

CoastLines



**Hello members of
the LWVCC,**

- April has already been and will continue to be a busy month. On Saturday April 5th, the National and International "HANDS OFF" demonstrations and marches took place in all 50 states and in several cities in other countries as well. While exact numbers of participants are hard to determine, the best estimates for the United States are that between 3 and 4 million people participated on April 5th.
- These numbers make this the largest protest rally in the history of the United States. I personally predict this will happen again, perhaps with even greater numbers. Over 400 people attended the demonstration and march in Gold Beach on April 5th. I attended as an individual and can attest to the large number in attendance. The rally and march were peaceful, uplifting, and demonstrated a strong commitment to Democracy.
- Lindsay LaPlante who is the Membership & Development Coordinator for the League of Women Voters of Oregon asked if our league had participated in the demonstration on April 5. I said that our league had not. I have the sense that this league is not particularly interested in such events.
- Please be sure to attend the All-Units meeting on April 14, at 1 pm at the library in Gold Beach. It is an informative meeting about Special Districts in our County. It should be well worth your time. I will not be able to attend because I must cook for the community kitchen in Brookings on that day. Also, remember to attend and help if you can at the forums at the end of April. The Port Orford forum will be at 7 pm on April 30 at the city council chambers and the Brookings forum will be at 7 pm on April 30th at the library. See the calendar for more information.

Respectfully, Louise Abbott

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**BOARD
MEETING:**

Board members attending: Louise Abbott, , Jeanne Jezuit, Georgia Nowlin, Karen Cunningham, and Alyce Prudden

- The resignation of Susan Barke from the **LWVCC** board was accepted.
- The board also acknowledged that Evan Kramer has essentially resigned from the **LWVCC** board as well.
- The treasurer's report for March 2025, was approved.
- The minutes of the Board Meeting held March 11, 2025, were approved.
- The budget committee presented a 2025-2026 budget that was approved for presentation at the annual meeting.
- The Special districts All-unit meeting and May candidate forums were discussed.
- Two voting delegates to represent the **LWVCC** at the **LWVOR** convention May 2-4, 2025, in Salem, OR were recognized.
- They are Jeanne Jezuit and MJ LaBelle. Lucie La Bonte will attend as an observer.



Thank you to these three individuals!

2025 LWVCC Annual Meeting

The date of the **LWVCC** Annual Meeting will be
Saturday, June 14, 2025.

The time will be 10 am to noon,
with cookies, coffee, and water provided.
We anticipate holding the meeting at the
Library in Gold Beach.



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MEETING

**Program
Proposal**

- ♦ It has been the habit for our league to have members provide guidance to the board regarding program – what our league wants to accomplish in the coming year. According to the **LWVCC** Bylaws (Article VIII, section 2) “b.
- ♦ The board shall consider these [member] recommendations and formulate a proposed program which shall be sent to the members at least one month before the annual meeting.”
- ♦ So now is the time to send the board your thoughts and suggestions (lcabbott02@earthlink.net or 541-254-0779).
- ♦ Please do so by the first week of May.





LWVOR Legislative Report – Week of 4/7



Governance

SB 210

By Barbara Klein

Effort to Repeal Vote-By-Mail (VBM) was heard by Senate Rules with a great deal of public input. OLIS experienced technical issues on 3/31/2025 due to the overwhelming number of SB 210 testimony submissions (both written and requests to speak). Testimony was heated at times, with oppose and support views near equal in number during the hearing, despite the unequal written statements. Complaints about VBM included concerns about fraud, lack of responsibility on the part of voters and the erroneously belief that there are online connections to ballots. Senator David Brock Smith the main sponsor of the bill (joined later by Senator Kim Thatcher) repeatedly explained that they just want voters to “reaffirm” their wishes to keep VBM or not. SB 210 is a ballot referral to the voters. There was no discussion of monies needed to support or oppose the ballot measure.

While more testimony continued to pour in for the 48 hours after the hearing adjourned, shortly after the hearing there were more than 11,000 written testimonies submitted. Over 85% of those were opposed to the bill and in favor of keeping VBM.

The League submitted [written testimony](#) and delivered [verbal testimony](#) (at 1 hour, 26 minutes, 20 second mark).

SJR 30

Coordinator Norman Turrill

Proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to require petition signatures for initiative laws to contain at least eight percent of the total votes cast for all candidates for Governor at the last general election at which a Governor was elected divided equally among the congressional districts of this state. Proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to require petition signatures for initiative amendments to the Oregon Constitution to contain at least ten percent of the total votes cast for all candidates for Governor at the last general election at which a Governor was elected divided equally among the congressional districts of this state. [League written testimony here](#). *Public hearing April 2 in Senate Rules.*

[SJR 30](#) is sponsored by Senators Nash and Broadman. It would increase the requirements to qualify an initiative for the general election ballot. If SJR 30 is adopted, then the number of valid signatures that is required would be increased 33% for statutory measures and would be increased 25% for constitutional measures! Furthermore, the required signatures would have to be equally distributed among congressional districts. The League submitted [testimony](#) opposing SJR 30 since it would nearly destroy the ability for citizens to qualify an initiative for the ballot, except by wealthy special interest groups and corporations.





Climate Emergency

Coordinator Claudia Keith

[Oregon Democrats unveil \\$1.9 billion transportation funding plan](#)

The plan includes raising the state gas tax to 60 cents per gallon, higher DMV fees, higher bike taxes and more. | *OCC. [ODOT answers to budget presentation questions](#) an 18-page document dated March 13. ODOT budget presentation package detail materials can be found [Here](#). The League is concerned with federal guidelines: “McLain and Gorsek said they’re confident in Oregon’s ability to continue to receive federal transportation grants, despite directives from U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy that federal funding should go toward states with high marriage and birth rates, no vaccine or mask mandates and that are committed to working with the federal government to enforce Trump’s immigration policy — all areas that don’t apply to Oregon.” [See OCC article](#). KGW NEWS: [What it could cost you to rescue Oregon's transportation funding | The Story | April 4, 2025](#)

COASTAL

Coordinator, Peggy Lynch

[Eelgrass Action Bill \(HB 3580\)](#): This bill for kelp and eel grass conservation, was sent to Ways and Means. The League signed on to a [letter in support](#) of [HB 3580](#). The bill to protect Rocky Habitat ([HB 3587](#)), another bill the League supports, was also sent to Ways and Means.

[HB 3786](#) is a bill that would provide new funding for the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST). The League has supported the creation and funding for this important program in the past. The [-1 amendment](#) was adopted on March 31 and the bill was sent to Ways and Means with a do pass recommendation.

Wild fire

By Carolyn Mayers

A Public Hearing was held before the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire on [SB 83](#), which would repeal the apparently ill-fated State Wildfire Hazard map. The passage of this bill, which would result in the removal of language referencing the map from statute, would have far reaching consequences for everything from defensible space standards, the definition and mapping of the wildland urban interface, to building codes, the Oregon Conservation Corps grant process, and the areas covered by rural fire protection districts. So far nine amendments have been introduced, and a Work Session was scheduled for April 8. A nearly identical bill, [HB 3944](#), had a Public Hearing before House Climate, Energy and Environment on April 8.



LWV LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
22ND NATIONAL PRESIDENT
**DIANNA
WYNN**



OUR NATION



- April is Arab American Heritage Month. The League honors the Arab American community and all Arab American women working to power democracy. We stand in solidarity with our Arab American friends and neighbors during this time of fear and uncertainty.
- It's alarming that in just these last two weeks, we've seen blatant and unlawful attacks against voting rights, starting with the Trump Administration's latest executive order on voting. This order is a dangerous attempt to silence American voters and yet another example of the administration's executive overreach — **that's why we're suing!** On Tuesday, the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF), LWVUS, and LWV of Arizona filed a lawsuit challenging this harmful executive order. **Read our statement on www.lwv.org.**
- Additionally, we continue to oppose the *SAVE Act* and anticipate that the US Senate will soon vote on this harmful voter suppression legislation. Keep using our [action alert](#), [talking points](#), and [letter-to-the-editor template](#) to pressure representatives to vote against this bill!
- As a grassroots organization, we know that spreading the word, activating your community, and collectively building power are essential to protecting our democracy. To support Leagues in their mobilization efforts, LWVUS and partners are sponsoring a training series called [Rise for Freedom](#). Sessions will train attendees on how to organize in this moment and use tools to build pro-democracy power. [Learn more about each session and register here](#). In addition, LWV was a national partner for the "Hands Off!" Day of Action this Saturday, April 5.
- In other League news, **over 4,000 new members have joined LWV** since the LWVUS launched the new membership system, ChapterSpot, last month! As with any new tool, there are some kinks to iron out, LWVUS wants to thank Leagues who have elevated issues to LWVUS — most of those issues have been resolved and updates are reflected on the [League Management Site](#). **Thank you to all** for your patience and partnership as we implement this new membership system.
- Finally, based on the current political climate, **it is clear that the League is more vital than ever.**

In League,

Dianna Wynn

Dianna Wynn

President, League of Women Voters of the US



Felony Disenfranchisement:

- A Panel discussion on How Leagues are Engaging and Advocating for Re-Enfranchisement in their communities will be held on **May 21, 3pm ET**.
- Join this panel discussion with our partners at The Sentencing Project about the importance of enfranchisement for justice-involved individuals, why the League is important to this movement, and how state and local Leagues can engage and advocate.

[LEARN MORE](#)



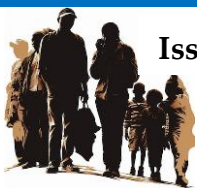
- † Last month we reported on the work to help the unhoused in our county being carried out by Brookings CORE Response. This month we discuss the work being carried out in Brookings by St. Timothy's Episcopal Church.
- † When you go to the webpage for St. Timothy's Episcopal Church (<https://www.sttimothyeiscopal.org/>) you will find this quote **"If you offer your food to the hungry, and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness, and your gloom shall be like the noonday."** Isaiah 58:10
St. Timothy's is dedicated to serving the surrounding community (both housed and unhoused) in multiple ways. They have a Soup Kitchen, an Advocacy Team, and a Community Garden. Food and affordable housing scarcity has been ever-growing in Curry County. Scarcity and inflation of these core necessities have resulted in community members in more need than ever before. St. Timothy's Soup Kitchen currently serves 300+ hot meals every week. Meals are provided on Sunday at 3pm, and at noon on Monday, Tuesday, and all the odd Saturdays. The Monday meals are hosted by Smith River United Methodist Church and served at St. Timothy's.
- † The Church also provides the ability for individuals to have a shower during office hours which are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am to noon. Laundry vouchers are provided so people can wash and dry a load of clothes for free at Ye Olde Washhouse in Harbor. Folks without permanent addresses can use the Church's mailing addresses to send and receive mail.
- † The Advocacy team includes Father Bernie Lindley, five paid staff, and three volunteers. These dedicated and hardworking people help people navigate the Oregon healthcare system, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, Mental Health Care Systems, and the legal system. Individuals get help with obtaining identification documents such as birth certificates, drivers licenses and other forms of ID. Sister Cora Rose, a lawyer, helps with expungements, court hearings, and other legal issues.
- † On Wednesday mornings St. Timothy hosts a meeting for the major community services in the County, including law enforcement, Adapt, Veterans Services, the Tolowa Dee Ni' Nation, Oregon Health and Human Services, ORCCA, Brookings Harbor Community Helpers, Food Bank and Resource Center, and other agencies as well. These weekly meetings allow exchange of information, resources, and ideas to better help our community.
- † Each day St. Timothy's tries hard to help the people who come to the church. Here are just a few examples of help that has been provided. A while ago, one of the parishioner's passed away and left his fifth wheeler to the church. The church was able to give the fifth wheeler to an unhoused mother and her child. She was working but did not have the funds to get housing. Now that she has the fifth wheeler in her name, she will be able to afford the rent on the space she has as well as pay for utilities, food and medical needs. The church has been able to find housing for more than a dozen unhoused individuals and families in the past year.
- † One more story of how people are helped by St Timothy's is an individual who reached bottom due to alcoholism and contacted the church. This person reached out in their desperation to Father Bernie who found someone who took that person into their home for two days until they could get into a clinic to receive the care needed for alcohol detoxification and then subsequent rehabilitation. That person has been sober for over two years now. Not every case is a success, but help is offered whenever possible by the staff and volunteers at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church.



Here is the church website:

<https://www.sttimothyeiscopal.org/>





The information in this article came from Community Solutions
(<https://community.solutions/the-challenge/>)



Most people experiencing homelessness in any specific area are either from the area where they're unhoused or had been living there for multiple years before they lost housing.

People experiencing homelessness have long been stereotyped as 'transient drifters,'¹ despite evidence indicating that they are often from the area in which they currently reside. Moving requires money and resources that most people experiencing homelessness do not have. Anecdotal evidence in Brookings indicates that about 1/3 of the unhoused population are from Brookings or the surrounding areas.

The relationship between homelessness and mental illness and substance use disorders is complex. Most people experiencing homelessness do not experience either condition. Moreover, mental illness and substance use do not predict homelessness at the community level. There are many people with mental illness or substance abuse who are housed.

The public tends to overestimate rates of mental illness and/or substance use disorders among the population experiencing homelessness.² Findings from two large surveys reveal that the public also believes mental illness and/or substance abuse *generate* homelessness.³ Although stereotypes about these individuals are often based on experiences with individuals who are unhoused, most people experiencing homelessness do not live on the streets or other places not designed or ordinarily used for sleeping accommodation.⁴ **The idea that individuals lose their housing due to these conditions also overlooks that mental health conditions and substance use disorders can be outcomes of experiencing homelessness.** The trauma of becoming unhoused can expose individuals to stressors that increase their vulnerability to psychological distress and substance use disorders.

Studies consistently show that a lack of affordable housing is the best predictor of homelessness.⁵ Housing markets with high rents and low vacancy rates drive up homelessness. Furthermore, variations in rates of homelessness across communities in the US are not related to the number of individuals suffering from mental illness or substance use disorders whatsoever.⁶ Findings from surveys with people experiencing homelessness provide considerable evidence that the leading causes of losing housing are related to economic forces.⁷

Homelessness is not a choice for most people. Many people experiencing homelessness are actually employed or actively seeking employment and would move inside if housing were available. Research consistently finds that people believe most individuals experiencing homelessness are "lazy" and could improve their situation if they would simply "get a job."⁸ False perceptions that homelessness allows for endless free time and relieves people from the daily responsibilities of work and family reveal a lack of understanding regarding what homelessness is like and how it occurs.

There also is a misconception that being unhoused is a choice and people experiencing homelessness are "service resistant." To the contrary, interviews and surveys find that **most people experiencing homelessness would move inside if safe and affordable housing were available.⁹** Rather than actively choosing homelessness and resisting high-quality services, **most people experiencing unsheltered homelessness lack a safe and stable alternative option.** The success of the [Housing First](#) model in stably housing individuals over time suggests that **when flexible services are offered that are responsive to individuals' unique needs, people experiencing homelessness are highly receptive.¹⁰**

Footnotes

1. Lindquist, Christine H., Mark Lagory, and Ferris J. Ritchey (1999). The myth of the migrant homeless: An exploration of the psychosocial consequences of migration. *Sociological Perspectives*, 42(4): 691-709.
2. Lyon-Callo, Vincent (2001). Making sense of NIMBY poverty, power and community opposition to homeless shelters. *City & Society*, 13(2): 183-209. Kim, Nathan J., Jessica Lin, Craig Hiller, Chantal Hildebrand, and Colette Auerswald (2021). Analyzing US tweets for stigma against people experiencing homelessness. *Stigma and Health*.
3. Dickerson, Mike (December 2020). What America Believes About Homelessness. Invisible People
4. Note: [Estimates](#) from 138 communities who conducted full unsheltered counts in 2020 and 2021 indicate that approximately 18% of those experiencing homelessness were unsheltered. In the [2017 Point-in-Time count](#), approximately 35% of those experiencing homelessness were unsheltered, and nearly two-thirds (65%) were staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing.
5. Shinn, Marybeth, Jim Baumohl, and Kim Hopper (2001). The prevention of homelessness revisited. *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, 1.1: 95-127. Shinn, Marybeth (2009). Ending Homelessness for Families: The Evidence for Affordable Housing. Washington, DC: National Alliance to End Homelessness and Enterprise Community Partners. Colburn, G., & Aldern, C. P. Homelessness is a housing problem: How structural factors explain US patterns. Univ of California Press, 2022. National Coalition for the Homeless (June 2007). [Why Are People Homeless?](#) National Coalition for the Homeless.
6. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (June 2020). Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count: 2019 Results.
7. Brand, David (2017). [“I didn’t know finding an apartment would be impossible” – Data and Experience Refute the Homeless ‘Magnet Theory’ in New York City and Nationwide](#). Huffington Post.
8. Link, Bruce G., Sharon Schwartz, Robert Moore, Jo Phelan, Elmer Struening, Ann Stueve, and Mary Ellen Colten (1995). Public knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about homeless people: Evidence for compassion fatigue? *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 23(4): 533-555. Kim, Nathan J., Jessica Lin, Craig Hiller, Chantal Hildebrand, and Colette Auerswald (2021). Analyzing US tweets for stigma against people experiencing homelessness. *Stigma and Health*. Hocking, John E., and Samuel G. Lawrence (2000). Changing attitudes toward the homeless: The effects of prosocial communication with the homeless. *Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless*, 9: 91-110.
9. The City of Seattle and Applied Survey Research (2016). [City of Seattle 2016 Homeless Needs Assessment](#). Valencia, Milton (2021). ‘A sense of community’: Can the cabins at the Shattuck be an answer to the crisis at Mass. and Cass? The Boston Globe. Wusinich, Christina, Lynden Bond, Anna Nathanson, and Deborah K. Padgett (2019). “If you’re gonna help me, help me”: Barriers to housing among unsheltered homeless adults.” *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 76: 101673.
10. National Low Income Housing Coalition & National Alliance to End Homelessness (January 2020). [The Case for Housing First](#).





League of Women Voters of Curry County Calendar 2025



MONTH	DAY	EVENTS	PLACE	TIME
APRIL	14	All Unit Meeting on Special Districts <i>Learn about Curry County's Special Districts and their importance in our communities.</i>	Curry Public Library 94341 3rd St. Gold Beach, OR 97444	1-3 pm
	28	Candidate forums ♦ Port Orford	City Hall Council Chambers 555 West 20th St. Port Orford	Starting @ 7:00 pm
	30	♦ Brookings	Chetco Community Public Library 405 Alder St. Brookings	Starting @ 7:00 pm
MAY	2-4	LWVOR Convention <i>Attendance can be virtual or in person</i>	Salem OR	
	13	LWVCC Board meeting <i>Let Louise Abbott know if you want to attend, and she will give you the contact information.</i>	ZOOM	1-3 pm
JUNE	14	LWVCC Annual Meeting	Curry Public Library 94341 3rd St. Gold Beach, OR 97444	10am - noon



CoastLines

League of Women Voters of Curry County
P O Box 1859
Gold Beach, OR 97444



2024-2025 Board Officers & Directors

President

- **Louise Abbott**

Secretary

-

Treasurer

- **Alyce Prudden**

Board Directors

- **Jeanne Jezuit**
- **Karen Pringle-Cunningham**
- **Georgia Nowlin**

The League of Women Voters of Curry County

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Website Information: lwvcurry.org

Election Information: vote411.org



LWVCC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit civics organization.
Our mission is to encourage informed and active
participation in government.

Membership in LWVCC
is open to everyone who supports the
purposes and policies of the League.

Please see the LWVCC website for information on joining the League of Women Voters

League of Women Voters® of Curry County - League of Women Voters of Curry County