



January 2025 Newsletter

In this Email:

- [Making Democracy Work in the New Year](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [2025's Legislative Session and LWVOR Advocacy](#)
- [LWVUS Action and Advocacy](#)
- [Registering New Voters in Oregon](#)
- [Opportunities to Serve](#)

Making Democracy Work in the New Year

Leadership Team: Nancy Murray, Carolyn Robb, Libby Medley

This new year brings promises of great changes in the way our national government is run. Robert Rubin, former US Treasury Secretary, recently wrote:

“An engaged citizenry can bring a wider variety of viewpoints to address our nation’s problems and allow us to benefit from the range of skills and abilities held by our people... When people are involved in the issues around them, it fosters a sense of community—something that our society badly needs during these polarizing times.”

This is, of course, what the League of Women Voters aims to do. Writing our Oregon representatives, state or federal, is simpler than ever, as each has their own website space to send a message. Thanking them for supporting or opposing an issue you both agree on, or just expressing your informed point of view is incredibly valuable. Beyond that, participation in the town square, supporting nonprofits doing the hard work of our community, and bringing a friend or neighbor along with you to engage with the issues of the day, all help to shore up the foundations of our democracy. Saying ‘yes’ to the nominating committee when they call with whatever time or skill you have helps us to

effect change. We can be more involved in local issues. Let's be creative with our time and energy and do the civic work we are able to do.

Easy way to check in with your representative and committee meetings online in Salem: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/>

Upcoming Events

Unit Meeting in Wilsonville

Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 12:30 pm - Portera, 8945 SW Ash Meadows Circle, Wilsonville

RSVP to Dolores Passarelle at dpassar07@gmail.com or call 503-577-9011 for directions. Drop in to help the unit decide their 2025 priorities!

Child Care Study This Month

The state study is for local League members to read, discuss, and find consensus. It is a re-study to update an old position from 1988. You can find the link to the pdf here: <https://www.lwvor.org/studies-1/childcare-methods-study-update-2023>. There are extra paper copies available, so contact Carolyn Robb (tworoosters@icloud.com) to get a copy. We have two unit meetings available:

- **Monday, Jan. 20 @ 5:30 pm** - Oswego Pointe Clubhouse, 5065 Foothills Drive, Lake Oswego
- **Tuesday, Jan. 21 @ 7:00 pm** - by Zoom: contact n.murray.01@hotmail.com for link

Thank you to all members, guests and volunteers who made our annual Holiday Brunch fantastic and memorable. We'd like to thank the talented Dani Thomas and Bridget Dazey of the Clackamas County Child Care Coalition as our December 2024 Holiday Brunch Speakers! They lead an incredibly dedicated team improving childcare in Clackamas County and working with cities around the state.



Don't miss [this recording](#) of their insight into research, the current state of child care locally and what may be on the legislative horizon. (<https://youtu.be/DeNdbhByHyo>)

Dani and Bridget provided these resources, and we encourage you to check them out.

- Find the [policy paper](#) at www.clackamaschildcarecoalition.org.
- [Statewide employer supported child care toolkit](#) (<https://www.childcareworksfororegon.org/for-employers/employer-toolkit>)
- [Early Learning Hubs](#), including a map of all Hubs in the state (<https://www.oregon.gov/delc/programs/pages/hubs>)
- [Child Care Resource & Referral](#) agencies, supporting providers throughout the state (<https://www.oregon.gov/delc/programs/Pages/child-care-resource-referral>)

Book Club Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 1:30pm - Pepin Building in Mary's Woods

The book chosen for this meeting is *Everyone Who Is Gone is Here* by Jonathan Blitzer. This book was recommended by our newest member, Sue McWilliams. It is on the NYT 10 Best Books of 2024 list. The subtitle is “The United States, Central America and the Making of a Crisis.” Blitzer has a lot to say about the history of the immigration crisis — timely indeed.



Future book recommendations include: *I Live to Tell the World* by Elizabeth Mehren, about immigrants from around the world who have settled in Oregon; *How to Stand Up to a Dictator* by Maria Ressa; *Ungoverning: The Attack on the Administrative State and the Politics of Chaos* by Nancy Rosenblum and Russell Muirhead and *Project 2025*. The last book would be broken down into sections. It is more than anyone can read in one go. If you have books to suggest, please email me your list for consideration by the group - Margie Whitmore froulady@gmail.com.

Note: At the last book club, Sue McWilliams recommended the Federalist Papers, and the Mark O. Hatfield Lecture Series held at the Oregon Historical Society (ohs.org) which just featured HCR (hatfieldlectureseries.org). Thank you for these recommendations, Sue!

Need a Ride? Neighbor League members have offered transportation! Just call Membership at 503-319-8601 to arrange.

2025 Nominating Team will be Contacting League Members

by Hilly Alexander, Chair and Nominating Committee Team membership@lwvclackamas.org

Are you determined to keep the League a trusted nonpartisan source, protect your right to know what your government is doing, and team up with some of the best League members in the nation? We thought so! You will be hearing from your Nominating Chair, Hilly Alexander, and the Nominating Team, Betty Janes and Diana DeMaria, who will be connecting with you for some fun conversation on your ideas and how the right-sized task can make a huge difference to 2025.

Legislative Interviews this January

Our state League is very active each legislative session researching bills on issues important to League in order to prepare testimony before committees. In order to know what may be in the works for the next session beginning this month, interviews with

state representatives in our county are valuable. What bills are they writing and/or supporting this session? This preview helps give the advocacy committees a head start. A 15-minute interview with just a handful of questions, either in person or Zoom, will do the trick. A small team of 2-3 can get it done. Contact n.murray.01@hotmail.com for details.

Updates

LWVUS launches our transformation in this New Year

By Nancy Murray, Treasurer treasurer@lwvclackamas.org

Our national League has been planning changes to the way we can more efficiently manage the business of running our League. The transition will begin **February 1st**. One change that will affect all members is how we pay our dues.

We have opened a Stripe account that will soon be linked to the new LWVUS ChapterSpot system via a join/renew button on our website. When you join or renew membership online, you can pay your dues with your charge card or debit your checking account. There is a second tab where you can make a specific donation to our local League if you wish.

You will see on your bill that your dues have been distributed automatically to support LWVUS, LWVOR, and LWV Clackamas County. Locally, we will be receiving a greater share of our dues (20%) than we currently do (10.7%), and the state League will go from receiving 37% of our dues to 47%.

Paying by check is still available if it is not possible to pay online. Lifetime memberships will continue with no dues. Members of a household can still be signed up or renewed by partners, though everyone will need their own email address.

We will walk you through the process when the time comes, so just know that change is coming!

2025's Legislative Session and LWVOR Advocacy

By Jean Pierce, LWVOR Action Committee Chair

LWVOR has developed our advocacy priorities for 2025. They can be found at <https://www.lwvor.org/legislative-priorities>. The general overview states:

We continue to protect democracy and our representative government. Our priority emphasis is on education, housing, health, safety, community resilience, environmental protection, and safety net services for the most vulnerable. It is important that Oregon generate adequate revenue for essential services.

In December, our latest Legislative Reports were released. They can be found at <https://www.lwvor.org/legislative-report>. In the reports, we foreshadow some of the legislation which we anticipate supporting in 2025 because it appears to be consistent with our priorities.

Below is a partial list of issues we are tracking as they relate to our priorities:

- **ASSURE ADEQUATE REVENUE.** The League is tracking budget projections and proposals, including the [Governor's Recommended Budget \(https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Media/BuildingOnProgress_2025-2027_GRB_web.pdf\)](https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Media/BuildingOnProgress_2025-2027_GRB_web.pdf) which focuses on housing, addiction, public safety, school funding, and transportation.
- **PROTECT DEMOCRACY.** LWVOR will track the Oregon Open Primary Act.
- **SUPPORT NATURAL RESOURCES.** The League was pleased to see SB5801, the emergency wildfire funding bill passed in a Special Session on December 12, and has been signed into law.
- **ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY.** The League will support updating Greenhouse Emission Reduction Goals when SB1559 (2024) is re-introduced. In addition, LWVOR is tracking the work of the Environmental Justice Council.
- **SUPPORT HOUSING STRATEGIES THAT INCREASE INVESTMENTS.** LWVOR will likely be supporting budget allocations that would maintain Oregon's system of shelters, provide services which prevent people from becoming homeless and help them transition out of homelessness and into housing, support affordable housing and infrastructure, and provide assistance to first-time homebuyers.
- **SUPPORT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH/ADDRESS ADDICTION.** The League will track legislation based on recommendations of the Behavioral Health Workforce Workgroup.
- **PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY.** LWVOR will be tracking efforts to address the public defender shortage. LWVOR joined an amicus brief with the hope that

Measure 114 (2022) can go into effect while it is working its way through judiciary appeals. The measure requires a permit to purchase a firearm and bans high capacity magazines.

- **SUPPORT ADEQUATE AND EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION.** The League will be tracking bills designed to provide more adequate funding for K-12 education as well as bills which provide financial aid to help meet basic needs for higher education students.

LWVUS Action and Advocacy

The digital version of [Impact on Issues 2024 – 2026](#) is now available on the League Management Site! A paperback version is [available to order on Amazon](#).

Stay in the loop as the LWVUS team monitors the latest legislative trends. [Our recent report](#) dissects the 2024 state legislative sessions and the bills that were signed into law this past year.



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Registering New Voters in Oregon

The League of Women Voters is proud and honored to be one of the few organizations that register new citizens on site at naturalization ceremonies throughout the United States, often the first voting resource new citizens encounter as registering to vote has become part of the celebration. The League's mission rests on the premise that civic participation is central to improving our systems of government and shaping public policies that affect our lives. To reach this goal, we believe it is critical to bring voter registration opportunities to all eligible citizens. We provide two major categories of assistance: registering people to vote, and answering their questions about the registration and voting process, including confirming whether they are registered and, if necessary or desired, updating their registration because of a change in address.

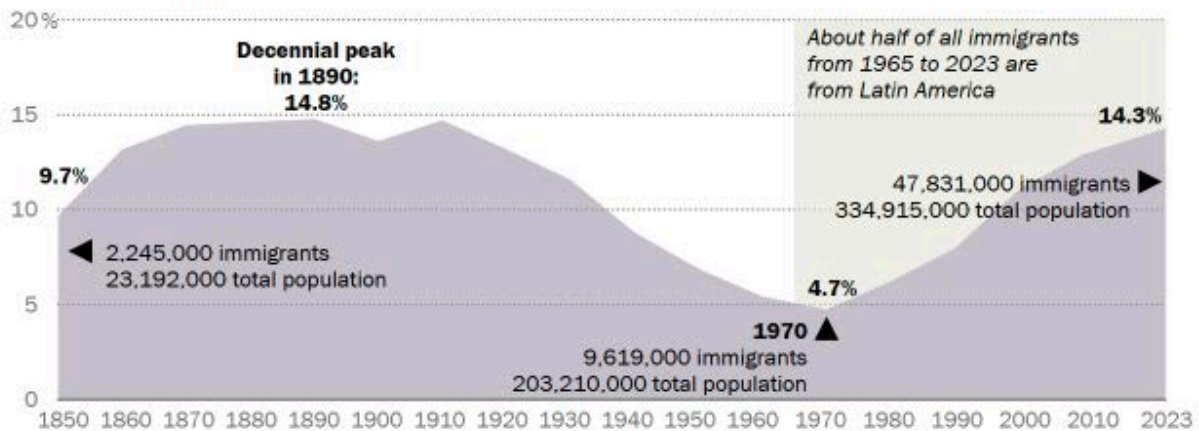


Join us in 2025 welcoming newly eligible naturalized citizens or young and future voters in Clackamas County schools by emailing membership@lwvclackamas.org to get involved with training provided!

Clackamas County is so thankful for our league members Teri Cummings and Claire Vaeth (pictured), plus Teri Danielson and Karen Sterk serving this essential role in 2024 with LWV of Portland at the US District Court Hatfield Courthouse.

Immigrant share of the U.S. population, 1850-2023

% of U.S. population that is foreign born



Note: Populations are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Shares are calculated using unrounded population numbers.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850-2000"; and Pew Research Center tabulations of 2010 and 2023 American Community Surveys.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

USCIS welcomed 818,500 new citizens in fiscal year 2024 during naturalization ceremonies held across the United States and around the world. Although a 7% decrease from last year, the 3-year total is more than 2.6 million new citizens.

(<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship-resource-center/naturalization-statistics>)

Immigrants today account for 14.3% of the U.S. population, a roughly threefold increase from 4.7% in 1970. The immigrant share of the population today is the highest since 1910 but remains below the record 14.8% in 1890. (<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/09/27/key-findings-about-us-immigrants/>)

Have you attended a recent LWV event at the local, statewide, or national level that you'd like to share about in an upcoming Clackson? Please email a draft of an article to communications@lwcclackamas.org.

[Opportunities to Serve](#)

Volunteer with Clackamas County



Volunteer and start something amazing this new year in Clackamas County. The county is now accepting applications for the following advisory boards and commissions:

- Aging Services Advisory Council
- Clackamas Workforce Partnership
- Community Action Board
- Committee for Community Involvement
- Community Health Council
- Mental Health and Addictions Council
- NCPRD Milwaukie Community Center Advisory Board
- Planning Commission
- Vector Control District
- Solid Waste Commission
- Vector Control District
- Veterans Advisory Council

If you are interested in any of these areas and looking to share your perspective, visit: <https://www.clackamas.us/community/abc>
