

ARGUS

League of Women Voters Lane County

Presidents' Column Mise En Place Co-Presidents Sue Boyd & Susan Tavakolian

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Dr. Margaret Hallock
Speaker at our Fall Luncheon
September 20

Composers Room
Eugene Hilton
11:15 am
\$13

Restaurant professionals depend on *mise en place*, having everything prepared and ready to go before you start cooking. The board is practicing a League version of that this summer.

There are several events and projects to tell you about.

The first is our entry in the Eugene Celebration parade August 25, celebrating the Oregon centennial of woman suffrage. It's always more fun to be a participant than a spectator, and we hope to have a good

turnout of members, friends and family. For all the details, see page 2. Look for the League booth, too, with the ever-popular straw poll. Our parade entry is especially fitting this year, since the following day, August 26, will mark the 92nd anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, which gave full voting rights to women. It is also Women's Equality Day, which, as LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamura notes in her latest Leaders Update, is a day that is so important to our history and so

strongly associated with the League. The fall luncheon traditionally kicks off the League year. It will be September 20 at the Eugene Hilton, with Margaret Hallock as the speaker. You'll find more information on below. Be thinking of someone who might enjoy League, and remember that this year's budget includes money to pay for the meal of a member's guest.

It's no secret that that there's an election in November. We are co-

(Continued on page 2)

FALL LUNCHEON by Sue Wieleseck

After many years at Mal-lard Hall, this year's luncheon is at the Eugene Hilton. If you are a member, you are entitled to bring a prospective member to the luncheon at no cost. We very much want to encourage new members, and have budgeted funds to provide a no-cost lunch for one guest per member.

Please make reservations and payment through the League

office 541-343-7917.

Parking at the Hilton is under the building easy and accessible. An added benefit is that the Hilton chain is increasingly well known for its high ecological standards and has been ranked in more than one survey as the top "green" American hotel chain.

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding speaker this year. Dr.

Margaret Hallock is an economist and founding director of Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics. Dr. Hallock has previously published in the area of women and the economy. She has tentatively titled her speech,

"Women Workers, Women Careers, and Women Voters in 2012."

EUGENE CELEBRATION PARADE



LWVLC has applied for our entry in the Eugene Celebration Parade on Saturday, August 25th. This will be a good way to celebrate the centennial of women suffrage in Oregon. If you would like to participate, wear a costume with a long skirt,

light-colored blouse, and a decorated hat. We are trying to acquire a vehicle, or two, preferably a vintage-type, so if you know of one that might be available, please call me or the office. Hopefully, we'll have a few rider slots available, if we

can get a vehicle! Otherwise, we are encouraging a walking contingent, and we will have a large banner from LWVOR that was used in the Portland Rose Parade in June. We have invited AAUW and Fortnightly Club to join us.

Meet in the South Eugene High parking lot at 8:30 AM on Saturday, Aug. 25th, for the Parade which begins at 10 AM. LWVLC will also have a booth this year, and shifts have been organized by Fran Boehner.

Flo Alvergue



LWVOR at Portland Rose Parade in June.



Presidents' Column

(Continued from page 1) sponsoring a candidate's fair and ice cream social September 9 at the Morse Ranch in Eugene. (Page 3) The board will consider supporting or opposing any local ballot measures based on recommendations from the Action committee. Ballot measure information from LWVOR will be ready the end of September, and we will be using it for our October units.

Also in September the LWVUS-funded Membership and Development Program will begin. Our League was among those in the state selected to participate, although we don't know yet who our coach will be. Anne Best and Lois Taylor will join one of the co-presidents for the initial session.

The Fruit Loops are meeting this summer to organize a repeat of last year's very successful fruit sale fund-raiser. "We welcome new Loops," says Janet Calvert, chair. (See page 9.) Last year's sale was not only profitable but turned out to be fun, too. Next month's Argus will have everything you need to know about it.

Of course, there is still prep work to be done on some fronts, and we hope you will consider pitching in.

LWVOR's Coastal Management study is finished, and it will be the topic for our November and December units. The material and discussion questions have been prepared by the state League, and we need volunteers to serve as resource people

for the units. Please contact Mary Keating, program vice-president, if you are interested (page 6).

Pat McDaniels has agreed to chair the Lane County Government restudy and is looking for help. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the county and how it works at a very challenging period in its history.

Becky Gladstone is seeking information gatherers for the LWVOR study on Children at Risk, which is just getting underway. The study will focus on early childhood (ages 0 to third grade) with an emphasis on those factors that determine success or failure in school. No units are expected on the topic this year.

VOTER SERVICE – Miriam Aiken & Flo Alvergue, Co-Chairs

The voter service committee is busy preparing for the upcoming Fall election season. Our next meeting is Thursday, August 9, at 10 AM, for the purpose of planning the **Candidates Forum** that LWVLC is co-sponsoring with the Wayne Morse Ranch Board on September 9th. Invitations were sent to candidates in two local races, and local officials will be invited as well. Please mark your calendars for this Open House event. It will provide a good opportunity to meet a few candidates and visit the Morse Farm.

There will be some local measures on our ballots, and we need members to help research the issues for our **Everymember material** for units in October. State measures are undergoing finalization currently.

The next **Naturalization ceremony** is Friday, August 10, at the Federal Courthouse in Eugene, and we need two or three League members to help register new citizens and distribute materials. It's a very happy occasion, and if you've never attended one, here's your opportunity!

In late September we will have **Speakers' Bureau** training. Our League receives a number of requests to speak on ballot measures, in particular, and if you'd like to help in this way, please call Miriam or Flo or leave your name at the office. Speaking to groups is a vital part of our educational mission and provides us with good visibility in the community.

Flo Alvergue

MY LWVUS EXPERIENCE

For this first-time delegate, attending LWVUS in DC was both thrilling and informative. Meeting League members from across the nation led to lively discussions on voting rights, local politics and challenges of membership recruitment and retention that all Leagues face. In Monday's plenary session, for example, there were 649 voting delegates from 45 states. I especially enjoyed attending the caucus, "Mitigating the Impact of Voter Photo ID Laws." A panel composed of the state president and EF director from Wisconsin and the president of the Kansas League met a packed room. Wisconsin, much in the news the past year with its law on stamping out bargaining rights of its public employees, has avoided voter ID law passage due

to the faithful efforts of the League and other organizations on constitutional grounds. Kansas has been another story. The League has been active in fighting legislative efforts to limit rights in many areas.

The president stressed the importance of enlisting coalitions in the need for footwork and educating those working with the constituency. She said that the Kansas Secretary of State, Chris Cobach, is the author of the strict immigration laws passed by Arizona and Alabama. Delegates from Pennsylvania, Florida, and other states spoke of their struggles to combat voter rights suppression in a Q&A period. One point is the discrimination to women who with marriage have changed their legal names and cannot afford copies of their marriage licenses. In South Carolina

alone there have been 649,000 potential disenfranchised voters due to a number of factors.

There were many opportunities at convention to attend workshops and caucuses on various issues, an overwhelming array of choices. Kappy, Susan, and I were busy participating! We had fun attending a brunch of the Oregon delegation and the dine-around of nearby restaurants. I even managed a little sight-seeing in the city of my birth before the convention and between the Monday sessions. There's a "Circulator" bus that accommodates tourists to points of interest around DC.

Flo Alvergue

LWV of Lane County Board & Off Board Roster 2012-13

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SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN**

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Voters Service

**FLO ALVERGUE &
MIRIAM AIKEN**

ACTION – Kappy Eaton & Pat Hocken, Co-chairs

Next Action committee meeting on Tuesday, September 11, at 9:30 a.m. at Kappy Eaton's, 175 S Garden Way. All members are welcome.

STATE OF THE STATE University Governance: Legislative Concepts

The Special Committee on University Governance held a public hearing on LC 759 (Legislative Counsel's bill draft) July 26. While the League has positions on Oregon public higher education concerning adequate funding, cooperation and coordination, we do not have a specific statement about institutional boards. The decision of the LWVOR Action committee is to wait until the final recommendation for a legislative measure has been decided (by August 15), and comment when the committee takes to the road to get public input. This is expected for late August and early September. The final decision must be made by November 1 for the Governor and the Legislature.

At the hearing various opinions were expressed about the size and membership of the internal boards – classified staff, faculty and union, students – representation. Portland State and the University of Oregon strongly favor boards, while Oregon State does not. The proposed legislation would enable institutions desiring the boards to have them, and those not in favor, to keep the status quo. There will be sections dealing with fiduciary responsibility and accountability, as well as specific delineations of powers and transparency. Some of the following are currently in the draft and probably will be changed: Board of 13 members (more flexible such as 11-15); seven members at large (appointed by Governor); two students, two faculty, one classified (how selected), decisions as to tuition (with board and 5% an-

nual increase (who approves); approval of new courses and programs by State Board and Higher Ed Coordinating Council (more flexibility); and board bonding authority (tighter fiduciary and transparency from State board and Legislature). Stay tuned.

NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION ISSUES

Seven of the 45 filed citizen initiatives for the November 6 General Election ballot have been certified. For Eugene voters there will be those initiatives, plus two constitutional amendments referred by the Legislature, and at least two from the Eugene City Council: one to continue the levy for road and street maintenance and repair and one to approve a resolution to Congress for a federal constitution amendment banning personhood for corporations. Springfield probably will have a property tax measure on jail funding.

The LWVOR Action committee will give its recommendations for support, opposition or neutrality regarding the state measures to the State Board on August 3. The LWVLC will give recommendations to our local board after the two city councils and the Lane County Board of Commissioners have made final decisions as to measures for voter consideration.

The state measures are as follows, with comprehensive review coming in the October Argus:

- a marijuana statute measure to legalize adult use, cultivation and distribution
- two private casino measures, one a constitutional

amendment to enable establishing private casinos, and one to establish a private casino in Wood Village (Multnomah County) with a small amount going to an educational fund

- a constitutional amendment banning any real estate transfer taxes, fees or charges. (currently a statute contains such a ban)
- a constitutional amendment (required) to put any corporate income tax surplus (above the 2% projection) into the General Fund for K-12 education
- a statute measure to ban commercial salmon gill net fishing in Oregon inland waters (primarily the Columbia River)
- a statute to phase out the inheritance tax over five years, referred to as a "death tax"

The Legislature has referred two constitutional amendments – one to give the Governor more immediate ability to address catastrophic disasters (defined) and one to change the names of the three major parts of state government from "departments" to "branches", such as Executive Branch, and to remove the male references of "he", "him" and "his" when referring to the Secretary of State.

GETF

The Government Efficiency Task Force subcommittees have been meeting during March through June. The whole task force will meet soon to look at the recommendations to improve efficiency, effectiveness and cost savings for public services jointly provided by local and state agencies. For example the Criminal Justice group has reached agreement on such issues as

(Continued on page 6)

Local Action Update

Update on West Eugene EmX

The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed West Eugene EmX project has finally been released by the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA). The public can comment on the draft until August 29 after which the FTA is expected to make a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which is the last environmental hurdle. The League plans to review the draft and comment on it. Lane Transit District (LTD) is holding drop-in sessions for the public to learn about the EA. The remaining one will be held on August 7 from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the LTD Next Stop Center (11th and Olive in downtown Eugene). LTD staff will be available to answer questions about aspects of the project including the route.

The Eugene City Council and the LTD board will vote on reaffirming the project in the Fall. A local non-profit group has been formed to advocate for the West Eugene EmX and future EmX routes. With the name Better Eugene-Springfield Transit (BEST), its leaders are members of the business, university, environmental activism, and

other segments of our community. I personally am serving on BEST's Board of Advisors that advises its Boards of Directors and expands the public presence of the organization. BEST plans to obtain 1,000 signatures of support and to raise \$30,000 for a public outreach campaign. The League has already made a monetary contribution and encourages members to personally participate. The BEST Support Form, which appears on page 8 of this Argus, lists many ways to help with the effort.

Ban on Plastic Bags

The City of Eugene has scheduled a public hearing on September 17 on a proposed ordinance to ban single-use plastic carryout bags for retail purchases and to establish a mandatory 5 cent fee for paper bags provided for such purchases. The underlying goal of the ordinance is to encourage consumers to reduce their use of new, single use bags by switching to reusable bags. The strategy also seeks to reduce the litter from plastic bags that can cause negative effects on wildlife, particularly in the ocean. In addition, recycling plastic bags is difficult; they cannot be commingled with other recyclables because they frequently get entangled in sorting equipment. There are also problems

with biodegradable plastic bags including methane emissions in landfills and instability if they are recycled into new products. The proposed ban includes several exemptions, including one for the carry out of hot prepared take-out foods and prepared liquids intended for consumption away from the provider's premises. It also excludes some items from the definition of a carryout bag, such as bags used to package bulk items such as fruits and vegetables and bags used to wrap meat, fish, or frozen items.

The League board will consider at its August meeting whether to support the proposed ordinance based on our local Solid Waste position which states "The LWVLC supports solid waste management policies that promote source reduction, resource recovery, and recycling....In order to decrease the quantity of waste material in need of handling and to use the least disposal capacity...Containers (packaging) should be reusable, recyclable..."

Envision Eugene Moving Ahead The Eugene City Council has provided direction to the City Manager that will allow city staff to do the final analy-

sis necessary to legally revise the city's urban growth boundary (UGB) and to adopt a growth strategy for the next 20 years. With only a few exceptions, the Council concurred with the recommendations made by the City Manager in March 2012 and 2011. (See April and May 2012 Argus.) There were issues and concerns raised at public hearings and meetings that the Council addressed in its instruction to staff. One addition, which the League advocated for, was to further analyze the pros and cons of adding the airport to the UGB. Also two geographic areas were added to the list of areas to be considered for potential UGB expansion for single family housing: the Russel Creek area near Lane Community College and the DAG Trust Property, which is forested land near the former Hynix facility. Concerns about the proximity of the land being studied for UGB expansion for industrial use and for single family homes led the Council to instruct staff to consider compatibility issues and to consider environmental justice issues related to the siting of industrial uses.

The Envision Eugene process is expected to take about another year to complete.



COASTAL MANAGEMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

There is still no chair for the Coastal Management Study Committee. Members who would like to increase the level of commitment to the League may want to consider this opportunity to head this committee. Duties involve attending the briefing in November, assigning committee members to attend the Unit meetings in November and December, and compiling the consensus for submittal to the National League.

Anyone who might be interested in being on the committee or who would like to chair it may contact Mary Keating at myrnalouise@hotmail.com or call 541-344-4889.

**I said "Somebody should do something about that."
Then I realized I am somebody.**

Lily Tomlin

Action - continued

(Continued from page 4)

- (1) eliminate duplicate audit of county jails;
- (2) improve collections of child support payments to get money to families; mitigate scheduling of police officers in court to improve use of time/cost;
- (3) supervision of youth released from state secure facility;
- (4) provide incentives for community corrections;
- (5) more resources for mentally ill in Juvenile Justice; and
- (6) archiving paper documents related to criminal prosecution in digital form.

The subcommittee on General Government and Elections looks to recommend changes in state-county contracts regarding risk management and dispute resolution language in intergovernmental agreements with the Department of Transportation and simplify the process to amend contracts with the Oregon Health Authority. Efforts to change the election process for political party precinct committee per-

sons are still in limbo. The Democrats have agreed, but the Republicans are not on board. County clerks are expected to have another bill introduced in 2013. More definitive recommendations from all four subcommittees will be considered and adopted in the next two months since they must be presented to the Legislature by November 1.

SEPTEMBER FORECAST AND INTERIM COMMITTEES

The revenue forecast for September will be reported and discussed by the joint House and Senate Revenue committees on August 29. The state will be into the final nine months of the 2011-13 budget cycle, and the projections will impact state agencies. The budget for 2013-15 must be presented by the Governor on December 1 so the next two forecasts are crucial.

The Interim committees will meet September 12 through September 14.

The issues discussed at the May meetings will be refined and decisions about bill drafts made. The final review of drafts and any other new requests will be reviewed in December. Neither the House nor Senate Rules committees really talked about issues at their May sessions so such topics as changes to elections, ethics, and campaign finance reform are on the table.

HEALTH CARE UPDATE

The Oregon Health Authority has certified 11 CCOs (Community Coordinating Organizations) to begin the process of implementing the overall health café legislation passed in 2009, 2011, and 2012. Oregon appears to be well ahead of many states in improving health care for a majority of the state's population. The CCOs are charged with establishing a system of comprehensive care for all citizens in the Medicaid system. Trillium is the organization for Lane County.

Kappy Eaton

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT QUIZ

The Act is the focus of much interest and political discussion. How much do you know? This 2010 quiz from the Henry R. Kaiser Family Foundation covers some of the major topics of conversation. Go to <http://healthreform.kff.org/quizzes/health-reform-quiz.aspx> to see how your score compares with others who took the test. The answers to all the questions are correct, but the Supreme Court may have defined the issues further. Quiz reproduced with permission of Henry R Kaiser Family Foundation. Take the test without peeking at the answers.

1. Will the health reform law require nearly all Americans starting in 2014 or else pay a fine?

2. Will the health reform law allow a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care for people on Medicare?

3. Will the health reform law cut benefits that were previously provided to all people on Medicare?

4. Will the health reform law expand the existing Medicaid program to cover low-income, uninsured adults regardless of whether they have children?

5. Will the health reform law provide financial help to low and moderate income Americans who don't get insurance through their jobs to help them purchase coverage?

6. Will the health reform law prohibit insurance

companies from denying coverage because of a person's medical history or health condition?

7. Will the health reform law require all businesses, even the smallest ones, to provide health insurance for their employees?

8. Will the health reform law provide tax credits to small businesses that offer coverage to their employees?

9. Will the health reform law create a new government run insurance plan to be offered along with private plans?

10. Will the health reform law allow undocumented immigrants to receive financial help from the government to buy health insurance?

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Yes. Starting in 2014, most U.S. citizens and legal residents will be required to obtain health coverage, or pay a penalty. Some exemptions will be granted, for example, for those with religious objections or where insurance would cost more than 8% of their income.

2. No such panels exist. While early versions of the law did contain provisions that would allow Medicare to reimburse physicians for voluntary discussions with patients about end-of-life, these provisions were dropped from the final legislation.

3. No. The law reduces payments to the privately administered Medicare Advantage plans, but they will still be required to provide all benefits that are covered by traditional Medicare.

4. Yes. Medicaid will be expanded to cover nearly all individuals under age 65 with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level (\$14,400 for an individual or \$29,300 for a

family of four in 2010) The 2012 Supreme Court ruling makes it optional for states to expand the program.

5. Yes. Individuals without access to affordable coverage who purchase coverage through the new insurance Exchanges and have incomes up to 400% of the federal poverty level will be eligible for premium tax credits based on their income.

6. Yes. Individuals without access to affordable coverage who purchase coverage through the new insurance Exchanges and have incomes up to 400% of the federal poverty level will be eligible for premium tax credits based on their income.

7. No. The law does not require employers to provide health benefits. However, it does impose penalties, in some cases, on larger employers (those with 50 or more workers) that do not provide insurance to their workers or that provide coverage that is unaffordable.

8. Yes. Beginning in 2010, business with fewer than 25 full time equivalent employees and average annual wages of less than \$50,000 that pay at least half of the cost of health insurance for their employees are eligible for a tax credit.

9. No. The law does not create a new government-run health insurance plan. The existing Medicaid program will be expanded to cover more low-income people, government regulation of the health insurance industry will be increased, and tax credits will be provided to make private health insurance more affordable for people.

10. No. Undocumented immigrants are not eligible to receive financial help from the government to buy health insurance, nor are they eligible for Medicaid or to purchase insurance with their own money in the new Exchanges.



Better Eugene-Springfield Transit

Support Form

The EmX bus rapid transit system is a key element of the community's transportation system. In order to alleviate traffic congestion, improve transportation options for all members of the community, and promote economic development along transit corridors, we need to invest in EmX. For these reasons, I support the West Eugene EmX Extension.

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|-----------------------|--|
| Name | | Occupation / Title | |
| Email | Phone | City Councilor / Ward | |
| Home Address | | | |

List me publicly as a supporter. *(Otherwise, your name will be kept confidential.)*

| |
|---|
| Employer / Business / Organization Name |
| Work Address |

List my business / organization publicly as a supporter. *(Otherwise, name will be kept confidential.)*

I want to become more involved. I am willing to:

- Wear a button.
- Mount a bumper sticker.
- Submit a letter to the editor.
- Call or write public officials.
- Testify at a public meeting.
- Help recruit others.
- Offer professional expertise (specify): _____
- Volunteer in other ways (specify): _____
- Pledge money (specify): _____

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Signature | Date |
|-----------|------|

Please return via postal mail or email:

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LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER READING

It is hard to believe that it is August already. Where did the summer go? We hope you have all been enjoying some rest and relaxation....also, a lot of reading. After you finish those books, remember to pass them on to your League of Women Voters ongoing used book sale. We are continuing to sell the books you donate dur-

ing the summer months. Sales have been steady at the book stores and on eBay. Thank you to those of you who have remembered to leave books in the blue box in the office. If you need to have a pick-up at your home, just give us a call. We even made a trip out to Lorane recently to pick up books from a non member who had

been told about our fund raiser.

The total amount raised from this fund raiser between the end of June, 2011 until July 1, 2012 is \$1,847.45.

Thanks to all of you who have helped with this.

Thank you,
Elleen and Louie Levy
541-343-7592



FRUIT LOOPS NEWS FLASH #1

The Fruit Loops (fruit sale committee) urges every League member to think about placing orders for fruit during October and continuing through the first two weeks in November. The proceeds from the sale is a major source funds that pay for League programs, activities and office expenses.

The League had a most successful fruit sale last year raising \$3,000, which exceeded the goal by \$1,000. At this year's annual

meeting, members approved a budget projecting about \$4,000 income from the fruit sale, which means we all need to participate. The best news is that last year buyers were very satisfied with the quality and price of the fruit.

You can become a Fruit Loop Helper by thinking of businesses and organizations that might buy gift boxes of fruit to give to employees or customers during the holidays. Think of your dentist, doctor, small retailer, tax pre-

parer firm, and the list goes on. If you have a suggestion of potential multi box buyers, call Janet Calvert, 686-2697 or any member of the Fruit Loop Committee and we will help you make the contact.

Fruit Loops Committee: Christy Albin, Merle Bottge, Fran Boehner, Janet Calvert, Barbara French, Mary Keating, Marj Maxwell, Sally Mills, Sharon Posner

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Please give this
to a friend



As a member of the League, you will receive the monthly newsletter from LWVLC (Argus), which has information about our monthly and unit meetings, and the quarterly newsletter from the Oregon League (Voter).

Mail the form and check payable to LWVLC to:
LWVLC
338 West 11th Ave, Suite
101 Eugene, OR 97401

League of Women Voters Lane County

Membership Form

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household (Two people at the same address) | \$97.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual after February 1st | \$32 |

Name

Address

Phone

Email (for League use only)



League of Women Voters Lane County

336 West 11th Ave., Suite 101
Eugene, OR 97401

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league@lwvlc.org

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CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 9, 10 am Voters Service - office
- 10, 10:30 am Naturalization Ceremony (page 3)
- 15, 1:30 pm LWVLC Board Meeting
- 25, Eugene Celebration Parade (page 2)

SEPTEMBER

- 9, Candidate Forum - Morse Ranch (page 3)
- 11, Action Committee - 9:30 am (page 4)
- 20, Fall Luncheon - (page 1)

Our Mission

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

The League office is open
Monday and Thursday from 11 am to 1:30 pm.