



**League of Women Voters
of Coos County**

Voting Matters

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

541-435-1808



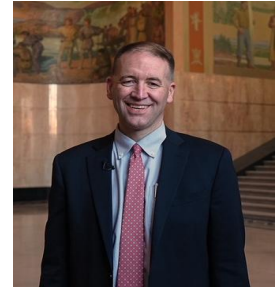
APRIL Save the Date

APRIL 8: Voting in Oregon: A conversation with Tobian Read, Secretary of State

DETAILS: 4:00–5:30 p.m., Sprague Community Theater, 1202 11th St. SW, Bandon



- The Coos and Curry Leagues are hosting an appearance by SOS Tobias Read, speaking about elections, election security, and voting.
- There will be a Q&A period.



APRIL 12: Adult Spelling Bee

DETAILS: Sunday, 1:00–3:00 p.m., Black Market Gourmet, 495 Central Ave., Coos Bay

- Come root for our **LWVCC** team, the Queen Bees, at the Coos Bay Public Library's annual Adult Spelling Bee!
- Brunch is served and you can win raffle prizes.
- It's all good fun in service to a good cause. Admission fee of \$25

APRIL 18: Consensus Meeting for K–12 Study: Exceptional Learners

DETAILS: 10:30 a.m.–noon, Coos Bay Public Library

- The League of Women Voters of Oregon is conducting a study of three aspects of K–12 education.
- This first consensus meeting focuses on its study of exceptional learners in Oregon school systems.

Candidate Forums

Volunteers needed for both forums!

Please contact Abigail Bok at 541-808-3051 (land line) or shadows@alumni.princeton.edu.

APRIL 22: Coos County Clerk

DETAILS: 6:00–7:15 p.m., North Bend Public Library

AND

APRIL 25: Coos County Commissioner

DETAILS: 2:00–3:30 p.m., Egyptian Theatre

Coming up in

MAY 9: Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck

DETAILS: 11:00–1:30, Gloria Dei Church, 1290 Thompson Rd., Coos Bay

We meet annually to take care of our League business such as voting on a new board and giving guidance to the board about your priorities for the coming year. The meeting is followed by a potluck and chance to get to know fellow League members! Learn more about the League's activities and priorities, help us set goals, and bring something to eat or drink for the potluck.

LEAGUE STUDIES

- **Conducting research**
- **Reaching consensus**

K–12 Study Consensus: Exceptional Learners

LWVOR is conducting a three-part study of K–12 education in Oregon. As the first part of that study, a report has been written on exceptional students; read it [here](#). **You are encouraged to attend a meeting on April 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the Coos Bay Public Library to discuss the consensus questions that follow; please read the study beforehand.**

How Does This Process Work?

- ↳ When a League conducts a study, membership is asked to read it and participate in a consensus process.
- ↳ Consensus questions are deliberately broad and not prescriptive; they avoid focusing on specific issues of the moment.
- ↳ After the members have come to consensus on questions, those questions are reformulated as policy position statements.
- ↳ Then the position statements are approved by the League board, and
- ↳ Finally, they're adopted by membership at a League meeting.

The League of Women Voters can advocate for or against only issues for which it has adopted a position—so this consensus process is essential to our advocacy work.

Please see the next page for the consensus questions to be addressed at the April meeting.

Exceptional Learners Consensus Questions

Exceptional students include those with disabilities, talented and gifted students, and English-language learners. They are all students who have been designated by state and federal laws as needing services in addition to those provided to mainstream students.

1. Exceptional learners include those with disabilities.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

2. Exceptional learners include those who need special instruction in English.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

3. Exceptional learners include those who are talented or gifted.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

4. A quality ed system should prepare all learners—including exceptional learners—to reach their individual potential.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

5. All students—including exceptional learners—must develop knowledge and skills to the best of their ability that they will need to lead productive lives as informed and contributing citizens.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

6. The education of exceptional students should provide instruction and support adapted to their unique needs.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

7. The education of exceptional learners should use effective evidence-based practices.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

8. Educators should be given support to choose effective evidence-based practices.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

9. Educators should be given support to implement effective evidence-based practices.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

10. Educators should be given professional development to implement effective evidence-based practices.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

11. Funding should be adequate to ensure that every student has a free and appropriate public education.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

12. There should be no limit (cap) on the percentage of exceptional learners receiving services.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

13. Funding should consider that some learners need more assistance than others.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

14. State funding should be sufficient to train the staff required to meet the needs of exceptional learners.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

15. State funding should be sufficient to attract and retain the staff required to meet the needs of exceptional learners.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

16. State funding should be sufficient to provide resources required to meet the needs of exceptional learners.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

17. There should be an effective process for holding districts accountable for student success in Oregon.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

18. Student success should be measured in terms of student growth over time.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

19. If high-stakes tests are used, exceptional learners should be assessed according to their current ability level.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____ Other: _____

**Learn More about the State League at
the 2026 LWVOR Council**



Every year LWVOR holds either a weekend-long convention or a shorter council. These meetings are great opportunities to learn more about the League.

- ▶ This is a council year, and it is being held on May 16 in Salem at the historic Veterans of Foreign Wars Marion Post 661.
- ▶ Attendees can choose either hotel accommodations with a group discount or in-home hosting by League members.
- ▶ The hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and there will be an optional reception and networking event the evening before at 5:00 p.m.
- ▶ There is also a hybrid option for virtual attendance.
- ▶ Our League can send two voting delegates, and any member is welcome to attend for the workshops and keynote speaker.
- ▶ Are you interested in being a delegate? Contact our president, Jackie Clary, at 541-435-1808.

FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwvor-council-tickets-1985477872765?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true

COST: \$33.85 in person; \$0 virtual

HOTEL RATE: \$189 for a double room with 2 queen beds at the Grand Hotel (deadline to book April 23): call 503-540-7800 and refer to “League of Women Voters Oregon Statewide Conference”

**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)
Interim Secretary: Thomas Tibbals
Treasurer: Jen Shafer (2025–27)
Directors at Large
 Paul Arebalo (2025–27)
 Kay Kerriden (2025–27)
 Pamela Lenox (2024–26)
 Linda Miller (2025–26)
 Christine Moffitt (2024–26)
 Judy Moody (2025–27)

Committee Chairs 2025–2026

- Action Coordinator:** Alice Carlson
Events/Meeting Chair: Traci Olson
Everymember Handbook: Linda Miller
Membership Roster: Margie Marshall
Membership Chair: Susan Anderson
Merchandise Chair: Susan Anderson
Nominating Committee Chair: Alice Carlson
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
Website Coordinator: Linda Miller

Here We Go Again

Campaign Finance Reform

Oregon has a long and frustrating history with campaign finance reform. The first effort on the issue happened in 1908! And it has come up over and over more recently. About 70% of Oregonians routinely vote in favor of campaign spending limits.

So why don't we have meaningful campaign finance laws? You can blame the Legislature, which has blocked or defanged them over and over. And in this year's short session, they did it again.

Here's the recent history: In 2024, there were two campaign finance reform initiatives making their way to the November ballot. One—cosponsored by the League of Women Voters—was IP 9, led by the Honest Elections group; the other was proposed by a coalition of labor organizations.

Both seemed likely to make it to the ballot, so the Legislature acted. They proposed HB 4024, a compromise measure negotiated with the groups behind the two initiatives, and those groups agreed to withdraw their initiative petitions. The bill passed.

But as we have often learned to our sorrow, *passage* does not mean *implementation*.

- In 2025, the Legislature failed to either resolve some of the confusing aspects of the bill or allocate the funds necessary for the Secretary of State's office to fix technical issues with the ORESTAR system that would accommodate changes in campaign donation reporting rules.
- In the 2026 short session, HB 4018 was introduced intending to fix the issues. But House Speaker Julie Fahey worked behind the scenes with labor groups, leaving out the good-government organizations like the League, and just before the bill went into committee, she introduced changes that would create massive loopholes in the rules.
 - Legal spending limits would be doubled.
 - A provision spelling out "coordinated expenditures" was removed.
 - Donors could create multiple LLCs and donate the maximum to each.
 - Allowances for in-kind contributions were increased.
 - The requirement to disclose original sources of funds was delayed until 2031.

All these changes would make the campaign finance law toothless—and there still isn't enough money for the SOS to replace the aging ORESTAR system. HB 4018 passed the Legislature, so if the Governor signs it, it seems likely we will have to start all over again with a new initiative petition for real campaign finance reform—and not believe the Legislature again when they claim to be on board with it. A last-minute measure, known as SB 1502 Enrolled, was passed that directs the Secretary of State to draft a bill with necessary campaign finance improvements for the 2027 legislative session, but it is unknown how that would change the landscape on this issue.

LEAGUE ADVOCACY

- ☛ Monitoring the Legislature
- ☛ Policy battles



Eye on Salem: Legislative Session Recap

The following bills of interest to the League and local voters passed in the Legislature and are awaiting the governor's signature:

- ◆ **HB 4075: Bailout for Bay Area Hospital**—this bill, championed by State Representative Boomer Wright, approves a \$44 million loan from the state's unclaimed property and estates fund to relieve pressure on the hospital.
- ◆ **HB 4134: Transient lodging tax**—this bill increases the tax on short-term lodging from 1.5% to 2.75% and applies the revenue toward conservation efforts.
- ◆ **SB 1525: establishes a Blue Economy Task Force**—our own Christine Moffitt followed this proposal, which would create a means for the state to study and report on economic development plans or strategies for the coastal economy.
- ◆ **HB 4102: changing the authorities of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality**—it would allow DEQ to hire third-party contractors to speed up environmental permitting. **LWVOR** opposed.
- ◆ **HB 4148: LOCAL Act**—would change the ways funds from **transient lodging taxes** are used; it would allow cities to use more of these funds for infrastructure. An amendment was added allowing the funds to be divided 50/50 between tourism and infrastructure.
- ◆ **HB 4127: Medicaid reimbursements to reproductive health care providers**—allows qualified providers (i.e., Planned Parenthood) to receive reimbursements for services from state funds if the federal government fails to reimburse.
- ◆ **HB 4149: Homeless Assistance Act**—directs school districts to enroll homeless students and provide services for them. Because of cuts to the U.S. Dept. of Education, federal funding for that assistance is uncertain.
- ◆ **HB 4145: Implementing gun safety initiative**—this bill, purportedly about implementing Measure 114, passed by the people in 2022, was gutted before passage.
- ◆ **SB 1509: Uniform Faithful Presidential Electors Act**—seeks to strengthen Oregon's laws requiring that presidential electors vote in the Electoral College consistently with the vote of the people of the state.

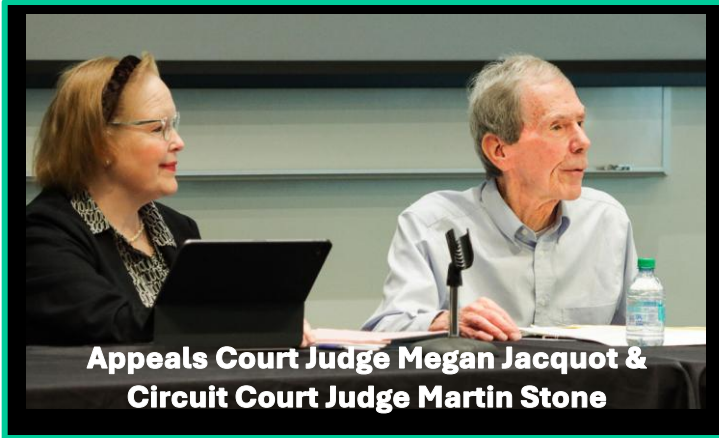
The following bills were left in committee without a vote, effectively killing them:

- ◆ **SB 1584: Salmon credit pilot program**—would establish a program in the Coquille and Coos watersheds to encourage voluntary restoration of salmonid habitat. Versions of this same measure have been opposed by LWVOR in the past.
- ◆ **HB 4143: the Recourse Act**—a state funding bill proposing a means to address federal support being withheld. LWVOR is cautious about the approach taken in the bill.
- ◆ **SB 1592: Open Primary**—would have changed Oregon's Primary Election laws to allow any registered voter to vote for any candidate, regardless of party. A joint resolution, **HJR 201**—that would create an open primary with the top 2 candidates moving on regardless of party—was proposed and will probably be revived in 2027.



Thank You to Our Presenters!

- Appeals Court Judge Megan Jacquot and Circuit Court Judge Martin Stone gave a fascinating and substantive presentation to our League in March.
- For those who missed it, you can watch the videos [here](#).



Appeals Court Judge Megan Jacquot & Circuit Court Judge Martin Stone



Judge Stone spent time with student leaders after the event. Photos by Steve Miller.



Who's on Your Ballot?

Here's a complete list of the candidates running in the May 19, 2026, Primary Election in Coos County. The candidates you see will depend on where in the county you live and your party registration (or lack thereof).

- Everyone will see all the candidates in the nonpartisan races; you will see only the candidates that match your party registration in the partisan races.
- If you are registered with a minor party or as an Independent or No Affiliation, you will not see any partisan candidates.
- If you wish to vote a partisan ballot, you have until April 28 to choose or change your party affiliation. Do it by visiting the Secretary of State's registration page, [here](#). You can always change it back later.

U.S. SENATOR—Democratic:

Jeff Merkley

Paul Damian Wells

U.S. SENATOR—Republican:

Brent Barker
Deborah C Brown
David A Burch
Russell McAlmond

Jo Rae Perkins
Timothy Skelton
David Brock Smith

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 4TH DISTRICT—Democratic:

Daniel B Bahlen
Melissa Bird

Val Hoyle
Melvin Smith

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 4TH DISTRICT—Republican:

Monique DeSpain

Stefan G Streck

GOVERNOR—Democratic:

Forest (Fora) Alexander
Donnie M Beckwith
Brittany Jones
Tina Kotek
Tristan Sheppard

James Atkinson IV
David W Beem
Cal Kishawi
Steve William Laible
Miranda Weigler

Continued from page 7

GOVERNOR—Republican:

Danielle Bethell	Robert Neuman
Hope A Dalrymple	Brad T Peters
Ed Diehl	Paul J Romero Jr
Christine Drazan	DeAgelo Leroy Turner
Chris Dudley	Wen Wadell
Kyle M Duyck	Martin Ward
David Medina	Tim O Youker

COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES—Nonpartisan:

Chris Lynch	Christina E Stephenson
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 1 (southern and eastern Coos County)—Democratic:

Bret Cecil

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 1 (southern and eastern Coos County)—Republican:

Court Boice

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 9 (northern and coastal Coos County)—Democratic:

John Ezra Scheirman

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 9 (northern and coastal Coos County)—Republican:

Troy Cribbins	Claire Lynn
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JUDGE OF THE OREGON SUPREME COURT, POSITION 4—Nonpartisan:

Christopher L Garrett

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, POSITION 1—Nonpartisan:

Ryan T O'Connor

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, POSITION 9—Nonpartisan:

Jacqueline Kamins

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, POSITION 12—Nonpartisan:

Erin C Lagesen

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, POSITION 13—Nonpartisan:

Doug Tookey

JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, DISTRICT 15, POSITION 6—Nonpartisan:

Cynthia L Beaman

COOS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, POSITION 2—Nonpartisan:

Brandi Martindale	John W Sweet
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COOS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, POSITION 3—Nonpartisan:

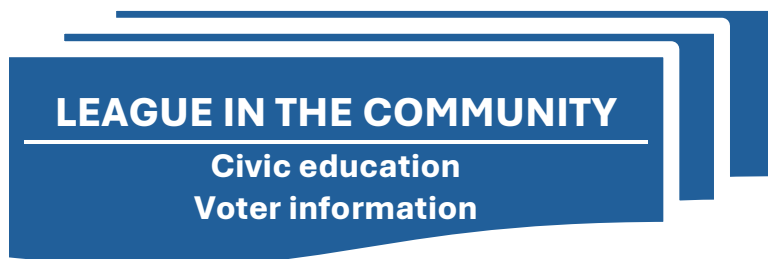
Richard (Rick) Coleman	Rick Osborn
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COOS COUNTY CLERK—Nonpartisan:

Julie Brecke	Pam Lewis
Marty Kuhrt	

COOS COUNTY SHERIFF—Nonpartisan:




Gabe Fabrizio	M A Kinnaird
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April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Passover begins 	2	3	4
5 Easter 	6	7 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM	8 SOS Tobias Read Sprague Theater Bandon 4:00 pm	9	10	11
12 Library Spelling Bee Black Market Gourmet 1:00 – 3:00 pm	13	14	15	16	17	18 Consensus Meeting Coos Bay Library 10:30 am
19	20	21	22 County Clerk Forum North Bend Library 6:00 pm	23	24	25 County Commissioner Forum Egyptian Theatre 2:00 pm
26	27	28 Last Day to register/change voting affiliation	29 Ballots mailed	30		

May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM	6	7	8	9 LWCC Annual Meeting Gloria Dei Church 11:00 am – 1:30 pm
10 	11	12	13	14	15	16 
17	18	19 Primary Election Day	20	21	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026

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