

ARGUS

2013 OREGON VALUES & BELIEFS STUDY

by Miriam Aiken & Susan Tavakolian, Co-Presidents

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In April and May, 2013, a group of researchers associated with the Oregon Health & Science University, The Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Public Broadcasting and Oregon State University, decided to find out what Oregonians valued and believed, where they stood on issues and where they wanted to place their combined energies economically, politically and environmentally. Researchers wanted to find Oregonians' "true north."

More than 9,000 Oregonians participated in the survey, which was conducted by email, cell phone, landline, and community outreach. Researchers used quotas and statistical weighting based on the U. S. Census to ensure valid samples within five regions, by age, gender and income. The five regions were defined as Central, Eastern, Metropolitan, Southern, and Willamette (which included Eugene and Lane County). The 9,000 participants included people

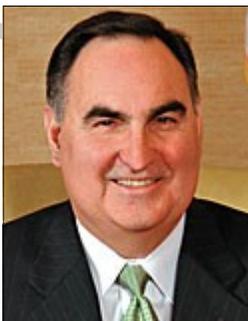
of all incomes (less than \$25,000 to over \$150,000), registered voters and non-registered voters, all ages (18 years to 75 plus), in English and Spanish, 49% males and 51% females.

Summary results show that Oregonians share a common set of beliefs and values on many topics. While results by region do show that there is an urban-rural divide, the gap is not as wide as we might think.

(Continued on page 6)

Third Thursday FEBRUARY 20

Valley River Inn
11:30 Buffet
\$16 for lunch
\$5 beverage only
Free program at noon
Lunch reservations required by
February 17th
Reserve at
League Office
(541-343-7917) or
League@lwv1c.org



According to Governor Kitzhaber, "it costs \$10,000 a year to keep a child in school: it costs \$30,000 a year to keep someone in prison." That's why he charged the Oregon Commission on Public Safety with the task of recommending improved ways of protecting public safety while holding offenders accountable and controlling corrections costs. Nancie Fadeley

THIRD THURSDAY

Policy Recommendations of the Oregon Commission on Public Safety

Our speaker - the **Honorable Paul J. De Muniz**, Chief Justice, Oregon Supreme Court (Retired), now Distinguished Jurist in Residence at Willamette University College of Law. Justice De Muniz chaired the Oregon Commission on Public Safety which was tasked with coming up with improved ways of protecting public safety, holding offenders accountable, and controlling corrections costs.

The report the Commission released in December 2013 included a package of policy options designed to offer a better public safety return on taxpayer investments.

That report did not endorse any specific policy but left it to the Legislature to consider various options. Taken together, all the Commission's policy options would avert the projected 2,300 prison beds and the accompanying \$600 million dollars in additional corrections costs over the next decade.

LWV of Lane County Board & Off Board Roster 2013-14

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UNITS - Charlcie Kaylor, Chair

Tuesday, February 11

9:30 am - Coburg Road
2135 Rocky Lane
H: Dorothy Cruickshank 342-2577
C: Rhonda Livesay 228-4373

Wednesday, February 12

10 am - East Eugene
555 E. 15th, Central Presbyterian
H: Stephanie Winsor 342-8243
C: Diana Grandberry 342-8402

2 pm - Cottage Grove/Creswell

Cottage Grove campus of LCC
H: Gayle Downing 942-1858
C: Dian Missar 942-7676

4 pm - S.W. Eugene

1375 Olive St., Apt. 606
H: Pat McDaniels 343-4728
C: Sally Weston 484-4404

Friday, February 14

9:30 am - Cascade Manor
Cascade View Rm, 65 W. 30th
C: Lorraine Abbott 434-4107
Frank Carlton 434-4140

Monday, February 17

10 am - S Willamette
90 Westbrook Way
(Block beyond 46th)
H: Barbara Greenley 684-9127
C: Anne Best 343-5124

2 pm - Harlow Road

394 Cherry Drive
H: Barbara French 485-9090
C: Mary Keating 344-4889

ALL WEEK - On line

In pajamas - at midnight?

Contact Charlcie 541-686-0124
charlcie@efn.org

Unit Briefing

Tuesday, February 4
3 pm
Atrium - Sloat Room
10th & Olive Eugene
All are welcome

AGRICULTURAL CONSENSUS - Pat Hocken

At February units, we will begin answering the consensus questions for the update of the Agriculture position of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). In February we address the first six questions, and in March we will discuss the final five questions.

Members will receive as Everymember material a packet of readings prepared by the LWVUS committee and selected by the LWVLC committee. These readings are a very tiny portion of the approximately 25 short papers with complete references that are posted on the

LWVUS website. For anyone who wants to see the complete set of readings, it can be accessed at <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/agriculture-update>. This month's consensus questions are also included in the Everymember material.

MENTAL HEALTH STUDY GROUP - Florence Alvergue

Karen Gaffney, Acting Director of Lane County Health and Human Services, will talk with us. This is a good opportunity to learn more about available services.



Next Meeting
February 13th,
10 a.m.
175 S. Garden Way

ACTION - State of the State by Kappy Eaton, Action Co-chair

Legislative Days -2014

The Legislature's most recent planning meetings were held January 15-17 to finalize proposals for discussion and possible action during the 2014 Annual Session scheduled from February 3 to March 9.

Because this session can only last 35 days, no major action is anticipated. However, the agenda will include discussion and possible future legislation on several important subjects such as the Columbia River bridge, background gun check requirements on private sales, marijuana legalization, small business tax changes, CoverOregon health plan, public contracting regulations and oversight, and higher education access and governance.

Outlined below are some reports from the planning meetings as well as some of the issues for the 2014 session. Committees may introduce three bills; legislators, two.

Fiscal Policy

The House and Senate Revenue Committees will be considering committee-sponsored measures on (1) establishing an income tax credit for a manufacturing facility if the taxpayer makes a capital investment, with oversight by the Oregon Business Development and a limit on the amount of credits; (2) correcting provisions related to the income tax subtraction for senior medical expenses, tax treatment of domestic, international sales of corporations and proceeds distribution of the cigarette tax (from the 2013 Special Session revenue package); and (3) updates connection date

of Oregon to Federal Internal Revenue Code.

The committees heard an update on the Senior Property Tax Deferral Program, encompassing 2011 to 2014, which is now in the black after modifications over the past three years and now serves more than 7500 low-income homeowners. In addition the Senate committee had an update on Greenhouse Gas Emission Project Policies related to other states and the continuing discussion about possible revenue.

The Department of Revenue reported positively on its program to find fraud in filed tax returns and presented an update on the five year, \$89 million progress to modernize the "Core System" that now includes an integrated tax system and a data warehouse.

Election Laws

The Senate Rules Committee welcomed the new Oregon Elections Director, Jim Williams. He is from Oklahoma and has had extensive administrative election experience there and in Colorado.

Only one bill was moved forward by the committee, the usual "housekeeping" measure to ensure Oregon election laws are updated regularly.

A critical voter registration issue was introduced in the House Rules committee. The proposal deals with the residence requirement for new voters, but it also would apply to anyone reregistering and requires the Secretary of State to conduct a study on how to ensure currently registered voters

have provided acceptable evidence of residency. We will be monitoring the progress of this proposal.

Higher Education

Significant changes to Oregon's public post-secondary system have been enacted the past three legislative sessions and are in various stages of implementation. Both the House Higher Education and Work Force Development and the Senate Education and Work Force committees are involved, as well as the interim Special Committee on University Governance. Four proposals were approved for consideration by the House committee and include (1) establishing a work group to examine and recommend strategies to improve the operation of the Oregon University System; (2) requiring all public institutions of higher education to provide students with facts sheets regarding program requirements, costs of education, loans, average salary or wages and related data prior to enrollment, with an annual report to the Higher Education Coordinating Committee (HECC); (3) directing the department of Community College and Workforce Development and the HECC to jointly establish a grant program distributing monies to community colleges to increase the number of underserved, low income and first generation college-bound students who enroll and make progress towards a degree; and (4) directing Eastern, Western and Southern Universities and the Oregon Institute of Technology to develop pilot programs for fixed cost bachelor's degrees. The Special Committee on University Governance

(Continued on page 6)

Next Meeting

(Tentative date and time. Check with Pat Hocken)

February 12

9:30 a.m.

175 S. Garden

Way

Any League member is welcome to attend.

LOCAL ACTION - Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

City of Eugene Budget

The League testified at a budget committee hearing on January 21 regarding proposed reductions to city services. For details of our testimony see the January *Argus*.

Meeting with County Commissioner Jay Bozievich

The League submitted a letter to the editor of the *Register Guard* in late December regarding a lack of public information about the termination of the Lane County Administrator. A copy was sent to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). After the letter was published, the League was contacted by Commissioner Jay Bozievich, who requested a meeting to provide the League with additional information.

On January 17, Susan Tavakolian, some members of the Action committee and the Board met with Commissioner Bozievich. The meeting included a discussion of the transparency issue and other topics of interest to the League.

With regard to the investigator's report on the termination of the administrator provided to the media only in severely redacted form and is the subject of a *Register Guard* lawsuit seeking release of the full document, Mr. Bozievich reviewed federal and state whistleblower protection statutes and shared the BCC's conclusion that it would be illegal to jeopardize the professional standing and personal safety of the five whistleblowers by releasing the report. A hearing on the *Register*

Guard lawsuit is scheduled in February.

Bozievich described the audit of the former administrator's expenses by an outside CPA firm, the full results of which are expected to be released to the public shortly. The Leaguers expressed how important it was for such information to be publicly aired. He stated that the BCC is in the process of hiring an internal auditor to report directly to the Board. (At this time, only the County Administrator and the County Counsel report directly to the BCC.) He described specific internal audit test areas that would provide beneficial information to the BCC as managers.

He provided some background on the initial draft of the "Community Public Safety Repair Plan." The goal is to reverse the decline in public safety services and rebuild over 10 years a balanced system including arrest, prosecution, incarceration, re-entry supervision and services, alternate sentencing, treatment for mental illness and substance abuse, and appropriate juvenile services. The draft describes programs in general terms with estimated costs and does not contain strategies for new government structures or financial resources. We stressed how important it will be to have citizen understanding of and input into the plan.

Finally, we questioned Commissioner Bozievich about the recently announced staff layoffs in the Lane County mental health division and in the community health centers due to revenue shortfalls. He believes a major factor is the shift to regional

coordinated care organizations (CCO) as the primary recipient of state medical funding. Formerly the County received funding directly from the state to spend or pass-through to other providers. With the new structure, the County must apply to the CCO (Trillium) for grant funding. Another cause was that electronic health records computer conversion took more staff time than anticipated. Revenue is expected to improve due to the increased number of individuals with coverage through the Oregon Health or private insurance, but may take a while for the improvement to materialize. The League's mental health interest group will be finding out more about this problem.

League Observers Needed

We are still looking for Leaguers to observe the Lane County Board of Commissioners and the Eugene City Council. The Commissioners meet almost every Tuesday morning, some Tuesday afternoons, and occasionally other times. The Council meets almost every Wednesday at noon and on the second and fourth Monday at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. These are broadcast on government access TV channel 21. I will be conducting a training for observers on Friday February 21, time and place to be determined. If you are interested in attending or just want more information, please contact Pat Hocken at 541-343-138 or jphocken@comcast.net.

CANDIDATE FORUM IN COTTAGE GROVE

BY Dian Missar

Oregon's May 20 Primary Election is just 16 weeks away! Five candidates for East Lane County Commissioner spoke at a January 9th "Candidate Forum" in Cottage Grove, which was co-sponsored by the Blackberry Pie Society of Cottage Grove and LWVLC. Running are Joann Ernst of Springfield, Kevin Matthews of Dexter, Jose Ortal of Blue River, Jack Schoolcraft of the Churchill area in Eugene, and incumbent Faye Stewart of Cottage Grove.

A larger than expected audience provided written questions addressing wide-ranging topics such as which sectors of the economy to foster, decreasing reliance on federal timber funding, protecting our

natural resources, mining at Parvin Butte, and County administration scandals. LWV members of the Cottage Grove/Creswell Unit hosted an LWV membership table, collected questions, provided the Time Keeper and a neutral Moderator, retired geology professor and CG resident Richard Sedlock, and arranged for refreshments baked by Cottage Grove High School students. Many commented that it was a very informative and enjoyable evening.

"We're interested in helping voters make a comparison early on," said Leslie Rubinstein of the Blackberry Pie Society, "and we're hopeful that other groups will do the same." Members of the audience

included residents of West Eugene and Pleasant Hill, which will be hosting their own candidate forum using the LWV model.

While it was a very informative and enjoyable evening, comments reflected rural voter concerns. The local primary will include a new mix of rural and urban voters, following the 2011 redistricting that drew the Churchill area of Eugene into East Lane's boundaries, merging urban neighborhoods into a rambling rural area. Redistricting moved residents from the South and West Lane districts into the East Lane District, resulting in more than 12,000 residents inside the Eugene urban growth boundary placed into the very rural East Lane district.



VOTER SERVICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS Ellen Maddex - Chair

The election season seems to be starting early this year. The LWVLC has already received requests for assistance with Candidate's Fairs for County Commission races.

The Voter Service committee needs people who are either experienced in moderating or willing to learn from experienced mentors at these fairs. We also need people to vet questions and to act as timekeepers. There are also other necessary jobs to be done for people willing to help.

Please call or e-mail me. We need you.

Ellen Maddex 541-344-6882 ellenmaddex@msn.com



Below are excerpts from a letter LWVLC received

December 20, 2013

On behalf of all those we serve, thank you for your generous gift of 63 boxes (1,364 pounds) of premium fresh fruit. Your continued support and partnership truly help us fulfill our mission to alleviate hunger in our community.

Thanks to your support, we continue to find ways to meet the increasing need in our community. We saw a 7% increase last year and distributed a record amount, 72,962 emergency food boxes. Through our partnering agencies, meal sites, and programs—we provided over 8 million pounds of food to Lane

County residents from families with children, seniors, people with disabilities, the unemployed, and the working poor.

Through your generosity, we are able to find new ways to solve hunger. We have been busy packaging our new lentil and barley soup mix that provides a nutritious and healthy meal. When a family can't afford meat, it is a satisfying meal high in protein and fiber. We just started sending our mobile pantry to schools such as Guy Lee Elementary in Springfield, where over 85% of the children are on free and reduced lunch programs.

Thank you for supporting FOOD for Lane County all of these years. Through your generosity, along with the work of volunteers and a dedicated staff, - we continue to improve the lives of many people. *A special thank you to Phyllis Loo-bey*, who has championed this donation for several years. Together, we can alleviate hunger.

Sincerely,

Deb McGeorge
Food Resource Manager

STATE ACTION

(Continued from page 3)

heard comprehensive reports from the Public University Presidents' Workgroup on Shared Services and from the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. The pros and cons of multi-campus governing options and models are included in the latter. The Workgroup information includes recommendations for specific

shared services as well as those services that should not be shared due to governance implications. The Special Committee is considering governance options for the regional institutions now that the three major universities have internal boards.

Women's Issues

The Women's Health and Wellness Alliance met to

discuss the proposals being introduced by several women legislators in the interests of women and families.

Because of the short session, the probability of action is limited, but they may be used as placeholders for the 2015 Assembly.

Included are the following issues:

- toxic disclosure for buildings with radon
- domestic violence safe
- housing
- home care for seniors
- insurance coverage for colonoscopies
- pay equity
- children's nutrition - school involvement
- day care

PRESIDENTS' COLUMN

(Continued from page 1)

The results show that:

84% want to find common ground and work together

81% say K-12 education is top concern

72% endorse personal responsibility for health and wellness

57% feel environmental protection is more important than economic growth

66% feel criminals should be rehabilitated rather than just being locked up

72% support road and highway maintenance

86% think taxes are necessary to pay for the common good

63% don't think the tax system is fair

78% think our tax system should be more simple and straightforward

64% think the government is wasteful and inefficient

For more detailed insights into Oregonian's values and beliefs, go to

<http://www.truenorth/oregon.org> or
<http://www.oregonvaluesproject.org/>.

DHM Research in Portland and POLICY INTERACTIVE RESEARCH conducted the study.

On January 20, City Club of Eugene hosted a presentation of the final results. (See *Register-Guard*, Friday, January 20, 2014, "Survey: We're not far apart.")

Miriam Aiken

This should have appeared as the centerfold of the directory.
Thanks Lane Forest Products!!!

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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) _____



EDUCATING VOTERS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF LANE COUNTY

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CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 4, 3pm, Unit briefing - page 2
- 10, Day at the Legislature
- 11 - 17, Unit meetings - page 2
(Monday units - following week)
- 12, 9:30 am, Action meeting
- 13, 10am, Mental Health Study Group - page 2
- 19, 1:30 pm, Board meeting
- 20, 11:30 am, Third Thursday - page 1
- 21, Observer Training
Contact Pat Hocken for time & place
- 25, 2pm, Membership meeting, League office

The League office is open
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
11 am to 1:30 pm
Holiday closure February 17

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.