



September 22, 2022

To: Corvallis City Council

From: Connie Bozarth, President
League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Re: Corvallis Green New Deal for Climate & Housing Justice Resolution

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis urges the adoption of the Corvallis Green New Deal for Climate & Housing Justice Resolution. We rely on our historic position that government policies should defend justice for all Americans to live in a healthy ecosystem and in a fair and compassionate social and economic system. We defend the rights of all individuals to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and have the right to shelter and food.

As stated in our position on climate change, the League believes that climate change is a serious threat to our nation. We believe that an interrelated approach such as this that brings together climate and housing justice is absolutely necessary for mitigating climate change and the effects of climate change on our community. Our approach to climate change must include energy conservation and shifts away from fossil fuels. It must also build resilience and protect public health among all people in the community. This Resolution for Climate and Housing Justice paves the way for the community of Corvallis, led by the City Council, to move in this integrated direction for meeting the challenges of climate change with an eye towards the sky and the earth, and an eye towards those who live among us.

All community members must go forward together as we combat climate change. The US Constitution protects people experiencing homelessness so they have the same rights and privileges as other community members. In 2019, the Supreme Court supported the principle that persons experiencing homelessness cannot be punished for sleeping outside on public property in the absence of adequate alternatives. Thus, as we meet global warming and its pernicious results, we must stand on a platform of environmental justice. This commitment starts at the local level.

The Corvallis Green New Deal for Climate & Housing Justice Resolution lays out a pathway for future policy in Corvallis. It lays out the ideals of the younger generation who will deal with the results of the policies that Corvallis puts into place right now.

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis strongly encourages the adoption of the Corvallis Green New Deal for Climate & Housing Justice Resolution as a trustworthy guidepost for future policy discussions and decisions in the City of Corvallis.

Thank you for your consideration.