



VOTER

Looking Ahead to The Legislative Session

Alice Bartelt, Action Committee Chair

The beginning of the next legislative session will be here before we know it. The Action Committee will shift into high gear once the session opens. There could be as many as 3000 bills introduced, with the Action Committee following many of them. Those serving on the Action Committee are volunteers who put in many hours of work each week of the session.

The biggest issue that will be considered during the session will be the budget. Forecasts are that there will be at least a billion-dollar shortfall. How that problem will be resolved is the biggest question looming over the lawmakers. This problem will affect every state agency, many of which the League is concerned about. Perhaps the failure of Measure 97 will serve as a reason for the legislature to consider tax reform.

Before the session starts, you will have the opportunity to learn how the Legislature works. Legislative Process Day (<http://lwvor.org/event/legislative-process-day-2017/>), on January 10, 2017 will feature the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate. In addition, we will hear from Oregon's new Secretary of State, Dennis Richardson. It should be a very informative meeting, and the Action Committee will be there to answer your questions.

During the session, members of the Action Committee write a weekly Legislative Report (<http://lwvor.org/home/take-action/legislative-reports/>). This informative publication will allow you to see and learn about the work of our volunteers in the Capitol. In addition, the Committee meets at the Capitol every Monday during the session. Our meetings are usually held at 10:30, and any member is invited to attend.



State Scenic Waterways Your Voice Needed

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Send address changes to:
LWVOR State Office
1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97302
email: lwvor@lwvor.org

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VOTER Editor: Karan Kuntz

LWVOR Mission

The League of Women Voters® of Oregon is a grassroots, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government in order to build better communities statewide. The state League's purposes are to influence public policy through education and advocacy and to provide support for League members and the League organization.

Peggy Lynch, Natural resources Action Chair

Recently Oregon added two portions (reaches) of rivers to our list of State Scenic Waterways—a part of the Molalla and the Chetco Rivers. The Clackamas and Curry County Leagues provided voices in support of these designations. Governor Kate Brown has requested that Oregon Parks and Recreation Department analyze one waterway per biennium for possible inclusion in the state scenic waterway program, consistent with ORS 390.855. The League has been invited to participate in this new process and again your local voices are needed. The first meeting of this committee was Nov. 29th.

The newest [State Trails Plan](#) has a list of potential waterways to include. Please see the map on page 197 which shows rivers that OPRD is considering for potential study. This list was generated from online surveys and public meetings. **OPRD will also consider any other waterways that meets the criteria set in statute.** The criteria and other information about the program can be found in the [Scenic Waterway Brochure](#). For more in depth information on the program and the recent process that led to the designation of the two newest state scenic waterways, please go to <http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/NATRES/scenicwaterways/Pages/index.aspx>.

The League understands the multiple uses of our waterways, and we engage in a variety of committees related to water quantity and quality. **The highest and best use of state scenic waterways are fish, wildlife and recreation uses.** Thus, the program can lead to restrictions on some types of suction dredge mining and new dams. Designated waterways also have flows set by the Water Resources Commission to help maintain the free-flowing character of the waterway in quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife. Similarly, land uses near the waterway may be restricted and/or specific land uses (e.g. some agriculture) may be exempted from review.

Please send your recommendations to Peggy Lynch, LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator @ peggylynchor@gmail.com OR directly to Alex.Phillips@oregon.gov at the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

President's Column / Norman Turrill

I have agonized about what I could write to you in this *Voter* over a month after the election is over (Thank God!) that would make any difference. Much ink has already been spilled on this subject. I think it is at least useful to reflect on our accomplishments, consider what we can learn from our experience, and look forward to the legislative session.

I will not repeat the excellent accomplishments in our voter education programs that Becky Gladstone and Anne Emmons have reviewed elsewhere in this *Voter*, except to congratulate and wholeheartedly thank all the many volunteers for a job well done!

If you look at the election results in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania where recounts are now being contested, you will see that the tally of votes for Jill Stein exceeded the margin of victory for Donald Trump. This depressingly shows the “spoiler effect” and “voters’ dilemma,” which demonstrate the weaknesses of our current plurality election method, and which make our current LWVOR Election Methods Update Study so important. I will note that the 2009 LWVOR Election Methods position allowed the LWV of Corvallis to support the ranked choice voting ballot measure that won in Benton County. The whole state of Maine will also now use ranked choice voting. While we should wait to see how these measures work in the longer run, these are encouraging developments!

The fact that Trump will win the Electoral College but not the popular vote shows how important the LWVUS positions in favor of abolishing the Electoral College or for adopting the National Popular Vote Compact are. We in Oregon will have to put the maximum pressure on our legislature to adopt the National Popular Vote Compact during the next session. Ten other states and DC, representing 165 electoral votes, have already adopted it. We can add Oregon’s 7 electoral votes to the additional 105 votes needed.

Finally, after all the nasty campaign ads and fake news (<http://lifehacker.com/how-to-spot-and-debunk-fake-news-1789464059>), I would urge everyone to stop all the speculation and wait to see what happens before we again spring into action.

The League is needed more than ever! We are a trusted source of election information and civil discourse. This election could spur on our efforts for more civics education in our schools (<http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/11/is-trumps-victory-the-jump-start-civics-education-needed/507293/>). The League has actually gained new members since the election. We now need to thoughtfully ask them how they would like to be involved. We welcome the energy and commitment new volunteers are bringing to the League!

Norman Turrill, n.turrill@lwwor.org



Bylaws Amendment Proposals Are Due in Early February

If a local League, state unit, or member would like to propose amendments to the LWVOR bylaws, those proposals must be submitted by February 12 to Alice Bartelt, Bylaws Committee Chair, a.bartelt@lwwor.org. Submit the proposed wording and the rationale for amending the bylaws. The board will review the proposals, recommend or not recommend each amendment, and forward them to the members six weeks ahead of the Convention, to be held May 12-14, 2017 in Wilsonville.

How to Follow Up on Our Awesome Election Work.

Kathleen Hersh, Membership Chair

Acknowledge and celebrate the members and other volunteers who helped. Thank them and ask about their interests. Find out how and why they came to the League around the election. Find out what other ways they would like to be involved. Use this information to keep them in the loop on future activities.

Check in with organizations that your League partnered with. Learn what the areas of common interest and work are. Share our future plans. Explore a renewed partnership.

Let us build a strong and vibrant organization that is ready for our second hundred years of Making Democracy Work®.

Member Agreement Committees

Alice Bartelt, Action Coordinator

Now that the Leagues are considering the consensus questions for both the Election Methods Update and the Public Postsecondary Education studies, we need a couple of members to serve on each committee that will write our positions based upon the responses to those consensus questions. There will be two committees. Ideally, one member of each committee will come from a large league and one from a small league. But, members at large are also welcome to volunteer. Each committee will meet once in person, although members may also attend by Skype or a similar program. After the initial meetings, follow-up will likely be done by email. If you are willing to volunteer for one of these important committees, please contact Alice Bartelt at a.bartelt@lwvor.org.

Update on Our Children's Trust Lawsuit

Peggy Lynch,

On November 10, 2016, Eugene Oregon Federal U.S. District Court Judge Ann Aiken [ruled in favor](#) of the 21 youth plaintiffs in their landmark constitutional climate change lawsuit, *Juliana et al v. United States*. Judge Aiken denied motions by the federal government and the fossil fuel industry to dismiss the lawsuit, determining that the case can move to trial. The judge's order also grants the motion of the LWVUS and LWVOR to intervene as amici curiae in the case. Judge Aiken's historical 54-page ruling includes quotes from the League's September 12, 2016 Amicus Brief.

The lawsuit is one of many initiated by Our Children's Trust and based on the Public Trust Doctrine, due process claims, standing to sue/injury in fact, causation/redressability and constitutional rights to life and liberty / Infringement of a Fundamental Right. The Nov 10 ruling included, "A strong and independent judiciary is the cornerstone of our liberties." These words, spoken by Oregon Senator Mark O. Hatfield, are etched into the walls of the Portland United States courthouse for the District of Oregon. The words appear on the first floor, a daily reminder that it is "emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is." "Even when a case implicates hotly contested political issues, the judiciary must not shrink from its role as a coequal branch of government...."

[More information here](#)

http://participate.lwv.org/c/9217/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=10275.

Voter Service Fall 2016 Election Review

Becky Gladstone, 1ST Voter Service & Education

Our League voting information was in demand for the 2016 general election. Kudos to our local League Voter Service volunteers, event managers, video producers and Voters' Guide distributors. Thank you to the State Library, TBABS and the State Elections Division for distributing our Large Print, Braille and Audio Voters' Guides. Thank you to Mary Sinclair for managing information collection for the state, Peggy Bengry for Multnomah coverage, and Sarah Andrews for our VOTEResources web pages. If a committed team of six volunteers is found, we will be able to continue providing this service. We will need volunteer help for data collection and management, for tech support to candidates, for Voters' Guide formatting and layout, and for audio, large print, and online versions. You are more needed than ever.



Video Voters' Guide host Marge Easley interviewing candidate Suzanne Bonamici.

PRINT Voters' Guides

LWVOR covered research of seven state ballot measures and 40 candidates, production and delivery costs of our state guides for our local Leagues. We printed 21,000 English copies at a cost of \$0.32 and 4,500 Spanish copies at \$1.11, including translation and editing.

Distribution was a challenge as we ran out of printed guides with heavier demand than expected. We heard of less recycling of undistributed guides. We need better outreach and publicity within our communities to forecast and fulfill voter education needs. Thank you to Luis Nava for extensive distribution of the majority of our Spanish print Voters' Guides. Thank you to Beatriz Robles Kieser for contributing editing labor with last minute information added to our guides.

VIDEO Voters' Guides

Thank you to Clackamas and Portland Leagues and their video production partners, which had more candidate interviews than ever. We linked to other League debates and events around Oregon too.

VOTEResources online

Online our portfolio covered over 300 Oregon ballot measures and 1,125 candidates running in 680 separate races. We repeatedly contacted many of our 240+ cities and all 36 county clerks, asking for emails to invite candidates and provide tech support for them. We will be evaluating competing software vendors, including VotersEdge, used by the California League, which does not use Vote411. We boosted the Track Your Ballot program provided by Oregon Elections and adopted by 10 of our counties. We hope that improved coordination of candidate filing at municipal, county and state levels will mirror the improved election results reporting.

(Continued on page 6.)

Voter Service (Continued from page 5.)

VOTEResources Web Analysis for the 30 Days before the election	Views
Oregon Ballot Measures	9,138
Voters' Guides & Info	7,735
Standard Voters' Guide - General Election - 2016	6,895
League of Women Voters of Oregon- homepage	6,065
VOTEResources in Oregon	5,137
Oregon Ballot Measures By County	5,000
Oregon Candidates By County	3,733
LWVOR Board Takes Positions on Ballot Measures	2,401
Standard Voters' Guide - Primary 2016	1,043
Our Positions	903

Speakers' Bureau

As promised, we updated the ballot measure analysis procedure with much needed revised guidelines. Thank you to the researchers, editing committee and speakers in our Leagues around the state. Our warm thanks to the Elections Division for developing their webpages to provide organized sources to the extensive information we use to analyze these measures.

Civics Education and Mock Elections

We continue active revisions and updating of our Civics Education curriculum. Please see our Mock Election coverage at LWVOR's Facebook webpage.

Healthcare Reform Google Group

Jean Galleher, LWVUV Member,

Linda Mahan (LWV Larimer County, CO) and Linda Hawkins (LWV St. Tammany, LA) have started a Google Group (lwwv4healthreform@gmail.com) for League members across the country to share news and post information about healthcare reform. The group began this fall. The group is for communication among League members only. Individuals will be required to sign their post with their name, their League, and any position they hold within the League. Interested LWVOR members should email either Linda Mahan (lmahan@alum.bu.edu) or Linda Hawkins (abitahawk@gmail.com) with a request to join. Provide them with your name, League, and email address.

Bi-monthly HCR4US conference calls will also continue. These calls are open to any League member interested in the topic of healthcare reform. To be added to the conference call list, email either Jean Hopkins, LWV Champlain Valley, VT (seahedi@earthlink.net) or Linda Mahan, LWV, Larimer County, CO (lmahan@alum.bu.edu). There are currently over 45 League members from 17 states on the call list. The next conference call will be on Sunday, January 22nd, at 4:00 pm PST.

LWVOR 2016 Mock Election Was a Success

Anne Emmons, LWVOR Mock Elections Chair

We have completed a successful 2016 Mock Election with over 70 schools participating this year. We compared our participation list from 2014 to the current school listings in the Oregon Bluebook, and sent principals at schools that did not participate in 2014 an invitation to encourage their teachers to register and we were able to add 31 new schools.

We found many participating teachers from previous years had moved or retired, so we decided to reach out to new teachers by visiting them at school. Personal contact with teachers helps support their efforts and inspires them to use our civic ed activities and register for our mock election, as was the case at Hermiston High School. When I learned the teacher who ran the school-wide mock election through our program in 2014 had retired, I dropped by the school when I had some free time and visited with a couple of teachers about our program. I also gave them some of our printed Voters Guides. They then registered and ran a school-wide mock election using our materials. I don't think they would have run a mock election if I had not made that personal contact.

In surveying our 2016 participants we found the majority of responders plan to use our materials in the next 2 years. Teachers who have used our program in the past expressed a desire to have more emphasis on Oregon's statewide and local issues. While at the Oregon State Education Department Social Studies Seminar this past summer, the prevailing comment heard from the attendees was that students need more hands on activities to help them learn. By encouraging and supporting participation in a mock election, we are giving students hands on experience in voting. Personal contact with students gives them the message that they are a part of the local community, and the community values their participation. As we look toward the 2018 election, we hope local Leagues can help make that personal contact with their community schools. We plan to work with Oregon's Election Department and the Secretary of State's Office to create a ballot that includes state and local races. We will be able to also include information from our other voter services resources.



Mock Election Voting in Walterville Elementary School in Springfield



Join us on Jan. 10, 9:30am-2:30pm at the Capitol!

Advance registration required! Please register by Jan. 4.

Highlights:

Registration begins at 9:30, lunch at noon. Speakers include the new Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, the Clerk of the House of Representatives Timothy Sekerak, and the Secretary of the Senate Lori Brocker. The LWVOR Action Committee will offer an overview of the 2017 legislative session. You will also be treated to a performance of the Not Ready for Prime Time Players!

Event Details:

January 10th, 9:30 am-2:30 pm
 Oregon State Library, Rooms 102 and 103
 250 Winter St. NE
 Salem, OR 97301

Event Registration —Legislative Process Day 2017

Name: _____ League: _____

Address: _____ State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Ticket Options (circle one): Ticket (no lunch): \$20.00 Ticket & Lunch: \$30.00

Lunch Options (circle one)*:

Thai Chicken Wrap Honey Mustard Turkey Wrap Roast Beef Wrap Club Ranch Wrap Veggie Wrap

Capitol Parking Passes—\$15.50 (indicate quantity): _____

Send form and payment to the LWVOR state office at 1330 12th St SE Suite 200 Salem OR, 97302

*Morning refreshments provided free of charge

League of Women Voters® of Oregon

1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97302
503-581-5722; FAX 503-581-9403

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