



Voters' Guides Due Soon

Barbara Fredericks

We expect the *Voters' Guide* will be delivered to us by October 1. Editor Peggy Bengry and a large number of League volunteers have been working since late July to produce this guide to candidates and fourteen local ballot measures. They have done an extraordinary job.

New Online Voters' Guide! We are excited to offer a new way for voters to learn about the candidates and ballot measures. When you visit our online *Voters' Guide* at:

www.lwvpx.org

or

www.votesource.org

and type in your residence address, you will be presented with a customized *Voters' Guide* showing only the candidates and ballot measures that will appear on your ballot. You can also make notes on the candidates and measures, email your comments to family and friends, and print the *Voters' Guide* for use as you mark your ballot. Please give it a try and let us know what you think!

For voters who prefer the traditional *Voters' Guide*, PDF versions of our *Voters' Guide* will also be available at our website. You can find paper copies at Multnomah County library branches beginning in early October.

Election Forums

Candidate Forum:

Multnomah County Commissioner, District 2

Tuesday, October 5, 7:00 pm
Board Room, Multnomah County Building,
501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard

Ballot Measure Forum

Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 pm
Board Room, Multnomah County Building,
501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard

Hear from supporters and opponents of four ballot measures:

- City of Portland Measure 26-108: Continues City public campaign financing for Mayoral, Commissioner, Auditor candidates
- City of Portland Measure 26-117: General obligation bonds for fire vehicles and emergency response infrastructure
- Oregon Measure 73: Increased minimum sentence for some sex crimes and DUIs
- Oregon Measure 76: Renews dedication of 15% of lottery proceeds to parks

Both forums will be recorded and aired on local access cable television. Check the League website (www.lwvpx.org) soon for a full schedule.

Parking: Ample street parking.

By Bus: Plan your route with TriMet's Trip Planner at www.trimet.org.

Coming next month...



Nov. General Meeting – **Water: User Perspectives.** A look at the needs and concerns of water stakeholders and their efforts to protect water quality and conserve water.

Tuesday, November 9, 7:00 pm
Board Room, Multnomah County Building,
501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard, Portland

**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 2010



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President's Column

"The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment." Robert Maynard Hutchins, *Great Books, 1954*

Betsy Pratt

As we approach the November election, I have found myself wishing that the League's competence, integrity, and passion would be more widely recognized. We provide wonderful, insightful programs that a handful of people attend. We labor mightily to produce voter guides and candidate forums that are better than anyone else's, that may be seen by our members and maybe our friends and neighbors. Those who find our material sing its praises with enthusiasm, but wouldn't it be nice if all voters drew on our resources?

This fall I'm especially proud of our new *on-line* Voters' Guide, which is going to be terrific. Because we had done our homework and moved to our new website last year, we were in position to jump when the LWVUS provided the chance to use their new electronic voters guide tool, which had its premier during the Georgia primary in June. We made this leap thanks to the work of Heather Drake, our office manager, and Rita Fawcett, who has been working with the Oregon League. Heather, in particular, did a superlative job of structuring what information needed to be presented and then figuring out how to make the system fit our local circumstances. She received assistance from far and wide during her problem-solving efforts -- from the LWVUS, to the early system users at LWV Georgia, to the ever-helpful Eric Sample in the Multnomah Elections Office.

Portland League members will receive printed copies of the fall

Voters' Guide, but please visit our website, www.lwvpdx.org, to test the new system (just type in your address and you'll get information on all the voting decisions you will be facing this fall). And please tell your friends and neighbors to check out our site as well.

In addition to voter apathy, our democracy is facing more active threats. Those who attended the September general meeting on campaign finance reform may have shared my dismay at the gap between U.S. election practices and the international standards for fair and open elections. As described elsewhere in this newsletter, Barbara Dudley shared a list of standards from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). For example, the IDEA standards state that the State shall "Encourage parties, candidates and the media to accept and adopt a Code of Conduct to govern the election campaign and the polling period."

We have heard about the disruptive behavior of opposition groups elsewhere in the country during this election season, but Debbie Kaye experienced it directly when she recently assisted with a debate on behalf of Congressman Wu. Members of the audience booed during presentations and left abruptly when 'their' candidate finished. Debbie, using her League expertise but not representing the League officially, was able to instill some better practices into the forum but still felt the event was unsatisfactory.

We have an opportunity to improve civic discourse this year through our partnership with the Multnomah Bar Foundation. The Foundation is producing a series of videos on civic education to be broadcast on cable

Please turn to **President**, page 5

Ballot Measure Recommendations for Nov 2010 General Election

Local Ballot Measures

YES ON 26-108

LWV Portland is actively supporting retention of Portland's Voter-Owned Elections program. The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process. Based on this position, LWV Portland supported enactment of Portland's groundbreaking campaign finance program, **Voter-Owned Elections**, in 2005.

With corporations and wealthy special interests playing a greater role in elections and politics, Portland's successful **Voter-Owned Elections** is a reform worth fighting for—to make sure we all have an equal voice – and an equal vote – regardless of wealth or political power.

The League of Women Voters is one of about thirty organizations that have signed on to the campaign. The coalition is a diverse and growing group that includes leaders from all walks of life including business owners, leaders of faith, elected officials and nearly 1,000 individual endorsers.

Please visit the website:

www.yesforportland.org

or call 503-489-8166 to help: Add your name to the endorsement list, sign up to volunteer, host a house party, make a donation, or all of the above. Ballots are mailed October 15th so sign up today -- and tell your friends to do the same!

Let's keep Portland's Elections Fair, Open, and Accountable!

YES ON 26-119

The League of Women Voters of Portland, East Multnomah County, and Clackamas County support the TriMet bond measure. Proceeds will be used to make bus service more accessible to the elderly and disabled by improving bus stops and their surrounding areas and purchasing additional low-floor and LIFT buses.

State Ballot Measures

(Fuller explanations of these measures can be found in your LWVOR Fall *Voter*).

YES ON 71

Amends Constitution: Requires legislature to meet annually; limits length of legislative sessions; provides exceptions. LWV Oregon has supported annual sessions since 1975. This is an important change in the Constitution that is needed for good governance.

NO ON 73

Requires increased minimum sentences for certain repeated sex crimes, incarceration for repeated driving under the influence. LWVOR opposition is based on the increased cost to the state for courts and correctional facilities and our support of judicial discretion in sentencing. The measure does not identify a funding source.

YES ON 76

Amends Constitution: Continues lottery funding for parks, beaches, wildlife habitat, watershed protection beyond 2014; modifies funding process. LWVOR support is based on the importance of state parks to our quality of life and a successful economy and on the belief that a parks system is an appropriate function of state government. Furthermore, this would continue funding watershed restoration and enhancement, a LWV priority.

The League takes no position on Measures 70, 72, 74 and 75.

October Action Committee Meeting

Portland's Main Street and Neighborhood Economic Development Programs

Carmen Plaza, Senior Program Manager, Portland Development Commission Urban Development Department

Friday, October 22, 1:00 pm

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

All members welcome. Questions? Contact Debbie Aiona.

League Year Opens with Campaign Finance at September General Meeting

*Ann Mulrone*y

Our program year opened on September 14, combining an excellent but sobering discussion about campaign finance on the federal level with optimism about reforms around the country and Portland's Voter Owned Election program, one of the most innovative and successful in the nation.

Federal Campaign Finance Reform.

The Supreme Court Citizens United ruling took center stage. Janice Thompson, Executive Director of Common Cause, explained that the foundation principle of campaign finance law has been to curb corruption. Independent expenditures using corporate treasury dollars have been held to have a corrosive effect on the political process, and to be unconstitutional. Willie Smith, District Director for Congressman Earl Blumenauer, said that the Citizens United ruling gave corporations the same right to free speech and assembly in the electoral process as individuals have.

There is deep cynicism in the public, Barbara Dudley told us. Disclosure laws have simply increased cynicism; the government has no interest in preventing the appearance of corruption. We must bring back public confidence and restore our election system, which was once the crown jewel of our system of government. Barbara suggested that we consider adopting standards developed by inter-governmental organizations such as the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). IDEA recommends the following:

- Allow free political advertisement

for parties and candidates; disallow paid political advertising altogether.

- Allocate equal media time and space to all qualified candidates.
- Restrict time and content of electoral broadcasts.
- Require the media to carry voter education material.
- Establish a right to reply to factual misrepresentation in the media.
- Regulate hate speech and defamation.

Voter-Owned Elections. Leslie Hildula described Portland's six-year experience with Voter-Owned Elections. Janice Thompson described public financing programs throughout the country, reiterating the role of state and local governments as the laboratory of democracy. Portland's public financing program has been a model nationwide; the Citizen Campaign Commission reports that:

- Everyday voters feel empowered by the process.
- Large contributions are becoming a thing of the past; average campaign donations are smaller.
- There is more diversity among elected officials.
- Incumbents report working harder to maintain a clean campaign image, in order to compete with VOE candidates.
- The VOE program forbids building political war chests, and reduces fund-raising activity between elections.

Check forum broadcast dates on www.lwvpx.org

LEARN MORE ABOUT VOTER OWNED ELECTIONS – www.yesforportland.org

Who Was Elbridge Gerry and What Is a "Mander"???

Betsy Pratt

The Portland League of Women Voters is co-sponsoring the film, *Gerrymandering*, which will be shown at the NW Film Center's Whitsell Auditorium at the Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park Avenue on Sunday, October 3 at 7 pm. Former Secretary of State Bill Bradbury will introduce the film.

"Named for the Massachusetts governor who conveniently redrew a few erratic lines in 1812, gerrymandering is the redistricting of electoral boundaries to affect voting outcome in favor of a particular candidate, political party, or issue.... [T]he reestablishment of voting district lines takes away the voice of individual communities, reduces voter turnout, and lessens competition among candidates.... everyone says they want to fix the ongoing outrages of dirty tricks – at least until they're in power and have the opportunity to tweak boundaries to their advantage. Director Jeff Reichert's smart, often witty, and entertaining exposé--well-rounded and nonpartisan—encourages an active engagement in inspecting the invisible lines that draw our notions of democracy and justice into question."

For League members who would like to have dinner together before the movie (5pm is suggested time), we will make arrangements at Southpark and/or Pastini Pasteria, near Whitsell Auditorium. Contact ASAP Mary McWilliams.

*[sala]mander – the shape of the district Gerry created, according to Webster's Dictionary.

Spread the Word – Spread the Enthusiasm!

Carol Cushman

Had a Portland LWV membership brochure in your hand lately?

I hope you carry a membership brochure with you – ready to hand to a prospective member when the opportunity arises! If you are excited about your membership in LWV, share that excitement with your friends – or someone you encounter at a civic meeting or elsewhere. What better way to give a concrete example of League membership than showing your enthusiasm for the organization, and having a brochure to share.

Speaking of that brochure – Portland LWV designed the brochure about a decade ago. Many feel there is need to update the brochure to the 21st century. Do you have any thoughts of what should be included? What im-

ages should be used? What features of LWV emphasized? The membership committee is open to ideas, and to your participation. If you would like to attend the next committee meeting, it is Monday, October 4, 9:30 AM, in the League office. If you have ideas to share please call or email the office!

I hope you have remembered to renew your own membership! Dues for the 2010-11 year were due in July; mailing lists are updated in the fall. Those who have not yet renewed will receive a reminder call during October. Save the committee time to spend on contacting new and prospective members; send your dues in today—if you have not already done so!



Spreading the Word: On Sunday, September 19, League members carried the LWV banner in the 19th annual Susan G. Komen Portland Race for the Cure. From left: Betsy Pratt, Lynn Baker, Pat Osborn, Debbie Kaye, and Bev Wilson.

In Memoriam

Mary McWilliams

Portland League donor and friend **John Marks** died August 27, 2010 at age 92. John attended many League programs that were of interest to him. In October 2009, he attended the evening reception for Open World Leadership Center delegates. He was an avid talker with each of the five Russian delegates and their facilitator. He was an involved League friend that evening, doing what he loved to do.

John came to Portland with his wife and two sons in 1968 to work as a professor in the psychiatry department at OHSU. After his wife died, he remarried and gained an additional family. He was an avid outdoorsman and environmentalist as well as being politically active and a lifelong advocate for social justice. John will be missed by his League friends.

President

Continued from page 2

access stations around the state sometime next year. The League will help develop the content for at least two topics:

- **Voting:** Encourage voter registration and the importance of being an informed voter and certain aspects of voting that are unique to Oregon, including the initiative and referendum process. (two, 5-minute videos)
- **Civic Engagement:** highlight various ways in which citizens can get involved in their communities and in government (5 minute video)

If you are interested in assisting with this project, let me know. Help us fight voter apathy!

Preparing for Consensus

Marnie Lonsdale

In October and November we will be holding a two-meeting consensus process on the Oregon League position on water. The consensus questions are below.

Please review the two study documents: *Water in Oregon - Not a Drop to Waste, Parts 1 and 2*, which you received in the mail. The documents are also available on line at lwvor.org in the "Current Studies" section.

Consensus Questions

A. Management Structure

1. There are 11 state agencies with water management responsibilities (*Water in Oregon—Not a Drop to Waste, Part 2*, Table 1, detailed discussion of responsibilities by task in *Water in Oregon—Not a Drop to Waste Part 1*), each with its own mission and expertise, interacting with local and federal government and special districts. What actions would you support to improve decision-making by connecting water quality and water quantity issues with each other and with land use decisions? Check all that apply.

- Better communication and cooperation between agencies?
- Conformity in definitions among agencies, such as definition of "beneficial uses"?
- Coordination in the prioritization of water uses/regulations among agencies?
- Consolidation of governmental structures for policy making and/or enforcement?
- Clarification and strengthening of the role of local or regional land use planning in the water management process?
- Other actions? Please describe:

2. When comparing our current statewide model with possible alternatives for managing water protection and conservation, which of the following do you prefer? (If applicable, how should these alternative models relate to the multiple political structures within their boundaries?)

- Our current statewide approach
- Basin management
- Watershed management
- Management based on water or soil types
- Management directed by specific pollutants
- Local government management
- Other? Please describe.

B. Tracking Information and Regulating Use

3. Oregon has limited scientific data on water resources, uses and purity, which impacts the ability of agencies to make informed decisions about water quantity and quality. Is a comprehensive inventory of all water resources necessary to understand availability of water quantity and quality to meet future needs/demands, or is a more limited approach based upon specific criteria adequate? If the latter, what criteria should be used?

Should currently exempt domestic wells be required to obtain a permit? Why or why not?

Should water monitoring/measurement be required by all permit holders and users, or should it be limited according to some criteria? If the latter, what criteria should be considered?

What types of data should water monitoring/measurement collect? Check all that apply.

- How much is used
- Who is using it
- The purpose of the use
- Water purity as compared to standards
- The time period/date
- Other? (Please describe.)

After installation, when/how often should septic systems be required to be inspected?

4. While the current LWVOR Water Quality Position supports the need for water quality standards in Oregon, it does not prescribe how state standards should be determined. What should be the basis for such standards? Check all that apply.

- Promote/foster public health and safety
- Cost
- Need to maintain beneficial uses
- Other (Please describe.)?

5. Climate change could lead to less snowfall and more erratic rainfall. Population growth will increase demands for water supply. What options should the state use/encourage to address future water needs/demands? Check all that apply.

- Address each situation individually
- Green construction/landscaping
- Increased conservation
- Increased water storage
- Changes in land use regulation
- Rationing
- Use of greywater
- Other (Please describe.)

LWVOR Water Study Consensus Questions

6. If water conservation is to become a significant part of water quality and quantity management, do you have a preference in favor of an approach based upon:

- ___ Incentives (such as selling saved water to other users or reduced rates for lower consumption), **or**
- ___ Regulations (such as limiting water use for lawns, requiring water saving toilets, shower heads, etc.)?

What other approaches should be considered in promoting water conservation (specific incentives/regulations targeting categories of users (agriculture, industry, municipal use, domestic)?)

Please describe:

C. Communication and Public Input

7. The League believes that informed citizens have an important role to play in governmental decisions. How and when should members of the public be included in

water management and planning processes? Please describe.

D. Funding

8. Currently, users pay for their water delivery system, but the water itself is free. League positions note that “all water users must share in the costs of water management”. Should “users” include state and local government as well as individual and corporate users?

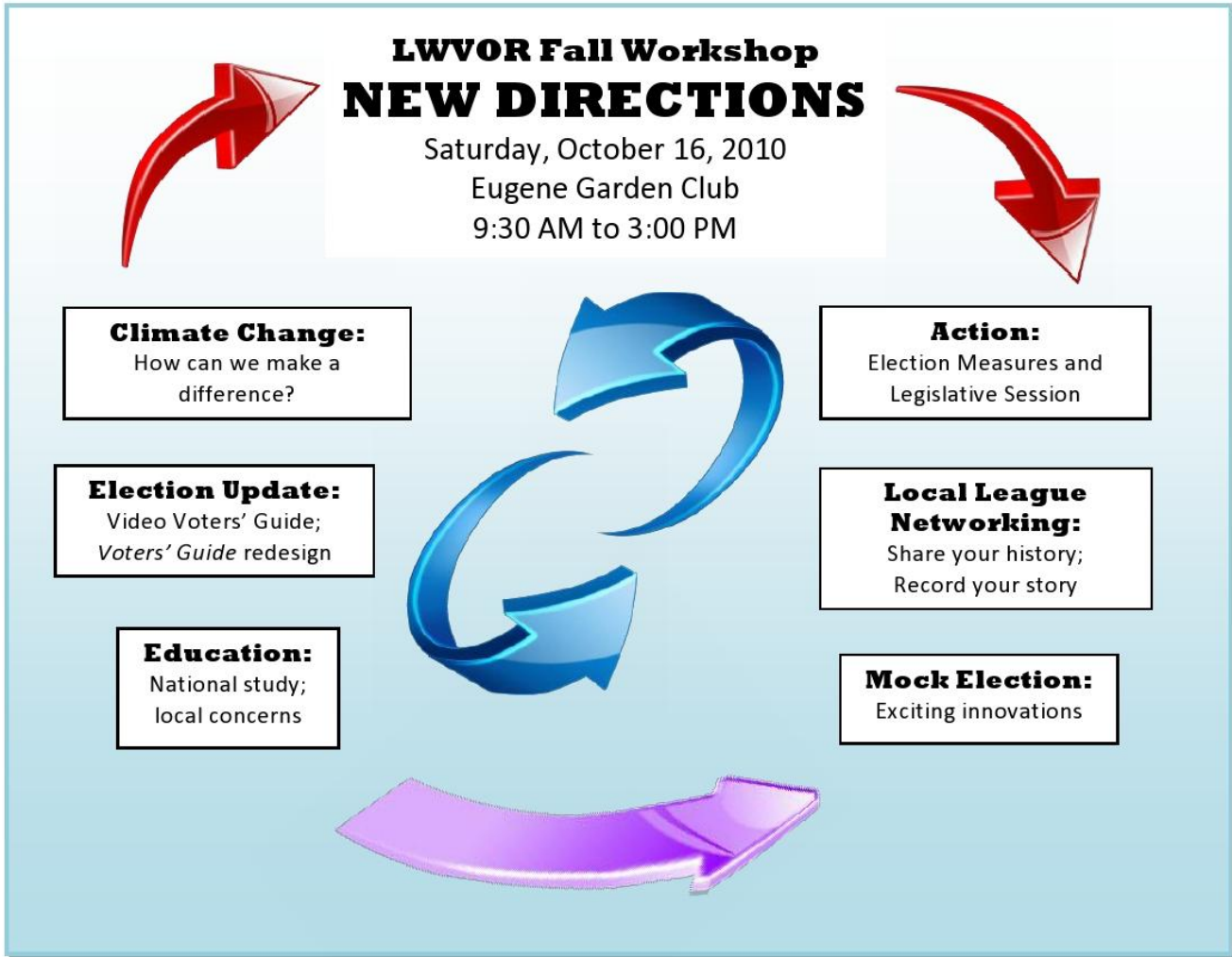
Please indicate on the chart below how the costs associated with water capture, storage and delivery should be funded. Also indicate the sources of funding you support to cover present and future costs associated with planning, research, data acquisition, regulation and enforcement and any other program(s) you describe. Additional comments are welcome.

Since water is a public resource, how should funding of water management and delivery be achieved for:

(Check methods that apply)

	Rate Payers	Permit fees	Charge by volume of water (beyond delivery charges)	Tiered Rate System	State Taxes	Local taxes	Special taxes
Planning - current and future demand							
Research							
Data collection							
Infrastructure, maintenance and delivery							
Public Out-reach							
Conservation							
Regulation and enforcement							
Other							

Additional comments:



LWVOR Fall Workshop
NEW DIRECTIONS
Saturday, October 16, 2010
Eugene Garden Club
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Climate Change:
How can we make a difference?

Election Update:
Video Voters' Guide;
Voters' Guide redesign

Education:
National study;
local concerns

Action:
Election Measures and
Legislative Session

Local League Networking:
Share your history;
Record your story

Mock Election:
Exciting innovations

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND! Bring a GUEST!
A map and directions are available on the www.lwvor.org Members' site (user name "lwvor" and password "carriecatt"). Click on Events.

LWVOR Fall Workshop registration form

Advance registration required—return by **Oct. 8, 2010**

Yes, I want to attend the LWVOR Fall Workshop!

Name: _____

LWV Member? Yes No If yes, indicate League: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Workshop with lunch: \$21.00 member; \$26.00 guest (Vegetarian option will be available)

Workshop only: \$14.00 member; \$19.00 guest

Make checks payable to LWVOR and return with this form to LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302 by **October 8, 2010**. Questions? Call 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org.

Calendar

October 2010							November 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				

1: **City Club Candidate Forum**
11:30 am, The Governor Hotel

3: **Film: Gerrymandering**
7:00 pm, Portland Art Museum

5: **Candidate Forum**
7:00 pm, Mult. Bldg.

6: **Exec Committee**
12:00 pm, Room 520

12: **Ballot Measure Forum**
7:00 pm, Mult. Bldg.

15: **Voter Deadline**

16: **LWVOR Fall Workshop**
9:30 am, Eugene

18: **Board Meeting**
1:00 pm, Room 433

22: **Action**
1:00 pm, Room 433

26: **Office Closed**

27: **Mailing Party**
10:00 am, Room 520

3: **Exec Committee**
12:00 pm, Room 520

9: **General Meeting**
7:00 pm, Mult. Bldg.

12: **Voter Deadline**

15: **Board Meeting**
1:00 pm, Room 433

19: **Action**
1:00 pm, Room 433

24: **Mailing Party**
10:00 am, Room 520

25-26: **Office Closed**

30: **Office Closed**

October Unit Meetings

LWVOR Water Study Consensus

Unit #1-Southwest-Evening
Monday, October 25, 7 pm

Leader: Ann Mulrone
Host: Kathleen Hersh

Unit #2-Southeast
Monday, October 25, 10 am

Leaders: Paulette Meyer AND Beth Johnson
Host: Mary McWilliams

Unit #4—North/Northeast
Thursday, October 21, 1 pm

Leader: Bev Wilson
Host: Lynn Baker

Unit #5—Terwilliger Plaza
Monday, October 18, 3 pm

Leader: Jeanne Steed
No Host: Convene at Terwilliger Plaza Auditorium A, 2545 SW Terwilliger Blvd

Unit #6 Southwest/Northwest Hills
Friday, October 15, 9:30 am

Leader: Mary Hepokoski
Host: Mary Hepokoski

Unit #7—Vermont Hills
Monday, October 18, 9:30 am

Leader: Jeanne Steed
Host: Alyda Gilkey

Unit #8—Online

Leader: Kathleen Hersh
Location: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LWVPDXVirtualUnit/>

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.



The League of Women of Voters® of Portland

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Help Us Make Democracy Work! Ask a Friend to Join the League!

Return this coupon with your dues to: **LWV Portland, PO Box 3491, Portland, OR 97208.** Please make checks payable to **LWV Portland.**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Dues Levels

- _____ Single --- \$70.00
- _____ Household --- \$105.00
(2 people at same address)
- _____ Limited Income --- \$43.60
- _____ Student --- \$25.00