



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LANE COUNTY**

October 13, 2016

Mayor Lundberg
Springfield City Council
Lane County Board of Commissioners
Lane County Planning Commission

These comments are submitted on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Lane County. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed Springfield Urban Growth Boundary expansion. For several years we have followed Springfield's process to determine the City's needs for additional land for employment purposes and to identify potential areas for expanding the City's urban growth boundary. We appreciate the information provided by Springfield planning staff during that period and their extensive community outreach related to possible expansion in the Seavey Loop (College View) area.

The League strongly supports the goals of Oregon's land use laws. We believe it is important to efficiently use urban lands, especially those with existing urban services, in order to preserve resource lands and to minimize the costs of providing adequate infrastructure throughout the urbanized area. The City has made significant investment in infrastructure and amenities within its current boundaries and should fully develop or redevelop available properties that have existing services before extending services to additional areas.

In gathering information about the proposed UGB expansion, we have reviewed the materials, including the lengthy exhibits, posted on the Springfield 2030 Comprehensive Plan website for consideration at the joint public hearing on September 12. We attended that joint meeting and have also read the written testimony submitted thus far.

We note that some of the submitted testimony challenges the technical analyses that underpin the proposal including whether there are any 20-acre parcels within the existing UGB. Testimony also questions the proposal's compliance with state mandated rules and processes. Certainly, such community input should be seriously considered by staff and receive a thorough response. If further study reveals technical flaws and suggests a superior proposal, the City can take the time to consider a different approach.

The City's focus should be to develop and adopt a plan that meets the needs of the City in a financially prudent way and that will be approved by Land Conservation and Development Commission. Springfield is not facing an urgent deadline.

Thank you for considering our comments. We will be following with interest the next steps in the Springfield 2030 Comprehensive Plan process.

Linda Lynch, President
League of Women Voters of Lane County