

November 2021 Calendar of LWV Events

Wed., Nov. 3, 1:30 p.m. — Book Club — *The Thing with Feathers* by Noah Strycker

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

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

Wed., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. — *Pesticides and Other Biocides*

Consensus meeting on Zoom

The link is [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4913981627?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4913981627?pwd=WW5Vb0ZqSzRXQjlrQXVzc1lrUGN2dz09)

[pwd=WW5Vb0ZqSzRXQjlrQXVzc1lrUGN2dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4913981627?pwd=WW5Vb0ZqSzRXQjlrQXVzc1lrUGN2dz09), Passcode: 349547.

This link will be emailed to members a few days before the meeting.

The consensus questions accompany this *Focus* to members.

The LWV of Portland's panel presentation for the Pesticide Study that was used for LWVMPC's October meeting may be viewed at <https://youtu.be/Cj7vqyeb5AE>.

See Page 2 for more details.

Mon., Nov. 8, 2 - 4 p.m. — Board meeting — via Zoom

All members are invited to attend board meetings.

Minutes are on the LWVMPC webpage under Board Minutes.

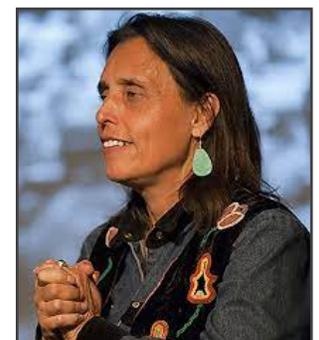
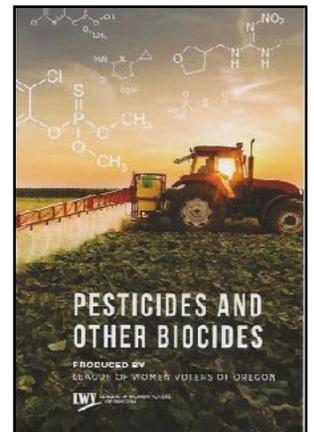
Wed., Nov. 10, at 6:30 p.m. — Salem Peace Lecture

Winona Duke will speak on "Indigenous Strategies to Address Climate Change" at this virtual event.

Link to lecture: <https://willametteuniversity.zoom.us/s/92681562384>.

Winona LaDuke is an American economist, environmentalist, writer and known for her work on tribal land claims and preservation, as well as sustainable development. She is the author of *Native Struggles for Land and Life* and *Recovering the Sacred*.

LWVMPC is a supporter of the Peace Lecture.



Winona LaDuke

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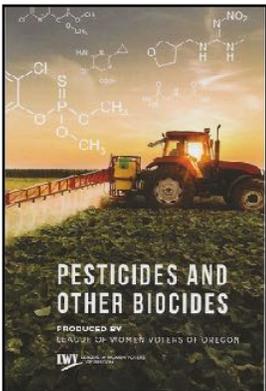
Pesticides and Other Biocides—Consensus meeting

Overview from LWVOR: The use of pesticides is a balancing act between advantages and disadvantages. To understand both beneficial and adverse impacts requires a broad overview of prevailing policy and the effects that policy has had. This study reviews the environmental and health costs and benefits of pesticide use, the current state of regulation at federal, state and local levels, and the practices and precautions presently in place for their use. It reviews potential improvements to regulations and changes to practices that could improve outcomes and protect the environment and human health while maintaining a stable, safe and reliable supply of foods and other farmed products.

Five key areas of pesticide development, use and policy were identified for review and potential improvements:

- Education, training and labeling
- Transparency and information gathering
- Funding, research, and evaluation
- Adaptive management and Integrated Pest Management
- Burden of proof and the precautionary principle.

Information for November 3 meeting:



The LWVOR study booklet is available at <https://www.lwvor.org/pesticides-and-other-biocides>.

The Portland LWV's panel discussion of the topic (used for the LWVMPC meeting on Oct. 20) may be seen at <https://youtu.be/Cj7vqyeb5AE>.

The consensus questions to be discussed at our November 3 meeting accompany this *Focus* and are also available on the LWVOR website with the study booklet. League members are encouraged to answer the questions before participating in the meeting while keeping an open mind to additional views that other League members may express at the meeting.

The November 3 participants' answers to the questions will be reported to LWVOR and combined with responses from the other Oregon local Leagues to formulate a position statement to be used for lobbying the Oregon Legislature.

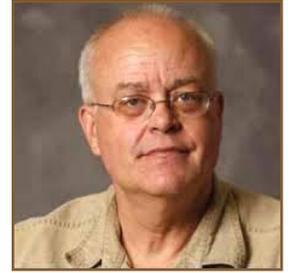
FOCUS

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.

Hear LWVOR Fall Workshop Speakers

The speakers at the LWVOR Fall Workshop spoke on issues threatening our democracy. The speakers were recorded, so you have another chance to hear them from the LWVOR webpage at lwvor.org.

Professor Garrett Epps (pictured at right) spoke on “Can SCOTUS Bring US Together?” about the changes in our democracy and dangerous trends appearing.



Cheryl Graeve, Director of National Programs for the National Institute for Civil Discourse at the University of Arizona, spoke on “Engaging Differences: Constructive Conversations in a Diverse World” and encouraged trying to understand differences.

Dr. Terry Busch from Braver Angels spoke on “Defusing Contentious Conversations.”

Katie Parker and Stacey Smith of the LWV of Oakland, CA, presented their tools for recruiting, training, and retaining volunteers to “Improve the Volunteer Experience.”

Getting Involved in the League

Amy Vandegrift, Membership Chair

We want to welcome new members Linda Kirsch and Kathy Hadley. Both joined our League this past month when they learned about our LWVOR study on *Pesticides and Other Biocides* and our consensus opportunity. I spoke with Linda who is new to the League. She is now settled in Salem after having spent her working year traveling and is looking for ways of make a positive contribution to her community. The interests of League match with her interests in good governance, voting rights and responsible citizenship. We look forward to working with our newest members and seeing them on our Zoom meetings and later in person.

How to be an active League member: Take your cornucopia and fill it with your interest in your community, your energy, and your desire to make a difference. Add in other Leaguers who share your passion—be it for voting rights, equity in redistricting, clean water, good schools, breathable air, support of our youth, land use, protecting our parks, access to health care and maternity care, public transit, and helping to house all people. (There are many opportunities!) Add a dash of the suffragettes’ pluck and LWV founders’ vision and you create a group that by working together can change our communities, state, and nation for the better.



To support good governance: Good government starts with citizens willing to be involved and be informed. One simple and easy way is to be an LWV Observer. Our local news media reporters no longer report on government meetings on a regular basis. Our League can help fill that gap. We are looking for members to observe one of the many public meetings that happen each month. Possible interests: Wonder what your city government is doing? Observe the Keizer, Dallas or other city council meetings or share observing Salem City Council with Alice LaViolette. Live in the county? Observe the Marion County Commission. Interested in the environment? Observe the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District or the Marion County Solid Waste Advisory Council.

Many meetings are now online or on Zoom and also recorded for later viewing. Because of these technologies you can attend on your own timeline. [See October Observer reports on Page 6.]

Help Redraw Salem City Council Ward Boundaries

Salem residents are invited to participate, this fall, in the process of updating the City Council ward boundaries. The City analyzes the wards right after the U.S. Census, every 10 years, through a process called "reapportionment." Boundaries will be re-drawn in order to assure that each ward contains an equal amount of population.

The goal of redrawing the boundaries is to get all eight wards as close as possible to 21,942, which is one-eighth of Salem's 2020 Census population of 175,535. Current ward populations vary from the goal by as little as 1.6% to as much as 13.1%.

Mid-Willamette Council of Governments has analyzed the Census data and prepared three alternative ward boundary maps for reapportionment. City staff plan to have the options posted on the web by early November and are asking the community to comment on the boundary options. You will have the chance to comment when the alternatives are presented to the City Council November 8. City Council will also provide input at that meeting.

Following the November 8 meeting there will be two virtual open houses where you will be able to ask questions and share comments. The open houses will be held on Tuesday, November 9, from 4 - 5 p.m. and Wednesday, November 10 from 12 - 1 p.m. Zoom links for the open house will be posted on the City Council web page.

The City Council expects to hold a public hearing and select a final alternative for approval in late November.

For more information read the City of Salem Staff Report on Reapportionment at <https://www.cityofsalem.net/CityDocuments/CityCouncilInformationReport.pdf>.

Current demographics for all Salem Wards are at <https://www.cityofsalem.net/CityDocuments/CurrentWardsRaceAgeTbl.pdf>.

Map of Current Wards: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/CityDocuments/CurrentWardsMap.pdf>

Redistricting Maps

To see how competitive the proposed congressional maps are for each state, look at the updating tracker from FiveThirtyEight at

https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-2022-maps/?utm_source=Sightline%20Institute&utm_medium=web-email&utm_campaign=Sightline%20News%20Selections



According to Wikipedia, FiveThirtyEight, sometimes rendered as 538, is an American website that focuses on opinion poll analysis, politics, economics, and sports blogging.

October Observer Corps Reports

Salem City Council 10/11/2021

Alice LaViolette

Main Points/Issues Discussed

Councilor Nordyke thanked all citizens that take the time to provide testimony on council issues.

City Manager Steve Powers reminded Councilors to review the “Our Salem” Comprehensive Plan before the work session on Oct 18. He also stated that city staff is requesting citizen input and public testimony on several upcoming issues: Stormwater report, Library Strategic Plan, Police Strategic Plan, The Tree Canopy, Needs of Business, and potential locations for a new transit center in South Salem.



Decisions Made/Actions Taken

Approved: Safe Drinking Water Revolving Fund to integrate Sleepy Hollow Water System to city system and the assessment of properties within Sleepy Hollow Water System for reimbursement cost to connect to city system

Approved: Transfer of funds from General Fund and Cultural Tourism Fund to update Council Chamber audio/video equipment and hire a manager for the Gerry Frank Amphitheater

Approved: Lease with Pentacle Theater for use of space in Liberty Parkade for ticket office, administration space and rehearsal space

Approved: Intergovernmental Agreements with East Salem Service District and Labish Village Sewage District for wastewater collection and disposal service

Approved: Hiring bonus of \$7,500 for police officer lateral transfers and difficult-to-fill positions to be filled between Oct. 25, 2021, and February 28, 2022

Approved: Vacating public right-of-way at northeast corner of intersection of Liberty Rd. S and Pembroke St., site of Former Fire Station #7

Approved resolution to extend the declaration of emergency related to unsheltered residents to June 28, 2022

Approved: Revision to section of Salem Revised Code related to Multi Unit Housing Tax Incentive Program to extend program until January 1, 2032.

Discussion: Motion from Councilor Lewis to reconsider Council’s decision to establish a temporary homeless shelter at 2700 Wallace Rd NW. Lengthy discussion followed. There was concern that the community wasn’t given advanced notice or a chance to comment on the location before Council approval on Sept. 27, 2021. Councilor Lewis wants to make sure that this location is the best for all concerned and that the public has the opportunity to suggest other locations. Discussion centered on need to establish a micro-shelter in each city ward, impending winter weather and need to move people out of the rain/cold and whether the whole process will be slowed down if Council withdrew prior approval. Gretchen Bennett, Salem Housing Authority, gave two examples of locations that had been approved by Council (old UGM site and Windows to the West) but, upon further examination by city staff, the locations were deemed not feasible. She stated that if the location at 2700 Wallace Rd.

was found to have flooding issues, they would not proceed. There is currently a paved area at the location and grasslands owned by ODOT. Vote: Nordyke – No, Lewis – Yes, Stapleton – No, Anderson – No, Phillips – No, Leung – Yes, Gonzalez – Yes, Hoy – No, Bennett – Absent. Motion failed.

Discussion: Three resolutions dealing with the purchase of three parcels of land for future development of Marine Drive NW were pulled for discussion by Councilor Anderson who questioned why City was purchasing entire property lots rather than only the property needed for Marine Drive right-of-way. Christine Rutherford, Urban Development Director, explained that parts of each property were within city limits and parts were outside but still within urban growth boundary. If the entire parcels are purchased the city will not need to go through annexation process, which could take up to one year. Funds for the purchase are coming from three sources, including ARPA funds. Councilor Nordyke requested that the city staff put together a suggested budget for how the remainder of the ARPA funds will be spent. Resolution passed.

Salem City Council 10/18/21

Alice LaViolette

Main Points

This meeting was a City Council work session.

Members and the public were presented an update on the Draft Salem Comprehensive Plan, “Our Salem”, by Eunice Kim, Project Manager. This has been a 3-year project involving feedback from the public and input from the Planning Commission.

The goals of the current plan are to strengthen Salem’s economy, increase affordable housing, provide recreational opportunities, protect natural resources, and provide an integrated multimodal transportation network. Two of the new goals are increased community participation for communities of color and low-income residents and reduce greenhouse emissions to meet the goal of being a carbon neutral city by 2050.

Proposed changes to the zoning plan and map include increased mixed uses in downtown area and along major traffic corridors, distribute multifamily housing throughout Salem, allow pockets of small-scale businesses in “neighborhood hubs” in 13 single-family areas and increase areas zoned for commercial use. City staff have asked City Council to initiate the process for adopting the new process before the end of 2021.



HOW TO BECOME an Observer: Contact Amy Vandegrift or Alice LaViolette to let them know which council/commission/committee you want to observe and to answer any additional questions you might have. In the absence of coverage of these governmental bodies by journalists, you can keep all of us informed. Our LWV board will send a letter on your behalf to the committee chair to let them know you are a regular LWV Observer

Action on Climate Change

Excerpted from LWVUS Climate Change Task Force:

We have the power to stop global warming and transform society, but that is a tremendous political challenge.

Congress has an historic opportunity to show climate leadership by including major climate investments in the upcoming reconciliation package. To succeed, they must include:

- a strong Clean Electricity Standard
- targeted investments in environmental justice and frontline communities
- an end to fossil fuel subsidies, and
- a Civilian Climate Corps creating good jobs.



Additional information from the LWV Climate Change Task Force may be found at <https://lwvc.org/climate-change-task-force>.



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

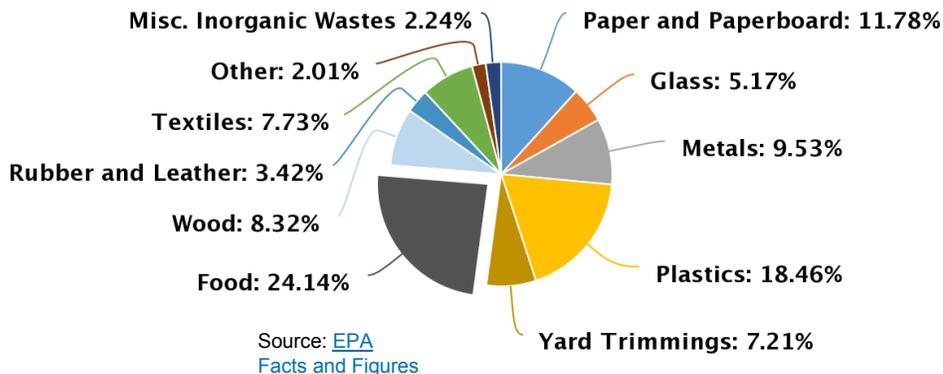
Join online [HERE](#).

Food Waste, Our Climate, and How We Can Help

Over 30% of the food in grocery stores is never eaten, due in large part to waste in our homes ([USDA](#)). Food waste occurs throughout the production-consumption process. It's a burden on our planet that we can all help remedy, starting in our homes. According to the [EPA](#), food waste is the single largest component of landfills.

When organic waste decomposes, it releases methane, which is a powerful greenhouse gas. One-fifth of the methane emissions in the U.S. comes from landfills. By reducing food waste, we can all make a positive impact on methane production and our climate.

Total Municipal Solid Waste Landfill by Material, 2018
146.1 million tons

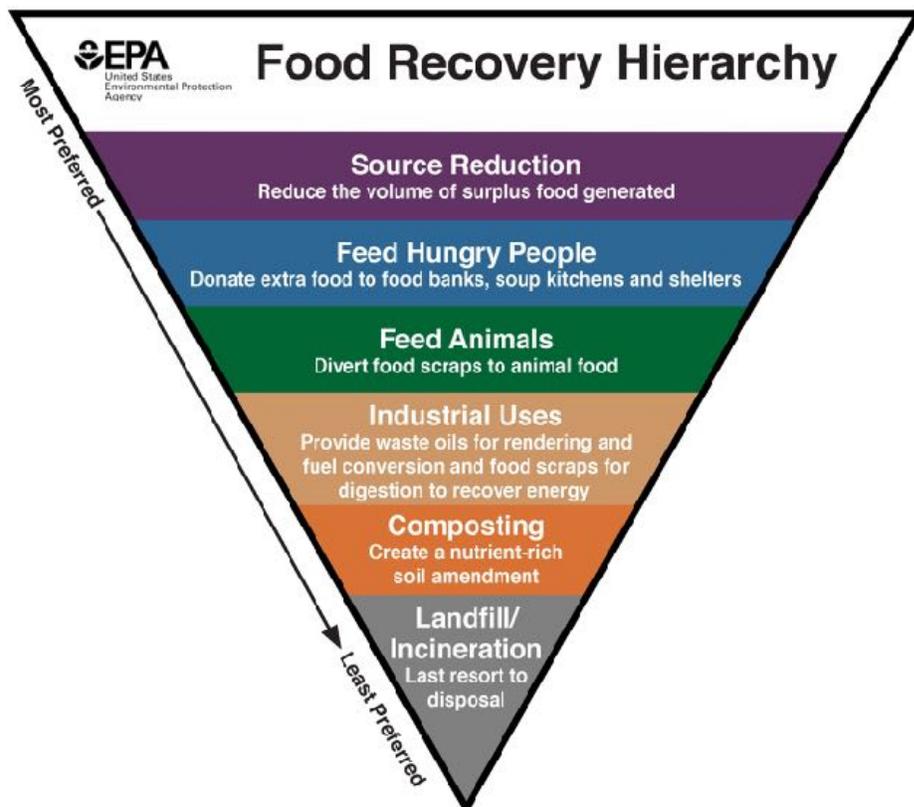


What Is Being Done?

- The EPA is partnering with communities, organizations, and local government agencies to reduce food loss and food waste by 50% by the year 2030.
- State governments have mandated reducing organic material in landfills.
- Local waste management companies have built anaerobic digesters to convert organic material to fuel and soil amendments.

What Can We Do?

- We can become waste-reduction advocates, encouraging governments to both prevent and divert food loss.
- We can choose whole, unprocessed foods, and when possible, buy food that is locally produced.
- We can compost table and home garden waste and donate unused fruit and vegetables from our gardens.
- We can follow the EPA's many tips for [reducing food waste at home](#).



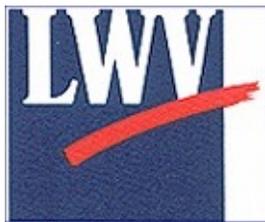


**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
of Marion and Polk Counties**

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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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