



## Join Local Study Committees!

Mary Hepokoski

The Portland LWV adopted two local studies at the annual meeting this spring. One study is a two-year look at **Public School Districts in Portland**. This study will review the current position as it relates to service delivery in Portland Public Schools, David Douglas School District, Parkrose School District and possibly the Centennial and Reynolds School Districts, in order to identify any major issues needing further study and consensus during year two.

The second study is a revision of the local **City Planning** Position to include contemporary topics such as environmental issues, sustainability, infrastructure, population growth and density, using relevant LWVUS and LWVOR positions with concurrence planned for spring.

All interested members are urged to contact Mary Hepokoski, Member Education Chair.

### Election 2008 Important Dates

Election Day:  
Tuesday, November 4

Voter Registration  
deadline:  
Tuesday, October 14

## October General Meetings

### Ballot Measure Forum

Wednesday, October 8, 12:00 noon

*Please arrive early as the program may be videotaped.*

Board Room, Multnomah County Building,  
501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard, Portland

Live presentation with presenters for both sides of selected state ballot measures. Measures that may be covered are: Measure 65 which would change the primary election to advance the top two finishers to the general election, regardless of party affiliation; Measure 59 which would allow full deduction of federal income taxes on state income tax returns; Measure 56, a constitutional amendment, which would exempt May and November elections from the double majority (50/50) requirement on property tax measures; Measure 58 which would bar bilingual education of public school students after 2 years of education; or Measure 60 which would change how teachers' pay raises are determined. These ballot measures were selected because they would have significant impact on the state if they pass; cover topics of LWV interest; or are fairly complicated to understand.

### Candidate Forum

Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 pm

*Please arrive early as we plan to videotape.*

Board Room, Multnomah County Building,  
501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard, Portland

Candidates scheduled to appear include:

Portland City Council: Charles Lewis and Amanda Fritz

Multnomah County Sheriff: Bob Skipper, Sam Oakland, and Muhammad Ra'oof

Multnomah County Commissioner District 3: Judy Shiprack and Mike Delman

Multnomah County Commissioner District 4: Diane McKeel and Carla Piluso

Parking: Ample street parking.

By Bus: TriMet bus lines from downtown: 4-Division to Gresham TC; 10-Harold to Foster Loop; 14-Hawthorne to 94th & Foster. Get off at SE Hawthorne & 6th.

**League of Women Voters  
of Portland, OR**

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**Voter** is produced 9 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Portland. We welcome your comments, suggestions, story ideas and submissions. Please contact Pat Chor or Heather Drake at the League office, 503-228-1675. Submissions must be received no later than the Friday before the board meeting each month.

**October 2008**



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**President's Column**

*Betsy Pratt*

As we dive into the turbulent waters of election season, we are finding more rocks than usual. The *Portland Tribune*, which has been our mass distribution mechanism for the past several elections, is now producing only a single weekly edition, although their on-line version is updated daily. They have also restructured their distribution zones – again. Despite successful fundraising, it looks as if we have in hand enough money to insert our *Voters' Guides* only in the downtown zone. All Portland League members will receive your own copy of the State and local *Voters' Guides*, but please tell your friends to look in the downtown Tribune boxes between October 16 and October 22. Copies will also be available through other sources, including county libraries and New Seasons grocery stores.

One of our past media partners, Portland Community Media, is pursuing a more entrepreneurial model these days. They prefer to produce programs that can be aired frequently

over several months. Candidate and ballot measure forums, which are so critical to our mission, don't fit this model very well. On the other hand, they explained that their goal is to enable "do-it-yourself" productions by training videographers, so if you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer cable producer, give us a call.

Barbara Fredericks is still negotiating arrangements, so we are keeping our fingers crossed. When we factor in all the other groups holding candidate's forums and publishing ballot measures, especially the on-line material, our special voters services get lost in the white water. While I've always been proud of our ballot measure information, and I don't think anyone can beat the League format for getting to know the candidates, by the next election cycle we will probably be using some very different approaches. Until then, please attend our October events and help spread the word about the *Voters' Guides*.

**Entertainment and Chinook Books for Sale**

This year our League will be selling both *Entertainment Books* and *Chinook Books* to raise funds for LWV of Portland.

**Entertainment Books** have been sold for our League for years by Carolyn Rundorff. Everybody knows the *Entertainment Book*: full of 50% and 2-for-1 discounts on restaurants, movies, sporting events and more. Books sell for \$20 and our League keeps \$5 of this.

**Chinook Books** sales are new for our League this year. The new edition of *Chinook Book* has over 300 coupons and resources for exploring our community and supporting local, sustainable businesses. Books sell for \$20

and our League keeps \$10 of this amount.

Our goal for sales of both these books is to raise \$400. There are three ways to buy:

1. Both books will be for sale at October candidate and ballot measure forums.
2. They can be ordered at unit meetings this month.
3. Call or email Pat Osborn for *Chinook Books* and Carolyn Rundorff for *Entertainment Books*.

## Election 2008: Voters Service

### Speakers' Bureau Volunteers Needed!

*Amy Hjerstedt*

As the fall election season approaches so do requests for LWV speakers on ballot measures. If you are interested in helping to inform and educate voters about ballot measures, please contact Amy Hjerstedt. There are two training sessions for volunteer speakers, which will be led by Betsy Pratt. The sessions are Tuesday, September 30th at noon and Wednesday, October 1st at 7 p.m. Both sessions will be held in the LWV office building, 310 SW 4th Ave., Room 433, Portland.

### Voter Registration Report

*Susan Proppe Tong*

In the August 22nd National Head Start Association (NHSA) Legislative E-Update, the following announcement went out to Head Start directors, the NHSA Board, Head Start state and regional association presidents, executive directors and parents.

*NHSA and the League of Women Voters Collaborate on NHSA Head Start Voter Registration Project*

*NHSA is pleased to announce the collaborative partnership with the League of Women Voters of the United States to coordinate the NHSA Head Start Voter Registration Project. Together with the League's 900 affiliates and the more than 18,000 Head Start centers, the potential to register the Head Start family and community will be enormous and in full view - impacting Head Start's future funding, national, and state early childhood education policy.*

*For the remainder of 2008, the League agreed to provide Head Start programs additional materials on voter registration and outreach for distribution to the field. For 2009 and beyond, NHSA and the League will formalize the partnership to establish an ongoing collaboration on voter registration issues. With this partnership, The League will encourage Local League affiliates to participate in NHSA/Head Start voter outreach efforts. In order for the Head Start community to accomplish the stated mission of the NHSA, "to unify the voices to enhance the lives of children, families and communities...by ensuring that Head Start remains the premier child development service in America... and ...influence federal legislation and policies..." your vote on November 4th is essential."*

As reported in the September Voter, the LWV office in Portland received a call from Albina Head Start requesting assistance with voter registration. We had four voter registration sites for Albina Head Start in August and we will provide additional voter registration at ten Albina Head Start sites, September 29th through October 3rd. The schedule listing the dates and sites for registration has been printed both in the Skanner and in the Sentinel. Many thanks to volunteers Debbie Kaye, Pat Russell, Darleane Lemley, Lynn Baker, Diane Howieson, and Susan Proppe Tong who have volunteered to assist with voter registration at one or more Albina Head Start sites the last week of September.

### Meet Mary Hepokoski Seasoned League Veteran

*Pat Chor*

Mary grew up in a family of eight children on a small farm in Minnesota. She met her husband, Peter, at the University of Minnesota. Mary taught junior high science until the birth of the first of their two sons. Joining the LWV in 1979, Mary served as president and board member of the Golden Valley chapter several times over her 23 years there. She ran for Minnesota State Legislature in 1986, served on her local school board, and moderated numerous candidate forums in the St. Paul/Minneapolis area.

Active in the LWV of Minnesota as well, Mary served as Natural Resources Chair, testifying before and serving on legislative committees. At the same time, her family provided volunteer infant foster care for Children's Home Society of Minnesota. Over 14 years of fostering children, the family cared for 40 infants and over 100 other children. She was also active in her church and in the Tibetan immigrant community in Minnesota.

In 2002, Peter's job was transferred to West Chester, PA. After the move, Mary joined the local League and was quickly drafted to serve as treasurer. Taking advantage of the move and fewer commitments, she also took up painting in water color, and started working as an AARP volunteer tax preparer.

After Peter's retirement, they moved to Portland in 2006. Mary has joined her first book group and is finishing up co-chairing the LWVOR Election Methods Study Committee. She also continues her work as an AARP volunteer tax preparer.

## Action Updates

Debbie Aiona

### October Meeting: Funding Affordable Housing in Portland's Urban Renewal Areas

The Action Committee consists of League members interested in learning more about local public policy issues and exploring ways in which the League can influence related decisions based on our positions. All members, including those who are actively involved and those who want an in-depth understanding of current issues, are invited to attend any of the monthly meetings. At the meetings the committee reviews current action items and develops recommendations to the board. Quite often, invited speakers address the group and provide detailed background information that is used to more effectively influence appropriate decisionmakers.

The committee will hold its regular meetings the first Friday of the month from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Due to a scheduling conflict, the October meeting will occur on **Friday, October 10, Room 433, Board of Trade Building**. The focus of the meeting will be an assessment of the policy adopted by City Council to dedicate 30 percent of urban renewal funds to low-income housing.

### Opportunities for Involvement

There are various opportunities available to League members who want to help make a difference by getting actively involved in the community.

1. Attend action committee meetings and increase your understanding of critical issues facing Portland.
2. Add your name to the action email list and receive reminders of monthly Action Committee meetings

and announcements of other meetings related to LWV issues. Send your email address to Debbie Aiona.

3. Become a League observer by attending public meetings and reporting back to the committee.

4. Choose an issue, follow it closely, and help shape League strategy in that specific area.

### The Portland Plan

Portland, the city known nationwide for its visionary urban design legacy, is about to undertake a three-year process updating the 1980 Comprehensive Plan and the 1988 Central City Plan. Once updated, these will be the guiding documents that determine how our city will develop and grow in the next 30 years. The city-wide effort builds on VisionPDX that describes our shared values of sustainability, equity and accessibility, and community connectedness and distinctiveness.

The League intends to be involved in this effort and encourages all of its members to participate. Opportuni-

ties will range from one-time community gatherings to more involved and intensive study groups. Information about upcoming meetings and opportunities will be included in the Voter and distributed through email. Keep your eye out for them and participate!! If this is to be Portland's Plan, the city needs to hear from all of us.

LWV members interested in participating more closely in the Portland Plan are invited to join the Portland Plan Subcommittee. It will meet during the regularly scheduled Action Committee meetings, at 1 p.m. the first Friday of each month.

### Take the Central Portland Plan Survey Now

What will Central Portland be like in 30 years? The Central Portland Plan will help us make decisions that will guide us in the future. Take a moment to fill out The Central Portland Plan Community Survey.

<http://www.portlandonline.com/portlandplan/index.cfm?c=47907>

## October Action Committee Meeting

### Funding Affordable Housing in Portland's Urban Renewal Areas

Friday, October 10, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Room 433, Board of Trade Building  
310 SW 4th Avenue, Portland

All members welcome. Questions? Call Debbie Aiona.

Join the Action Committee email list and receive updates and reminders!!!  
Email Debbie Aiona if you'd like your name added to the list.

## LWV Portland Recommends...

### Vote YES on Measure 26-94 (Children's Investment Fund)

## Superintendent Carole Smith Speaks to League

*Mary Hepokoski*

Portland Public Schools (PPS) Superintendent Carole Smith spoke to the question “What are your priorities and how will you implement them?”

She described looking at the previously adopted K-8 configuration. An action team studied this plan intensely in what she described as a very open process. This is the first year of full implementation of the K-8 plan with the eighth-graders now included. Currently PPS is exploring the question of whether eighth-graders in K-8 programs are getting equivalent education to those in a middle school and whether it is adequate preparation for high school.

A major priority is community involvement. “Connecting by 25” is a partnership of Portland Public Schools, the City of Portland, Multnomah County, and twenty five community groups involved with serving youth. Their goal is to connect every young person to school, work and community by the age of 25.

The Superintendent reported the results of a “cohort” study. Looking at all students who began as eighth-

graders in 2000, the school district found that only 54% graduated in four years; 57% graduated after five years; and less than 30% went on to some kind of post secondary education. In response to a question about the other 43% that did not graduate, she said that some got jobs with very little economic future, others became unemployed and some went to other schools. The goal is to have every student ready for either post secondary education or work at graduation.

Superintendent Smith emphasized the importance of supporting students to help them avoid failures that will “close a door” needed to meet an important goal for the student's future. To that end, PPS plans to focus on four milestones:

1. Are kindergarteners entering first grade ready to read? For the past two years 700 kindergartners who were identified as not being ready have attended a five-week summer early learners’ academy in the summer, funded by Nike.
2. Do third-graders have the appropriate literacy skills?
3. Are sixth through eighth-graders gaining the math skills they need to

take on Algebra by at least the ninth grade?

4. At the end of ninth grade are students on track with credit in the core classes? Studies show that those who are on track have a five times better chance of graduating than those who are not. In one example, Cleveland High School staff members mentored entering ninth graders who had not achieved the eighth grade benchmarks, resulting in a 27% higher rate of ninth-graders successfully completing the year and every mentored youth returning as a sophomore.

Another priority is the High School Design component. PPS is examining the transfer policy and the concept of neighborhood schools and looking at a variety of special high school programs like International Baccalaureate (IB), arts magnets, etc. They should be available somewhere in the city and be available to all students.

The final issue she discussed was the comprehensive look at facilities that PPS is doing in coordination with the City of Portland assessing the city’s facilities.

## LWV Portland Helps Organize School Board Forum

*Betsy Pratt*

On August 26, 2008, under the leadership of Carol Cushman, the Portland League conducted a successful candidate’s forum on behalf of the Portland School Board. The forum, which attracted a full audience, was essentially a public job interview for the 5 people seeking to replace Zone 4 representative Dan Ryan who moved to the Portland Schools Foundation. Mollie Keating served as moderator, and Nanette LaDu and Lynn Baker were timekeepers.

The five candidates – Stephen Blanton, Steve Buel, Martin Gonzalez, Rita Moore, and Mark Stephan – all demonstrated a keen awareness of the problems facing the school district and a strong willingness to participate in finding solutions. Surprisingly, after an hour critiquing the school district, the candidates were stumped when asked to describe recent positive accomplishments of the school board. After some thought, they consistently cited achieving a

degree of financial stability and hiring School Superintendent Carole Smith as the most praise-worthy actions.

The Portland League received generous thanks for our role from individual board members, school district staff, and media representatives. At their follow up meeting on August 28, the board selected Martin Gonzales to fill the vacancy and repeated their appreciation for the forum.

## LWV of Columbia River Region

### Metro Regional Transportation Planning

Jamie Snook, Metro Senior Transportation Planner  
Dana Lucero, Public Affairs Specialist

Tuesday, October 7, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Room 433, Board of Trade Building  
310 SW 4th Avenue, Portland

Note: LWVCRR is focusing on TriMet this program year. The first board meeting will be devoted to an overview of the regional transportation system. All League members are welcome to join us.

## November General Meeting

### Election Methods Study

Wednesday, November 12, 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Board Room, Multnomah County Building,  
501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard, Portland

The November General Meeting will touch on a number of the topics included in the focus of the League of Women Voters of Oregon study adopted in the spring of 2007. The issues of having a nonpartisan legislature, alternative methods of voting, the National Popular Vote Compact and open primaries are all included in the publication that will be mailed to members in late September. Members may want to look at the section on open primaries before the November election as it is important background for deciding your position on the Measure 65 ballot issue. We will be taking consensus on a number of these issues at the unit meetings in November.



## Membership: Renew Yours Today!

In each issue of the *Voter* you will find details of many important and interesting events and activities planned by Portland LWV. Renew your membership now and stay informed on issues of vital importance. If you don't have a renewal form handy, you can find one on the back of this *Voter*. And get involved! There are myriad fun and valuable volunteer opportunities available.

## LWVOR Ballot Measure Recommendations

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Oregon has voted to take these positions on Oregon's statewide ballot measures.

The LWV will only support or oppose a measure if we have researched and reached member consensus on the issue. "No position" on a ballot measure does not indicate neutrality; it means that the board does not feel that we have the research and member agreement to either support or oppose.

For descriptions of the measures, and the rationale for the LWVOR position, please refer to your copy of the LWVOR Fall *Voter*.

**Measure 54: YES**

**Measure 55: YES**

**Measure 56: YES**

**Measure 57: YES**

**Measure 58: NO POSITION**

**Measure 59: NO**

**Measure 60: NO POSITION**

**Measure 61: NO**

**Measure 62: NO**

**Measure 63: NO**

**Measure 64: NO**

**Measure 65: NO POSITION**

**Calendar**

| October 2008   |  |   |  |  |                           |  | November 2008                                 |  |                          |  |                        |  |                                       |   |                           |   |  |                          |  |                             |
|--|--|---|--|--|---------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------|--|------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| S  | M                                      | T   | W  | T                                      | F                         | S  | S   | M  | T                        | W                                      | T                      | F  | S                                     |   |                           |   |  |                          |  |                             |
|  |  |   | 1  | 2                                      | 3                         | 4  | 2   | 3  | 4                        | 5                                      | 6                      | 7  | 8                                     |   |                           |   |  |                          |  |                             |
| 5  | 6                                      | 7   | 8  | 9                                      | 10                        | 11   | 9   | 10   | 11                       | 12                                     | 13                     | 14   | 15                                    |   |                           |   |  |                          |  |                             |
| 12   | 13                                     | 14  | 15   | 16                                     | 17                        | 18   | 16  | 17   | 18                       | 19                                     | 20                     | 21   | 22                                    |   |                           |   |  |                          |  |                             |
| 19   | 20                                     | 21  | 22   | 23                                     | 24                        | 25   | 23  | 24   | 25                       | 26                                     | 27                     | 28   | 29                                    |   |                           |   |  |                          |  |                             |
| 26   | 27                                     | 28  | 29   | 30                                     | 31                        | 1  | 30  |  |                          |  |                        |  |                                       |   |                           |   |  |                          |  |                             |
| 1: <b>Speakers' Bureau Training</b><br>7:00 pm, Room 433 | 7: <b>LWVCRR</b><br>10:30 am, Room 433 | 8: <b>Ballot Measure Forum</b><br>12:00 pm, Mult. Bldg. | 9: <b>Exec Committee</b><br>12:00 pm, Room 520 | 10: <b>Action</b><br>1:00 pm, Room 433 | 13: <b>Voter Deadline</b> | 14: <b>Candidate Forum</b><br>7:00 pm, Mult. Bldg. | 20: <b>Board Meeting</b><br>5:45 pm, Room 433 | 27: <b>Mailing Party</b><br>10:00 am, Room 520 | 28: <b>Office Closed</b> | 4: <b>LWVCRR</b><br>10:30 am, Room 433 | 4: <b>Election Day</b> | 5: <b>Exec Committee</b><br>12:00 pm, Room 520 | 7: <b>Action</b><br>1:00 pm, Room 433 | 12: <b>General Meeting</b><br>12:00 noon, Mult. Bldg. | 14: <b>Voter Deadline</b> | 17: <b>Board Meeting</b><br>5:45 pm, Room 433 | 20: <b>LWVOR Legislative Process Day</b><br>All Day, Salem | 25: <b>Office Closed</b> | 26: <b>Mailing Party</b><br>10:00 am, Room 520 | 27-28: <b>Office Closed</b> |

**Calendar Location Key:**

**Room 520** and **Room 433** are located at our office building: Board of Trade Building, 310 SW 4th Avenue, Portland (4th Avenue between Stark and Oak Streets)

The **Mult. Bldg.** is located at 501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard. The Board Room is located on the first floor.

**Unit Meetings**

**OCTOBER TOPIC:**

**Oregon & Local Ballot Measures**

*Bring the LWV Oregon & Multnomah County Voters' Guides. You may attend any unit that fits your schedule.*

Unit 4: North/Northeast

**Thursday, October 16, 1:00 p.m.**

Leader: Susan Proppe Tong

Host: Ann Masson

Unit 6: SW/NW Hills

**Friday, October 17, 9:30 a.m.**

Leader: Debbie Kaye

Host: Gail Post

Unit 7: Vermont Hills

**Monday, October 20, 9:30 a.m.**

Leader & Host: Jeanne Steed

Unit 5: Terwilliger Plaza

**Monday, October 20, 3:00 p.m.**

Leader: Jeanne Steed

Unit 3: Downtown

**Thursday, October 23, 12 noon**

Leader: Carol

Unit 2: Southeast

**Monday, October 27, 10:00 a.m.**

Leader: Mary McWilliams

Host: Mary Ann Schwab

Unit: 1: Southwest:

**Monday, October 27, 7:00 p.m.**

Leader & Host: Kathleen Hersh



**League of Women of Voters® of Portland**

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*“to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government”*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Inside this issue...**

- ◆ Ballot Measure Forum on October 8
- ◆ Candidate Forum on October 14
- ◆ Action Updates

*Have you sent in your membership renewal yet? Don't forget!*

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF PORTLAND**

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**Return to:  
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Phone/Fax: 503-228-1675**

**GIVE THIS TO A FRIEND  
MEMBERSHIP COUPON**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a new member!

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in working with the League this year. Please call me.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me more information about the League.

\_\_\_\_\_ I cannot join right now, but I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support League education activities. (Tax deductible if made to the LWV Portland Ed. Fund.)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_