

Mark your calendar NOW and join us for a

WORK PARTY

Thursday, April 24th 2025 11:30-1:30pm

Tentative Location: OEA Building, 2495 S. Pacific Hwy, Medford

[Location map](#)

Snacks and beverages will be provided, but are also welcomed.

On the agenda, broken up in short time slots:

- **Activism: letter/card writing**
(Talking points & directions will be provided. Priority survey reviewed.)
- **Vote 411** demonstration & info
- **K-12** decision on state proposals
- **Proportional Representation Plan**
- **Observer Corp in the Digital Age**
- **Announcements** (from board and general members)



HANDS OFF!

National Day of Action

Rally Saturday, April 5 in Medford

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Hawthorne Park



Defend Democracy in 2025

On April 5, national and local organizations, including the League of Women Voters, are coming together across the country to organize for Hands Off! — a national mass activation in defiance of the current assault on our freedoms and our communities.

Join the LWV and our allies and speak out against attacks on our democratic institutions, our civil rights, and congressionally authorized programs that support the well-being of Americans.

We're sending a clear message: Hands Off — Our Health Care, Social Security, Veterans Benefits, Schools, Medicare, Medicaid, Federal Workers and Programs!

A core principle behind Hands Off! is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values.

[Hands Off! website](#)

Looking for Volunteer(s)

Equal Rights for All in Oregon

*LWVOR is seeking representatives from every local League to help coordinate our statewide efforts for the **Equal Rights for All** campaign.*

Message from Jean Pierce, LWVOR Advocacy Chair:

Please tell us **who will represent your League** in the LWVOR effort to collect signatures so that voters in the November 2026 election can vote on [constitutional language](#) (PDF document) ensuring **Equal Rights for All in Oregon**.

There will be training. League Liaisons will meet to share information about events, get questions answered, report on progress, etc.

This ballot measure states that everyone has equal rights to make private and personal decisions about one's life and health, regardless of one's ability to become pregnant, gender identity, or sexual orientation. By protecting Oregonians' ability to make our own private healthcare decisions and marry the person we love, our ballot initiative will stop politicians who want to turn back the clock on our basic rights and freedoms. See a [one-page description](#) (PDF document) of the ballot measure.

More information on this campaign is available at equalrightsoregon.com.

We hope to have a member from LWV Rogue Valley represent us on this project. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Klein at action@lwrv.org (or my private email). I will alert our state advocacy chair and hook you up to volunteer.

Look for an upcoming Communications Café on the issue (still in the planning phase).



New Statewide Position - Recall Elections

Adopted February 2025

LWVRV took part in the statewide League study on the Recall Elections Process in Oregon. Thanks to Olena Black for leading the charge and to Dorothy Destache for acting as our recorder.

Below is the new position.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that local and county elections operations must have adequate funding and staffing levels sufficient to meet public needs and provide for strong, ongoing voter education.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes all elected officials should be subject to recall, but not during their first six months in office.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that persons seeking the recall of a public official should state the reasons and specify grounds including malfeasance (acting unlawfully while performing duties), nonfeasance (failure to perform duties), serious crimes, lack of fitness, corruption, or incompetence. The grounds on which an elected official may be recalled should be described in Oregon statute.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes an adequate recall election schedule should provide time for voter education and full participation in the election. The timeline should:

- a) Allow elections officials to provide ballots to overseas and uniformed-service members at least 45 days before an election.
- b) Allow new voters adequate time to be notified of their requirement to register before an election in which they wish to cast ballots.
- c) Allow time for elections officials, advocates, and civic organizations to engage prospective voters.
- d) Allow no more than 90 days to obtain signatures on a recall petition.

To ensure adequate time for elections officials and staff to oversee signature verification and prepare ballots, and to contain elections-related costs, the League of Women Voters of Oregon supports restricting recall elections to one of the four election dates identified in Oregon law.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that recall petitions should provide detailed information about how seats vacated by a successful recall are to be filled after the election. This information should be provided by elections staff. Seats should be vacated for the shortest time practical, with a scheduled election allowing voters to choose their public official. The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports filling vacated positions by interim appointment rather than through simultaneous election in which the proposed recall of a public official appears on the ballot alongside candidates competing simultaneously for that very office.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that recall petition circulators should be required to be Oregon residents and that these circulators should wear visible identification indicating whether they are paid or volunteers.

The League of Women Voters supports disclosure of the sources and amounts of campaign-related funding for recall proponents and opponents, with such disclosure beginning early and occurring regularly and in a timely way, so that voters can learn about groups involved as petitions circulate.

Please direct any questions to Barbara Klein Action@lwrvv.org

Summary of LWV Rogue Valley Board Meeting

March 20, 2025

by Sally Smith

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

The School Board candidate meeting held at the Medford Library earlier this month was well attended. There were 3 school board candidates attending who had already filed to run.

Our League membership is increasing with 4 new members joining last month.

We are working on establishing a Youth Council in the Rogue Valley for high school and college students with the goal to encourage younger members to become interested in civic affairs and in joining the League.

Our April 24th meeting will be a general meeting. It will be a partial working meeting with activities members can do to respond positively to the issues we are currently facing in the government. We will have a demonstration about Vote 411, an explanation on the K-12 proposals and (importantly!) coffee and cookies and meeting fellow League members. Watch for an email with details.

The State convention is coming up in Salem on May 2nd-4th. All League members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our annual meeting will be held on June 12th at Blue Heron Park in Phoenix, starting at noon. Much more about this later.

Again, let me repeat, keeping informed makes us knowledgeable voters. And knowledgeable voters make intelligent voters!

Presidential Order Threatening Elections

by Barbara Klein, LWVRV Action

Presidential executive order on Voting entitled “Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections,” does not live up to the name. On the contrary, in the opinion of the League of Women Voters it is a dangerous attempt to silence voters.

One part of the order seeks to gain leverage over the EAC (Election Assistance Commission) to change voting system standards and include modifications that limit voting power. The changed certification standards could force **Oregon** to spend a good deal of money replacing its voting equipment, something it has been hesitant to do when it came to IMPROVING our election system for the people.

According to the experts, no current voting machines on the market have been certified to the proposed standards and no jurisdictions could begin the advised purchase within 180 days as the machines currently don't exist commercially. This is assuming there are no back-room deals being made by vague voting vendors new to the scene.

Additionally, it would prohibit Oregon from counting our ballots *postmarked by Election Day* but not received until afterward. Currently, with massive delays experienced in the US mail system in parts of Oregon, the 7-day allowance (for ballots that ARE postmarked by Election Day) is a safeguard. More than 18 states have such a rule.

But without a doubt, the biggest issue is that **the Constitution grants authority over elections to states (and to Congress), not the president.**

For years there have been unsubstantiated claims of fraud in elections. We have seen little to no proof of such claims even following the costly work of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity (also known as the Voter Fraud Commission) established by Donald Trump (from May 2017 until January 2018). They did not prove the widespread risks they asserted, nor the claims of undocumented immigrants voting.

The current executive order requires proof of citizenship for voter registration. Wonder what that will look like for many married women (rural and urban) who have different names on their birth certificates (if they can find them) compared to their driver's license?

The League responded immediately to this executive order, and you can read that response at the end. However, I wanted to include some other voices outside the League for us to consider as well.

Other Voices on the Subject

An interesting article from Votebeat has the following title and description:

“Trump orders an overhaul of how elections are run, inviting a likely legal challenge”

“The new mandates, including a proof-of-citizenship requirement and revised voting machine standards, would override the powers of Congress, states, and independent agencies. Elon Musk's team would investigate voter rolls.”

Read entire Votebeat article here: [Trump executive order would upend how elections are run.](#)

Law professor Rick Hasen is profiled in the piece. Quoting from the article:

“Rick Hasen, a professor at UCLA Law School and expert on election law, told Votebeat he expects litigation over the issue to be filed immediately.

Hasen said the order assumes that the White House has more power over independent agencies — in this case the U.S. Election Assistance Commission — than was previously understood. “It was thought to be that he has no power over the Election Assistance Commission,” he said. “This would be quite the sea change.”

While much of the order may ultimately be unenforceable, he [Hasen] said, it offers insight into Trump’s election priorities: “It’s a messaging document even if it’s not successful.”

For the League, however, the dangerous threat to our elections is more than a message.

LWV US Response

The League of Women Voters of the United States issued a statement in response to President Donald Trump’s signed executive order, which threatens Americans’ freedom to vote and tramples states’ constitutional authority to run their own elections:

[Read the full statement from LWVUS.](#)

In Oregon, the LWV was also able to weigh in, offering a statement for the Oregonian article published on the day of the order:

[Oregon officials say Trump’s voting executive order likely to face legal challenges](#) [Oregon Live].

What can you do? We realize that is a difficult question asked frequently of late.

The answer is **Do What You Can**. Perhaps follow LWV on social media, visit [Get-Involved page at LWWOR](#), and look at “league management” section of [national LWV website](#). Leaders can’t do it alone. We need members to step up, take action.

One last related action... if you haven’t already asked Representative Bentz to vote NO on the Save Act, please do so NOW by clicking below. We have very little time before this vote.

[Tell the House to vote no on the Save Act!](#)

Voters Service Report

By Kathleen Donham

The **May 20 special election** will mainly include candidates for local boards, but there are two measures in Jackson County concerning Fire District levies. **The Voter Pamphlet goes out on April 21, and ballots are mailed May 2nd**. All candidates have been entered into the LWV Vote411 service database and asked to participate by email. As members, our job is to call each candidate and ask them to answer the questions posed by Vote411. There are 111 candidate entries in the Jackson County filing database, and 33 candidates in Josephine County. The state League Voters Service team will meet on April 7 and the candidate questions will be provided.

For details about the candidates, visit the following websites:

[Jackson County Races and Measures May 20, 2025 Special Election](#)

[Local Races Measures May 20, 2025 Special District Election](#) (Josephine County)

The ideal time for a candidate forum would be the first week of May. **Are you interested in assisting with a candidate Meet & Greet or Forum?** Please call 541-772-5044 (Kathleen Donham) or contact me at KDonham@gmail.com if you would like to work on such an event.

March 9 School Board Education Report from Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) by Jake Arnold, OSBA, photos by Arnold and Maggie Van Dame (LWVRV)

OSBA Board Development Director Kristen Miles presented Sunday, March 9, at the Jackson County Library in Medford on "What It Means To Be a School Board Member." The audience had lots of questions on topics such as the difference between a school board's governance and oversight role and a superintendent's day-to-day management duties. (Photo by Jake Arnold, OSBA)



More than three dozen people took time out from a pleasant afternoon to learn more about what it means to be a volunteer school board member and the extent of their roles and responsibilities. Attendees included school board members from the area and potential candidates.

OSBA Board Development Director Kristen Miles and Dawn Watson, a Phoenix-Talent School Board member, answered questions for more than an hour on topics ranging from the ramifications of federal decisions to how education funding works, particularly with special education.

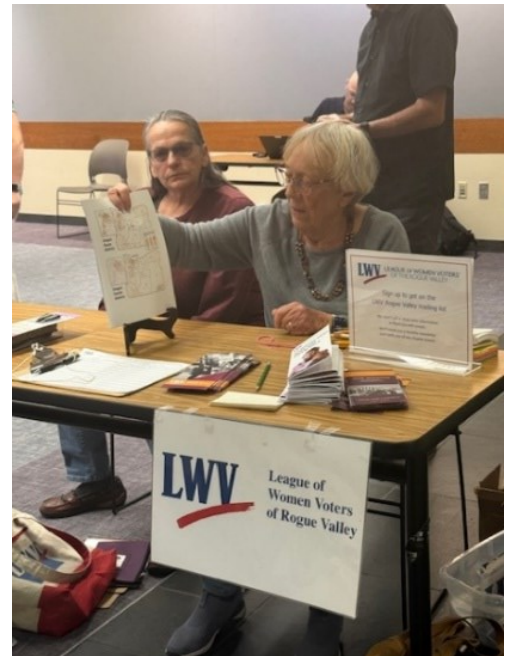
Tempers have been running hot in many parts of the country as political conflicts have found their ways into school board meeting rooms. This is a school board election year in Oregon, meaning roughly half of school board positions are up for a vote.

School Board candidates have until March 20 to file to be on the ballot for the May 20 election. OSBA's Get on Board campaign offers information on running for a school board and what the role entails.

Kathleen Donham, voter services chair for the League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley, said some candidacy support in the area was showing misconceptions about what a school board could legally do.

Donham connected with Watson, who is the OSBA Board vice president, and the league invited OSBA to talk to the community.

"We want there to be factual information out there," said Donham. "This is what they do. It was a joy to hand it off to somebody who knows what they are talking about."



Opportunity to Make Your Voice Heard at the Legislature Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From LWVOR Action Committee

The **Joint Committee on Ways and Means** will tour the state for six public hearings to hear directly from Oregonians regarding your priorities for the 2025-2027 budget. If you have programs you want to be funded, be sure and tell members of the Ways and Means Committee how they should be funded. If you have ideas for additional revenue, let them know those ideas.

We encourage members to attend as individuals and express your opinion on any of the state funded programs that are important to you because it is your taxes they are spending. If you wish to testify in person, please leave your League pin at home.

We also encourage local League members to attend the Ways and Means hearing in your area and help by being the eyes and ears of the LWVOR Action Team. If you are acting as a monitor for us, please wear your League pin for everyone to see. And please send your observations to us at advocacy@lwvor.org.

Klamath Falls

Friday, April 25 (5:00pm – 7:00pm)

Klamath Community College, Building 4 Commons, 7390 South 6th Street

Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Members of the public can register to testify [here](#) (see link near the top of the agenda)

[There are no meetings in Medford, Oregon]

LWVRV CALENDAR

April

Saturday	5	Hands Off March, 10-12, Hawthorne Park, Medford
Thursday	24	General Meeting/Work Party, 11:30-1:30, OEA Medford
Friday	25	Joint Committee on Ways & Means, 5-7, Klamath Falls
Sunday	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@lwrv.org and 541-830-0602 (h), 541-227-4749 (c).
- LWVRV
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- Contact the webmaster: webadmin@lwrv.org
- Website: lwrv.org
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- If you must have a paper copy of this newsletter mailed to you, please call Jim at 541-830-0602 or email newsletter@lwrv.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 lwrv.org/join-us](http://lwrv.org/join-us)
- **To donate to the Rogue Valley Chapter of LWV,** [go to lwrv.org/donate](http://lwrv.org/donate)