



BIENNIAL REPORT

2021-2023

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OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking Ahead to 2024

We are pleased to share this biennium's vigorous League work as a testament to our voters' reliance on us in this polarized political climate. Here are highlights:

Our Voter Services are better coordinated, including our statewide VOTE411.org coverage, the basis of our *Voters' Guides* portfolio. Our analytics showed that our information is vitally important. As local journalism declines nationally, we saw an overwhelming majority of first-time online visitors, spiking in rural areas, with 15% of registered Morrow County voters and 8% in Crook County visiting our websites.

Our LWWOR Advocacy has grown significantly, with over 250 testimony letters on Oregon legislative issues this biennium and online Legislative Reports. Regional and national advocacy is increasing, with LWWOR central for Climate Emergency work.

Our board has expanded with liaisons for Youth Council, DEI, Membership, and Youth Outreach.

Our brand new LWWOR Youth Council is seriously revitalizing outreach for our Oregon Student Mock Elections and Civics Education Curriculum for 2024.

We are on a firm financial footing. Our Development and Budget Committees are putting assets to work. We've improved staff retention.

Our board is thankful for the thousands of hours of work by our dedicated grassroots workers, our leaders, voter service organizers, advocates, our staff, and our extended networks around the country. We are thankful to our donors! I am thankful for our truly hard-working LWWOR board. We need all of us together to accomplish the diversity and magnitude of our work.

Thank you. We are Making Democracy Work!

Rebecca Gladstone

LWWOR President

MESSAGE FROM THE ADVOCACY CHAIR

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR Advocacy Chair



Our year-round advocacy addressed over 250 Oregon legislative issues this biennium, now better documented on our website and in OLIS, the Oregon Legislative Information System. Policy work continues for Climate Change, Natural Resources, Governance, and Social Policy. After sessions, we monitor statute, administrative rules, and budget development. Our Legislative Reports are available online and emailed to our members year-round. These reports increase to weekly during sessions. Initiative efforts continue to reform Oregon's campaign financing and to consider an independent redistricting commission. Several League advocates are official appointees.

Our regional and national advocacy is increasing. LWVOR is central to national awareness and global efforts to address our worsening Climate Emergency and resultant Climate Immigration. Litigation continues for Juliana v US for Our Children's Trust, with LWVOR bringing in LWV(US), both as amicus supporters. Our decades-long Columbia River and Bonneville Power collaboration is active. Our extensive legislative support to protect Oregon's elections, the workers, offices, voters, and candidates, is being shared nationally. Our efforts toward our cybersecurity and privacy position adoption by national concurrence failed at the LWVUS 2022 convention.

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VOTER SERVICE

Safeguarding democracy in 2024

As local journalism decreases, our voting information is critical. Our analytics show rural county use spiking: 15% of Morrow and 8% of Crook registered voters used VOTE411.org. We have extended our local voting publicity grants.

Voter Service Chair Peggy Bengry improved coordination and was astounded and delighted with local League volunteers, genuinely happy to be more involved! Leagues sharing districts coordinated to ask their candidates much more interesting questions, posting candidates' answers on VOTE411.org.



A PORTFOLIO OF VOTERS' GUIDES!

We still print state guides in English and Spanish and give them to local Leagues. We make the guides available online with both audio-reader compatibility and Oregonians reading, podcast-style. Our Video Voters' Guide collection of events and candidate interviews has consistently grown. We share with the Oregon State Talking Book and Braille Library.



VOTE411.ORG

We purchase a VOTE411.org subscription to manage ballot measure and candidate data collected from all Oregon counties, then we invite candidates to answer their constituents' questions. Districting information we create is expanded from earlier elections, using GIS (Geographic Information System) data gleaned from many statewide sources. As a result, the League was included in ongoing Oregon Department of Revenue technical and districting working groups.



CIVICS EDUCATION

Mimi Alkire and Diana DeMaria

LWVOR Oregon Student Mock Election Coordinators

Expanding Civics Education for Youth

LWVOR online Civics Education curriculum is available to teachers, parents, and students. It contains five units with suggestions for activities, discussion topics, handouts, and links to valuable and current resources. Our curriculum collaboration with the Oregon Department of Education continues, last updated in February 2023 adding ranked-choice voting information in the “Voting in Oregon” unit.

A general lesson plan for teachers is available on our website to help with ideas about how to administer their mock election and to ensure their students know how to cast informed votes.

LWVOR Oregon Student Mock Election

Students around the state were able to participate in an authentic voting experience in 2022. For the November General Election, we had classrooms registered from 34 schools in 18 cities covering most of the state. Student ballots included five options starting with a general Oregon State ballot, with students voting for US Senator, Governor, and OR Measure 114 (gun safety). In addition, four ballots had an additional specific race or ballot measure:

- Multnomah County – Measure 26-232, ranked-choice voting
- Clackamas County – County Clerk
- Congressional District 6 – US Representative
- Deschutes County – Measure 9-148, nonpartisan county commissioner elections

Teachers had the option of choosing whichever ballot fit their students best. In every case, students were voting on the very same issues and candidate races as their parents and voting-aged siblings.

Students around the state were able to participate in an authentic voting experience in 2022.



Progress and Looking Ahead

While we had 6 schools participating in 2022 from the Portland Metro area, only one was from the largest school district in the state, Portland Public Schools. To remedy that, LWVPDX hosted a student mock election for Multnomah County in the Spring 2023 Special Election. In that election, students voted for two county ballot measures: City of Portland Measure 26-240, The Children’s Levy; and County Measure 26-238, Tenant Eviction Representation. While we had a small number of schools participating in that election, we were able to gather about 65 teacher contacts for the 2024 Oregon Student Mock Election.

For 2024 we are ready to go for both the May and November elections. Registration for the May OSME begins April 8 and the Primary election week for students will be May 5-10. We will release the results to the public and the press on May 17, four days before the actual election day.

We will be providing teachers with registration forms, ballots, and two lesson plans that are specific to the May Primary election.

- Parties and Primaries: Introduce students to each of the 10 recognized Oregon parties and help them understand the impact of a closed primary on minor-party voters.
- Ranked-Choice Voting: Introduce students to the process of ranked-choice voting (RCV). This lesson is appropriate for students in either social studies or math classes (requires an understanding of percentages).

**OREGON STUDENT
MOCK ELECTION**



YOUTH OUTREACH

Diana DeMaria and Mimi Alkire
LWVOR Youth Outreach Co-Chairs

YOUTH COUNCIL

LWVOR Youth Council DEIJ Co-Chair Deenie Bulyalert and LWVOR DEIJ Chair Elizabeth Kirby produced a LWVOR-wide DEIJ Toolkit. The toolkit is a collection of tools and resources to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in every organization and community.

LWVOR Fall Voter Service Workshop featured a Youth Council Panel Presentation on Young Voter Engagement. They spoke to challenges facing young voters today, their goals to create a young League of Women Voters mentored pipeline in local and state Leagues nationwide, to connect Leagues to existing youth civic engagement around the country, and to create a more welcoming space with more opportunities for young League of Women Voters member participation in advocacy, voter service, and issue-based activism in their communities.

LOCAL LEAGUES

Youth Council members are welcomed and mentored to join their local League whenever possible, for initial League experience in the community where they vote, while they meet monthly online for quarterly project goal planning and training sessions.



LWVOR: REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

LWVOR Youth Council and Youth Outreach Advisory are discussing sharing our established infrastructure to support expanding to a LWV Youth Council of the Pacific Northwest with LWV of Idaho and LWV of Washington, so young League members from these three states join their local League while collaborating on goals for regional issues.

LWVUS: YOUTH VOTER PILOT PROGRAM

The Young Voter Pilot Program is officially launching, with a wide array of updates, resources and materials designed to support our young voter outreach initiatives. A lineup of workshops, training sessions, and special speaker events is in the pipeline. LWVUS is committed to make all resources accessible virtually and in person whenever possible, with special programming updates in the monthly League update, on the lww.org event website and across various LWVUS forums.



DEIJ REPORT

Elizabeth Kirby

LWVOR DEIJ Chair

Since adopting our diversity policy, LWVOR has continued to strive to reduce and eliminate barriers to full participation for the diverse intersections of communities we serve. As of June 2023, LWVOR has released its newly developed DEIJ Toolkit. This toolkit guides members in evaluating understanding and progress within their unique DEIJ journey. It also acts as an inclusivity framework for action, events, studies and positions, membership recruitment and retainment, and offers guidance on how to apply an equity lens to all aspects of League engagement. Currently, with Youth Council DEIJ co-chairs' help, this toolkit is being promoted to local leagues, with the opportunity for leaders to meet for one-on-one support in evaluating and expanding their DEIJ commitments and actions.

Through the next biennium, the current DEIJ Chair will work to solidify a DEIJ committee with diverse representation from across the state to advance our DEIJ commitment. This committee's primary focus will be to formally conduct a LWVOR DEIJ audit and to develop an action plan to address any growth opportunities. This committee will also work to form relationships with a variety of vetted organizations with the goal of better understanding and amplifying voices that often go unheard or unnoticed. With this focus and a dedicated action plan, LWVOR will position itself to empower voters and defend democracy through equity and justice lenses.



Part of LWVOR's DEIJ focus includes working with youth civic leaders.



A new DEIJ Toolkit helps to guide Leagues in their unique DEIJ journey.



Youth Council DEIJ Co-Chairs collaborate with LWVOR Board members.



DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Freddi Weishahn and Jackie Clary

LWVOR Development Co-Chairs

LWVOR Expands Programs With Your Support

Because of your generous support, our League has been able to increase civic awareness and participation throughout Oregon. You have helped us educate more voters through non-partisan candidate forums, *Voters' Guides*, and our online personal ballot, VOTE411.org.

Your support has also given us the ability to expand our Youth Council focus:

- Increase political engagement among young Oregon voters, including grades 6-12 Oregon Student Mock Elections for future voters
- Build nonpartisan and intergenerational relationships with local and state community organizations and all levels of government
- Educate and inform young voters and collaborate with local Leagues with educational materials and experiential workshops
- Coordinate Get-Out-The-Vote efforts across campuses and communities to include diverse, marginalized, geographically and culturally under-served young voters in participatory democracy

Because of you, we are able to retain our extremely valuable staff members, Sarah Andrews and Abby Hertzler, who keep us connected statewide through virtual meetings, our website, and social media platforms. We rely on their expertise and technical skills to assist with grant requirements, to format and distribute our publications and reports, and maintain our databases. They are an essential part of what we do and we try to compensate them accordingly.

Because of your generous support, our League has been able to increase civic awareness and participation throughout Oregon.



A Look At Donor Support

We are deeply grateful for the grants we received in 2022 and early 2023:

- **\$ 6,500 (2022) Kristin and Richard Angell** through Oregon Community Foundation to hire an Oregon Student Mock Election Coordinator.
- **\$ 52,000 (2022) and \$ 50,000 (2023) - Carol and Velma Saling Foundation** to continue our mission of informing citizens of governmental issues and participation in the democratic process.
- **\$ 3,000 (2022) Vernier Science Education** toward our VOTE411org subscription cost.
- **\$ 4,000 (2022) Oregon State Capitol Foundation** for Oregon Student Mock Election support
- **\$ 1,000 (2022) Dicentra Fund** - General support.
- **\$ 5,366 (2022) Abigail Kitzhaber Education Endowment Fund.** This is a true perpetual endowment to support LWVOR for future generations.
- **\$ 8,152 (2023) Oregon Humanities Public Program Grant** to support our Youth Council in statewide voter outreach, state convention workshops, and community and legislative engagement.

Your financial support - as well as donations from our members - are central to our foundational work of educating voters and empowering citizen engagement. Your generosity strengthens our League as we connect statewide for discussions and committee work throughout the year, leading to future policy engagement for the betterment of all Oregonians.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Kermit Yensen

LWVOR Treasurer

LWVOR is very grateful to our generous donors! We are financially stable and we operate frugally. During COVID we focused on remote activities and added funds to our cash reserves. Post COVID, we returned to more inclusive in-person and hybrid activities and used our accumulated financial resources to aggressively support our mission.

LWVOR	FY 20 21	FY 21 22	FY 22 23	FY 21 23 TOTAL
INCOME	\$143,185	\$135,706	\$155,174	\$290,880
EXPENSES	\$(123,356)	\$(141,395)	\$(189,415)	\$(330,810)
NET	\$19,829	(\$-5,689)	(\$-34,241)	(\$39,930)

Our financial support comes from the following sources:

FY 21 – 23 (\$, K)	AMOUNT
MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$62,802
FOUNDATION AND TRUST GRANTS	\$132,547
LOCAL LEAGUE ASSESSMENTS	\$62,254
OTHER	\$33,277
TOTAL	\$290,880

Post COVID, we returned to in-person and hybrid activities and used our accumulated financial resources to support our mission.



Our expenses support our large volunteer network (conservatively estimated to provide more than 40,000 volunteer hours annually for *state level volunteers alone* supporting the LWVOR mission), a small office in Salem, and staff to manage our databases, website, social media, newsroom, publicity, and publications, e.g., studies and newsletters.

Our major financial investments were in these areas during the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023:



VOTE411.ORG
\$33,049



YOUTH ACTIVITIES
\$19,161



VOTERS' GUIDES
\$19,602



COUNCIL, CONVENTION, WORKSHOPS
\$51,967



NEWSLETTERS
\$4,632



LEGISLATIVE REPORTS
\$8,824



ADVOCACY SUPPORT
\$5,657



LWVUS INVOLVEMENT
\$10,562



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Lisa Bentson

LWVOR Membership Chair

Membership and Leadership Development (MLD)

Coaches met together most months with the LWVOR President and our Shur Fellow, Lineah Davey. LWVOR President Becky Gladstone’s monthly League Leaders calls continued, met with enthusiasm. A first local League Treasurers call was held. Plans are being started for local League Membership Chair meetings.

MLD Chair Kathleen Hersh convened coaches monthly to share their local League news:

MLD Coaches

Libby Medley
Debbie Kaye

Margaret Noel
Janet Calvert
Linda Mather

Corresponding League

LWV of Marion-Polk
LWV of Lane County and
Washington County Unit
LWV of Deschutes County
LWV of Lincoln County
LWV of Clackamas County

Membership leaders requested MLD meeting topics, including:

- Nominating Committees
- Nonpartisanship in social media
- Membership Communication
- Voter Education with a DEIJ Lens
- LWVUS League Management Website
- Where MLD Goes from Here

Membership Growth in 2023

We initiated our Local League Membership (Lateral group) monthly Zoom meetings. Most months we had 75%+ of Local Leagues participating. Topics were determined by attendees’ requests. We always put a DEIJ section on the agenda along with Membership topics as they are closely related.

DONATE TO LWVOR



LEARN ABOUT THE MANY WAYS YOU CAN GIVE AT [LWVOR.ORG/DONATING-TO-LWVOR](https://www.lwvor.org/donating-to-lwvor)

LEAGUE MEMBERS IN OREGON



LWVOR BOARD MEMBERS

Becky Gladstone	President
Lisa Bentson	1st Vice-President and Events Chair
Alice Bartelt	2nd Vice-President and Advocacy Chair
Kermit Yensen	Treasurer
Mimi Alkire	Secretary & Youth Outreach Co-Chair
Annie Goldner	Issue Positions Chair
Freddi Weishahn	Development Co-Chair
Jackie Clary	Development Co-Chair

LWVOR OFF-BOARD MEMBERS

Celine Ioffe	Youth Council President
Chris Walker	Board Youth Liaison
Diana DeMaria	Youth Outreach Co-Chair
Elizabeth Kirby	DEIJ Chair
Kathleen Hersh	Budget Chair and MLD Chair
Jim Buck	VOTER Newsletter Editor



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