



League of Women Voters
of Coos County

Voting Matters

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

541-435-1808



NEW! SEPTEMBER 3: Coffee with Jackie NEW!

DETAILS: Thursday, September 3, 10:30 a.m.

Black Anchor Coffee House

3077 Broadway Ave., North Bend

- ✦ Our local League president, Jackie Clary, will be holding monthly “office hours” the first Thursday of each month. She welcomes all comers who want to learn more about our League, talk about their interests, or just get better acquainted.

★ **SEPTEMBER 10: New and Continuing Members Meeting** ★

DETAILS: Thursday, 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Dave's Pizza

740 Coos 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. Get all your questions answered! Longtime members are encouraged to attend as well.

SEPTEMBER 16 or 18: Voter Registration Tabling

DETAILS: Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Coos Bay Visitor Center Plaza or

Friday, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Coquille Farmers' Market

- ✦ Now is the time to help ensure our community members are registered and ready for the election. If you have the time, volunteer to staff these registration events: contact Susan Anderson at susan.anderson8@gmail.com.

NEW! SEPTEMBER 24: Secretary of State Town Hall NEW!

DETAILS: Thursday, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

North Bend Community Center

2222 Broadway

- ✦ Secretary of State Tobias Read is doing a circuit of Oregon presenting programs on election security with a bipartisan panel of officials. Cosponsored by our League.



**Check It
Out**

New in this issue

League Observer reports for the Coos County
Commissioner and Coquille City Council

Notes from Myrtle Point

How I Became a League Member and Why I'm Still a Member

—by Jackie Clary, [LWVCC](#) President



I have always been fascinated by politics but don't like the black and white (or red vs. blue) of political parties, so the League's nonpartisan position has remained a good fit. I have been associated with the League about 50 years: as a member, thinking I was a member, or trying to start a League.

How did I begin? A friend asked me to join her at a League meeting discussing Red China as part of a national study. I had an 18-month-old son who was a great conversational companion, but short on depth. I was starving for intellectual interaction and this League Unit offered childcare. That was it.

Because the League introduced me to community involvement, many years were spent volunteering for school district committees, a Sacramento County Planning Advisory Council, and so much more. I was left me with little time for League activities, but was still a member and paid dues.

Over all these years, the League, in my view, has not changed its core values. Issues, trends, politics have swirled around us throughout the years and we may have been distracted off and on, but the values remain the same.

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

What's Your League Interest?

In our September meeting each year, **LWVCC** shares an outline of the League's mission, history, and activities. How do you fit into the League mosaic? Let us know—by attending the meeting or by contacting us, at lwvcoos@gmail.com. There are many ways to contribute to our work!

- **I support the League with my membership dues.**
- **I can help out at monthly events or candidate forums.**
- **I have writing/video/graphics/financial skills to contribute.**
- **I can join the board's monthly meetings.**
- **I can help organize our programs.**
- **I'm interested in working on a League study.**
- **I'm interested in participating in, or coordinating, League advocacy.**
- **I can amplify League messaging on social media.**

And more . . . you can make this *your* League by contributing in the way that works best for you.

What Do YOU Want to Ask the Candidates?

In early October, our League plans to host candidate forums for the Mayor and City Council races in North Bend and Bandon. What do you think we should ask the candidates? We are forming a Questions Committee and would love to have your input. Contact our Voter Service chair, Abigail Bok, at voterservice@lwvcooscounty.org with your topics.

Key Election Dates

- **August 28:** Last day for candidates to withdraw
- **September 29:** Vote411 goes live
- **October 13:** Last day to register to vote before November election
- **October 14:** Ballots mailed to Coos County voters
- **October 27:** If you haven't yet mailed back your ballot, put it in a drop box instead!
- **October 27:** If you have not yet received a ballot, call the Elections Office for help at (541) 396-7610.
- **November 3:** Election Day
- **December 18:** Election certified

LEAGUE VOTER SERVICE

- Public outreach
- Voter education



- Our fledgling Observer Corps has turned in its first reports—for the Coquille City Council and County Commissioner meetings. Much appreciation to volunteer Kd Woods, who has spearheaded this effort!
- If you are interested in observing and reporting on a public meeting, please reach out. Send the inquiry to lwvcoos@gmail.com and it will get forwarded to someone who can help.
- Once a section of the [LWVCC](#) website has been set up for Observer Reports, the complete reports will be posted there. What follows are summaries.

COQUILLE CITY COUNCIL

Date: August 3, 2026
AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

- ▶▶ Award of water reservoir and tank improvement projects
- ▶▶ Consider Resolution 11-2026 adding a new administrator for online access and authorization of city bank accounts
- ▶▶ Authorization to reallocate funds
- ▶▶ Consider NW Natural easement on GP Lot #10

REPORT

Attendance: Mayor Flaherty, Councilor Corbus absent

Compliance: Meeting time discrepancy, see below

Notes

1. The published time for this meeting to start is 7:00 p.m., but the agenda posted online states 6:30. This is potentially problematic for a member of the public wishing to attend. City staff has been alerted.
2. Introduced new City Finance Director, Mike Mallory, and the new interim CEO at Coquille Valley Hospital, Tom Parker. Parker will be at CVH until a permanent director is hired.

COOS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Date: August 4, 2026

Attendance: No Commissioners absent; County Counsel, Secretary, and District Attorney present

REPORT

K9 officer Katie was honored on her retirement. She will live with her handler, McKenzie Davis of Community Corrections.

Notes

1. The County has received a grant funded by a national opioid lawsuit settlement that will enable County to start a Substance Abuse Disorder Program, to be located in the Coquille Corrections Building. This program will allow a person to sober up with care and counseling rather than be sent to hospital or jail. This is expected to keep down costs in the jail and for the hospital.
2. Late agenda item 5.A awarded a contract for aerial spraying of herbicide on 1,800 acres of county forest land. Lance Morgan of the Dept. of Forestry said this was necessary to treat areas infested with Scotch broom and gorse. See below, #7.
3. Commissioner Taylor reported that the County fair had a good turnout and all the work was done by volunteers, with the exception of some paid seasonal workers. Taylor then read a lengthy X post by "Old Salty Dog" about evil invading communities, including being forced to use unfamiliar gender identifiers and spending \$1 trillion on free medical care, including for abortion, which he called murder.
4. Commissioner Sweet praised the fair volunteers. The Charleston Fire Dept. will attend the next fair. He also commended Commissioner Farmer for "taking a lot of heat" at a Coos County Republicans meeting while remaining calm and rational.

Continued on page 5

Public Comments

5. Commissioner Farmer is working on a Lakeside camp cleanup to reduce fire hazards, and working with ODOT to keep roadsides clear of homeless encampments.
6. Michelle Clausen of Fairview asked the commissioners for help with gun violence in her area. Commissioners agreed to hold a public work session on the matter.
7. James Bennett of Bandon complained against spraying herbicides on our land and argued that goats should be used instead. Morgan (Dept. of Forestry) stated that goats eat fir seedlings and can't be trained otherwise. Bennett also stated that "We're at war" and that all wildfires are set by the government to herd people into big cities where they can be controlled.
8. Tim Pierce blamed Coos Health and Wellness for our homeless problems and said we should do nothing to help anyone. He advocated for pulling all money and support for the homeless, who are stealing money from his SSI.

COOS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Date: August 18, 2026
AGENDA

- ▶ Executive session: (a) real property transactions, (b) info or records exempt from public inspection; (c) consultation with counsel
- ▶ Department heads request approvals
- ▶ Orders & resolutions: appointing library board nominee, merit step increases and a promotion for staff
- ▶ Contracts for Road Department subcontracting
- ▶ LATE ITEM: Consideration to approve resolution 26-08-121C, "Affirming local authority over regulated marketplace"

REPORT

Attendance: No Commissioners absent; County Counsel, Secretary, Tim Lynch of CHW, Craig Storm of County Parks, Sheriff Gabe Fabrizio, Carie Reed (lobbyist for Philip Morris)

Notes1. Commissioners' Reports

- ▶ ROD TAYLOR: 14 County Fair supervisors and 18 superintendents have resigned this season. Call for candidates for next year.
- ▶ JOHN SWEET: Looking at a \$3 million deficit moving into next year. He suggested (a) new monies from O&C RR lands, (b) turning over Wagon Road BLM timber sale management to Ko-Kwel tribe, and (c) reimplementing a severance tax on timber sales.
- ▶ DREW FARMER: City of Portland, which has the largest oil storage area in the state, is looking to reduce its oil storage by 20%, which could lead to shortages in the state.

2. Late agenda item

- ▶ Carie Reed of U-Strategies, a government affairs consultancy (lobbying group), represents Philip Morris. Argued in favor of a resolution that Coos County would not follow Oregon law if the state passed a ban on flavored tobacco products. The Commissioners found incongruencies between the wording of the resolution and her presentation and declined to pass it.

Public Comments

1. David Jennings disapproved of having tribal management of Forest Service or BLM lands and stated our forest lands should remain under "local control." Commissioners Sweet and Farmer responded that the tax revenue coming to the county would be higher if the Ko-Kwel tribe managed the sales.

LEAGUE IN THE COMMUNITY

♦ Keeping track of public meetings

Vote-by-Mail Challenge

Last month this newsletter included a summary of what was happening with the Trump administration's [Executive Order 14399](#), issued in March of this year—and there are new developments.

What's in the Executive Order?

1. The Department of Homeland Security Secretary is ordered to create lists of citizens eligible to vote.
2. The Attorney General is directed to prioritize the investigation and prosecution of those violating federal laws by issuing ballots to ineligible voters.
3. The U.S. Postal Service is ordered to design and implement a rule that would allow USPS to select for delivery only those mailed ballots that are destined for the people on the DHS citizenship lists.

How Did the Court Rule?

- On August 24, the [Supreme Court ruled](#) that the executive order has not *yet* done harm to the states because none of the items called for in the order has become operational; therefore the lawsuits challenging the order were premature. They sent the matter back to the federal court that has blocked the executive order as unconstitutional and reserved the right to reconsider its legality after the federal government has operationalized the order.
- The Supreme Court majority's reasoning was that the President has the right to manage federal agencies as he sees fit and the states were attempting to interfere with that right. They also asserted that the states would not be harmed if the federal court's order were paused because the executive order doesn't require the states to do anything.

What Does This Mean for Oregon?

It is not true that the executive order does not require the states to do anything. Elections don't happen in a vacuum; each one requires months of planning and expenditure.

- For the Postal Service to use the DHS citizenship lists, the states would have to supply copies of their unredacted voter rolls to DHS. Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read back in [January won a court ruling](#) saying that while the federal government can obtain a copy of the state's *redacted* voter rolls, it would be a violation of the SOS's oath of office to supply the *unredacted* database, because sharing that information is forbidden under Oregon law and he is sworn to uphold state law.
- Oregon ballot envelopes have already been designed and printed. If the executive order went into effect, [new envelopes with a federal barcode](#) identifying voters from the federal database would have to be created at the counties' expense.

Other Concerns

- The database of legal voters that DHS is supposed to create would rely on the federal SAVE system to verify citizenship status. SAVE was created to help government agencies determine immigrants' eligibility for services. SAVE has been shown to have widespread inaccuracies and to be out of date, resulting in false findings of ineligibility.
- Currently the State of Oregon uses the Social Security Administration's database to check citizenship status. The SSA database also has inaccuracies, but is generally considered better than SAVE. Also, the state checks the SSA information against other sources to eliminate errors, which the federal government is not equipped to do.
- Provision 2 of the executive order would criminalize accidental registration of noncitizen voters. This means that elections officials and even DMV employees could be charged with a felony if a noncitizen is sent a ballot. Audits have consistently shown that noncitizen voting is extremely rare (0.0001% according to a 2016 audit) but errors happen in the registration process. Provision 2 would lead to elections officials creating new rules making it more difficult to register to vote, in order to protect themselves from liability.

Another Setback for Executive Order about Voting

- ☑ Last month we reported on a federal judge in Massachusetts blocking implementation of President Trump's executive order 14248, which would have made extensive changes to voting rules nationwide.
- ☑ The same district court has now blocked the U.S. Postal Service from implementing Section 3 of the executive order, which would have jeopardized vote-by-mail in Oregon. The order would have prevented the Postal Service from delivering mailed ballots because the state refused to share personal data from its voter rolls with the federal government.
- ☑ The new ruling states that "the executive branch has no authority to regulate elections," and it recognized that the executive order is causing "irreparable harm" to voters and voting rights groups by creating confusion about mail balloting. The **League of Women Voters of Massachusetts** was among the plaintiffs in this second case.
- ☑ The administration has appealed the previous ruling to the Supreme Court and will probably do the same with this ruling.

League Gets a Win on Voter Registration

- ☑ The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued a rule in August 2025 barring third-party civic groups like the League from registering voters at naturalization ceremonies. The Campaign Legal Center sued in a Maryland federal court on behalf of LWVUS and several state and local Leagues.
- ☑ On August 3, the District Court of Maryland issued an order blocking the new rule and restoring the ability of civic organizations to offer registration services at naturalization ceremonies. **LWVUS** CEO Celina Stewart said, "For generations, the League has stood beside new citizens as they take the oath of citizenship and prepare to make their voices heard at the ballot box. . . . When people become American citizens, they should be welcomed into full participation in civic life, not met with new barriers."
- ☑ The **League of Women Voters** has long been a leader in voter registration. In 2024, the League registered more than 15% of all new citizens.

SAVE America Act Update

- ☑ The Senate once again failed to pass the SAVE America Act, S.3752, before heading off for recess until mid-September. It has passed the House of Representatives but has repeatedly failed to meet the 60-vote filibuster threshold in the Senate.
- ☑ But opponents can't relax: supporters are pursuing alternative pathways to passage, including attaching its provisions to broader funding bills and trying to pass it through the budget reconciliation process, which would not require 60 votes to pass the Senate.

**League Defends
Voting Rights**

► **Litigation**
► **Advocacy in Congress**

In Brief

LWVUS Expands Investment in State and Local Leagues

The national League offers grants to state and local Leagues through its Making Democracy Work program. For fiscal year 2026, **LWVUS** doubled its investment in the program, awarding \$550,000 in grants all around the country to ensure that communities have the resources they need to educate voters, protect elections, and mobilize participation where it matters most.

Last year's grants were leveraged to

- engage more than 4.8 million people online and in person;
- support the hosting of 5,600 voter education events, forums, and rallies;
- recruit of 10,500 volunteers; and
- contribute more than 136,000 volunteer hours, generating over \$4.7 million in volunteer service value.

The Count Stands at 23

The U.S. Department of Justice has been trying to force states to turn over their unredacted voter files. The DOJ has filed multiple lawsuits demanding the information. Unlike the publicly available basic voter information, which anyone can request, the unredacted files contain driver's licenses, Social Security numbers, and more. Sharing of that information by the states could threaten voter privacy and might enable disenfranchisement.

Last year Oregon became the first state to win a ruling against the DOJ. Including August rulings, 23 states have now won rulings protecting their voter data. In no court has the federal government won a lawsuit over demands for voter data.



Recommended Reading

***"What Is the Consensus Process?"* by Jean Pierce, **LWVOR** Action Chair**

- It's often said that the **League of Women Voters** is a consensus-based organization. And nowhere is this more important than when it comes to League studies.
- All League political action is based on our positions, which are based in turn on careful studies of issues affecting government.
- The process is slow and cumbersome for a reason—to ensure that every position reflects the will of the membership.
- To read about how the League consensus process works for the current studies being conducted by the state League, check out [this article](#) by the state League's Action Chair, Jean Pierce.

September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM Members welcome	2	3 Coffee with Jackie 10:30 am Black Anchor Coffee House	4	5
6	7 	8	9	10 New & Continuing Members Meeting 5:30 pm Dave's Pizza	11	12 
13 	14	15	16 Voter Registration 10 am-2 pm Coos Bay Visitor Center	17	18 Voter Registration 11 am-3 pm Coquille Farmers' Market	19
20	21 	22 	23	24 Oregon SOS Tobias Read 5:30-6:30 pm North Bend	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 Tentative candidate forum date	8 Tentative candidate forum date Coffee with Jackie 10:30 am Black Anchor Coffee House	9	10 
11	12 	13 Last day to register before Nov. election	14 Tentative candidate forum date	15 Tentative candidate forum date	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween 

November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Election Day Board Meeting noon via ZOOM Members welcome	4	5 Coffee with Jackie 10:30 am Black Anchor Coffee House	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving 	27	28
29	30					