



League of Women Voters
of Coos County

Voting Matters

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

541-435-1808



SAVE THE DATE JUNE 25–28: LWVUS National Convention

WHEN & WHERE:

**Hilton Columbus Downtown,
Columbus, Ohio, AND VIRTUALLY**

- League members from all across the country will come together to network, learn, and chart the course for the League's next biennium.
- Our League will have no voting delegates, but members can register to attend workshops, practical trainings, and plenary sessions.
- **Get ready to be inspired!**



2026

NATIONAL CONVENTION

women unite & rise

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *of* THE UNITED STATES

FOR DETAILS: Check out the registration page [here](#). There are mandatory training sessions that may be viewed online.

What's Happening Locally?

The **Coos County League** ordinarily does not hold events during the summer months—but that doesn't mean we are idle. Summer is when we orient new board members, get our housekeeping in order, and plan events for the coming year (June 2026–May 2027).

Would you like to be involved? We have openings on the board and among the “portfolio chairs” (those who coordinate one aspect or another of our activities).

- **Second Vice-President** (member of the board; backs up the president and first VP, gives input on external communications and policy)
- **Action Chair** (triages calls for action on issues from state and national Leagues; advises local president on local action possibilities)
- **Membership Chair** (welcomes new members, helps them find ways to participate)

Help Us Plan Our Future!

- Over the summer, **LWVCC** will be holding meetings to plan our activities and presentations for the rest of 2026 and first half of 2027.
- Do you have great ideas for programs we could offer to the public?
- You can contribute by participating in the summer brainstorming sessions.
- Reach out to us at lwvcoos@gmail.com if you're interested in our planning meeting, which will be held in July or August.

What Matters to *YOU*?

The **League of Women Voters** can offer many paths to engagement in the American political system. What we do as a local League depends on who raises their hand and offers to do something. What is *your* interest in the League?

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL LEAGUE

- I could serve on our local League board (meets once a month via Zoom)
- I'd like to help plan or organize the League's monthly meetings
- I can contribute to the monthly newsletter
- I want to work on a League study
- I'm able to help make event videos
- I can make phone calls to members or to candidates
- I'm interested in observing a local government body—board of commissioners, city council, or school board—and report to the League
- I'd like to get involved in our Voter Service activities—candidate presentations, ballot measure research, public information about elections
- I want to register voters or help get out the vote

GETTING INVOLVED AT THE STATE OR NATIONAL LEVEL

- 👍 I want to help the League take political action
- 👍 I'm interested in learning more about service on the state League board of directors
- 👍 I can track bills in the state Legislature

The League offers guidance and tools for doing each of these activities. Let us know what you would like to participate in and we'll connect you with those resources, and with other volunteers with the same interests.

Let us know by sending an email to lwvcoos@gmail.com today!

Coos County League Leadership Board of Directors 2026–2027

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 2026–2027

Action Coordinator: *your name here*
Events/Meeting Chair: Traci Olson
Everymember Handbook: Gail Elber (Linda Miller)
Membership Roster: Margie Marshall
Membership Chair: *your name here*
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



Louisiana v. Callais: Where the League Stands

What the Supreme Court Said

In April, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision that rendered Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) effectively inoperable against racial discrimination in redistricting.

The Court's decision

- 1) called Louisiana's congressional district map an unconstitutional racial gerrymander under the Fourteenth Amendment, and
- 2) rewrote the rules for lawsuits pressing a VRA Section 2 claim of vote dilution, making it impossible for voters of color to challenge racial discrimination in redistricting going forward.

Some states have responded by calling emergency redistricting sessions to redraw their maps, even when elections are already under way or impending. This is leading to widespread confusion among voters and candidates alike.

How Will the League Respond?

As a trusted source of voting-related information, the League has both the opportunity and the responsibility to help Americans navigate the consequences of this decision.

LWVUS has compiled a framework for action, which can be found [here](#).

These are some highlights:

-  **LWVUS:** Draft and support federal legislation to reform redistricting so that it centers maps on communities and people, as well as legislation that protects access to the ballot; restores VRA protections; and increases funding for election administration.
-  **State Leagues:** Develop clear, simple information that can be disseminated in multiple formats to help voters learn what they need to know about the changed electoral landscape in their state; advocate in the state legislature for an independent redistricting commission and laws that promote access to the ballot box.
-  **Local Leagues:** Support voters with registration drives, countering misinformation, and providing reliable information about candidates and measures; volunteer as an election worker or observer; participate in national and state League advocacy campaigns for voting rights.

What Else Does the League Do?

Sometimes it seems like the **League of Women Voters** is all about elections. With so much election-related court action and news lately, it can be easy to forget other aspects of the League's mission. But elections are only one side of the League's focus. Let's give the other side some love.

Program

"Program" has a special meaning in League terms. It refers to the set of governmental issues selected by League members for study and, eventually, action. Studies are conducted at the national, state, and local levels.

- At the national level, League Program is enshrined in a book available at minimal cost from Amazon, [Impact on Issues](#) (also accessible online [here](#)). *Impact on Issues* lays out the League's basic principles and all the issues that have been studied at the national level, with positions adopted by the membership.
- Positions adopted by the Oregon League after study and consensus may be found [here](#). **LWVOR** is currently studying several aspects of K-12 education.
- Positions adopted by the Coos County League after study and consensus may be found [here](#). **LWVCC** does not currently have a study under way; the most recent study was on County Home Rule.

Action

Action is the League's effort to bring about governmental change based on adopted positions. To ground our activities in the consensus of our members, *Leagues cannot take action unless it is based on an adopted position*, and the position the action is based on should be cited. Action can take various forms:

- ↳ testimony before a legislative body
- ↳ monitoring government bodies
- ↳ letter-writing campaigns
- ↳ informational meetings open to the public
- ↳ support for ballot measures or specific policies

Action activities are also known as **advocacy**.

What Would You Like to See Us Study in Coos County?

- League studies generally address broad topics and seek to establish general principles, in the form of position statements, that can be used as a basis for action over a long period of time.
- They are not undertaken with a view to addressing a currently topical issue; instead, they aim to provide a foundation for taking action as new issues arise. Generally, they begin with the question, What is a problem the League has not yet addressed?
- League studies usually take one to three years to complete. A committee is formed whose members research the question, giving the membership and board periodic updates on the way to writing a report, which is then discussed in a membership meeting. The committee uses the members' recommendations and consensus to write position statements.
- You can find the list of our current positions and past studies [here](#). Recent studies include ones on county home rule, on drinking water resources in the county, and on the International Port of Coos Bay. If, after considering what has already been done, you have a topic of local interest you think should be studied by **LWVCC**, let us know.

Write to lwvcoos@gmail.com.



Why Aren't the May 19 Election Results Final?

Voting in Oregon ended May 19 at 8:00 p.m.—so why don't we know the final results yet?

- ✓ In Oregon, there is a grace period of one week for ballots that were postmarked by May 19 but arrived after that date. Those ballots got counted on May 26.
- ✓ After the main machine count is complete, ballots with write-in names are scrutinized; and tallied individually, by hand, by a pair of Elections Office employees of different parties working together.
- ✓ If a voter's ballot has been rejected for any reason—signature does not match or is missing, the voter marked their choices in a confusing way—the Elections Office is required to mail a letter to the voter explaining the nature of the problem and giving them 21 days to come to the office and try to fix it. This process is known as *ballot curing*.
- ✓ For most Oregon elections, a hand-count audit is scheduled for about four weeks after the election. The Secretary of State selects a few races and a few batches of ballots for the audit, and election workers check the results manually to make sure they match the results given by the tabulation machines.

Only after all these processes are complete can the election be certified as final. These steps contribute to the accuracy of the final numbers and ensure that as many ballots as possible are counted. Waiting for the results is a good thing!

Coos County: Preliminary Election Results

U.S. SENATOR—Democratic

Jeff Merkley 89.43%

Paul Damian Wells 9.19%

U.S. SENATOR—Republican:

Brent Barker 14.07%

Deborah C Brown 3.30%

David A Burch 1.81%

Russell McAlmond 8.23%

Jo Rae Perkins 24.26%

Timothy Skelton 1.15%

David Brock Smith 46.49%

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 4TH DISTRICT—Democratic

Daniel B Bahlen 4.67%

Melissa Bird 22.51%

Val Hoyle 71.39%

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 4TH DISTRICT—Republican

Monique DeSpain 85.50%

Stefan G Streck 13.55%

GOVERNOR—Democratic

Forest (Fora) Alexander 2.46%

James Atkinson IV 1.77%

Donnie M Beckwith 0.70%

David W Beem 1.94%

Brittany Jones 3.50%

Cal Kishawi 1.00%

Tina Kotek 77.55%

Steve William Laible 1.91%

Tristan Sheppard 1.76%

Miranda Weigler 2.49%

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GOVERNOR—Republican

Danielle Bethell 2.86%	Hope A Dalrymple 0.15%
Ed Diehl 32.64%	Christine Drazan 45.71%
Chris Dudley 12.13%	Kyle M Duyck 0.36%
David Medina 4.52%	Robert Neuman 0.19%
Brad T Peters 0.37%	Paul J Romero Jr 0.54%
DeAngelo Leroy Turner 0.05%	Wen Waddell 0.04%
Martin Ward 0.14%	Tim O Youker 0.04%

COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES—Nonpartisan

Chris Lynch 45.81%	Christina E Stephenson 53.66%
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 1 (southern and eastern Coos County)—Democratic

Bret Cecil 97.37%

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 1 (southern and eastern Coos County)—Republican

Court Boice 98.84%

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 9 (northern and coastal Coos County)—Democratic

John Ezra Scheirman 96.80%

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 9 (northern and coastal Coos County)—Republican

Troy Cribbins 27.66%	Claire Lynn 72.01%
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JUDGE OF THE OREGON SUPREME COURT, POSITION 4—Nonpartisan

Christopher L Garrett 97.07%

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, POSITION 1—Nonpartisan

Ryan T O'Connor 97.99%

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, POSITION 9—Nonpartisan

Jacqueline Kamins 97.78%

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, POSITION 12—Nonpartisan

Erin C Lagesen 97.94%

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, POSITION 13—Nonpartisan

Doug Tookey 98.01%

JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, DISTRICT 15, POSITION 6—Nonpartisan

Cynthia L Beaman 98.34%

COOS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, POSITION 2—Nonpartisan

Brandi Martindale 39.52%	John W Sweet 60.14%
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COOS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, POSITION 3—Nonpartisan

Richard (Rick) Coleman 27.88%	Rick Osborn 71.70%
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COOS COUNTY CLERK—Nonpartisan

Julie Brecke 63.49%	Marty Kuhrt 17.81%
Pam Lewis 18.50%	

BALLOT MEASURES

M120 Transportation Tax

YES 10.79%	NO 82.21%
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6-228 City of North Bend Public Safety Fee Increase

YES 50.82%	NO 49.18%
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6-229 City of North Bend Charter Amendments

YES 37.18%	NO 62.82%
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In
Brief

NPVIC Inches Closer

- ▶ What's the NPVIC? It's the **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact**, a movement to effectively replace the Electoral College for presidential elections with election by popular vote. More and more often in recent years, the Electoral College results have not matched the nationwide popular vote; the NPVIC aims to realign them.
- ▶ States opt in to the NPVIC by passing legislation that says they will assign their electors based on how the nation as a whole voted in a presidential race, not how their state's voters voted. The latest state to do that is Virginia—which brings the number of electors bound by the NPVIC to 222 (at least 270 are needed for it to go into effect nationwide).

Unite & Rise for Voting Rights

Saturday, August 8, is the 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. **LWVUS** is calling on Leagues all around the country to participate in a National Day of Action focused on the ongoing fight for a stronger, more inclusive democracy.



Recommended Reading

State-Level Documentary Proof of Citizenship Laws Threaten Voters, **LWVUS** blog post

While the focus lately has been on federal efforts to require people to provide proof of citizenship in person when registering to vote (the SAVE Act suite of bills), some states have been passing similar laws, setting up additional hurdles before citizens can register or—in some cases—before they can simply request a ballot.

[***This LWVUS blog***](#) lays out what's going on and why it's a problem.

June 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Board retreat 10:00 am
14 	15	16	17	18	19 	20
21	22	23	24	25 Primary Election results certified	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 
5	6	7 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 World Day for International Justice	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 	31	

August 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Coos Pride voter registration 11 am-3 pm
2	3	4 Board Meeting noon via ZOOM	5	6	7	8 Voting Rights Act anniversary day of action
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 	27	28	29
30	31					

Have a happy summer!