



WE NEED YOUR HELPING HANDS

Report from the Acting League Chair, Kathleen Donham

The LWVRV Board received an update from Olena Black, who has been coordinating the Nominating Committee activities. **We are still looking for a president and vice-president.** We hope that someone is willing to take on the role, possibly as part of a duo, or as we have had in the past, a trio. A team that is willing to meet frequently enough to stay informed about the mutual tasks has worked well previously. The job will be significantly easier now that the board has made structural changes to our timeline.

This new timeline looks basically like this:

October Meeting: Voter Service Activity/ Election Education

December: Social/ Holiday gathering for Non-profit donations

January: Program Planning Meeting ONLY if Proposals are received

March: Field trip

May: Annual Membership Meeting

So, the planning for large meetings is markedly reduced, with possibly only four per year. Monthly board meetings are over Zoom, and there is a well-worn path to follow for those. **Please consider volunteering for the League.** No other local organization shares our mission in such a non-partisan, transparent, and welcoming way.

We anticipate that Unit meetings will occur as needed, such as those for Concurrence (April 17), Ranked-Choice Voting/RCV (April 24), Voter Service activities, or study sessions on special topics. We hope members will be willing to schedule their special unit interests in their homes or in public venues. Do you have a topic (local, state, or national) that you would like to discuss with other members? You now have access to our directory and of course to our positions. Please contact Kathleen at 541-772-5044 if you would like to send out a message to the entire membership, or write a draft proposal using this form [Unit Meeting Planner](#).

Thanks to members

Joyce Chapman & Suzanne Rothenberg

For helping with outreach to other states
to promote the
National Popular Vote
for US President.



Oregon has signed onto this interstate compact, but the US still needs 75 more electors to activate it and make certain that

Every Vote is Equal.

Joyce is a long-time member and **Suzanne** has joined us just recently.

Appreciation to both of them.

If you would like to be on the list of those willing to help this cause, contact Barbara Klein at action@lwwroguevalley.org.



*Are you in favor of changing Oregon's closed primaries to open primaries?
Or do you feel only political parties should choose the candidates for
offices?*

*Under the current primary system, Oregon voters registered as
independent (over 40% of registered voters) cannot vote in the primaries,
even though their taxes also pay for the election.*

JOIN US MONDAY, APRIL 17th, AT 1:00 PM

Hear the pros and cons of the Concurrence proposal that will be presented at the LWVOR Convention in May.

Learn what a Concurrence is, how it differs from the study/consensus process, and what its ramifications are.

Learn why supporters of open primaries are seeking concurrence of LWV Maryland's position.

The program will be presented using the Zoom format and we estimate it will last around 30 minutes. We will send the membership a Zoom link a day or so before the scheduled presentation.

So, mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!

R. Bennett and S. Smith, presenters



Election Reform Unit
Mark YOUR Calendar NOW

LWV Rogue Valley meeting

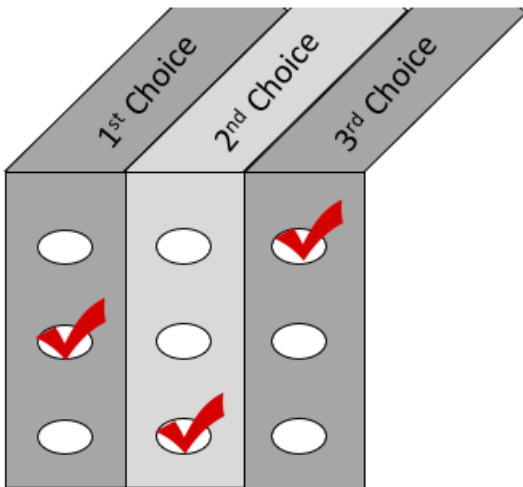
April 24th 4:30 PM

Join us via **ZOOM**

Questions – Comments – Ideas – Updates

This is an open meeting for members and potential members to discuss

RANKED CHOICE VOTING



Unit meeting agenda
(although open to change)

- ✓ Ideas & report back from last meeting (in Ashland)
- ✓ Local possibilities in Rogue Valley
- ✓ Updates in Oregon
- ✓ How might state action play out locally?

Members will receive an email with a link to this meeting (link not listed in newsletter)

Mark your calendar now to hold the date & time.

Next meeting currently planned for Medford.

Direct questions to Barbara Klein at action@lwvroguevalley.org

VOTER SERVICE EVENTS ---ROGUE VALLEY – Kathleen Donham

Classroom Law Project—LWVRV invited Southern Oregon Program Manager Frank Honts to introduce the League to this civic education program. I have personally volunteered to do a few programs this spring which introduce students to the judicial system using tours of the Juvenile Probation Building, the Jackson County DA office, and the County Courthouse. Students in grades 5-12 get a chance to experience the jury boxes and sit in the judge’s seat. Frank Honts also organizes a Mock Trial and would like to involve the League in Mock Elections projects. Former League president Trish Bowcock participated in judging the Classroom Law Project Mock Trials competition. I hope you will also consider helping with this collaboration.

Elections Tour March 28—County Clerk Chris Walker spoke to members about the challenges facing the Jackson County Elections office as they prepare for the May 16 ballots. The following are items from our meeting notes that may interest League members:

1. Incidences of vandalism in the parking lot and phone threats have been experienced by staff at election offices as part of a nation-wide increase in intimidation.
2. Ms. Walker made clear that changes in revenues from the non-election portion of the clerk’s office (fees, registrations, property tax appeals etc.) have impacted the County Clerk’s Office, because the department is supposed to be self-supporting. Upgrades to software and contractual obligations to providers have been particularly expensive.
3. Turn out for the May 16 election is predicted to be light (perhaps as low as 25%). Some drop boxes will consequently be available for one week less than in past elections.



4. Despite having a paid postage stamp on Oregon ballots, voters in Jackson County still use ballot boxes up to 50-60% of the time, depending on the election.
5. Chris Walker invited us to observe again during the elections, and encourages members to apply to the temp agency *Personnel Source* (a regional employment service 541-776-7466), if interested in working during the election.
6. The Elections Office has only two full-time staff members in addition to Ms. Walker, and therefore depends on temporary staff during election time.
7. Because the hardware systems in use vary from county to county, the Secretary of State’s office does not routinely offer standardized software technical help for all counties.

MAY 16, 2023 ELECTION UPDATE

- The Vote411 team has completed entering data for the Vote411 candidates for Jackson and Josephine Counties. **Many thanks to Mary Sinclair and Jim Buck!**
- The new *Voters Pamphlet* is now on-line at: <https://jacksoncountyor.org/clerk/Elections/Upcoming-Current-Elections/Special-Elections>. It will be mailed on April 17. Do not expect to find everything you want to know about over 100 candidates.
- Josephine County Voters Pamphlet is at: https://cms9files.revize.com/josephinecountyor/JOSEPHINE_VP_NOV22_Digital.pdf.
- There are **five ballot measures** in Jackson County. Would anyone from Ashland like to familiarize themselves with BM 15-214 and 15-215 for public voter education? There are no ballot measures for Josephine County, but there are 45 candidates for special districts.
- Ballots will be mailed on April 28. The last day to register is April 25.



LWVRV Calendar

April

- Monday 17 Concurrence Discussion, 1:00 PM, Zoom
- Thursday 20 Board Meeting, 10:00
- Monday 24 Ranked Choice Voting, 4:30 PM, Zoom
- Thursday 27 Newsletter submissions due

May

- Fri-Sun 19-21 State Conference, Eugene
- Thursday 25 LWVRV Annual Meeting (tentative)

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
Medford, OR 97501
- Contact the webmaster:
webadmin@lwvroguevalley.org
- 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](#)