



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

September 8, 2026

To: [Senator Wlnsvey Campos](#), [Representative Andrea Valderrama](#), Co-Chairs

[Joint Interim Subcommittee on Human Services](#), Joint Emergency Board, cc'd below

Re: Secretary of State Payment Processing Costs – **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports fully funding the proposed \$1,250,000 elections Emergency Board requests. The League encourages and protects voting as a fundamental citizen's right. This would: add 20 ballot drop boxes and ballot processing staff, reach out to inactive voters, and expand our ballot tracking system, from 5 counties now, to all of Oregon's counties. These actions are critically needed as Oregon, the birthplace of vote-by-mail elections, is litigating to protect our constitutional state rights to administer the time, place and manner of our elections.

- **DROP BOXES** A one-time investment of \$943,000 can add 20 drop boxes and help decrease USPS ballot return postage costs, long term. Extrapolated 2026 general election ballot return postage costs are \$4,359,210, for mailing all ballots, updated for postage cost and voting population increases from 2019's \$2.7M estimate. The League supports using ballot drop boxes, where possible, ([our testimony](#)) to save on prepaid ballot return costs, [SB 861 Enrolled](#) (2019). We are concerned by slower USPS delivery and recent USPS uncertainty in election news. In 2020, LWV [sued the Postmaster General over USPS changes](#). LWVOR noted dismantled central sorting machines and 31 mail box removals. We appreciate paying ballot postage to improve voter turnout, especially for youth, low-income and rural voters.
- **BALLOT TRACKING.** ~\$153 K. Provide ballot tracking statewide, to reassure voters as federal executive orders are increasing voter uncertainty. Providing this service can also fulfill an Oregon Elections Division Directive 2026-08 required action: *Track Ballots Rejected for Processing: Record any ballots that USPS rejects for processing, including the stated reason for rejection. Promptly report these rejections to the Elections Division.*
- **STAFFING** \$1,000 for each of the state's more than 300 ballot drop boxes, to help local elections cover the anticipated added drop box security, maintenance, and heavier use costs.
- **INACTIVE VOTER NOTIFICATION,** \$480 K. We support the proposed NRVA required notifications for Oregon's inactive voter rolls. This could help voters prevent unexpected removal for the 2026 general election. ***Note that ballots are not sent to inactive voters.*** The League supported Secretary of State Dennis Richardson's 2017 rule extending inactive voter status to 10 years.

We join the Secretary of State in asserting that "Our elections are secure, accurate, and fair and will continue to be so."

We urge your full support for these Oregon 2026 general election processing costs.

Thank you for considering funding this critical need.



Mark Kendall
President LWVOR



Rebecca Gladstone
Governance Coordinator

Cc: [Joint Interim Subcommittee on Human Services](#) members: [Senator Sara Gelser Blouin](#), [Senator Mike McLane](#), [Representative Travis Nelson](#), [Representative Gregory Smith](#)

Joint Emergency Board: [Senator Rob Wagner](#), [Representative Julie Fahey](#), [Senator Dick Anderson](#), [Senator Wlmsvey Campos](#), [Senator Fred Girod](#), [Senator Jeff Golden](#), [Senator Kayse Jama](#), [Senator Kate Lieber](#), [Senator Mike McLane](#), [Senator Bruce Starr](#), [Senator Kathleen Taylor](#), [Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson](#), [Representative Lucetta Elmer](#), [Representative Paul Evans](#), [Representative David Gomborg](#), [Representative Mark Owens](#), [Representative Ricki Ruiz](#), [Representative Tawna Sanchez](#)

NOTES:

- [Amid postal service uncertainty, Oregon election officials turn to ballot drop boxes](#), Oregon Capital Chronicle, Sept. 3, 2026
- [USPS Plays a 'Puzzle Game' With the Right to Vote](#), Lawfare, Sept. 3, 2026
- Extrapolated 2026 general election ballot return postage costs are \$4,359,210.93, if all ballots are mailed, updated for increases in postage cost and voting population. In 2019, \$2.7M was budgeted for prepaid ballot postage costs. Stamps in 2019 cost \$0.52. In 2026, they cost \$0.82. Oregon voting population has increased: [Oregon election results and history](#)
[Total Oregon registered voters for May 2020 primary election](#): 2,833,716
[Active Oregon voters, May 2026 primary election](#): 3,068,664
[SB 861 Enrolled](#) (2019) prepaid ballot return envelopes, [LWVOR testimony](#) at the request of Governor Kate Brown, Secretary of State Dennis Richardson and The Bus Project. \$2.7M was budgeted at a \$0.55 stamp cost, now \$0.82.
- [SoS Directive, Compliance with Oregon Election Law, 2026 general election ballot mailing deadlines](#), Aug. 25, 2026.
- [Oregon Secretary of State: Mail elections to continue as planned despite court setback](#). OR Cap Chronicle, Aug 25, 2026
- [Seven USPS mail sorting machines dismantled in Portland](#). KGW8, Aug 20, 2020.
- [LWV Newsroom, Aug 18, 2020](#)
“While we are pleased that the wide-scale disruptive changes made by the Postmaster General will temporarily cease, questions remain around how to make the United States Postal Service whole again—including restoring the deficiencies which these decisions caused in the middle of a pandemic and just months before a national election. The agency must present a clear plan for how it will replace the discarded equipment, reverse the damage done, and restore the American public’s confidence in our postal system.”
- [Oregon to restart removal of inactive voter registrations](#), Statesman Journal, Jan 12, 2026.
- [Richardson: Oregon aims to keep inactive voters on rolls](#), KTVZ21, Jun 11, 2018.