

Public School Boards How Do They Work?

What is the role of an individual school board member?

What authority does a school board have?

Who can run for a public school board seat?

Sunday, March 9 from 3-5:00pm

Medford Public Library



Get your questions answered

by experts who coordinate school boards

All southern Oregon
school district residents are welcome!

Sponsored by

LWVRV and Oregon School Board Association

Questions? voterservices@lwvr.org 541-772-5044

Results of Survey and Ideas for Action from Members

Barbara Klein, LWVRV Action Chair

LWVRV members got together on Feb 20th to discuss many of their concerns with changes to the government and unprecedented actions by the new federal administration.

The meeting, which was held at the OEA building in Medford for the first time since Covid, was interesting to all.

Suggestions springing from the meeting were for either:

1. Individual, personal action
2. League work

For Individuals to Consider for Personal Action

Various suggestions were shared to encourage INDIVIDUAL members to take action *in their own name* as concerned citizens. **Remember not to speak for the League without permission.**

- Use the [5 Calls app](#). A free application (both Android and iOS) to help contact congressional representatives. It allows you to easily call members of Congress, provides scripts and information on current topics to discuss.
[Note: be aware that “scripts” are often not well received or taken seriously. It’s better to leave a SHORT, courteous thought or complaint.]
- Take part in the Economic Black Out day aka “Buy Nothing Day” (February 28th). Exceptions include local businesses that sell essentials especially, but nothing online or with a credit card.
- Donate even more money, especially to organizations that are addressing executive overreach in court, either with lawsuits or amicus briefs (for example ACLU, Southern Poverty Law Center).
[This is only for those who are in a financial situation allowing them to do it – but even the cost of one coffee might help an organization more.]
- Boycott when appropriate.
- Make a pollinator garden on your own property to help environmental concerns. At the least, don’t mow your dandelions.
- Join more than one group.
- Subscribe to a newspaper that actually covers news (and in a balanced way).
- Join a group locally that is working to prevent permanent damage to the land/water/air.
- Do your own part for polarization in your local neighborhood, reaching out where/when it makes sense. Learn how to have the difficult conversations in a safe way (or the Safeway).
- Attend any town hall that your representatives (especially congressional representatives) hold.
- Increase fellow citizen engagement by inviting a friend to do an action with you.
- Make signs and march with others to protect what you care about.
- Plan a get-together for letter writing or phone calls.
- Support the League in all we do. We could do MORE with help from you!

For Local League Priorities

The priorities below were mentioned by one or more persons at our recent general meeting. A survey link was then shared with attendees AND all our local members to help develop a priorities list of the issues we feel are currently most important to address.

[We agree they are ALL important; but want to decide where to start.]

Any League can only act when they have a position from which to draw support or opposition (most or all of these have such positions).

Priority Candidates

Media (including protection of independent, local media, as well as protection from social media and disinformation)
Health Care Privacy & Rights (including reproductive freedom and fallout from Dobbs decision reversing Roe v Wade)
School Boards service to the community (including protection of children, libraries, and access or support of higher education)
LGBTQ+ or other Diversity /BIPOC Rights
Lack of balance between 3 branches of gov't (limited actions by congress & leadership of parties to protect Rule of Law)
Privacy and Cyber-Security (including access to personal data inappropriately)
Damage to Environment / Climate Change Harms
Protection of Voting / Elections / Democracy (including any new laws or executive actions putting these at risk)
Election Reforms to improve Democracy (incl: reform Electoral College & other structural changes, e.g. RCV or Open Primaries)
Observe local gov't and weigh in on local problems (e.g. abiding by political sign timing ordinances, or other local issues)

Those who took part in the survey were asked to “**Rank Your Choices**” in order of preference and belief that we could take action. This was a Ranked Choice Voting (**RCV**) ballot for MULTIPLE (4) winners. It is the type that would be used to elect candidates with **proportional representation**. (Ranking more choices did **not hurt favorite** choice(s).)

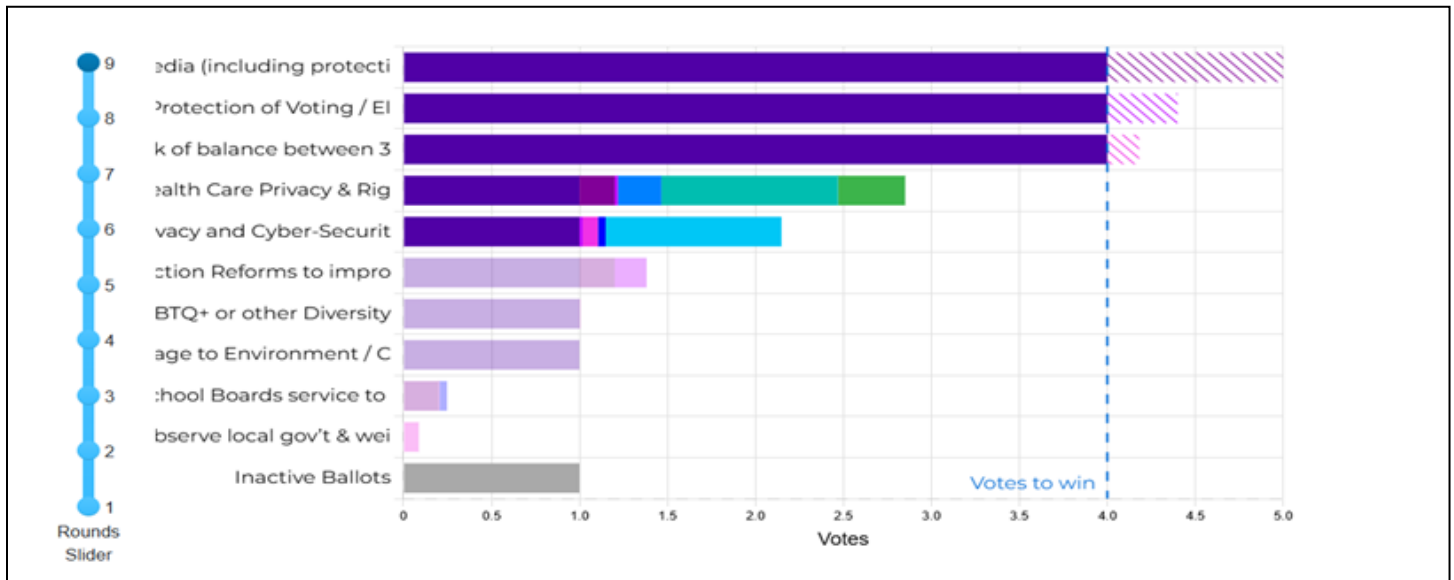
We will meet at other times to decide on action steps of the **Top FOUR issues**.

Survey winners

1. **Media** (including protection of independent, local media, as well as protection from social media and disinformation)
2. **Lack of balance between 3 branches of gov't** (limited actions by congress & leadership of parties to protect Rule of Law)

- 3. **Protection of Voting / Elections / Democracy** (including any new laws or executive actions putting these at risk)
- 4. **Health Care Privacy & Rights** (including reproductive freedom and fallout from Dobbs decision reversing Roe v Wade)

Note: If you look at the graphic below you can see that the first 3 choices (Media, 3 branches, Voting Protection) got MORE votes than they needed to be in the top 4 winners. A tiny bit of the extra votes was then divided among the next choices on your ballots.



I was surprised by some of the outcomes, but I would like to remind us all of two things:

- 1. As mentioned above, we agree that **ALL of these issues are important**; but we wanted to decide where to start any possible action.
- 2. Even if your personal choice is low on the scale, or not even on the survey, **there is a place for you** to promote action in our League.

*When you Pray, Move your Feet.
John Lewis*

Voter Service Report

By Kathleen Donham

#1 Please attend the School Board Information meeting March 9. There are 27 school board positions open in the Southern Oregon Education District, and there is a national campaign to recruit highly partisan citizens to participate, giving out information of questionable accuracy. Get the facts from our guests, the [Oregon School Board Association](#). We meet Sunday 3-5 PM at the Medford Public Library. Members willing to assist with this event (tables, sound system, greeters, etc.) would be very welcome. (Kathleen 541-772-5044, KDonham@gmail.com).

#2 Be sure you have contacted your congressman about the SAVE Act (as described on the Rogue Valley website lwrv.org). The SAVE Act would seriously impair Oregon's vote-by-mail and automatic registration system: Rep. Cliff Bentz bentz.house.gov/contact/offices

#3 Candidates filing for local offices must submit by March 20 for the primary election May 20, which will be before our Annual Meeting. If you can assist with data entry for vote411.org, please let me know. I will be gone May 9 through May 26, so I am hoping others can help with Voter Service chores (or be part of the Voters Service Team). Call Kathleen Donham at 541-772-5044

Letter to the Editor March 1, 2025

Dear Jim Buck:

I am a registered Independent as the Voter Service Chair for our League. I have never felt as powerless as a U.S. citizen as I feel now. There is no common source of regional news since the local newspapers are viewed by so few. Furthermore, Congressman Bentz's office is overwhelmed and he is not consistently responding to voters. My only recourse is to keep working on local issues. In my opinion, the League's real strength is in its credibility as reliable, thoughtful, and fair at the local or state level.

I hope League members will see our organization as a source of guidance in these troubled times and will maintain their memberships through the challenges of the portal system and stay in the Rogue Valley League network. We now have permission to use the OEA facility and can hopefully meet in-person more regularly. Thanks to everyone who attended the February General Meeting, and KEEP IN TOUCH.

Kathleen Donham

TWO EVENTS FOR LWV ROGUE VALLEY MEMBERS

By Barbara Klein

Learn about and voice opinions on **K-12 education projects being proposed** by the League.

Investing in K-12 education accounts for 28% of Oregon's budget. The K-12 topics proposed in this LWVOR project are not addressed either in our state positions or in LWVUS positions. Yet, there is legislation proposed recently regarding each.

Our members will have a chance to voice their opinions before or during the state convention in May. Join us for both a statewide Communications Café and a Joint meeting with the Marion-Polk League the following evening.

Joint meeting with Marion-Polk League (the night AFTER the Communications Café below)

March 19th 2025, 6:30 PM
(via Zoom)

Click on link below to join meeting.

[**Join the Meeting**](#)

On the **Evening before** – hear an overview.

Statewide Communications Café (the night BEFORE our joint meeting with Marion-Polk)

March 18th 2025, 6:30 PM
(via Zoom)

The registration link for this meeting will be sent out by LWVOR

Overview on proposals for adopting
New Education positions for LWVOR presented by

Committee Members:

Jean Pierce

Tom Dyke

Barbara Keirnes-Young

Learn about, ask questions, and give your input into, two proposed plans.

Engaging in a 2025-27 biennium study,
using the consensus process to develop a new position.

And /or

Adopting a position through Concurrence with other states at the 2025 Convention
(where your Local League delegates will vote)

Meeting will include time for open discussion and questions.

Join other League members statewide and get answers to YOUR questions or share your comments.

For questions: contact Barbara Klein, action@lwvrv.org

Oregon Legislative Reports from the League

If you still haven't signed up to receive weekly 'Leg reports' from LWVOR, you are missing a lot. During the Legislative Season, they are produced once a week. They cover ONLY issues pertinent for that week, or what bills are coming up soon.

These reports are prepared by other League members who are following an issue or a bill. The reports are also divided into sections, so that you can immediately click on the issues you are most interested in.

The Leg Reports are an important asset from LWVOR to us at LWVRV. However, they are not automatically sent to all members statewide, you need to subscribe.

Link here to sign up by just clicking on the "subscribe" button [Legislative Report - LWV of Oregon](#).

Any questions, OR you too want to get involved with this, contact Barbara Klein, action@lwvrv.org



Grants Pass Homeless Ordinance

“Oregon judge issues 14-day temporary order halting Grants Pass homeless ordinance”

By Ben Botkin – February 3, 2025, published in the *Oregon Capital Chronicle*

- After the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, Grants Pass city officials restricted homeless camping to two lots nearly a mile apart. In January, city officials opted to close the larger of two designated camping sites in the city. The closed site had room for about 120 tents, while the remaining site has room for about 30. The city provided portable toilets and handwashing stations but not drinking water.
- A Josephine County judge on Monday issued a 14-day temporary restraining order that blocks the city of Grants Pass from enforcing its homeless camping ordinance and prevents fines. The city’s ordinance would limit hundreds of homeless people to setting up tents in the one designated site in Grants Pass with room for about 30 tents. People camping elsewhere face fines of \$75.
- The temporary order is the first court action in a lawsuit that two advocacy groups and five homeless people filed last week against the city of Grants Pass in Josephine County District Court. The lawsuit alleges that the city’s current homeless camping policies are illegal and harmful, especially for people with disabilities who are forced to pack up their tents at 7 a.m. every morning.
- “This emergency pause provides an opportunity for Grants Pass to redirect its policies in a more reasonable and constructive manner, instead of threatening the lives of people with disabilities by prohibiting them from protecting themselves from the February cold,” said Tom Stenson, deputy legal director of Disability Rights Oregon, which joined forces with the Oregon Law Center to file the lawsuit and represent five homeless people.
- The city manager of Grants Pass, Aaron Cubic, told the Capital Chronicle it is reviewing the case. “This is an important issue, and we are actively reviewing all aspects to ensure we make the best decisions for our community,” Cubic said in an email. “At this time, we don’t have a final answer, but we will share updates as soon as we can.”
- This new lawsuit alleges the city is failing to abide by state law that requires homeless camping ordinances be reasonable. In general, cities in Oregon are allowed to have ordinances that forbid camping in certain areas, like blocking sidewalks or entrances to buildings. The order does not allow people to block streets, but does give homeless people the ability to camp in parks.
- There are different scenarios for what could happen next. The city could change its ordinances for homeless camping in a way that satisfies the plaintiffs. If nothing happens within 14 days, the next step would be a hearing for the judge to determine whether to grant a preliminary injunction to halt enforcement of the city’s ordinance while the case proceeds in court.
- “Our end game is not to make it legal to camp everywhere all the time, no matter what, or to impair people’s ability to use the parks,” Stenson said. “Our end game is to try and make sure that people are not dying in the process.”

(Bullets taken from article dated Feb 3, 2025 by Ben Botkin, in *Oregon Capital Chronicle*.

[Full article can be seen here.](#))

Summary of LWV Rogue Valley Board Meeting

February 20th, 2025

Board Members attending: Co-Executive Chair Barbara Klein, Olena Black, Jean Buck, Kathleen Dunham, Maggie Van Dame, Michael Van Dame and Sally Smith

Upcoming Events:

Today - League Meeting open to the public to address concerns about government issues and possible actions we can take. It was held at 11:30 am and was well attended. Top issues were (in random order)

- 1) Protection of voting and Democracy*
- 2) Healthcare Privacy and Rights*
- 3) Media and Disinformation*
- 4) Balance Between 3 Branches of Government*
- 5) LGBTQ and Diversity*
- 6) Election Reform*
- 7) Cyber Security*
- 8) Potential Damage to the Environment*
- 9) Libraries, School Board and other Local Boards Bipartisanship.*

2/26 - Zoom Meeting at 6 pm on the Federal Judiciary Study

3/6 - A 2nd meeting on the same Study in Ashland at Trish Bowcock's home, 11 am.

3/9 - School Board Candidate education meeting, Medford Library, 3 pm.

5/2-4 State Convention, Salem, OR. The Convention is open to all LWV members. Our Chapter qualifies for 2 official voting delegates.

We urge all LWVRV members to attend as many of these meetings as possible. Many are by zoom, which makes it even easier to attend. Keeping informed makes us knowledgeable voters. And knowledgeable voters make intelligent voters!

Editor's note: This article appeared in our LWVRV October 2022 newsletter and is worth remembering.

Ten Things You Can Do Right Now to Defend Democracy

Summarized from League of Women Voters Lane County September 2022 Newsletter

[See the entire LWVLC article with more detail on page 5](#) (pdf)

Define your democracy and get clear about values and boundaries.

- Talk about democracy in governance with family, friends, and colleagues.
- Read and listen to reliable, credible sources to be a better-informed democracy defender.
- Demand better from your organization and show up to help.
- Promote respectful dialogue.
- Check your voter registration and make a plan to vote ahead of each election
- Write or call your elected officials about the issues that matter most to you.
- Work to increase voter turnout. Volunteer with LWVRV Voter Service.
- March, rally, and just BE with others.
- Run for office or join an advisory board.

Policing Immigration Program March 12 on Zoom

LWVRV members are invited to join LWV of Portland for their next Community Education program, **“Policing Immigration,”** on Wednesday, March 12 from 7 to 8:30 PM via Zoom. [Register Here](#)

This event will provide perspectives on how local immigration enforcement is changing under President Trump. This dynamic conversation will explore changes in federal policy relating to immigration and how immigrants are being impacted in our community.

Speakers bring important professional experience from working with immigrants, law enforcement, and public policy:

- Portland Police Assistant Chief **Amanda McMillan**
- **Isa Peña** of Innovation Law Lab
- **Elliot Young** of Lewis & Clark College
- **Mercedes Elizalde** of Latino Network

LWV League of Women Voters of Portland Education Fund

IMMIGRATION

Community Education Series

- 📅 **Local Enforcement**
March 12, 7-8:30
- 📅 **National Policy & Humanitarian Issues**
April 9, 7-8:30

✓ Hear from powerful speakers addressing local and national policies affecting our immigrant neighbors.

📍 Panels held on Zoom
<https://lwvpx.org/public-events/>

REGISTER HERE

LWVRV Calendar

March

Thursday	6	LWVRV Study Consensus Meeting, 11-2 PM, Trish Bowcock
Sunday	9	Run for Schoolboard! 3-5 PM, Medford Library
Wednesday	12	Policing Immigration, 7 PM, LWV of Portland Zoom
Tuesday	18	K-12 Overview, 6:30 PM, Zoom
Wednesday	19	K-12 In-Depth 7:00 PM, 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)