



LWVUS is a sponsor of the nationwide

NO KINGS Rally

Saturday, October 18

[Medford 11am-1pm](#): McAndrews Road
between Biddle and Crater Lake Ave.

[Grants Pass 10am-1pm](#): 500 NW 6th St

Let your voice be heard!

***“The most common way people give up their power
is by thinking they don’t have any.”***

Alice Walker, author

LWVRV General Meeting

LWV Members and Nonmembers Welcome!

Thursday, October 23, 11am to 1pm

Guest speaker and topic TBA - Oregon Educational Office (OEA), 2495 S Pacific Hwy, Medford

Find out what our League is all about. Chat with members of the board, committee chairs, and other volunteers. New members are encouraged to attend. Bring a friend!

Printed member directories will be available.

Bring a brown bag lunch if you'd like. Questions? Contact Kathleen Donham: 541-772-5044

Opportunity for Creative Voices – Call for Poetry Submissions

TIME SENSITIVE - DEADLINE OCTOBER 15TH

LWVRV members who wish to make their voices heard in a creative way, and from home, should consider this League poetry project.

Good Luck! Barbara Klein, LWVRV Action

Two Wisconsin Leagues are gathering poems to include in a 2026 anthology “Democracy’s Urgent Call” of 100 poems by LWV members from every state to celebrate the 250th birthday of the Declaration of Independence.

The direct submission link is bit.ly/4pkWCzK or use the QR code below. Please contact Barbara Klein action@lwrv.org if you have any questions.

As poets, writers, and members of the League of Women Voters, we recognize the power of language to connect people—to stir hearts and minds, and to reaffirm the enduring promise of Democracy. Through poetry, we aim to illuminate its beauty, its fragility, and its strength—especially at a time when we can no longer afford to take its core principles for granted.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this unique project!

Democracy’s Urgent Call



We invite original poems that reflect on the guiding principles of democracy - such as justice, equality, freedom, civic engagement, and the common good.

We welcome a wide range of voices, styles, and perspectives. Surprise us with something fresh - insightful, musical, memorable. We're looking for poems that move us: make us laugh, cry, reflect, or see the world in a new way.

Christy Schwan
Co-President LWV Ozaukee & Washington Counties
Treasurer & Board of Directors LWV Wisconsin



Eloisa Gómez
Comité por el Voto Latino,
LWV Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Polarization in Romantic Comedy

The Elephant in the Room

Barbara Klein, Action Chair

Here's a missed opportunity with continued prospect. While we in LWVRV weren't able to pursue the offer from Outreach & Events Coordinator Tom Cottrill to host a movie screening, we thought we would share this information with you.

A new feature-length (91 minute) romantic comedy entitled *The Elephant in the Room* tackles political polarization through humor, heart, and a bit of unexpected romance. The topic is timely for sure.

The LWV at all levels is concerned about the nationwide polarization of our land. This film follows a progressive woman and a charming Trump voter whose budding connection tests the limits of love and ideology in a divided America. It's like the ultimate holiday dinner table with various views.

The writer/director of the film, Erik Bork, responded that, "Some orgs still like to do in-person screenings of course, which is a separate license. But if cost is an issue, audiences can watch at home with these options [see below]."

The movie is already available to rent or buy on the major platforms like Amazon, Google Play, Vimeo, and YouTube. It will also be on Tubi starting in mid-October, streaming free with ads. See more about the film and watch the trailer on [The Elephant in the Room website](#).

There was a discussion guide for audience participation when the organizers first reached out. It may still be available if you want to host an event or house party. Check the film's website for information.

If you have questions, contact Barbara Klein, action@lwvr.org.



A Perfect Time to Read the Constitution

By Kathleen Donham

The local League held a public reading of the United States Constitution on **September 17, Constitution Day**. It was very inspiring, especially for these times that require its defense. We hope to make this reading a yearly event, and now have the resources to do so: Pocket Constitutions, posters, props, etc.

Attendees welcomed members of the public in front of the Medford Library and the “Elders for a Kind Government” group were represented. Attendees each read sections of the document.



Elders for a Kind Government

Mary Ellen Gordion, LWVRV Member

I have created Elders for a Kind Government because it goes to the heart of the matter. Our government needs to be just but it also needs to be kind to all people. Government is how we interact with each other and meet everyone's needs. Since late June, every morning except Sundays, I have been sitting on the corner in downtown Talent holding a sign that reads “Elders for a Kind Government.” Many people honk or wave or give me a thumbs up.

Board Annual Retreat

Sally Smith (from notes by Dorothy Destache)

Our local League held an annual retreat in August at Michael and Maggie Van Dame's home. Eight board members were able to attend. The retreat ran from 10:15 AM to 4:15 PM, so it was a full day!

The following topics were discussed:

- Barbara Klein talked about the need for a new membership booklet or pamphlet. A **membership committee** will be formed to devise one, among other membership needs.
- Kathleen Donham proposed we buy a **"Check Your Registration" banner**, with the cost to stay below \$100. Olena Black offered to pay for a second banner. The Board approved the purchase.
- **Kathleen Donham was accepted on the Rogue Community Health Board**. She emphasized the need to educate voters on changes to the Medicare and Medicaid systems in the 2026 bill on Health Care. We need to get the word out before a VOTE. This will involve local doctors, insurance companies, etc. We will place this on the February calendar for discussion, as February is National Heart Month.
- **The K-12 study group is requesting three (3) consensus meetings**. This has not been received positively. Our response was NO to 3 meetings.
- Barbara Klein introduced possibly hosting a movie at the Varsity Theater in Ashland, suggesting several movies. The cost of renting the theater is \$110 for 10 people and \$11 for each additional person. A discussion could be held following the movie.
- A **presentation by the Oregon Department of Civil Rights** was discussed, which might be a good topic for our December meeting. December is normally our 'giving meeting'. (Klamath held this presentation.)
- Jean Buck and Sally Smith (not present at the meeting) will take over the phone tree for this year.
- Kathleen Donham proposed a **"Reading of the Constitution of the United States" in a public gathering on Constitution Day, Wednesday, September 17**. Various locations were discussed: Alba Park, in front of the Craterian Theatre, or at the downtown Medford Library. It was left to Kathleen's discretion.
- The Oregon League has given local Leagues \$200 each to be used for **membership scholarships**. We discussed what category of members should be approached first with the offer of a year's membership. Are we looking at a younger group of people, or recently retired people? There is also an interest in the college age level.
- Kathleen Donham discussed the possibility of having someone from **Jackson County Clerk's office offer a presentation** about what they do at one of our general meetings.
- **Olena Black is working on details to nominate the Grants Pass Courier and its reporter, Vickie Aldous, for a Pulitzer Prize** for their reporting on the Josephine County Commissioners lack of transparency in tempting to obtain huge pay increases for some top-level employees.
- We are getting a new FREE Zoom Acct. Currently we are part of the State's Zoom account. It will be set up soon, date TBD.

As you can see, it was a full day's meeting. A big thank you to the Board members who gave of their time for that day. Thank you!!!

League 101 – Virtual state meetings

All are invited. No matter if you are a brand-new member or are just looking for a refresher about the League, this might serve you well. You are invited to monthly “League 101” state meetings.

Generally, these meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

This is a view from 10,000 ft, meaning a super introductory review. It’s not strictly about the LWV Rogue Valley, but is helpful for all members.

Feel free to register for a meeting, or more than one meeting, at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/gVlcSLI3RF24I8rCdTE3PQ#/registration>

If you need any further information, feel free to contact Kathleen Donham at 541-772-5044

League of Women Voters Condemns Unjustified National Guard Deployment to Portland

PORTLAND AND WASHINGTON, DC — The League of Women Voters of Oregon and the League of Women Voters of the US issued the following joint statement in response to the deployment of the National Guard in Portland.

“Portland — a city recognized nationally for its civic activism, creativity, and commitment to democratic values — is now subject to an unjustified deployment of federal troops. This action undermines local authority and threatens the very freedoms our democracy is meant to protect.

Neither the Governor of Oregon nor city leaders requested this intervention. No emergency exists in Portland that warrants federal deployment. Instead, this move represents yet another instance of political retaliation aimed at silencing diverse, engaged communities who exercise their right to free expression.

The presence of the National Guard will not bring safety or stability to Portland. Instead, it escalates fear, erodes trust, and places communities — particularly Black, brown, immigrant, and Indigenous residents who have historically borne the brunt of state overreach — at greater risk.

Portland has long been a city where people gather to speak out, advocate for justice, and demand accountability from their government. To answer civic participation with militarization is a dangerous misuse of federal power. What Portlanders need is investment in community safety, affordable housing, and public health — not troops in their streets.

The League calls on the Oregon congressional delegation to condemn the weaponization of the federal military and stand up for the people of Portland. We commend Oregon government officials for taking legal action against this unjust occupation.”

LWVRV Calendar

October

Wednesday	1	League 101 Zoom, 6:30 PM (and every first Wednesday)
Saturday	18	No Kings Rally, 11:00 AM, E. McAndrews, Medford
Thursday	23	LWVRV General Meeting, 11:00 AM, OEA Building, Medford
Monday	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
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- 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