



League of Women Voters of Oregon

**CURRENTS
OF CHANGE
CONTINUED**

Navigating Democracy's Next Wave

COUNCIL

2026

MAY 16

SALEM, OR

**EMPOWERING
VOTERS.
DEFENDING
DEMOCRACY.**



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AGENDA

DAY 1 - FRIDAY, MAY 15 - WESTMINSTER

4pm

LWVOR Board Meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church

5pm

Reception Begins at Westminster Presbyterian Church

5pm

Early Registration Opens

5pm-9pm

Reception and Caucus Tables

DAY 2 - SATURDAY, MAY 16 - WESTMINSTER

8am-9am

Saturday Registrations Open at Westminster Presbyterian Church

12:00pm-1:00pm

Lunch - with Lunch Speaker, LWVOR President Mark Kendall

8:15am

Parliamentary procedures review (optional)

1:00pm-2:00pm

Strategic Plan Objectives: Branding, Voter Service, Non-partisan Outreach, Youth Advocacy, Oregon Student Mock Election.

8:45am

Welcome from Event Chair
Review of schedule, facilities (bathrooms, kitchen services, etc)
Introduction of the President

2:00pm-2:30pm

Election Overview
Nominations from the floor
Possible candidate statements: 2 minutes each

9:00am - 9:45am

Business Meeting Begins
Local League Roll Call

2:30-2:45pm

Break

9:45am-10:15am:

Treasurer's Overview and Report FY 25-26

2:45-3:15pm

Elections

10:15am-10:30am

Break

3:15pm-4:15pm

Budget (+ Vote)

10:30am-11:30am:

Strategic Plan Objectives: Overview, Fiduciary Responsibility, Civil Discourse, Burn-out.

4:15pm-4:30pm

League Members Guidance to the Board

11:30am

Action Committee presentation

4:30pm

Outgoing and New Board Recognition and Toast

LWVOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Kendall	Officer - Interim President
Barbara Klein	Officer - 1st Vice President
Jean Pierce	Officer - 2nd Vice President
Kermit Yensen	Officer - Treasurer
Mimi Alkire	Officer - Secretary
Lisa Bentson	Director - Budget
Jackie Clary	Director - Development
Diana DeMaria	Director - Youth Outreach
Eileen Burke-Trent	Director - Events
Marianne Germond	Director - Voter Service
Marty Power	Director - Unit Development
Barbara Kiernes-Young	Director - HR
Justin Ludwig	Director
Evan Tucker	Director

LWVOR OFF-BOARD SPECIALIST PORTFOLIOS

Annie Goldner	Nominating
rhyen enger	DEIJ
Kathleen Hersh	MLD
Jim Buck	VOTER Newsletter Editor
Meg Thompson	Voter Girl
Peggy Bengry	Ballot Measure Lead

PARLIMENTARIAN

Parlimentarian

Norman Turrill

COUNCIL RULES

A motion to adopt these rules will be made shortly after Council opens. Amendments may be offered at this time and require a majority vote. The rules as a whole require a majority vote for adoption.

1. ADMISSION

Entrance to the Council room shall be limited to persons displaying official badges, which must be worn at all Council business meetings.

2. DELEGATES

Voting delegates of local Leagues and the state Board of Directors are so designated according to Article IX of the LWVOR Bylaws.

3. MOTIONS

When a delegate makes a motion, it shall be written in the chat box.

4. DEBATES

Official delegates from local Leagues and members of the LWVOR Board shall have the privilege of the floor. A delegate who wishes to speak shall raise a hand to be recognized. The speaker shall address the chair, and after gaining recognition, state her/ his name and League. During debate on a motion, no person may speak more than once on that question until all others who wish to speak have done so.

Rules of debate (i.e. time limits) shall be announced prior to debates.

5. VOTING

A vote is limited to those official delegates present and voting. An abstention is a non-vote. A majority vote is more than half of the votes cast, ignoring abstentions, when a quorum is present. A 2/3-majority vote is required to adopt the Council Order of Business and these rules.

6. BUDGET ADOPTION

The LWVOR budget will be proposed during the business session and adopted during the same business session.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

All oral announcements shall be made by the Secretary and shall relate directly to the program or to the welfare of the delegates.

8. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

League Bylaws, Article XIII, Sec. 1., and customary: League procedure take precedence over the parliamentary authority. The president shall appoint an official parliamentarian.

9. MINUTES

The Council minutes will be approved by the LWVOR Board at an early convenient Board meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by *Mark Kendall*

LWVOR Interim President

Welcome to the 2026 LWVOR Biennial Council. Receiving this workbook really starts the ball rolling. The deliberations of Council really begin upon the first reading of our agenda, portfolio reports, consideration of volunteers' candidacy and deliberation of financial plans. Between when you receive this workbook and our convening on 16 May begin your own reflection, contemplation and deliberation on what is called for from the League of Women Voters of Oregon now.

Herein are reports of progress, summary of actions and plans for the future of our league and portfolios. This workbook really just hits the high spots, we do so much more and have accomplished way much more than we can print up in this short summary. Reflect on all that is not written here as well. You know, you were there.

This hybrid Council event is to be held in Salem and is sponsored by the LWVOR Board. We appreciate help from the Marion-Polk League with registration and credentialing. Other services will be provided by local Girl Scouts.

We will have a formal Color Guard ceremony to remind us all to take this opportunity to refresh our commitment to our respect and support of those who serve, or have served, our nation in public and military capacities. Some are in harms way at this very moment. Regardless of any differences we may have with current governance policy or methods, those in our nations service deserve our ongoing respect and support.

Since our last Council in 2024 we have seen a litany of dangerous changes in the governmental climate in our nation and world. Across America the League is stepping up to the challenge, refreshing our defense of democracy and empowerment of voters. Here in Oregon, our patience (but not our resolve!) is tested by the incredible tenor and volume of the assaults on democracy and attempts to disempower or discourage Oregon voters. Yet we remain undaunted.

This year's Council places emphasis on what it will take for us to meet the challenges to our democracy - to lead the charge with the eight priorities in our fresh and actionable 2025 Strategic Plan and to apply and align our resources to that end.



I accepted the torch of LWVOR leadership from Rebecca Gladstone and Lisa Bentson in late spring. Their ongoing leadership roles, along with our Board's insightful planning and long-term commitment to sound stewardship of our resources, has positioned us quite well for the challenges we face.

In just this short time, one thing has become resoundingly clear to me: we are capable, motivated, and determined to continue to defend democracy and empower voters. And I believe the majority of Oregonians support the principles, purposes, and positions of our work.

Today as we welcome eminently qualified candidates for our Board and make important decisions about the future of the League, remember our commitment to democracy and our vow to defend her as true patriots - the kind who stand tall when times seem bleak and who never give up hope that we all may one day be able to fully reclaim that word. Thank you for your enthusiastic participation. Please take word of the business of this Council back to your local Leagues. We are...

Moving forward in League,

Mark Kendall,
Interim President, LWVOR

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Annie Goldner (Chair), Judy Froemke, Diane Shockey, Marty Power, Diana DeMaria

Nominating Committee

LWVOR Board Officers Continuing their Terms

1st Vice President

Barbara Klein, Rogue Valley

Secretary

Mimi Alkire, Portland

Nominating Committee Members and Elected Chair, 2025-27

Chair

Annie Goldner, Deschutes

Committee Members

Diana DeMaria, Clackamas

Judy Froemke, Portland

Diane Shockey, Klamath

Marty Power, Union

For Election by the Membership at Council

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND ELECTED DIRECTORS FOR THE TERM OF 2026-2028

President

Mark Kendall, Marion-Polk

Director

Jodi Gill, Corvallis

2nd Vice-President

Jean Pierce, Washington Unit

Director

Evan Tucker, Lane

Treasurer

Lin Mallardi, Deschutes

Director

Nominations from the floor

7.1 Elections of the Board of Directors

The Board's basic operation policies are described in LWVOR Bylaws, Articles IV and V. All members of the LWVOR Board shall be LWVOR members in good standing (i.e., dues are current.) The executive officers and elected Board directors shall be elected either at Convention or Council for a two-year term and shall assume office on June 1 after their election. Two directors shall be elected in the even-numbered years (Council) and two directors shall be elected in the odd-numbered years (Convention). All directors shall be voting members of the League. They shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected or appointed and qualified. Director vacancies, other than the LWVOR President, may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the board. These Board-appointed members will serve as interim director until their applicable election at LWVOR Convention or Council.

Executive Board	Term	Name	League Affiliation	Portfolio(s) Assignments
Executive Officer	2025-27	Mark Kendall	Marion-Polk	Interim President
Executive Officer	2025-27	Barbara Klein	Rogue Valley	1st VP, Communications
Executive Officer	2024-26	Jean Pierce	Washington Unit	2nd VP, Advocacy/Social Policy
Executive Officer	2024-26	Kermit Yensen	Deschutes	Treasurer, Budget, Investment and Development Committee
Executive Officer	2025-27	Mimi Alkire	Portland	Secretary, OSME/YO
Elected Bd Director	Term	Name	League Affiliation	Portfolio(s) Assignments
Elect 1 Bd Director	2025-27	Marianne Germond	Washington Unit	Voter Service Coordinator
Elect 2 Bd Director	2025-27	Jackie Clary	Coos	Development
Elect 3 Bd Director	2024-26	Evan Tucker	Lane	Youth Outreach
Elect 4 Bd Director	2025-27	Lisa Bentson	Lincoln	Past President, Budget Chair
Appointed Bd Director	Term	Name	League Affiliation	Portfolio(s) Assignments
Appt 1 Bd Director	indef	Diana DeMaria	Clackamas	Youth Outreach, Nominating
Appt 2 Bd Director	indef	Marty Power	Union Unit	MLD Coach, State Units
Appt 3 Bd Director	indef	Eileen Burke-Trent	Marion-Polk	Events
Appt 4 Bd Director	indef	Barbara Kiernes-Young	Lincoln	HR
Appt 5 Bd Director	indef	Justin Ludwig	Lane	

TREASURER REPORT

by *Kermit Yensen*

LWVOR Treasurer

LWVOR is in strong financial shape (\$750k in net assets - See Statement of Financial Position.) Our accessible (not use restricted) bank and investment holdings are more than 2 times our annual expense budget for FY 2025 26 (and we are likely to under spend that expense budget). “Not use restricted” means we have the freedom to spend these funds in responsible ways to best accomplish the LWVOR mission. We have additional “use restricted” funds that includes i) a reserve fund mandated by LWVOR Policy, Procedures and Guidelines document, and ii) the Oregon Community Fund Annabel Kitzhaber Endowment Fund.

The Annabel Kitzhaber Endowment Fund appears on our financial statement (as advised by the FASB) but we have no control over these permanently restricted funds; we do receive annual “not use restricted” distributions from the OCF which are reported as investment income when received.

LWVOR investment policy states that our objective is to maximize the return on invested assets and maintain reasonable access to funds while minimizing risk and expenses. To this end, our investment committee advises that about \$100,000 be kept in our checking, banking or money market accounts for ready access. Another \$100,000, for mid-term use (1 – 2 years), is invested for maximum interest.

We are currently investing these funds in Certificates of Deposit, taking advantage

LWVOR is in strong financial shape.

of the higher interest rate environment. Our long-term (five-year horizon) funds, \$422,000 as of March 31, are invested in the Vanguard total market stock fund. These funds can be easily accessed if our plans or circumstances change. We are committed to using the resources we have been provided by our members and donors to aggressively advance the mission of the LWVOR. To that end, our budgets for the past fiscal year, FY 2024 25 and the current fiscal year, FY 2025 26, call for utilizing some of our operating reserves.

During FY 2024 25 we had an operating deficit of about \$45,000. Our budgeted operating deficit for FY 2025 26 is about \$52,000 (again, we are likely to under spend our expense budget for FY 25 26). We work hard to tie all spending to our mission initiatives, e.g., Action, Voter Service, Youth Activities, and to member support. Despite aggressive spending and the resulting operating deficits, our current net asset position is about \$75k higher than it was at the beginning of FY 2022 23. This is due to positive investment performance. Of course, we continue to monitor our operating deficits and investment performance carefully.

For details on year-to-date income and expenses, please see the most current Treasurer’s Reports, “Statement of Financial Position” and “Statement of Income and Expense”.

BUDGET Q&A

The 2026 - 2027 budget request responds to the needs assessment conducted by the LWVOR Board in 2025 that resulted in the 2025 - 2030 Strategic Plan, adopted September 2025. As organizations grow, they require additional resources and procedural consistency to be efficient, reduce duplication of effort, assure consistent outcomes, and to meet fiduciary and accountability standards. LWVOR grew over 20% in membership in the last fiscal year. This budget provides the resources to more efficiently and directly serve and support portfolios and local leagues.

The portfolios were asked by the Budget Committee to prepare budgets that address the needs identified in the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. The Human Resources Committee proposes the most significant increase, accounting for some 70% of this increase. This 2026 - 2027 budget proposed by the Budget Committee is recommended by the Board. Additional human resources with specific portfolio expertise and assignment are the most effective approach to meet LWVOR objectives in the 2025 - 2030 Strategic Plan. It is a significant increase.

This budget proposal is some 60% more than last year because:

- League growth of nearly 20%
- An increase in issue response and local league support needs
- Increased cost of services
- Adding legal and financial services and outsourcing
- Adding three half-time staff serving membership, development, and youth outreach
- Increased cost for Membership, Communications and Administrative staff.

These are some of the questions that arose during the development and adoption of this budget.

Q. So how did we get here with this request?

As standard practice the Budget Committee went to each portfolio in January 2026 and asked for their expected needs for assistance and funding to develop the budget. Portfolios were asked to take into consideration the eight strategic objectives in the 2025 - 2030 Strategic Plan. The Human Resources Committee conducted a needs assessment and developed a complementary five year Strategic Staffing Plan. The HR Committee budget request forms the largest share of this budget increase.

Q. At the high level what are those changes?

A.	24' - 25'	25' - 26'	26' - 27'	Difference
Income	\$183,170	\$188,980	\$177,700	- \$ 11,280
Expenses	\$204,964	\$240,662	\$393,125	\$152,463
			Net	\$163,743

24' -25'	25' - 26'	26' -27'
2 FTE - 2 Staff	1.6 FTE - 3 Staff	3.1 FTE - 5 Staff

Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

The following are the increase by category (rounded to nearest \$1000):

Human Resources: \$110,000 3 new half-time
 Fiduciary, Budget and Finance: \$12,000 Bookkeeping/Legal
 Portfolios/Operations: \$42,000 Youth, Cost Increases
 Total: \$164,000

Q. Why is the budget request necessary?

The organization has identified burnout as a high priority. Many volunteers cite fatigue, increased needs in interactions, too many tasks and too little staff availability. As volunteer organizations with a working board grow, larger membership, wider portfolio reach, and increased issues to address, calls for more resources and support of that work. LWVOR is growing and has held staffing stable for the past half dozen years. As we've grown, national issues have arisen, costs have risen, portfolio demands have risen, membership service demands increase and fiduciary standards are more critical in light of threats to political non-profit. All these create pressure that requires additional staff and funding support to serve the needs of the league, portfolios and local leagues.

Q. Why is the budget request so much more?

This budget requests the addition of three new half time staff (1.5 FTE). Our communications/marketing, membership/Vote411, youth outreach and development portfolios are best served with dedicated staff with expertise in that specific work.

Q. Where will this additional revenue come from and does the budget have to balance.

Each year LWVOR budgets are developed that draw down on unspent reserves to some extent. Some years we have more income than projected and that reserves draw down is less or even becomes excess revenue, replenishing reserves. This budget asks for a more significant draw-down. The Treasurer's report to the Board for April 2026 shows unspent reserves of \$ 774,094. In April of 2025 that reserve amount was \$ 661,000 . The average reserves over the last half dozen years has exceeded \$600,000.

Granted, that \$160,000 of that reserve is not liquid due to the conditions of the Anabel Kitzhaber Endowment and another \$100,000 is not readily accessible due to investment withdrawal conditions or penalties. That still leaves some \$500,000 of accessible reserves.

Also, new Development Portfolio Staff will diversify our funding sources and develop increasing and sustainable income streams. Membership growth is expected to continue and is not accounted for in these income projections. A fully staffed Membership Portfolio will improve new member recruitment and service.

Q. How does this budget address the eight Strategic Plan Goals?

Each of the eight LWVOR 2026 - 2030 Strategic Plan objectives require unique and increased attention. Additional staff support is clearly indicated. Addressing burnout and civil discourse will be addressed directly and will also benefit from reducing stressors on the portfolios by providing more direct and specifically expert staff support. The eight strategic objectives include: Branding, Voter Service, Oregon Student Mock Election, Youth Advocacy, Non-partisan Outreach, Burnout, Fiduciary Responsibility, Civil Discourse.

Q. How did the HR Committee identify the additional staff needs?

The HR Committee looked at the eight objectives in the LWVOR 2025 2030 Strategic Plan and identified which needs were not addressed by our current volunteer and staff number, expertise and time availability. A 2025 -2030 Strategic Staffing Plan was developed as a companion document to address each of those objectives and the unmet needs of each portfolio. The specific needs and expertise were considered to determine if non-profit generalists or specialists are called for.

Q. Why is there such a large proportion of the budget increase going to human resources?

Sustaining our commitment to the mission of defending democracy and empowering voters today entails more work. Human resources with the expertise specific to our needs is expensive. More staff are needed to meet our strategic objectives and requires establishment of efficient systems supervision, performance management and to continue to provide transparency, accountability and more volunteer support. The need for local league support is growing. Membership growth is diversifying our membership by age, geographics and other demographics which calls for more or tailored services.

Q. How will this benefit local leagues?

This budget will provide staff to directly facilitate more lateral information and resource sharing across our local leagues and each portfolio (e.g. membership, communications, action, development, voter service...). Portfolio dedicated staff improve plan based responsiveness improving service amount, and qualities. For example, consolidated assessment of insurance needs will provide opportunity for statewide bulk purchase. Statewide digital voter registration data will be more consistently available, updated and automated for ease of use at state and each of the leagues. Vote 411 will be consistently staffed to provide current technical familiarity, backup and support. Collaboration on specific needs common to multiple local leagues will be facilitated by a single staff familiar with that specific need (e.g. Forums, best practice sharing, routine member outreach, marketing).

HR Report

by *Barbara Keirnes-Young*

HR Chair

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) grew 14.3% in fiscal year 2025-26. Local Leagues and the state League added over 185 members in 2025. For the past half dozen years, LWVOR has had a workforce of approximately 2.0 full time equivalents (FTE) of employed and contract staff. Demands on the League's resources are increasing as we expand our membership and our programs. Defending democracy has never been more important than it is today and it is becoming more difficult. The LWVOR HR Committee requests the Board increase our staffing budget by 1/3 in 2026 – 2027 or just over 1.5FTE. That will take us to 3.2 FTE (1.0 staff, 2.2 contract) costing an additional \$94,057 per year.

Background

The recently adopted Strategic Plan identifies eight priorities that include: Branding, Voter Service, Oregon Student Mock Election, Youth Advocacy, Non-partisan Outreach, Burnout, Fiduciary Responsibility, and Civil Discourse. Working Groups are underway on these priorities.

Increasing the number of staff will enable us to support increased and sustained volunteer participation and address the additional time demands on current staff. This increase will focus support on youth development, funding development, membership and Vote411 and support volunteer leaders of our other portfolios (Advocacy, Communications, Voter Service, Vote411...). Support and coordination of portfolio activities by staff will improve service to local leagues.

Taking a longer view, the HR Committee and staff developed a five-year staffing plan. The staffing plan addresses and accommodates the Strategic Plan vision and trajectory, as well as the increasing demands of membership and heightened challenges to our democracy. These expenses are investments expected to be offset by having a dedicated development staff grow more consistent and larger revenue streams. In addition to membership dues, periodic donations or grants and interest earnings, we can focus on a broader and more significant resource base that is motivated by current egregious insults to democracy to align with and invest in LWVOR.

We are approximately .5 FTE below our historic average of 2.0 FTE. We currently have 1.0 FTE Administrative Director and a half-time contractor supporting membership and development (.5 FTE appx.) And this is at a time when internal and external demands on

'26 -'27 Budget Request

For the next fiscal year HR requests that we budget an additional \$75,822 (Detail Below) for staff to address: cost of living adjustments, additional staff and outsourcing bookkeeping and accounting. For the upcoming budget year, HR requests we add: A Development Coordinator, a Youth Outreach Coordinator and outsourced bookkeeping and accounting. This is in addition to addressing cost of living and performance recognition in compensation for the current 2.0 FTE, including Administrative Director, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, and Membership and VOTE411 Director.

LWVOR Human Resources Cost Over Time					
Staff/Contractors	25' -26' Budget	25'-26' Request Spend	26' - 27' Request Budget	26' - 27' Budget Change	% Change
Admin Director	\$72,820	\$73,558	\$86,751	\$13,193	
Comm-Marketing	\$32,900	\$17,600	\$30,000	\$12,400	
Membership	\$17,360	\$28,000	\$21,875	\$ 6,125	
VOTE411	\$1,500	\$7,200	\$21,875	\$20,375	
Development	\$17,360	\$16,836	\$30,000	\$13,164	
Youth	\$9,939	\$7,200	\$30,000	\$22,800	
Accounting	\$0	\$4,700	\$ 7,200	\$ 6,000	
Totals	\$151,879	\$154,494	\$227,701	\$94,057	50%

Budget summary

The following human resources budget summary shows the anticipated costs for each of staff positions and contracted work compared to the prior year budget. This does not include non-staff expenses of the League. This table is derived from the data in the more detailed budget worksheet prepared by the Budget Committee, included in another report in this 2026 Council Workbook.

25' - 26' Interim Budget Request

HR requests that we commence with the recruitment for a replacement part-time Communications and Marketing Coordinator (.5 FTE) that's in this current year's budget and vacant. In addition we want to immediately begin recruiting for the new Development Coordinator (.5 FTE), and Youth Outreach Coordinator (.5 FTE). You can find detailed information about the hiring timeline in the graphic below.

Treasurer Role Change

In preparation for the election of a new Treasurer, HR supports the Board decision to proceed with an independent review of LWVOR bookkeeping and accounting practices. This will provide clarity to our accountancy process and procedures going forward. It will mark the transition to a new Treasurer and provide an independent bill of health for the organization.

HR also proposes reframing the Treasurer's role to be more strategic by contracting out the bookkeeping and accounting rolls beginning in Spring 2026, prior to installing a new Treasurer. It is common in and beneficial to organizations of LWVOR's size to have a bonded independent third party manage transactions, payroll management, and monthly accounts reconciliation. This leaves our Treasurer the time to conduct detailed financial oversight, strategic planning, policy and procedure development, fiduciary training and to work with the Development Director to increase and steward our financial resources. Expecting our Executive Committee Board Treasurer to conduct daily bookkeeping, receipts deposits, expenditure posting, routine reconciliations, annual accounting and tax preparation detracts from time best spent by the Treasurer on accountancy accuracy oversight and strategic plan implementation.

We Have the Resources Available

To facilitate integrating new contract staff, the Human Resources Committee, with the Administrative Director, will establish an onboarding plan for each contractor. The Human Resources Committee will perform the duty of contractor supervisors. In collaboration with portfolios, The Human Resources Committee will be developing portfolio by portfolio charters, activity plans, and consistent position descriptions. These documents will define the objectives, authorities and scope of the portfolio's work. They will define routine, near term and longer term (two year) tasks objectives, goals and outcomes. Position descriptions will define the roles, responsibilities and executive authority of the Volunteer leaders and contractors. The HR Committee will use Portfolio plans to develop the terms of contracts to define the scope of work and inform position descriptions. HR will meet with Portfolio Leaders and the assigned staff initially on six month intervals to compare performance with plan outcomes.

In summary, this HR plan addresses our LWVOR 2025 Strategic Plan goals, improves service to local leagues, and puts more resources into our mission of defending democracy and empowering voters, and we have the resources to do it. Along with the President's proposed legal review of our corporate documents and insurance coverage, this plan positions LWVOR to be viewed by donors as more competitive for substantive investment while addressing the needs of the 2025 LWVOR Strategic Plan and local leagues needs.



ACTION REPORT

by *Jean Pierce*

LWVOR Action Chair

League volunteers were active in the 2026 session, following proposed legislation, providing testimony, contacting legislators, and engaging in budget decisions. Considering that it was a short session, a lot was accomplished.

You can review the status of the LWVOR testimony submitted in the 2026 Legislative Session [by clicking here](#). Fourteen of the bills which we supported passed, and five which we opposed did not advance. LWVOR issued Action Alerts for 17 bills this year.

A major focus this session was on legislation addressing issues that arose with recent ICE raids. Another bill ensures that some Oregon taxes do not mirror the federal tax structure, so our state does not lose as much revenue due to provisions of HR1 (the “Big Beautiful Bill”). Despite constant pressure from the League and Honest Elections, a bill was passed which undid provisions and delayed implementation of campaign finance reform legislation passed in 2024. LWVOR is urging the Governor to veto the bill.

14 League-supported bills passed during the 2026 Legislative Session

These bills include legislation that:

- Requires public schools to enroll and provide services for homeless
- Provides legal protections for reproductive or gender-affirming care
- Requires insurance to cover required immunizations
- Requires schools to inform when ICE is present
- Requires IDs and prohibits face coverings for law enforcement agendas
- Ensures public education for immigrants
- Provides for safe zones in hospitals
- Increases state lodging tax to protect wildlife
- Provides for a partial disconnect from federal taxes



YOUTH OUTREACH REPORT

by *Diana DeMaria*

LWVOR Youth Outreach Co-Chair

League of Women Voters of Oregon Youth Council

LWVOR Youth Council (YC) offers mentored youth-led civic and leadership experience with opportunities to learn and lead nonpartisan advocacy efforts, civic engagement, and peer voting events; to gain practical skills and experience in community collaboration; and organizing on issues locally, statewide, and nationally. Contact youthoutreach@lwvor.org with any request or if you can be a contact for your local League, unit, or area of Oregon or a mentor for civic engagement or professional skill development. Youth Council offers:

- Monthly Youth Council Meet Ups on the first Sunday or Monday evening on Zoom with strong and consistent mentoring from:
 1. LWVOR Oregon Student Mock Election (OSME) Coordinator, Mimi Alkire
 2. LWVOR DEIJ Chair, rhyen enger
 3. LWVOR YC Media Mentor, Stephanie Haycock LWVMPC
 4. LWVOR Action Chair, Jean Pierce
 5. LWVOR Voter Service Chair, Marianne Germond
 6. LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator, Peggy Lynch
- A year of League membership, with a commitment to join LWVOR as a state member or their local League or unit, where they can serve their local community;
- Voter Registration drives at their schools or in their communities with support from the Youth Vote Team or their local Leagues and units;
- Taking action with the Climate, DEIJ, Advocacy, Events, and Media Youth Teams or on LWVOR Action Committees.

Ways to Increase Youth Civic Engagement in your community

Collaborate with us on virtual and in-person youth civic engagement:

- <https://www.lwvor.org/youth-council-speaker-booking>
- <https://www.lwvor.org/civics>
- <https://www.lwvor.org/youth-council>
- <https://www.lwvor.org/youth-resources>
- Coming Soon! Girl Scout Outreach with the Voter Girl Project

Collaborate with us on educator and school connection

<https://www.lwvor.org/mock-election> where you will find:

- Oregon Secretary of State endorsed mock election registration
- ODE-approved and award-winning Civics Education Curriculum
- Educator Resources to share in your community schools
- Youth Partner Resources
- Neighborhood School League partner postcard for grade 6-12

Year in the Rearview Mirror Highlights

- 2025 LWVOR Convention “Future-Proofing the League” Workshop by Youth Council
- 2025 LWVOR Legislative Process Day “How a Bill Becomes A Law” by Youth Council
- 2025 LWVOR Fall Election Workshop “Power of the Young Vote: Turn Awareness into Action” by Youth Council
- 2026 LWVOR Amicus Brief for USDOJ vs. Oregon Secretary of State, Oral Arguments at the Wayne L. Morse Federal Court-house in Eugene attended by Youth Council members
- 2026 Advocacy and Testimony with LWVOR by many Youth Council members
 1. Climate bills, including 1% for Wildlife
 2. VOTE AT 17
 3. EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL (ER4A) petition signature gathering



Show Your League Pride with buttons handmade by LWVOR Youth Council!

For each donation of \$20 (or more), you will receive an exclusive League Pride button! Your contribution empowers our young leaders by helping fund their travel to represent youth voice and representation at LWVUS Convention. Find out all the details at <https://www.lwvor.org/support-youth-council>. Thank you!

OSME REPORT

by *Mimi Alkire*

OSME Coordinator &
Youth Outreach Co-Chair



In November 2022, as part of LWVOR’s commitment to Youth Outreach, we brought back the Oregon Student Mock Election (OSME) after a hiatus of nearly ten years. We hoped to reach future voters through this authentic student voting experience.

The mock ballots include some of the same ballot measures and candidate races as the official state election ballot. We are committed to ensuring that the voting experience for students mirrors the actual Oregon election. LWVOR creates the ballots and encourages teachers to simulate the unique Oregon voting experience. Students vote on paper ballots; they have a voting window of several days; they are encouraged to study/discuss/debate the candidates and issues; and they deliver their ballots to an anonymous “drop box.” We also encourage teachers to have students help with the counting of votes to give them an even deeper understanding of the election process.

On our website (LWVOR.org/mock-election), teachers can register their students and access LWVOR’s award-winning, five-unit Civics Education Curriculum, which is loaded with resources and ideas for activities to help students learn how to prepare themselves to vote and about the unique experience of the Oregon voter.

The curriculum offerings on the website are kept updated and are available year-round.

On the website, teachers also will find three shorter lesson plans designed to assist teachers in preparing their students to vote. These include

- **General OSME Lesson Plan:** Packed with information about how to administer a mock election in their classrooms and with links to resources for both teacher and student information searches.
- **Parties and Primaries:** Introduces students to all ten of the officially recognized Oregon political parties and helps them understand the impact of a closed primary on minor-party voters.
- **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV):** Introduces students to the process of RCV. This is appropriate for students in either social studies or math classes (requires an understanding of using percentages).

2024 OSME RESULTS AND GOALS

In 2024, we held mock elections for both the May Primary and the November General Elections. In the general mock election, we had 33,654 Oregon students from 2 elementary, 43 middle and 82 high schools, registered by their teachers to participate in the 2024 Oregon Student Mock Election (OSME).

Students were offered an authentic simulation of the Oregon vote-by-mail experience, including a realistic-looking mock ballot and time to study the candidates and issues in their classrooms before voting in their mock election.

Students not only learn about the specific candidates and ballot measures, but they also learn how to be an informed voter. Students voted for US President (federal office), Oregon Attorney General (state office), and Ballot Measure 118 (Corporate tax rebate) or Measure 117 (statewide ranked-choice voting). In addition, teachers could request a local ballot measure or candidate race to be on their ballot. LWVOR created thirteen different local ballots that included mayors, county officials, bond issues, and five different US Representatives Districts.

2026 OSME PLANS

The 2026 Primary mock election voting dates are May 1-10. However, teachers have the freedom to choose any dates before May 1 to hold their elections. They will then report their student voting results using the form we provide as soon as their counting is completed. We will compile and analyze the final voting data. We will report student voting results to the public and the media on May 17.

As of March 22, 2026, we have 14 schools/teachers registered for the May Primary, with an estimated student voter count of 2,828. The registered schools so far are in: Albany, Corvallis, Dayville, David Douglas, Dufur, Lake Oswego, North Bend, Oregon City, Pine Eagle, Portland, Roseburg, St Helens, and West Linn. The voting window for student voting is May 1-10, 2026.

We are still recruiting teachers for the upcoming primary, as well as for the November General Election. Please have interested teachers contact Mimi Alkire (mimi.alkire@gmail.com) for more information. Teachers are also encouraged to share ideas for curriculum and lesson plans.

DEIJ REPORT

by Rhyen Enger

DEIJ Chair



As DEIJ Chair I have appreciated the opportunity to meet and interact with League members from across the state. The work of the Leagues to defend democracy and empower voters continues to be an important mission. With attacks from this administration, LWVOR remains committed to DEIJ work to strengthen our organization.

Highlights from the Year

• LWVUS Council

In June Evan Tucker, LWVOR Youth Council, and I attended the LWVUS Council in Virginia. We were introduced to the Unite & Rise campaign and participated in a DEIJ training. Connections were made with DEIJ chairs across the US to strategize and collaborate on best practices.

• Membership Grants for Local Leagues

Local Leagues were granted \$200 to cover dues for student memberships or individuals experiencing hardships in FY 25-26. This grant brought in 40 new and returning members fostering equitable civic participation. The LWVOR Board approved the FY 26-27 Equity Fund which includes membership grants for local Leagues as needed.

• Hybrid Events with Equity in Mind

LWVOR continues to offer hybrid events to ensure broad and equitable participation, especially for members in rural communities, those with mobility concerns, or anyone for whom in-person attendance is a barrier. It also allows local League members to gather in person locally for statewide hybrid events for those who don't have reliable internet access or find technology to be a barrier to participation.

• Collaboration with Youth DEIJ Chair

Regular meetings were held with the Youth DEIJ Chair. Together we revamped the LWVOR Youth Council feedback survey and encouraged Youth Council members to complete it.

We reviewed the organization of the Youth Council Drive and mapped out a plan to make it more user friendly.

• Equity Fund

The FY 25-26 Equity Fund supported League members to attend LWVOR in-person and hybrid meetings. The LWVOR Board will continue to include the Equity Fund in its budget moving forward to ensure equitable participation for members across the state. This is essential to reduce any financial barriers to participate in the full League experience.

• Oregon Coalition Against Hate Crime

LWVOR is a partner in the Oregon Coalition Against Hate Crime. This continues to be an important coalition between community groups and local, state, and federal government organizations. One key component is reporting hate crime and supporting community members who have experienced hate crimes. In today's political environment there has been a decrease in hate crimes being reported. The Coalition has had to reimagine what our community needs and what our partnership can look like with our federal partners. Be on the lookout for more opportunities to engage in the Coalition's efforts!

Looking Ahead

Some of the aspiration I have for the coming year: Offering DEIJ trainings and workshops for Local Leagues and Units,

- Connecting with all Leagues and Units in the State,
- Developing and strengthening procedures for equitable and inclusive planning,
- Building off Unite & Rise playbooks to strengthen League relationships in our respective communities.

Local Leagues and Units are invited to share their challenges and ideas to deepen inclusion across the organization.

VOTER GIRL REPORT

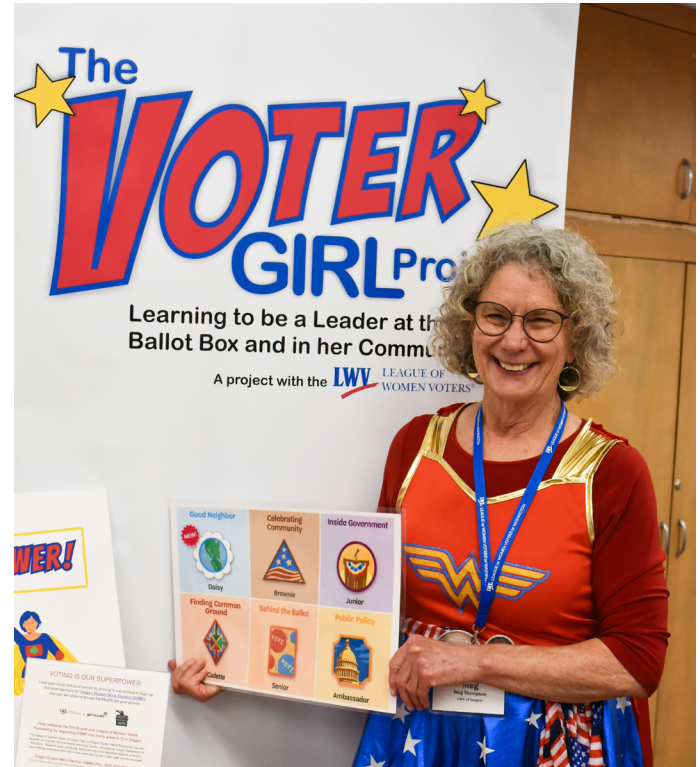
by Meg Thompson

Voter Girl Coordinator

The LWVOR Board signed an MOU agreement with the Girl Scout Council of Oregon & Southwest Washington (GSOSW) to build a collaboration. Our joint efforts will promote leadership through civics education and service.

In June 2025 LWVOR purchased the Voter Girl Project. This proprietary GS badge program, developed by LWVKent, is used across the country to offer multi-troop Voter Girl Badge Day events for Citizen and Democracy badges. Numerous civic engagement activities have been completed by the Voter Girl Coordinator, in conjunction with its Youth Outreach team members (Diana DeMaria, Eileen Burke-Trent, and Mimi Alkire):

- October Teen Retreat at Girl Scout Camp – civics education with 200 teens.
- November STEM Day in Salem – Tabled with Marion-Polk and Clark County LWV to provide civics education for Girl Scouts, including a civics quiz wheel, two voting booth experiences, and inviting students to participate in a contest for OSME. We reached 2000 Girl Scouts, parents and troop leaders. Many teens and adults stayed at our booth to discover more about LWVOR and how we can build our collaboration.
- An Oregon Student Mock Election (OSME) contest was offered for girl scouts to register their grade 6-12 class or school to participate. In November the Girl Scout winner received an award and a visit by Voter Girl to her multi-age troop to complete a Voting is Our Superpower exercise.



Voter Girl has established a network with 15 Local Leagues and Units

- A monthly newsletter update is provided to each local league liaison team.
- Each local league can appoint a Girl Scout liaison to receive communications from Voter Girl.
- Ongoing collaboration encourages community-level relationships with Girl Scout troops. Meg is networking with Clackamas County troops and service unit leaders to share LWV civic engagement opportunities for Girl Scout involvement.

- November visit to Clackamas County Elections with Clerk Catherine McMullen with Girl Scout troops for ballot-counting observation. Additional ballot counting observation events will be offered by local leagues in the 2026 election cycle.
- Girl Scouts were invited to the LWVUS/LUSH national partnership Get Out The Vote campaign. Serving as Youth Ambassadors in Vote411 and Voter Registration tabling on April 11, 12, and 26, 2026, Girl Scouts work on their Behind the Ballot badge and earn a Voter Girl Experience Patch.

At the state level, Voter Girl facilitates Local League and Girl Scout collaboration in these areas:

- Oregon Student Mock Election (OSME)
- Vote411
- LWVOR Youth Council
- Join in candidate forums, voter registration drives, legislative action days
- Assist Girl Scouts and troop leaders in their civics education and service projects
- Support Girl Scout Gold, Silver and Bronze Award projects
- Offer civics leadership experiences at Girl Scout STEM Day, Changemaker Cafe and GS events
- Collaborate with the GSUSA Promote the Vote Campaign and VOTE411.org/girlscouts

At the national level, Voter Girl is working with LWVUS Partnership Director, Juliette Boberg to:

- Build a coalition among LWV leagues across the country
- Participate in building relationships between Leagues and Girl Scout Councils by:
 1. sharing ideas and building consistent best practices in a growing LWVUS coalition
 2. speaking April 14, 2026 on a LWVUS-hosted Girl Scout partnership zoom workshop, with a tentative invitation to participate in a Girl Scout panel at LWVUS Convention in June.

Goals for 2026-27

- Establish a Voter Girl website under Youth Outreach that is appealing to Girl Scouts and includes an LWV members only section to house critical information for local league liaisons as they collaborate with local Girl Scouts.
- Build standards and metrics.
- Network with other state leagues and LWVUS.
- Support Voter Service, Action, and Youth Outreach connections to Girl Scouts. It is very important to lead with what we do well, develop our 'brand' to appeal to youth and their parents and troop leaders.

THANKS to our board for prioritizing Youth Outreach with increased staffing and building a big-tent as we support our next generation of civic leaders!

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

by Jackie Clary

LWVOR Development Chair

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is deeply grateful for the generosity of our members, individual donors, foundation partners, and other supporters whose contributions sustain this work. Their support strengthens our ability to serve communities across Oregon through voter education, civic engagement, advocacy, youth programming, and the operational capacity needed to carry all of it forward. As in recent years, development remains closely tied to the League's ability to support both statewide work and the strength of local Leagues.

In FY25 so far, LWVOR has been grateful to receive support from several grant funders:

- \$50,000 grant from The Carol & Velma Saling Foundation to continue our voter education and civic engagement mission
- \$14,500 from the Ann J. and William Swindells Fund of Oregon Community Foundation to support capacity-building around VOTE411.org
- \$500 from the Peter and Cathy Tronquet Fund of Oregon Community Foundation to support capacity-building around VOTE411.org
- \$500 from Cassiopeia's Dream Giving Fund of Oregon Community Foundation for general operating support.

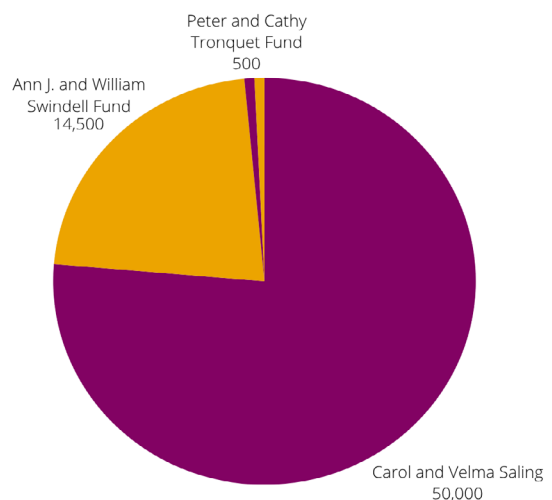
This year also demonstrated the importance of individual giving and community-driven fundraising. LWVOR saw strong responses to two direct appeal campaigns centered on Youth Outreach and Voter Service, and Youth Council members also led a successful campaign around creating and sharing LWVOR rainbow buttons. Together, these

efforts reflect both the generosity of our supporters and the creativity and commitment of those carrying the work forward.

Looking Ahead

In FY26, LWVOR will finalize a development plan aligned with our strategic priorities so that fundraising efforts are more coordinated, sustainable, and responsive to organizational goals. We are also actively working to hire a .5FTE development role to strengthen development practice at the state level and better support local Leagues in their own fundraising and development efforts.

Development is about more than raising funds. It is about building the relationships, systems, and long-term support needed to sustain the League's mission. We are deeply thankful to all who invest in this work and help ensure that LWVOR remains a strong, trusted, and growing force for voter education and democratic participation in Oregon.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Lindsay LaPlante

LWVOR Membership Staff

Membership is not just about numbers. It is about people choosing, again and again, to invest in this work and in one another. Every new member, every renewal, and every act of welcome helps strengthen and expand our ability to support communities across the state. Over the past year, our membership work has focused not only on recruitment but on strengthening the member experience: helping people join and renew more easily, improving communication across the state, and making it easier for members to find connection, information, and ways to participate.

With the member portal now solidly in place, membership support has increasingly become an ongoing, year-round process rather than a once-a-year cycle. This includes monitoring joins and renewals, assisting members with rolling renewals and portal access, supporting those who prefer manual or check-based processes, and helping local Leagues adjust to the new system. At the same time, we continue to share resources, answer questions, and strengthen relationships across the organization.

At its heart, membership work is about connection: inviting people in, helping them feel welcomed, and making it easier for them to engage in meaningful ways. Every new or renewing member strengthens the League's ability to empower voters and defend democracy in communities across Oregon. Thank you to the League leaders and members who continue to welcome new people, share knowledge, and help keep the League connected, informed, and growing.

League	2023	2024	2025
Clackamas	89	100	93
Coos	54	66	83
Corvallis	158	143	182
Curry	38	34	38
Deschutes	118	128	140
Klamath	22	22	21
Lane	157	163	263
Lincoln	36	27	29
Linn County Unit	6	10	10
Marion&Polk Counties	50	65	92
Portland	255	280	289
Rogue Valley	64	70	76
Umpqua Valley	62	65	77
Union County Unit	-	27	38
Washington Co. Unit	4	40	51
Oregon/MAS	43	26	16

MLD REPORT

by Kathleen Hersh and Eileen Burke-Trent

LWVOR MLD Coaches

At the heart of the MLD program is the desire to build our membership base and a more systematic leadership ladder; one that ensures the League will be strong enough to carry out our democracy building and protecting work for years to come. From a practical standpoint we need to be asking ourselves ‘What’s the smallest change we can make to have the biggest impact?’ By asking questions that address capacity building in a strategic way, the coach can help Leagues and Units make changes to have the highest payoff possible.

The MLD Coaches continued to meet with each other and with the local Leagues they coach during the 2025-2026 year. Long-time League member and MLD coach, Libby Medley, retired from the team. Eileen Burke-Trent, Shur Fellow and MLD Coach, joined the Oregon MLD coaching team this year. Special issues local, state and national Leagues addressed, our Leagues included, centered on keeping our non-partisan language, public outreach and communication fair, factual and balanced; reaching out to new members; the process and planning of opportunities for

“What’s the smallest change we can make to have the biggest impact?”

public events and media outreach; emphasizing diversity and exploring opportunities for co-operation with compatible organizations,(if usual to our normal outreach efforts), and so much more.

Recently we have reintroduced the Membership & Leadership Development Manual, developed by generous Ruth S. Shur Funding to the League of Women Voters United States’ national and international consultants and training staff. This manual served as the gold standard then, and has been well-employed for detailed, organized and straightforward training and public outreach even today. It is currently under revision and update by volunteers of the Oregon MLD committee, for greater review.

There has been a concerted move to expand and personalize our MLD outreach with regular on-site visits to coached Leagues in addition to regular ZOOM visits to their meetings along with our monthly coaches’ training meetings.



Current Coaches and Their Representative Counties:

League or Unit	MLD or Staff Name
MLD Team Coord	Kathleen Hersh
LWVOR State Members	Lindsay LaPlante
LWVOR Youth Council	Diana DeMaria
Lane County	Debbie Kaye
Rogue Valley	NOT YET
Portland	NOT YET
Marion-Polk Counties	NOT YET
Corvallis	Linda Mather
Washington Co Unit	Debbie Kaye
Coos County	Eileen Burke-Trent
Clackamas County	Linda Mather
Lincoln County	Eileen Burke-Trent
Linn County Unit	NOT YET
Umpqua Valley	NOT YET
Deschutes County	Margaret Noel
Klamath County	NOT YET
Curry County	Eileen Burke-Trent
Union County Unit	Kathleen Hersh
New Units	Marty Power

PROGRAM REPORT

by Jean Pierce

League Program is the grassroots method by which LWV supports our mission through education and advocacy. All League action, advocacy, and education are based on support for League .

Interim Issues Positions

League Program is the grassroots method by which LWV supports our mission through education and advocacy. All League advocacy is based on League positions.

League action in support of League Positions may be taken only in those areas where there is member understanding and agreement.

Accomplishments

- Adopted by LWVOR Board February, 2025 - Recall of Elected Officials position.
- Adopted by LWVOR Board February, 2025 - Caring for Our Children updated position
- Approved at LWVOR Convention May, 2025 - Recall of Elected Officials position
- Approved at LWVOR Convention May, 2025 - Caring for Our Children updated position
- Approved at LWVOR Convention May, 2025: Concurrences with 5 K-12 positions:
 1. Assessment and High Stakes Testing (Pennsylvania)
 2. Attracting and Supporting Well-Qualified Teachers (New Mexico)
 3. Charter Schools (Illinois)
 4. Civic Education (Kentucky)
 5. Using Public Funds for Private Schools (New Jersey)
- Approved at LWVOR Convention May, 2025 - 3-part K-12 new study. Estimated completion by 2027 convention
 1. Exceptional Learners
 2. School Safety
 3. Career and Technical Education

Study in Progress

3-part K-12 Education Study – Led by Jean Pierce of the Washington County Unit, the study subcommittees will publish and share reports and consensus questions for

- Exceptional Learners by April, 2026,
- School Safety by July, 2026
- Career and Technical Education by November, 2026

An agreement committee will draft positions to be approved by the Board and presented at the LWVOR convention May, 2027.

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