

CoastLines



2025 is here. I hope everyone is well. This will be a tumultuous year for sure. The board is working on developing a series of Unit meetings to be held this spring that will focus on several issues. One topic will be ChapterSpot being implementing by **LWVUS**. Another will be the possible special district elections that might take place this Spring. Elections will be held in May. There may be other issues on the Spring ballot as well. Please be on the lookout for Unit meeting announcements

Also, this spring we will be holding elections for **LWVCC** board officers. The following positions will be open:

- **President**
 - **Vice President**
 - **3 Directors.**
- If you are interested in any of these positions, please let Lucie LaBonte know.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Abbott



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Summary
December 10, 2024,
LWVCC Board Meeting
via Zoom

Board members attending:

- ➔ Louise Abbott
- ➔ Susan Barke
- ➔ Karen Cunningham
- ➔ Georgia Nowlin
- ➔ Jeanne Jezuit
- ➔ Alyce Prudden

- ◆ The treasurer’s report for December 2024, was approved.
- ◆ The minutes of the Board Meeting held December 10, 2024, were approved.
- ◆ We discussed the switch to ChapterSpot for the collection of **LWV** membership dues.
- ◆ Louise and Georgia attended a Communication Café zoom meeting held by **LWVOR** about Chapterspot.
- ◆ The consensus discussions on the Recall Study & Child Care Study that were recently approved by the **LWVOR** were summarized.
- ◆ Three unit meetings were held to consider these studies.
- ◆ The results were submitted to **LWVOR**.
- ◆ Plans were discussed for future Unit meetings.



LWV- National News & Update

The League of Women Voters of the United States (**LWVUS**) empowers voters and defend democracy through **advocacy, education, and litigation**, at the local, state, and national levels. The **LWVUS** has lobbied for numerous critical issues include the environment, the census, immigration, and health care policy solutions and the *Affordable Care Act (ACA)*.

More information about all these issues can be found at the **LWVUS** website at <https://www.lwv.org/>. Look under the tab called Other Issues.

The **LWVUS** also participates in writing letters that support issues that correspond to the **LWVUS** values and mission. For example, on September 14, 2024, the **LWVOR** joined a letter urging Congress to oppose a bill that would block sanctuary jurisdictions from receiving federal funds that benefit undocumented immigrants through food, shelter, health care, legal services, and transportation. These sanctuary jurisdictions are those that elect to limit local officials’ role in federal immigration enforcement.





CHAPTERSPOT
League of Women Voters



- ❁ As a member of the **League of Women Voters of Curry County**, it is likely that you will be receiving an email from **LWVUS** early in 2025 concerning the new **LWV** Member Portal.
- ❁ You will receive a link to the **LWVUS** new the new **LWV** Member Portal. This link is provided to allow you to pay your dues online (**only if you want to do so**), to update your profile with the **LWV**, and to give you information about **Vote411**.
- ❁ Please note that **you do NOT have to pay your future membership dues online if you do not want to do so**. You can continue to pay by check through the **LWVCC** treasurer.
- ❁ You do not have to provide any additional information about your profile if you do not want to do so.
- ❁ However, if you do wish to participate online, that is your choice.
- ❁ This membership portal will go live on February 1, 2025.
- ❁ The **LWVCC** board is working with ChapterSpot to the extent necessary.
- ❁ The change will be in the dues rates.
- ❁ Individuals will be encouraged to pay a standard rate of \$75.
- ❁ There will be higher tiers for those who choose to pay more (\$150, \$250, \$500), as many Leagues currently have, and there will also be a pay-what-you-can option, where members can choose their own dues amount, with a minimum of \$20.
- ❁ However, if you pay more than \$75 for dues, the amount above \$75 **will not be considered a donation. Donations must be paid separately.**
- ❁ There will be a step in the joining process where members are given the option to make a donation that goes exclusively to the League they are joining.
- ❁ **You can still give a donation directly to the LWVCC via a check if you are not going to use the portal.** Donations made through the individual national, state, and local websites will be retained by the Leagues that collect them.
- ❁ The portions of dues that go to a 501(c)(3) will be tax-deductible.
- ❁ The **LWVCC** is a 501(c)(3), so the 20% that the **LWVCC** receives from the dues that are paid will be tax-deductible.
- ❁ We will be sure to send a receipt to joining/renewing members to indicate the amount that is tax-deductible. This is true regardless of whether members pay online or by check.
- ❁ Members will be automatically notified when it is time for them to renew their membership.



If you have questions, please reach out to Louise Abbott
(lcabbott02@earthlink.net) or Alyce Prudden (aepрудden@aol.com).

Respectfully, Louise Abbott



News from the LWV-Oregon – Legislative Report from December 20, 2024

Now that we have the results of the November election, we know that the Democratic Party has a “supermajority” in both chambers (18 in Senate and 36 in House). If they all vote together, they can pass revenue measures without the minority party (Republicans). But revenue measures can be referred to the people, so it is prudent to work together on such decisions. It is important to note that the three-fifths supermajority would not be enough, however, to meet Oregon’s unique quorum rules and deny the possibility of legislative walkouts. Oregon requires two-thirds of lawmakers to be present to conduct business (20 Senators and 40 Representatives).

The 2025 session begins January 13 with the swearing in of newly elected legislators and other state officials. Committee hearings begin January 21. The session lasts for five months with constitutional sine die June 29. Oregon has a biennial budgeting process so all state agencies will need to have budgets approved by the end of session. On Dec. 2nd, the Governor presented a summary of her [Recommended Budget](#) (GRB) focused on housing, addiction, public safety, school funding and transportation. The legislative [calendar](#) is posted on the Oregon Legislature [website](#). League volunteers make a difference. We hope you find an issue you want to follow.



HELP WANTED

Please contact advocacy@lwvor.org to learn how you can help the League track and advocate for legislation in the following areas. Training is available!

Climate

- Clean Renewable Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emission Mitigation
- Natural and Working Lands - Agriculture
- Resilient Communities/Public Health
- Climate Related Lawsuits/Our Children’s Trust
- Regional Solutions / Infrastructure (with NR team)
- CE Portfolio - State Agency Budgets
- Climate Friendly Transportation
- Climate Migration
- Oregon Treasury: ESG investing/Fossil Fuel divestment.

Social Policy

- Criminal Justice
 - Juvenile Justice
- Some of these agencies are very large with many responsibilities. Volunteers can select one area, just following the agency’s Board or Commission or any area of interest--especially if the League has positions on these areas.



Governance

- Cybersecurity and Privacy
- Artificial Intelligence
- Revenue

Natural Resources

- Air Quality (Dept. of Environmental Quality is lead)
- Columbia River Gorge Commission
- Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (science and mining divisions)
- Follow Hanford Cleanup
- Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
- Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Parks and Recreation Dept.
- Recycling/Materials Management (Dept. of Environmental Quality is lead)



The Action Team follows issues year-round, but if legislation is your interest, you can pick one bill to follow for 2025. Training offered!

Here is some information about the **League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR)** to start the new year.

▶ The **LWVOR** is grassroots, nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government.

- * **Email:** lwvor@lwvor.org
- * **Phone:** 503-581-5722
- * **EIN:** 93-0784802












- ▶ The **LWVOR** has members throughout the state as well as 14 local leagues (also called State Units)
- ▶ The **LWVOR** publishes weekly legislative reports during each state legislative session.
- ▶ **LWVOR** testimony letters are produced related to gun safety, governance, education, climate action, as well as many other issues.
- ▶ Forty-two letters were issued in 2024. You can read these letters at <https://www.lwvor.org/testimony>
- ▶ **LWVOR** Advocacy Team members serve on legislative workgroups and committees.
- ▶ The list of those serving can be found at <https://www.lwvor.org/committees-coalitions>
- ▶ The **LWVOR** has a strong interest in Campaign Finance Reform in Oregon.
- ▶ You can read about their involvement in this issue at <https://www.lwvor.org/oregon/campaign-finance>
- ▶ The **LWVOR** is a member of several advocacy coalitions that align with the league’s mission and advocacy priorities.

▶ **These coalitions include:**

- * **Human Services Coalition**
- * **Coalition Against Hate Crimes**
- * **Oregon Housing Alliance**
- * **Oregon Conservation Network**
- * **NW Energy Coalition**
- * **Coalition for Climate and Economic Justice**



 FEBRUARY 5:	County Clerks begin to post what positions will be open
 FEBRUARY 8 - MARCH 20:	Candidate filing period
 MARCH: 27 (approximately):	Candidates invited to post on Vote411
 APRIL 14:	Vote411 goes live 
 mid-APRIL to mid-MAY:	local Leagues conduct candidate forums
 APRIL 29:	Voter registration deadline
 MAY 2:	Ballots mailed
 MAY 20:	ELECTION DAY

There will be no statewide election in **NOVEMBER**.



LWVOR – Statewide Mock Election

33,000 Oregon Students Participate in Statewide Mock Election (November 1, 2024)

- ➔ Salem, OR - There were 33,654 Oregon students, from 2 elementary, 43 middle, and 82 high schools, registered by their teachers to participate in the 2024 Oregon Student Mock Election (OSME). Participating students resided in 21 of the 36 Oregon counties. Students were offered an authentic simulation of the Oregon vote-by-mail experience, including a realistic-looking mock ballot and time to study the candidates and issues in their classrooms before voting in their mock election. Students not only learned about the specific candidates and ballot measures, but they also learn how to be an informed voter.
- ➔ The **League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR)** created a “basic” mock ballot for all Oregon students mirroring the state’s general election with three statewide contests:
 - **United States President** (federal office)
 - **Oregon Attorney General** (state office)
 - **Ballot Measure 118:** Corporate tax rebate to Oregon residents (statewide ballot measure)
- ➔ Teachers were also offered the option of a fourth contest to personalize their students’ mock ballots and to reflect local elections. While most students voted using the basic Oregon mock ballot, some teachers opted for one or more of several congressional districts and/or state, county, or city contests.
- ➔ All public, private, charter, and homeschool educators across the state were invited to participate in **LWVOR** mock elections. To prepare students for an informed voting experience, registered educators received mock ballots, instructions, lesson plans with many activities and linked resources, and the **LWVOR** award-winning [Civic Education Curriculum](#), with five units on different aspects of voting in Oregon.
- ➔ The **LWVOR** would like to commend the several Portland area schools who held a ranked-choice mock election for **Portland Mayor**. Not only did students participate in the ranked voting process they also counted the votes at their individual schools.



You can read about the “election results” at:

<https://www.lwvor.org/post/for-immediate-release-oregon-student-mock-election-results-available>

LWVOR’s free and open civics resources are available year-round on the website:

[LWVOR.org/mock-election](https://www.lwvor.org/mock-election). (<https://www.lwvor.org/mock-election>)





Issue for Emphasis - Homelessness and Mental Health

We are rightly concerned about homelessness in Curry County, its causes and possible solutions. However, I thought it might be good to look at the issue at the state and national level as well, for the issue is a national and really an international issue as well. The National Alliance to End Homelessness has published its 2024 edition of the State of Homelessness (<https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness/>), which was written and prepared by Daniel Soucy, Makenna Janes, and Andrew Hall.). This report analyzed data available on homelessness for 2023 and over time. Here are some key facts from that report.

National Statistics

- ↻ A record-high 653,104 people experienced homelessness on a single night in January 2023.
- ↻ This is more than a 12.1 percent increase over the previous year.
- ↻ From 2019-2023, the number of people who entered emergency shelter for the first time increased more than 23 percent.
- ↻ In 2023, a record high 256,610 people, or 39.3 percent of all people experiencing homelessness, were unsheltered.
- ↻ The number of renter households paying more than 50 percent of their income on rent increased dramatically, rising over 12.6 percent between 2015 to 2022. People who identify as Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic, Asian or 'Some Other Race' are more greatly impacted.
- ↻ After years of declines due to targeted assistance, the numbers of veterans and chronically homeless individuals experiencing homelessness are rising again, with a 7 percent and 12 percent increase, respectively, since the previous year.

Oregon Statistics

- ↻ In the state of Oregon, between 2022 and 2023, the total homeless population increased by 12%, the total unsheltered population increased by 17%, the number of unsheltered families increased by 16%, **and the number of unsheltered youth increased by 33%**.

A recent study has been published (October 8, 2024) by the National Alliance to End Homelessness' Homelessness Research Institute (<https://endhomelessness.org/resource/chronicity-is-driving-increases-in-overall-homelessness/>).

This study reports that **overall increases in homelessness in the United States are driven by a sharp rise in chronic homelessness**. People experiencing chronic homelessness are individuals with long-term or repeated instances of homelessness, while simultaneously living with a disability. These individuals have the highest needs and require the most intensive services and interventions. The study reports that since 2016, **chronic homelessness has increased by 79 percent**, outpacing the increases seen in overall homelessness and homelessness among individual adults. Furthermore, this study finds that **people with patterns of chronic homelessness account for two-thirds of the total increase in homelessness since 2016**, as reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

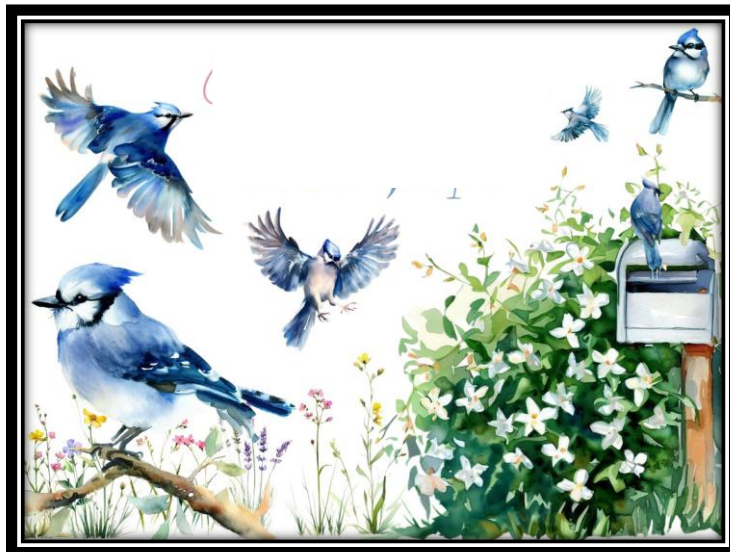
This study recommends that the federal government expand the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) capacity. PSH is a proven intervention for chronically homeless households, pairing long-term housing assistance with intensive wrap-around supportive services to help people stabilize and thrive.

This type of support is needed in Curry County as our current resources available to help chronically homeless individuals and families are extremely limited.



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

MONTH	DAY	EVENTS	PLACE	TIME
February	11	LWVCC Board meeting. <i>Let Louise Abbott know if you want to attend, and she will give you the contact information.</i>		1-3 pm via Zoom



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
• 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
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 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 #93-0838450).
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

