

Group 7 - Information for Discussion Leaders

PROGRAM PLANNING for the year June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 6:30 pm on Zoom

Discussion Leaders: **Debbie Aiona** and **Doreen Binder**

PUBLIC SAFETY

Topics for discussion:

- **Gun safety**
- **Emergency planning, Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI), Superfunds**
- **Violence protection - women, children, homeless**

On January 26th, your group will look at the following **LWVUS and LWVPDX positions** regarding the 3 topics for discussion and will make a recommendation to **retain** as is, **drop** the position, **update** the position, **restudy** it or recommend a new **study** of it. You will also recommend topics for Civic Ed forums, for the formation of an Interest Group, and for Action Committee considerations.

Also included with this information are the League's **Definitions** of terms used in January 2022 Program Planning and a **Report Form** to be filed out by one of the discussion leaders and returned electronically to units@lwvpdx.org after the meeting.

LWVUS positions

Violence Prevention

Gun policy

Natural Resources

Resources Management

LWVPDX positions

Planning

Economic Development

If you have a topic for which there is no LWVUS or LWVOR or LWVPDX position, the League cannot advocate for public policy or legislative changes on that topic. If your group believes we need a position on a topic, you may recommend a study or a concurrence with a position from another state or local League. Your recommendation must be approved by the League membership before it is adopted.

Here is the link to the most recent LWVUS positions:

<https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/LWV-impact-2020.pdf>

To read more about the history of each position and other positions, click on this link to the LWVUS Impact on Issues; then click on the page # of the LWVUS position you want to see.

LWVUS POSITIONS

Gun Policy

The League's Position Statement of Position on Gun Policy, as adopted by 1990 Convention and amended by the 1994 and 1998 Conventions:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semiautomatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety. The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education, and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification. The League supports a ban on "Saturday night specials," enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

Natural Resources

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest. The League's Position Statement of Position on Natural Resources, as affirmed by the 1986 Convention, based on positions reached from 1958 through 1986:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

The League's Position The League supports the preservation of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment. The League's approach to environmental protection and pollution control is one of problem solving. The interrelationships of air, water, and land resources should be recognized in designing environmental safeguards. The League's environmental protection and anti-pollution goals aim to prevent ecological degradation and to reduce and control pollutants before they go down the sewer, up the chimney, or into the landfill.

The League believes that although environmental protection and pollution control are responsibilities shared by all levels of government, it is essential that the federal government provide leadership and technical and financial assistance. The federal government should have the major role in setting standards for environmental protection and pollution control. Other levels of government should have the right to set more stringent standards.

Enforcement should be carried out at the lower levels of government, but the federal government should enforce standards if other levels of

government do not meet this responsibility. Standards must be enforced in a timely, consistent and equitable manner for all violators in all parts of society, including governmental units, industry, business, and individuals. Environmental protection and pollution control, including waste management, should be considered a cost of providing a product or service. Consumers, taxpayers and ratepayers must expect to pay some of the costs.

The League supports policies that accelerate pollution control, including federal financial assistance for state and local programs. The League supports:

- Regulation of pollution sources by control and penalties;**
- Inspection and monitoring;**
- Full disclosure of pollution data;**
 - Incentives to accelerate pollution control; and**
 - Vigorous enforcement mechanisms, including sanctions for states and localities that do not comply with federal standards and substantial fines for noncompliance.**

Violence Prevention

The League's Position Statement of Position on Violence Prevention, as adopted by the 1994 Convention:

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports violence prevention programs in all communities and action to support:

- Public and private development and coordination of programs that emphasize the primary prevention of violence;**
- The active role of government and social institutions in preventing violent behavior; and**
- The allocation of public monies in government programs to prevent violence.**

League History of Violence Prevention

The 1994 Convention adopted by concurrence a position on Violence Prevention, based on state and local League work. The League subsequently endorsed the Violence Against Women Act, which Congress passed and the President signed in 1994 as part of a comprehensive crime bill. In the 2010's the League supported authorization of the Violence Against Women Act through a stand-alone bill and as a part of the appropriations process.

After the Violence Against Women Act expired in 2019, the League joined coalition partners pushing for reauthorization of the legislation through stand-alone legislation. The League also pushed for reauthorization of the legislation through the appropriations process. In 2019, the League supported the International Violence Against Women Act of 2019 (IVAWA) which seeks to take effective action to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls around the world as a matter of basic human rights and to promote gender equality, economic growth, and improved public health around the world.

LWVUS UN Observers also hosted a forum with members of Congress in conjunction with the Interparliamentary Union on the topic of Violence Against Women Politicians. The forum provided insight on how violence against women in politics impacts democracies, discussed preventive action, and shared best practices utilized around the world.

Here is the link to the most recent **LWVPDX** positions.

<https://lwvpdx.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/LWVPDX-Positions-Sept-2021.pdf>

LWVPDX POSITIONS

Planning (2009, 1974, 1973)

The League of Women Voters of Portland supports comprehensive long-range city planning based on:

- Citizen involvement at all stages of the planning process;
- Communication and coordination among citizens, citizen advisory groups, and city and regional planning agencies;
- Consideration of environmental, social and economic impacts of proposed plans and actions;
- Determination of long-range goals and priorities.

Goals should include:

- Area-wide orderly growth and development;
- A visually attractive urban community with a sustainable and healthful environment and a healthy economy;
- Quality infrastructure and public facilities designed to meet the needs of residents and businesses;
- Fair distribution of tax burdens and government investment.

Economic Development (2015)

The League of Women Voters of Portland believes that economic development is a proper concern for governmental entities including the City of Portland. We define economic development to include the broadest range of activities that contribute to the stability, growth and diversification of the Portland economy, measured by the increase and rate of increase in the median family income and standard of living in Portland.

The most important factors to be considered when promoting economic development are:

- Quality and number of jobs

- A healthful environment
- Creation and preservation of open spaces
- Neighborhood revitalization that benefits existing residents
- Effects on existing local businesses
- Equity issues • Ability to attract private investment
- Overall return on investment of public funds.

We believe effective strategies to advance economic development goals include infrastructure development, targeted job training, and protection of the industrial land base including brownfield reclamation. Other tools that may be employed with appropriate restrictions and accountability include participation in public-private partnerships, tax increment financing (TIF) for urban renewal, loans of public funds to private enterprises, and tax credits and abatements.

Prosper Portland (formerly known as The Portland Development Commission (PDC)) is Portland's principal redevelopment and revitalization agency. When Prosper Portland uses tax increment financing for urban renewal, the City must consider the impact on overlapping taxing jurisdictions and the essential services they provide. The City should perform regular performance audits to study the effectiveness of urban renewal and TIF in the delivery of the financial benefits promised to taxing jurisdictions.

The City should have a limited ability to amend urban renewal areas' duration, maximum indebtedness, or acreage. Urban renewal districts should be reserved for areas that are physically deteriorated, unsafe, poorly planned, or economically stagnant.

The League supports reviewing the City's system of regulations, fees and taxation to identify unnecessary impediments to businesses operating in the city. City regulations should be less vulnerable to differential interpretation at the permit level. Designated staff should assist businesses in navigating development regulations.

The League supports greater investment in education at all levels, including specific workforce training programs as a key component of local efforts to spur economic development. Educational institutions, private industry and government should cooperate to create a workforce with skills relevant to the needs of local industry.

The Auditor's office should evaluate the expenditure of economic development funds and the effectiveness of those expenditures in accomplishing the stated goals. Governmental agencies should hold recipients of public dollars accountable with binding agreements for recovering funds when promised goals are not met.

We support transparency and public participation in all phases of economic development projects: planning, monitoring, and evaluating.

OTHER INFORMATION RELEVANT TO YOUR 3 TOPICS

FIREARMS INSTANT CHECK SYSTEM (FICS)

*****Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Oregon FICS unit is now only processing firearms backgrounds checks via the online portal. Please visit <https://xn.osp.state.or.us/Fics/> to submit your transactions. Thank you for your cooperation.*****

We conduct firearms background checks on persons attempting to purchase a firearm (ORS 166.412) through all Federally Licensed Firearms dealers in Oregon.

Online Firearms Instant Check System available to dealers only.

A few facts on the process and system:

Oregon law requires a background check for all transfers including those that take place at a gun show and between private citizens. (Please refer to "When is a Background Check Required?")

Records of the transactions are kept for five years.

The database is exempt from public inspection.

There is a \$10.00 fee per transaction and funds the program.

We also conduct background checks for private party sales at gun shows.

An article in the Oregonian, 9-27-21, By The Statesman Journal

A portion of a gun-control measure the Oregon Legislature passed earlier this year requiring safe storage of firearms went into effect last week. Oregon joins 11 other states in requiring gun owners to store their firearms in a gun room or safe or use a trigger lock when it is not being carried or under their control.

- A firearm is not considered secured if a key or combination to the trigger, cable lock or the container is readily available to a person the owner or possessor has not authorized to carry or control the firearm or a handgun is left unattended in a vehicle and is within view of people outside the vehicle.
- The safe storage requirement doesn't apply if a gun owner is either alone in their home or with other people allowed to use the gun.
- Violations of the law are civil infractions, but the penalties increase if a minor gets access to an unsecured firearm as a result of the violation.
- If an owner violates the safe storage law and, as a result, the firearm is used to injure a person or property within two years of the violation, the injured party may bring a civil lawsuit against the owner and the court must find that the owner or possessor was negligent.
- If a person transfers a firearm and a criminal background check is required prior to the transfer, the person is also required to transfer the firearm with a trigger lock or in a locked container.
- A gun dealer must post in a prominent location a notice, in block letters not less than one inch in height, that states, "The purchaser of a firearm has an obligation to store firearms in a safe manner and to prevent unsupervised access to a firearm by a minor. If a minor or unauthorized person obtains access to a firearm and the owner failed to store the firearm in a safe manner, the owner may be in violation of the law."

- Failing to secure a firearm would result in a maximum fine of \$500.
- That fine increases to \$2,000 if a minor accesses an unsecured firearm

The City of Portland Office of Violence Prevention (OVP)

created on July 17, 2006

<https://www.portland.gov/oyvp/work-office-violence-prevention>

Explanation of Services (edited by Judy Froemke - see website above for more information)

- The Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) reflects priorities identified by City Council to build a more family-friendly city and increase public safety and reflects the emphasis on attacking the root causes of problems in neighborhoods, rather than simply focusing on policing efforts.
- OVP serves as grant manager for the following pro-social resource programs: Street Level Outreach (SLO); Healing Hurt People (HHP); Trauma and Violence Impacted Families (TVIF) Coordinator; and Restorative Justice Program. The grant programs provide pro-social resources to at risk youth, and their families, creating an investment in Portland's livability and economic future

Grantee organizations include: Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO), Latino Network, Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC), Going Home II, Somali American Council Of Oregon (SACOO), and Resolutions Northwest.

These grantee organizations provide a multitude of culturally specific services to Portland's youth and families through the listed OVP grant programs.

- Street Level Outreach (SLO) workers build relationships with youth and their families with specific goals in mind: to reduce conflict and violence, to support and assist youth and their families in accessing social and educational services, while providing services as a mentor, life coach, positive role model, advocate, and mediator. SLO workers funded by OVP provide service City wide while coordinating services with SLO workers funded through TriMet and the City of

- Gresham. OVP hosts weekly meetings for all SLO serving in the Portland and Gresham area to assist in the alignment of services
- Healing Hurt People (HHP) is a hospital-based trauma intervention program that utilizes the national best practice Cure Violence. The HHP coordinator visits and provides resources and referrals to victims of intentional trauma (i.e., shootings and stabbings), particularly for victims of color, shortly after they've been admitted to the hospital. Evidence shows that this is when they are most willing to consider making real change.
- Trauma and Violence Impacted Family (TVIF) program is a multi-agency group that provides services to individuals and families who are the most susceptible to violence. The aim is to break the systemic family cycles associated with violence. OVP is a TVIF stakeholder service. The TVIF coordinator connects client resources and need for resources with SLO workers, clients receiving treatment at Legacy Emanuel Hospital, and HEAT reentry program. The TVIF Coordinator is a member of the LPSCC Youth and Gang Violence Subcommittee and Multnomah County Sex Trafficking Collaborative.
- In school year 2016-2017 to date in 2018-2019 grantee organization Resolutions Northwest Inc. (RNW) has provided Restorative Justice implementation planning and support at the district level of the Parkrose School District. The focus has been to offer professional development to administrators, teachers and staff to build capacity within the system to effectively reduce disproportionate exclusionary practices that impact students of color. In school year 2017-2018 59 combined meetings, trainings and events were conducted by RNW with school administrators, teachers, and students.
- OVP in addition provides small grants, under \$5000, sponsoring pro-social culturally specific programming for youth involving education, mentoring, and recreation opportunities.
- Additionally, OVP has provided funding to the post incarceration / reentry program entitled HEAT (Habilitation, Empowerment, Accountability, Therapy) through Volunteers of America Oregon (VOA). The funding provides incentive for HEAT program enrolled clients, to encourage those clients to complete the 9-month program. OVP, Multnomah County Parole and Probation, and GIFT Coordinator are stakeholder services assisting VOA with the HEAT program.

- OVP coordinates with the Multnomah County Court, Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, faith and community leaders in providing court probation clients with pro-social mentoring meetings as a client elective. 8 probation clients have contacted OVP and been aligned with community mentors to date in FY 2018-2019.
- involved youth of color as victims. OVP is continuing to research new pro-social service delivery methods which will continue to offer future reduction in youth and gang related violence.

Equity Impacts

Programming managed by OVP supply pro-social resources and services to communities of color and the underserved.

OVP provides facilitation and or enjoins as a stakeholder in meetings or events supporting communities of color.

IN THE EVENT OF THE BIG ONE....

This is a poem I wrote for a St. John citizens committee that is interested in learning about emergency preparedness and what we can do about it.

Who wants to go slithering down into doom

Once the big earthquake hits?

There's research and writing and talking on zoom.

Come join us to see what job fits.

We've got knowledgeable experts and professionals galore.

People with experience abound.

Who should we contact to find out more?

Let's all take a good look around.

How 'bout a flier to pass house to house

That informs, educates, astounds.

No time for quietude, no being a mouse.

Get revved up, active, make the rounds

To places where people might read what we wrote.

Let's listen, assess what they think.

Find others willing to get out and vote

Who'd rather take action than sink.

Then we take off and go with citizen support

to PBOT and PBEM and more

with data, research, pictures, reports

to inform them. Let's hope that we score!

(my apologies to real poets)

The Impact of a Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake on the CEI Hub, a 55 page draft report prepared in June 2021 for Multnomah County Office of Sustainability.

Impact_of_CSZ_Earthquake_on_CEI_Hub_Pub_DRAFT_063021.pdf

A MAP OF COLUMBIA RIVER AND WILLAMETTE RIVER LIQUIFICATION AREAS

