



## **Medford School Board Candidates “Meet and Greet”**

**Monday, May 8, 4:30 — 6:30 PM**

**Dunbar Farms 2881 Hillcrest Road, Medford**

***Voterservice@LWVRogueValley.org***

**Sponsored by the League of Women Voters**

The Medford School Board role:

- Appoints and evaluates the Superintendent
- Supports the long-range direction and vision of the district as detailed in the Coherency Map
- Establishes policies that direct the instructional and support programs
- Communicates and engages with the community
- Calls for elections on bonds and other funding proposals
- Advocates for education with local and state leaders
- Recognizes staff and community contributions
- Approves large contracts and agreements, including those with employee groups
- Approves the annual budget

## Acting Chair's Column for April 2023—Kathleen Donham

The Annual Meeting has been delayed until June 7, 11:30 AM at Dunbar Farms. This late date allows for several things to happen: 1) Nominating (Olena) has extra time to find leadership for the coming year. 2) The Annual Meeting Packet will not have to arrive in your mailbox until May 8 (allowing me to visit Mom for her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday) and 3) We will be able to get a report from our delegates who attended the State Convention.

Treasurer Jean Buck and Action Chair Barbara Klein will be attending as our delegates. Olena Black is recovering from surgery, but may attend as an observer. Other League activities include a "Meet & Greet" of Medford School Board candidates on May 8, 4:30-6:30 PM at Dunbar Farms. PLEASE ATTEND if you live in the Medford District.

Also, our Board is looking for a storage option for the many items of League materials stored with members. We hope to find a central location with easy access for League leaders between Ashland and Medford.

Please consider joining a Unit meeting or helping with the board assignments as we start this new year.

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### Ashland Measure Explored – Barbara Klein

LWVRV held an Educational Webinar for **Ballot Measure 15-214 Proposed Amendments to Ashland's Food and Beverage Tax Ordinance**. We thank the LWVRV Voter Service Committee (particularly Kathleen Donham) for arranging this forum. And a special thank you to the speakers.

The controversial measure was explained by Ashland City Manager **Joe Lessard**, who also answered questions about his presentation and related city process.

A **"no" vote** stance was addressed by **David Runkel**, 12-year veteran of the Ashland Citizen Budget Committee and PAC Save Our Parks.

A **"yes" vote** in support of the measure was covered by **Michael Gardiner**, former member of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioner and author of a **support position** in the Voters' Pamphlet.

The educational webinar held on **Tuesday**, April 25<sup>th</sup> was open to the public and is now available for viewing at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjIT7MzPbR0>



## Unit on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

On April 24, the LWVRV unit exploring RCV met via zoom to discuss goals and approaches for possible plans.



One topic may be of value to others who did not join us for that meeting. Namely, “developing” your own elevator speech to briefly answer what RCV is and why you would support it. As most people are aware an elevator speech needs to be short, easy for YOU to remember, and invite more questions.

We had some great statements suggested during the meeting, often creative and unique. I received one such sample after the meeting (from someone not in attendance). But it’s a good one (as most all of them were) and figured I would share it here as you start to consider your own.

*RCV is a simple upgrade to how we vote, providing better representation for all voters by allowing expression of preferences.*

Thanks to those who attended. We plan to meet again over the summer sometime and are fully open to ideas and plans. All members are welcome. If you want to make sure not to miss any notices regarding this, drop me a note at [action@lwwroguvalley.org](mailto:action@lwwroguvalley.org) (with the words “LWVRV RCV unit” in the subject line).

Barbara Klein  
LWVRV Action Chair

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## Election Tuesday, May 16, 2023

*My Opinion*—Kathleen Donham

There are ten candidates for the Medford School Board, seven for the Phoenix-Talent school board, and five for the Transportation District. How will you choose? Our graduating high school seniors and newly registered voters face these same decisions, and frequently become disillusioned by the lack of clear information for voting. Our League can do debates and forums with candidates, but not all at the same time for a given election. Our best answer right now is [vote411.org](http://vote411.org), but if candidates do not participate, it is not helpful. Our Voters’ Pamphlet and the League Voters Guide is useful, but often the statements are too vague or generalized for clear distinctions between candidates.

League Member Jim Crary has suggested a digitized platform for all candidates in Oregon to answer questions directly from voters. Jackson County Clerk Chris Walker said that the Oregon Secretary of State claims that a state-run “Electronic Candidate Forum,” which Crary’s proposal is called, would be extremely expensive. Nonetheless, I suspect that our digital age descendants will eventually adopt such a program, and we might as well start working on it. As the *Washington Post* says: “Democracy Dies in Darkness”. Let me know what you think—join the Voter Service Committee.

## Want to have a Meeting about YOUR Pet Topic?

Just as a reminder, LWVRV is hoping to have more, smaller meetings on particular topics of interest to you. These meetings – or units – can be about ANY subject that relates to League principles or positions.

If you have an idea that you are considering or want to plan ahead for, visit our website at this link for more information [Unit Meeting Planner 2023-2024 | League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley \(lwwroguevalley.org\)](#). There you will also find the short, simple form that walks you through your suggestion.

For any questions **AFTER reviewing the website**, contact Barbara Klein at [action@lwwroguevalley.org](mailto:action@lwwroguevalley.org) if your topic relates to a subject that the League may take action on, AND for which we have a position. If it involves Voter Services, contact **Kathleen Donham** at [voterservices@lwwroguevalley.org](mailto:voterservices@lwwroguevalley.org). If you aren't sure, contact [pres@lwwroguevalley.org](mailto:pres@lwwroguevalley.org).

# EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

The League of Women Voters is a **nonpartisan, grassroots** organization working to **protect and expand voting rights** and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through **advocacy, education, and litigation**, at the local, state, and national levels.

## LWVRV Calendar

### May

- Monday 8 Medford School Board Candidates Meet & Greet, 4:30-6:30 PM, Dunbar Farms
- Tuesday 16 Special Election
- Fri-Sun 19-21 State Conference, Eugene

### June

- Wednesday 7 Annual Meeting, 11:30 – 1:30, Dunbar Farms

**Note:** The 2023 (82<sup>nd</sup>) 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](http://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](mailto:newsletter@lwvroguevalley.org) and 541-830-0602.
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- **For a membership application**, go [here](#)