



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

All-Members Newsletter

November 1, 2025

Newsletter Highlights

- **LWVOR Board:** Are you our next Membership Chair or Budget Chair?
- **In case you missed it:** LWVOR Recordings from October
- **From LWVUS:** Tell Congress to End the Shutdown Now
- **Theme of the Month:** Native American Heritage Month
- **Local Leagues:** Program 2025 - 2026
- **Nov. 11th:** Statewide Veteran's Day Events to Honor Oregon's Veterans
- **Mark Your Calendar:** Annual League Survey Opens Jan. 2026

Dear members,

As fall paints Oregon bright shades of gold, orange and crimson, it heralds in our most energizing season: Election Season. This is a good time for us to reaffirm our shared commitment to empowering voters and defending democracy. The League's mission is now more critical than ever as the government shutdown closes in on a month and millions of fellow citizens, businesses, and local governments are being denied services crucial to

community well being. The League of Women Voters of the United States has declared these United States of America are in a Constitutional Crisis. Concern seems to be piling up like leaves on the ground.

The State of Oregon has been sued by the federal government for not divulging detailed voter registration data that is protected under Oregon voter rights laws. The League has pushed back directly encouraging the Governor and Secretary of State to continue to protect voters' data privacy rights. US Customs and Immigration Services has denied the League the right to deliver voters registration forms and information to new citizens at non-judicial public naturalization ceremonies. We have filed our grievance and will continue to welcome new citizens at the judicial ceremonies in courthouses across the state and to demand our First Amendment right to free speech on public property. The Governor and Attorney General are pressing back in the courts on the federal government's overreach as they attempt to deploy the National Guard to Portland based on false pretense. The League openly supports the Governor's protection of Oregon's sovereignty and the rule of law.

There are enough issues of paramount concern going around to dampen one's enthusiasm and to dim our outlook. But we will not lose hope nor waver. We know hope is not a strategy: it's what results from having a strategy and we have one. We will weather these times as we have for over 100 years; with our widely resonant, non-partisan, clear structure of democracy and support of voters rights afforded us by our nation's Constitution. We have a strategy.

The LWVOR Board approved a five year strategic plan that will propel us into these tumultuous times with clarity of purpose and resolve. Many of these strategic directions are perennial and they require a pruning, reshaping, soil amendment or nutrients this fall. Through refreshed branding we will raise our voice, visibility, and partnerships. As we expand civic education for youth, we are growing our nationally recognized Youth Council, delivering the Voter Girl Project, and empowering our youth to lead through Future League Leaders program. We are building coalitions with aligned organizations which are further empowered by our collective commitment to democracy. To maintain our resiliency in these very tough times, we are focusing on how we effectively and more efficiently leverage our time to address workloads, to reduce fatigue, and be adaptable in changing times. We are accountable and redoubling our attention to our fiduciary responsibilities of good organizational governance. Good business practice enables us to continue to do our excellent work unabated.

And with these issues demanding our full attention and our strategic approach, we will continuously pursue our mission of defending democracy, defending

voters rights, and empowering voters. There will be other changes as well, some uncomfortable or unexpected, yet we are adaptable. We are capable, we can defend our democracy and we will prevail. It may take time and we have that too. Our children and grandchildren are counting on it.

In League,

Mark Kendall
President

League Events

Upcoming LWVOR Events

November 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Fall Workshop 10:00am
2	3	4	5 League 101 6:30pm	6	7	8
9	10	11 Learn about LWVOR Leadership 6:30pm	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Local Leaders 5:30pm	19 Legislative Process Day 10:00am	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

 **November 1 at 10am PT**

LWVOR Voter Service Fall Workshop

The LWVOR Voter Service Committee is proud to sponsor the 2025 Fall Workshop! This event will take place from 10am to 2:30pm on Saturday, November 1st in-person in Eugene, OR, and virtual on Zoom.

 **November 5 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](#)

 **November 11 at 6:30pm PT**

Learn About LWVOR Leadership: Membership Chair & Budget Chair

As a league member, you want to "make a difference." Attend this zoom on November 11th and learn the specific ways that leading membership and the annual budget process may be the best fit for your skills and background experience. This session is open to anyone who wants to learn and ask questions about these two important roles in the LWVOR.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

 **November 18 at 5:30pm 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@lwwor.org.



November 19 at 10:00am PT

Legislative Process Day

Learn about what is happening at the Oregon Legislature and gain insight into how you can get involved. We will be looking at how anticipated revenue will affect legislation in the 2026 session and how the legislature might take action in the face of federal cutbacks. This is a great opportunity to meet with our Action Team Coordinators! The event will be held virtually and in-person and we welcome all League and non-League members to join us.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**Are you our next
Membership Chair or Budget Chair?**



Join the LWVOR Leadership Team!

We're looking for 2 key volunteer leaders to
help shape the future of LWVOR:

Membership Chair

Build community, welcome new members, and strengthen our statewide network.

Budget Chair

Guide our budget planning process and keep our mission sustainable.

LWVOR is looking for you!

Interested in **Membership**? [Click here](#) for more info about the role.

Maybe **budgets** are more your speed? [Click here](#) for more info about the role.

Aren't sure if it's the right fit for you or have other questions? Join our Nominating Committee on November 11th at 6:30pm on Zoom to hear from current chairs about the roles and get your questions answered.

[Register here](#) for the session.

Questions in the meantime? Please email Annie Goldner at nominating@lwvor.org.

LWVOR Board

LWVOR Board and Off-Board Spotlight

rhyen enger (they/them) - DEIJ Chair



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

I grew up in a small town in Illinois, moving to Portland from Chicago. To me, identifying as queer and nonbinary is political and has shaped my understanding of the world and why I stand up for liberation.

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

Outside of the League I prioritize joy by exploring nature, spending time with my loved ones, and playing board games.

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

My first election in Chicago, I had no idea where to start researching my ballot. After some stumbling around on the internet I came across VOTE411 and was thrilled to find exactly who and what was going to be on my ballot! Years later, I was invited to participate in a study on our monetary system and reforms with the League of Women Voters of Athens County, Ohio. The experience was thorough and I enjoyed the thoughtful dialogue. So when I moved to Portland, I

joined the League of Women Voters of Portland to find community and familiarize myself with a new city.

I have a deep respect for the advocacy and policy work that we do. Voting is an important aspect of our mission and I recognize that many people do not have the ability to vote whether it be age, citizenship, incarcerated status, ability status, or simply access. Regardless of whether you are able to vote, everyone can engage with their elected officials and hold them accountable. I am motivated by our Youth Council and their interest in advocacy, a direct reflection of how we can leverage our access to elected officials to empower everyone.

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

I hope to always be an agent of change in my journey. I could see that playing out in a multitude of ways.

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

The League has defended access to voting for over 100 years and there has never been a time when that work was not needed. Voting is not the only means to a democracy but it certainly is the bare minimum we should be granted.

In case you missed it...

LWVOR Recordings from October

More than Fundraising - Building a Development Plan (10.14.25)

Communications Cafe - Are We in a Constitutional Crisis? (10.28.25)

LWV Member Portal

Highlights and Updates From October

Partially Failed Payment Notifications

Leagues will now be CC'd on failed-payment notices sent to members, and notified again once a retried payment succeeds (closing the loop). To update your Financial Notification Email, go to **League Profile** in the portal. LWVUS's phone number is being added to member notices for extra support.

Closing Old Support Tickets

Membership Support Liaisons are proactively reaching out to help resolve older/lingering cases. If you have outstanding tickets, expect a check-in from your state's liaison.

Leadership List & Related Updates

Admin view of Leadership now differs from member view and includes:

- A **Past Leadership** view.
- Admin-only roles (e.g., **Stripe Manager**) and **future-dated roles** now visible to admins.
- **VOTE411** home-screen button now directs members to your **white-label page** (if enabled).
- Admins can **answer custom registration questions on behalf of members** (Roster → three dots → *Answer Custom Questions on Behalf Of*).

Renewal Reminder Emails

A database error prevented some reminders (8/15–9/12) from sending. A catch-up reminder went out on 9/16 to affected members. Please continue doing direct local outreach - national reminders don't replace League-level follow-ups.

Helpful Links

-  [LWVUS Member Portal Resources](#)
-  [LWVUS Membership Portal Updates](#)
-  [LWV Member Portal Administrator's Guide](#)

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



League Events

Upcoming LWVUS Events

 **November 3 at 12:00pm PT**

LWVUS Development Office Hours

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

[REGISTER HERE](#)

 **November 4**

Election Day

Elections take place in more than half of all US states.

Basically, LWV's Super Bowl.

[GET VOTING INFO](#)

 **November 13 at 12:00pm PT**

Legislative Office Hours

Opportunity for Leagues and League members to address advocacy, legislative, or policy issues with LWVUS staff.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

 **November 20 at 12:00pm PT**

2025 Federal Advocacy Wrap

Join the LWVUS Advocacy team for a recap of our federal advocacy work in 2025. During this webinar we'll reflect back on the first half of the 119th Congress and deliver updates on legislation and executive actions that LWVUS has been tracking and engaging with, including opposing the SAVE Act and Medicaid cuts in the "One Big Beautiful Bill."

[REGISTER HERE](#)

From LWVUS

Tell Congress to End the Shutdown



The federal government has been partially shut down since October 1, as Congress has failed to agree on an annual budget. The shutdown has imminent

consequences for the health and well-being of millions of Americans whose paychecks are being withheld, and food access is being threatened.

More than one million federal employees are currently going unpaid. Missing paychecks could force them to dip into their savings, take on credit card debt, work extra jobs, or struggle to meet their own and their families' basic needs.

[Read more and write your letters...](#)

From LWVUS

Behind-the-Scenes of Elections

Election officials are the bedrock of our Constitution. It is their role to secure our right to free and fair elections through their incredible commitment to impartiality, security, rule of law and access to the vote. ***The Officials*** is a film by Margo Guernsey and Sara Archambault that highlights this dedicated public service.

This documentary offers a behind-the-scenes look at a politically diverse group of election officials who, despite facing increased threats, harassment and intimidation, remain committed to serving their communities by running secure elections and ensuring every eligible vote is counted accurately. Join the filmmakers and the LWV for a joint screening, panel, and Q&A with election administrators and experts to discuss the future of election administration in the US. The film is 26 minutes long, and will be followed by a 30-minute panel and Q&A session.

[Click here to watch the screening.](#) (Passcode: NgT8PAd%)

From LWVUS

Unite & Rise Power Playbook 3

Power Playbook 3 is a guide that includes timely activities for Leagues to participate in Unite & Rise 8.5. These are focused on current or emerging events and what Leagues can do to respond from Nov. 2025 through January 2026.

Power Playbook 3 focuses on building strong, intentional partnerships to expand the League's reach and impact. The following resources are meant to support those partnership activities and provide guidance for connecting with allies and community organizations.

[Read more...](#)

From LWVUS

Election Hero Day Resources for Leagues

Election Hero Day is a nonpartisan, national celebration recognizing the tremendous contributions that election officials, their staff, and poll workers make to ensure a safe and secure voting experience for all Americans.

The League is proud to be the managing partner for Election Hero Day, falling on **November 3, 2025**, this year!

Leagues can sign up as a partner for Election Hero Day and access our toolkit on the [League Management Site](#).

Themes of the Month

Native American Heritage Month



November is Native American Heritage Month: a time to honor the history, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous peoples across the U.S. and right

here in Oregon. It's also a time to reflect on Indigenous sovereignty and the role of Native communities in U.S. democracy. Our state is home to nine federally recognized Tribes, each with its own government, traditions, and history of civic leadership.

As we celebrate this month, we also reflect on the barriers Native communities have faced in accessing the ballot box and the vital work of Tribal leaders and Native-led organizations to expand civic engagement.

- ◆ **Learn** more about Oregon's Tribal Nations: [Overview of the Nine Tribes](#)
 - ◆ **Read:** [Barriers to Political Participation Faced by Native American Voters](#)
 - ◆ **Explore:** [Native American Heritage Month](#) through the National Archives
 - ◆ **Share:** [Vote411.org](#) with Native American community members as a nonpartisan resource
-

Around Oregon

Upcoming Community Events

Nov. 7th at 12pm

City Club of Portland's Program Committee presents [Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read](#) in conversation with Julia Shumway of the [Oregon Capital Chronicle](#).

In this program, you'll hear updates from the Oregon Secretary of State's office, including the latest on **Oregon's mail-in voting, voter data protection, and the impending campaign finance system**. Julia Shumway, editor-in-chief for the Capital Chronicle, will guide the discussion, asking questions submitted in advance by registrants as well as live questions from City Club members. The conversation will cover the office's many responsibilities, including **elections, statewide audits, state lands policy, small business assistance**, and the Secretary's plans for the coming year.

General admission is free and open to all. Please register for a free ticket to reserve your seat. Lunch available for purchase: \$25 for members, \$32 for non-members.

[Attend in person.](#)

[Watch online on Youtube.](#)

Nov. 20th at 10am

An LWVOR presentation is coming up and you may be interested in attending!

The event will be filmed by Capital Community Media for later viewing on CCTV Channel 21. No live streaming of these events will be provided.

The presentation can be attended in person at Cone Chapel in Waller Hall on the Willamette University campus. Waller Hall is on the north center side of Willamette's campus right across State Street from the south entrance to the state Capital. All parking in the area is metered.

Article III of The Constitution and The Role of The Federal Courts to Ensure Democracy's Rule of Law.

Amy Vandegrift

League of Women Voters Marion Polk Counties

The federal US District, special courts, US Appeals Courts and Supreme Court of the United States are regulated for ethical and procedural conduct by a range law(s) that raises compliance concerns.

The national League of Women Voters has completed a study and a consensus position regarding these laws, their random treatment of the different courts, and the outcomes in judiciary behavior.

This presentation will address the issues the LWV Oregon and US considered and the process they use to engage over 700 chapters nationwide to arrive at their consensus position regarding the state of the Courts. Amy Vandegrift was principle facilitator of State of Oregon LWV Federal Judiciary Study and consensus workshops. Amy and her colleague will discuss judicial ethics, recusal, judge shopping, financial disclosure, judiciary behavior and conduct, conflict of interest, ex parte communications, more findings by the LWV, and their positions on those issues and what's called for now.

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

- The public is invited by the League of Women Voters of Coos County to attend an informational presentation titled the Pacific Coast Intermodal Port Project – A Deeper Understanding: Part 2. This educational event, which is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19th, at the Egyptian Theatre in Coos Bay, is the second presentation by the League regarding this project. The first presentation, provided in April this year, included a discussion of the publicly available information which outlined the project's components. The video recordings of this event can be viewed [here](#).
- [LWV of Coos County Events Calendar](#)

★ LWV of Corvallis

- The LWV of Corvallis raises funds through the sale of ruby red grapefruit, navel oranges, and combination boxes. Price: \$36 a box. Delivery: Dec. 1–10 to your home. (It can last for a few months when stored at the proper temperature.) Your purchase helps fund candidate forums, legislative town halls, voter education, and advocacy. Click [here](#) to order online.
- [LWV of Corvallis Events Calendar](#)

★ LWV of Curry County

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

★ LWV of Deschutes County

- First Thursday Speaker Series - (OPB) Oregon Public Broadcasting Central Oregon. Thursday, November 6, 2025, 11:40 AM until 1:00 PM. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon. Registration is not Required.
- [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

Program 2025 - 2026

Are you planning out your local program schedule for 2026?

We would like to share tentative dates for the consensus discussions on the K-12 studies.



LWVOR Program 2026/2027

To better help our local leagues and units with program planning for state studies

DRAFT SCHEDULE*

K-12 Study Part 1	Apr. 2026
K-12 Study Part 2	Sep. 2026
K-12 Study Part 3	Jan. 2027

*Subject to change, will be updated and published regularly

There are three pillars to the study; the first will kick-off in April 2026. If you would like to join a study team or you have questions on the study please contact Jean Pierce, K-12 Study Chair at Advocacy@lwvor.org.

Please stay tuned for more information. If you have any questions about the consensus process or the schedule contact Stephanie Haycock at IssuesPositions@lwvor.org.

In the News

Oregon Gov. Kotek sends \$5 million to food banks ahead of SNAP cutoff

Oregon Capital Chronicle - Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek on Wednesday declared a state of emergency over hunger and directed \$5 million to food banks across the state, seeking to avert the impending November loss of food stamp benefits for hundreds of thousands of Oregonians under the federal government's ongoing shutdown.

Kotek's [emergency declaration](#) gives authority to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to coordinate with local governments, nonprofit organizations and private companies to "respond and mitigate the impacts of this emergency." It calls for "essential protective measures" from the Oregon Department of Human Services to address food insecurity, while directing the agency to provide financial assistance to those facing hunger due to the loss of SNAP benefits. The order lasts until the end of the year, unless the federal government distributes benefits or Kotek changes its terms herself.

[Read more...](#)

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](#)

Communications

Plug & Play Talking Points

The LWVOR Communications Team launched a new project earlier this year, nicknamed [Plug & Play](#), to give you ready-made, locally adaptable content so you can reach your community quickly and effectively without starting from scratch.

Our latest Plug & Play focuses on states' rights, the 2nd Amendment, and recent National Guard deployments in cities across the country, including

Portland. Use these statements as-is or combine and adapt them to fit your community's needs.

Research shows people respond best to information from their own community. We hope to make the goal of reaching your community easier while you are juggling the demands of your own life and as a volunteer.

Past [Plug & Play talking points](#) are also available online. We develop these as 'evergreen' statements to allow you to circle back to them as is convenient.

Across the State

Statewide Veterans Day Ceremony to Honor Oregon's Veterans Nov. 11 at the Capitol



October 30, 2025

Salem, OR – The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs will honor all veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces during its Statewide Veterans Day Ceremony at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 11, in view of the Oregon State Capitol Building.

This event will feature remarks by dignitaries and special guests along with ceremonial elements including a color guard, singing of the national anthem, a wreath laying and the playing of "Taps."

The celebration will be hosted at the Oregon State Capitol State Park, located on Court Street Northeast in Salem — directly across the street of the front

entrance of the Oregon State Capitol Building.

The event is open to the public, and uncovered seating will be provided for attendees. Accessible pathways and seating areas for those needing accommodations will also be available. Attendees are reminded to plan accordingly for Oregon weather.

For those unable to attend in person, the ceremony will also be livestreamed on ODVA's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/odvavet.

Statewide Veterans Day Events

In addition to the Capitol ceremony, ODVA maintains a Statewide Veterans Day Events Calendar highlighting local observances and community celebrations honoring Oregon's veterans.

To view events near you, visit oregondva.com/event-calendar.

You can find the full press release [here](#).

Annual League Survey

Mark Your Calendars: Annual League Survey Opens Jan. 2026

With the Annual League Survey around the corner, LWVUS is committed to ensuring every League is prepared. Review our data collection materials on the [League Management Site](#) or reach out to the LWVUS evaluation team during [their office hours](#). For additional information, email evaluation@lww.org.

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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