



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

The Redistricting Process in Oregon

- Rogue Valley Women's dinner is March 13, 2007, 5:30pm at Rogue Regency Inn. Topic is Rogue Valley Girls Today. Send \$20 check for dinner reservations by March 8, 2007 to: Patricia Sempowich, 108 Nob Hill, Ashland, OR 97520 or call Mickey, 773-2968 for more information.

Join the Concurrence Meeting Discussion

Thursday, March 8, 2007. Medford Central Library, 205 South Central, Adams Room, 11:30 - lunch available - reservations required (Call Joan Rogers, 772-4290) 12:00 - 1:00 program

Please read your Discussion Guide - mailed to all members... extra copies will be available at the meeting or go online to www.lwvor.org

Discussion Questions

- 1. Why should we care about how district boundaries are drawn?
2. What kind of districts would a good redistricting process produce?
3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of Oregon's current system for redistricting?
4. Should Oregon shift from a legislative model to an independent non-partisan commission model?
5. Do you agree with the redistricting criteria presented in the Concurrence Statement?

PROPOSED REDISTRICTING CONCURRENCE STATEMENT

Congressional and legislative redistricting should advance the fundamental purposes of representative democracy and a republican form of government by affording the people a meaningful choice in electing their representatives and holding the government accountable to the people.

The League of LWVOR believes that the Oregon legislative and congressional redistricting system should be efficient, adequately funded, based on well-defined criteria, subject to a reasonable and effective timetable, and have an open and public process.

A. Any redistricting plan should be based on the following criteria, in rank order:

- (1) Adhere to all federal constitutional and legal requirements such as that every district should have equal population, be contiguous, and meet the requirements of the Voting Rights Act;
(2) Promote competitiveness and partisan fairness such that voters are effectively able to hold their public officials accountable, responsible, and responsive; and
(3) Comply with other criteria such as respect for political subdivisions, communities of interest, and geographic barriers.

B. The redistricting plan should be developed by a nonpartisan redistricting authority that functions independently of the Legislature and that may afford the Legislature the opportunity to review the plan and accept or reject it. (continued on page 3)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Page Number. Includes President's Message/League Leaders (2), Raffle (3), Rating UN's Performance (4), Libraries' Town Hall Forum (4), RV Women's Alliance Dinner (5), Land Use/LVOR (6), Membership/Homeless/Action Alert (7), and Calendar (8).

President's Message



As I sat down to write my message this month, my mind would not slow-down. I couldn't manage to complete a thought. What was I to say in a column with such a prestigious title as "President's Message?" At first I thought it was because I didn't have anything to say. Those who know me well would laugh at that thought. Then, I realized the source of my pesky writer's block ... I had too much to say. Now that would surprise no one.

We are at an interesting juncture in our political cross-roads. Many important bills and decisions are being made at all levels of government. Locally, we are struggling with the loss of payments from the Federal Government to compensate for the loss from our tax roles of federal government owned lands. Our libraries are closing and we must pass a tax levy to create a temporary fix during a time when family dollars are pinched. Health care costs are escalating with legislation being proposed to remedy the strain on every day citizens. Measure 37 has developed unforeseen consequences. A bill placing a hold on claims until a fair and equitable "fix" is written is winding its way through the state legislature. Our nation is at war. Each topic deserves an essay. The good news in all this is that there are some real solutions being proposed to big problems. Exciting genuine dialogue is occurring. It is a good time to be alive and a good time to voice your opinion to your elected officials. Watch for "Action Alerts" from organizations whose opinions you trust. Next time one crosses your desk, take a few minutes and take action. How about one letter (email, phone call....) a month on a topic near and dear to your heart? If every person who receives this newsletter sent just one letter to an elected official per month, 205 extra messages would be generated..... Let's think exponentially.

"Do not wait to strike till the iron is hot; but make it hot by striking." William Butler Yeats

Thank you!

Trish

Local League Leaders

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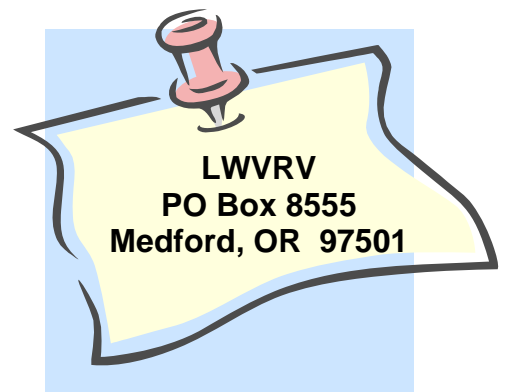
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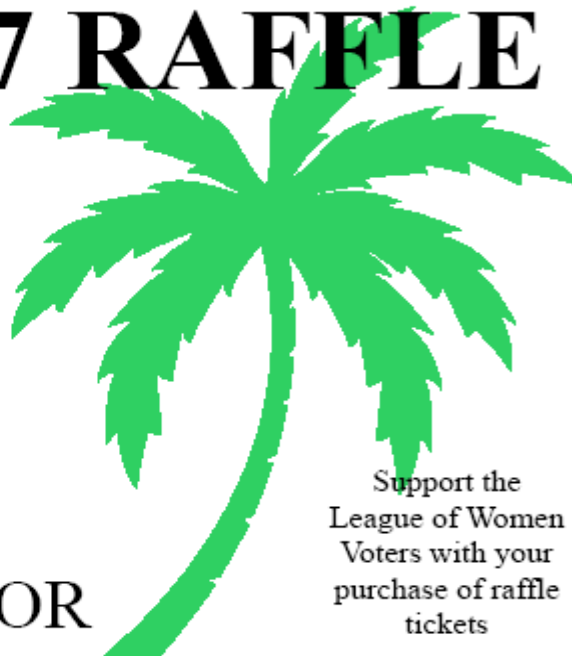


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www.lwvr.org



League of Women Voters® of Oregon

2007 RAFFLE



Win a week in Maui

Roundtrip airfare for 2 from PDX, SEA, EUG, RDM or MFR
 7 nights 1 BR condo at the Shores of Maui across from the beach
 7 days car rental
 \$3,000.00 Value

OR

Support the League of Women Voters with your purchase of raffle tickets

Win a week in San Diego

Roundtrip airfare for 2 from PDX, SEA, EUG, RDM or MFR
 7 nights at the Dana on Mission Bay Resort
 7 days car rental
 Pass for 2 to Sea World, San Diego Zoo, and Wild Animal Park
 \$3,000.00 Value

Price: \$10.00

- Drawing will be held May 19, 2007, 8 pm at Edgefield in Troutdale, Oregon
- Ticket holders need not be present to win
- Maximum number of tickets to be sold: 2000

Award must be used by 5/19/08. Arranged by Walker Travel & Cruises. Thirty days advance notice of travel dates is required. Board members and employees of LWVOR and their household members are not eligible to win.



PROPOSED REDISTRICTING CONCURRENCE STATEMENT (continued)

- C. The Oregon Supreme Court should promptly review and rule on any challenge to a redistricting plan and require adjustments if the criteria have not been met.
- D. Oregon should conduct redistricting only once during each decade following the federal census.

How Do We Rate the UN's Performance and Role in World Affairs?

According to the latest Gallup Poll [February 1-4, 2007] only 29% of Americans believe the UN is doing a good in solving global problems facing humankind -- 66% believe UN is doing a poor job. This latest measure by Gallup of UN's job performance is the lowest since first measuring it in 1953. This is indeed very disheartening news for advocates of the UN. Clearly, the barrage of negative publicity in recent years and the anti-UN propaganda by the "neo-cons" and ultra-right wing elements have taken a heavy toll on UN's reputation.

On the other hand, the same Gallup Poll reveals that Americans still favor a significant role for the UN. Close to half [46%] want the UN to have a major policy-making role in world affairs and 29% favor it taking the lead policy role. Only 22% said it should serve a minor policy role serving mostly as a forum for communication. While we may take some comfort in this finding, the Poll does indicate that we as supporters of a strong and effective UN have our jobs cut out for us. Those of us who believe in multilateral approaches to major international problems will need to redouble our efforts to educate the public about the important role of the UN and its specialized agencies such as UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP.

Russy D. Sumariwalla, President

UNA-USA, Southern Oregon

Russy D. Sumariwalla

Founder-President

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The LWVRV Board accepted Nancy Swan's resignation as Voters Service Chair on Feb. 20.

Nancy plans to serve on the Save Our Library System Committee and keep the League updated.

Keeping public libraries open is consistent with the League's position on the need of a democracy to have freedom of information and access to public libraries.

TOWN HALL FORUM—broadcast live on RVTV channels 9 & 14 and will be rebroadcast

"Are Public Libraries Important?"

Monday, March 5 6 pm, Medford Central Library, Committee Room

At the first PAC Meeting, Feb. 20th, the Chairperson, Joe Davis, outlined the tasks ahead before the May election. There was also an excellent presentation of past successes/misses and marketing strategies.

- 1. Fundraising with Genie Gilliam as Chair. Contributions may be sent to Save Our Library System c/o P.O. Box 1113, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Approximately \$2,800 has been donated already, including money gathered by two children in the Ashland Plaza! The PAC is aiming for around \$75,000 to get the message out. A letter will be going out to potential contributors soon.**
- 2. Mailing with Nancy Swan as Chair. We need people to fold letters, stuff and prepare mail almost immediately. Please e-mail or phone Nancy to volunteer.**
- 3. Friends' Campaigns**
- 4. Phone Bank has co-chairs and will be gathering names - let us know if you will be a caller**
- 5. Canvassing, Lawn Signs, etc.**

Rogue Valley Women's Alliance

ROGUE VALLEY WOMEN'S ALLIANCE TENTH ANNUAL NETWORKING DINNER

Tuesday, March 13, 5:30 p.m. Rogue Regency Inn

Rogue Valley Girls Today. Speakers on education, health and safety will update us on the status of our local girls. What's changed? What's new? A panel of girls will respond to the speakers and questions.

Join old and new friends for this special event. Social time with no host bar begins at 5:30 followed by dinner and the program. Bring questions. See you there!

Reservation Deadline: Thurs., March 8th Send your reservation to Patricia Sempowich, 108 Nob Hill, Ashland, OR 97520. Include a check for \$20 per person made out to the Rogue Valley Women's Alliance (RVWA)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

e-mail: _____ Organization: _____

No. of Reservations: ___ at \$20.00 each. Total of check: _____

Vegetarian choice: _____:

For further information, call Patricia at 552-0870 or Comco@opendoor.com

Libraries—Bound to Close?

Libraries in Jackson County do appear to be bound for closure in early April. Last month, LWVRV hosted a forum to hear the real story. Ronnie Budge (former library director), Commissioner Dave Gilmour, Jim Fety (advocate for library funding), Danny Jordan (Jackson County Administrator) and Ted Stark (acting library director) fielded tough questions over the lunch hour meeting.

The libraries will close on April 7th. A levy will appear on the May ballot seeking to provide short-term funding for the libraries. If passed, the libraries will then re-open while long-term funding options are considered. The form of the levy proposal will require a double majority to pass. That means that more than half of the registered voters will have to actually vote and of those who do vote, more than half will need to support the levy. Historically, double majority measures are extremely difficult to pass. Although the levy is slated to fund the libraries, there is no legal mandate to spend the money in that fashion. Mr. Jordan was quick to state that using the money in any other manner would be the equivalent of political suicide for the commissioners. When asked why the levy funding measure wasn't a public safety – library measure, Mr. Jordan stated the sheriff adamantly opposed such a measure. Many questioned why there had not been any long-term funding solutions discussed prior to the closure crisis. No answers were given, but the panel encouraged folks to focus on a solution now, not blame. No one indicated that a return to extensive timber harvesting was an answer to the funding crisis.

The library has an excellent web site if you are seeking additional information: <http://www.jcls.org/infoblog/>

LWVRV supports full funding for the libraries and Nancy Swan is representing our organization at planning meetings.



Land Use in Jackson County

JC Commissioner public hearing was held Feb. 21 on amending the Comprehensive Plan and Map on siting and developing Destination Resorts within the county. The public hearing was closed and the Commissioner had left submitting testimony open until Mar. 8th. They have deferred their deliberations until Mar. 21 on the amendment. Much of Feb. 21st testimony was given by destination resort advocates particular those hired by 3 DR applicants. These DR are located near lower Table Rock on the John Day Ranch, Hidden Valley Ranch near Blackwell Hill, and the Hartnell property in the Antelope Valley in the Elk and Deer Habitat overlay. The ODFW, DLCD, 1000 Friends, Friends of JC, and Coalition One testified against the proposed DR on the Hartnell property. Also, City of Ashland and others testified against the siting of possible DRs near high crop value farms and Ashland Watershed. It was obvious that there is tremendous pressure for developing destination resorts in Jackson County. The advocates for DR are trying the sell DRs to the commissioner, based on their value to increase property tax resources of several million dollars. There will probably be several appeals based on wildlife habitat, agriculture, transportation, water and sewage concerns to wade through before any DRs are developed.

The Joint Senate and Representative Committee on Land Use Fairness has conducted hearings on the Governor's Bill 505 to hold off on processing M37 claims for several months. This will give the counties and the legislature time to work out a fairness for M37 claims. Rep. Bill Garrard from Klamath Falls is the only local legislator on committee. He is considered to be open minded about changing rules to be fairer to all parties. Other local legislators, Sen. Bates, Rep. Buckley and Esquivel are also open-minded about changes in the M37 rules. It is important to let them know of your support for the Governor's Bill 505 allowing only one residential home on resource lands.

OSU study examined two approaches to evaluating M37 claims and found that "the single exemption" approach used by most counties always will lead to approval of a claim, while "before-and -after" approach used by Portland would lead to denial of the claim in most cases. Their study looked at the current M37 claims surrounding the Portland area and evaluated what would happen if the urban growth boundary were removed. Based on this "single exemption" approach, they found that Portland would be more than 3&1/2 times its current size. In short, there should be a fair standard method to calibrate a "reduction in value" to all property owners and the public. The authors of the study concluded that the "before-and-after" approach or the "with-and-without" situations where all land use regulations are either applied, or removed, from all relevant properties to be more accurate. This would require something other than standard appraisal methods.

Porter Lombard, member of the LWVRV.

LWVOR

The Oregon League's Education Fund has received an unprecedented \$25,000 unrestricted grant for 2007 from the Saling Foundation. The LWVOR board is to determine how the grant money will be used and would welcome your input.

The LWVOR board adopted a revised policy statement on Leagues in the same local governmental jurisdiction working together. The previous wording said simply that to prevent public confusion on issues affecting other Leagues, "it is essential to work together." The reworded policy clarifies "work together" as "it is essential with such issues to develop a cohesive action plan".

An Action Alert was issued to contact legislators asking support for SB 505 which will suspend Measure 37 until June.

The state convention in May will be attended by the LWVUS national president, Mary Wilson, who will speak and also participate in workshops. The featured banquet speaker will be Scott Burns on "Geologic Hazards of Oregon - Past, Present, and Future."

--- Jean Milgram, Second Vice President, LWVOR

Homeless in Oregon



In February 2007, the LWVOR Board adopted a position on Homeless Youth:

Parents are legally responsible for their children. When parents are unable to fulfill that responsibility, the League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that communities and governments at all levels have a responsibility to provide programs and services to meet the needs of runaway and homeless youth.

In order to help families stay together, prevent youth homelessness, and reduce the need for more expensive future services, the LWVOR supports providing services such as family crisis counseling, child care, parenting education, mental health and addiction treatment, low-cost housing, and health care.

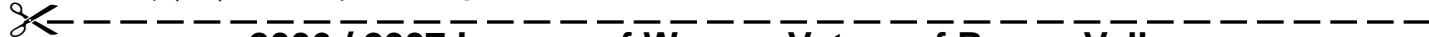
When youth are separated from their families, the LWVOR supports providing services to these youth, such as shelter, food, education, health care, mental health and addiction treatment, plus outreach to encourage youth to use services. Older youth need additional services, such as assistance with independent living skills and with finding employment and more permanent housing.

These services may be provided by government or by private organizations that receive government and/or private funding. Coordination of these services is necessary to avoid duplication and service gaps. Youth should be served regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

All levels of government should have funding responsibility for preventive and supportive services to families and homeless youth. Private organizations are encouraged to provide funding and services. Government funds should be adequate and allocated according to demonstrated need. Agencies must show that their programs are effective.

LWVOR Action Alert

Your help is urgently needed, ASAP. Contact both your state representative and senator as soon as possible to urge support for SB 505, which will suspend Measure 37 claims until June 30. Each of you needs to contact both your Representative and Senator, Because this is a "joint" committee, if the bill passes in the Senate it will go directly to the House floor. If you don't have phone number information, go to www.leg.state.or.us and click on the upper gold-color tabs for Senate and House. If you need to find out who your legislator is, go to <http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/>. For more information, contact: Liz Frenkel, LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator, (541) 754-6789, lizbobfrenkel@proaxis.com. Peggy Lynch, LWVOR Natural Resources Assistant Coordinator, (541) 754-1025, zuludar@aol.com.



2006 / 2007 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

***** **Special membership half-price rate for January through April of \$28 (full membership) and \$14 (spouse)**

Send check and application to: Box 8555, Medford, OR 97501

Check which of the following you are most interested in attending at a branch meeting.

- Land Use Planning
- National Issues
- Local Government
- Election Issues
- Transportation
- Other (list): _____
- Children at Risk _____
- Education _____

MARCH 2007 Calendar of Events

Thursday	March 8	11:30 lunch 12:00—1:00 meeting	Medford Central Library, 205 S. Central, Adams Room, General Meeting, "The <i>Redistricting Process in Oregon</i> " Lunch, \$10.00. Call Joan, 772-4290 for reservations
Monday	March 5	6pm	Town Hall Forum, Medford Central Library, Committee Room, "Are <i>Public Libraries Important?</i> ". Broadcast live on RVTV, channels 9 & 14.
Tuesday	March 13	5:30pm	Rogue Regency Inn. Rogue Valley Women's Alliance Tenth Annual Networking Dinner.
Thursday	April 12	TBD	TBD, General Meeting
Saturday	April 7		JACKSON COUNTY LIBRARIES CLOSE!
Saturday	May 19	8:00	LWVOR Raffle Drawing, at Edgefield, in Troutdale, Oregon



DID YOU KNOW that Jackson County.....

was named for President Andrew Jackson? It was formed in 1852 from Lane County and the unorganized area south of Douglas and Umpqua Counties. It included lands which now lie in Coos, Curry, Josephine, Klamath and Lake Counties. The discovery of gold near Jacksonville in 1852 and completion of a wagon road, which joined the county with California to the south and Douglas County to the north, brought many pioneers.

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