



## VOTER

League of Women Voters of Coos County  
PO Box 1571, Coos Bay, OR 97420  
Volume 63 - Issue 1 – JANUARY 2018  
[www.lwvcooscounty.org](http://www.lwvcooscounty.org)

### Impact of Hard Rock Mining in Oregon Economics, Environmental and Laws

**Saturday, January 20, 2018**

Alyssa Babin of LWVOR will talk to LWVCC members about the hard rock mining study at a general meeting on January 20, from 10:30 to 12:00 at the UniServe office, 3229 Broadway, in the mall at the NE corner of Broadway and Newmark in North Bend. The public is welcome!



The report begins as follows:

“The general mining law of 1872 was enacted 135 years ago when Ulysses S Grant was president.

“This outdated document still governs hard rock mining on federal lands today. This law allows foreign and domestic companies to take valuable minerals from public lands without paying any royalties, and it still allows public land to be purchased at the 1872 price of less than five dollars an acre. The 1872 mining law also contains no environmental provisions, allowing hard rock mines to wreak havoc on western water supplies, wildlife and landscapes.

“The League of Women Voters of Oregon currently does not hold a position specifically related to hard rock mining. Oregon league members propose an update that combines hard rock mining

with other issues of concern to the league.”

Read the full report at the link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qgju9cqoig6ec9d/Hard%20Rock%20Mining%20Working%20DRAFT.docx?dl=0>

Quoting Alyssa Babin:

“The original concept of the document was to write something to try to understand mining operations that were originally proposed in 2015, specifically nickel mines in southern Oregon and gold mining in eastern Oregon. As time went on and the study progressed, those specific issues were temporarily resolved.

“The document has evolved to explore what hard rock mineral mining looks like in Oregon. We want the study to be a tool for our league policy advocates to use in Salem to be persuasive in our positions. I personally would like to push hard for an environmentally friendly and sustainable economy.”



Don't forget to turn in your ballot by January 23, 2018, for the special election on Measure 101.

This referendum “Approves temporary assessments to fund health care for low-income individuals and families, and to stabilize health insurance premiums.”

## Civil Discourse

by Marge Easley, LWVOR Civil Discourse Portfolio

The dangerously divisive political rhetoric we've been hearing lately underscores the importance of the state League's decision to focus on civil discourse in the coming year. Here's the first in a series of articles on the topic.

### Congressional Town Halls

Town hall meetings provide one of the few opportunities to directly pose questions to elected officials. Yet they are becoming increasingly rare, because many are fearful of the media optics of being confronted by angry constituents. Did you know that 167 members of Congress have not held a single in-person town hall this year? Some are turning to virtual or online town halls, while others are forgoing them completely. This does not bode well for civil discourse in our country. Please make sure you're on the mailing lists of your elected officials, turn up to town halls, ask probing questions, and take a leadership role in encouraging thoughtful and respectful dialogue.

### Getting a Balanced Perspective on the News

Our political biases often give us a one-sided look at issues, since we tend to choose media sources that reinforce our world view. This can fuel anxieties and increase the "us vs. them" mentality. One of the ways to get a more well-rounded perspective is to step outside our media bubbles on a regular basis. To do this I highly recommend the website [www.allsides.com](http://www.allsides.com), which provides stories on important issues from the left, right, and center. Give it a try!

## Measure 101 Forum



LWV of Coos County presented a forum on Measure 101 January 4, 2018, featuring Phil Greenhill of Western Oregon Advanced Health and Dr. Carla McKelvey of Coast Community Health Center.

Thanks to all the volunteers who worked to make this forum a success: Frances Smith, Carol Ventgen, Carol Sanders, Sue Thornton, Pam deJong, Jan Hooper, Linda Sweatt, Susan Anderson, Suzanne Grami, Doris Olson, Alice Carlson. And a big thank you to forum chair, Judith VanDuzer Uno!



League of Women Voters  
of Coos County  
PO Box 1571  
Coos Bay OR 97420

**Please Renew Your Membership!**

**Or Join Us If You Would Like to be a  
Member of League of Women Voters**

Use the membership form below for mailing in your dues check – or pay online with PayPal at:

[cooscounty.or.lwvnet.org/join\\_form.html](http://cooscounty.or.lwvnet.org/join_form.html)

**Membership Coupon: League of Women Voters of Coos County**

**PO Box 1571, Coos Bay OR 97420: Phone: 756-5835**

**Email: [lwvcoos@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcoos@gmail.com)**

*Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all women and men 16 years of age and older and includes subscriptions to local, state and national League publications. Your local League newsletter will be emailed unless you specify otherwise.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to join or renew League membership. I am enclosing:

\$ 62.00 Individual Membership

\$ 90.00 Household Membership (two people who share address pay 1-1/2 dues.)

\$ 30.00 Student Membership (must be attending accredited college at least half time.)

*Send checks for above, payable to LWVCC, to PO Box 1571, Coos Bay, OR 97420*

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to LWVOR Education Fund (tax-deductible; requires separate check.)

For further membership information, contact Susan Anderson at 756-5835.