



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

All-Members Newsletter

September 1, 2025

Newsletter Highlights

- **LWVOR:** Board Spotlight - Voter Service Chair
- **LWV Member Portal:** Highlights and Updates from August
- **LWVOR Volunteer Opportunities:** K-12 Studies and Equal Right for All
- **From LWVUS:** National Voter Registration Day
- **Local Leagues:** VOTE411 Grant Celebration
- **Contact Your Representatives:** Speak Up on Issues that Matter!
- **Coming Soon:** LWV UN Observer Applications

Greetings Members and Friends!

It has been an honor to serve as LWVOR President for the past two years.

I can honestly say that I have not ever learned so much, so fast, and continue to do so everyday in the League.

My favorite part of the position has been meeting our Members statewide. What a joy to see their passion, dedication, and exceptional expertise in the endeavors they embrace on behalf of their League. Equally special has been working with our amazing State Board and Chairs. Their generous gift of their time and again, expertise, keeps Oregon at the forefront of Defending Democracy and Informing Voters.

As outgoing HR Chair, I know how hard our mighty staff of 3 work. Thank you Abby, Lindsay, and Sarah!

Please join me in welcoming our next President, **Mark Kendall**.

Mark is a member of the Marion Polk League of Women Voters. Having grown up in Anchorage, Alaska, he has been an Oregon resident for over 50 years. Roseann and Mark have two adult sons, three grandchildren, and have been married 47 years. Hopefulness for his grandchildren's future motivates both his career and volunteer efforts. His preparation for non-profit public service leadership includes 30 years at Eugene Water and Electric Board and the State of Oregon in commercial industrial energy policy.

More than twenty years of volunteer service on local and national non-profit boards is distributed across these last four decades. Mark served in treasurer, secretary, and chair roles on these boards and on the last two boards was tasked with directing annual budgets exceeding \$100 million and \$250 million respectively. Academic preparation in organizational development and specific training through Neighbor to Neighbor for mediation as well as other professional organization leadership training developed skills in respectful and purposeful situational leadership.

Mark is excited about contributing best practices, values, and perspective, especially in these times.



Mark will step into the position today, September 1. Thank you Mark!

I will be continuing on the State Board and look forward to seeing you around Zoom and in person as opportunities present themselves.

In League,

Lisa Bentson

President, League of Women Voters of Oregon

League Events

Upcoming LWWOR Events

September 2025

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

September 3 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](#)

September 9 at 6:30pm PT

More than Fundraising: Building a Development Plan

A chapter needs more than just fundraising to thrive. Open to local leadership and members alike, this workshop will walk you through creating a practical development plan that blends fundraising with relationship-building, strategic priorities, and long-term sustainability.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

 **September 10 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.

 **September 24 at 5pm PT**

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 Nominating Committee:

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 **Membership Chair** and **Budget Committee Chair**. If you would like to learn more about these opportunities to support your league, please contact the Nominating Committee at nominating@lwvor.org.

From the LWVOR Action Committee:

The **LWVOR Action Committee** is looking for new members. We particularly need someone who is interested in tracking Revenue Issues. That is so important these

days when our state budget is being severely impacted. Please contact advocacy@lwvor.org to find how you can get involved.

LWVOR Board

LWVOR Board and Off-Board Spotlight

Marianne Germond - *Voter Service Chair*

Tell us where you grew up and a little about yourself.

I was lucky to grow up in an idyllic college town in SW Ohio. I interned at a couple of environmental nonprofits in DC for 2 years after college. I made a leap to Oregon in 1989 where I met my husband. We lived in Pendleton for 12 years, where I worked for a community action program, and where we grew our family, before we moved to Tualatin in 2002. I did odd jobs for a long while, before joining a small statewide anti-hunger nonprofit and working in admin for over 12 years (until 2025).

What are you most passionate about or interested in outside of the League?

Being outdoors, gardens, birds, traveling, history & cultures, visiting family, learning new things.

How did you hear about the League and what areas of our work are you most enthusiastic about?

My mother was involved with League while I was a kid (and still is), and my mother-in-law served as LWVOR president in the 1980s. In Pendleton, I was president of the (former) LWV-Umatilla County. In 2004 I started volunteering to help with the LWVOR state voters guide. I'm enthusiastic about the work the League does to provide free & nonpartisan information to voters and to increase voter participation.

What are you most looking forward to either personally and/or professionally?

Finishing more books, and seeing more national parks.

What would you say to someone considering getting involved with LWVOR?

With the League you can choose to focus on what you are most passionate about. The League cuts through all of the noise and loud voices, and focuses on how to solve important issues, and how to uphold and strengthen our democracy.

LWVOR Volunteer Opportunities

K-12 Studies and Equal Rights for All

K-12 Studies

Are you curious about education in Oregon and looking for a meaningful way to get involved? Our LWVOR K–12 study groups would love your help!

The **Career and Technical Education (CTE) Study Team** is seeking volunteers to explore important questions such as:

- Do CTE teachers need certification?
- How do schools build strong partnerships with businesses and community colleges?
- What makes for effective CTE standards and skill sets?

The **Exceptional Learners Study Team** is also looking for members interested in researching:

- How exceptional learning programs are funded
- Staffing levels and available resources for students with exceptional learning needs

Finally, the group studying **School Safety** is looking for someone who will help us find information about safe school buildings.

You don't need to be an expert—just bring your curiosity and willingness to help us learn together. This is a wonderful opportunity to work alongside fellow League members, dive into important issues, and make a difference.

If you'd like to join or learn more, please reach out to Jean Pierce at advocacy@lwvor.org. We'd be delighted to have you on board!

Equal Rights for All Campaign

Equal Rights for All (ER4A) is a ballot initiative for the November 2026 election. It asks voters to update Oregon's constitution to make clear that everyone has equal rights to make private and personal decisions about one's life and health, regardless of one's ability to become pregnant, their gender identity, or sexual orientation.

By protecting Oregonians' ability to make our own private healthcare decisions and marry the person we love, our ballot initiative will stop politicians who want to turn back the clock on our basic rights and freedoms. The goal is to submit 250,000 signatures to the Oregon Secretary of State by July 6, 2026. So far, close to 40,000 have been collected.

The League is playing an active role in collecting signatures. Please contact advocacy@lwvor.org to find how you can get involved.

LWV Member Portal

Highlights and Updates From August

League Logos

Individual League logos are now live in ChapterSpot! Emails sent from the portal will show your League's logo at the top, and portal websites now display League-specific logos instead of the generic LWV logo.





Case Management Feature

A new tool allows League admins to view support cases submitted about their League.

- Only cases submitted via the support form will appear (not email).
- An early glitch showed “0 cases” for all Leagues; ChapterSpot is resolving this.
- Some roster records are temporarily duplicated while fixes are in progress.

To access the Case Management tool, look for the Case Management button in the Admin dashboard in the member portal.

Helpful Links

-  [LWVUS Member Portal Resources](#)
-  [LWVUS Membership Portal Updates](#)
-  [LWV Member Portal Administrator’s Guide](#)
-  [Automatic Emails from the LWV Member Portal \(PDF\)](#)

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



League Events

Upcoming LWVUS Events



September 4 at 12:00pm PT

Data Collection Best Practices

An overview of best practices in data collection. Prepare for the 2025 Annual League Survey and review our updated data tracker with LWWUS staff.

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)



September 11 at 12:00pm PT

Power Mapping

Learn about “power mapping,” a strategic tool for identifying and understanding the people, institutions, and networks that influence your advocacy goals.

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)



September 15 at 12:00pm PT

LWWUS Development Office Hours

Opportunity for members to raise questions or concerns about fundraising directly with LWWUS development staff.

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)

From LWWUS

National Voter Registration Day



Since its inception in 2012, National Voter Registration Day (also known as NVRD) is the country's largest nonpartisan day of civic action. LWV is the leader in partner recruitment for NVRD and our work is powered by League members and volunteers like you.

Join LWV on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, for National Voter Registration Day!

Leagues should [use LWV's unique link](#) to become a partner with NVRD to track our collective League impact. Sign up now — whether you are hosting an event or celebrating by sharing on social media! Leagues that would like their NVRD event to be featured on the interactive map must fill out [our sign-up form](#) by **Thursday, Sept. 4**. In the form, please list where your event will take place.

For more information about NVRD, please visit [LWV's NVRD page](#) and check out [National Voter Registration Day](#).

From LWVUS

Mid-Cycle Redistricting Takes Center Stage



With mid-cycle redistricting on the rise in state legislatures across the country, we've drafted [talking points](#) for Leagues to use to keep their communities informed and engaged.

- The Texas legislature passed [new congressional maps](#) that reduce the electoral power of Black and Latino voters. LWV of Texas and LWVUS condemned this action.
- Following Texas's cue, several states are considering mid-cycle redistricting. In response, LWV released [No Harm to Our Communities: Mapping Guidance for Elected Leaders](#). This guidance outlines standards for governors or redistricting bodies drawing new maps and demands protection of historically disenfranchised communities.

CEO Celina Stewart breaks down [how to maintain fair districting](#) without entering a partisan arms race and [spoke to CNN](#) about how the Texas redistricting efforts could backfire on the Trump administration.

Happenings Around the World

Constitution Day - September 17



September 17 is Constitution Day!

Constitution Day marks the anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787. While often overlooked, this day offers a powerful opportunity to reflect on the values that underlie our system of government: separation of powers, checks and balances, civil liberties, and the ongoing journey toward “a more perfect union.”

For the League of Women Voters, Constitution Day is a natural moment to recommit to civic education and engagement. Understanding the Constitution helps us better defend it, especially in times when democratic norms are tested. It also opens the door for important conversations about whose rights were originally protected, whose were left out, and how we continue to expand those protections today.

You might consider using September to:

- Share a social media post or member email with key facts about the Constitution
- Host a League event or conversation around constitutional rights and voting
- Spotlight how your League advances constitutional principles in action

Here are some helpful resources to explore or share:

- [National Constitution Center](#) – Nonpartisan education and tools for learning and teaching about the Constitution

- [Constitution Annotated \(Congress.gov\)](#) – A comprehensive legal explanation of the Constitution
 - [iCivics: Constitution Day Resources](#) – Lesson plans and materials for youth civic education
-

Around Oregon

Upcoming Town Halls

Congress is in recess throughout August and with representatives back at home, now is a great time to reach out and tell your representative how the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will impact your community. Hold Congress accountable now with LWVUS' [call script](#).

Town Halls with Senator Jeff Merkley

At the time of the publication of this newsletter, U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley has not yet added town hall events to his calendar for the month of September. [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 Town Halls scheduled in September in Lincoln County and Tillamook County. [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

- Our League's kick-off program for 2025-26 is coming up this month and we hope you'll be part of it! **"This Is What Democracy Looks Like!"** will feature a panel of community members representing diverse perspectives, followed by our keynote speaker political scientist Dr. Mary Follo, who specializes in American Politics and Public Policy. **Tuesday, September 30, 2025 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Corvallis-Benton County Public Library.** The program will also include an opportunity for networking and small group discussion, and light refreshments will be served. The public is invited, so we encourage you to let your family, friends, and colleagues know about this special event.
- [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

- The League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley will begin its fall season by hosting a presentation from Jim McCarthy, Southern Oregon representative of WaterWatch of Oregon. The topic will be the “**Campaign to Remove the Winchester Dam.**” This event will take place on **Thursday, September 11 at 6 PM at the Roseburg Public Library**, located at 1409 NE Diamond Lake Blvd, Roseburg.
- [LWV of Umpqua Valley Events Calendar](#)

★ LWV of Washington County Unit

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

Local Leagues

VOTE411 Grant Celebration



The League of Women Voters of Marion-Polk Counties has worked with Capital Community Media for over 30 years to produce **Your Vote Counts**, a trusted voter education series featuring candidate interviews, ballot measure presentations, and special programming during election cycles. Each episode promotes Vote411.org as a key tool for voters.

This work typically costs \$5,000–\$6,000 per election cycle. Thanks to a Vote411 grant issued through LWVOR's budget this year, LWVMPC was able to provide Capital Community Media with financial support to continue this essential programming.

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](#)

The 19th Amendment

Letters from an American: Journey to Democracy



Historian Heather Cox Richardson produced this short video commemorating the anniversary of the 19th Amendment's certification on August 26, 1920.

Contact Your Representatives

Speak Up on Issues that Matter!



Our democracy depends on an engaged and informed public and that means **you**. LWVUS is calling on members and supporters to speak out on urgent federal issues impacting voting rights, equal representation, and the future of democracy. Use the links below to contact your representatives and make your voice heard.

- **Urgent:** Oppose the [federalization of DC!](#)
- [Hold Congress accountable](#) for their votes on the One Big Beautiful Bill Act!
- Tell your representative to [protect equal voting rights!](#)
- Reject the [anti-voter SAVE Act!](#)
- Urge Congress to [stand up](#) for our democracy!
- Demand passage of the [Equal Rights Amendment!](#)
- Support [Voting Rights Expansion!](#)

Voter Registration

Register Voters with LUSH for National Voter Education Week!



LWVUS is partnering with LUSH, a global cosmetics company, again this fall to help prepare their customers for local elections.

In celebration of **National Voter Education Week**, LUSH is inviting any interested local Leagues to conduct voter registration tabling inside their local store between Oct. 4 – 12, 2024. Leagues interested in this opportunity should check [this list](#) of store locations to ensure there is a store near you. If so, you can learn more and sign up [using this form](#). The deadline to sign up is **Monday, Sept. 8**.

For more information on our LUSH partnership, please visit our partnerships guidance on the [League Management Site](#).

League Updates

Coming Soon: LWV UN Observer Applications

In **early September**, applications will be available for [LWV's UN observers](#). For those interested in applying for these positions, look for an application and more information in future League Updates.

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

Donate Today



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