

Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

LWV Membership Portal Update

Maggie VanDame, Transformation Chair, LWVRV

We're pleased that many of our Rogue Valley members have successfully renewed their memberships online through the new Membership Portal this year. Since the Portal launched in February 2025, 11 new members have also joined us online—great news for our League!

Members will receive renewal reminders by email from LWVUS **60 days and 30 days** before their membership expiration date. After those reminders, our local League will follow up as needed.

While we've experienced a few minor technical issues, most have been resolved quickly. If you encounter any difficulties renewing your membership—whether online or by check—please contact our League Treasurer, **Mike VanDame**, at treasurer@lwrv.org. He'll ensure your questions are directed to the right person and answered promptly.

For more details about the services available through the Member Portal, including how to update your profile or renew your membership, please refer to the [LWV Member Portal User Guide](#) [PDF].

*The League of Women Voters is a **nonpartisan, grassroots** organization working to **protect and expand voting rights** and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through **advocacy, education, and litigation**, at the local, state, and national levels.*

Election Hero Day – November 3, 2025

County and election officers have a different job today than they did years ago. LWVUS would like all League members to learn more about what election clerks face. As part of a nonpartisan, national [Election Hero Day](#) celebration, we at LWVRV encourage you, our members, to reach out to thank **your** county clerk on Monday, November 3 - or at any time of the year.

Election officials are the bedrock of our Constitution. It is their role to secure our right to free and fair elections through their incredible commitment to impartiality, security, rule of law and access to the vote.

To give you more information about the role of election officials, the League is promoting a 27-minute documentary.

The Officials is a film by Margo Guernsey and Sara Archambault that highlights this dedicated public service. The documentary offers a behind-the-scenes look at a politically diverse group of election officials who, despite facing increased threats, harassment, and intimidation, remain committed to serving their communities by running secure elections and ensuring every eligible vote is counted accurately.

[View *The Officials* documentary online.](#) It's 27 minutes long and free to watch!

Contact YOUR County Office

LWVRV prepared a card recognizing Chris Walker, Jackson County Clerk, for her work protecting our elections. If you were not able to sign the card, we suggest you phone or email your clerk and voice your recognition.

Jackson County

Chris Walker, Jackson County Clerk
10 South Oakdale, Room 114, Medford, OR 97501
(541) 774-6152

Elections Office Division: 541-774-6148
elections@jacksoncountyor.gov



Josephine County

Rhiannon Henkels, Josephine County Clerk
500 NW 6th St., Room 170, Grants Pass, OR 97526
Mailing address: Josephine County Clerk, P.O. Box 69, Grants Pass, OR 97528
Phone: (541) 474-5240

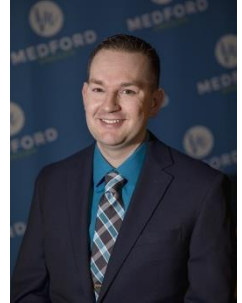
[Contact information for Josephine County Government](#), including email form



Voter Service

Kathleen Donham

October 23 LWVRV Meeting: Medford City Councilor Kevin Stine was the Voter Education speaker at our October 23 meeting. He explained why he supports Ballot Measure #15-238. The vote will be held November 4 on this council-initiated measure to increase in the city's transient lodging tax from 11% to 13%. The tax will fund a new conference and events center as part of the Creekside Quarter project. No arguments were filed in opposition to the measure, but there have been concerns voiced in the RV Times about the future of Hawthorne Park. League members asked questions about the transparency of the project, since the project developer has not been publicly named. According to the Voters Pamphlet, the initiative is supported by the Chamber of Commerce and two of the three Jackson County Commissioners. League members from Medford are encouraged to contact the Rogue Valley Observer Corp to follow this issue.



November 7 Voter Service Workshop in Eugene: Join Kathleen Donham and Dorothy Destache for a workshop in Eugene to discuss Voter Service projects for the coming year. Voter Service work includes Voter Education, Vote411, Forums and Debates, and Voter Registration.

Think Before You Ink! You may see petitions for this Oregon 2026-056 Initiative to get open primaries on the ballot in the November 2026 election. If approved by voters, this measure would allow non-party affiliated voters to participate in the election primaries. There are more non-affiliated voters in Oregon than members of either Democratic or Republican parties. LWVOR does NOT support this particular measure of Top Two outcomes but we whole heartedly support open primaries with ranked choice voting, especially advancing more than two candidates.

[PDF of the Voters Fairness Act](#)

[Oregon Capital Chronicle article about this initiative](#)

Membership

Kathleen Donham

LWV welcomes several new members. Those who have given permission to have their names published in the newsletter are:

Andre Allen (Medford)

Cynthia White (rejoining, Ashland)

Betsy Farman (Jacksonville)

Angela Zbikowski (Medford)

The League now has a **Membership Committee**: Jean Buck, Michael VanDame, Maggi VanDame, Barb Barasa, and Kathleen Donham. Call 541-772-5044 with concerns. The **New Member Packet** provided to all new members includes: Pocket Constitution, List of Rights & Responsibilities, League Glossary, promotional items (bookmark, VOTE411 cards, How to Contact Elected Officials, League Flyer) and a new Directory of Members.

Podcast on history of the U.S. Constitution



In 1787, the framers of the U.S. Constitution set out a young nation's highest ideals. And we've been fighting over it ever since. The **Washington Post's 2017 audio podcast, *Constitutional***, is an enlightening and educational series. Did you know there have been over 11,000 attempts to amend the U.S. Constitution? Knowing the background behind our Constitution is especially important today.

How to listen: Find the podcast on your phone by putting “constitutional” in the search tool of your podcast app, or on your computer by going to the [Washington Post website](#)

LWVRV Participates in Oct. 18 “No Kings” Protest

Members of LWVRV joined hundreds of other local residents who let their voices be heard all over the country on October 18. Along with many other groups, the LWV is a partner in supporting the No Kings movement.

Find out what No Kings is all about, and how you can participate, at nokings.org.



Guidelines for articles submitted for inclusion in the LWVRV Newsletter.

- Give your article a title. The title may be changed by the editor.
- Put your name under the title.
- Email your article to Jim Buck at newsletter@lwvr.org

LWVRV Calendar

November

Monday	3	Election Heros Day
Tuesday	4	Ballot Measures
Friday	7	Voter Service Meeting - Eugene
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
- **To donate to the Rogue Valley Chapter of LWV,** go to lwvr.org/donate