

ChapterSpot Member Portal Is Here!

Current LWVRV members will receive an email this week with a link to the new LWVRV member portal on the LWV website. There is also a "Join or Renew" button on the ["Join Us" page](#) of the LWVRV website, and instructions on how to access your account using the portal.

Under the new system, dues are "pay-what-you-can," with a recommended dues rate of \$75 and minimum dues rate of \$20. There are also changes to membership types. [Details of these changes are available on the LWVOR website](#). Members will continue to have a choice to pay dues using the secure online system in the member portal or to pay by check.

If you have any questions about using this new online member service, we are here to help!

Email: Olena and Maggie: ChapterSpot@lwrv.org

Phone: Maggie: 530-228-4873

Upcoming Meetings to Explore LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study

LWVRV Federal Judiciary Study Consensus meeting

March 6, 2025 11-2:00pm in Ashland

Rogue Valley LWV members will meet for a consensus meeting to discuss consensus questions for the **LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study**.

RSVP required to confirm attendance and get location: Trish Bowcock trishbowcock@comcast.net.

Bring a Brown Bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Members should review the recent newsletter article on consensus process as well as study materials that are available at the resource links below.

Watch an introductory video: [Federal Judiciary Study Kickoff](#) (1 hour)

This study is not yet complete, but *plenty* of information and resources are already available. Latest details are at: [2024-2025 Federal Judiciary Study Process, Committee, and Resources](#)

LWVOR Communications Team invites you to take part in a virtual “discussion café”

Statewide Overview of Federal Judiciary Study at LWVOR Communications Café

Monday, February 10th, 6:30pm on Zoom

[Register Today!](#)

Hear a Sneak Peek overview of the LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study!

Before the March 6th consensus meeting in Ashland, join League members statewide for an overview of the study. You should have already received the invitation and registration link from the state office.

Betsy Lawson, attorney and LWVUS consultant, and possibly other committee members will join us to provide members in Oregon with an overview of the study.

This meeting will NOT take the place of your local League consensus meetings. Instead, it will provide you with an initial understanding of the study to fully take part in your Local League meetings.

To better prepare yourself for this important national study **visit the materials** (report and videos) at: [2024-2025 Federal Judiciary Study Process, Committee, and Resources](#) on the LWV website.

Annie Goldner, LWVOR Issues/Positions Chair will be on hand to answer any questions about responding to the study, as well as to offer help to Local Leagues to comply with the study consensus questions. **This meeting will include time for open discussion and questions.** Join other League members statewide and get answers to **your** questions.

For details contact Barbara Klein, LWVOR Communications Chair, communications@lwwor.org

Childcare Consensus Study Concluded on January 16th

The Childcare Consensus Study group convened on January 16 (thank you to members Maggie Van Dame, Mike Van Dam, S. Smith, J. Buck, B. Klein, K. Donham). The consensus results will be combined with reports from other local leagues and used as a basis for advocacy work at the Oregon Legislature. This position update will give much-needed information for what may be major challenges to education funding, depending on the availability of federal grants. There have been serious proposals made by the incoming administration about the role of the U.S. Dept of Education.

Contact Kathleen at kdonham@gmail.com to get a copy of LWVOR's completed Caring for Our Children Consensus Form.

“Join or Die” film

The documentary *Join or Die* was shown by Rogue Community Health at RCC in Medford on January 22. Local nonprofits, including LWVRV, had tables there, although attendance was scant. This film about Dr. Robert Putnam’s “Social Capital” theories of public participation/civic engagement follows his research that resulted in his book *Bowling Alone*. The League is mentioned several times in the film. *Join or Die* is available on Netflix, and can be shared with clubs and organizations on request. League members are sure to find the documentary very inspiring. [Watch the film trailer and get more information](#). Rogue Community Health will sponsor another free showing of this film at RCC’s Grants Pass campus on Feb. 6. [Event details](#).

Your Opinion on LWVOR education positions matter.

Two opportunities to consider

LWV Statewide Positions on K-12

By Barbara Klein

March 18th (Tuesday) 6:30, via zoom. Statewide Communications Café. Committee chair, Jean Pierce will give an overview of the K-12 efforts presented below. This overview meeting, being held before the LWVRV meeting, will give you time for both questions and later contemplation. (Registration will be required. Invitations will be sent out by the state League.)

March 19th (Wednesday), 7:00 pm, via zoom. *JOINT meeting with the Marion/Polk League.* (Registration or meeting link will be sent later.) This will be a more in-depth explanation than the March 18th meeting.

Decisions will be made for a vote at May 2-4 STATE convention

Details:

What is the K-12 Study Proposal/AKA the K-12 Consensus Study?

When you meet with your local League for Program Planning, you are being asked to weigh in on two possibilities:

- A—a new LWVOR K-12 proposed **study** (from 1 -2 years).
- B—new K-12 concurrences.

Each year, the Oregon legislature makes decisions about what happens in our K-12 public schools, but currently the League is severely restricted in what bills we can support or oppose.

Because of that, a committee of League members is proposing that the League use both available methods for adopting K-12 education positions:

Engaging in a study during the 2025-27 biennium which will use the process of consensus to create wording for:

- The Education of Exceptional Students
- Career and Technical Education
- Safety in Schools

Adopting other state's positions through Concurrence at the 2025 Convention:

- Assessment and High Stakes Testing
- Attracting and Retaining Teachers
- Charter Schools
- Civic Education
- (Not) Using Public Funds for Private Schools

Members from any local league are invited to serve on the committee for the K-12 study if they are interested. Let Barbara Klein (action@lwrv.org) know now, or by attending one of these meetings.

Additionally, members can weigh in about the scope of the study and what issues they would like addressed.

During the 2025 LWVOR Convention May 2-4, delegates from our Rogue Valley League will be asked to vote on:

- Whether to approve a K-12 study for the 2025-27 biennium
- Whether to approve the five positions by concurrence. (These 5 positions will be explained during the local meetings.)

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jean Pierce at advocacy@lwwor.org.

Observer Corps

LWVRV Observer Corps volunteers attend meetings of local bodies like city councils, school boards, and county commissioners, and report to the public what they observed at those meetings. Observer Corps volunteers do not participate in meetings. They observe and write a brief report so League members can find out what took place.

Observers have been successful in monitoring government bodies, suggesting changes, and sharing with members how government works.

If you are a League member and would like to become an Observer Corps volunteer, email observercorps@lwrv.org for more information.

The following report was submitted by Mike Van Dame, who attended a Medford School District Board meeting on January 23.

Public Meeting Observation Notes

League of Women Voters, Rogue Valley

By Mike Van Dame

Entity	Medford School District Board of Directors
Meeting Date	January 23, 2025

ITEM	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Did meeting start on time?	x		
Were all members present?	x		Caballero and Williams were a bit late; Williams excused himself during the discussion of the complaint against him.
Were members attentive?	x		
Were members well prepared?	x		
Were members courteous to staff, public, and each other?	x		
Was board policy and OR Public Meeting Law followed?	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda sent/posted 48 hours before? 	x		Posted online
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda items clearly described? 	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate opportunity for public comment? 	x		The public comment slot was moved to the middle of the agenda.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any appearance that nonexempt action items had been deliberated outside of open session? 		x	
Was background information available to public?	x	x	Agenda has links to background info. However, background info was a bit thin on agenda items 5- Restructuring Board Meetings, and 6 – Board Priority Discussion.

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to any LWV state or local positions or programs?

No, but see “Other comments” below

Do you recommend local League action on any of these issues? If so, what action do you recommend? No, but see “Other comments” below

Other comments / concerns:

The public comment started off with several speakers from the “Parents Rights” movement complaining about “woke” education and attacking DEI principles as Marxist, anti-American, and counterproductive to academic achievement. Russ Coutts (sp?), leader of Mountain Church community impact team, announced they would be sponsoring a series of 4 town hall meetings: 2 of which will be Q&A sessions for parents to ask school board members; 2 of which will be forums for school board candidates to interact with voters.

The parents’ rights speakers were followed by a similar number of folks that expressed support for keeping religion out of public schools (and gov’t in general), consistent with the first amendment. They also expressed support for cultivating an atmosphere of dignity and respect in the schools. The sense of these speakers was that diversity, equity and inclusion were consistent with this, and supportive of, rather than inconsistent with academic development.

In view of the advocacy nature of the Parents Rights town hall meetings, LWVRV may want to sponsor a more neutral school board candidate forum.

Regarding the complaint against Williams: the Board determined the complaint to “most likely” be factual. They voted to censure Williams, but not impose any further sanctions.

Observer	Mike Van Dame
Date Submitted	January 28, 2025

Summary of LWV Rogue Valley Board Meeting

January 16th, 2025 (held via zoom)

By Sally Smith

Board members attending: Co-Executive Chair Barbara Klein, Olena Black, Jean Buck, Kathleen Dunham, Maggie VanDame, Michael VanDame, Sally Smith, and off Board member Barb Barasa.

Upcoming events:

- A Childcare Study, today, at the Phoenix Library at 3:00 pm.
 - A showing of the film, *Join or Die*, is scheduled for 1/22 at RCC starting at 5 pm.
 - A Recall Study at Olena Black's home on 1/29, at 12:30 pm.
 - A K-12 consensus discussion on 3/20, at 1:30 pm., via zoom.
 - The State Convention is the first week in May.
 - We discussed the date of our League's annual membership meeting. Since the State Convention is being held the first week in May, we may hold our annual meeting in June. Kathleen said we have done so in previous years. The matter was tabled for the next meeting.
-
- Kathleen Donham is planning a School Board candidates forum in March. She has not determined which School Board district the forum will be held at. District school board members will be on the May 20th ballots.
 - Members will be receiving an email on Feb. 3 explaining how LWV dues will be assessed and paid in the future. This is a mandate from the US League.
 - Barb Barasa has been updating our League web site to be more user friendly. She has added a Google calendar.
 - The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 20th at 10:30 am. Place TBD. Remember, all Board meetings are open to all members.

Presentation for Prospective School District Board Candidates:

Run for School Board!

What Is the Role of the Local Public School Board?

Sunday, March 9, 3-5pm at Medford Public Library

Open to the public

By Kathleen Donham

The May 20, 2025 election is primarily for special districts, and in particular for electing local school district boards. The League has scheduled this presentation for potential school board candidates and board members to give accurate information about the precise role of the school board and what is expected of board members. We are partnering with the [Oregon School Board Association](#) which routinely offers these presentations

The public is invited, including all southern Oregon school districts.

Some citizens campaign for school board positions with a particular, narrowly focused agenda that does not align with the requirements of the job. A school board member serves the whole district. Primary responsibilities include reviewing the budget, setting policies, and evaluating executive leadership. Decisions about curriculum are part of the superintendent's role. As the OSBA describes it:

“Carrying out board policies is the responsibility of the superintendent and those under his or her authority. To ensure that there is a clear understanding of the board's policies and that the division of responsibility is clearly defined, the board and superintendent should decide together who has authority for what.”

School board members are advised that they represent the board to the public, and refer complaints through proper channels. Once a policy is voted in, members are expected to support those policies, and, like the League, “speak with one voice.” It is in the interest of school board members to understand their role before they campaign for the position.

Please invite anyone you know who is considering running for school board to attend this presentation. We will have a panel of former/present school board members to answer questions about that role and the campaign process.

The League has informed the Southern Oregon Education District and the PTA about this presentation, and is spreading the word.

Please share this information with your network, and if you would like to assist in this project, contact Kathleen Donham at 541-772-5044.

LWVRV Calendar

February

Monday	10	LWVOR Federal Judiciary Study, 6:30pm, Zoom
Thursday	20	LWVRV Board Meeting, 10:30am
Thursday	27	Newsletter articles due

March

Thursday	6	LWVRV Study Consensus Meeting, 11-2pm, Trish Bowcock
Sunday	9	Run for Schoolboard! 3-5pm, Medford Library
Tuesday	18	K-12 Overview, 6:30pm, Zoom
Wednesday	19	K-12 In-Depth 7:00pm, Zoom
Thursday	27	Newsletter articles due

- The League of Women Voters Rogue Valley welcomes submissions to our newsletter, *The Voters' Voice*. Editor Jim Buck can be reached at newsletter@lwvr.org and 541-830-0602 (h), 541-227-4749 (c).
- LWVRV
P.O. Box 8555
Medford, OR 97501
- Contact the webmaster: webadmin@lwvr.org
- Website: lwvr.org
- Email: pres@lwvr.org
- If you must have a paper copy of this newsletter mailed to you, please call Jim at 541-830-0602 or email newsletter@lwvr.org
- LWV members should also be receiving newsletters by email from State and National LWV.
- **To join LWVRV or renew your membership** online using check or debit card, or to request a membership application form to mail back to us, [go to lwvr.org/join-us](http://lwvr.org/join-us)
- **To donate to the Rogue Valley Chapter of LWV,** [go to lwvr.org/donate](http://lwvr.org/donate)