



League of Women
Voters of Coos County

Voting Matters

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

541-435-1808



SAVE
THE
DATE

FEBRUARY 4: Attention, Newbies! League 101

DETAILS: 6:30–7:30 p.m., via Zoom

- Every first Wednesday of the month, the Oregon League (LWVOR) holds a Zoom meeting known as League 101. This session is for newer members as well as those looking for a refresher on League activities and resources. Click [here](#) to register.

FEBRUARY 12: Election Security with County Clerk Julie Brecke

DETAILS: 6:00–7:30 p.m., Coos Bay Public Library

- Coos County Clerk Julie Brecke will talk about important dates on the Primary Election calendar, outline the steps of election procedure, and address frequently asked questions about election security.

MARCH date TBD: The Relevance of the Constitution

Rescheduled

- 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. *Details of time and place will be publicized when available.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Voter Service Committee

- Are you interested in our League's programs to help inform voters and enable voting?
- Then the Voter Service Committee is the place for you.
- If you join, you'll be kept in the loop via email on all our planning for candidate forums, voter registration, and more; and you'll be able to help decide what efforts we undertake in 2026, and how we implement those efforts.
- We'll meet occasionally as needed to further our plans.
- Contact our Voter Service chair, Abigail Bok, at shadows@alumni.princeton.edu.

Notes from Myrtle Point, by Jackie Clary

"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito." —Dalai Lama

Recently I had an appointment with my doctor. She is always animated with a big hello, but this time she kind of burst into the room raving about **LWVCC**'s November PCIP presentation. She and her friends were very impressed (she works in Coquille and lives in Bandon, meaning—to me—that it took extra time and effort to attend). More accolades for a job well done!!

Another subject: I just got an email from **LWVOR**'s Nominating Committee. It is part of the process to contact presidents of local Leagues as they begin to look for candidates. There are two state board directors to be elected at Council in May. No portfolio is attached to either director position (there will be opportunities to choose once they are elected).

I served on the state nominating committee for several years and know how difficult it is, just as it is for local Leagues as well. Throughout the state, in each local League, there are members who would be a perfect fit for a board, either at the local or state level. It's just a matter of finding that person, or for that person to learn about an opportunity and let us know they are interested.



Join a board, **LWVOR** or **LWVCC**

- ☞ Have a say
- ☞ Help plan the organization's future
- ☞ Learn more about League
- ☞ Be a liaison for your local League as a state board member
- ☞ And more, of course!

Questions, etc. email me: jackieclary@gmail.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)

Acting 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 Chair: Susan Anderson

Membership Roster: Margie Marshall

Merchandise Chair: Susan Anderson

Nominating Committee Chair: Alice Carlson

Program/Meeting Chair: Judy Moody

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VOTING MATTERS Designer: Cindy Machowski

VOTING MATTERS Editor: Abigail Bok

Voter Service Chair: Abigail Bok

Website Coordinator: Linda Miller



Initiative Challenges Oregon Vote-by-Mail

- ➲ An initiative petition is circulating aimed at ending Oregon's vote-by-mail system and replacing it with in-person elections on a single day. The measure, which would take effect as an amendment to the Oregon Constitution, would also change registration, counting, and ballot validation procedures.
- ➲ Proposed by Ben Edtl, Michaela Hammerson, and Stephen Joncus, Initiative 37 is titled *Amends Constitution: Prohibits vote-by-mail elections; registration requires "proof of citizenship"; voting requires "valid" photo identification.*
- ➲ If it qualifies for the November 2026 ballot and passes, this proposal would take effect immediately.

The League of Women Voters believes that vote-by-mail is a secure election system that maximizes citizen participation in elections.

This is the complete text:

AN ACT

**Relating to elections; amending the Constitution of the State of Oregon to prohibit vote by mail.
Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

Section 1. The Constitution of the State of Oregon is amended by adding the following new section:

Article II, Section 25. Election Procedures

1. All elections held within the State of Oregon shall occur on a single day, designated as Election Day.
2. Voting shall be conducted in-person by those individuals who have registered to vote prior to Election Day, with the exceptions of verified absentee voters. Persons seeking to register to vote must provide proof of citizenship and other qualifications to be an elector.
3. Electors shall present valid photo identification at the time of voting. Provisional ballots may be issued where necessary. Electors may seek an absentee ballot with presentation of valid photo identification.
4. All voting shall utilize paper ballots. Completed ballots shall be maintained under a chain of custody.
5. Each precinct shall hand-count all ballots of electors present at the polling locations by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, under the observation of appointed witnesses.
6. The general biennial election shall be a state holiday.
7. After each election, counties shall maintain a chain of custody for all completed ballots, which shall be archived at the county level, and made available free of charge to the public in an electronic format, without redaction, including the tallied results, the voter roll, and identification of voters who cast votes.
8. The rolls of electors for each county shall be locally controlled at the county level with provisions to identify and delete duplicate registrations of the same elector in more than one county.

Section 2. This amendment shall be effective upon approval by the voters.

Vote Differently in 2026!

- ✉ The U.S. Postal Service last summer issued a statement that effective late in 2025, it would no longer postmark mail as of the date it is submitted to the postal system; instead it will postmark mail on the date the Postal Service processes it. Read the statement [here](#).
- ✉ What does this mean for mail-in ballots? Another change in the past few years meant that most mail is trucked to a central facility before it is postmarked, instead of being postmarked at a local post office when it is accepted. In Oregon, that central facility is in Portland.
- ✉ During the past few elections, most ballots mailed in Coos County cities have carried Portland postmarks and have taken up to 5 days to arrive at the Elections Office in Coquille. The change in postmarking policy means that ballots put into the mail several days before Election Day might not get postmarked until after Election Day, and therefore would not be counted under Oregon law, which states that only ballots postmarked by Election Day can be counted if they are received by the Elections Office up to a week afterward.

Here's advice for ensuring that your ballot is counted, in ascending order of reliability:

- **Vote early.** If you plan to use the Postal Service to deliver your ballot, put it in the mail at least a week before Election Day.
- **Drop boxes are safer.** Every city in Coos County has a drop box. You can find their locations [here](#). Drop boxes are emptied frequently by elections staff and any ballot placed in a drop box before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day is considered to have been voted in a timely manner.
- **Deliver your ballot in person.** You can vote in person or deliver a sealed and signed ballot at the Coos County Elections Office, 250 N. Baxter St., Coquille. Sarah at the window is really nice!

LWVUS has posted an information page about this USPS policy change. You can see it [here](#).

LEAGUE VOTER SERVICE
 ↪ Public engagement
 ↪ Voter education

Local Voter Service Agenda for 2026

In January, **LWVCC** held its kickoff meeting for Voter Service activities in 2026. Our League plans to form a Voter Service Committee to coordinate our efforts to promote a well-informed and engaged electorate.

Plans include:

- ▶ Nonpartisan candidate forums before the May Primary Election.
- ▶ Partisan candidate forums before the November General Election.
- ▶ Interviews with local candidates running unopposed.
- ▶ Voter registration events.
- ▶ Support for the [Vote411.org](#) website.
- ▶ Developing questions to ask candidates by committee.
- ▶ Get-out-the-vote efforts to underserved communities in Coos County.

Tentative plans, with sufficient volunteer support:

- ▶ Researching and writing reports on local/county ballot measures.
- ▶ Starting a Speakers Bureau to offer neutral ballot measure information to community groups.

If you have questions or want to be involved in the Coos League's Voter Service activities, email our Voter Service Chair, Abigail Bok, at shadows@alumni.princeton.edu.

State League Adding Staff

LWVOR is adding staff in order to increase its capacity to serve local Leagues and the community.

- 👉 Thanks to a grant award, current interim staffer Lindsay LaPlante is coming on to work on membership issues and lead **Vote411** for the state.
- 👉 The League is in the last stages of hiring a Communications and Marketing Coordinator.
- 👉 In March, it will be a Development/Fundraising Coordinator.
- 👉 And soon, there will be a paid Youth Outreach Coordinator.

Until now, except for Communications, these roles have been filled primarily by volunteers. These staff roles will support local Leagues' activities and increase League outreach into new communities.

LEAGUE AT THE STATE LEVEL

- ✳ **Staffing up**
- ✳ **Meeting new challenges**
- ✳ **Litigation**



Federal Judge Plans to Dismiss Voter Data Lawsuit

- ⚖️ On January 14, U.S. District Court Judge Mustafa Kasubhai issued an oral preliminary ruling in the lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice against the state of Oregon in an attempt to obtain personally identifiable registered voter data from the Oregon Secretary of State's office. Judge Kasubhai said he plans to dismiss the suit, though his final written ruling may be different.
- ⚖️ Upon request, as a matter of routine Oregon provides a redacted version of its voter registration list. The redacted list contains voter names, addresses, political parties, and birth years but does not contain full birth dates, Social Security numbers, or driver's license numbers. The DOJ had sought this more detailed information. The DOJ claimed it was suspicious about the accuracy of Oregon's voter rolls because more than 95% of the citizen voting-age population in Oregon is registered to vote, while the national average is 74%.
- ⚖️ The higher percentage is probably due to more than one factor—the state's longstanding Motor Voter law, as well as Oregon's policy of restoring voter rights to people convicted of felonies after they have served their sentences. Oregon also does not drop voters if they miss a few elections. Another factor might be the ease of voting resulting from Oregon's vote-by-mail system.
- ⚖️ The day after Judge Kasubhai issued his preliminary ruling, a federal judge in California dismissed a similar case outright.



In
Brief

League Weighs in on “Waters of the U.S.” Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to change the definition of “Waters of the United States.”

LWVUS believes that the changes would significantly impair water quality protections around the country and filed a comment letter on the proposal, which can be read [here](#).

League Joins 724 Other Groups in Opposition to DHS Rule Change

- ☒ The Department of Homeland Security is proposing to eliminate (without immediate replacement) a 2022 DHS “public charge” regulation. The 2022 rule clarifies what factors allow the government to determine that a person is “primarily dependent on the government for subsistence,” and is based on a substantial body of case law.
- ☒ **LWVUS** believes that the elimination of this rule would remove guardrails that prevent DHS from denying lawful permanent residency status based on any family member’s use of any government-funded health or social services program.



The State of Media in Oregon

The League of Women Voters of Portland is hosting “Black and White and Read All Over?”—to examine the current status and future opportunities of print journalism in Oregon. This event is for League members and is in-person only.

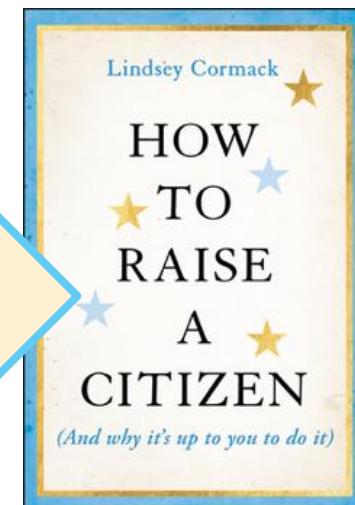
➲ DETAILS: Friday, February 13
 ➲ 11:30-1:30
 ➲ PSU’s University Place
 310 SW Lincoln St.
 Columbia Falls Ballroom.

**\$35. Register [here](#) if you
can make the journey.**



Recommended Reading

This book is a practical guide for parents interested in fostering productive discussions of civics and the U.S. political system with their kids. It has been described as “a tool to nurture the next generation of informed, engaged, and responsible citizens, ready to contribute to a more functional democracy.” Learn more [here](#).



February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 	2	3 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM	4 League 101 6:30 pm Zoom	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Election Security 6:00 pm Coos Bay Library	13	14 League of 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 Civic Engagement Week begins	10 Candidate filing period closes	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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	9	10	11
12 Library Spelling Bee 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Black Market Gourmet	13	14 Vote411 goes live	15	16	17	18 Consensus meeting for K-12 study 10:30 am – noon Coos Bay Library
19	20	21	22 	23	24	25 County Commission Forum 2:00 pm Egyptian Theater
26	27	28 Last day to register/change voting affiliation	29	30		