

CoastLines



Greetings Members and Friends,

We are getting closer to the primary elections on **May 19**. Check the calendar for Candidate Forums in Port Orford, Gold Beach and Brookings. Since this is a primary election, the Forums are likely to be shorter than usual. There will be one School Board Ballot Measure in Harbor that we know of. If anyone would like to do some research on this for **Vote411**, let me know.

The **LWVUS** is very concerned about citizens losing their right to vote: "With the passage of the *SAVE America Act* in the House, and similar bills still being debated, Congress has doubled down on its blatant, discriminatory attempts to make voting harder for eligible Americans. [Click](#)."

- 🚨 I am very concerned.
- 🚨 There is a federal campaign going on, beginning with the postal marking delays.
- 🚨 We need to stay vigilant and encourage voters to vote early.
- 🚨 There is an article about this here in the newsletter.

Lastly, your Board has been working diligently on the Fashion Show and Fundraiser, which will take place on International Women's Day! **PLEASE join us**. Tickets are available in the stores detailed and we may have some at the door. Again, we thank the Coos County League for permission to crib some of their newsletter.

 *Yours in League,
MJ LaBelle*



**Fashion Show
&
Fundraiser**

Tickets: Old Agness Store, First Chapter Coffee House, Café 2.0,

"Spring into Spring"

**Fashions Provided by
Wild Rivers Animal Shelter
Thrift Store**

**Sunday, March 8, 2026
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**

Silent Auction | Lunch Included

**Gold Beach Event Center
2932 Ellensburg Ave
Gold Beach**



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Board of Directors 2025-2026

- ▶ **President:** Mary Jane LaBelle (2025-27). Coastlines
- ▶ **Vice-President:** Lucie La Bonte (2025-27). Action/ Observer Corps/ Fundraising
- ▶ **Secretary:** Ann Schmierer (2024-26).
- ▶ **Treasurer:** Alyce Prudden (2024-26). Membership
- ▶ **Directors at Large:**
 - ↳ Director #1: Alex Carr Frederick (2025-27) Unite 8.5
 - ↳ Director #2: Georgia Nowlin (2024-26) Voter Service
 - ↳ Director #3: Evan Kramer (2025-27) Publicity
- ▶ **Team Members:**
 - ↳ Mail: Karol Simas
 - ↳ Membership List: Anne Morgan
 - ↳ Coastlines Publisher: Cindy Machowski
- ▶ **Unit Leaders:**
 - ↳ South County: Alex Carr Frederick
 - ↳ Mid County:
 - ↳ North County: Becky Flake



- ▶ The primary registration deadline is **April 28, 2026**
- ▶ The primary election is **May 19th, 2026**
- ▶ Registration link [here](#)

LWVOR Council 2026

- ↳ **The League of Women Voters of Oregon** holds a convention every other year, in odd-numbered years. In even-numbered years, there's a smaller event known as a Council, held to allow the League to conduct necessary business and set priorities.
- ↳ There will also be speakers and workshops.
- ↳ This year's Council is being held on **May 16, 2026**, and it will be hybrid so you can participate virtually if you can't travel to Salem.

**Mark
your
calendars**



Board Member Bio

Evan Kramer, LWV Curry County

- My name is Evan Charles Kramer. I was introduced to the world by my parents without a middle name which I remedied just a few years ago taking on the name of my Grandfather Charles Kramer. I was born in New York City, New York in 1950 but we moved out to the San Fernando Valley in California in 1952, so my only memories of NYC are from trips there as an adult.
- I was an unexceptional student who liked going to Dodger games and getting autographs of the players including my favorite Sandy Koufax. I never recovered from his early retirement at the end of the 1966 season.
- I attended LA Valley Junior College for a couple of years but with no directions known as Bob Dylan would say and worked at succession of jobs including a factory that made crash test dummies. At 26 I took a test for the Post office and started as a clerk and then worked as a letter carrier in Burbank for 13 years. I became actively involved in my union local as a shop steward and later as president, and newsletter editor with the help of my wife Valerie. Still don't have much computer sense.
- I got married to Valerie in 1982 in Las Vegas and by then had settled into a small house in the Highland Park area of LA. But in November of 1989 we drove up to Port Orford to visit a friend of Valerie's and three months later came to PO and bought a house just north of town and moved in on July 2, 1990. We were interested in buying the Port Orford News which was not for sale, so we got around that by starting a free weekly paper called *the Port Orford Today!* In 1991, we rented a small space at 832 North Highway 101 where we put out the paper and started renting videos. In 1992 we bought the building at the going rate (almost laughable now) and took over more space in the building as our video rentals expanded and we started making copies for people and selling computer supplies and handling UPS shipping. A little bit of everything.
- We became an integral part of Port Orford and Curry County. I made a poor attempt to run for County Commissioner in 1992 but was crushed as it should have been. Our 8 ½" by 14" free paper became more and more popular, and I covered city council meetings, art events, pretty much everything a newsprint paper would cover and people still talk about it 13 years later.
- But it never added up financially and with advent of Netflix and their little red envelopes the video business collapsed and with it we decided to close our newspaper and store on April 11, 2012. Valerie had become an almost full-time genealogist and Czech revenue stamp collector but sadly on our way home from a Czech revenue stamp convention in Milwaukie, Wisconsin she died suddenly of a heart attack in a motel in Idaho. That was the shock of a lifetime and since then I have made several very bad personal mistakes being without an adult in the house, only my various cats and dogs.
- I did fulfill my main bucket list items in 2018 with my friend Rick when we drove from Oregon to Memphis, Tennessee so I could visit Graceland and Sun Records and pay homage to Elvis whose music I still listen to regularly and of whom I am a huge fan.
- From there we drove to Dallas where we visited Dealey Plaza and the picket fence and grassy knoll area from where President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed plus took the 6th Floor Museum tour at the Texas Schoolbook Depository Building. On the way to Memphis, we stayed at the motel in Albuquerque, New Mexico where several scenes from my second favorite show of all time "Breaking Bad" was filmed.
- Now my goals are simple: stay healthy, get enough sleep, enjoy Elvis and Millie (dog and cat) and participate in the town in small ways.





League of Women Voters of Oregon Warns New Federal Data Mandates Could Threaten Sate Tourism



-  **SALEM, OR** — **The League of Women Voters of Oregon** has issued a formal response to the Department of Homeland Security regarding proposed changes to traveler data collection for Form I-94 and the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).
-  The League warns that new "blanket data disclosure requirements" for all foreign visitors could discourage travel to the state, potentially harming Oregon's tourism-dependent economy.
-  These concerns are rooted in the League's call for strong cybersecurity protections to ensure economic stability and to protect personal data.
-  Under the federal proposal, visitors would be required to submit an unprecedented amount of personal data through a mobile app using geolocation and near-field communication for sensitive biometrics, such as fingerprints, iris scans, and DNA.
-  **Required "high value data fields" include:**
 -  **Five years of social media history,**
 -  **Five years of personal and business phone numbers,**
 -  **Ten years of both types of email addresses,**
 -  **Detailed family information including parents, spouses, siblings, and children—for their birth dates and places, residences, and phone numbers.**
-  The League expressed significant concern that the proposal lacks clear standards or limits for how long this data will be retained.
-  This omission poses risks to personal privacy and increases government administration costs for storing and protecting "big data".
-  Further, the League emphasized that collection and use of personal information must remain consistent with its original purpose and should not cause harm to individuals.
-  The formal comment also highlights concerns regarding legal oversight and the potential for these data collection processes to be used for the surveillance of groups beyond international travelers.
-  The League notes that biometric screening technologies are known to underperform with reduced reliability for non-Caucasian individuals, raising questions about the fairness and accuracy of the system.



Contact:
lwvor@lwvor.org
 503-581-5722





PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release:
February 23, 2026
League of Women Voters
Fashion Show
and Fundraiser
March 8, 2026
Event Center, Gold Beach



The **League of Women Voters of Curry County** will hold a fashion show – “**Spring into Spring**”, a fundraiser, on Sunday, March 8th, 2026, from 1PM to 3PM at the Gold Beach Event Center on the Beach - 29392 Ellensburg Ave, Gold Beach. Luncheon will be served. Tickets are \$40. each and available from a League member or from: Café 2.0 in Port Orford, The Old Agness Store, the First Chapter Coffee House in Gold Beach and the Chetco Brewery in Brookings.

Luncheon will be provided by the Old Agness Store. Wine will be provided by McKay’s in Gold Beach. Fashions will be provided by the Wild Rivers Animal Rescue Thrift Store and modeled by; Diane Cooper, Laura Lee Cundiff, JJ Hilsenbeck, Lucie La Bonte, MJ La Belle, Ira Lisenbury, Donald Pariseau, Angie Pung, Bex Purdy, Jeanie Weedman, Lisa Wilstead. Music will be by DJ Inward spinning vintage on turntables.

Tickets are selling fast! Capacity is 100. There will also be a fabulous Silent Auction.

“Spring into Spring” will be the Curry League’s 5th Fundraiser Fashion Show. The first was held in 1988 at the Elks Club in Brookings. Then in June of 2015 the league held a show with the Pink Flamingo at the Showcase. The shows grew and moved to Docia Sweet Hall the with shows in October 2015 and November 2016. Their last show celebrated the upcoming 2020 100th anniversary of women attaining the right to vote held in 2018, “100 years of Fashion” (see picture below).



Voter Girl Report to LWV of Curry County by Cindy Myers

- 🌱 The **VOTER Girl** Project is a fun and rewarding activity in which Leagues collaborate with their local Girl Scout councils.
- 🌱 Our **LWVOR** Voter Girl Coordinator is Meg Thompson. Meg and I have reached out to the Girl Scouts of Oregon and SW Washington (GSOSW) Council to recommend additional ways to get Voter Girl program information out to Girl Scouts at the Council, Service Unit, and Troop levels. On the Council website [Civic Leadership and Democracy Badges and Patches](#), navigating to Discover>Activities opens the Schedule Your Own Adventure Center.
- 🌱 In the Center, clicking on Civics and Government opens the **LWVOR** Voter Girl information, with links to the **LWVOR** website and [Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington | Courage, Confidence, and Character](#) including the GSOSW Civic Leadership Challenge patch activities. Interested groups are invited to contact Meg Thompson, Voter Girl Coordinator, at votergirl@lwvor.org to be connected with a local league member. The Voter Girl program will also be promoted in a Program Guide, sent to all Girl Scout Troop Leaders.
- 🌱 Service Unit teams generally have a designated Girl Experience Mentor (GEM) who advises troop leaders and is familiar with all facets of the Girl Scout program. The Council issues a monthly Service Unit Connect newsletter, with a section for GEMs, that will highlight the Voter Girl program (I am the GEM for our Service Unit 62, from Reedsport to Brookings).
- 🌱 In each Service Unit, the GEM can encourage Troop Leaders and Individually Registered Girls (aka Juliettes) to contact Meg to identify a **LWV** liaison, and to provide ideas of how girls can be involved in the Voter Girl program. In our case, since I'm a **LWV** member and our Service Team GEM, we are easily connected!
- 🌱 **LWV** members can assist with this program by not only coordinating with local Troop Leaders, but also by embracing the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), and the badge and patch programs. Elements of the GSLE are Girl-led, Learning by Doing, and Cooperative Learning (older girls share their skills with younger girls).
- 🌱 This means that we offer choices to the girls, but they get to decide as a group what they want to do. So. we need to consider. what might motivate them to participate? Badges and Patches are one way.



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Voter Girl Report to LWV of Curry County

- 🌱 Democracy Badges at each level include:
 - ➔ Democracy for Daisies (K-1)
 - ➔ Brownies (2-3)
 - ➔ Juniors (4-5)
 - ➔ Cadettes (6-8)
 - ➔ Seniors (9-10)
 - ➔ Ambassadors (11-12)
 - ➔ Each badge has 3-5 steps, and each step has 2-3 choices, depending on the level.
- 🌱 Citizen Badges engage girls in age-appropriate activities involving community service, public policy, government, voting, and more. Over time, the badges build girls' knowledge of local and global communities and show them how their actions as citizens make the world better for everyone.
- 🌱 The Civic Leadership Challenge patch is designed to build toward a Take Action–style project, which is like a Service Project, but is intended to be sustainable. The 21-page guide includes one option for Promote the Vote activities.



- 🌱 Many of our troops are multi-level, so program planning is a challenge. Service Projects are an important element of troop activities, but there is a lot of competition for the girl's time. Our Service Unit has a patch for completing a Service Project during the month of March (which includes Girl Scout Week), so some troops have already selected their projects. Meg has provided a very helpful Year-long Civics Pathway showing potential activities for each month by Girl Scout level, which I am happy to share.
- 🌱 If there are any enthusiastic educators among our members that would be interested in reviewing the program materials and suggesting fun ways to engage the girls, I would welcome the help. Ideas have included field trips to the City Council to speak with the Mayor and to a Courtroom, leading a flag ceremony at an event, and helping the greeter at Candidate Forums. I'd love to share your ideas not only with our Gold Beach troop, but also with the other 10 troops in our Service Unit, and potentially the entire Council.

Thanks!
Cindy Myers
cricks_flowling@charter.net

LWV Curry County
History Window
By Lucie La Bonte

Irons in the Fire Recycling Study Leads to Action – 1988-1990

- ☐ In 1988 there were two big issues that emerged. One was the threat of Offshore Oil Drilling, and the other big issue was garbage. Curry Transfer and Recycling only recycled cardboard. They had burners that burned garbage at the Transfer sites. Were they sending toxins into the air? When it came time for them to renew their permit this was debated. The LWV Curry County thought that they should do more recycling.
- ☐ When asked about recycling at a commissioners' meeting, Commissioner TV Skinner, who was one of the owners of CTR, stated that it was not economically feasible for Curry County due to the distance recyclables had to be transported. Cardboard was economical because Weyerhaeuser had a mill in Coos Bay and was processing cardboard. League members did not believe him. A study was proposed and adopted by the membership, Chair Fran Weir.
- ☐ The LWV Curry County's Recycling Study was completed and positions adopted in 1990. Surprisingly they found that what TV Skinner had said was true. Cardboard was the only economically feasible item to recycle. The positions supported recycling other products as they became economically feasible. Meanwhile newly elected Commissioner Dave Wershkul had been designated to head up a Recycling Committee for the County. A Port Orford resident, Tony Mantoza, was chosen as Chair in the first meeting.
- ☐ Also on the committee was Fred Hummel, Mayor of Brookings, Evan Kramer – Port Orford Today, Fran Weir, Lucie La Bonte Giampaoli, Rick Hazard and others. The company man on the committee was Pete Smart. The LWVCC's study had led to action. The committee held several meetings and in May 1990 made recommendations to the County Commissioners that were adopted into an ordinance. The committee continued for at least 15-20 years.



Focus on Oregon: Implementing the Campaign Finance Law

- 🔍 In 2024, faced with two competing campaign finance reform initiatives, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 4024, agreeing for the first time to accept limits on campaign donations. Major portions of the law are supposed to take effect in 2027, with the state's obligation to disclose campaign donation data set to take effect in 2028.
- 🔍 As often happens in Oregon, the Legislature approved the changes without providing adequate funding or developing detailed rules for implementation. Among other concerns, the current state software for disclosing campaign donations, ORESTAR, is out of date and not designed to accommodate the new requirements.
- 🔍 In the current legislative short session, a bill designed to address some of the issues, HB 4018, is currently up for consideration. It seeks to delay or water down some aspects of the 2024 bill. As of this writing, the language of the bill is still fluid; **LWVOR**, which supported one of the 2024 ballot initiatives, is keeping an eye on what emerges from negotiations.

HEADS-UP

- 🛒 Did you know that there's a cost-free, hassle-free way to earn money for the **League of Women Voters of Curry County**?
- 🛒 It's the Fred Meyer Community Rewards program.
- 🛒 The program was created by the Kroger Family of Companies as a way to support community engagement, positive social impact, and charitable giving.
- 🛒 The program donates to community organizations based on the shopping you do every day.
 - ⦿ **No cost** – You don't lose card savings or fuel points.
 - ⦿ **No hassle** – The online process is quick and easy.
 - ⦿ Link your shopper's card to **LWVCC** in your digital account, then simply swipe your card whenever you shop at Fred Meyer.
- 🛒 **Voila!** Community rewards for the League!

HOW-TO

To participate in the community rewards program, you start with a digital account with Fred Meyer. Then link your shopper's card to **LWVCC** – and shop!

Create an Account

1. Set up a digital account with Fred Meyer if you don't have one already.
2. [Here's the link.](#)
3. You'll enter your email address, create a password, and put in your shopper's card number. If you don't have a shopper's card, you can enter a 10-digit "Alt ID" instead (such as your phone number).
4. You'll also be prompted to select a preferred store.

Link Your Card to **LWVCC**

- 👉 [Here's the link.](#)
- 👉 In the drop-down "my account" menu, select community rewards.
- 👉 To choose the league as your preferred organization, enter either our name (League of Women Voters of Curry County) or our number (FH475).
- 👉 **Click "Save."**

Watch the Donations Roll In

- 🛒 After you've linked and used your shopper's card, your purchases automatically benefit the league.
- 🛒 Rewards accumulate based on every transaction you make with the shopper's card associated with your digital account. Your donation summary for the current quarter will display in the Community Rewards section of your digital account.



Donates annually to participating organization like **LWVCC**.

It's ba-a-a-ack...



Remember last year's SAVE Act, which would have made it harder for millions of Americans to vote?

- It passed the House but died in the Senate.
- Now it's back, and like a mutating virus is even worse than before.
- There are several bills being proposed—the SAVE Act, the SAVE America Act, and the Make Elections Great Again Act—to look out for.
- Collectively the League is calling them the SAVE Act suite of bills.
- Each one creates new hoops for people to jump through if they want to register, and the latter two require documentary proof of citizenship to *vote*.
- This creates special problems for Oregonians because of our vote-by-mail system.

Main Provisions of the SAVE America Act:

- Most people would have to show a birth certificate or passport to register in person (or re-register if moving to another state).
- If the name on your birth certificate does not match the name on your current ID, you'd need a passport with your current name.
- Real ID constitutes a valid ID only in 5 states where the ID verifies citizenship (Oregon isn't one of them).
- There are criminal penalties for any elections official who registers a person without proper proofs of citizenship (meaning you'd have to register in person at the county Elections Office, not at the DMV or online).
- Voters must present a government-issued photo ID at the polls or send a photocopy with their ballot.

The Make Elections Great Again Act Also Requires:

- States must regularly submit their voter rolls to DHS; if they don't, voters must show proof of citizenship to vote.

Secretary of State Questions

- Will you all kindly think of some questions for the Secretary's visit on **April 8**?
- Send them to me and Karol Simas and I will meet with the Coos question Bank people to get a nice group of questions to fill in with the attendees.

maryjanelabelle@gmail.com



March 8

↗ **Fashion Show and Fundraiser**
Event Center in Gold Beach
🕒 1:00 to 3:00 pm

March 10

↗ **Candidate filing ends**

April 8

↗ **Joint Forum with Coos County: State of the Mail in Vote**
Secretary of State Tobias Read
Bandon Sprague Theatre
🕒 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

April 20

↗ **Candidate Forum**
Port Orford, City Council Chambers
🕒 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

April 22

↗ **Candidate Forum**
Gold Beach Library
🕒 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

April 23

↗ **Candidate Forum**
Brookings Chetco Library
🕒 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

May 19

Primary Elections - Vote Early!



March 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 1:00 pm Fashion Show Event Center Gold Beach	9	10 Candidate Filing Ends	11	12	13	14
15 Vote411 spreadsheets to LWVOR	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		3	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Joint Forum w/ Coos Co Bandon Sprague Theatre 4:30 – 5:30 pm	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Local Leaders Call 5:00 pm	16	17	18
19	20 Candidate Forum City Council Chambers Port Orford 6:00 – 7:30 pm	21	22 Board Mtg MJ LaBelle's home 11:00 am Candidate Forum Gold Beach Library 6:00 – 7:30 pm	23 Candidate Forum Brookings Chetco Library 6:00 – 7:30 pm	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6 League 101 Zoom 5:30 pm	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Election Vote	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Annual Meeting Chetco Brewing Co Brookings 10 am – 1 pm
31						

CoastLines



From left to right

- ▶ Evan Kramer
- ▶ Georgia Nowlin
- ▶ Alex Kramer
- ▶ Ann Schmierer
- ▶ Lucie La Bonte
- ▶ MaryJane LaBelle

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: [here](#)

Election Information: [vote411 here](#)



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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 © (3) nonprofit organization (tax ID #93-0838450).

Dues & donation s are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Dues are Pay-what-you-can, with a minimum of \$20. The recommended rate is \$75. Per individual per year.

You can pay by check (see below) or go to our website [here](#) and follow the "JOIN" link.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Volunteer Interest in the League _____

*Please make your check payable to the League of Women Voters of Currey County & send it to:
LWVCC - P.O. Box 1859 - Gold Beach, OR 97444*