



CASCADE ECHOES

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2017

JANUARY

5 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON, the topic is "The Political Scene. At Black Bear Diner (1465 NE 3rd Street, Bend. 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm.

12 Board Meeting and General Program Planning Meeting for State and Local Programs. 10am board meeting, 11:30am Planning meeting at the County Building

21 AAUW Meeting at 9:30 AM at Touchmark. The meeting includes a brunch for \$15 or coffee/juice for \$5. Reservations are required and the deadline is noon of the Wednesday before. You may phone Carol for your reservation-- 541-385-8144

26 Election Methods Update and consensus, 10am at the home of Marie and Pat Gibson, 19530 Mammoth Dr., Bend.

FEBRUARY

2 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON, the topic is TBA . At Black Bear Diner (1465 NE 3rd Street, Bend. 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. More information on pages 2 and 3

9 Board Meeting, 10am at the County Building. All members welcome

16 Postsecondary Education Meeting

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017 THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

<i>President</i>	Kim Smith,.....	541-382-2660
<i>Vice President</i>	Eve McFarland.....	541-389-5682
<i>Treasurer</i>	James & Barbara McCormick.....	541-545-2151
<i>Secretary</i>	Corol Ann Cary.....	541-306-4832
<i>ECHOES publisher</i>	Denise Mahoney.....	541-350-8039
<i>Membership</i>	Bonnie Corley.....	541-330-1752
<i>Program (state, nat'l, local)</i>	Marie Gibson.....	541-385-9227
<i>Voters Service</i>	Susie Penhollow.....	541-382-2724
<i>First Thursday</i>	Dave Stranahan.....	541-350-6496
<i>Public Relations</i>	Geri Hauser.....	541-280-2947
<i>Special Events</i>	Carol Cavoretto.....	541-385-8144



League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy



WEB SITES

Local

www.lwvdeschutes.org/index.htm

State

www.lwvor.org

National

www.lwv.org

Nationwide Election Information

www.VOTE411.org

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President's Message

This is a time to hold our heads high and focus on what we can do for the future of our country. The League of Women Voters is needed, now more than ever, to advocate for voter's rights, the environment, and women's rights issues. When I look at our slice of the league, I am excited to see so many strong, passionate people and I look forward to us working together in the following year.

This year we are starting off with our First Thursday Luncheon on January 5th, focusing on the last election and what it means for all of us. Judy Stiegler, professor at OSU-Cascades/COCC in political science will be our speaker.

Our yearly Planning Meeting will be immediately after our January Board Meeting at 11 am Thursday, January 12th at the County Administration Building, 1300 Wall Street in the Lyon Room. Every member is encouraged to come to this meeting and share their ideas for the next year's First Thursdays, league studies, community outreach and Forums.

We will be having a Consensus meeting for the "Election Methods Study" on Thursday, January 26th at Marie and Pat Gibson's home. If you want to learn more about the differences between different types of elections and how they work, please come to this meeting. It should be quite educational and all members are welcome. We also have a consensus meeting scheduled on the third Thursday in February for the 'PostSecondary Education Update Study'. More on this as we get closer.

Thank you to Carol Cavoretto, Eve McFarland and Dalyte Hartsough for organizing the Holiday Party. It was lovely to see so many of you at our yearly get together.

Yours in League,
Kim Smith
President
League of Women Voters of Deschutes County

FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON TOPIC AND SPEAKER

Judy Stiegler, former State House Representative and Political Science Teacher at COCC. Ms. Stiegler studied at the University of Oregon and Lewis and Clark College, Northwest School of Law.

She will cover the new political landscape nationally and locally and also address the idea of the National Popular Vote.

HELP WANTED

Do you remember that there has been a pending update of the State League's position on **Postsecondary Education in Oregon**? The time has come! We have been told that every member will be receiving a mailing on this topic. We will be holding a membership meeting on February 16th to discuss consensus questions.

NEEDED: MEMBERS INTERESTED IN JOINING THE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE MATERIAL, AND HELP US REACH CONSENSUS ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE.

PLEASE REPLY TO MARIE GIBSON: EMAIL jpgmjg@gmail.com

AAUW of Central Oregon Meeting Announcement

AAUW of Central Oregon meets on the 3rd Saturday at at 9:30 AM at Touchmark. The meeting includes a brunch for \$15 or coffee/juice for \$5. Reservations are required and the deadline is noon of the Wednesday before. You may phone me your reservation--Carol @ 541-385-8144

ELECTION METHODS STUDY UPDATE

All members should have received a mailing from LWVOR that contained material about election methods that are either proposed or in use in various places. We will be discussing consensus questions about this information at our ALL MEMBER MEETING.

DATE AND TIME: THURSDAY, January 26th at 10 am.

PLACE: Home of Pat and Marie Gibson, 19530 Mammoth Drive, Bend. See below for directions and more information. Please join our committee members, Corol Ann Cary, Barbara and Jim McCormick, and Dave Stranahan as we discuss the main topics of the consensus questions.

INTRODUCTION

Alternatives to current election methods and voting systems exist in other states and the world and some are being proposed for Oregon.

Do you agree that the League should have an actionable position on these alternatives?

SINGLE-WINNER SYSTEMS

When electing a single person to fill a position, voting methods include the current plurality, range voting, approval voting, and ranked-choice voting (aka instant runoff voting). These methods have different advantages and disadvantages.

Do you agree that alternative voting methods exist that can promote democratic choice better than our current plurality method under some circumstances?

Range voting allows voters to express their opinion about candidates on a scale, e.g., from 0 to 5. When voters vote sincerely, it produces a very representative outcome. It is very susceptible to strategic voting (which proponents often present as a benefit to knowledgeable voters), so it does not encourage sincere voting. It is relatively easy to understand and to administer. Would you approve of range voting in preference to the current plurality system

Approval voting allows voters to say whether they approve of each candidate for the office. When voters vote sincerely, it produces a fairly representative outcome. It is very susceptible to strategic voting, so it does not encourage sincere voting. It is relatively easy to understand and to administer. Would you approve of approval voting in preference to the current plurality system?

Ranked-choice voting (aka instant runoff voting) allows voters to rank-order the candidates. When voters vote sincerely, it produces a very representative outcome. It is not susceptible to strategic voting, so it encourages sincere voting. It is somewhat more difficult than other systems to understand and to administer. Would you approve of ranked-choice voting in preference to the current plurality system

MULTIPLE WINNER SYSTEMS

When a legislative body has more than one member, the members can be elected individually, one per district, as we currently do for the Oregon House of Representatives, or they can be elected as a bloc, with each candidate competing for a single position, as we do for the U.S. Senate, or they can be elected in proportion to their support in the population they will govern. Proportional representation can be semi-proportional or fully proportional.

John Adams famously said that legislative bodies should be “in miniature, an exact portrait of the people at large.” Do you agree that legislative bodies should proportionally reflect the people they represent?

One voting method to achieve proportional representation is closed list, in which parties present a list of candidates, voters vote for the party of their choice, and the number of candidates elected from that party depends on the number of voters who chose it. Would you approve of closed list voting in preference to the current single-winner majority or bloc system?

One voting method to achieve proportional representation system is open list, in which voters vote for individual candidates listed by party, and the vote counts for the candidate and for the candidate's party. The party wins seats in proportion to the number of votes for candidates in their list, and candidates with the most votes win. Would you approve of open list voting in preference to the current single-winner majority or bloc system?

One voting method to achieve proportional representation system is mixed member proportional, in which voters vote for individual candidates in their local district and also for a party. The most popular local candidates win district seats, and each party wins party seats in proportion to the number of votes for the party. Would you approve of mixed member proportional voting in preference to the current single-winner majority or bloc system?

One voting method for a proportional representation system is the single transferrable vote, in which voters rank candidates as in ranked-choice voting, and any candidate who passes a threshold wins a seat, with votes above the threshold for any candidate going to the voters' second choices. (This is the only proportional system that would apply to non-partisan offices.) Would you approve of the single transferrable vote in preference to the current single-winner majority or bloc system?

Semi-proportional systems use limited or cumulative voting methods, in which voters have a number of votes and can give all of them to one candidate or spread them between candidates. If voters coordinate their voting strategy very carefully, minorities can achieve more representation than in single-winner systems. Would you approve of semi-proportional systems in preference to the current single-winner majority or bloc system?

THE PARTY PROCESS IN OREGON

Oregon allows a form of fusion voting where candidates endorsed by multiple parties can list those parties by their names on the ballot. An alternative is full fusion, where a candidate is listed multiple times on the ballot, once for each party nominating her. Full fusion enhances information candidates receive about their supporters and helps small parties maintain ballot access in future elections. Would you approve of full fusion voting for Oregon?

If proportional representation were chosen for Oregon, primary elections could be unnecessary. However, in the absence of proportional representation, there are several alternative types of primary elections, some of which allow more choice by unaffiliated voters. Indicate which of the primary election types have your approval (you may choose as many as you like):

ADMINISTRATION OF ALTERNATE METHODS

Creating the ballots, educating voters, and counting the votes will require additional effort by our hard-working elections officers if alternative voting methods are chosen.

Any new voting method should be instituted only after voters in the district affected agree to provide the financial support necessary to the appropriate elections administrators to make technical changes and to educate voters. Do you agree?

Directions to Gibson's home at 19530 Mammoth Drive, Bend [phone 541-385-9227]

From the Century Dr.; Reed Market/Mt. Washington roundabout head out Century Dr. (south to the mountain). You'll pass an entrance to Mt Bachelor Village on your left. The next left turn is Mammoth Drive. Follow Mammoth as it winds through the Sunrise Village gate. (The gate will be open.) Continue straight on Mammoth up the hill. Go straight through the intersection with Sunshine Way at the top of the hill, and after about 1/2 mi from the gate you will come to our cul-de-sac on the right. You will have passed the intersection with Sunshine Way and then the tennis courts on your right.

Our house is in the next cul-de-sac after the tennis courts. There is a small post with the addresses of the four homes in the cul-de-sac. Our home is in the left rear of the long driveway. There is parking on the street, and just a few in our driveway.

PROGRAM PLANNING:

This year we will be focusing on both **Local** and **State** program planning. We look forward to your participation when we meet on **Thursday, January 12th at the County Building.** The Board meeting will begin at 10am, and the Program Planning will immediately follow at 11 am. ALL League members are invited to participate. Hope to see you there!

PROGRAM PLANNING: is a valuable League tool for identifying issues for focus and for insuring that League resources are engaged where they have the most impact.

We will have the forms for both Local and State program available at the meeting. Below you will find the list of current program.

LOCAL PROGRAM: Each member should have a copy of the blue covered booklet that details our current local program. There will be a few copies available at the meeting if you don't have one. Our current program topics are: Affordable Housing for Low Income Families; Corrections Facilities; County Charter Government; Local Education; Hazard Materials Transportation; Land Use; and Transportation. We also have a more informal ongoing Civics 101 that is addressed by many of our First Thursday Luncheons.

For both State and Local Program we will decide for each current program item whether to retain, update, restudy, or drop it.

STATE PROGRAM:

GOVERNANCE

Citizen Participation and Access, Constitutional Provisions, Economic Development, Revenue Bonds, Election Laws, Election Methods, Emergency Board, Fiscal Policy, Initiative, Referendum, and Recall, Oregon State Courts, Redistricting

NATURAL RESOURCES

Air Quality, Coastal and Offshore Management

ENERGY:

Conservation , Nuclear, Seismic Risks

WATER:

Policy – Quality and Quantity, Resources—Columbia Basin,

SOCIAL POLICY

Adult Corrections, Child Care, Children at Risk, Education—Postsecondary, Farmworker Issues

HEALTH POLICY:

Adult Mental Health, Mental Health Services for Children and Youth, Homeless Youth, Juvenile Justice

To see all LWVOR positions, as well as the history of action that has taken place using those positions, go to <http://www.lwvor.org/take-action/our-positions/>

*Please explain any positions that you want to restudy. Why do you feel it's necessary? What do you hope to gain?

LWV
124 NW Utica Ave.
Bend, OR 97703

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY
FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON

JANUARY 5, 2016

The new political landscape nationally and locally and the idea of the
National Popular Vote.

With speaker

Judy Stiegler,

former State House Representative and Political Science Teacher at COCC.

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm

at Black Bear Diner, on the corner of 3rd and Olney Streets in Bend.

**There is a separate dining room for our use. There is no cost to hear the speakers;
however those wanting lunch should arrive about 11:00 a.m. and order off the menu.**

The speakers will begin at noon and allow time for questions from the audience.

No reservations are needed.

This event is open to the general public.