



# League of Women Voters of Coos County

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

909-742-0374

September  
2025

## Voting Matters

**Save These Dates!**

### SEPTEMBER 3: League 101

- ▶ The state League (**LWVOR**) holds a monthly **Zoom** meeting where members can learn more about how the League works and the resources it provides.
- ▶ These meetings are always the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Register for meetings (members only) [here](#).

### SEPTEMBER 13: New & Continuing Members Meeting

- ▶ **The League of Women Voters of Coos County (LWVCC)** invites all new and continuing members, as well as interested members of the public, to attend an informational meeting at the **Coos Bay Public Library (525 Anderson Ave.), Saturday, September 13, 2025, 10:30 to Noon.**
- ▶ Short presentations will explain how League is organized, its history, and the activities involved in service to the Coos County community.
- ▶ There will be time to ask questions and get acquainted with others.

### SEPTEMBER 17: Working with Local Election Officials to Anchor Change

- ▶ As part of its "Democracy in Your Hands" series, **LWVUS** is offering a webinar for members on best practices for Leagues to engage with local election officials.
- ▶ **The meeting will be held via Zoom from 8:00 to 9:15 a.m. Pacific time** (members only).
- ▶ Learn more and register [here](#).

### SEPTEMBER 17 & 27: Voter Registration

- ▶ As part of our annual celebration of Voter Registration Month, **LWVCC** will have two voter registration events in September:
  1. a table at the **Coos Bay Visitor Center, across from the farmers' market, to register voters from 10:00 to 2:00 on the 17th.**
  2. a location at the **Myrtle Point Harvest Festival, on the 27th, 10:00–4:00.**
- ▶ People can serve two-hour shifts at either event—or both!
- ▶ Contact Susan Anderson at [lwvcoos@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcoos@gmail.com) to volunteer.

**INTERESTED IN  
EDUCATION?  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBER  
NEEDED**

**LWVOR** is launching a study of three aspects of K–12 education in Oregon:

- ▶ school safety
- ▶ exceptional learners
- ▶ career/technical education

This two-year study still has room for committee members. If you're interested in participating and want to learn how you can help out with the study, contact Jean Pierce at [advocacy@lwvor.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvor.org) and let our president, Jackie Clary, know about your interest.

## Coos League at Coos Pride

- 👍 On August 9, members of **LWVCC** staffed a booth at Coos Pride in Mingus Park.
- 👍 Our table offered plenty to engage attendees:
  - 👍 voter registration
  - 👍 signature gathering for the initiative petition to qualify the Equal Rights for All initiative for the **November 2026** ballot
  - 👍 a ranked-choice voting exercise on gay rights priorities
  - 👍 League shirt sales
  - 👍 free Gay Pride buttons and funky glasses

### LEAGUE IN ACTION

- Public engagement
- Informing citizens on the issues
- Support for ballot initiatives



- 👍 **By the numbers:** 3 voters registered and 2 others took forms with them; 75 people signed the petition; all 100 ballots were voted.
- 👍 The ranked-choice voting exercise asked participants to choose 3 issues out of a list of 10 possibilities and rank those 3 in order of priority.
- 👍 A clear winner emerged: **legal protections against discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation** was a top priority for 45 of the voters, with another 24 ranking it second or third.
- 👍 Attendees were excited to vote and learned something about how ranked-choice voting works.
- 👍 The League shared the results with Southern Oregon Coast Pride to help them prioritize their activism.

## Follow Our New Facebook Page!

- LWVCC has a brand-new Facebook page.
- Please visit, follow the page, and share it with your friends.
- The page can be found [here](#).
- Jen Shafer is getting it started but we are looking for someone to be the site's moderator.
- The state and national Leagues have plenty of resources to help moderators, it's not a huge task.





## Action on the Pacific Coast Intermodal Port (PCIP) Project

On August 20, the Port Commission hosted a town hall-style meeting at the Ko-Kwel Casino. Facilitated by Points Consulting, an Idaho group hired by the Port, the meeting was intended to help shape its 10-year Strategic Plan document, which is required under Oregon law. The meeting's purpose was not to focus primarily on the PCIP, though the shadow of the project loomed large over the discussion. Points Consulting assured attendees that there will be a separate process for public input specifically about the PCIP.

Points Consulting had a strategy in mind for the meeting, but it abandoned its PowerPoint quite quickly in favor of hearing public opinion. (There were also large sheets of paper laid out at one side of the room where people could write comments on subjects such as the Port's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats, as well as people's visions for the future of Coos Bay.)

- ➔ Some people spoke in support of the PCIP, but the majority of speakers favored a shift in the Port's focus away from ambitious mega-projects toward improving existing facilities in order to facilitate existing industries in the area.
- ➔ Commercial fishermen and the dock owner spoke about the long-term deterioration of facilities in Charleston that has led to loss of business.
- ➔ Several people urged that the Port's priority should be projects that benefit the residents in the tax district.

The Port also conducted an online Strategic Business Plan survey, which ended August 27. Results of the survey will be presented at the Port Commission's October 16 meeting. You can find information about Port Commission meetings [here](#). The Strategic Business Plan is supposed to be completed by October 31.



## Meet the State League Board



Here are the members of the Board of Directors for the Oregon League, with their local League affiliations. To learn more about their backgrounds and interests or to contact them, click [here](#).

**President:** Lisa Bentson, Lincoln  
**First Vice-President and Communications Chair:** Barbara Klein, Rogue Valley  
**Second Vice-President and Action Chair:** Jean Pierce, Washington  
**Secretary:** Mimi Alkire, Portland  
**Treasurer:** Kermit Yensen, Deschutes  
**Issues and Positions Chair:** Stephanie Haycock, Marion-Polk  
**Development Chair:** Jackie Clary, Coos  
**Nominating Committee Chair:** Annie Goldner, Deschutes

**VOTER Newsletter Editor:** Jim Buck, Rogue Valley  
**Youth Director:** Evan Tucker, member-at-state (no local League affiliation)  
**DEIJ Chair:** rhyen enger, Portland  
**Membership and Youth Outreach Chair:** Diana DeMaria, Clackamas County  
**Events Chair:** Eileen Burke-Trent, Marion-Polk  
**Voter Service Chair:** Marianne Germond, member-at-state  
**Director:** Marty Power, Union  
**Director:** Barbara Keirnes-Young, Lincoln



## Notes from Myrtle Point

I'm writing this note in late August and feel as if I am waiting for summer to begin. What happened? Maybe that's the answer: too much has happened. Family, more family, and friends made their way to the southern Oregon coast, reminding me how lucky I am to live here.

Your **LWCC** board has been busy planning programs for this coming League year. The September meeting will introduce the League to new members with assistance from continuing members. This is also an opportunity for the public, including interested neighbors, friends, and family, to learn more about how important our work is and that the League is a positive force in defending democracy in the world in which we now live.

A phone tree is in the works to communicate **LWCC** activities and action alerts—if needed—to members. If this is something you can help with, please give me a call at **541-441-4526**. The more participation we have, the fewer the calls each person needs to make.

Here's hoping to see everyone at our September meeting, welcoming new members and renewing friendships with our continuing members.



*Jackie Clary, 8/22/25*

### Coos County League Leadership Board of Directors 2025–2026

**President:** Jackie Clary (2025–27)

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

**Second Vice-President:** Abigail Bok (2024–26)

**Secretary:** Carol Sanders (2024–26)

**Treasurer:** Jen Shafer (2025–27)

#### **Directors at Large**

Paul Arebalo (2025–27)

Kay Kerriden (2025–27)

Linda Miller (2025–26)

Judy Moody (2025–27)

Christine Moffitt (2024–26)

Pamela Lenox (2024–26)

### Committee Chairs 2025–2026

**Action Coordinator:** Alice Carlson

**Everymember Handbook:** Linda Miller

**Membership Roster:** Margie Marshall

**Membership Chair:** Susan Anderson

**Merchandise Chair:** Susan Anderson

**Nominating Committee Chair:** Alice Carlson

**Program/Meeting Chair:** Judy Moody

**Publicity/Press Relations:** Frances Smith

**Natural Resources Chair:** Christine Moffitt

**VOTING MATTERS Designer:** Cindy Machowski

**VOTING MATTERS Editor:** Abigail Bok

**Voter Service Chair:** Abigail Bok





## A Guide to the LWVCC Website

*Have you visited our local League's website lately? You should go there often because it is always changing. It is your portal to everything League—local, state, and national. Check it out [here](#). Remember that the website has both a public side and a members-only side. If you are not yet signed up to access the members-only side, send a message to the Coos County League at [lwvcoos@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcoos@gmail.com) and Linda Miller will help you get started.*

### The Public Page

The key to unlocking the rich resources of the website is the menu on the left.

- The **ABOUT** page talks about the basics of the League's mission, along with a little history of the organization.
- **VOTING & ELECTIONS** helps citizens learn more about Oregon's electoral processes and get engaged with their elected officials.
- **ISSUES** unlocks information about our local League's studies and positions, the basis for our advocacy.
- **PROJECTS** offers more information about our activities.
- **EVENTS** is where you can go to learn more about meetings of interest to our League.
- **NEWS** will let you find up-to-date info that affects our community.

Finally on the public side, there are links to join or renew membership, to donate, to buy merchandise, and to contact the League.

### The Members-Only Page

If you log in to the website and click **MEMBERS-ONLY** at the bottom of the menu on the left, you'll see some extra options just for you. Action messaging, news specifically for members of the League, meeting minutes and past newsletters, and the **EVERYMEMBER HANDBOOK**.

The **Everymember Handbook** is your comprehensive guide to League membership and includes:

- info to help demystify League terminology
- League history
- policies at the national, state, and local levels
- state and local League studies
- a guide to the legislative process
- bylaws for the Coos County League
- our local board policies
- ground rules for our forums and interviews
- a list of board members
- a current roster, so you can contact any fellow member of the Coos County League

**Most questions you have about being a League member can be answered here, and you can consult the Members-Only area of the website to keep up to date on all LWVCC activities. You can even find recipes from our potlucks!**

### RESOURCES YOU CAN USE

- **League news**
- **Issues & positions**
- **Everymember Handbook**
- **Civic engagement tools**





**League around the Nation**  
 • Litigation  
 • Political advocacy



## LWVUS New Organizing Model

**LWVUS** has created a new Activation & Justice Department to integrate its mobilization, engagement (organizing), advocacy, and legal work into a unified strategy.

- As part of this effort, **LWVUS** is shifting to a new regional organizing model. There are 5 regions: Oregon is in Region 5, which also includes California, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Kansas, and Nebraska.
- Over the next few months, the League will be hiring regional organizers to help coordinate activities around the country and support activities already under way. The role is envisioned as strategic and tactical support, not as a supervisory position.
- Learn more [here](#).

## Standing in Voting-Related Cases

A member of Congress for Illinois, Michael Bost, brought a lawsuit trying to prevent his state from counting mail ballots that are voted by Election Day but received up to 14 days later—a policy written into state law. The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Congressman Bost lacked standing to sue. He has appealed the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

**LWVUS**, along with other civil rights groups, has submitted an *amicus curiae* brief in support of Congressman Bost's right to sue. The League does not agree with his goal of invalidating mail ballots that arrive after Election Day but supports his right to bring the suit. **LWVUS** CEO Celina Stewart wrote, "Standing is not a loophole; it is a pillar of democracy. When individuals who are truly harmed are denied the right to challenge the process or law, the judiciary forfeits its role as a constitutional referee."

## LWVUS on Mid-Cycle Redistricting

On August 6, 2025, **LWVUS** CEO Celina Stewart issued the following statement in response to states considering redrawing Congressional district boundaries in mid-decade:

- "**The League of Women Voters** does not support a tit-for-tat approach to redistricting.
- State legislatures redrawing their maps mid-cycle reflects political gamesmanship that erodes public trust in our democracy.
- Redistricting must be fair, transparent, and rooted in the voices of voters—not partisan retaliation.

"Manipulating maps for political gain is a disservice to the people. The League stands for maps that reflect communities, not political calculations. Voters deserve stable, fair representation—not to be used as pawns in a power grab. When politicians rewrite the rules mid-game to protect their control, democracy loses.

**DEMOCRACY**

**"The League of Women Voters is ready to fight to ensure fairness for voters, no matter what politicians do for their own gain. We stand ready to protect the voices of all voters because that is what our democracy is built on."**



**In  
Brief**



## Governor Kotek Signs SB 243, Vetoes SB 1047



🗞 **SB 243:** One of the bills most closely watched by **LWVOR** during the recent legislative session was SB 243, the measure to create new statutes in support of the gun safety initiative, Measure 114, that Oregonians passed in 2022. The bill (1) allows local jurisdictions to create gun-free zones; (2) prohibits the transport, manufacture, or sale of rapid-fire activators (often called “bump stocks,” “hellfire triggers,” etc.), and (3) declares that the act shall become operative on the 91st day after the 2025 legislative session officially adjourned.

🗞 **SB 1047:** Of local interest, SB 1047—requiring Curry County and the Oregon Water Resources Department to expedite review of applications for water use on specified lands—was vetoed by the Governor. The bill was proposed with the goal of facilitating a plan by the owners of the Bandon Dunes golf resort to build a new golf course in Curry County. Kotek commented, “Preferencing any one potential project in statute without substantial public debate does not serve the public interest, nor allow for thoughtful and deliberate consideration of the impacts of a proposed development opportunity on a constrained resource, especially one as important to our survival as water.”



### Recommended Reading: *USAFacts*






- ❶ One of my favorite nerd paradises is **USAFacts**. Founded by former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, **USAFacts** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that analyzes data about the U.S. government and presents it in easily digestible form.
- ❷ Areas covered include government spending, the economy, crime, health, immigration, population statistics, defense and security, and more.
- ❸ As the website says, “No one at **USAFacts** is trying to convince you of anything. The only opinion we have is that government data should be easier to access.”
- ❹ You can subscribe to get posts from **USAFacts** in your in-box.
- ❺ They don’t spam you; posts usually come only once every few weeks.

**To subscribe, visit the website [here](#).**

**September 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day 	2 Board Meeting 1 pm via ZOOM	3 League 101 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 New & Continuing Members meeting 10:30 am
14	15	16 	17 Voter Registration Coos Bay Farmers' Market 10-2	18	19	20
21	22	23 Rosh Hashana 	24	25	26	27 Myrtle Point Harvest Festival voter registration 10-4
28	29	30				

**October 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Yom Kippur begins 	3	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting 1 pm via ZOOM	8	9	10	11
12	13 	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Diwali 	21	22	23	24 United Nations Day 	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween 	

**November 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 Board Meeting 1 pm via ZOOM	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 	12	13	14	15
16 	17	18	19 A Deeper Understanding of the PCIP II 7:00pm	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving 	29	29
30						