



League of Women Voters
of Coos County

Voting Matters

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

541-435-1808



Save the Date

JULY 1: League 101

DETAILS:

Wednesday, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

- ★ Every month, usually the first Wednesday of the month, the state League holds a Zoom meeting aimed primarily at newer members.
- ★ It's a great place to learn more about how the League works, how to seek out resources at the state and national level, and get your questions answered.
- ★ Register [here](#).

JULY 9: Event Planning Brainstorm Session

DETAILS:

Thursday, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Dave's Pizza, 740 Koos Bay Blvd., Coos Bay

- ★ Every summer, the Coos League gets together to plan the public and member events we will be holding during our annual season, which runs from September through May.
- ★ Do you have ideas about what we should offer?
- ★ Are you able to help us organize and set up for events?
- ★ Here's your chance to help set the course for our organization.
- ★ RSVP to: Traci Olson, events@lwvcooscounty.org.

AUGUST 1: Coos Pride Tabling

DETAILS:

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Mingus Park

- ★ **LWVCC** is sponsoring a table for voter registration and publicity for the League.
- ★ We'll be handing out goodies and answering questions about voting in Oregon.
- ★ To volunteer, contact Susan Anderson at susan.anderson8@gmail.com.



In Memoriam



Judith VanDuzer Uno

by Margie Marshall

We lost a dedicated League member on May 1, 2026. Judith was a former Coos County League president, Voter Service chair, Forum Chair, and Voter newsletter editor.

I met her in 1996 when I joined League and she had been a member prior to that. She was funny, smart, kind, and friendly to everyone.

Judith was Forum Chair for several years and I assisted. She was tireless in making sure all details were covered. In 2010 our forum for U.S. Congress, 4th District, had more than 700 attendees, filling the Egyptian Theatre.

Judith and I did the newsletter the old-fashioned way: we cut and pasted articles and made copies, collated the pages, folded, labeled, and stamped the issues. This all took several hours, and we got acquainted while we worked.



We attended several **LWVOR** conventions and councils together. Proud to be a tomboy, Judith once rode her motorcycle to Gold Beach for a **LWVOR** Council. She could do almost anything. She could cook and sew beautifully; she grew fruits and vegetables and preserved them.

She worked on an archaeological dig in Idaho where she drove the truck and trailer to get firewood and water. She then backed it into the campsite, which none of the guys could do. When she was a young mother, she took baby Ted in her old red Saab and drove cross-country to visit relatives and see the sights.

Judith was my good friend. I will miss her!

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)

Traci Olson (2026–28)

Committee Chairs 2025–2026

Action Coordinator: your name here

Events/Meeting Chair: Traci Olson

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



Coos League Launches an Observer Corps Program

- 🔍 Observer Corps is a nationwide League program in which members pledge to attend (virtually or in person) the meetings of a public decision-making body and report on the meetings to their local League.
- 🔍 As a champion of government transparency, the League has long encouraged local Leagues to monitor public meetings and keep our membership and the public informed.
- 🔍 We have a volunteer monitoring the Coos County Commissioner meetings now. But there are so many other important government bodies to keep track of—school boards; the Port Commission; city councils; and more.
 - ➡ What areas of local government particularly interest you?
 - ➡ Are you able to keep an eye on government meetings once or twice a month and take notes?
- 🔍 Let us know and we'll give you the necessary training to get started. Contact Abigail Bok at voterservice@lwvcooscounty.org.

Did You Miss It? Oregon Attorney General Speaks to the League

The Oregon League holds a regular “Communications Café” for members, and the June meeting featured Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield speaking on the legal actions his office is taking in response to federal policy changes.

- ➡ If you missed this informative event, you can view the recording [here](#).
- ➡ The AG’s office maintains a litigation tracker to help you stay up to date on the progress of their lawsuits. You can find it [here](#).
- ➡ So far, the AG’s office has safeguarded Oregon from \$6.9 billion in attempted federal funding cuts. Find the info [here](#).
- ➡ To learn about Communications Café and other state League informational videos, sign up to receive **LWVOR’s** monthly newsletter [here](#).

Oregon Student Mock Election



What It Is

Oregon Student Mock Election (OSME) is a program of the state League that seeks to engage young people in our electoral process and demonstrate the importance of voting. For elections in even-numbered years, OSME develops civics education curriculum materials for students from elementary, middle, and high schools. The curriculum plan includes 5 instructional units plus mock ballots that resemble real ballots but focus on a few races.

How It Works

Participation in OSME is voluntary and the state League appreciates your help in connecting with teachers interested in participating! In Coos County at present, only North Bend High School runs mock elections. Statewide in May 2026, 3,400 students were registered by 24 teachers in 18 communities. Votes were returned for about 1,100 students—roughly comparable to adult voter engagement in the primary election.

OSME is endorsed by the Oregon Secretary of State.



Results of the May 2026 OSME ballots:

U.S. Senate (Republican):

- David Brock Smith won with 27% of the vote

U.S. Senate (Democratic):

- Jeff Merkley won with 87% of the vote

Governor (Republican):

- Chris Dudley won with 22% of the vote

Governor (Democratic):

- Tina Kotek won with 48% of the vote

Measure 120:

- passed with 76% yes votes

U.S. Congress District 2 (Republican):

- Cliff Bentz won with 72% of the vote

U.S. Congress District 5 (Republican):

- Jonathan Lockwood won with 61% of the vote

U.S. Congress District 5 (Democratic):

- Janelle Bynum won with 66% of the vote

Multnomah County Measure 26-261:

- passed with 79% of the vote

LEAGUE IN THE COMMUNITY

- 👍 Education
- 👍 Civic action



Can the Post Office Stop Mail-in Voting in Oregon?

- ☒ On March 31, 2026, President Donald Trump issued an executive order directing the postmaster-general to propose a rule that would block states from sending ballots through the mail unless they were addressed to voters named on lists provided by the states to the Postal Service. Five lawsuits, including one by **LWVUS**, have been filed against it. In a suit in D.C., a federal judge declined to pause the order because it was premature when no government departments had weighed in yet on implementation.
- ☒ On June 2, the Postal Service published its first step in compliance. The Post Office's rule exempts military and overseas voters, whose participation in elections is governed by the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. It also does not require voter lists for primary elections. But the ultimate plan is to stop the Post Office from delivering ballots in states that refuse to provide a list of absentee voters. (The postal workers union has taken a position against this plan.)
- ☒ Then the Department of Homeland Security announced its plan: DHS is creating lists of voting-age citizens in each state and supplying them to state elections officials to compare against their voter rolls. Data provided in compliance with the USPS rule would be compared to existing federal databases "to monitor mail-in and absentee ballot flows, identify anomalies that may suggest voter fraud and abuse, and generate authorized investigative leads." A few days later in a court filing, DHS backed off partly from its own plan, saying the idea was in its early stages and was dependent on approval of the USPS rule. Some states had previously submitted their voter rolls for federal scrutiny, including Texas, Oklahoma, Indiana, and Wyoming.
- ☒ The suits challenging the executive order center on the claim that the U.S. Constitution gives states the responsibility to run elections and allows Congress—but not the president—to pass regulations affecting elections. Another concern is that it transforms the USPS from an independent agency tasked with delivering mail to an arm of the administration with power to decide what mail to deliver, and to whom. Finally, there are concerns about what specific information about voters the states would be required to submit. Some voter information is publicly available, but past efforts by the administration have sought to obtain more personal information for a federal database; the state of Oregon has successfully resisted those efforts so far.
- ☒ On June 25, a Massachusetts judge in a case brought by attorneys general from Democratic states blocked parts of the order from taking effect before the November election; the case is ongoing, however.



LWVUS Speaks out on Voter Suppression

- ✉ On June 11, FBI agents raided the offices of an Ohio-based voting rights nonprofit group, the Ohio Organizing Collaborative, and fanned out across the state to question volunteers who had participated in voter registration at their homes. In some cases they had subpoenas or seized electronic devices. The Department of Justice has declined to give specifics about the alleged investigation that led to the actions.
- ✉ In other actions this year, federal agents have asked counties for individual voter registration information and voting histories; have launched investigations of past elections and seized ballots from those elections; and have sued states for details about registered voters.
- ✉ On June 16, **LWVUS** called out “an escalating pattern of voter silencing, intimidation, and suppression,” saying that “raids on voter registration organizations are especially troubling because they are part of a broader anti-voter pattern that includes attacks on civil society organizations, raids on election offices, and ongoing attacks on mail voting. These actions do not strengthen democracy or election security. They erode public trust and intimidate voters and the organizations working to ensure participation.”

Interested to Learn More about League Actions?

- ✉ You already learn about your local League through this newsletter. But what about the state and national Leagues? Both allow you to sign up to receive information about their activities.
- ✉ While our local League focuses mainly on keeping the residents of Coos County informed about local issues and candidates and conducting local studies, the state and national Leagues track legislation, conduct larger-scale studies, and offer skills training for various interests. They have many Zoom sessions that allow you to learn more, and they send email notifications about action items.

SIGN UP

- ✉ Sign up for **LWVOR** notifications (you can choose which types) [here](#).
- ✉ Sign up for **LWVUS** notifications by [visiting the homepage](#) and scrolling down to the bottom.

League Action around the Country

- voter education
- political advocacy
- civic engagement

In
Brief

America's 250th Commemoration in Oregon

The Oregon Historical Society is organizing the state's official observance of America's 250th anniversary.

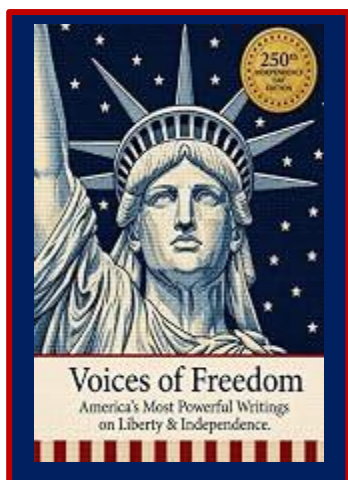
For more information, visit their website [here](#).

LWVUS Urges Day of Action

- To commemorate the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the League is urging all members to participate in a day of action on August 8.
- **LWVUS** offers a planning toolkit and a menu of activations [here](#).
- Our League is working on holding a postcard-writing party aimed at young voters in the Coos County.



Recommended Reading



Voices of Freedom:

America's Most Powerful Writings on Liberty & Independence

This short paperback gathers in one place key writings—by authors ranging from Thomas Paine to Abraham Lincoln—that helped define who we are as a nation.

Find it [here](#).

July 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 
5	6	7 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM Members welcome	8	9 Events planning 5:30 pm Dave's Pizza	10	11
12	13	14	15 Postcard writing party	16	17	18 Postcard writing party
19 Anniversary of Seneca Falls Convention	20	21 Postcard writing party	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 	31	

August 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM Members welcome	5	6	7	8 
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Postcard writing party
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 	27 Postcard writing party	28	29
30	31					

September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM Members welcome	2	3	4	5
6	7 	8	9	10	11	12 
13 	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 	22 	23	24	25	26 
27	28	29	30 	<i>Have a happy summer!</i>		