

**President's  
Message**



**Dear Members, Friends and League Leaders,  
Welcome to November Coastlines**

The Curry County League has been busy and dedicated to our non-partisan and political business. At our last Board meeting, Alex shared a statement she recently heard at the “No Kings” rally: “Now is the time to set our politics aside in order to come together as Americans.”

This is what League is all about and it took a No Kings rally for a non-Leaguer to state it! In truth, those of us who attended the “No Kings” rally on October 18 stood next to many different political partisans. We are determined to work for this precious Democracy of ours. God Bless America.

We also discussed reactivating our Facebook page and studying the State positions in progress at our Unit meetings, which will be reactivated. Mid County has been going strong which will be reported on in this newsletter. Unite and Rise 8.5 will be active, and we will report on that in future newsletters.

Look for more Voter Services events like voter registration, Candidate forums and more Vote 411 investment from us. Also, Alex and I will be attending a workshop on “Are we having a Constitutional Crisis?” That is also reported on here and former President Louise Abbott attended a community discussion on savings this Democracy.

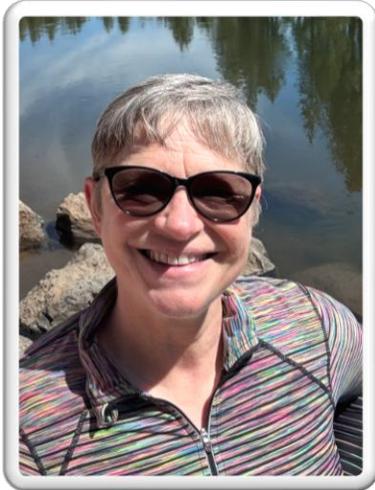
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*The Board of  
Directors wishes  
each of you a  
very Happy  
Thanksgiving.*

*In League,  
MJ LaBelle*





## Board Member Bio, Ann Schmierer

Ann was born and raised in Everett, Washington. She completed a combined BS degree in Chemistry and Biology from Western Washington University and a doctorate in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Washington.

Ann has worked most of her life in science and engineering, first at the Seattle biotech firm, Immunex, and then in academia at the University of Washington, Georgia Tech and Oregon State University. A career pivot to become the Executive Director of Wild Rivers Land Trust brought Ann to the coast, and she stayed.

Ann likes to garden, knit, cook, travel and read. She completed her Master Gardener's Certificate in 2024 and particularly enjoys growing and eating food from her garden and helping others optimize their gardens. Since she retired in 2022, she has more time to enjoy her hobbies.

Ann's volunteer activities in Curry County range from the Port Orford Rotary Club president (2020-2021), Port Orford Community Co-op, Wild Rivers Land Trust and the Curry County Master Gardeners Association in addition to joining the **LWVCC** board in 2025 and serving as Secretary.

## VOTER GIRL

- At the Fall Workshop in Eugene on November 1, besides Vote 411, Voter Outreach, Youth League and communications issues, a new program called "Voter Girl" was discussed.
- **LWVUS** has formed a contract with Girl Scouts of America to work together to educate young women through a badge system to participate with us in elections and forums.
- **LWVOR** has no contract but is actively working with the Oregon Girl Scout Association and we see the girls at some of our conferences and conventions this past year.
- Our own Cindy Meyers from Gold Beach is a Girl Scout Leader in our County and will be working with us to provide opportunities for the girls.



## 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: Charlene Enoch
  - ↳ North County: Becky Flake

**Curry County  
League  
Leadership**

**Our Curry County League has three Units:**

- ◆ **South County**    **Brookings**
- ◆ **Mid County**    **Gold Beach**
- ◆ **North County**    **Port Orford/Langlois**

**UNIT MEETINGS**

- ☺ Each Unit schedules its meetings with a League issue in mind.
- ☺ Refreshments are served.
- ☺ These Unit meetings are for members are those interested in becoming members.
- ☺ They are a great platform for discussion and dialogue.
- ☺ Mid County has been meeting monthly at Charlene Enoch's home.
- ☺ These are wonderful times of sharing and working together.

**Thank you, Mid-County!**

**Thanks go to our Unit Coordinators:**

- |   |                            |              |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| ✋ | <b>Alex Carr Frederick</b> | <b>South</b> |
| ✋ | <b>Charlene Enoch</b>      | <b>Mid</b>   |
| ✋ | <b>Becky Flake</b>         | <b>North</b> |

See the calendar for future meetings.



Come enjoy the celebration with members & friends for lunch on:

**December 13<sup>th</sup> @ noon**

This year the Holiday Luncheon will be at:

**The Landing North in Wedderburn**

Please email President MJ LaBelle at:

[maryjanelabelle@gmail.com](mailto:maryjanelabelle@gmail.com) to let her know that you are coming & whether you are bringing guests.

This is a great time to bring potential members  
And your significant other.

Drinks are available & we can order from  
The Landing North's fabulous menu!

**Fa, La, La, La, La!**





## No Kings Rallies – by MJ LaBelle



As many of you know or participated in, the nationwide **No Kings** rally on **October 18** was active in **Brookings & Port Orford**, but at the **Gold Beach** courthouse, those who came in the hundreds.

- ✗ It was estimated that 500 protesters were at the courthouse and another 100 to 200 at other County cities.
- ✗ Seven million were reported nationwide!
- ✗ Some people made their own signs.
- ✗ Others brought signs for those who needed them.
- ✗ There was an air of seriousness about many issues, but the overriding theme was we must save our Democracy.
- ✗ There was also an air of comradery.
- ✗ There were Democrats standing next to Republicans next to undecideds, all united in one huge statement:
- ✗ We love our Democracy.
- ✗ Don't mess with it.



For my part, having marched in DC against the Vietnam “Conflict”, I remember feeling part of a movement that was good for our nation, our citizens and the world. The No Kings Rally was the same sans Bob Dylan and Joan Baez.

**Unite and Rise 8.5 is about getting 8.5 million people all on the same boat and nationally, since there were estimated 7 million at the Kings march. We are getting there, team!**





## Are We Facing a Constitutional Crisis? By Alex Carr Frederick



- ✎ The October **LWVOR** Communications Cafe featured a Q & A with Betsy Massie. Betsy graduated with an AB degree in American Studies and began a life-long love affair with the US Constitution. Now retired from teaching American History and English, she teaches the US Constitution at OLLI in Ashland which is associated with Southern Oregon University.
- ✎ Now more than ever, she feels the urgency of making the US Constitution instrumental to our everyday lives. The **LWVUS** declared a Constitutional Crisis in May of 2025, and Betsy outlined four areas of concern, including legal avenues citizens can take to bring the government of our country back into accordance with the constitution.

### Supreme Court Overreach & why the ‘Shadow Docket’ is an abuse of SC power

- ✎ In the dissemination of powers amongst the 3 branches of government, Federal Judges, including the Supreme Court Justices are the only officials given lifetime tenure. And why was that? Well according to the Federalist Papers it is because their primary duty is to interpret the Constitution and laws passed by Congress, ensuring that laws conform to the Constitution and protect individual liberties, and that the citizenry at large understands the laws the court is upholding, or striking down.
- ✎ This is not an automatic life appointment but one granted to ensure independence under the Constitution's "good behavior" clause. If they behave with disregard for the Constitution, Federal Judges can and should be impeached.
- ✎ Nearly every president has used the ‘emergency hearing’ move (otherwise known as the shadow docket) to get case(s) heard immediately by the SC, but typically those were cases involving capital punishment.
- ✎ For examples, George W Bush through Obama used that power a total of 8 times. Trump on the other hand has used it 28 times, and he has been successful 23 times.
- ✎ BTW? None of his uses involved Capital Punishment but rather the use and expansion of Executive Power in other arenas. This is widely seen as a breach of duty and most likely, an impeachable offense.

### Emoluments Violations

- ✎ Emoluments are mentioned in two places in the U.S. Constitution: Article I, Section 9, Clause 8 (the Foreign Emoluments Clause) and Article II, Section 1, Clause 7 (the Domestic Emoluments Clause). The Foreign Emoluments Clause prohibits federal officials from accepting gifts or payments from foreign states without congressional consent.



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- ☞ An argument can be made that the jet gifted by Qatar could be seen as a violation of the Foreign Emoluments Clause. The Domestic Emoluments Clause states: *“The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.”*
- ☞ Some interpret that this means the current President of the US is violating the Constitution by his reportedly \$800 million earnings from crypto currency (among others) since being President and making decisions in favor of Crypto Currency. [Link](#)

### Illegal Use of Taxpayer Money, i.e., “Power of the Purse Violations”

- ☞ Congress creates the national budget specifically because they are ‘closest to the taxpayers’. This part of the Legislative Branch alone allocates tax dollar spending, not the Executive Branch. A “power of the purse” violation occurs when the executive branch oversteps its authority by spending money Congress has not appropriated, or by withholding funds Congress has specifically allocated.
- ☞ These violations can be seen as unconstitutional and may be challenged under laws like the Anti-Deficiency Act, which prevents agencies from spending money they don't have, and the Impoundment Control Act, which prevents the executive from delaying or withholding funds Congress has approved.

### Misuses of Military Forces & Funds

- ☞ This tends to be an area of interpretation, but Betsy Massie makes the argument that Congress has the power to declare war. She questions how the President can send war ships to Venezuela without Congressional approval.
- ☞ Most people assume that the president oversees the military in the United States. As commander in chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, the president has broad authority to make decisions that affect the military branches, especially during wartime, including determining troop movements and developing strategies for combat.
- ☞ However, that is not the only military power outlined in the Constitution. The Constitution also gives Congress considerable powers to oversee the military and ensure its functionality. These powers are found in Article 1, which focuses on Congress and its role in government. It includes the power to provide for the common defense, declare war, raise and support an Army and Navy, make rules and regulations for the military, and purchase land for military bases.
- ☞ How does this divide in military power work in reality? That is something that is still debated to this day. But one thing certain: the individual States powers, rights and constitutions have been largely ignored in the current climate and debate



# Why People Don't

# VOTE



A committee of the Deschutes County League of Women Voters recently took a look at why some people choose not to vote.

## They highlighted a recent survey by Tufts University, which found the following:

- ➡ 31% said too busy, conflicts or commitments, or didn't have enough information.
- ➡ 24% didn't like the candidates.
- ➡ 20% said voting was not important.
- ➡ 14% lacked information about how to vote or about candidates.

## The Deschutes committee asked:



- ➡ How can we reduce these percentages?
- ➡ What will get people engaged and ready to vote?

## Their follow-up research led them to these conclusions:

- ➡ Belief their vote matters:
  - When voters feel the outcome could be close or their vote could tip the scales, turnout rises.
- ➡ Issues that touch daily life:
  - Policies connected to health care, schools, housing, or local taxes motivate them more than abstract debates.
- ➡ Strong feelings (hope or fear):
  - Anger at a threat or excitement for change can push people to vote.
- ➡ Personal stories:
  - Hearing how policies affect real people makes voting feel urgent.
- ➡ Local stakes:
  - People are more likely to vote when it's tied to their city, school, or neighborhood.
- ➡ Identity and pride:
  - Seeing voting as part of being a "good citizen," "good parent," or "good community member" matters.



**In January, our LWV Curry County Voter Service Committee will reach out to you in our Unit meeting to discuss your thoughts on how to address these issues as we register voters.**

**THANKS to Deschutes and Coos for this article.**





## Commissioners Vote to Fix Transfer Station Building

By Evan Kramer



**At its meeting on October 1, 2025, the Curry County Board of Commissioners voted at their October 1, 2025, meeting to spend \$123,000 on much-needed improvements to the Curry Transfer and Recycle building in Port Orford.**

- ➔ I started communications with former Commissioner Brad Alcorn in late 2023 about the deteriorating state of the large shed-like building where the garbage is dumped.
- ➔ At that time, large sheets of the tin walls were either falling down or flapping in the wind, creating a danger to both CTR employees and the public.
- ➔ Along the way, before anything got fixed, Commissioner Alcorn for private reasons resigned from the board of Commissioner and was then replaced by Lynn Coker.
- ➔ Alcorn had promised before he left the county commissioner position an engineering study would be done on the building and it would be fixed. So much for promises.
- ➔ I contacted Lynn Coker recently about the deteriorating state of the transfer station building and he eventually paid it a visit and saw firsthand the shape it was in.
- ➔ The other commissioners also viewed the transfer station building seeing firsthand how dangerous the situation had become.
- ➔ This caused Coker to bring it up at the Commissioners' October 1 board meeting.
- ➔ The three commissioners all voted to accept a bid from Slape Construction of Brookings, Oregon to make the necessary building repairs.
- ➔ The Curry Transfer and Recycle station is aptly named, as the garbage brought in by the company's garbage trucks and also by citizens in their own vehicles is loaded in a large empty truck and when full, is removed and transported to White City landfill.
- ➔ At one time, Port Orford's transfer station was truly a place to dump garbage in a pit where it remained, but that was many years ago.
- ➔ Now the household and business waste travels over 200 miles for burial at land.

*Editor's note: We are grateful to Board member Evan for his work to monitor the Transfer Station which is a priority concern to LWVCC.*

**VOTER  
REGISTRATION  
OPPORTUNITIES**



Dear members, please keep your eyes open for upcoming large gathering opportunities where we can set up a table to register voters and get new members. Let me know at [maryjanelabelle@gmail.com](mailto:maryjanelabelle@gmail.com).

*Thanks*

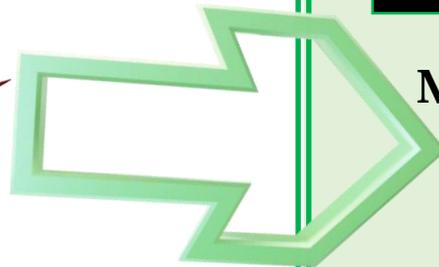
LWVOR has a CafePress shop where you can pick up League promotional items such as:

-  yard signs
-  T-shirts
-  ball caps,
-  buttons, and more.

Check it out [here](#).

Want more?  
LWVUS has a store too, [here](#).

**GOT  
SWAG**



**North County Unit Meeting**

Monday, November 17

4:00 p.m.

Becky Flake's home

Port Orford

RSVP 541-332-5585

*Cookies served*



**Discussion:  
Are we in a Constitutional Crisis?**

**General Meeting**

**Saturday**

**November 1**

**11 a.m.**

**Brookings Library**

**The topic of discussion will include ways that folks can actively stay involved in protecting our democracy.**



November 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 General Meeting LWVOR Fall Workshop
2 	3 Election Heroes Day	4	5	6	7 Supporting College Students' Zoom - Noon	8
9	10	11 	12 Board Meeting 11:00 am – 12:30 Gold Beach Library	13	14	15
16 	17 Unit Meeting Becky Flake's Home 4:00 p.m.	18	19	20	21	22
30	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving 	28	29

December 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 	8	9	10	11	12	13 Holiday Party Landing North 12 noon
14	15	16	17 Hanukkah Begins Bill of Rights Day	18	19	20
21 Winter Solstice 	22	23	24	25 Christmas 	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 			

January 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Board Meeting 11:00 am – 12:30 p.m. Gold Beach Library	29	30	31



**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](#)



**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 © (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*