



**League of Women Voters
of Coos County**

Voting Matters

<https://my.lwv.org/oregon/coos-county>

541-435-1808



AUGUST 1: Coos Pride Tabling

DETAILS: Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Mingus Park

- ♦ **LWVCC** is sponsoring a table for voter registration and publicity for the League.
- ♦ We'll be handing out goodies and answering questions about voting in Oregon.
- ♦ To volunteer, contact Susan Anderson at susan.anderson8@gmail.com.



AUGUST 4: Empire Block Party Tabling

DETAILS: Tuesday, 5:00–7:00 p.m., Ed Lund Park, 135 Wall St., Coos Bay

- ♦ Join the League for voter registration and sharing of information about voting and elections.

AUGUST 25: Civics 101 for Health Care Professionals

DETAILS: Tuesday, via LWVUS Zoom, 3:00–4:00 p.m.

- ♦ Vote-ER and the League of Women Voters are hosting a Civics 101 webinar to help those in the health care industry understand impacts from all levels of government on their work.
- ♦ Open to any League members interested in learning more about Vote-ER. Register [here](#).

SEPTEMBER 10: New and Continuing Members Meeting

DETAILS: Thursday, 5:30–7:00 p.m., Dave's Pizza, 740 Koos Bay Blvd., Coos Bay

- ♦ This is our annual program to welcome new members and prospective members, provide an overview of what the League is and how it works, and chat in a casual setting.
- ♦ All members are encouraged to attend to get all your questions answered and learn about volunteer opportunities.



Notes from Myrtle Point

by Jackie Clary

Recently, I participated in a webinar hosted by **LWVUS** and ALA (American Library Association). The two organizations have formed a collaborative relationship to combine powers that will create voter awareness. The webinar shared some interesting and innovative ways for libraries and Leagues to work collaborate:

- Leagues have voter registration tables in libraries
- Library staff trained to register voters
- Story time with the League; raising future voters
- And more

I began working in libraries in my early twenties and joined **LWV** in my late twenties. Both organizations have defined my adult life, constantly overlapping in thought and now and then in reality. An example would be **LWV California's** "Easy Voter Guide," which began in the mid-1990s as the "Easy Reader Voter Guide," developed by adult literacy learners in a program funded by the California State Library (I was a coordinator for the program). The Guide was initially funded by **LWVCA**, the California Secretary of State, and the California State Library. **LWVCA** still uses "Easy Voter Guide."

"Communities need local institutions, accessible voter information, and opportunities for civic engagement. Libraries and the League of Women Voters are uniquely positioned to help meet these challenges" (more or less a quote from the webinar).

Coos County League Leadership Board of Directors 2025–2026

President: Jackie Clary (2025–27)

First Vice-President: Frances Smith (2025–27)

Second Vice-President: your name here

Secretary: Thomas Tibbals (2026–28)

Treasurer: Jen Shafer (2025–27)

Directors at Large

Paul Arebalo (2025–27)

Kelly Barnett (2026 - 27)

Abigail Bok (2026–28)

Suzanne Grami (2026–27)

Christine Moffitt (2026 - 28)

Committee Chairs 2025–2026

Action Coordinator: your name here

Events/Meeting Chair: your name here

Everymember Handbook: Gail Elber
(Linda Miller)

Membership Roster: Margie Marshall

Membership Chair: Linda Miller

Merchandise Chair: Susan Anderson

Nominating Committee Chair: Rae Lea Cousens

Publicity/Press Relations: Frances Smith

Natural Resources Chair: Christine Moffitt

Voter Registration: Susan Anderson

Voter Service Chair: Abigail Bok

VOTING MATTERS Designer: Cindy Machowski

VOTING MATTERS Editor: Abigail Bok

Website Coordinator: Gail Elber



Report on Event Planning Meeting

On July 9, **LWVCC** held a meeting at Dave's Pizza to brainstorm our events for the coming year. Here's the *tentative* schedule:

-  **September 10:** New and Continuing Members Meeting—all your questions about who we are and what we do, answered.
-  **First half of October:** Candidate forums and interviews
-  **November or early December:** The Pacific Coast Intermodal Port's environmental review process
-  **December 12:** Holiday party and fundraiser
-  **January–March:** programs on Special District Elections, Health Care for All, and either the new federal Department of Seafood or about Timber in Coos County; dates TBD
-  **April:** School board candidate forums and interviews
-  **May:** Annual meeting

Some other ideas floated at the meeting—ideas for future programs?—were presentations on housing laws, the airport, recycling, and transit in Coos County.

Thanks to all the members who turned up and presented their ideas! Plans are subject to change depending on availability of speakers and venues.



Phase 2 of K–12 Schools Study Materials Available

by Jean Pierce, **LWVOR** Action Chair



A report is now available for League members describing issues regarding **Safe and Healthy K-12 Schools**. This is the second of three parts of the ongoing statewide K–12 study. You can find the report as well as consensus statements and a PowerPoint summarizing the issues [here](#) or click on the [Studies](#) tab on the **LWVOR** website.

Studying the reports and reaching consensus regarding issues is essential for the League's advocacy efforts. Every action that the League takes is based on a League position. Current **LWVOR** positions can be found in the state League's version of [Issues for Action](#).

Here is the timeline for the **Safe and Healthy Schools** part of the study:

-  Local Leagues are being asked to hold consensus meetings and submit reports from those meetings by September 30.
-  Then, a Member Agreement Committee will take those reports and use the feedback to craft the final wording for position statements regarding Safe and Healthy Schools.
-  The **LWVOR** Board will be asked whether it agrees with the wording. When it does, the Action Committee will be able to begin using the new position for advocacy.
-  Finally, delegates to the 2027 **LWVOR** Convention will vote whether to accept or reject the position statements.

Materials for phase 3 of the study, K–12 **Career and Technical Education**, will be shared with Leagues by November, and consensus reports will be due January 31.

Our League's Plan for the November Election

The Coos County League is gearing up for another season of Voter Service. We will hold **forums for several local races**—the ones with the most candidates—as well as conducting some interviews.

During July, members participated in a **get-out-the-vote** project to send postcards to all newly registered voters in the county. It was popular, and we're trying to get more postcards to continue the effort—this time focused on residents in our outlying community of Powers, which gets little outreach.

We'd also like to form a committee to **research and report on a local Coos Bay ballot measure** that's in the works, along with any other local ballot measures that surface.

Key Dates

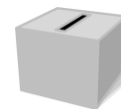
The candidate filing period closes **August 25** and candidates have until **August 28** to withdraw, so we will have a good sense of which races to focus on before **Labor Day**.

- ◆ Our first effort will be collecting candidate contact data for Vote411.org.
- ◆ Next (**September**) we'll identify which races will be our focus and develop questions to ask the candidates.
- ◆ Vote411.org will go live around **September 29** Around that date, we'll mail the get-out-the-vote postcards we wrote during the summer.
- ◆ Forums will be held the **first half of October**.
- ◆ The last day to register to vote is **October 13**.
- ◆ Ballots are mailed **October 14**.
- ◆ **November 3** is Election Day.

Are you interested in helping out with Voter Service? Contact our Voter Service chair, Abigail Bok, at voterservice@lwc.cooscounty.org. There will be a **Voter Service planning meeting** on Saturday, August 22, at 10:30 a.m.

What's on the Ballot?

These are the races that will appear on Coos County ballots:



- ☒ Oregon U.S. Senator
- ☒ Oregon U.S. Representative 4th District
- ☒ Oregon Governor
- ☒ Oregon State Representative 1st District
- ☒ Oregon State Representative 9th District
- ☒ Coos County Clerk
- ☒ Coos County Sheriff
- ☒ City of Bandon Mayor and Councilors
- ☒ City of Coos Bay Mayor and Councilors
- ☒ City of Coquille Mayor and Councilors
- ☒ City of Lakeside Mayor and Councilors
- ☒ City of Myrtle Point Mayor and Councilors
- ☒ City of North Bend Mayor and Councilors
- ☒ City of Powers Mayor and Councilors
- ☒ Central Lincoln People's Utility District Director Subdivision 5
- ☒ Coos Soil and Water Conservation District Director Zones 2 and 5 and at-Large 1 and 2

LEAGUE VOTER SERVICE

- Public outreach
- Voter education

Exploring a Third Act for Coos Bay

by Melissa Cliver



- ✦ Many of us spend the first part of our lives learning, building careers, raising families, and contributing to our professions. As we enter our sixties and beyond, a new question often emerges: **What is my next meaningful contribution to my community?**
- ✦ Author and environmental leader Bill McKibben calls this stage of life our **Third Act**. Through the nonprofit Third Act, he encourages older adults to recognize that they possess something our communities need now more than ever: experience, wisdom, professional skills, relationships, and time. The organization invites people over sixty to use these assets to strengthen democracy, address local challenges, and help build resilient communities. ([Third Act](#))
- ✦ Here in Coos Bay, we have an extraordinary opportunity to define what a Third Act could look like on the South Coast. Rather than focusing on a single issue or political viewpoint, a local Third Act chapter could bring together retired and semiretired residents from every background to contribute their talents to the community they call home.
- ✦ Imagine engineers mentoring young entrepreneurs, teachers helping expand civic education, retired tradespeople restoring public spaces, business leaders supporting local economic development, artists creating community projects, scientists advancing coastal stewardship, and lifelong volunteers helping neighbors navigate local government. Every person has something to offer.
- ✦ This vision aligns naturally with the **League of Women Voters'** longstanding mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government through education and civic engagement while remaining firmly nonpartisan. ([League of Women Voters](#))
- ✦ A Coos Bay Third Act chapter would not endorse candidates or political parties. Instead, it would create opportunities for older adults to connect, learn, volunteer, mentor, and collaborate on projects that strengthen our community and our democracy.
- ✦ The question is not whether we still have something to contribute.
- ✦ The question is: **What could Coos Bay become if we brought together the knowledge, experience, and energy of hundreds of people entering the most meaningful chapter of their lives?**
- ✦ There is an outlet for individuals to share what they've learned at Oregon Coast Artisan Trade Education Collective ([OCATEC](#)). I think the **LWV** could be a great partner and members could share how to be a civic-minded person.



The Courts Muddy the Waters

-  The Trump administration has offered states access to its federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements system (SAVE—not to be confused with the SAVE America Act before Congress), urging them to use it to verify the citizenship status of those on their voter rolls.
-  The SAVE system, managed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), allows access to various federal databases; it was created to help government agencies determine immigrants' eligibility for services and licensing. The current administration has sought to give states enhanced access to it for the purpose of checking eligibility to vote; DHS has also expanded the databases that can be probed using SAVE.
-  In June, a district judge based in Washington, D.C., ruled that these new uses of the SAVE system violated privacy laws. After that ruling, DHS limited state election officials' access to the system.
-  But in July, a district judge from Florida issued a contradictory ruling. That judge had overseen a settlement between the government and four states (Florida, Indiana, Iowa, and Ohio) that gave them expanded access to the system, and he ruled that the limits DHS placed on access violated the terms of the agreement.
-  **What's at stake?** The SAVE system is widely criticized for having high inconclusive rates. Federal audits show that 15%-20% of searches fail to verify an individual's status, and that the information found there is often out of date. For voters in four states at least (more if the program is expanded), the result could be voter roll purges that disenfranchise eligible voters, as well as the loss of privacy cited by the D.C. judge.
-  Stay tuned for updates on how the issues between the two courts will be resolved.

Another One Bites the Dust

In March 2025, President Trump signed executive order 14248 ordering changes to voting rules in the United States.

It would have required

- changes to the standard voter registration form, including that the person registering provide documentary proof of citizenship and that that document be attested to by a state or local official;
- involvement of the Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies in the verification process;
- using the Election Assistance Commission to standardize voting systems nationwide and to share voter information;
- designation of election infrastructure as critical infrastructure;
- barring all foreign nationals from contributing to U.S. elections; and
- revoking a 2021 executive order promoting access to voting.

On June 24, 2026, a federal judge permanently blocked the entirety of the order. Judge Denise Casper noted that “While the Constitution vests the President with ‘executive power’ and commands him to ‘take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed,’ it does not grant the President any specific powers over elections.” She added that “There is no evidence in this record of widespread ‘illegal voting, discrimination, fraud, and other forms of malfeasance and error’ within American elections, which the Executive Order purports to safeguard against.”

In
Brief

LWVUS Condemns Removal of Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Commissioners

- In the wake of the contested 2000 presidential election, Congress established the U.S. Election Assistance Commission—an agency that provided support to state elections officials across the country, led by a bipartisan commission. As of early July, there were only three seated commissioners. The President allowed the Republican member to resign and fired the two Democratic commissioners, leaving the EAC without power to make decisions, though the agency's staff remain.
- **LWVUS** CEO Celina Stewart issued a statement reading in part, "Removing the commissioners of the Election Assistance Commission is a direct attack on the independence of our nation's election infrastructure. This extraordinary action strips the EAC of its bipartisan leadership at a moment when election officials need support, stability, and protection from political pressure."



Recommended Reading

LWVOR Policy and Position Statements

- What does the League stand for?
- Why does it advocate for certain issues and not others?

The answers may be found by looking up the organization's policy and position statements. These positions are derived from the studies conducted by members, and they can be found at the local, state, and national levels.

LWVCC's positions are on our website. **LWVUS's** positions are published in a book available at minimal cost, *Impact on Issues*. And what of the state League? **LWVOR's** positions may be found [here](#).

August 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Coos Pride tabling Mingus Park 10 am-3pm
2	3	4 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM Members welcome Empire Block Party tabling Ed Lund Park, 5-7pm	5	6	7	8 VOTING RIGHTS ACT Anniversary day of Action
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Voter Service planning meeting 10:30 am
23	24	25	26 	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM Members welcome	2	3	4	5
6	7 	8	9	10 New & Continuing Members Meeting 5:30-7 pm Dave's Pizza	11	12 
13 	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 	22 	23	24	25	26 
27	28	29 Vote411.org goes live	30			

October 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM Members welcome	7	8	9	10 
11	12 	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween 