



THE ADVOCATE

League of Women Voters of Ashland

OCTOBER 2008

P.O. Box 1296, Ashland, Oregon 97520
www.ashland.or.lwvnet.org info@ashland.or.lwvnet.org

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, A NONPARTISAN
 POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, ENCOURAGES
 INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN
 GOVERNMENT, WORKS TO INCREASE
 UNDERSTANDING OF MAJOR PUBLIC POLICY
 ISSUES, AND INFLUENCES PUBLIC POLICY
 THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.

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 LWV Rogue Valley: www.lwvrv.org
 LWV Oregon: www.lwvor.org
 LWV United States: www.lwvus.org

OCTOBER CANDIDATES' FAIR & FORUMS

Saturday, October 11, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 SOU's Stevenson Union, Rogue River Room

Meet the Candidates: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. -

ASHLAND ELECTION FORUMS:

11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. - Mayor
 12:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - City Council
 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Parks Commission
 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Ballot Measures

Co-sponsored by The Associated Students of
 Southern Oregon University, American Association
 of University Women, Ashland Branch, and The
 Ashland Daily Tidings. Televised on RVTV

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 2 LWVA Board Meeting, Thursday, 2:00 p.m.,
Ashland Library
- 4 Table at Saturday Growers' Market, Lithia Way:
Voter Registration and Meet the Candidates.
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 8 LWVRV Candidate Forum, Wednesday 7:00 p.m.,
County Courthouse Auditorium, Candidates for
County Commissioner & County Clerk. Televised on
RVTV.
- 9 LWVRV meeting on state ballot measure
Thursday, noon, Medford Library, Central Ave.
- 9 John Fregonese's presentation on *Environment,
Equity & Economy - How does Ashland measure up
to the triple bottom line of Sustainability?*
Thursday, 7:00 p.m., SOU Stevenson Union, Rogue
River Room (See article herein for more details.)
- 11 LWVA Candidates Fair and Forums,
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
SOU Stevenson Union, Rogue River Room
- 14 Last Day to Register to Vote
- 18 Table at Saturday Growers' Market, Lithia Way:
Voter Registration and Meet the Candidates,
9:00 a.m.to 1:00 p.m.
- 24 Table at Saturday Growers' Market, Lithia Way:
Voter Registration and Meet the Candidates
- 24 United Nations Day at SOU

LWVOR - STATES POSITION ON BALLOT MEASURES

**LWVOR supports or opposes Ballot Measures based on studies conducted and positions taken as a result.

REFERRALS by Legislature— THESE ARE ALL SUPPORTED BY LWVOR

Measure 54—constitutional amendment that allows 18-year olds to vote in school elections. (consistent with LWVUS position that voting is a fundamental right of citizens)

Measure 55—changes dates for implementation of the 2001 redistricting plan and allows legislators to complete their elected terms in their original districts. (Legislators should represent those who elected them.)

Measure 56— constitutional amendment that exempts May and November elections from the double majority (50-50) requirement on property tax measures. (Registered voters who fail to vote give “no” votes and unfair advantage, contrary to the principle of one person, one vote.)

Measure 57—increases prison sentences for drug trafficking, theft against older persons, and repeat offenders, requires addiction treatment/alternative sentencing (legislative alternative to Measure 61, which otherwise may pass and is more punitive and more expensive, requiring more prisons to be built).

INITIATIVES by Petitions— THESE ARE OPPOSED BY LWVOR

Measure 59—allows full deduction of federal income taxes on state income tax returns. (Lost income would devastate state budget for education, health and public safety.)

Measure 61—sets mandatory prison sentences for property, id theft and drug offenders (LWVOR supports alternative Measure 57)

Measure 62—amends constitution and reallocates 15% of state lottery proceeds to public safety fund for crime prevention, investigation and prosecution (Additional mandatory uses further reduces the legislature’s prerogative to determine budgetary needs.)

Measure 63—exempts home improvement projects under \$35,000 from building permit requirements. (contrary to LWVOR support for building codes as safety measures and reduces local government funds)

Measure 64—bars use of “public resources” to collect union dues for political purposes (contrary to the protection of individual liberties guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution)

*LWVOR takes **no position** on the following:*

Measure 59 = bars bilingual education of public school students after two years of enrollment

Measure 60—bars use of seniority to determine teacher pay in favor of “classroom performance”

Measure 65—changes the primary election to advance the top two finishers, regardless of party affiliation, to the general election

LEAGUE’S PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS’ GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE (VOTE411.ORG)

Thanks to the ongoing collaboration between members of the Maryland and National Capitol Area Leagues and the LWVUS/EF, the 2008 Presidential Voters’ Guide for the General Election is now available. All Presidential candidates who met the League’s specific [criteria](#), including John McCain, Ralph Nader and Barack Obama, were invited to participate. All three candidates have responded, which is a testament to the League. [Click here](#) for a complete pdf of the Voters’ Guide; the information will be available on [VOTE411.org](#) shortly.

PATRIOT PACKAGES NOW AVAILABLE FOR \$20.00

The following items are in each attractive package:

1. *The Declaration of Independence*
2. *The Bill of Rights*
3. *The Constitution of the United States of America*
4. *Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*
5. *Washington's Farewell Address*
6. *The National Anthem*
7. *The Liberty Bell Story*
8. *I Am the Flag*

Call 488-3827, or email jeg@mind.net, to order yours.

For a small donation, you can also obtain a "Pocket Constitution" or a 4-page authentic looking copy of the Constitution. Let Judith know how many you want.

Special thanks to Bill Reichard, A Street Copy, for his generosity in making the Patriot Packages available to us at low cost, and for his gift of the 4-page Constitutions.

LWVA CO-SPONSORS JOHN FREGONESE TALK AT SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

Southern Oregon University will host urban planning expert **John Fregonese** on Thursday, October 9, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Stevenson Union's Rogue River Room. The presentation is titled *Environment, Equity, and Economy—How does Ashland Measure up to the Triple Bottom line of Sustainability?* Using international examples, as well as statewide and regional data, Fregonese will discuss methods of incorporating all three aspects of sustainability in Ashland city planning. He will also update the audience on the status of *The Big Look*. Fregonese's firm is working with The Big Look Taskforce, created through the Oregon Legislative process, to review statewide land-use planning.

Fregonese is president of Fregonese Associates, an award-winning urban and regional land-use planning firm in Portland, Oregon. He also has extensive experience in southern Oregon as the Ashland community development director from 1979 to 1992. Fregonese Associates is currently working on two local land-use planning projects: designing plans to expand the Talent, Oregon, downtown, as well as maintaining and improving access to Ashland's Calle Guanajuato.

The presentation is co-sponsored by the Ashland League of Women Voters, the City of Ashland and the SOU Sustainability Council.

SOU Associate Professor of Geography **Pat Acklin**, who is organizing the event, credits **Hal Cloer**, an SOU emeritus professor of Psychology and long-time LWVA member, with the idea for the Fregonese visit. "Hal, while in communication with Fregonese, developed the idea for the talk, hoping that it would prompt a lively community-wide discussion about the future of the city and region," said Acklin.

It's Not Too Late to Give the Oregon Health Fund Board a Piece of Your Mind. By Elin Silveous

Judith Benjamin and I were among the 150 or so concerned citizens who attended the Oregon Health Fund Board's Sept. 10th town hall meeting in Medford. If you missed the meeting, it's not too late to provide feedback. But do it quickly!

The board's working draft is subject to public comment throughout September and can be found at

<http://healthfundboard.oregon.gov>. In addition to receiving written comment on-line and via e-mail, formal testimony will be taken during a **public hearing on Sept. 30 from noon to 5:00 p.m.** currently slated at Kaiser Permanente in Portland, OR. Written testimony and comments can be submitted via e-mail to ohfb.info@state.or.us via snail mail to Oregon Health Fund Board, General Services Bldg., 1225 Ferry St SE, 1st Floor, Salem, OR 97301.

Created by OR SB 328 in 2007 as part of the Healthy Oregon Act, the Oregon Health Fund Board is comprised of **7 members appointed by the Governor to four-year terms** and confirmed by the Oregon Senate. It is charged with developing a comprehensive plan "to ensure access to health care for Oregonians, contain health care costs, and address issues of quality in health care." Chaired by Rogue Valley resident Bill Thorndike, president of Medford Fabrication, the board is also fueled by **two workgroups (Exchange & Quality Institute) and five subcommittees:**

- Benefits
- Delivery Reform
- Eligibility & Enrollment.
- Federal Issues
- Financing

In digest, the board's draft plan reflects a **staged approach over the next several years** to address the fundamental issues of:

- Containing rising costs
- Equity of care
- Better quality from the delivery system
- Better value from the delivery system
- Improving access to care
- Improving public health

New Thinking for New Health, New Benefits

The board calls on Oregonians to transform their thinking about individual and community health as well as their thinking about the health and medical care delivery system. Specifically, the board "sees no sustainable way to finance universal health care except with hand-in-hand changes that transform the health care system as we know it." As such, the board envisions a system that aims to achieve **three primary objectives:**

Population Health: A healthy population, measured by life expectancy, infant mortality, quality of life, universal access to care, and similar metrics accessed throughout the industrial world.

Experience of Care: High quality outcomes for each individual who encounters the health care system, with patient-centered care based on the best available science, but also on the human

needs of each individual.

Per Capita Cost: Reasonable per capita costs shared in an equitable way by the entire population.

Eight Essential Building Blocks to A Healthy Oregon

The Oregon Health Fund Board's draft outlines eight "building blocks" to achieve the above objectives:

Bring everyone under the tent: As a first step, cover children and some low-income adults by leveraging federal funds with provider-based taxes. These taxes should not be passed on to the public in the form of higher health care costs or insurance premiums. Subsequent coverage expansions during 2011-2013 will be tied to cost containment and available funding.

Set high standards, measure and report: Ensuring transparency of costs and health outcomes throughout the system will create competitive pressure between providers to continuously improve.

Stimulate system innovation: Insisting on new models of care including prioritizing prevention, managing chronic disease, sharing decision making at end-of-life, using evidence-based medicine and strongly emphasizing primary care will improve health outcomes and reduce costs.

Unify and leverage purchasing power: By coordinating its purchasing strategies, the State will lead the way to stimulate development of new models of care, reduction of unnecessary administrative costs and reasonable price setting. Combining tough purchasing power with innovative solutions that deliver high value services will increase the pace of change.

Train a new workforce: They will meet the coming crunch and together with existing professionals, will help build an innovative delivery system.

Focus on health equities: Addressing the social determinants that are the root causes of ill health is the only way to build a healthy population.

Advocate for Federal changes: In addition to Federal waivers, and additional funding, Oregon must advocate for Federal policies that support our goals.

Formation of an Oregon Health Authority: To be accountable for the performance of Oregon's Health System, this authority would replace the Health Policy Commission and the Oregon Health Fund Board.

YOUR & MORE Comments Are Needed!

To review the Oregon Health Fund Board's full 78-page draft, town hall slide presentation, executive summary, action steps, meeting minutes, newsletters and more, go to

<http://healthfundboard.oregon.gov>.

To provide written testimony and comments via e-mail, send them to ohfb.info@state.or.us.

To provide written testimony and comments via mail, send them to Oregon Health Fund Board, General Services Bldg., 1225 Ferry St SE, 1st Fl, Salem, OR 97301.

To answer the board's 45-question survey regarding public attitude toward the plan, go to:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=vicG_2bp_2biRbBHII2V5y_2b4CQ_3d_3d

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

Constitution Day-Table in plaza and at Co-op to publicize league, register voters, educate community on Constitution and raise funds.

Voters Guide and Candidate Fair- Local voters guide will be published on our website and 500 printed copies will be distributed. Deadline for candidate's response is Oct 1.

Candidate Fair and Forum is October 11 at SOU, Rogue River Room. The League is co-sponsoring the event with SOU, AAUW, and The Ashland Daily Tidings.

Mock Elections- LWVA is assisting Ashland middle and high schools and Talent middle school in preparing mock elections for students.

Library Levy- LWVA supports the library levy.

LWVOR workshop in Eugene- Judith will attend and Regina and Eleanore may attend.

VOTERS' GUIDES AVAILABLE SOON

You will soon be receiving an electronic version of the LWVOR guide to candidates for state offices and ballot measures and LWVA's comparable local guide specifically for Ashland voters. Members who lack e-mail will receive printed copies. They will also be available at libraries, schools and senior centers. To download additional copies of the state guide, go to www.lwvor.org; for the LWVA guide, go to www.ashland.or.lwvnet.org

LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Seeking Members:

The LWVUS is looking for new members to join the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF). The CCTF was established in 2007 to use the expertise of the membership to provide information and assistance to the LWVUS Board and staff on issues pertaining to climate change. If you have experience with climate change and/or energy issues, we are looking for you. Interested? [Download the application form](#) from the LWVUS Web site. The deadline was September 30, 2008, but it still may be possible to be part of this task force.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our September 21st get-together was a lovely affair. At exactly 4:00 p.m., the clouds lifted, the sun came out, and Laurie Hunter's harp sounded the perfect note for a beautiful afternoon. Besides enjoying food, wine and each other's company, League members and guests heard about forthcoming League events. We also collected dues, donations and possibly a few new members. Wish all of you had been there.

Not surprisingly, September was a busy month in general for the League. On the 8th, Regina Ayars, our Voter Service Director, set up a table at the Saturday Growers' Market to register voters, publicize the League and provide local government candidates an opportunity to meet the public. She'll be doing the same for much of October. On the 17th, Constitution Day, we had a table at the Plaza and also at the Co-op, again to register voters and publicize the League, but also to make people aware of the Constitution. We had a quiz for them to take and copies of pocket-sized Constitutions and replicas of the real thing available for a possible donation. We found it amusing that although few adults who took the quiz knew the answer to the question about which amendment guarantees a speedy trial, the homeless youth sitting nearby strumming their guitars did know it. On the other hand, they missed the questions relating to separation of powers that most of us would find easy.

Another occasion for the League to be on hand was the presentation by Jane Roberts, co-founder of 34 Million Friends of UNFPA, established in 2002 in response to the U.S. Administration's refusal to allocate the funds authorized by Congress for UNFPA, presumably because of the UN program's emphasis on family planning. She and another woman, Lois Abraham, both had the same idea that if 34 million Americans contributed \$1.00 a piece, that would cover the 34 million dollars the Administration was withholding. It was inspiring to realize what one or two people can accomplish, as we saw her slides and heard her speak about her organization's work to improve the health and education of women in Senegal and Mali. Anyone who would like to know more about 34 Million Friends or donate to the organization should log on to www.34millionfriends.org

This past Saturday, Iris Milan, who's heading up our Mock Elections activities, Regina and I were in Eugene at the State League workshop, which focused on Voter Service. Besides hearing what other local Leagues were doing and learning more about the State League's thinking on current ballot measures, we saw a demonstration of a new computer program that allows

seeing impaired voters to fill out a computerized ballot in their homes or wherever the program is available. Another highlight of the day was a skit on how not to be a nonpartisan speaker and a question and answer session on when board members, especially League presidents and voter service directors, can participate in election activities, yet not appear partisan. Apparently, local Leagues have considerable discretion on where to draw the line and boards should discuss their policy. We left the workshop carrying away three large lawn signs, one each for the Ashland, Talent and SOU libraries, stating under the League logo, *VOTERS' GUIDES AVAILABLE HERE*. This year they'll also have our local *Voters' Guide*, which the board hopes to have available by the October 11th Candidates' Fair and Forums.

In the past few days, you've received e-mails from me to alert you to two programs on health care, a national issue for our organization. One relates to the Oregon Health Care Board and the deadline to receive public comments on its report. The other is a program on October 1st, 1:00 p.m., on *Health Care Reform 2008: The need, options, costs and ethics*, by Dr. John Forsyth. The program is part of the Community Lecture Series of SOU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), held at the Campbell Center on Frances Lane (off Siskiyou Blvd, opposite Market of Choice shopping center). While OLLI courses are available to OLLI members only, guests may attend the lecture series, so if you're not members, come as my guests.

Next month, we may be trying a different method to let you know about League events and activities. Instead of producing *The Advocate*, we may follow the example of such other organizations as Peace House. They gear their communications to an e-mail format that unlike our newsletter has no masthead. The e-mail opens with a table of contents, and people who receive it can then scroll down to select the items they want to read. In our case, we would print the e-mail and mail it to members who lack e-mail.

We hope this experiment works, but if not, we can always return to *The Advocate* and another President's Message from.....

-- Judith

Editor's Correction: Last month I erroneously listed the wrong person as our Director for Membership and Publicity. Mucho apologizies to Eleanore Perkins, our fabulous true director!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ASHLAND
P.O. BOX 1296
ASHLAND, OR 97520

**JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
2008-2009**

Annual Membership Dues:
Individual Membership: \$60 ____ Household Membership: \$90 ____
Student Membership: \$30

NAME _____ **ADDRESS** _____
E-MAIL: _____ **PHONE:** _____
NEW MEMBER: _____ **RENEWAL** _____ **ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION:** _____
My Special Interest/s: _____

**Please make your check payable to League of Women Voters of Ashland (LWVA)
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Thank you for your support!