



Hello members of the League of Women Voters of Curry County,
Can you believe it is the middle of August already? Where did the summer go? I am glad that the heat we had earlier this summer did not persist, and we now have cooler temperatures. Now if we can get some rain.....

I thought it would be nice to have a summer (albeit, late summer) Coastlines. The goal of this short newsletter is to get us ready for a very busy fall. With the general election coming up in early November, we will have lots to do! We are planning on holding in-person candidate forums in all three towns in Curry County before the general election on November 5th. Our Voter Services Chair, Georgia Nowlin, has already started the process and the three candidate forums have been set.

- ☀ **Port Orford – Monday, October 7, 2024**
- ☀ **Gold Beach – Tuesday, October 8, 2024**
- ☀ **Brookings – Wednesday, October 9, 2024**

Lots of volunteer help will be needed to make these forums a success!

We held a combined new-old LWVCC board meeting and board retreat on July 9, 2024. The board was able to develop some plans for the coming year. Our issue of emphasis for this year was decided at the annual meeting, which is homelessness with a focus on the role of mental health. Over the next year, we will be having a series of articles in the Coastlines as well as unit meetings and discussions. The next CoastLines will come in **September** – not that far away!

Respectfully, Louise Abbott
President, LWVCC



Enjoy the rest of your Summer!

| In this Issue | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| President’s Message | Page 1 |
| LWOR Legislative Report | Page 2 |
| Statewide Ballot Measures | Page 3-4 |
| Caring for Children | Page 5-6 |
| Homelessness in Oregon | Page 7-8 |
| Message from LWVOR | Page 9 |
| LWCVV - Please Renew | Page 10 |
| Calendar | Page 11 |
| Membership Form | Page 12 |



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON
LWVOR LEGISLATIVE REPORT



- The 2025 Oregon state legislative session will begin on January 13 and last for five months.
- Oregon has a biennial budgeting process so all state agencies will need to have budgets approved by the end of session.
- The issues of importance during the 2025 session include housing, addiction, public safety, and transportation.
- With the proposed budget cuts in many local K-12 school districts, school funding also has been added to the priority list.
- **HCR 206** (2024) sets 2025 pre-session deadlines for members and committees.
- The new House Speaker has appointed **Interim Committee Membership**, including new committee chairs in some instances.
- Unlike the short session, there are no limits on bills to be filed by legislators AND there will be new legislators with the ability to file bills into the first part of the 2025 session.
- The legislature website can be found at <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/>



| | |
|-----------------|---|
| September 23-25 | Interim Legislative Days |
| September 27 | Deadline to submit pre-session bills to the Legislative Counsel |
| November 5 | General Election |
| November 20 | Revenue Forecast |
| December 10-12 | Interim Legislative Days |
| December 13 | Deadline for pre-session bills to be filed with the Senate or House |

- Interim Days are when legislators meet in committees to receive required reports from agencies, hold informational meetings on issues of concern and prepare for potential legislation for 2025.
- The Emergency Board may meet during these days and the Senate may meet to confirm appointments as they did on May 31.





Statewide Ballot Measures

(Ben Olds - Aug 13, 2024

Updated Aug 14, 2024[1])



There are five statewide ballot measures that Oregonians will vote on for the November general election. Below is a list of the measures and a summary of each one.

1. MEASURE 115:

- ☑ If approved, this measure would allow the Oregon State Legislature to impeach and remove elected state executives, including the governor, secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer, and commissioner of labor and industries.
- ☑ The constitutional amendment would require a two-thirds vote in the House to impeach an elected state executive, and a two-thirds vote in the Senate to convict and remove the official from office.
- ☑ The House could initiate an impeachment for "malfeasance or corrupt conduct in office, willful neglect of statutory or constitutional duty or other felony or high crime." [2,3]
- ☑ The amendment passed with unanimous bipartisan support in both chambers, excepting the 11 legislators who did not vote. [3]



2. MEASURE 116:

- ☑ If approved, this measure would establish a commission, called the Independent Public Service Compensation Commission, to determine the salaries of certain public officials.
- ☑ Twenty-two states have independent compensation commissions, [according to the National Conference of State Legislatures](#).
- ☑ The commission would set pay rates every two years. Officers or employees of the state and registered lobbyists cannot be members of the commission. [4]

3. MEASURE 117:

- ☑ If approved, this measure would establish a ranked-choice voting system in Oregon for federal and state executive offices.
- ☑ The ballot measure would establish [ranked-choice voting](#) (RCV) for elections to federal and state offices, including the president, U.S. senator, U.S. representative, governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer, and [commissioner of labor and industries](#).
- ☑ Currently, Oregon uses a [plurality voting system](#) in which the candidate with the highest number of votes wins.
- ☑ The ballot measure would not affect state legislative elections, which would continue to use plurality voting.
- ☑ The law would also authorize cities, counties, school districts, other local governments, and local districts to use ranked-choice voting for local elections unless home rule charters preempt it.
- ☑ The law would also require the secretary of state to establish a program to educate voters about ranked-choice voting. The law would take effect on January 1, 2028, if approved by voters. [3]
- ☑ Three local jurisdictions—[Benton County](#), [Multnomah County](#), and [Portland](#)—have already adopted ranked-choice voting. [3] (Please see the May and June 2024 CoastLines for articles on Ranked-Choice Voting.)





4. MEASURE 118:

- ☑ If approved, this measure would increase the corporate minimum tax on sales of more than \$25 million by 3%, which would be distributed to Oregon residents.
- ☑ This ballot measure, if approved would give Oregon residents a \$1,600 tax rebate.
- ☑ This “Oregon Rebate” would be available to all residents, making it similar to a universal basic income.
- ☑ It faces bipartisan opposition.[5]



5. MEASURE 119:

- ☑ If approved, this measure would require cannabis businesses to submit to the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission a signed labor peace agreement between the business and a labor organization with its licensure or renewal application.
- ☑ Workers in the cannabis sector do not currently have the option to unionize.[6]



Sources for information included in this article:

1. [Ben Olds](https://www.kdrv.com/news/top-stories/ballot-measures-youll-have-a-chance-to-vote-on-this-november/article_9124d18c-59a6-11ef-b1a1-af0c477eaca0.html) - Aug 13, 2024 Updated Aug 14, 2024 https://www.kdrv.com/news/top-stories/ballot-measures-youll-have-a-chance-to-vote-on-this-november/article_9124d18c-59a6-11ef-b1a1-af0c477eaca0.html
2. <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Measures/Overview/HJR16>
3. [https://ballotpedia.org/Oregon Measure 115, Impeachment of Elected State Executives Amendment \(2024\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Oregon_Measure_115,_Impeachment_of_Elected_State_Executives_Amendme nt_(2024))
4. Eric Tegethoff, Oregon News Service, August 11, 2024. <https://ktvz.com/news/oregon-northwest/2024/08/11/under-oregons-measure-116-independent-commission-would-set-elected-officials-pay/>
5. Katie Balevic, August 16, 2024. <https://www.businessinsider.com/oregon-rebate-universal-basic-income-ballot-measure-november-election-2024-8>
6. Eric Tegethoff, Oregon News Service, August 12, 2024. <https://ktvz.com/news/election/2024/08/12/ballot-measure-119-would-give-cannabis-workers-the-right-to-unionize/>





CARING FOR OUR CHILDREN An update & Executive Summary



Excerpts from the EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 👉 An effective childcare system benefits the entire economy.
- 👉 In Oregon, we have not done a good job of prioritizing childcare needs and developing a strategic, coordinated childcare plan.
- 👉 Oregon has an elaborate K-12 education system.
- 👉 While the state has made attempts to address early learning through Healthy Families, Pre-K (Oregon Pre-Kindergarten), Early Head Start, Head Start, PreK Promise, and Preschool Promise, the needs of young children before they start school are not being met.
- 👉 The result is inequitable childcare access.
- 👉 In addition, once children start in the K-12 system, they spend more time outside school than inside.
- 👉 Little coordination or support exists for after-school or summer care.
- 👉 We see the consequences of this inattention in low academic performance (Hammond, 2022) and teen anxiety and suicide ideation (Perrine, 2022).
- 👉 This report updates and expands a 1988 League of **Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR)** childcare study – completed 34 years ago.
- 👉 Not only does this update focus on childcare for young children, but it also focuses on the needs of school-age children during after-school and summer hours when they still need support and would benefit from additional opportunities for positive engagement.
- 👉 A history of childcare and other out-of-school time (OST) programs in the United States and Oregon is included in Appendix C.
- 👉 A patchwork of mixed level of attention to the needs of children and families is apparent.
- 👉 History matters because it offers a context for what is currently in place and what was attempted but not realized.
- 👉 It also illustrates the current web of misaligned programs that families and providers are forced to navigate.
- 👉 This report summarizes research on the effects of childcare and after-school and summer programs.
- 👉 Research shows that out-of-school-time (OST) programs influence the participants' success academically and in future careers.



- 👉 Key findings indicate that although the current emphasis is on the benefits of early childhood programs during the period of most rapid brain development, the second most rapid period of development is during adolescence. Coordinated training for providers.
- 👉 The absence of programs and support during that second growth period mark a missed opportunity. Another key finding is the need for programs to be high quality if they are to achieve positive outcomes.
- 👉 The committee engaged with Leagues across Oregon to survey childcare professionals using a comprehensive series of interview questions.
- 👉 The results illustrate the challenges and frustrations that are experienced by families today.
- 👉 Recommendations at the end of the study call for a comprehensive planning effort to address the needs of children, youth, and families in the state, including:
 - 👉 Consolidation and comprehensive review of licensing and regulations.
 - 👉 Coaching and technical assistance offered to caregivers to increase program capacity.
 - 👉 A dedicated funding source for these programs.

You can find a copy of the complete report using the following link:

https://2ad5c206-abfb-472d-a438-a2d4c53089f4.filesusr.com/ugd/628f42_14b154c2777b4b9699cce41faa53f764.pdf





Homelessness in Oregon

(Alex Zielinski, OPB[1])

August 2024 Volume 41 Issue 1



- »» According to 2022 U.S. census data, Oregon has the nation's highest rate of "chronic homelessness" – which is a term used to describe people who've been homeless for more than one year or multiple times over several years. Oregon has the fourth largest homeless population per capita in the country, after D.C., California, and Vermont, according to the census. Homelessness also can be harder to escape when accompanied by other personal challenges, like addiction or domestic violence.[1]
- »» Oregonians are struggling to stay housed – and public officials are struggling to find solutions. As the homeless population grows, so do the unique needs of people seeking to escape homelessness, making the crisis appear even more intractable. The path out of Oregon's homelessness crisis is not simple or direct. It has been reported that the most effective solution to homelessness is more available housing. Yet Oregon has failed for decades to develop enough housing to accommodate its growing population.[1]
- »» A brief review of the recent history of homelessness in Oregon is useful. As rents skyrocketed in Oregon cities in the past decade, some people experiencing homelessness moved to smaller Oregon towns seeking affordable housing and work – which didn't always occur. Others born and raised in smaller communities simply found they could no longer afford rent or a mortgage in their hometown and moved into a tent or car. Like in cities, this crisis was worsened by a lack of available housing. In many cases, formerly affordable homes turned into lucrative vacation rentals in small coastal towns. Housing has continued to shrink when new construction failed to bounce back in small communities after the 2008 recession, despite population growth.[1]
- »» "It's not rocket science," said Marisa Zapata, an urban planning professor at Portland State University. Zapata is also the director of PSU's Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative, which studies the factors that lead to homelessness. "It doesn't really matter what lens you look at it through," she said. "Escalation of housing values and rising rents is what causes homelessness." [1]
- »» According to state analysts, Oregon's current housing supply is short approximately 140,000 homes to meet the demands of its population. This places the state fourth in the country in terms of under-producing housing.[2] This shortage has taken a toll on low-income Oregonian renters. More than half of Oregon renters don't have enough money after paying rent to afford other basic needs, including food, childcare, and transportation. In addition, because of the limited housing inventory, landlords can keep rents high.[3] This has allowed Oregon to become one of the states with the lowest supply of rentals affordable to people at or below poverty levels.[4]





- Furthermore, Oregon has the nation’s highest percentage of homeless families that are living completely unsheltered – meaning they aren’t sleeping in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing while experiencing homelessness.[5]
- Oregon’s precarious housing situation isn’t always obvious to those not at risk of losing their home. It can be easier to assume someone’s homelessness is rooted in individual failures or circumstances. But while mental health, drug addiction, and poverty definitely influence a person’s housing status, they do not appear to be a direct or primary cause. Furthermore, chronic homelessness is uniquely challenging to interrupt because of the effect the experience has on the way a person thinks. Living in constant high alert can put someone in a constant state of “flight, fight or freeze,” where their brain’s fear center is overactive. This dulls the brains’ prefrontal cortex, which regulates critical thinking and emotions.[1]
- By 2022, researchers published the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis, saying the state needed to build 555,000 more housing units to meet demand over the next 20 years. In response to the report, Gov. Tina Kotek, just after taking office, issued three states of emergency related to housing. One of the state of emergency announcements called on the state to build 36,000 homes a year – an 80% increase from current production. The executive order also created an advisory council to put the plan to action.[3]
- While experts agree that Oregon needs more housing for people at all income levels, the biggest hole the state must fix is affordable housing. That’s something the state can’t rely on the private sector to build, not without financial incentives.[3]
- Indeed, the issue of homelessness is complex and far-reaching, but an issue that must be tackled.

Information Sources:

1. Alex Zielinski OPB. <https://www.opb.org/article/2023/10/09/oregon-homelessness-history-background-housing-solutions/>
2. Oregon Housing Needs Analysis Legislative Recommendations Report: Leading with Production https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/UP/Documents/20221231_OHNA_Legislative_Recommendations_Report.pdf
3. April Ehrlich, OPB, July 26, 2023. <https://www.opb.org/article/2023/07/26/oregon-cost-of-living-housing-construction-building-land-use-high-rent/>
4. National Low Income Housing Coalition <https://nlihc.org/gap#summary-table>
5. The 2022 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2022-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>





Message from Lisa Bentson, President, LWVOR
Jean Pierce, Chair - Action Committee
Claudia Keith, Coordinator - Climate Emergency Portfolio
Arlene Sherrett, Advocate - Climate Emergency Portfolio



- This year the League of **Women Voters of Oregon** has joined in coalition with a diverse alliance of environmental, economic, and climate justice advocates, businesses, and Indigenous communities working to restore Oregon's Climate Protection Program (CPP).
- The CPP sets clear, enforceable targets for oil and gas companies to reduce their climate pollution 90% by 2050.
- It will also enable upwards of \$150 million annually in statewide Community Climate Investments directly to low-income and communities of color who are most impacted by climate change.
- **LWVOR** is deeply committed to addressing climate issues in Oregon.
- Whether it's the need for cleaner air, the protection of our natural resources, advancing environmental justice for Oregonians hardest hit by climate related disasters, or the creation of sustainable jobs, your voice matters.
- You can read **LWVOR** testimony on the CPP here.
- The public comment period for the Climate Protection Program (CPP) is now open and will last through August 30!
- This is your opportunity to influence policies that will shape Oregon's climate future.
- You will have the opportunity to submit public comments to DEQ and testify live at a public hearing on August 21. Save the date and make sure your voice is heard!

HOW TO ENGAGE:



1. **Submit public comments to DEQ - DEADLINE:**
August 30 at 4:00 pm. Submit public comment via our coalition website, or by emailing CPP.2024@DEQ.Oregon.Gov
2. **Testify at the public hearing - SAVE THE DATE:**
Wednesday, August 21 at 4:00 p.m. Via Zoom
Call-in number: 833-928-4609 US Toll free
Meeting ID: 843 9807 4366

The **deadline is approaching fast, so make sure your voice is heard.**



PLEASE RENEW!

The **League of Women Voters of Curry County** began its new fiscal year on July 1. If you have not already renewed your membership, we are asking for your continued support as a valued **LWVCC** member.

Our yearly dues are \$70.00 per member or \$105.00 for a household of two.

Your membership is very important to the League. Your support allows **LWVCC** to carry out its mission of citizen engagement and voter education.

The 2023-2024 league year was productive. Some highlights:

- ➔ Central County Unit meetings were held most months
- ➔ October – All-Unit and public meetings on Voting, held at that the Curry Library in Gold Beach
- ➔ December – in-person Holiday Party at First Chapter Coffee House in Gold Beach
- ➔ January – South County Unit meeting
- ➔ February – Documentary Film on Oregon’s land use planning system co-sponsored by the **LWVCC**, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society and Curry Public library, shown at the Curry Library in Gold Beach
- ➔ March – All-Unit and public panel discussion on services to the Unhoused and Food Insecure in Curry County held at the Curry Library in Gold Beach
- ➔ May – in-person Primary Election **Candidate Forums** in all three Curry County cities; Annual meeting held at the Curry Library in Gold Beach

The upcoming 2024-2025 league year promises to be exciting too. Some plans:

- ➔ Fund-raising and friend-raising
- ➔ In-person General Election **Candidate Forums** in all three Curry County cities
- ➔ Focus on our Issue of Emphasis, Homelessness and Mental Health

In addition to your financial support, we wholeheartedly invite your active participation in the league. Together we can continue to make a difference in Curry County.

Please renew today.

Louise Abbott

LWVCC President, 2024-2025

LWVCC is a qualified nonprofit charitable organization under Internal Revenue Code §501(c)(3), and membership is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Our tax identification number is 98-0838450.



**League of Women Voters of Curry County
Calendar 2024**

| MONTH | DAY | EVENTS | PLACE | TIME |
|-----------|-----|---|-------|---------------|
| September | 10 | Board Meeting | Zoom | 1:00 - 3:00pm |
| October | 7 | *Port Orford - Monday | TBD | 1:00 – 3:00pm |
| | 8 | *Gold Beach – Tuesday | TBD | |
| | | Board Meeting | ZOOM | |
| | 9 | *Brookings – Wednesday | TBD | |
| | | <i>*In-person general election candidate forums – places to be determined</i> | | |



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

- Susan Barke

Treasurer

- Alyce Prudden

Board Directors

- Jeanne Jezuit
- Evan Kramer
- Debra Worth
- Karen Pringle-Cunningham
- Georgia Nowlin

The League of Women Voters of Curry County
CoastLines – A publication of the League of Women Voters® of Curry County
CoastLines is produced 8 to 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Curry County
Website Information: lwvcurry.org
Election Information: vote411.org



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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.

Join us! Make your voice heard. Stay informed on issues that concern you.

LWVCC is a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (tax ID #98-0838450).
Dues & donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Individual \$70.00 _____ Household (2 adults, same address) \$105.00 _____ Student \$15.00 _____

Prorated Memberships from February to June – details at lwvcurry.org/join

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Volunteer Interest in the League _____

Please send your check to: LWVCC, P.O. Box 1859, Gold Beach, OR 97444

