



September 2018

Volume 23, Issue 2

Welcome to a new League year! Read about our plans and activities for the fall. Please plan to join us to learn about issues in our communities and in the election.

SEPTEMBER CIVIC EDUCATION

Juvenile Justice:

Are we improving outcomes for youth?

Panel Discussion

Free and Open to the Public

Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 7 to 9 PM
Multnomah County Board Room
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

Be informed about Oregon's Measure 11 impact on our youth caught up in the juvenile justice system.

We are pleased to announce the first of our 2018 - 2019 Civic Education programs! In September, we will begin by focusing on Juvenile Justice and we invite you to take part in the discussion.

Panelists include:

- ***Kimberly McCullough, Policy Director for ACLU Oregon***
- ***Babak Zolfaghari, Community Healing Initiative Program***
- ***DeAnna Horne, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.***

They will review the history and impacts of Measure 11 on the juvenile justice system.

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PREPARING FOR THE ELECTION

Election Time is when the League shines!

The Voter Service Team has been busy planning to provide voter information for the General Election.

We have scheduled **two forums, on October 2 and October 9**, for candidate and ballot measure debates. *Voters' Guide* Editor Peggy Bengry held a meeting with other League members to draft candidate questions for the ***Voters' Guide, Vote411.org*** and forums. For the candidate debate for Multnomah County Auditor, we are partnering with the City Club of Portland, whose committee helped draft auditor questions.

There are many ways you can help!

- **We need a Speakers Bureau coordinator and volunteer speakers.** Speakers Bureau Kits are expected to arrive September 12, so training will be held shortly after that. The coordinator responds to requests for speakers from various organizations (churches, senior centers, business associations, etc.) and schedules the speakers who are available for the requested dates.
- **We need a Voters' Guide Distribution coordinator for October.** (Eileen Chase will help organize the process in September, but she is away all of

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September 2018

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The Voter is published as a printed, mailed edition three times a year in September, January and April, and as an electronic edition in October, November, December, February, March, May and July. Members who require print copies of the electronic editions may request to have them mailed to them for a small fee.

Development: Donations for Democracy

Debbie Kaye, Development Chair

A big Thank You to all the generous League donors! Please see the impressive list of donors included with this issue of the *Voter*. Your contributions fund our ability to meet the community’s needs for reliable, balanced information during elections and year ‘round. This is how we are “Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.®”

As you see in this newsletter, the League is planning for a very active election season with many opportunities for voters to understand issues and candidates. Also, throughout the year, the Civic Education team will offer balanced monthly panel discussions on critical policy matters. We thank you now and remind you that we rely on your continued support to help develop an informed electorate.

If you have interests and skills in fundraising, event planning or grant writing and would like to put them to work for the League of Women Voters of Portland, please let me know (development@lwvpdx.org). We have a working committee and will value additional participants. We will be planning for the year at our next meeting on Tuesday, September 11 from 12:00 -1:45 at the League office.

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According to Multnomah County information, “Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 11 in November 1994 to apply mandatory minimum prison sentences to certain crimes against persons committed on or after April 1, 1995, with no possibility for any reduction in sentence, such as for good behavior. Measure 11 also mandates that juveniles age 15 and older, charged with the felonies...be tried as adults.”

Panelists will tell the stories of youth who are impacted by the juvenile justice system and describe community responses that are shown to improve outcomes. The speakers will discuss legislative remedies that they believe would improve the juvenile justice system, and they will answer questions from the audience.

The League of Women Voters Civic Education programs are free and open to the public. *MetroEast Community Media* records these programs for rebroadcast and online streaming from www.lwvpdx.org. The recordings are funded through grants from the *Multnomah Bar Foundation* and *The Carol & Velma Saling Foundation*. Programs are designed to inform our community about relevant issues.

All programs begin at 7 PM at the Multnomah County Building, 501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard, Portland. Parking is available on the street. The Multnomah County Building is easily accessed by public transportation, TriMet options include bus lines 4, 6, 10, 14, 15, and the Portland Streetcar.

October.) The Distribution Coordinator lets distribution volunteers know where *Voters' Guides* are needed at locations near their homes/offices.

- **We need volunteers to distribute *Voters' Guides* in various locations around Portland.** Oct 1 is when *Vote411.org* goes live and when *Voters' Guides* start to be delivered to LWVPDX. Guides will be distributed throughout October and until Election Day, November 6.
- **We need a Voter Registration coordinator.** Many are interested in helping with voter registration, but we need someone to coordinate to train and match up voter registration volunteers with places to conduct voter registration drives. National Registration Day is September 25 and we have requests to partner with other groups.
- **We need help with interviewing candidates for the Video Voters' Guide.** Emily Toops is coordinating this project.
- **We need greeters, timers and question collectors/sorters for the Election Forums.** Maud Naroll is the Forums Chair.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact: Voterservice@lwvpdx.org to volunteer for coordinator roles. (Stephanie Hertzog) Videovotersguide@lwvpdx.org for candidate TV interviewers (Emily Toops) vgdistribution@lwvpdx.org for *Voters' Guide* Distribution (Eileen Chase, plus seeking October coordinator) Speakers@lwvpdx.org (seeking coordinator and speakers) Forums@lwvpdx.org for help with election forums (Maud Naroll)

Discussing Juvenile Justice

Judy Froemke, Unit Coordinator

The Portland League will present a civic education panel discussion of Juvenile Justice on September 11. Later in September, small LWVPDX “Unit” discussion groups will meet in neighborhoods around Portland to continue considering this topic and how the League of Women Voters could advocate for change in the ways youth offenders are treated. Below is some background information to help members prepare for listening to the panel and/or participating in the Unit discussions. (The times and locations of the Unit meetings are shown on page 6.)

The foundation for American juvenile justice was laid in 1974 with the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Go to the website www.ojjdpa.gov to read about topics of focus and programs available from the Office of JJDPA.

Since 1994, when **Oregon voters approved Measure 11**, children age 15 and older are tried as adults if they commit crimes against persons: assault, kidnapping, manslaughter, murder, rape, robbery. Most cases are resolved by plea bargaining with many youth receiving shorter sentences or probation, but still having a permanent record of being convicted of a felony.

In June 2016, **Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill**, with the ultimate authority and responsibility to protect the citizens and prosecute the criminals, **announced his office would no longer prosecute all teenage criminal defendants under Measure 11**. Eligibility

for this exception is determined by the DA’s office negotiating on a case by case basis with the teen’s court-appointed defense attorney, taking into account aggravating and mitigating factors. Since 2016 Multnomah County has substantially reduced the number of youth sent to incarceration at the Oregon Youth Authority.

Children who commit these serious crimes should be held accountable in ways that focus on rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Some states are reforming their youth incarceration practices and remanding these children to juvenile facilities that focus on mental health treatment, education, vocational training, and family support. There is **substantial research and compelling evidence that children’s brains are developing well into their 20’s**. The brain is malleable and with proper intervention, behavior can change. In light of this growing understanding of brain science, the US Supreme Court has made a series of decisions which have prompted an overhaul of youth sentencing laws.

Please refer to the LWVPDX Position on Juvenile Justice located in your orange Member Handbook, pages 52-54.

For more detailed information, type each of these topics into Google: **Measure 11; Misguided Measures; Liz Ryan’s Testimony to Congress; Understanding the Teen Brain; Outraged by Kids in Cages?; and Oregon Prosecutor Curtails Adult Prosecution.**

Thank you to **Barbara Ross**, member of the LWVPDX Juvenile Justice Interest Group and to **Daniel Lewkow** of the Portland ACLU (and to Google) for assistance with this article.

September Action Committee Meeting on Portland's City Budget

Friday, September 28, 2 – 4 pm

618 NW Glisan St., Suite 303

Conference Room

All League members welcome.

Contact Debbie Aiona with questions.

action@lwvpdx.org

What is the Action Committee?

Why should you attend?

Debbie Aiona, Action Chair

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, when necessary, 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 decision makers.

JOIN THE ACTION COMMITTEE EMAIL LIST

Action Committee list members receive monthly meeting reminders and occasional updates on committee activities.

Email Debbie Aiona (action@lwvpdx.org) if you would like to be added to the list.

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. Remember, all League members are welcome.
2. Add your name to the action email list and receive reminders of monthly Action Committee meetings and other meetings related to League issues. (Contact Debbie: action@lwvpdx.org).
3. Become a League observer by attending public meetings or viewing them online and report back to the committee.
4. Choose an issue, follow it closely and help shape League strategy in that specific area.

League of Women Voters of Portland Supports the Portland Clean Energy Fund Ballot Measure and Urges a "Yes" Vote

LWV Portland is a member of the broad-based grassroots effort to create a new clean energy future and address social and economic inequities through job training and employment opportunities.

The Clean Energy Fund measure, if passed by Portland voters in November, will combat climate change by placing a surcharge on large retailers in order to fund energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy projects in the city. The measure places a priority on training and employing low-income individuals and communities of color. You can help and sign up for email alerts at www.portlandcleanenergyfund.com/

Election Forums: Save the Dates!

Maud Naroll, Forums Chair

Voter Service will host two voter education forums in October. **October 2** will feature the Portland Commissioner Position 3 race, with JoAnn A Hardesty vs. Loretta Smith, plus Ballot Measure 103, which would prohibit taxes/fees for “groceries,” and Initiative PDX4, Portland’s retailer surcharge for clean energy projects. On **October 9** we will partner with the City Club of Portland on the Multnomah County Auditor race, with Scott Learn vs. Jennifer McGuirk, then feature three ballot measures: Measure 105, which would repeal the law limiting state and local enforcement of federal immigration laws; Measure 26-199, Metro affordable housing bonds; and Measure 102, which would allow local bonds for financing affordable housing with nongovernmental entities. Both evenings will start at 7 pm in the Multnomah County Boardroom, to the right off the lobby of 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

You won’t want to miss watching these informative forums live in person or via the YouTube recordings on our website, LWVPDX.org.

What are League Units?

Colleen Shoemaker, Unit 1

Unit Meetings are small group discussion meetings held in neighborhoods around Portland. These meetings encourage deeper learning about issues, suggest opportunities for action and grow our personal connections with interesting people through conversations about issues. All members are welcome at Unit Meetings; members may also invite guests who want to learn about the League. Choose the Unit with the most convenient time and place to suit your personal schedule and join us.

Two Units are especially accessible if your weekday schedule makes it challenging to attend a daytime meeting. Unit 1 meets at 7:00 p.m. and Unit 5 meets on Saturday at 10:30. See below the September dates for these meetings.

We hope you will consider joining a Unit Meeting to deepen your League experience and connections. Contact Judy Froemke at Units@lwvpdx.org for more information. Let us answer your questions and know you're coming so we can welcome you.

SEPTEMBER UNIT MEETINGS

UNIT 1 - Monday, September 24, 2018, 7 to 9 pm (**fourth Monday of the month**), at the SW home of Colleen Shoemaker

UNIT 2 - Monday, September 24, 2018, 10 am to noon (**fourth Monday of the month**), at the SE home of Paulette Meyer, Unit Leader

UNIT 4 - Thursday, September 20, 2018, 1 to 3 pm (**third Thursday of the month**) at Holladay Park Plaza penthouse - 1300 NE 16th Avenue 97232; Anne Pechovnik, Unit Leader

UNIT 5 - Saturday, September 15, 2018, 10:30 to 12:30 (**third Saturday of the month**) at Terwilliger Plaza - 2545 SW Terwilliger Blvd 97201; Linda Mather, Unit Leader

UNIT 6 - Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 9:30 to 11:30 am (**fourth Tuesday of the month**) at the NW home of Debbie Kaye; Christine Moore, Unit Leader

UNIT 7 - Monday, September 17, 2018, 12 to 3 pm (**the Monday after the Civic Ed program**), at the SW home of Corinne Paulson, Unit Leader

UNIT 8 - **online** Please contact Judy Froemke (units@lwvpdx.org) if interested.

The Year Ahead in Civic Education

Marion McNamara, Civic Education Chair

League members are interested in a variety of civic issues, and it is hard to choose just a few to focus on each year. In our July committee meeting, we agreed that this year's Civic Education programs should encourage us to think deeply about how justice and democracy are entwined in our society. Amartya Sen, Indian philosopher, economist and Nobel Prize winner, once said that democracy has complex demands, which include voting and respect for election results, but also require the protection of liberties and freedoms. The fundamental philosophy that keeps democracy alive is that democracy is about equity and justice. As the League explores topics that require us to think about justice, I hope you will help us see some of our thorniest problems as opportunities to foster civic engagement.

On September 11, we will examine Juvenile Justice and question how we can improve outcomes for youth in our communities. You can read about this program and the issues on pages 1, 3 and 4 of this newsletter.

On November 13, we will explore the topic of Immigration and Justice. There is a widespread consensus that our immigration system is not working. Severe visa backlogs hurt US businesses, undocumented workers are frequently exploited, and record levels of deportations tear families apart. Often overlooked is the quality of justice accorded immigrants who are caught in the enforcement net. How do we create attitudes and policies that uphold our ideals of opportunity and justice?

At our Winter Party in December, members will prepare for Program Planning by

examining our state and local League of Women Voters advocacy positions. We will meet at Tabor Space in the afternoon for a snack potluck and conversation.

In January, our Media Luncheon will pick up on the theme of democracy and justice by inviting speakers from the media that serve communities which are underrepresented in the mainstream Portland media system. We will have the opportunity to learn about how issues of justice are viewed by members of the media that serve these communities.

The February 12 program will investigate the changing landscape of women's rights and the impact this has on equity and justice. What are the near- and long-term consequences of changes in the health care system, including women's reproductive health care? How does gender-based wage discrimination impact women's equity?

On March 12, our program will examine environmental justice, as it impacts our local community. Environmental justice integrates social justice with environmental concerns. How are different parts of our community impacted by poor air and water quality? Are all community members, regardless of race, color, national origin or age able to be involved in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations? Does one sector of our community disproportionately bear the costs of environmental pollution and climate change? What needs to change?

A bookmark with a list of these programs is enclosed with this issue of the *Voter*.

Please plan to join the League this year in examining some of these complicated issues. If you would like to be part of organizing any of these events, please contact Marion at civiced@lwvpdx.org.

September 2018

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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30						

Sept 11- Development Committee
12-1:45 PM, LWVPDX Office

Sept 11 - Civic Education, Juvenile Justice
7-8:45 PM, Multnomah County Boardroom
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland

Sept 28 - Action Committee, Portland
Budget

REMEMBERING KAPPY EATON

Margaret Noel, Voter Editor

I met Kappy Eaton in 1995 when she visited the Portland League to explain the work of the LWVOR Action Committee. It was the first time that I understood how much the state LWV volunteers do for all of us through advocacy at the Oregon Legislature. In the years since, I found many reasons to admire Kappy. She was knowledgeable, energetic, dignified, kind and deeply committed to improving Oregon’s services and governance. I attended the ceremony when she was given the Governor’s Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award. She concluded her acceptance speech by urging us to go out and work to make the world a better place. She kept working to do that until just

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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28	29	30	31			

Oct 2 - Election Forum, City Commissioner + measures. 7-9 PM, Multnomah County Boardroom
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland

Oct 9 - Election Forum, Portland Auditor + measures. 7-9 PM, Multnomah County Boardroom
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland

Oct 16 - Last day to register to vote in General Election

Oct 26 - Action Committee, Air Quality
2-4 PM, LWVPDX Office, Conference Room

before she died on August 7 at the age of 94. Google her name. You will find many tributes to her service.

Did you read the Summer 2018 Voter?

If you didn’t, you missed a lot of news about the Portland & LWVUS League Conventions and our members’ achievements in 2017-18. You can still read it by clicking on “Read Our Voter Newsletter - Previous Issue” in the sidebar of the lwvpdx.org website.

Thank you to the volunteer writers and editors who helped with this newsletter: Colleen Shoemaker, Emily Toops, Essie Somma, and board members Debbie Aiona, Judy Froemke, Stephanie Hertzog, Debbie Kaye, Marion McNamara, Mary McWilliams, and Maud Naroll.