



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF OREGON

Biennial Report 2007-2009

Making a Genuine Difference

- Inspired members to volunteer over 125,000 hours for our advocacy and membership efforts
- Provided civic engagement training to more than 400 people
- Testified on 118 bills at the Legislature in 2008 and 2009
- Provided in-depth updates and advocacy opportunities for 1100+ subscribers to our weekly *Legislative Report*
- Worked with 32 coalitions, task forces and advisory committees
- Affected the outcome of 11 ballot measures

**Advocating
for the
Common
Good**



Courtesy Oregon State Legislature

As President of LWVOR since 2007, I take great pride in what our members have accomplished to make our communities better places to live. Our reputation as one of Oregon's most respected organizations remains solid.

This is because we are unique - a truly grassroots, nonpartisan, political organization committed to in-depth research, civil



Marge Easley
President
2007-09

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Taking Action at the Oregon State Legislature



Our LWVOR volunteers spent nearly every day at the Capitol during the 2008 and 2009 Legislative Sessions. Our action team followed more than 300 bills, and submitted formal comments or testimony 118 times.

We kept our members and the public involved and informed with our weekly *Legislative Report*. Also to help members and others understand issues and how to influence legislation, we conducted various action workshops, including Legislative Process Day in November 2008 and Day at the Legislature in April 2009.

Our past efforts working for increased public access to the legislative process paid off during the 2009 session. Oregonians were given reasonable notice for meetings, and their participation was welcomed.

Although the recession cast a cloud over the session and severely affected the budget process, we helped pass some significant legislation in many areas.

Landmark legislation was passed to allow voters to register online, to participate in open primary elections, and to encourage voter participation, an issue on which the League was founded.

In the area of social policy, comprehensive changes occurred in health reform, ensuring that no child in Oregon will go without health insurance coverage. For the first time, the state adopted a policy on homelessness, an effort that grew in part from our 2006 study on homeless youth.

Our ongoing water study helped us to be strong advocates for legislation to better protect the state's water resources. Years of League work on other natural resource issues helped lead to successes in reducing carbon emissions and establishing pilot marine reserves.



Alice Bartelt, LWVOR
Action Chair



Paula Hird, LWVOR
Legislative Administrator

Even when the Legislature was not in session, the League was hard at work, monitoring interim committees and attending most sessions of the meetings of the Public Commission on the Legislature, the Big Look Task Force on land use issues, and the Task Force on Revenue Restructuring.



Courtesy Oregon State Legislature

About the League of Women Voters of Oregon and the LWVOR Education Fund

Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) has a membership of more than 1,500 women and men volunteers. Our Education Fund was established in 1980, affirming our commitment to providing nonpartisan information to help Oregonians understand vital public issues that affect us all. LWVOR is the advocacy arm of the League, while the Education Fund provides information that is as balanced and neutral as possible.

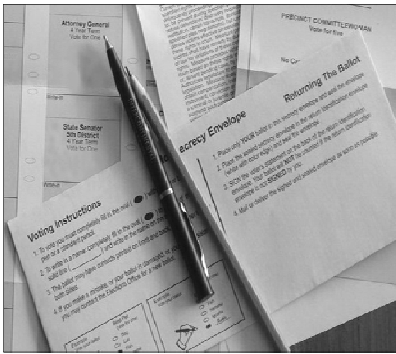
Nonpartisanship

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a nonpartisan organization and never supports or opposes any political candidate or political party. Our membership is open to women and men from all political parties and those not affiliated with any party. We work with elected officials from all parties.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon may take stands on issues after we have conducted a thorough, balanced study of these issues under the auspices of our Education Fund **and** after LWVOR members have discussed and agreed upon an advocacy position based on the findings of the study.

Our sister organization, the League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund, is totally educational and never advocates for or against any party, candidate, policy or ballot issue.

Taking a Stand on Ballot Measures



In the past two years, we have taken a strong stand on eleven statewide ballot measures, basing our support or opposition on extensive research and member consensus. In 2007, we worked hard, along with coalition partners, for the passage of Measure 49 to help preserve Oregon's agricultural industry and special places. In 2008 we took a position on ten of the twelve ballot measures, on issues as wide ranging as voting fairness, representative democracy, Constitutional rights, fiscal responsibility, funding for drug treatment centers, and housing safety standards.

Creating Community and Developing Leaders

"When I joined the League, I found that it was an almost ideal outlet to accomplish real progress, together with other like-minded citizens, in a nonpartisan effort to work on issues of mutual concern. I learned that an individual can certainly have an impact on issues that they have a passion for, but an individual can have even greater impact by working in the League."

Norman Turrill, member, LWV of Portland and director, League of Women Voters of the United States



"I worked with the action committee during the 2009 Legislative Session, following the progress of energy and transportation bills. When the League weighs in on issues it has a major impact on legislators. They appreciate the viewpoint of public advocates from the League, because this side is often under-represented."

Elizabeth Rathbun, member, LWV of Portland

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President, 2007-09

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1st Vice President, 2007-08

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Our Mission

The League of Women Voters® of Oregon (LWVOR) is a grassroots, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government in order to build better communities statewide.

LWVOR's purposes are to influence public policy through education and advocacy, and to provide support for League members and the League organization.

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dialogue, and advocacy on behalf of all Oregonians. What other organization can claim that they have a cadre of volunteers from across the state who are willing to give over 62,000 hours each year, not for personal gain, but because they want to make a difference?

As we head into our 90th year, LWVOR has great plans for the future. We want to expand our outreach, inspire more Oregonians to be civically engaged, and work toward more effective and efficient government. Our newly crafted vision statement says it all. As League members, we *"envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good."*

Won't you help us reach our goals? We are counting on your support. Please join us as a member or as a donor.



Thank You to Our Contributors

141 LWV members and 164 friends made donations to LWVOR in 2007-2009 in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$600. These donations from individuals totaled \$29,238, or about 25% of our income!

The names of all our donors are listed on our web site, www.lwvor.org. We greatly value and depend on their generosity and are grateful to all of them for helping us make democracy work in Oregon.

Financial Report: LWVOR

INCOME	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	Biennium 07-09
Member dues/fees	25,934	24,553	
Member cash contributions	5,950	11,930	
Nonmember cash contributions	5,090	6,268	
Non-cash contributions	1,218	2,870	
Other fundraisers	0	14,970	
Meeting fees	4,401	9,292	
Equipment fees	1,800	2,300	
Interest/dividends	2,334	915	
Sales/subscriptions	1,932	298	
Miscellaneous	100	0	
TOTAL INCOME	\$48,759	\$73,396	\$122,155
EXPENSES	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	Biennium 07-09
Office and Administration	26,735	31,584	
Development	9,012	13,528	
Membership support/meetings	7,271	11,739	
Newsletter	4,029	3,484	
Advocacy activities	4,666	14,665	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$51,713	\$75,000	\$126,713