

President's Message



October 2026

I want to tell you what an honor it is to serve as your President. I have a wonderful Board of Directors, and the Voter Service Team has been busy setting up and staffing the Candidate Forums. It is a small selection this time. As you know, we invite only the candidates in contested seats to participate; therefore, the State Representative and County Commissioner seat candidates will be with us.

At our board meeting the other day, we commented on the number of seats with only one candidate, and there are seats with no one to volunteer. This is very unusual and may reflect the unfortunate anger directed at elected officials. The League has consistently advocated for civil discourse, and I believe we do not have enough of that today. That is another hurdle to overcome.

Please join us as we move to educate the voters this month of October and help us in areas listed in this newsletter.

*In League,
MJ LaBelle*



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Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, December 15

Holiday Luncheon Party

**Gold Beach
place TBD**

Board of Directors 2026-2028 Curry County League Leadership

- ▶ **President:** Mary Jane LaBelle (2025-27)
- ▶ **Vice-President:** Lucie La Bonte (2025-27)
- ▶ **Secretary:** Lin Valet (2026-28)
- ▶ **Treasurer:** Ann Schmierer (2024-26)
- ▶ **Directors at Large:**
 - Director #1: Georgia Nowlin (2025-27)
 - Director #2: Rebecca Golden (2026-28)
 - Director #3: Evan Kramer (2025-27)
 - Director #4: Irene Jacobs (2026-28)
 - Director #5: Alex Carr Frederick (2025-27)
- ▶ **Voter Service:** Charlie Alexander
- ▶ **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



Recent Consensus

- ✎ Our Units have completed the **K-1 Exceptional Learners Consensus Response Form**, and it has been sent to **LWVOR** Action Committee.
- ✎ This will be discussed in caucus at the Council meeting in Salem which some of us will attend.
- ✎ If agreed upon, it will move to position status, and the Action group will watch for related legislation to comment upon.

HELP
NEEDED

We need help in the following areas:

- **Observers for Gold Beach and Port Orford City Council Meetings**
- **Nominating Committee: 3 volunteers**
- **Information Forum Planning**
- **Publicity Committee leader**



Important dates for the 2026 November 3rd General Election

By Georgia Nowlin

The **League of Women Voters of Curry County** will be hosting candidate forums on:

October 6 Tuesday

➤ Port Orford City Hall, Port Orford

October 7 Wednesday

➤ Chetco Community Public Library, Brookings

October 8 Thursday

➤ Curry Public Library, Gold Beach

- All the candidate forums will begin at 6pm.
- Contested Race Candidates will be invited.
- We will hopefully video at least one for the website.

Important dates for the 2026 November 3rd General Election

October 5-9 Monday - Friday



National **Voter** Education Week

- Help voters in our county navigate the voting process

October 13 Tuesday

LAST DAY TO UPDATE OR RIGISTER TO **VOTE FOR **NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION!****

October 14 Wednesday

First Day ballots are mailed to **Voters**

October 20 Tuesday



Election Hero Day

- Recognize and thank election officials and volunteers

October 24 Thursday



Vote Early Day

October 27 Tuesday

- If you haven't mailed back your ballot, place it in a drop box

November 3 Tuesday



Election Day!!

- The **Voter** Service Team will be reaching out to members to assist at these important candidate forums
- Please consider helping if you can





Bio for Linda C Valet (Lin)



- » Native Southern Oregon Coast
- » My family, late Herb and Peggy Bell, Brother, Uncles, Cousins, from Langlois Oregon. 2 Amazing Daughters , Granddaughter and Grandson, live nearby.
- » My past interests includes owning, operating Bookstore, Cafe, and Ranch.
- » Horses were our love and still are for my children.
- » I'm a Port Orford resident and share home and interests with classmates from Pacific High School.
- » I love our community and enjoy helping with team at Common Good, PO Senior Activities Center and once again with League of Women Voters .
- » I'm excited to be informed and share ideas and hopes for our community, county, country and world.
- » In these times especially, I believe we've come to a point of needing to more fully understand how all these areas are managed by the Persons we elect to look out for us all, Humans and Environment!
- » I'm eager and hopeful for a wonderful future for generations to come.
- » In between all above, I thrive on Family, Friends, Travel, Arts, and Nature!
- » I'm so Grateful to live in this beautiful corner of our world sharing time with you all.



LWVUS is partnering with the **No Kings** organization's Day of Action on **Saturday, October 17.**

The theme of these rallies, which will take place nationwide, is "**Vote Early.**"

Members are encouraged to attend a local rally with signs that amplify this message; they are discouraged from carrying partisan signs.





Oregon League Sponsors a New Initiative



- ▶▶ **LWVOR** is co-sponsoring a new ballot initiative for the 2028 election.
- ▶▶ Currently known officially as 2028-034, it is colorfully titled “Stomp out Dark Money in Oregon Elections.” You can find info about it [here](#).
- ▶▶ But wait—surely the *Citizens United v. FEC* ruling by the Supreme Court in 2010 made it impossible to eliminate dark money from political campaigns—so how would this initiative do the trick?
- ▶▶ The answer lies in a tactic popularly known as the Montana Plan.
- ▶▶ Montana has an initiative qualified for the November ballot ([I-194](#)) that would stop election spending by so-called “artificial persons.”
- ▶▶ In law, an artificial person is a legal entity that exists independently of the human beings who create it.
- ▶▶ It can enter into contracts, own property, sue and be sued; but it generally protects its human owners or managers from personal liability for the entity’s actions or debts incurred.
- ▶▶ By detailing in the state constitution, a clear distinction between the free-speech rights of a person and those of an artificial person, so the argument goes, a state—which is empowered to regulate corporations doing business in its territory—can set the conditions under which a corporation can “speak.”
- ▶▶ It can set penalties for violating those conditions. And 2028-034 proceeds to do just that.
- ▶▶ Will it be found legal? Hopefully, we’ll know the answer to that question before 2028.
- ▶▶ This past May, the Hawaii Legislature passed [SB 2471](#), the Sunshine over Dark Money bill, which uses the Montana Plan strategy.
- ▶▶ A lawsuit was promptly filed ([Grassroot Institute of Hawaii v. Lopez](#)) and discovery is under way.

YOU Can Amplify the League’s Message

- ➡ Have you ever wondered what the League believes on a variety of issues? Have you wondered how they communicate our values to others? If so, this is for you.
- ➡ **LWVOR** has launched a new project known as Plug & Play. It’s a page on the state League’s website where you can find talking points and social media resources on a variety of issues important to the League. Look for it [here](#).
- ➡ This info is for members as well as local Leagues to use. You can pull anything you like off the page and post it on social media or just talk to friends and family about it.
- ➡ The site is new; so far, there are talking points and social media toolkits for Immigration and Due Process; Medicaid; Book Bans; and States’ Rights, the Second Amendment, and Military Deployment to Cities.

Keep an eye on the page because more content will be forthcoming.

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**.

October 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Candidate Forum 6pm-8pm City Hall Chambers Port Orford	7 Candidate Forum 6pm-8pm Chetco Community Public Library Gold Beach	8 Candidate Forum 6pm-8pm Curry Public Library Gold Beach	9	10
11	12	13 Last day to vote for Nov. 3 Election	14 Ballots mailed	15	16	17
18	19	20 Election Hero Day 	21	22	23 Board Meeting 1pm-3pm Curry Public Library Gold Beach	24 VOTE EARLY 
25	26	27 Ballots in drop box if not mailed earlier	28	29	30	31 Halloween 

November 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 ELECTION DAY 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Board Meeting 1pm-3pm Curry Public Library Gold Beach	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving 	28
29	30					

December 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 BILL OF RIGHTS DAY Holiday Luncheon Party Gold Beach Place TBD 	16	17	18 Election certified	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas 	26
27	28	29	30 New Year's Eve 	31		



2026-2027 Board Members

Front row from left:

- Ann Schmierer, **Treasurer**
- Lin Valet, **Secretary**
- MaryJane LaBelle, **President**

Back row from left:

- Alex Carr Frederick, **Director #5**
- Georgia Nowlin, **Director #1**
- Rebecca Golden, **Director #2**
- Irene Jacobs, **Director #3**
- Lucie La Bonte, **Vice President**

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](#)

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*