

Join Us Thursday, March 9, at 12 Noon

Voter Service Unit

Zoom Invitations Forthcoming



Classroom Law Project Program Manager for Southern Oregon, Frank Honts, is taking over the Mock Trial, Courthouse Experience Tour, and Law Day in our area as the Classroom Law Project celebrates forty years of service in Oregon. Frank is a wonderful speaker and we are fortunate to have him in Ashland now. Please welcome him on a Zoom call on March 9 at noon for 20 minutes plus time for questions.

The Classroom Law Project is an important partner of the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) in our efforts to promote Civics Education. LWVOR has worked to require a term of Civics Education in high school starting this year.

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Changes to the Rogue Valley LWV—Chair’s Remarks, Kathleen Donham

The Board of the Rogue Valley League has decided to adapt to the realities of the last few years and change the way members participate in League activities. Our old method of monthly meetings in person has become unsustainable given the woman-power resources of the board. We want to continue to offer meaningful member interactions, but not on a monthly basis, and not necessarily planned for everyone-all-at-once. Instead, we propose quarterly meetings, i.e. 1) Fall program on elections/government, 2) a Holiday social meeting for fundraising and charitable giving, 3) Spring field trip, and 4) Annual Meeting. In addition, we want to offer a chance to talk with our fellow members about topics of interest as "Unit Meetings".

Currently we have three such starter "Units":

- 1) **Electronic Candidate Forums** started by member Jim Crary which involves discussing methods of direct questioning of candidates on a public digital platform.
- 2) **Ranked Choice Voting/ Proportional Voting Methods** discussion and action group addressing Oregon efforts to enact legislation.
- 3) **Enfranchisement and Education (essentially Voter Service)**—voter education programs, registration, candidate debates, and Vote411.org interviews. This unit will follow the election and school schedules.

If these topics do not match your interest, please consider starting your own—even if it is only one meeting. Meet wherever and whenever you want.

Please let me know about your questions.

Kathleen Donham voterservice@lwvroguevalley.org

Ranked Choice Voting Unit, Barbara Klein

On Friday, February 24, members of the LWVRV met in Ashland to discuss Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Barbara Klein delivered a refresher on the benefits of RCV; we had a mock election of preferred ideas for activities and a few laughs. We also welcomed some new potential members. Look forward to another meeting sometime in April, perhaps in the Medford area.



Barbara Klein



Jean Buck

LWV Oregon Endorses HB 2004

Background and Information on Ranked Choice Voting Bill And ACTION for LWV Rogue Valley

You may remember part of our state position on election methods from 2017: *The League of Women Voters of Oregon recognizes that election methods affect how voters participate in our democracy, who can run for office, and who can get elected.* Therefore, the League supports election methods that:

- Encourage voter participation and voter engagement.
- Encourage participation of those with minority opinions to participate.
- Are easy to use.
- Are verifiable and auditable.
- Promote access to voting.
- Promote competitive elections.
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting.
- Discourage negative campaigning.
- Prevent political manipulation (e.g. Gerrymandering).
- Are compatible with vote-by-mail elections

(References: Governance January 2021 The League of Women Voters® of Oregon, page 35 and page 34 for position related to vote-by mail.)

With this position in mind, the League of Women Voters Oregon (LWVOR) recently endorsed Oregon [House Bill 2004](#) which establishes Rank Choice Voting (RCV) elections for all statewide and federal offices, for both primary and general elections with three or more candidates. It also provides a local option for cities and counties to use RCV elections and helps to ensure standardized implementation for county clerks.

As the sponsors point out, this particular bill does not establish open primaries, nor does it include the Oregon Legislature.

According to LWVOR study reports, Rank Choice Voting is one of the best methods for leading to more reflective outcomes and improving representation. It also has proven success - having been used or adopted in over 60 jurisdictions across the U.S., including four in our own state.

To learn more about Rank Choice Voting and HB 2004 [visit here.](#)



Take Action

- While the bullet below addresses writing your legislator, I am aware that many members in the Rogue Valley league are represented by Senator Jeff Golden and Rep. Pam Marsh, both of whom have already sponsored this bill. For those members in their district, you might consider a SHORT note to say “Thank you for sponsoring HB 2004, the Ranked Choice Voting bill.” You can reach them at: rep.pammarsh@oregonlegislature.gov and Sen.JeffGolden@oregonlegislature.gov
- For others, write your legislator **as an individual**, asking them to sponsor and/or support HB 2004, using [this website](#) which gives guidance on talking points.
- Share [this image](#) on social media and encourage others to write their representatives, using [this website](#) which gives guidance on talking points.
- Testify **as an individual** (the League will be testifying as well). HB 2004’s public hearing will most likely be in April/May. If you would like to testify (send in a statement), please complete [this form](#) to let HB 2004 organizers know so they can help you through the testimony process.

Barbara Klein, LWVRV Action Chair
action@lwwroguvalley.org

Voter Service Update, Kathleen Donham

The May 16, 2023 Special Election in Jackson County will consist of twelve special district elections which are usually volunteer positions and unopposed ([see Feb. newsletter](#) page 7). There are eleven district elections in Josephine County. Voter Service is considering sponsoring a “Meet and Greet” event, perhaps at the Spring Fair, which in Jackson County is the weekend of May 5. This event is well attended and might be a good venue to introduce candidates to the public. Members with opinions about this suggestion are urged to email voterservice@lwwroguvalley.org.

There are two ballot measures proposed in Jackson County. One is the dissolution of the Charlotte Ann Water District. The other is a Rogue River School District 35 request for \$4,465,000 in general obligation bonds to improve safety and construct and renovate schools and classrooms. There are no ballot measures for Josephine County.

Vote411.org in Oregon has renewed its option to spend \$6000 to participate in the May election. Local Leagues are asked to participate by entering data into a state spreadsheet giving the details about candidates and urging candidates to participate. Please let Voter Service/Kathleen Donham (541-772-5044) know if you have time to make phone calls reminding candidates to answer our interview questions or do data entry. It is not necessarily exciting work, but it is very important in making our Vote411.org a reliable and useful tool for voters to get information about candidates.

National Popular Vote

You Can **Still** Help.

National Popular  Vote!

Currently, there are states representing 195 electors of the 270 needed to enact the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) for US president.

This spring we have a **good chance to pass states that represent more than 30 additional electors**, and a possible chance of reaching 270.

Your Help is Still Needed

in making

Every Vote Equal

If you are willing to do 'text-banking' or 'phone-banking' or write postcards for the national effort that is currently concentrating on Minnesota, Michigan, Maine, Alaska and perhaps others, please consider learning how. It's easy. (Contact League member below).

Reminder: the state of Oregon has already signed onto the NPV interstate compact. LWVOR was a sponsor. Now it is your chance to take it further.

Contact: Barbara Klein, action@lwwroguevalley.org

Barbara was on the original NPV national study (2008) and the sponsor of the 2010 LWVUS concurrence that passed the support for NPVIC along with abolition of the Electoral College. She then served on the LWVUS National Popular Vote Task Force. And she currently participates on the LWVOR action committee.

A History Story by Olena Black

As some of you may remember, a project was started in 2021 to archive the printed paper of the League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley (LWVRV). This is an update and a request.

At this time, February of 2023, the folders containing the documents that are a record of the LWVRV have been filed at the Southern Oregon Historical Society (SOHS.org). The process of Accession has also been completed and the LWVRV collection number is 2022.2.

The 700 plus file folders have been added to file cabinets and each folder has been labeled with a number and a title identifying the contents. The files numbers and description are then entered in the SOHS archive system so a file can be retrieved electronically from the internet.

Here is a link: <https://sohs.catalogaccess.com/search?search=2022.2>

The first 51 items have been entered. **We are asking you to volunteer** to spend an hour or two a week going to the SOHS library and sitting at a provided computer to do some data entry to complete this effort.

The data entry has a complete “How To Do” instruction available. Once you get a tutorial, the work is really kind of a review of what the League does and has done in the Rogue Valley for 70 years. It has an added benefit of volunteering for the History Center and learning a bit about archiving history.

Contact either Olena Black webadmin@lwwroguevalley.org or the Archivist Jan Wright archivist@sohs.org.

Can you spare 1-2 hours for some **In-Home Research** for a “sister” League?

The Klamath League is seeking help and figuring out how to respond to the **Greater Idaho Movement**.

According to Klamath, to date this “movement” has been placed on seven county ballots. For more information see: <https://www.greateridaho.org/>.

LWVRV agrees that this is a serious situation, one which some in the state may think could “never happen.” We do not share that point of view, although we do think the movement is unlikely to gain enough traction to seriously threaten areas like Klamath Falls, Jackson, or Josephine counties.

We think it is important for other League members around the state to understand the stress that this would cause voters and members in the targeted areas.

Klamath League is asking LWVRV if anyone will help them review LWV positions (whether national or state) that would “speak” to this situation. Further, there may be another League somewhere in the nation with a position that is relevant (found on the LWV clearinghouse). If the latter, an appropriate position could be adopted through the concurrence process.

Please let Barbara Klein know of your interest at action@LwvRogueValley.org.



LWVRV Calendar

March

- Thursday 9 Classroom Law Project, 12:00
- Sunday 12 Daylight Saving Time Begins, 1 Hour Forward
- Thursday 16 Board Meeting, 10:00
- Friday 17 Budget Meeting, 10:45
- Monday 27 Newsletter submissions due

April

- Thursday 20 Board Meeting, 10:00
- Thursday 27 Newsletter submissions due

Note: The 2023 (82nd) Regular Legislative Session began on January 17 and will run until June 25. If you're not already getting the LWVOR Action Committee's weekly Legislative Report, go to www.lwvor.org and sign up.

- The League of Women Voters Rogue Valley welcomes submissions to the newsletter, *The Voters' Voice*. Editor Jim Buck can be reached at newsletter@lwvroguevalley.org and 541-830-0602.
- LWVRV
P.O. Box 8555
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- Contact the webmaster:
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- Website: <https://lwvroguevalley.org/wp>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/lwvr/>
- Email: pres@lwvroguevalley.org
- If you must have a mailed paper copy of this newsletter, please call Jim at 541-830-0602 or email newsletter@lwvroguevalley.org
- You should also be receiving newsletters by email from State and National.
- **For a membership application**, go [here](#)