



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF OREGON Biennial Report 2009-2011

## Making a Genuine Difference

- Inspired members to volunteer over 150,000 hours for our advocacy and membership efforts
- Provided civic engagement training to more than 680 people
- Testified on 109 bills at the Legislature in 2010 and 2011
- Provided in-depth updates and advocacy opportunities for 1100+ subscribers to our weekly *Legislative Report*
- Worked with 28 coalitions, task forces and advisory committees

Advocating  
for the  
Common  
Good

## It has been an honor

to represent an organization that has remained true to its mission for so many years. A landmark anniversary has given League members an opportunity, not only to revisit that remarkable history, but to trumpet our success and inspire others to get involved. In 2010, we celebrated, at the state Capitol and in local communities around the state the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League of Women Voters. The League's longevity, spirit of volunteerism, and nonpartisan activism are valuable assets that enhance our reputation and credibility, especially during today's economic turmoil

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Marge Easley  
President  
2009-11



# Taking Action



## At the Oregon State Legislature

Our LWVOR volunteers spent nearly every day at the Capitol during the 2010 and 2011 legislative sessions. Our action team followed more than 460 bills and submitted formal comments or testimony 109 times.

The 76th session of the Oregon Assembly was like no other in its 152 years. Over the Capitol hung the pall of a \$3.5 billion deficit, as well as the need to rebalance the current budget. In addition, the House was evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans, and the Democrats held a two member majority in the Senate. This was the first session to have an adjournment deadline, followed the next year by the first annual session. Redistricting was accomplished by the 2011 Legislature for the first time in four decades.

A very positive factor in the ability of the Legislature to function was the series of interim committee meetings, which League members faithfully observed. This enabled discussion of important issues and development of pertinent legislation.

Because of all of our hard work in previous sessions and the knowledge that the League would be there watching, the Legislature was willing from the beginning to make the process more open and accessible to citizens.

Over the two sessions, we worked to preserve natural resource agency budgets.



*Alice Bartelt,  
LWVOR Action  
Chair*



*Kathy Greysmith,  
LWVOR Legislative  
Administrator*

In land use, we were successful in stopping yet another attack on citizen involvement.

We supported significant changes that improved voting access and the election and registration processes. In addition, we worked on bills that further reformed initiative laws.

We supported funding for safety net services to protect the most vulnerable. We also voiced our concerns about the corrections budget and the lack of resources for the courts.

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 action workshops, including Legislative Process Day in January 2011 and Day at the Legislature in April 2011.

## On Ballot Measures

In the past two years, we have taken a strong stand on six statewide ballot measures, basing our support or opposition on extensive research and member consensus. In January 2010, we worked hard, along with coalition partners, for the passage of Measures 66 and 67 to help fill the budget shortfall that affected many vital services for residents of Oregon.



Later in 2010 we took positions on four ballot measures, including the successful amendment to the Constitution to allow the Legislature to meet annually and two successful measures on parks and natural resources funding.

## 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 1,000 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.



## Honoring Our History

We celebrated our 90th anniversary in 2010 with a costumed event at the Capitol. Our anniversary inspired us to capture our history. Members and intern Liliana Gaitán researched the last 15 years of League activities, resulting in a publication anticipated for mid-2012. Intern Rachel Buckley interviewed on video League leaders from around the state and posted the results on LWVOR's YouTube channel, [www.YouTube.com/lwvor](http://www.YouTube.com/lwvor). The projects continue into 2012 when we will be celebrating 100 years of women's right to vote in Oregon.



## Creating Community and Developing Leaders

*"We were alarmed when Saturday bus service was curtailed. Then the funding ended for bus passes that local workers and students depended on. At the same time gas prices were rising dramatically. Others needed dependable public transit for reasons of health or increasing age. I agreed to chair a League study so we could gather the true facts on transit funding and services. A dozen League members and concerned community members pitched in to do research. Our goal was to craft a position statement that we could use to persuade government leaders to improve our local public transit system and ensure its sustainability."*

Sandra Smith Gangle, member, LWV of Marion/Polk Counties



*"I found that being president of the League not only gave me a tremendous amount of experience, but I also learned from all my connections with really wonderful League of Women Voters people. Getting to know people around the state was an exciting and illuminating experience, and I learned that I could do things I didn't know I could do."*

Margaret Noel, member, LWV of Portland

## Board of Directors 2009-2011

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President 2009-11  
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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.

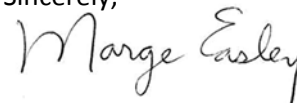
LWVOR's purposes are to influence public policy through education and advocacy, and to provide support for League members and the League organization.

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and political divisiveness.

Yet the League cannot rely solely on past achievements if we want to remain vital and relevant in a fast-moving world. This is why we have worked hard in recent years to increase our funding sources, partnership opportunities, visibility, and outreach capabilities. We are blessed with an incredibly hard-working team of volunteers and two dedicated part-time staff. We have made great strides in our use of new technology, improving our online presence through website upgrades, blogs, webinars, and social media such as Facebook and Twitter. We are understandably proud of our history, but equally proud of the work we continue to do each day to engage and inform a new generation of voters and to stand up for issues that promote the common good.

Sincerely,



## Thank You to Our Contributors

133 LWV members and 173 friends made donations to LWVOR in 2009-2011 in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$1730. These donations from individuals totaled \$27,225 or about 20% of our income!

The names of all our donors are listed on our web site, [www.lwvor.org](http://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

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>FY 09-10</b>	<b>FY 10-11</b>	<b>Biennium 09-11</b>
Member dues/fees	30,736	28,476	
Member cash contributions	8,177	11,895	
Nonmember cash contributions	5,535	5,843	
Non-cash contributions	4,016	2,604	
Other fundraisers	50	13,910	
Meeting fees	4,690	9,461	
Equipment fees	3,500	4,500	
Interest/dividends	86	52	
Sales/subscriptions	1,619	289	
Miscellaneous	100	0	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$58,209</b>	<b>\$77,030</b>	<b>\$135,239</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>FY 09-10</b>	<b>FY 10-11</b>	<b>Biennium 09-11</b>
Office and Administration	33,932	33,445	
Development	10,190	11,844	
Membership support/meetings	8,269	13,356	
Newsletter	3,789	3,990	
Advocacy activities	5,906	12,638	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$62,086</b>	<b>\$75,273</b>	<b>\$137,359</b>