



Presidents Message

Greetings all! We are beginning the League year with roller skates on!

First of all, I ask that all of you renew your membership. This is the last newsletter I'll be sending out to all old members, and the League needs you. In my past I was involved in partisan politics. This person is bad, this person lies, this person is good. When I discovered the League, I found my home. What matters is the production of a democratic society that will protect and nurture it's citizens. We are very political but nonpartisan for the sake of our democracy. Please read "What Does the League Stands For?" below and be proud that you are a member. *In League, MJ LaBelle*



What Does the League Stand For?

The League of Women Voters of the United States:

-  encourages informed and active participation in government,
-  works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and
-  influences public policy through education and advocacy.



The League believes the freedom to vote is a nonpartisan issue, and it encourages everyone to take part in our democracy. Its vision is of a more inclusive democracy in which all Americans are represented. It promotes social and economic justice through the lens of issues such as health care, the environment, immigration reform, and the census.

LWV envisions a democracy in which every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, the access, and the confidence to participate.



- X **Please note on our calendar that "No Kings Day" is scheduled for October 18, 2025 from 12pm until 2 pm at the Courthouse in Gold Beach.**
- X **The League of Woman Voters US has declared that we are a partner with the "No King's Day" group.**
- X **Many of us will be at this demonstration to preserve our Democracy.**

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This has been a sad year of passing for us. We lost three dear long-time members: Rosaria Williams, Jeanne Jezuit, and Ed Patterson. Rosaria was always there to help at Port Orford Forums, and she was a good friend of the League. Jeanne, another Port Orford stalwart and an engaged board member, was always contributing and spent time with us at the summer **LWVOR** Convention in Eugene. Ed Patterson was from Brookings. His wife Debra Worth sat on the **LWVCC** Board for a number of years, and Ed was a steadfast League volunteer in his own right.

We will miss them all, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to their loved ones.



BOARD MEMBER BIO
Lucie La Bonte, Vice President



- ⇒ Growing up outside New York City in New Jersey in the 1950s was a wonderful cultural experience. My early education was excellent. By the 1960s with the Viet Nam War and the assassinations of Martin Luther King and President Kennedy, our schools were in turmoil. Leaving my family behind, I moved to a small school in West Virginia, Greenbrier College, for my last two years of high school and first year of college. My interests changed from music to art. I finished at Virginia Commonwealth University with a degree in painting and printmaking.
- ⇒ In the early 70s I was in sales and in gallery management in San Francisco and Sausalito. I met my husband, and we eventually moved to Curry County in 1983. In 1988 I joined the **League of Women Voters of Curry County**. The League was working on land use at the time, and I became an observer to the county commissioners for 8 years. What I learned was to work with people with different points of view to find solutions to the many difficult problems facing this small rural county.
- ⇒ The League produced studies on ocean issues, recycling, family violence, land use, and water use. I helped my husband run his small businesses and attended a lot of meetings. I was on many committees and councils as a volunteer. My husband and I volunteered for Cape Ferrelle Fire Department, and I became Interim Chief. We helped it get a tax base and become a Fire Protection District.
- ⇒ In the 1990s I worked for the Port of Brookings Harbor focusing on grant writing and fishery issues. I worked for the watershed councils for a brief time, and the Port of Gold Beach where I became Interim Manager. In 2000 I was elected to the office of County Commissioner. The County its first all-women commission and the second in the state of Oregon. I served for two terms.
- ⇒ All along I have continued my art of batiking, which I learned in high school, painting and some jewelry making that I learned from my husband who passed away in 2021. We also had a small business creating Fantasy Faces.
- ⇒ I served as **LWV Curry County** President (several times), as a **LWVOR** Board member and **LWVOR** VP.



CURRY COUNTY LEAGUE LEADERSHIP



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





LWVUS Unite & Rise 8.5 Campaign

by, Alex Carr Frederick



I joined in the LWVOR's Communication Cafe via Zoom on 9/30 to discuss Oregon's role in supporting the LWVUS' Unite and Rise 8.5 Campaign which is currently set to run through the midterms of 2026. The goal is to mobilize 8.5 million Americans to speak out in actions and words in support of our Democracy. **Why 8.5?** Because 8.5 million registered voters is the number needed to act as a whole to affect real change in a country of our size.

- 📢 If Oregon's' Leagues decide to do 'their part' to reach this goal, that would mean we need to reach and encourage to act, 112,000 Oregonians. For Curry County, that would mean approximately 980 residents.
- 📢 This campaign was launched in May 2025, shortly after the LWVUS declared a Constitutional Crisis in response to the current Administration's unprecedented attacks on the constitution. What do we mean by that? We mean the current Administration's disregard for congressional authority, it's usurpation and defiance of Constitutional checks and balances and it's stripping of civil and voting rights from segments of the population. When we hear of these rights violations and power overreaches, it can be overwhelming, and it is easy to feel defeated before we even start. Barbara Klein and Lisa Bentsen, both reminded us that many of our State and Local positions already support the goals of Unite & Rise. We have a framework in place to assist with the goals of this initiative and to work in conjunction with our fellow State leagues to affect real change.
- 📢 We are all encouraged to act in our own way, a way that feels safe and meaningful to us as individuals and as Local Leagues. There is a calendar of suggested action for October, but individualization is encouraged. There is no mandate, but they would like us to report our outreach efforts. And that is the beauty of the League dynamic, we already have a locally relevant framework in place to empower voters and defend democracy- it is what we do! To create a unified State and then National voice, Unite and Rise would like us to track our contacts, our actions and each individual that we reach with these programs. Then, with a template from LWVOR, we will enter into these contacts into a database and call it a dataset. This will be a great way for us to track progress across the State. As the midterms near, we will be empowered to reach further as our snowballing positive actions create momentum and energy- for us as individuals and for our communities as a whole.
- 📢 Lastly, there was some frank discussion as to how the line between political and partisan is being blurred and jerked back and forth each day in this changing climate. We were encouraged to remember, that the League's position on Nonpartisan Advocacy is this:
 - 🔴 We are Nonpartisan, not Neutral.
 - 🔴 Remaining nonpartisan does not mean staying silent.
 - 🔴 When the Constitution itself is under threat, when voter access is restricted, or when misinformation spreads, we have a responsibility to speak out — clearly and forcefully.
 - 🔴 Our nonpartisan commitment strengthens our voice, allowing us to advocate for fundamental rights and freedoms without being seen as beholden to any political agenda.

The next LWVOR Communications Cafe will be held via Zoom October 28, 2025. The topic is "What does it mean to face a Constitutional Crisis?"

Pamela Thorsch



Relocating from San Diego to Brookings in 2020, Pamela Thorsch has had a diverse corporate business background. She semi-retired 2014 after 13 years as the executive director of Rebuilding Together San Diego, renovating homes for low-income families throughout San Diego County.

Her first political involvement came when she was 17 years old volunteering with the Democratic Party in West Los Angeles. At the time, it wasn't so much her interest in politics, but she was given a canvassing list which had many movie stars homes listed in Brentwood and she grabbed the opportunity to door knock in order to meet them! From there her interest developed and held the position of Government Affairs Director at the San Diego Association of Realtors for a time.

Her activist roots and passion to right the wrongs of injustices she has encountered along the way opened the door to the development of local, state and national initiatives on a variety of issues.

Since being in Brookings, this has not ceased. Pamela has made time for community involvement while working as a mobile notary public and loan signing agent. She's looking forward to her involvement with the League of Women Voters and to sharing interests with other individuals who are also called to protect our democracy, to take a stand on important issues, and to help to educate people while encouraging them to get out to vote.



DATES TO REMEMBER

October 18 Saturday 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

- 🌀 **No King's Day**
 - ▶ March in Gold Beach at the County Hall.
 - ▶ The US league is partnering with the group.

October 22 Wednesday 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

- 🌀 **Board Meeting**
 - ▶ Alex Carr Frederick's place of business in Brookings.

October 24 Friday 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

- 🌀 **Mid-county Unit Meeting**
 - ▶ @ Charlene Enoch's home
 - ▶ 29496 Daisy Lane, Gold Beach

October 27 Monday 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

- 🌀 **North-county Unit Meeting**
 - ▶ @ Becky Flake's home
 - ▶ Port Orford



September
Observer Report
Lucie La Bonte

- 🔍 The League of Women Voters of Curry County is rebuilding its Observer Corp.
- 🔍 At the present we have 2 observers:
 - ⇒ Evan Kramer is observing County Commissioner Meetings
 - ⇒ Vicki Bradley is observing City of Brookings and some County Commissioner Meetings.
- 🔍 Members who are interested in being an observer to local governments should contact Lucie La Bonte.
- 🔍 We need observers for the City of Gold Beach, the City of Port Orford and all 3 ports.
- 🔍 Vicky Bradley reported:
 - ⇒ “The IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) proposal/contract for a part-time community resource officer to be shared between the city of Brookings and South County was voted down (2-2 with one abstention).
- 🔍 Fears were that Brookings taxpayers would incur hidden costs.
- 🔍 This, coupled with the previous City Council’s rejection to provide patrol services, leaves South County without adequate police/sheriff services.
- 🔍 Further workshops on the issue were discussed.”
- 🔍 There is no recommendation for league action on these issues.

It was announced that the laying of wreaths at cemeteries is scheduled for December 13thvolunteers and monetary contributions are being sought. Gordon Clay reminded the council that September is Suicide Prevention Month and that the federal government has defunded the 988 hotline. He is promoting use of text 741741 SOS.



What Are League *Principles & Positions?*



Principles

Nationwide, the League of Women Voters has a set of basic principles that collectively form the premise for League advocacy. The Principles are “concepts of government,” descended from the organization’s platform from 1942 to 1956. Each study conducted by any League—local, state, or national—must be consistent with these principles.

These are the LWVUS Principles:

- ☞ The **League of Women Voters** believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.
- ☞ The **League of Women Voters** of the United States believes that all powers of the US government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.
- ☞ The **League of Women Voters** believes that democratic government depends on informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen’s right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible.



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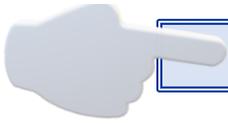
What are the League Principles & Positions?

- ✧ The **League of Women Voters** believes every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.
- ✧ The **League of Women Voters** believes efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.
- ✧ The **League of Women Voters** believes responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy, and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.
- ✧ The **League of Women Voters** believes cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organizations and international laws is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

POSITIONS

The League takes positions only after both study and consensus. The League conducts studies based on the Principles at the local, state, and national levels. Members reach consensus on a series of statements based on the studies, and those statements are formalized as Positions, which are then voted on by membership. *All League advocacy on any issue must be based on an approved position.*

The **LWVUS** positions are legion, and they are published annually in a book you can buy for a nominal sum: *Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions of the League of Women Voters.*



At the state level, **LWVOR** positions may be found [here](#).



LWVCC has positions on the following subjects (date indicates the year adopted):

- Affordable Housing (1994)
- Comprehensive Planning (1973)
- County Budget Process (1977, 1987; we are starting a restudy process now)
- County Home Rule (2025)
- County Library Services (1979, 1993)
- Establishment of a Coos County Human Rights Commission (1996)
- Evaluating Public Administrators (1983)
- Health and Mental Health (1958, 1964, 1974, 1987, 1993)
- International Port of Coos Bay (1962, 1981, 2000, 2023)
- Juvenile Facilities (1976, 2000)
- Water Quality (2010)



In addition, **LWVCC** subscribes to the following **LWVUS** positions:

- Climate Change
- International Relations
- Meeting Basic Human Needs
- Natural Resources
- Representative Government
- Social Policy
- United Nations



THE STRUCTURE OF COURTS & DUE PROCESS



- ▶ Judge Jesse Margolis spoke to **LWV Curry County** members and members of the public at a forum hosted by the **LWV Curry County** and Curry Public Library on September 3. 32 people attended.
- ▶ The talk, “The Structure of Courts and Due Process” focused on the local and state court system. There are 183 Court Systems in the Judicial Branch covering 26 counties with 15 Districts.
- ▶ The Courts are governed by Oregon State Statutes and the Oregon Constitution.

Two principles are:

1. The principle that all individuals and institutions are accountable to the law and that
 2. The law be applied equally to everybody
- ▶ No one is above the law and that the system allows change.
 - ▶ Having a well-functioning court system provides the best chance at maintaining the right to due process and rule of law.
 - ▶ The Supreme Court overtime can change.

Informational Forum

👉 This Forum was recorded and can be watched by logging into **League of Women Voters Curry County web site.**”



The Newest LWVUS Position: Federal Judiciary

- 👉 Last year our League participated in **LWVUS**’s study of the Federal Judiciary.
- 👉 The study and a consensus position were adopted at the national council in June 2025.
- 👉 Below is the complete position announced by the **LWVUS** board.
- 👉 Now that a position on the Federal Judiciary has been adopted, the League is empowered at all levels to advocate for or against issues reflected in the position.
- 👉 The League of Women Voters of the United States (**LWVUS**) believes that all powers of the US government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of the balance of powers among the three branches of government.
- 👉 The League believes that, within the bounds of the US Constitution, the overarching principles of **transparency, accountability, independence, and ethics** are essential to an effective federal judiciary.
- 👉 These principles are not only essential for a strong democracy but foster public trust in the federal judiciary and adherence to the rule of law, the essence of our constitutional democracy.

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For the federal judiciary, the League supports the essential principles of:

TRANSPARENCY:

- ⚖️ Federal court documents, proceedings, and rulings, including those in “shadow docket” cases, should be open and available to the public within the bounds of the law, recognizing the need for limited exceptions, such as legally protected sensitive information.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

- ⚖️ Federal judges and justices should be held legally and ethically responsible for the integrity of their actions, with enforceable consequences for violations.

INDEPENDENCE:

- ⚖️ Federal judges and justices should act in accordance with the Constitution and statutory and case law, free from the influence of the other branches of government and free from shifting popular and political opinion.

ETHICS:

- ⚖️ Federal judges and justices should adhere to ethical standards of conduct that apply universally at all levels of the federal courts. There should be a meaningful enforcement process with judges and justices subject to penalties for failure to comply with the standards.
- 👤 The League believes that standards of conduct for federal judges and justices should include requirements to disclose non-judicial income; other financial benefits including, but not limited to, gifts and hospitality; and investment holdings. Federal judges, justices, and their partners or spouses should be subject to penalties for failure to disclose accurately and in a timely manner.
- 👤 The League believes that standards of conduct should include a process that requires a judge or Justice to recuse themselves upon evidence that a bias or reasonable perception of a bias exists for or against any party or issue raised in a case. A judge’s or Justice’s decision and rationale not to recuse, despite evidence raised in the court proceedings, should be disclosed in the court’s record.
- 👤 The League believes that respect for precedent (*stare decisis*) under most circumstances contributes to a strong democracy and promotes predictability and stability of law. *Stare decisis* does not mean precedents cannot or should not be overruled, but that such instances should occur in exceptional circumstances.
- 👤 The League believes that the elements of this position contribute to judicial integrity and are essential to a strong democracy. These elements exemplify what the League expects from the federal courts, building trust and buttressing the courts’ legitimacy. Adherence to the principles of accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics ensures both a strong federal judiciary and a stronger democracy.



*Our new **LWVOR** President, Mark Kendall, began his term on September 1. We're happy to share his introductory remarks to League members below.*

"This unconscionable transformation of our democracy must not stand. It is contrary to the League's core principles and adopted positions."

Mark Kendall, LWVOR President



Mark Kendall, LWVOR President

Dear **LWVOR** Member,

It is with humility and honor that I have accepted this opportunity to coordinate the efforts of and provide leadership for the **League of Women Voters of Oregon**. As a League colleague said, these are "very unprecedented times". My motivation is derived from concern for the viability of our democratic system of governance, seeing decades of progressive social reform overturned and looking into the eyes of my 12-year-old granddaughter as I see her civil rights being eroded and abridged on a daily basis. This unconscionable transformation of our democracy must not stand. It is contrary to the League's core principles and adopted positions.

My objectives in this appointment are to; 1) amplify the League's voice both in Oregon and as empowered nationally, consistent with the "one voice" condition supported by rigorous consensus positions, 2) faithfully and vigorously implement the Oregon LWV Board strategic plan that focuses on eight priorities many of which are of perennial interest to our members across Oregon, 3) champion the ongoing excellence of the **League of Women Voters of Oregon** core mission contributions to voters rights, equity, inclusion, civil rights, social justice, and 4) provide leadership of transparent, nimble, accountable and actionable governance.

[Read the full statement](#)



WHAT DOES THE STATE LEAGUE (LWVOR) OFFER LOCAL LEAGUES (LWVCC)

- ↪ A chance to have kindred spirit colleagues from among almost 1500 members in 14 other local leagues in Oregon!
- ↪ Whether you are an experienced or a new member, join with others at virtual meetings:
 - ⇒ **Local League Leaders**
 - on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 5 pm -one hour
 - ⇒ **League 101 for New Leaders & Members**
 - on the 1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm - one hour
 - ⇒ **Communications Café**
 - one virtual evening hour for everyone interested in having a good time with the announced topic of the month - run by Barbara Klein of Rogue Valley league, 1st VP of **LWVOR**
- ↪ If you carry a portfolio (Action, Development, Events, Membership, Newsletter Editor, Voter Service...), join virtually with others working on your portfolio, generally led by the **LWVOR** portfolio chair.



To register for any of these programs, contact Abigail Hertzler, LWVOR Office Manager in Salem at a.hertzler@lwvor.org or at 503-581-5722.

- ▶ **LWVOR** has a new state president, Mark Kendall, out of the Marion/Polk league.
- ▶ Mark has 30 years' experience at Eugene Water and Electric Board and the State of Oregon in commercial industrial energy policy and more than twenty years of volunteer service on local and national non-profit boards.
- ▶ Last winter, he co-led the Oregon discussion leading to a new **LWVUS** position on the multi-faceted issues of fiduciary ethics.

To read this position, go to Google, "League of Women Voters Impact on Issues 2024-2026."



Do you have a Girl Scout in your family?

- ↪ **LWV** partners with the Girl Scouts providing a proprietary badge program in civics activities and projects for Scouts K -12.
- ↪ A plug-in ready package, paid for you by **LWVOR**, has everything needed for implementation.
- ↪ *If interested or have questions, contact Eileen Burke-Trent, the **LWVOR** Events Chair out of the Marion/Polk League @ eileen.lwv@gmail.com.*

October 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 League 101 Zoom 6:30 pm	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 	14	15	16	17	18 No Kings Rally Gold Beach Courthouse 12-2 pm
19	20 Diwali 	21	22 Board Meeting Alex Carr Frederick's Business - Brookings 11:00 – 2:00 pm	23	24 United Meeting Charlie Enoch's Home Gold Beach 4:30 – 6:30 pm	25
26	27 Unit Meeting Becky Flake's Home Gold Beach 5:30 pm	28	29	30	31 Halloween 	

November 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 LWVOR Fall Workshop
2 	3 Election Heros Day	4	5	6	7 Supporting College Students' Zoom - Noon	8
9	10	11 	12 Board Meeting 11:00 am Gold Beach Library	13	14	15
16 	17	18	19 A Deeper Understanding of the PCIP II 7:00pm	20 LWVUS Federal Advocacy Wrapper Zoom - noon	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 Time & Place TBA
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 			

CoastLines

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



CoastLines

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



2025-2026 Board Officers & Directors

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| President | MaryJane LaBelle |
| Vice President | Lucie La Bonte |
| Secretary | Ann Schmierer |
| Treasurer | Alyce Prudden |
| Board Directors | |
| ▶ Evan Kramer | |
| ▶ Georgia Nowlin | |
| ▶ Alex Carr Frederich | |

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*