



FOCUS

Webpage: <http://LWVmarionpolk.org> or
www.leaguewomenvotersmarionpolk.org

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/LWVMarionPolk/>

December 2021 Calendar of LWV Events

Wed., Dec. 1, 1:30 p.m.—Book Club—*Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

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

Mon., Dec. 13, 3 p.m.—Board meeting—via Zoom

All members are invited to attend board meetings.

Minutes are on the LWVMPC webpage under Board Minutes.

**Sat., Dec. 18, 10 a.m.—Sen. Deb Patterson & Rep. Raquel Moore-Green
will speak about their first legislative session.**

This Zoom meeting is our virtual “holiday party.” Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84039477848?pwd=SndzVTIYNTZRNkZyUC9nNkVweFVIUT09>

Meeting ID: 840 3947 7848

Passcode: tAB3iL

Biographical information about the speakers is on Page 2.

Election Security in Oregon

At our September LWV meeting Marion County Clerk Bill Burgess discussed how Oregon elections are conducted so they are accurate and secure. The link to watch his presentation is <https://youtu.be/DrSDiL35pxw>.

Have you looked at the LWVMPC Webpage?

In addition to the link to the presentation by Bill Burgess, there is a link to the **Salem Peace Lecture** and also a link to a page from **LWVOR on Vote By Mail Best Practices**. It has four videos on vote-by-mail procedures from LWV of Lane County, LWV of Portland, and our own LWVMPC—featuring Kathleen West! From our webpage at <https://leaguewomenvotersmarionpolk.org/news/> click on the headline of the topic you want. Many thanks to Alice LaViolette for posting news on our webpage.

Making Democracy Work™

About our Speakers

Senator Deb Patterson

Rev. Dr. Deborah L. Patterson is an ordained clergywoman in the United Church of Christ, currently serving a 130-year old rural Congregational church in the Mid-Willamette Valley. Prior to her return to active ministry, she was Executive Director of the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, which equipped RNs to provide health care advocacy and education around the world. Deb has served on a wide variety of governing boards for health and human service organizations, including hospitals, transitional housing, residential care, and community-based services. She is currently Chair of the Marion Council Health Advisory Board and was recently appointed by Governor Brown to serve on the Oregon Disabilities Commission.



Senator Deb Patterson

Deb holds Bachelor's and Master's degree in Music, a Master of Health Administration from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, and master's and doctorate degrees from Eden Theological Seminary. She is a strong advocate for healthcare for all, for access to quality education for all ages, and for social justice, including climate justice.



Representative
Raquel Moore-Green

Representative Raquel Moore-Green

Raquel Moore-Green has been a small-business owner and is an active member of the Salem Chamber of Commerce. She is also a member of SEDCOR (Strategic Economic Development Corporation), the lead economic development entity for Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley. Raquel has worked with the De Muniz Legal Clinic.

Raquel is a Marion County Republican Precinct Committee Person. She worked for Senator Jackie Winters and former Representative Kevin Cameron in various roles at the Capitol.

Raquel has been very active in the Salem community for 24 Years. She served on the City of Salem Budget Committee for six years as a Citizen Member from Ward 3 beginning in 2013. She was a development strategy coordinator for the YWCA from 2010-2011 and served as Campaign Manager for the United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley 1999-2004. She is a former Government Day Coordinator and First Citizen Event Coordinator. She is a member and former board member of Salem City Club and is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

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.

Election Cybersecurity Workshop

Alice LaViolette

Members of Oregon's League of Women Voters were invited to participate in a workshop on Election Cybersecurity, held on November 18, by Zoom. The program was geared toward elections staff, campaign workers, voters services volunteers and election candidates. Sponsors were the University of Southern California Election Cybersecurity Initiative, the Associated Press and Google.

Adam Clayton Powell III served as host. The speakers covered best practices for maintaining cyber security, identifying disinformation and misinformation, the reality of global threats, and how to prepare for a crisis response. Rebecca Gladstone, LWVOR President, spoke on Oregon's successful vote by mail and motor-voter registration procedures.



Many of the resources and recommendations discussed during the workshop are available at this link: <https://www.electionsecurity.usc.edu/resources/>.

November 2021 Observer Corps Reports

(Due to publication deadline, some reports are from October)

Marion County Commissioner Board Work Session—10/27/2021

Amy Vandegrift

Main Points Discussed:

Commissioners got updates from the Health Dept. about COVID19 rates of infection and difficulties in testing. Mental Health and Human Services spoke about their Opioid treatment program. They will contract with Cardinal Health to provide medicines. Marion County Public Works presented information regarding funding of the contract with private companies to remove debris from the February 2021 ice storm, work that should be completed by the end of 2021. Several discussion items were about rebuilding of areas up the Canyon affected by the September 2020 fires. This included septic systems for businesses as well as temporary and permanent housing in cooperation with Marion County Housing Authority.

Decisions Made/Actions Taken:

Commissioners approved the request for funding of the debris clean-up contract; 75% of the funding will be from FEMA and the other 25% will be the responsibility of the County. Commissioners asked for a work session on the Meth problems and treatments that are available through Marion County Health and Human Services. They also approved leasing land in Gates to use for tiny homes as temporary housing for victims of the September 2020 fire.

Salem Area Mass Transit District Board (Cherriots)— 10/28/21

Janet Adkins

Main Points Discussed:

1. Purchase of new Compressed Natural Gas buses and in ground lifts to replace old equipment.
2. Bus stop improvements to meet ADA standards and to improve general rider accessibility and safety. Discussed how stops are prioritized, what types of improvements are needed, city permitting requirements, problems associated with parked cars blocking access at many stops, lack of sidewalks in many areas, and cooperation with cities on bus stop projects.
3. Incorporating climate change reduction principles in more areas of transportation in the city and region wide.
4. Federal vaccine mandate timing—waiting for federal guidelines

Decisions Made /Actions Taken:

1. Approve contracting for purchase of 5 Compressed Natural Gas buses for \$2.895 million to replace 18-year-old diesel buses (using state and federal grants and local match). Unanimous vote, one member excused.
2. Approve contracting for In-Ground lift construction to replace two old lifts for up to \$229,118 (using federal funds and local match). Unanimous vote, one member excused.
3. Approve contracting for bus stop improvements at 27 (of 697 bus stops) not to exceed \$228,600 to meet ADA requirements and improve accessibility for general riders. This is the fourth in a series of bus stops groupings selected for improvement. Unanimous vote, one member excused.



Cherriots has a new video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mS4RkR42RjM>.

The video shows how to navigate the Cherriots website to see where the bus routes are, how often buses run on each, and when they run. If you've thought you'd like to take the bus instead of driving, the website shows how to do that.

Salem Area Mass Transit District— 11/18/2021

Janet Adkins

Main Points Discussed:

1. South Salem Transit Center update, prototypical design elements, and upcoming selection of up to nine sites for initial screening.
2. Additional battery electric bus purchases and addition of onboard chargers.
3. American Public Transit Association annual meeting highlights and Grand Award to Cherriots for marketing campaign
 1. Quarterly finance report and anticipated new federal funding for transit. Ridership and revenue beginning to recover from pandemic and recent labor shortage cutbacks.

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Actions Taken/Decisions Made:

1. Authorize contract change order with Gillig LLC for adding On-Bus charging equipment for five battery electric buses (up to \$395,750). Federal funds with 20% local match)
2. Authorize purchase of additional five battery electric buses (up to \$5,058,970). Federal funds and 15% local match.
3. Authorize contract for electric bus project management and technical services (\$145,000)
4. Accept first quarter financial report and Transportation Options Program report.



Salem City Council—11/08/2021

Alice LaViolette

Main Points Discussed:

County Clerk Bill Burgess spoke on the redistricting process for city wards/precincts. It is important to stay on schedule for setting ward boundaries so precincts for elections can be established. Redistricting needs to be completed before the end of the year so candidates are able to meet filing deadlines. Council looked at three ward boundary change proposals that were prepared by city staff. Population growth in the city has been uneven with Wards 8 & 4 growing the most. The goal is to redraw boundaries so that wards are within a 10% population variance. A public hearing on new boundaries will be in late November.

The micro shelter facility on Portland Road costs \$1.7 million per year to fund. This cost includes hiring case workers/manager for wrap-around services.

Decisions Made/Actions Taken:

Accepted four grants from the Oregon Legislature totaling \$13.1 million. Money will be used to purchase body cameras for police, clean-up of homeless camps, creation of a sobering center, homeless shelters and rental assistance programs, and other programs. Planning Administrator approved development of 29.6 acres into 139 single family lots on Pringle Rd. SE (Ward 3). Councilor Phillips made a motion that this decision be brought up for a public hearing as the Morningside Neighborhood Assoc. voted to appeal the decision. Motion passed.

(Additional report on next page)

Salem City Council – Work Session – 11/15/2021

Alice LaViolette

Main Points Discussed:

This work session focused on the 2022 Policy Agenda. Council considered progress achieved on Policy Agenda priorities from the year before, community feedback from the Community Satisfaction Survey, updates on major initiatives, and began to identify priorities for 2022. In January 2022, staff will return with proposals for how to achieve City Council priorities. In April the City's budgeting process will begin, with final City Council action taken in June.

Some concerns voiced by council members:

Councilor Nordyke—Funding is needed for a mobile crisis unit to help de-escalate crisis situations.

Councilor Phillips—We need to fund a Sobering Center.

Councilor Stapleton—We have a one-time influx of state funding for many projects, but we will need to be able to sustain these services after the initial funding is gone.

Mayor Bennett—We will need to collaborate with other government and non-profit entities for support and funding of some of these projects.

Councilor Hoy—We aren't progressing fast enough in establishing micro-shelters. We need to get 100 - 150 additional units ready for use within the next 6 months.

City Manager Powers—If we place 20 to 25 micro-shelters per area, we will need 5 additional locations to handle 150 units.

City Planner—Our housing needs analysis showed we are short 200 acres of multi-family housing to meet our needs. It is required by the state that we address this in order to meet the state's housing need goals.



Old Salem City Hall

New Salem City Ward Boundaries

Salem City Council approved new Ward boundaries. The map may be viewed at

<https://saalem.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=10001428&GUID=54CE7C39-0D8F-43F3-A288-2AC5F340C7B4>.



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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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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