



# League of Women Voters of Coos County

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

541-435-1808

## Voting Matters

**JANUARY**  
**2026**

**SAVE  
THE DATE**

### **JANUARY 10: The Relevance of the Constitution**

**DETAILS: North Bend Public Library, 1800 Sherman Ave., Saturday, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**

- ♦ Oregon Court of Appeals Judge Megan Harris-Jacquot and Coos County Circuit Court Judge Martin E. Stone will offer insights into the relevance of the Constitution and which provisions they might deal with in court cases.

### **JANUARY 11: Voter Service Brainstorming**

**DETAILS: 2:00–4:00 p.m., 2350 Coos Bay Boulevard, Coos Bay**

- ♦ At this informal get-together, we'll take a look at the elections calendar for 2026 and plan the ways **LWVCC** can serve the Coos County electorate. *Everyone who has an interest in helping out with forums, ballot measures, voter registration, and more is urged to attend.*

### **FEBRUARY 12: Election Security with County Clerk Julie Brecke**

**DETAILS: 6:00–7:30 p.m., Coos Bay Public Library 525 Anderson Ave.**

- ♦ Get a look behind the curtain into Coos County's Elections Office. County Clerk Julie Brecke outlines ballot processing procedures and the security measures taken by Oregon elections offices to keep our elections secure and accurate.

### **Volunteer Opportunity: Event Planning**

- ☛ Our Program Chair is looking for someone to partner with in 2026. She's the one who organizes our monthly meetings, working on logistics and making sure we have enough volunteers to make events go smoothly. (A committee comes up with the meeting ideas.)
- ☛ **Can you help her out?** This would be a training opportunity because she can't continue beyond 2026. Contact Judy Moody at [lillith4@charter.net](mailto:lillith4@charter.net).
- ☛ **ALSO:** our League has been asked to work together with the Curry League to plan and host the 2027 **LWVOR** Convention in Coos Bay. We need to decide soon whether we can take on that project, and having a Program Chair in place for 2027 would help!



The membership of our Coos County League grew by leaps and bounds in 2025, and we are delighted to welcome so many newbies! We hope those of you who have the time will participate in our programs during the important 2026 year—some of you already dived in during 2025. Keep an eye on this newsletter for opportunities that might interest you.

Kathy Altman  
Donna Bonetti  
Ken Bonetti  
Melissa Cliver  
Savannah Crosby  
Katie Forrester  
Angela Gibson  
Debra Graham  
Steven Graham  
Heather Kapande

Jennifer Legate  
Merry Lojkovic  
Douglas MacCourt  
Peggy Maddron  
Edith Mayfield  
Judy Moody  
Faye Newman  
Kate Packard  
Bethe Patrick  
Alexander Pavelka

Linda Quinn  
Elaine Raper  
Cory Smith  
Gina Sutherland  
Nora Terwilliger  
Thomas Tibbals  
Tina Vecera  
Gail Wahl  
Marta Weis

## Notes from Myrtle Point, *by Jackie Clary*



*“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”*

*—Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

If I were in charge, I would have candidates running for federal office fulfill certain requirements to qualify for the ballot:

1. Pass the U.S. citizenship test.
2. Take a cross-country trip on Amtrak.

The citizenship test would at least require a basic knowledge of the Constitution. A bit of a refresher in American history wouldn't hurt either.

The cross-country train trip would give a candidate a sense of the vastness and diversity of this country in a way that flying or driving cannot. Hopefully, they would also be reminded that the constituency they serve includes all of us.

I have flown across country several times, driven across twice, and most recently, have taken three round trips by train. I am not entirely sure why those train trips made me feel so differently about this country. Perhaps it was the people I met on the train, the diverse landscapes, or the glimpses into the lives of those who live along the route. I felt pride and awe, and was humbled by the experience. Each time.

## Volunteer **Needed** Found!

- 👍 A big thanks to new member Thomas Tibbals for stepping right in to help our League!
- 👍 He has agreed to serve as our Secretary on an interim basis.
- 👍 We're still looking for someone to coordinate our Facebook page—just an hour or so a week.

## 2026 League Voter Service Kicks Off

There was a statewide League Zoom meeting in December to launch our voter service and education efforts for 2026.

The meeting outlined the elements of Voter Service activities, the election calendar, outside resources, and more. Soon **LWVOR** will be hosting virtual training sessions in the areas of

- Vote411
- Ballot measure research
- Holding candidate forums or debates
- Holding ballot measure forums

If you're interested in going deeper into any of these subjects, contact our Voter Service chair, Abigail Bok, at [shadows@alumni.princeton.edu](mailto:shadows@alumni.princeton.edu).

Work toward the May election starts this month. To learn more, **attend our Voter Service Brainstorming get-together on January 11** (see details on page 1).

### LEAGUE VOTER SERVICE

- Public engagement
- Voter education

Inquiring Minds  
Want to Know

*What Have You Always Wanted to Ask the Candidates?*

The first Voter Service activity of the year will be developing questions to ask candidates in races all across the state. Question framing is a collaborative project in the League, and it starts in January with a statewide Zoom to debate what to ask and how to ask it.

Question framing is fun! There are guidelines and sample questions to help. The skills you learn from the statewide process can be applied to developing questions for our local meetings and forums. Contact our Voter Service Chair, Abigail Bok, to learn more, at [shadows@alumni.princeton.edu](mailto:shadows@alumni.princeton.edu).

## The 2026 Legislative Session and the League

The state League has a large Advocacy program centered on the Oregon Legislature. Volunteers monitor committees and bills, give testimony, and propose League action on issues identified as important by membership. If policy is your thing, you can participate even though you live far away from Salem.

Advocacy volunteers are already monitoring legislation proposed for the 2026 short session, which runs February 2–March 9. For that session, each legislator can propose a maximum of 2 bills and each committee can propose 3. The state budget will also be rebalanced based on current revenue projections and federal actions.

Currently, **LWVOR** has active monitors of state government action in 5 areas:

- Governance
- Social Policy
- Revenue
- Natural Resources
- Climate Emergency

Learn more [here](#). To get involved, shoot an email to [advocacy@lwvor.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvor.org).

### LEAGUE ADVOCACY

- ↪ Monitoring the Legislature
- ↪ Testimony on bills
- ↪ Litigation

## LWVUS Challenges Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security has been trying to make changes to the database that verifies whether noncitizens are eligible for federal benefits, known as SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements), turning it into a much larger database containing the private information of citizens and noncitizens alike. Several states are trying to use the information to purge legitimate voters even though the government has acknowledged that some of the data sources are incomplete and inaccurate.

The League has sued to stop this data grab in *League of Women Voters v. Department of Homeland Security*, alleging that the proposed changes violate the Privacy Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, and the Constitution.

**Did You Miss  
the **LWVUS**  
Advocacy  
Wrap?**

Each year **LWVUS** holds a Zoom meeting open to all members in which the League's advocacy at the federal level and its results are summarized. If you're interested in learning how the national League spends your membership dollars, you can watch a recording of the Advocacy Wrap [here](#).

## IN BRIEF

**Volunteer Opportunity: Interested in Local Government?**

- ➔ They say all politics is local. If for you that's a literal mandate, you might be interested in the League's **Observer Corps program**.
- ➔ Observers commit to attending (either virtually or in person) the meetings of one local government body and reporting briefly on the proceedings to the **LWVCC**. Basic training and a form for reporting are available.
- ➔ **LWVCC** does not yet have an Observer Corps but we would like to launch one. Can you be part of this effort? Reach out at [lwvcoos@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcoos@gmail.com).

**League Takes the Helm of Election Hero Day**

Every year, the day before the November election, Election Hero Day is celebrated nationwide. This commemorative day recognizes the tremendous contributions that election officials, their staff, and citizen workers make to ensure a safe and secure voting experience for all Americans.

The League has been named the managing partner for Election Hero Day! **LWVUS** has resources for local Leagues that wish to celebrate their local elections officials; check out the toolkit [here](#).

**Recommended Reading****“If You Build It, Will They Come?” by Nigel Jaquiss**

*“It makes no sense from the supply side—or the demand side.”*

—Hans Radtke, economist and member of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors

When **LWVCC** held its meeting on the Port of Coos Bay's Pacific Coast Intermodal Port (PCIP) project recently, an investigative reporter was there. He has published an extensive and well-sourced article examining the pros and cons of the project, going systematically through all the arguments from supporters and asking an array of experts to weigh in:

- Does the West Coast need another port?
- What will the project cost?
- How many jobs would it create?
- Is there a viable business plan

The quote at left is the conclusion drawn by one of Jaquiss's sources. This article is a reality check and a must-read for all members in the region. Find it [here](#).

## 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)

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




**Website Coordinator:** Linda Miller





January 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Years Day 	2	3
4	5	6 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM	7	8	9	10 Relevance of the Constitution 3:00 pm
11 Voter Service Brainstorming 2:00 pm	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 	20	21	22	23 Ranked Choice Voting Day	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 	2	3 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Election Security 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	13	14 League of Women Voters Founding Day
15 Susan B. Anthony's Birthday 	16 	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 	3 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM	4	5	6	7
8 	9	10 Candidate Filing Period Closes	11	12	13	14 BAH Status Check 10:30 am-noon
15	16	17	18	19	20 	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	31			