

You're receiving this email because you are a member or have requested a subscription with League of Women Voters of Oregon. Please [confirm](#) your continued interest in receiving email from us.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

April 28, 2009

Vol 19, Issue 15



Legislative Report



League of Women
Voters of Oregon

Help Prevent Cuts to Services for Seniors and People with Disabilities



[SB 5529](#), the budget bill for the Department of Human Services, contains the Division of Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD). Many Oregon seniors and disabled persons have relied upon the agency for meals, transportation and

community supports in order to remain in their own homes. This division and its programs were reviewed by the Human Services Ways and Means subcommittee during the past week. The reduction options at 30% were presented and public testimony was received the next day ([see report](#)). [Link here to read a list of reductions](#).

LWVOR finds these reductions to be unacceptable and urges members and concerned Oregonians to contact their legislators to request that revenue resources be found to continue necessary programs for vulnerable citizens. [See the 5-Minute Activist](#).

Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator

5-Minute Activist

Please contact your state legislators today with this message:

Protect Oregon's most vulnerable citizens and maintain basic infrastructure needs. Although some cuts are inevitable, I would like you to support an *increase in revenue*.

I support: [choose one or two of the following to emphasize]

- Increasing the income taxes paid by corporations; be as equitable as possible in protecting small businesses and



In This Issue

Help Prevent Cuts to Services for Seniors and People with Disabilities

5-Minute Activist

Children's Mental Health Services

Natural Resources Is All About Budgets

Ways and Means Public Hearings Tour

Budget Cuts Challenge People with Disabilities

What do these things have in common?

Meet Our New Legislative Intern

Speaking the Language of the Legislature

Calendar of Events



Quick Links

[LWVOR Action Team](#)

[LWV of Oregon Join the League](#)

[LWV of the United](#)

- returning fairness and equity to the system.
- Adding a 4th bracket to the individual income tax or place a surcharge on incomes above \$250,000 with a sunset date.
- Increasing certain taxes, such as cigarette and beer, to be used to fund specific programs.
- Using Rainy Day and Educational Stability Reserve Funds.
- Using the federal stimulus funds and account for them in preserving services and providing jobs.
- Taking advantage of matching federal funds where possible.

For more information, read the [LWVOR Action Alert](#).

[States](#)

[Oregon State
Legislature
Contact List of
State Senators
Contact List of
State
Representatives
Eclips from Oregon
State Library](#)

[About the
Legislature's Web
Site
Communicating
with Your
Legislator](#)

Children's Mental Health Services

In 2005-07 biennium the Children's System Change Initiative was passed with the intent to treat children with mental health disorders within their families rather than in residential placements. This major change in the system provided savings in residential placement costs but lacked an adequate transfer of funds to the community.



Printer-Friendly
Version



This session, the Children's Wraparound Initiative, in [HB 2144-A](#), was proposed by the Department of Human Services to mandate the development of "wraparound" services. "Wraparound" means a plan to provide a unique set of community services and support for youth and their families. The System of Care provides state and local agencies with services to children, targeting early intervention as well as high-needs youth.

HB 2144-A passed the House Human Services Committee on April 10, followed by a House floor vote on April 22. It is headed for a Senate Committee. LWVOR will continue to track the new developments and will work toward updating our Mental Health Services for Children and Youth position.

Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator

Natural Resources Is All About Budgets



This is the Natural Resources report, but it's really all about budgets. At the beginning of the session there were lots of good ideas about how to change Oregon laws and direct agencies to do good work. Many of the bills left for consideration still have good ideas, but the language has become "if resources are available", "shall" has been changed to "may" and groups that had, in past years, objected to new or increased fees are now saying "yes" in order to save programs that benefit them. I have linked an incomplete [list of bills](#) still in play. April 28th is the deadline for each chamber's policy committees (except Rules and Revenue) to act on bills.

Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator

Ways and Means Public Hearings Tour



We are beginning the second week of the Ways and Means Committee hearings around the state. If the committee has not been to your part of the state yet, please plan to go and listen to what is being said.

Talking points and background information have been in the last three [Legislative Reports](#).

OUR LEGISLATORS NEED TO HEAR FROM US AS THEY ARE MAKING IMPORTANT DECISIONS ABOUT REVENUE AND SPENDING NOW.

The remaining hearings are:

Wednesday, April 29th - Bend
Central Oregon Community College
Cascades Hall Room 117
5:30 - 8:00 PM

Friday, May 1 - Eugene
University of Oregon
Cascades Hall Room 117

Thursday, April 30th - Ashland
Southern Oregon University - Stevenson Union, Rogue River Room
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Budget Cuts Challenge People with Disabilities

The hearing for [SB 5529](#) (the budget bill for the Department of Human Services) relating to the Seniors and People with Disabilities Division had a good showing on Wednesday. A big theme for both people representing seniors and people with disabilities was the funding for training. Caregivers and family members were both represented. The parents want to be able to take care of their kids at home but also want some help from well trained caregivers. People rely on respite care to give them some stress-free moments off from the 24-hour care. One parent said this was the only thing preventing them from sending their child to a group home, which would cost more for the state.



A representative from the Linn County Developmental Disabilities Program said there was a 40% increase in kids served but no new funding. More people need help, but with the 30% budget cut, 1600 jobs could be lost. Some of the strongest voices were at the end: they were the people who receive services. People are worried that their lives, and the freedoms they enjoy, are about to change.

Tracy Johnson, Legislative Intern

What do these things all have in common?



What do natural resources, health care, revenue, ethics, campaign finance reform, election laws, energy, global warming, Oregon Health Authority, earned income tax credits, Oregon Rainy Day Fund, greenhouse gases, land use planning, clean water and air, housing, climate change, bottle bill, petitions, initiatives and ballots, Ballot Measure 49, budget legislation AND more budget legislation (whew!) have in common?

They are all subjects of bills that the League has been following. The League has been

tracking more than 180 bills, and the matrix has links to over 60 League testimonies. We're not done yet; there is more to come. Enter the door to the [Action Matrix!](#)

Meet Our New Legislative Intern



I am really excited to be interning at the League of Women Voters. I am a senior at Oregon State with a major in Political Science and a minor in Business. I have only been here for a few weeks and already have met some wonderful people; it was important for me to find an internship with people who would inspire me. I have always known that government was important, but I have learned so much by seeing how things work in action and being part of an organization that helps inform the public. I am looking forward to learning more.

Tracy Johnson, Legislative Intern

Speaking the Language of the Legislature



"Gut and Stuff": A slang term which refers to removing the text of a measure and inserting entirely new language which, while it may change the nature of the bill completely, still falls under the measure's "relating-to" clause.

For more definitions, see the Legislature's [glossary of terms](#).

Mark the Date

May 1 (Friday) - [Global Warming Commission meeting](#), 9 am to 1 pm, Oregon State Library, Rm. 102-103. Public welcome.

Legislature Action Dates

April 28 (Tuesday) Deadline for consideration of changes in chamber of origin*

May 4-16 Joint Committee on Ways and Means: public hearings on policy bills with budgetary impacts

May 17 (Friday) Ways and Means Co-chairs' budgets released

May 20 (Wednesday) Deadline to schedule work sessions in second chamber*

May 28 (Thursday) Committees close*

June 30 or before (Tuesday) Sine Die

*Except Joint Ways and Means, Senate Finance and Revenue, House Revenue, Senate and House Rules Committees

[Forward email](#)

✉ [SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

This email was sent to lwwor@lwvor.org by lwwor@lwvor.org.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



League of Women Voters of Oregon | 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200 | Salem | OR | 97302