

September 2021 Calendar of LWV Events

Wed., Sept. 1, 1:30 p.m. — Book Club — *Spying on the South* by Tony Horwitz

Virtual meeting.

If you are interested in joining Book Club contact Roz Shirack.

Mon., Sept. 13, 2 - 4 p.m. — Board meeting — via Zoom

All members are invited to attend board meetings. Contact Kathleen West for the link.

The minutes will be posted on the LWVMPC website.

Sat., Sept. 18, 10 a.m. - noon: *Voting Security*

Speaker: Marion County Clerk Bill Burgess

Details on Page 2.

Link to Zoom meeting:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85777708261?
pwd=SEhhVW1XNlZlEaFlseWQ0RFR5cHVx
QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85777708261?pwd=SEhhVW1XNlZlEaFlseWQ0RFR5cHVxQT09)

Meeting ID: 857 7770 8261



Bill Burgess

Invite friends and family to join the meeting.

Sat., Sept. 25, 1 p.m. — Great Decisions: *The Two Koreas*

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

Discussion leader: Kathy Terman

Making Democracy Work™

Fall Membership Meeting on *Voting Security* Speaker: Marion County Clerk Bill Burgess

Our Fall Membership Meeting will be held on **Saturday, September 18, from 10 a.m. until noon on Zoom** (due to the continued Covid pandemic).

Invite prospective members to attend this timely meeting at which Marion County Clerk Bill Burgess will speak on *Voting Security*. Although Oregon is not one of the states in which legislators have passed laws to restrict voting, this is a good time to learn about the procedures in place to ensure that Oregon elections are secure and accurate.



Bill Burgess at ballot box

Bill Burgess was first elected Marion County Clerk in 2005 and has served as president of the Oregon Association of County Clerks. Before his election as County Clerk, Bill served on the Salem City Council from 1990 to 1998 and was Council President in 1998. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Oregon State University and worked as a pharmacist and pharmacy manager. He earned a Master of Public Administration from Lewis and Clark College. Bill is a long-time member of the League.

Redistricting in Oregon



Redistricting will be a big issue in Oregon this fall, especially since Oregon qualifies for an additional congressional seat. Senate and House Redistricting Committees will begin the process of drawing the new State and Congressional districts and hold hearings by Zoom to receive public input. In our area the **public hearings will be held on Thursday, September 9, at 1 p.m. and Monday, September 13, at 8 a.m.**

See the Oregon Legislature's redistricting page at <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/redistricting/> for more information.

Alice LaViolette attended a webinar sponsored by LWVOR. Information gained appears on Page 5.

FOCUS

Focus is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters® of Marion and Polk Counties. Members subscribe through their dues, and membership is open to anyone 16 years of age and older.

Become an involved LWV member

Amy Vandegrift, Membership Chair

As a 40-year-plus League member, I have found that there are many levels of member participation and that the levels change during our lifetimes. Some activities can be done individually on your own time and others are done together as a group.

How do you want to be involved? Here are some suggestions:

Pay your dues before the end of September.

Read your monthly *Focus* newsletter; educate yourself.

Learn what you are passionate about: education, voting, recycling, health....

Attend an LWV meeting and then attend more meetings.

Read LWV resource materials, such as the *Pesticides & Biocides* report from LWVOR (<https://www.lwvor.org/pesticides-and-other-biocides>), which we'll discuss early this fall.

Participate in the discussion.

Help at a discussion meeting as recorder of the group's answers to the consensus questions and give your notes to the program chairperson.

Discover how your interests match those of other members and consider joining or forming an interest group to learn more about the issue.

Join an LWV study committee and enjoy researching and reporting. [Note: The study of "Health & Safety in the Schools" will not occur at this time due to insufficient interest in serving on the committee.]

Observe a local government committee or board and report on it to educate others. [See Page 4.]

Serve on the local LWV board to use your leadership skill on the things that excite you. [Note: We still need a Secretary (so Deanie doesn't have to do double duty) and an Action Chair to alert the Board and draft testimony when a local issue on which the League has a position could use our advocacy.]

This year make a commitment to support LWVMPC with your dues and your participation and activism. We need you! Together we educate ourselves and keep our community responsive to the issues that make this a great place to live. Call and talk with me or any other board member about how to get involved.



Many hands make light work!

Volunteering for Observer Corps

Alice LaViolette

Observer Corps is an opportunity to stay informed on what is going on in our community from the comfort of your own home. So many of our public meetings are now available via Zoom or Capital Community Media. Agendas are posted online with links to information reports and other documents discussed during the meetings. All of this means you can do your “reporting” at your own pace.

I began volunteering a few months ago and have found it to be an easy and interesting way to contribute to our League. I have reported on Salem Housing Authority and the Salem City Council. Both groups have recorded meetings that are available for me to watch when I have some free time. Before I watch the meeting, I spend a few minutes going over the agenda and reading through any attachments. I can then make an abbreviated outline to follow along while watching the video.

I have found that watching local government meetings can be as entertaining as anything else that is available on cable TV. After watching a few meetings you’ll be as familiar with the varying personalities of committee members as you were with the characters in the cast of Friends. And, just as a plot develops as you binge-watch a new series, you’ll follow the emerging plot as the committee members build on their work week after week. In other words, you may find it a fun and interesting experience.



The form for submitting your report is available on our LWVMPC web page [LWVmarionpolk.org], under the link for “Interest Groups.” We ask that you note three or four main points of discussion and whether any decisions or actions were taken.

Our current corps members are:

- Janet Adkins – Cherriots Board/Salem Area Transit
 - Alice LaViolette – Salem City Council (need additional observer, please)
 - *Diana Bodtker/*Amy Vandegrift – Marion Co Board of Commissioners
 - *Kathleen West – Salem-Keizer School Board
 - *Barbara Sellers-Young – Salem Library Board
- (*new)

Please email me if you are interested in joining our Observer Corps.

Voter Registration in Oregon

Kristin Eberhard and Jay Lee of Sightline Institute

Oregon’s first-in-the-nation automatic voter registration system continues to modernize the state’s elections system and lead the way for other states. By making better use of existing digital data, the Beaver State has registered almost all eligible citizens to vote, and it is keeping their information up-to-date so that mailed-out ballots go to voters’ correct, most current addresses. It is working so well that 19 other states plus the District of Columbia have followed suit in recent years.

Oregon Redistricting: Are You Ready?

Alice LaViolette

The League of Women Voters of Oregon hosted a panel presentation, "Oregon Redistricting: Are You Ready?" on August 25. A recording of the one-hour webinar is now available at this link: <https://youtu.be/milWAh3Of2Q>. Presenters were Chris Cobey, LWVOR Redistricting Specialist; Norman Turrill, LWVOR Governance Coordinator; and Dan Vicuña, Common Cause National Redistricting Manager.

Redistricting will use 2020 Census data to equalize the population in legislative and congressional voting districts by redrawing the district boundaries. The process is especially important this year since Oregon has qualified for an additional congressional seat.

On Friday, September 3rd, the Senate & House Interim Committees on Redistricting met concurrently in a public hearing to release the draft of the 96 congressional and legislative maps. The hearing can be viewed remotely at this link: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/202111/Committees/SRED/Overview>.

If the Legislative Assembly is unable to adopt maps by September 27 this year, it becomes the duty of the Oregon Secretary of State to propose the new state legislative districts. [See her comments below.]

There will be two opportunities to participate in public hearings for residents of Marion and Polk County. The hearings will be held virtually. Dates are September 9 (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.) and September 13 (8:00 – 11:00 a.m.). Two additional hearings for statewide input will be held on September 13 (1:00 – 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.). Instructions on how to submit oral and written testimony is available on the Legislature's redistricting web page at <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/Redistricting>. Written testimony must be received by 5:29 pm on Tuesday, September 14.

More and updated information, including an ongoing timeline, will be posted to the LWVOR redistricting website through the end of September: <https://www.lwvor.org/redistricting-in-oregon>

Oregon Secretary of State Shemia Fagan on Redistricting

Redistricting is the Legislature's job. While I am optimistic they will pass a redistricting bill by the September 27 deadline, I owe it to Oregonians to be ready to go if they don't. I made a commitment to Oregonians to convene a People's Commission to advise me on redistricting and that is exactly what I am doing. It is essential to include and engage diverse voices, both through the Commission and other opportunities for public input, to ensure Oregonians' values and experiences are a part of determining the legislative districts that represent us. The People's Commission will be one of the many opportunities for Oregonians, including those with experience working in historically underserved communities, to provide input if it becomes necessary for me to fulfill my constitutional role to propose legislative districts.



To Protect Voting Rights

Deanie Anderson. Voter Service Co-Chair

Last week, the House of Representatives took a critical step in protecting the right to vote by passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to reinstate parts of the original voting rights law the Supreme Court struck down in *Citizens United*. The House of Representatives also passed the For the People Act, which includes provisions to make our democracy work better for everyone; the Equality Act, which extends vital civil rights protections to all LGBTQ people; and the Dream and Promise Act, which would provide a pathway to citizenship for immigrants. But these bills will die in the Senate unless the filibuster is amended.



The League supports reforming the filibuster, and Virginia Kase, CEO of the LWWUS, wrote the following article.

Amend the Filibuster

League of Women Voters CEO Virginia Kase

“The League of Women Voters calls on the U.S. Senate to amend the filibuster rule that continues to stand in the way of progress for the American people. The League has a history of calling for filibuster reform to ensure a functioning democracy. In 2011, the League called for filibuster reform to end gridlock and partisan warfare in the Senate. Today, we are seeking the same reform to limit obstruction.

“The American voters elected senators to legislate, and we want to see Congress pass laws—not use outdated, arbitrary rules with a history of racist ties to obstruct our democracy. The Senate filibuster is a Jim Crow relic, historically used to protect the South’s dependence on slave labor and later to defend segregation and block civil rights legislation.

“The League supports reforming the filibuster to prohibit a minority party from blocking opening debate of a bill. We support instituting a ‘talking filibuster,’ ending silent holds, putting the onus on minority parties to produce 40 votes, and lowering the cloture vote threshold to bring bills to a final up-or-down vote on the Senate floor.

“As long as senators can hide behind the filibuster, they are not beholden to the American people. Under current rules, senators far too often abuse the filibuster to delay important legislation and conceal debate behind closed doors, out of the view of the American people.

“This does a disservice to our democracy. The American voters deserve to see which of their elected senators are obstructing a vote on issues that matter to our communities, the nation, and the health of our republic. Those wishing to block action should be held accountable and required to hold the floor of the US Senate to explain themselves to the public.

“Our nation deserves better. The American people are tired of seeing this archaic tool used and abused to delay progress. It is time to amend the filibuster for the health and safety of our democracy.”

New LWVOR Position on Forests

Delegates to the LWVOR Convention 2021 adopted a position statement on Forests based on the LWV of Washington study entitled *Washington's Dynamic Forests*.

LWVOR Position on Forests (2021)

The League of Women Voters of Oregon finds:

1: That all benefits of the forests—ecological, human and economic—are inextricably interconnected. Healthy forests are essential to habitat for a diversity of plant and animal life, to the hydrologic cycle, and to carbon storage to mitigate global warming. In addition, healthy forests are essential to a forest products industry with the jobs and goods they provide, and to the economic and aesthetic values of their recreational opportunities. Therefore, The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports:



2: Laws and policies to insure that forest management (for timber extraction, recreation or any other activity) is carried out in a manner that will sustain healthy forests, streams and habitats. The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that the following are essential elements of an adequate forest practices policy:

3: The public must be informed and involved in the decision-making process in the development of regulations. There must be adequate public notice of forest practices permit applications, hearings, meetings and proposed actions. Public review and comment at each phase of policy and regulation development should be required. Citizens and stakeholders must be represented on the decision-making bodies.

4: There must be authority and funding for enforcement of regulations. Existing land use and forest practices regulations must be monitored and enforced, and should be responsive to changing scientific knowledge. There must be coordination of regulations for public and private lands among governmental entities.

5: Riparian zones are an integral part of the forest ecosystem and must be regulated adequately to protect the streams and the wildlife dependent upon the streams.

5: Education should be made available to timber owners on scientifically sound forest practices with the establishment of a small landowners' agency for this purpose.

6: Environmental values of the lands proposed for trade must be considered before the economic values. Trained appraisers, with public oversight, must be used. The right of appeal must be available to the public.

7: Full accounting of all costs, including cumulative ecological impacts, of timber harvests and other forest uses must be considered in forest activity decisions.

(Continued on next page)

LWVOR Position on Forests (2021) (Continued)

- 8: Forest management must be responsive to scientific research and knowledge and should include:
- mapping, classification and protection of all streams,
 - more and better data—including total watershed analysis,
 - evaluation of cumulative effects of various activities in the forest in the consideration of individual forest practice permits, and
 - planning for sustainability of forest ecosystems.
- 9: The State should consider ecological protections the most important factor in deciding which activities to allow on state forest lands.
- 10: Motorized activities should be restricted and in separate areas from non-motorized activities.
- 11: Forest roads must be built, maintained and decommissioned to have the least impact on the forest ecosystems. Some areas on state lands should be roadless.
- 12: Educate consumers about the human and ecological values of our forests as well as the opportunities and benefits of more efficient use of forest products, recycling and the use of alternatives to wood.
- 13: Fund independent scientific research that would include improved forest practices and ecologically sound alternatives to the use of wood.
- 14: Tax benefits and compensation should be considered to encourage small landowners to manage their forests in an ecologically sustainable manner.
- 15: Oregon schools must be fully funded with less reliance on timber harvests.
- 16: Trust lands should remain in public ownership.

The LWVOR Convention of 2021 adopted these position statements based on the LWVWA studies entitled: *Washington's Dynamic Forests*. The two-part study of forests and forest issues can be found here: Part One: <https://www.lvwva.org/resources/Pictures/forests1.pdf>
Part Two: <https://www.lvwva.org/resources/Pictures/forests2.pdf>



League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties Membership through September 30, 2022

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all women and men 16 years of age and older. Membership includes subscriptions to local, state, and national League publications, many of which are sent by e-mail and all of which are supported by your local dues.

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Renewing members, please add below any information that is different from what's in the 2019-20 directory. If you've mislaid your directory, contact Elsa Struble at gstruble@willamette.edu, 364-3929.

New members, please complete the following contact information.

Phone (H) _____ (Cell) _____

E-mail _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Yes, I want to join the League: _____ as a *new* member. _____ as a renewing member

I am enclosing:

___ \$ 65 for Individual Membership

___ \$ 30 for each additional Household Member, Student or Limited Income Member
(Those with limited income may also contact Amy Vandegrift or Elsa Struble about scholarships)

___ \$ 90 for a single Supporting Member

___ **\$15 extra to receive printed newsletters through the mail**

\$ _____ Contribution to LWVMPC budget (not tax deductible)

\$ _____ **TOTAL to LWVMPC** (not tax deductible)

\$ _____ Contributions to LWV of Oregon are now tax deductible. Write a separate check payable to LWVOR and *send it to* Treasurer Elsa Struble; she will forward it to the state League and the amount will be held for us to use for our educational projects or per-member payments owed the state League. (Checks sent to the LWVOR office will not benefit our local League but directly benefit the state League, another good cause.)

Mail check(s) & form to Treasurer Elsa Struble, 210 18th St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

For further member information, contact Amy Vandegrift at 503-364-0492, vandebloom@gmail.com
or Elsa Struble at 503-364-3929, gstruble@willamette.edu

Join online [HERE](#).



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
of Marion and Polk Counties**

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Making Democracy Work™



The League of Women Voters®, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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