



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

All-Members Newsletter

August 1, 2025

Newsletter Highlights

- **LWVOR:** Meet the 25/26 LWVOR Board!
- **LWV Member Portal:** Highlights and Updates from July
- **LWVOR on the Move:** LWVUS 2025 National Council
- **From LWVUS:** Sign Up Now - 2025 Civic Holidays
- **Local Leagues:** "We the People" Social Art Project
- **America's 250th Birthday:** America 250 Oregon
- **Mark the Moment:** Voting Rights & Equality

Greetings Members and Friends,

Congratulations and welcome to our new/er board members here at the State League!

• **Marianne Germond**
Voter Service

• **rhyen enger**
DEIJ

- **Eileen Burke-Trent**
Events
- **Stephanie Haycock**
Issues and Positions

- **Barbara Keirnes-Young**
Human Resources
- **Marty Power**

Heartfelt thanks to our continuing Board Members:

- **Barbara Klein**
First VP, Communications
- **Jean Pierce**
Second VP, Advocacy
- **Kermit Yensen**
Treasurer
- **Mimi Alkire**
Secretary, OSME
- **Jackie Clary**
Development
- **Diana DeMaria**
Youth Outreach
- **Evan Tucker**

Honorable mention to our Off Board Portfolio Chairs. We appreciate you!

- **Annie Goldner**
Nominating Committee
- **Kathleen Hersh**
MLD
- **Jim Buck**
Newsletter

In July, we met in person and virtually for our Annual Board Retreat in Canyonville, OR.



There was a tremendous amount of pre-planning that went into our sessions. Most notably, the Strategic Plan session that was led by our Treasurer Kermit Yensen and supported by our long time contractor Sarah Andrews. With special thanks to First VP Barbara Klein for taking our plan points and putting them into a Rank Choice Voting format so we could select the strategies we felt would fulfill our purpose of Defending Democracy and Informing Voters.

Now that we have the eight topics for 2025-26 to focus on, we will be applying an equity lens thanks to the hard work and dedication of outgoing Youth President Evan Tucker and our new DEIJ Chair here at State, rhyen enger. Please be on the lookout for more on this coming soon as we finalize things.

Please join me in recognizing and appreciating our longest standing associate here at the State, **Sarah Andrews**, as we celebrate her 10th year as part of LWVOR support team. Thank you for your work, Sarah, and we look forward to many more.



In League,

Lisa Bentson

President, League of Women Voters of Oregon

League Events

Upcoming LWVOR Events

August

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 League 101 6:30pm	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Membership/DEIJ 4:00pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



August 6 at 6:30pm PT

League 101 on First Wednesdays

Membership matters! This session is for new members as well as those looking for a refresher on resources. We'll be sharing some of the latest, answering questions, and navigating resources at the state and national league level.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



August 13 at 4:00pm PT

Membership/DEIJ Group Meeting

Are you part of membership or DEIJ team efforts in your local League or Unit? Join us every second Wednesday for our monthly Membership/DEIJ collaborative meeting for League leaders across Oregon to share updates, ask questions, and connect around challenges and successes in building an

inclusive and engaged membership. If you'd like to be added to the contact list for this group, please email membership@lwvor.org.



Cancelled for August - next meeting Sept. 24 at 5pm

Local League/Unit Leaders Group Meeting

LWVOR's monthly meeting for Local League and Unit Leaders is a space to connect, exchange updates, and strengthen collaboration across Oregon. If you are a board member or otherwise involved in leading your League or Unit, we invite you to join the conversation! If you're not already on the communication list for this group and would like to be, contact Abby Hertzler at a.hertzler@lwvor.org.

From the LWVOR Board:

The **LWVOR Board** is always eager to welcome new volunteers to serve as chairs on the Board of Directors or in an off-Board role. Currently, we are seeking individuals to fill the roles of **Board President**, **Budget Committee Chair**, and **Membership Chair**. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity to support your league, please contact the Nominating Committee at nominating@lwvor.org.

LWVOR on the Move

LWVUS 2025 National Council

By: rhyen enger
LWVOR DEIJ Chair

Board member Evan Tucker and I attended **LWVUS 2025 National Council:**

Defending Democracy Together. Throughout the council there was an emphasis on equity, inclusion, and diversity. Council opened with a training session with Everyday Democracy where we explored themes of operationalizing DEI & community engagement, equitable decision making & conflict management, collective leadership & systems thinking, and addressing biases and interpersonal challenges.

As Leagues, we have many opportunities for choice points. This council shared practical tools for Leagues to be a space for equity and inclusion. The voices most impacted should be included in the decision making process and from the early planning stages. When reaching out to communities, we should be intentional about building relationships and coalitions and ask what is needed from us.

Some tools shared were setting SMARTIE goals, power mapping, equitable decision making strategies, building a calendar for the year ahead, and [198 Methods of Nonviolent Actions](#) for ideas on mobilization. These tools can help us strengthen our partnerships and internal structures. They are also informative in operationalizing the LWVUS campaign, [Unite and Rise 8.5](#) initiative. **LWVOR's goal is to reach 112,000 people.** Each League can play a role in reaching this goal.

Overall, our time at Council was fitting for the moment we are in as well as for taking on this new role as DEIJ Chair for LWVOR. I'm excited to play this role and look forward to connecting with Local Leagues and Units. If you think your League/Unit could benefit from a workshop on the above strategies, reach out to me at dej@lwvor.org.



LWVOR Issues & Positions

Celebrating our Collective Achievement: Federal Judiciary Position Adopted

Dear Fellow Members,

I am thrilled that my first duty in office is to share with you the culmination of our shared commitment and expertise—the League of Women Voters National Board has officially adopted our new position on the Federal Judiciary. Your participation, wisdom, and dedication throughout this comprehensive study process made this historic achievement possible.

To view the Federal Judiciary position click [HERE](#).

What We Accomplished Together

Our newly adopted Federal Judiciary position establishes that transparency, accountability, independence, and ethics are essential pillars of an effective federal judiciary within our constitutional framework. Through our collective efforts, we have articulated how these principles strengthen democracy, build public trust in our judicial system, and uphold the rule of law that forms the foundation of our constitutional republic.

The position addresses critical areas including standards of conduct, disclosure criteria, and respect for precedent—all informed by the deep knowledge and thoughtful analysis you and your fellow leaders brought to this process.

Your Contribution to Democracy

Your participation during the February through mid-April study meetings transformed complex judicial concepts into accessible community conversations, ensuring that League members across the nation could contribute their insights to this critical democratic work.

Moving Forward Together

This position arrives at a pivotal moment for our federal judiciary and positions the League to advocate effectively for judicial reforms that serve our democracy.

Thank you for dedicating your time and expertise to strengthening our democratic institutions. Together, we have demonstrated the power of grassroots democracy in action.

To view the Federal Judiciary position click [HERE](#).

In partnership and gratitude,

Stephanie Haycock

Issues and Position Director, Nominating Committee Member

LWVOR Action

From the Action Committee

As a reminder, our most recent [Plug & Play talking points](#) are now available—focusing on the urgent threat to Medicaid.

Be sure to look at the League's End of Session ("Sine Die") wrap up [legislative reports](#). We submitted testimony for 147 bills this session. Testimony submitted on behalf of LWVOR in 2025 can be found [HERE](#).

Save the date! This year's Legislative Process Day will be Wednesday, November 19. It will be offered in Salem and on zoom. This is an opportunity to Learn about what is happening at the Oregon Legislature and gain insight into how you can get involved!

Volunteers are always welcome. What is your passion related to Governance, the Climate Emergency, Natural Resources, or Social Policy? You can help. Contact advocacy@lwvor.org

LWV Member Portal

Highlights and Updates From July



Statewide Member Lists - Members-at-Large

State League Members-at-Large now appear under the Local Leagues tab, making it easier to export a full list of members statewide.



ILO Access & Editing

Inter-League Organizations (ILOs) now show in the portal dropdown for state leaders and ILO officers. Leadership info can now be updated directly in the system.



Resource Library Update

Admins will soon be able to delete documents from the League Resources section. This feature is expected to be live any day now.



New Officers Not Yet Visible?

Newly added leaders won't show on lists or have portal access until their term

officially starts (ex - a term starting 7/1/25 won't show until that date, even if already entered).

Member Portal Training Series - [Register here](#)

LWVUS is hosting a three-part training series on the LWV Member Portal (formerly known as ChapterSpot):

- July 23: Email Tool & Best Practices
- July 30: Membership Chair / Roster Management
- August 6: Treasurer Tools, Stripe, and PMP

All sessions begin at 1:00pm PT and will be recorded.

Helpful Links

-  [LWVUS Member Portal Resources](#)
-  [LWVUS Membership Portal Updates](#)
-  [LWV Member Portal Administrator's Guide](#) (updated 6/25/25)
-  [Automatic Emails from the LWV Member Portal \(PDF\)](#)

For specific membership questions, contact membership@lww.org.



League Events

Upcoming LWVUS Events

 **August 5 at 12:00pm PT**

Engaging Voters in 2025 with Civic Holidays

Learn from our partners at National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, Vote Early Day, and Election Hero Day about how your League can participate in these days of action.

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)

 **August 5 at 1:00pm PT**

League in Action Orientation

Join the LWVUS organizing team for an orientation on our digital organizing platform, League In Action. Sessions are held on the first Tuesday of the month.

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)

 **August 6 at 1:00pm PT**

Member Portal Training - Treasurers

This session for treasurers will focus on Stripe, offline payments, and the process of making Leagues whole.

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)

 **August 12 at 9:30am PT**

Women's Rights are Human Rights: Reflections on UN CSW 69

Hear from LWV UN delegates about their experience at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, their global advocacy experience, and what they envision for the future.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

 **August 12 at 12:30pm PT**

Democracy Integrity Briefing

The Democracy Integrity Briefings cover growing national and local trends in mis-and-disinformation. The briefing highlights pieces of disinformation that have made headlines and how best to track and address it. At the end of the briefing there is time for Q&A.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

 **August 20 at 9:30am PT**

Democracy in Your Hands Series: The Three Branches of Government

Take a deep dive into why it's important voters understand the purview of the executive branch, judicial branch, and legislative branch of government.

[ACCESS THE SESSION HERE](#)

From LWVUS

Sign Up Now: 2025 Civic Holidays



Get your community ready to vote by celebrating the 2025 Civic Holidays! Click the links below to register your event or activity:

- **September 16:** [National Voter Registration Day](#) The League was the number one recruiting partner in 2024: let's keep that trend going! Sign up now to receive free stickers, posters, and resources.
- **October 6 – 10:** [National Voter Education Week](#) Give voters the tools they need to cast their ballots with confidence.
- **October 28:** [Vote Early Day](#) Make sure communities have the tools to vote early!
- **November 3:** [Election Heroes Day](#) Thank election workers in your community. They are the heroes who ensure our elections run safely.

Stay tuned to LWVUS for a toolkit with resources to help your League participate in these holidays.

Happenings Around the World

National Civility Month



August is National Civility Month!

National Civility Month was created to encourage respectful, thoughtful dialogue and behavior, especially across differences. It's a call to slow down, listen actively, and engage in conversations that build bridges rather than deepen divides. In a time when polarization and public discourse can be fraught, this month invites us to recommit to the kind of civic engagement that values dignity, decency, and democracy.

For the League of Women Voters, National Civility Month is a natural fit. Our mission to empower voters and defend democracy depends on fostering inclusive spaces where people feel safe to learn, share, and participate. Whether you're moderating a candidate forum, hosting a community conversation, or simply talking with neighbors, civility isn't about being passive. It's about being powerful and principled.

You might consider using August to:

- Host or attend a local event focused on dialogue across difference
- Reflect on how civility plays a role in voter education and advocacy

Here are some resources on civil discourse that might be helpful for you this month:

[National Institute for Civil Discourse](#) - a nonpartisan organization based at the University of Arizona to promote healthy and civil political debate.

[StoryCorps: Finding Common Ground through Civil Discourse](#)

[What is Civil Discourse?](#) - League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley

Around Oregon

Upcoming Town Halls

Town Halls with Senator Jeff Merkley

U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley has not yet added town hall events to his calendar for the month of August. [Sign up for Senator Merkley's mailing list](#) to receive updates from his office and click the link below to check out his current Town Hall Calendar.

SENATOR MERKLEY'S TOWN HALL CALENDAR

Town Halls with Senator Ron Wyden

At the time of the publication of this newsletter, Senator Wyden has not yet scheduled Town Halls for August. [Sign up for Senator Wyden's mailing list](#) to receive updates from his office and click the link below to check out his current Town Hall Calendar.

SENATOR WYDEN'S TOWN HALL CALENDAR

Local League News

Local League Events and Notices

Local League and Unit events coming up in the next few weeks. Have events to add? Please send them to Lindsay at l.laplante@lwvor.org.

★ **LWV of Clackamas County**

- [LWV of Clackamas County Events Calendar](#)

★ **LWV of Coos County**

- [LWV of Coos County Events Calendar](#)

★ **LWV of Corvallis**

- [LWV of Corvallis Events Calendar](#)

★ **LWV of Curry County**

- [LWV of Curry County Events Calendar](#)

★ **LWV of Deschutes County**

- [LWV of Deschutes County Events Calendar](#)

★ **LWV of Klamath County**

- [LWV of Klamath County Events](#)

★ **LWV of Lane County**

- [LWV of Lane County Events Calendar](#)

★ **LWV of Lincoln County**

- [LWV of Lincoln County Events Calendar](#)

★ **LWV of Linn County Unit**

- [LWV of Linn County Unit Facebook page](#)

★ **LWV of Marion and Polk Counties**

- [LWV of Marion and Polk Counties Events Page](#)

★ **LWV of Portland**

- [LWV of Portland Website](#)

★ **LWV of Rogue Valley**

- [LWV of Rogue Valley Events Calendar](#)

★ **LWV of Union County Unit**

- [LWV of Union County Unit Events Calendar](#)

★ **LWV of Umpqua Valley**

- [LWV of Umpqua Valley Events Calendar](#)

★ LWV of Washington County Unit

- [LWV of Washington County Unit Facebook page](#)

Local Leagues

"We the People" Social Art Project



Members of the League of Women Voters of Marion-Polk Counties have been participating in a "We the People" social art project of reading, writing and celebrating The Constitution.

League members have and will continue to be gathering in public spaces to handwrite our own copies of The Constitution. It is a time of quiet reading, writing, and reflecting on the words of the historic document that forms the basic structure of our nation's government. Writing out the words helps the reader to deepen their understanding of the laws created to protect human rights.

We have reserved the Plaza Room at Salem Library on the following upcoming dates:

Aug 6, 10am - noon

Aug 13, 1pm - 3

Our project may expand to meeting in public spaces, such as coffee shops or parks. [Check our website for further information and schedules.](#)

If you would like to join in, please bring paper or journal, several pens and, if you'd like, a covered drink. We will provide LWVMPC copies of the Constitution or you may provide your own copy. They are available for purchase online or [a free pdf copy can be downloaded.](#)

For background on the project, [please check out the website.](#)

To watch a short video featuring Morgan O'Hara, who first created the project, [click here.](#)

LWVOR Office Update

League Promotional Items for Sale

League promotional items are for sale on our CafePress shop. We currently offer yard signs, t-shirts, ball caps, buttons, and other items. Take a look and get your swag today!

[LWVOR CafePress Shop](#)

Weather Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness in Oregon



We hope everyone affected by the recent tsunami alerts is safe.

This is a reminder that Oregon's coast is earthquake country. Through advocacy, testimony, and active participation in state working groups, the League is committed to emergency preparedness, helping communities stay safe before, during, and after emergencies.

 [Learn how to prepare!](#)

America's 250th Birthday

America 250 Oregon



We are now officially less than one year out from America's 250th birthday. In Oregon, 2024 Senate Bill 1531 established the commission for our celebration, headed by Oregon Historical Society's Executive Director, Kerry Tymchuk.

Check out what's in the works at this webpage: <https://www.oregon250.org>

This site will list online and in-person exhibits. Organizations, and communities across the state are encouraged to participate in the America 250 Oregon commemoration by hosting events that reflect the diversity, creativity, and history of Oregon. Events can be submitted to the Oregon 250 Committee and, if approved, will receive permission to use the Oregon 250 logo on promotional materials. The event needs to correspond with one of the America 250 Oregon guideposts:

- To inspire Oregonians to participate in the work of forming a more perfect union.
- To highlight the importance of civics and history education in building a better future.
- To highlight the work of Oregon's many history and heritage organizations.
- To encourage a robust, thorough, and honest examination of our collective history.
- To celebrate the unique traditions, arts, and cultures of communities throughout Oregon.
- To honor the service and sacrifice made by Oregon's veterans.

Mark the Moment

Voting Rights & Equality



August offers two powerful anniversaries that speak directly to the League's mission.

August 6 – Voting Rights Act Anniversary (1965)

This landmark legislation outlawed discriminatory voting practices and expanded access to the ballot, especially for Black voters in the South. It remains one of the most significant civil rights achievements in U.S. history. This month, consider amplifying the League's advocacy for voting rights restoration and protections: write a letter to your local paper, host a voter registration event, or share [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) with your community.

August 26 – Women's Equality Day

On this day in 1920, the 19th Amendment was certified, granting some women the right to vote. While it was a crucial milestone, it didn't ensure full voting access for all. Use this day to reflect on that complex legacy: consider posting about the League's history, hosting a community conversation, or inviting a guest speaker to your local League to discuss what equality looks like today.

Engagement Ideas

- Share historical facts and League milestones on social media
- Invite members to a short Zoom toast or discussion to honor these dates
- Collaborate with a local library or community group for a small display or event

- Send a simple “Did you know?” email blast with links to take action

Let’s use August to connect the past to the present and recommit to a more just and inclusive democracy.

Help us empower voters and defend democracy by making a tax-deductible donation today—every contribution counts!

Donate Today



Our mailing address is:

1330 12th St SE Suite 200 Salem, OR 97302

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