

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.

January 22, 2009

Vol 19, Issue 2



## Legislative Report



League of Women  
Voters of Oregon

### Priority #1, Dealing with Oregon's Fiscal Crisis

Legislators and state officials face their greatest challenge in decades as they learn the true extent of jobs lost, home foreclosures and the impacts on programs and services provided by state and local governments.



The revenue forecasts are grim. The next forecast is due February 20 and will include estimates for both 2007-09 and 2009-11. For 2009-11, the range of shortfalls runs from the current \$1.4 billion to up to \$4 billion, which is almost one fourth of our General Fund.

(Of interest: a memo to Governor Kulongoski on ["Economic & Revenue Forecast"](#) and documents from the [Office of Economic Analysis: "Current Economic Conditions and Outlook"](#).

The dilemma for decision makers is how to protect education, human services, public safety, natural resources, and transportation services with some sort of priority order.

New and significant this session: **Bills are required to have a fiscal impact statement before moving out of committee.** Bills may not even make it out of committee if implementing the policies costs money.

The League will be watching carefully and offering comments when appropriate as we likewise work toward prioritizing the issues on our legislative agenda.

*Kappy Eaton, Governance Coordinator*

### Economic Stimulus Bill

### In This Issue

Priority #1, Dealing with Oregon's Fiscal Crisis  
Economic Stimulus Bill  
Access to the Legislature  
Keeping an Eye on "Good Government" Issues



### Quick Links

[LWVOR Action Team](#)  
[Oregon State Legislature](#)  
[LWV of Oregon](#)  
[Join the League](#)  
[Contact List of State Senators](#)  
[Contact List of State Representatives](#)  
[About the Legislative Web Site](#)  
[Communicating with Your Legislator](#)  
[LWV of the United States](#)



A recent press release from the Office of the Senate and the House Speaker announced that the economic revitalization bill should be on the Governor's desk by the end of the first week in February. Action is expected by the full Ways and Means Committee by Friday, January 23 in order to qualify for the proposed February sales of state-backed bonds. Read the full text of the [stimulus bill news release](#). Go to the [Legislative Fiscal web site](#) to see documents related to the Oregon deferred maintenance and economic stimulus package.

---

## Access to the Legislature

I am again serving as Public Access Chair for the LWV this session. It is important that legislators know the public and the League are watching and listening. The good news so far: the Senate and House have agreed to have at least a 48-hour public notice for hearings.



## 5 Minute Activist

You may also be asked to help lobby your legislator or other legislators either from your home or by coming to Salem. I hope you can set aside 5 minutes to help.

## Attend the Legislature from Home

Remember that you do not need to be in Salem to watch a hearing or floor session. Link to [About the Legislative Web Site](#) for more information. This is also one of the Quick Links provided each issue.

## Access Problems

If you have any problems with accessing a hearing, contacting your legislator, or finding out about a bill or any part of the legislative process, please let me hear from you (email: [lwvor@lwvor.org](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org)). If I do not know about the problems then I cannot work on a solution.

*Paula Krane, Public Access Coordinator*

---

## Keeping an Eye on "Good Government" Issues

### Election Laws

Several bills have been drafted including:

- Same-day voter registration;
- Shifting some of the burden of election costs from counties to the state
- Instant runoff for local elections
- Allowing early counting of ballots.

### Initiative Reform

Various ideas are being discussed in meetings of a bipartisan Initiative Reform Coalition, of which the League is a part.

Changes enacted by the 2007 Legislature:

- More oversight in how petitions are passed and signed;
- Registration, training, and payment rules for petition passers;
- Requiring 1,000 signatures before obtaining a ballot title.

New proposals:

- Greater enforcement during the signature gathering period;
- Increased clarity for voters of the fiscal impacts on current and future programs;
- Consideration of ways to prevent statutory material from being placed in the Oregon Constitution;
- Implementation of an indirect initiative. This would allow legislative deliberation for all citizen initiatives after they have qualified for the ballot.

### Ethics Reform

There will be further "tweaking" of the 2007 legislation. Changes are needed to fix the "huge net" which caught local officials in reporting the economic interests of not only themselves but their extended families. There will also be discussions to clarify reporting requirements for receipt of gift, food, and entertainment.

*Kappy Eaton, Governance Coordinator*



### [Forward email](#)

#### **SafeUnsubscribe**®

This email was sent to lwvor@lwvor.org by [lwvor@lwvor.org](mailto:lwvor@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