



League of Women Voters
of Coos County

Voting Matters

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

541-435-1808



SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 4: Empowering Voters & Defending Democracy

DETAILS: 6:30–8:00 p.m. on Zoom

- ▶ The League of Women Voters of Portland is hosting this event as part of its Community Education programs. Featured speakers include **LWVUS** Director of Government Affairs Jessica Jones Capparell, Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield, and community organizing consultant Esperanza Tervalon. Register [here](#).

MARCH 7: The Constitutional Role of the Courts

DETAILS: 10:30 a.m.–noon, Umpqua Hall, Southwestern Oregon Community College

- ▶ Coos County Circuit Court Judge Martin E. Stone and Court of Appeals Judge Megan Jacquot offer their insights on the role of the Constitution in cases they handle and parts of the Constitution they might deal with in court cases.

SAVE THE DATE

NEW! APRIL 8: Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read

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! There will be brunch foods served and the opportunity to 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

- ▶ **LWVOR** 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. The report and consensus questions for the first phase of the study are due to be released in late March.

APRIL 25: Coos County Commissioner Forum

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

- ▶ Come hear the candidates for Coos County Commissioner, positions 2 and 3, answer questions from the League and the community.

Notes from Myrtle Point



Currently, many of the young men in our country are feeling alienated. As AI stated on a Google search, this is “due to a ‘perfect storm’ of shrinking social circles, the decline of traditional in-person community spaces, and immense pressure to meet outdated ‘alpha’ standards of success. This isolation is compounded by digital-first lifestyles, educational under-performance, and a lack of emotional support, resulting in a crisis of loneliness and purpose.”

At February’s **LWVOR** board meeting a mention was made about starting a program—or possibly expanding the Youth Council—to involve young men. I don’t have details, but this has been an interest of mine for decades (I have sons and a grandson). Given that **LWVUS** is now collaborating with the Girl Scouts, it seems appropriate to extend the League’s focus to young men, particularly now. It is also a DEI issue.

I’m sharing this information for awareness purposes only, at least at this time. I’m also wondering if the above description of alienated young men describes anyone you might know. There seems to be growing media attention to this issue, but I have yet to hear about solutions.

—Jackie Clary, **LWVCC** President

Help Wanted

- We are looking for someone to serve as the Action Chair for the local League. This position involves responding on behalf of the League to state and national requests for Action. All information—and often sample testimony—is provided by the state or national League, so this doesn't take a lot of time.
- The Action Chair also works with League committees and coordinates advocacy and lobbying on the local level. This involves familiarity with and understanding of local League positions, if the advocacy is based on a local position. If the advocacy is based on a state or national position, the Action Chair, together with the President, coordinates with the appropriate state or national League.
- A Mentor/Support Staffer comes with this position, so if it sounds interesting, contact Alice Carlson (541-404-8360) alicecarlson2021@outlook.com.

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
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
Website Coordinator: Linda Miller



Eye on Salem: The Short Session



Here are some of the bills in the 2026 legislative session being tracked by League members:

- **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.
- **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 1525: establishes a Blue Economy Task Force**—our own Christine Moffitt is following 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** opposes.
- **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 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.
- **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. **LWVOR** supports.
- **HB 4145: Implementing gun safety initiative**—the bill would provide details on implementation of Measure 114, passed by the people in 2022. **LWVOR** supports.

You can keep up with the League’s weekly updates on activity in the Legislature by signing up to receive notifications [here](#).

LEAGUE ADVOCACY

☛ Monitoring the Legislature

Open Primary Legislation

The Oregon state Legislature is considering a bill, SB 1592, that would abandon the state’s closed primary election system and create open primaries.

Currently, only voters who are registered with a major party can vote on partisan races, with their choices limited to the candidates of that party. (They also vote on nonpartisan races.) Voters not aligned with any party can vote only on nonpartisan races.

SB 1592 would change the rules so that all candidates for a partisan office would be listed on everyone’s ballot. If the bill passes, the question would become a ballot measure for November 2026 and, if approved by the electorate, it would take effect in 2028.

LWVOR has a position in favor of open primaries; **LWVCC** voted in favor of keeping the closed primary system.

Focus on Oregon: Implementing the Campaign Finance Law

- * In 2024, faced with two competing campaign finance reform initiatives, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 4024, agreeing for the first time to accept limits on campaign donations. Major portions of the law are supposed to take effect in 2027, with the state's obligation to disclose campaign donation data set to take effect in 2028.
- * As often happens in Oregon, the Legislature approved the changes without providing adequate funding or developing detailed rules for implementation. Among other concerns, the current state software for disclosing campaign donations, ORESTAR, is out of date and not designed to accommodate the new requirements.
- * In the current legislative short session, a bill designed to address some of the issues, HB 4018, is currently up for consideration. It seeks to delay or water down some aspects of the 2024 bill. As of this writing, the language of the bill is still fluid; **LWVOR**, which supported one of the 2024 ballot initiatives, is keeping an eye on what emerges from negotiations.



**Thanks to County Clerk
Julie Brecke**

On February 12, the Coos County Clerk, Julie Brecke, gave our League an info-packed program about how election processes work in Oregon. We are very grateful to her for taking the time to speak to us and answer all our questions!

You Tube If you missed it, you can watch the YouTube videos of the event [here](#).

Photo by Steve Miller.

LWVOR Council 2026

The League of Women Voters of Oregon holds a convention every other year, in odd-numbered years. In even-numbered years, there's a smaller event known as a Council, held to allow the League to conduct necessary business and set priorities. There will also be speakers and workshops.

This year's Council is being held on May 16, 2026, and it will be hybrid so you can participate virtually if you can't travel to Salem.

Stay tuned for details.

Change in Federal Data Mandates Decried by LWVOR



- ◎ The League of Women Voters of Oregon has issued a formal response to the Department of Homeland Security regarding proposed changes to traveler data collection for Form I-94 and the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).
- ◎ **LWVOR** warns that new “blanket data disclosure requirements” for all foreign visitors could discourage travel to the state, potentially harming Oregon’s tourism-dependent economy. These concerns are rooted in the League’s position on strong cybersecurity protections to ensure economic stability and to protect personal data.
- ◎ Under the federal proposal, visitors would be required to submit an unprecedented amount of personal data through a mobile app using geolocation and near-field communication for sensitive biometrics, such as fingerprints, iris scans, and DNA. Required “high value data fields” include:
 - ▶ Five years of social media history.
 - ▶ Five years of personal and business phone numbers.
 - ▶ Ten years of both types of email addresses.
 - ▶ Detailed family information—including parents, spouses, siblings, and children—for their birth dates and places, residences, and phone numbers.
- ◎ **LWVOR** expressed concern that the proposal lacks clear standards or limits for how long the data will be retained. Further, **LWVOR** emphasized that collection and use of personal information must remain consistent with its original purpose and should not cause harm to individuals.
- ◎ There are also concerns regarding legal oversight and the potential for these data collection processes to be used for the surveillance of groups beyond international travelers. Biometric screening technologies are known to underperform with reduced reliability for non-Caucasian individuals, raising questions about the fairness and accuracy of the system.

LEAGUE IN ACTION

Response to policy changes
Protecting voting rights



It's ba-a-a-ck...

Remember last year's SAVE Act, which would have made it harder for millions of Americans to vote? It passed the House but died in the Senate. Now it's back, and like a mutating virus is even worse than before.

There are several bills being proposed—the SAVE Act, the SAVE America Act, and the Make Elections Great Again Act—to look out for. Collectively the League is calling them the SAVE Act suite of bills. Each one creates new hoops for people to jump through if they want to register, and the latter two require documentary proof of citizenship to vote. This creates special problems for Oregonians because of our vote-by-mail system.

Main provisions of the SAVE America Act:

- ↳ Most people would have to show a birth certificate or passport to register in person (or re-register if moving to another state).
- ↳ If the name on your birth certificate does not match the name on your current ID, you'd need a passport with your current name.
- ↳ Real ID constitutes a valid ID only in 5 states where the ID verifies citizenship (Oregon isn't one of them).
- ↳ There are criminal penalties for any elections official who registers a person without proper proofs of citizenship (meaning you'd have to register in person at the county Elections Office, not at the DMV or online).
- ↳ Voters must present a government-issued photo ID at the polls or send a photocopy with their ballot.

The Make Elections Great Again Act also requires:

- ↳ States must regularly submit their voter rolls to DHS; if they don't, voters must show proof of citizenship to vote.

LWVUS opposes these additional burdens placed on voters, not least because they fall on some groups of citizens more than others. It is their view that these restrictions on registration and voting represent a poll tax under the terms of the 24th Amendment to the Constitution. You can express your opposition to these bills using a handy **LWVUS** Action page [here](#).



Civic Engagement Week: March 9-13

There's a commemorative week that's tailor-made for the League of Women Voters: Civic Engagement week! And LWVUS is all over it with a special page on the League management site detailing all the things Leagues and their members can do to promote civic learning and engagement.

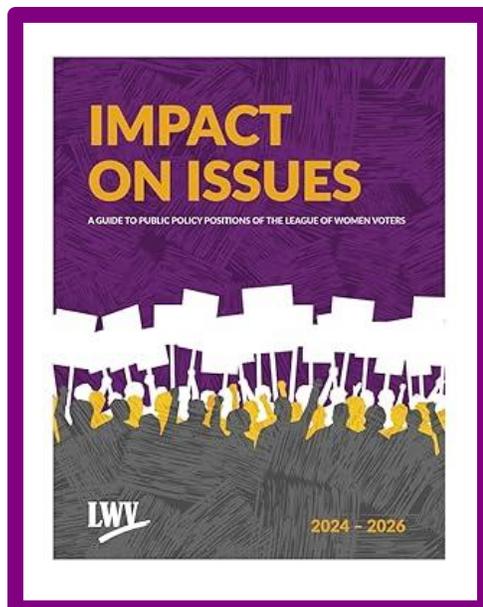
There are proposed activities, messages, and sample social media posts for each day of the week. Key messaging includes:

- League members are trusted civic education partners.
- LWV has a nonpartisan commitment to informed participation.
- Youth voices are essential to democracy's future.
- Civic learning is the foundation for engaged leadership.

You can find the toolkit page [here](#).



Recommended Reading



Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions of the League of Women Voters, by LWVUS

Did you ever wonder how the League chooses what issues it will take action on? Here's your answer. This book, published every other year and sold at minimum cost, lists all the LWVUS principles and positions. It is sold on Amazon, [here](#).

March 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Read Across America Day	3 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM	4 Empowering Voters & Defending Democracy 6:30 pm via Zoom	5	6	7 The Constitutional Role of the Courts 10:30 am SWOCC
8 	9 Civic Engagement Week begins	10 Candidate filing period closes	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Vernal Equinox	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		3	1 Passover begins 	2	3	4
5 Easter 	6	7 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM	8 OR SOS Tobias Read speaks 4:00 pm Bandon	9	10	11
12 Library Spelling Bee Black Market Gourmet 1:00 – 3:00 pm	13	14 Vote411 goes live	15	16	17	18 Consensus for LWVOR K-12 Study Coos Bay Library 10:30 am
19	20	21	22 Earth Day 	23	24	25 County Commissioner Forum Egyptian Theatre 2:00 pm
26	27	28 Last Day to register/change voting affiliation	29	30		

May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM	6	7	8	9 LWVCC Annual Meeting 11:00 – 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						