



VOTER

League of Women Voters of Coos County
PO Box 1571, Coos Bay, OR 97420
Volume 62 - Issue 1 – JANUARY 2017
www.lwvcooscounty.org

January 10, 2017 – Legislative Process Day at Oregon State Library, Salem. Register online by January 4 using the attached form.

Saturday, January 21, 2017

General Meeting at Coos Bay Fire Hall, 450 Elrod Avenue, 10:30 a.m.

Electoral College: Love It or Leave It?

- LWVUS position presented by Frances Smith.
- Electoral College History: Pros & Cons presented by Carol Sanders.
- Abolish the Electoral College by Constitutional Methods presented by Sue Thornton.
- Alternative Methods to Electoral College (States Compact) presented by Frances Smith.
- World democracies that elect their country's leader by majority of votes cast presented by Jerry Chadwick.

This should be a very interesting and timely program and discussion. The public is invited. The LWVUS's position paper is attached to this issue.

It's not too late to renew your membership for 2017. Please send your check soon to: LWVCC, PO Box 1571, Coos Bay OR 97420

Individual membership is \$62; Household membership is \$90 and Student membership is \$30.

Saturday, February 4, 2017, 10:30 a.m. at Susan Anderson's OEA office at 3229 Broadway, North Bend.

Election Methods Study Consensus

Only League members can participate in the consensus process however nonmembers are welcome to observe.

If you didn't receive a printed copy of the Study by mail last month, contact Margie Marshall at m.marshall88@frontier.com.

Holiday Potluck/Auction

Jan & Steve Hooper hosted League members and guests at their home on December 10. People brought their favorite homemade dishes for everyone to enjoy.

Members also donated many items, including artwork, books, knitted items, baskets of wine & cheese for our silent

auction which raised \$508 for voter service projects. Several of our newest members attended with their guests. It was a great party. Our appreciation to Jan and Steve for sharing their home with us!



Local Home Rule Study – Planning Meeting – January 26 at 4:00 p.m.

League members are invited to get in on the beginning and join the committee. Meeting location TBA.



Selection of the President

The League's History

A League study of the presidential electoral process culminated in a 1970 position supporting direct election of the President by popular vote as essential to representative government. The League testified and lobbied for legislation to amend the Constitution to replace the Electoral College with direct election of the President, including provisions for a national runoff election in the event no candidates (President or Vice-President) received 40 percent of the vote. The measure, which passed the House and nearly passed the Senate in 1971, has been revived in each Congress without success. In 1997, the LWVUS again called for abolition of the Electoral College and for direct election of the President and Vice-President in testimony before the House Subcommittee on the Constitution.

The League has supported national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections to ensure equity for voters from all states and to facilitate the electoral process.

In February 2001, a memo was sent to the state and local Leagues outlining the League's position on the Electoral College under the LWVUS position on Selection of the President.

The League believes strongly that the Electoral College should be abolished and not merely "reformed." One "reform" which the League specifically rejects is the voting by electors based on proportional representation in lieu of the present "winner-takes-all" method. Such a system would apportion the electoral votes of a state based on the popular vote in that state. Instead of making the Electoral College more representative, such proportional voting would increase the chance that no candidate would receive a majority in the Electoral College, thereby sending the election of the President to the House of Representatives where each state, regardless of population, would receive only one vote. Election of the President by the House further removes the decision from the people and is contrary to the "one person, one vote" principle. The League also does not support reform of the Electoral College on a state-by-state basis because the League believes there should be uniformity across the nation in the systems used to elect the President.

The 2002 Convention voted to expand and update the position. The League came to concurrence on a new position in June 2004, which takes into account the entire presidential selection process and supports a process that produces the best possible candidates, informed voters and optimum voter participation.

The 2008 Convention voted to conduct a study of the National Popular Vote proposal, which would establish the popular election of the President through a compact among the states governing how they would cast their votes in the Electoral College. The 2010 Convention

amended the national position to support the National Popular Vote compact as another method of selecting the President until such time as the Electoral College is abolished.

The League's Position

Statement of Position on Selection of the President, as Announced by National Board, January 1970, Revised March 1982, Updated June 2004 and Revised by the 2010 Convention:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

January 10
2017

Legislative Process Day

Oregon State
Library



Join us on Jan. 10, 9:30am-2:30pm at the Oregon State Library!

Advance registration required! Please register by Jan. 4.

Highlights:

Registration begins at 9:30, lunch at noon. Speakers include the new Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, the Clerk of the House of Representatives Timothy Sekerak, and the Secretary of the Senate Lori Brocker. The LWVOR Action Committee will offer an overview of the 2017 legislative session. You will also be treated to a performance of the Not Ready for Prime Time Players!

Event Details:

January 10th, 9:30am-2:30pm
Oregon State Library, Rooms 102 and 103
250 Winter St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-3950



Event Registration —Legislative Process Day 2017

Name: _____ League: _____

Address: _____ State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Ticket Options (circle one): Ticket (no lunch): \$20.00 Ticket & Lunch: \$30.00

Lunch Options (circle one)*:

Thai Chicken Wrap Honey Mustard Turkey Wrap Roast Beef Wrap Club Ranch Wrap Veggie Wrap

Capitol Parking Passes—\$15.50(indicate quantity): _____

Send form and payment to the LWVOR state office at 1330 12th St SE Suite 200 Salem OR, 97302

*Morning refreshments provided free of charge