislative Session

Now that we're into the second month of the session, I can safely say there are definite pluses and minuses to a virtual session. From my standpoint as a longtime LWVOR Action Team member, it's certainly more convenient to watch hearings and testify from the comfort of home, and the technology, once mastered, does allow more voices to be heard from outlying areas of the state, as long as internet access is available. However, connection glitches are a regular occurrence, and the lack of face-to-face interaction with legislators, staff, lobbyists, and other volunteers is sorely missed.

The Action Team now numbers over 20, and we meet via Zoom every Tuesday at noon to share the latest legislative gossip and update each other on the status of the bills we're following. My week usually consists of attending hearings, researching bills, writing testimony, attending coalition meetings, and reaching out to others who advocate on the same issues. At week's end, we each submit a written summary of our portfolio work for inclusion in the [Legislative Report](#), emailed to all members and also found on our [website homepage](#). We're always looking for new volunteers, so if you'd like to try your hand at following one or more issues for the League, please let me know and I'll connect you to the right portfolio chair.

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

The Commission meetings on February 18 and 25 shifted focus from COVID and wildfire recovery efforts to the impacts of the ice storm that recently ravaged the county. Chair Tootie Smith made the comment that dealing with three historic events in one year has presented the Clackamas County with unprecedented challenges, but the staff has been up to the task. The ice storm, a 40-year event that was actually ten times more destructive than the wildfires, created more damage in Clackamas County than any other area of the state. Despite generator failure at key county facilities, county staff coordinated the sheltering of many families in hotel rooms, kept warming shelters open, oversaw a massive debris removal and chipping operation, and dealt with wastewater leakage into the Willamette River from 190,000 Water Environment Services (WES) customers. PGE spokesmen reported that power outages resulting from falling branches and trees led to their largest restoration effort in history. Here are some alarming statistics: 420,000 PGE customers were affected statewide; 144,000 Clackamas County customers were affected; 96,000 county customers experienced multiple outages; and 500 were still without power as of February 25. PGE has committed \$75,000 to local nonprofits who are serving vulnerable populations.

Update on National Popular Vote

On Tuesday, March 2, LWV Corvallis and the state League sponsored an informational meeting on Zoom about the National Popular Vote movement. Oregon has already joined this effort, but the program provides an update on its progress in other states and suggestions on how you can help.

Pathways to the National Popular

How do we get fair, representative voting at the federal level and ensure that every vote counts?

The League of Women Voters believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The current "state-winner-take-all" Electoral College system allows the second-place candidate to become President.

(Continued on page 3)

Action Briefs (continued from page 2)

It also encourages most states to be ignored in campaigning, so voter issues in non-swing states may not be addressed. Join the League for this session to explore pathways, opportunities, and challenges towards a National Popular Vote.

Speakers:

Kristin Eberhard, Director, Climate and Democracy, is a researcher, writer, speaker, lawyer and policy analyst who spearheads Sightline Institute's work on democracy reform and on climate action. She is the author of the book, [*Becoming a Democracy: How We Can Fix the Electoral College, Gerrymandering, and Our Elections*](#). Kristin is an active member of the LWV Portland.

Eileen Reavey is the National Grassroots Director for the nonprofit National Popular Vote. She co-founded the grassroots group advocating for the National Popular Vote bill in Oregon in 2016 and now works on replicating Oregon's successful advocacy model in states around the country.

League members throughout the state were invited. LWV Clackamas members should have received notification of this meeting through our Mailchimp mailings. **If you missed the presentation, LWV Corvallis planned to record the meeting and post it on their website at <https://lww.corvallis.or.us>.**

Welcome, New Members!

Hilly Alexander, Membership

Janet Lee, Sandy

Linda Rinnan, West Linn

They joined our League in February.

You can find their phone number and email address in the Members Only section of our website.

Reaching out to you

LWV Clackamas is now using Mailchimp for all email notifications, including The Clackson. (Those currently receiving a hard copy Clackson will continue to receive it). Mailchimp enables us to better organize and more effectively communicate with all of our audience including members, donors, prospective members, voters and other interested people. We ask your patience as we refine our communications with you all. Please feel free to send comments to help us improve. email: lwwclackamas@lwwclackamas.org

Revisiting Perfect 36: the Musical

If you missed the General Meeting on February 21, 2021 or if you would like to revisit the program or you would like to hear a few of the songs once again, the links are listed below.

The first link is a “rebroadcast” of a joint collaboration of TheatreWorks Silicon Valley and the Woman’s Club of Palo Alto. In this program, TheatreWorks Assistant Artistic Director Giovanna Sardelli, the host, is in conversation with Laura Harrington, the lyricist and playwright of *Perfect 36: The Musical*.

Perfect 36: The Musical tells the story how the 19th amendment was ratified in August 1920 in Memphis, Tennessee. Two Spoilers: the youngest legislator switched his vote to affirm after his mother gave him a letter advising him to do so. Lauren Harrington found the “villains” to be more interesting characters.

<https://youtu.be/9ptl3YRAIo>

If your desire is to view the trailer for the play featuring Laura Harrington and the producer/director Mac Pirkle or to access the songs “We Rise”, “A Woman’s Voice”, “Power”, “What Happened to Girls?” and “Truth”, visit the website:

perfect36themusical.com

Marge Easley’s “The Long Road to Woman Suffrage” program gives a broader national and Oregon historical view of the road to suffrage for white women. It can be accessed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlacP2mEzc8>

New Look for Voter Service

Our League mission is to communicate nonpartisan, unbiased Voter Service information to all. We are excited to announce that the National LWV office has approved use of this new logo to help readers quickly differentiate our League Voter Service work which is unbiased from our equally important Advocacy work which takes positions. As the League Vote411.org platform is an important tool for Voter Service, the National office suggested the purple coloring to tie more closely to Vote411.org. Look for our new logo in all Voter Service communications for the Spring elections and other important information for all!



Message From LWVUS

Moving Forward on Immigration Reform

February saw important steps in addressing the necessary reform to our immigration system. The [Family Reunification Task Force](#) established by the Biden administration is a critical first step in repairing the significant damage that has been inflicted on immigrants and asylum seekers over the past four years. In Congress, we also saw the re-introduction of the [DREAM Act, the latest immigration reform bill](#). The League issued a rare vote recommendation to the Senate to [protect immigrant rights in the COVID stimulus plan](#), which was successful: citizen spouses and children in mixed-status families were not excluded from COVID relief.

For more than a decade, the League has supported a clean DREAM Act, the reunification of families, a process for refugees and asylum seekers seeking entry to the U.S., and a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented persons living in the United States. Earlier this year we [made clear to the Biden administration](#) that comprehensive immigration reform was a priority of LWVUS, and we look forward to making progress to fix the broken system and treat immigrants with dignity and respect.

LWVUS Priorities for the Biden Administration

- PROTECT DEMOCRACY BY PASSING THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT
- RESTORE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT
- IMPLEMENT FAIR REDISTRICTING
- ENSURE EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL
- COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM
- ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS
- ENSURE QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS
- END GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA
- SECURE PEACE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE ABROAD





THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Clackamas County
PO Box 411
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
lwwclackamas@lwwclackamas.org
www.lwwclackamas.org
<https://my.lww.org/oregon/clackamas-county>

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.