

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF LANE COUNTY

The Argus

September 2026

It's summer at the League of Women
Voters of Lane County!

Confused? Why is Vote by Mail politicized? Oregonians have an established tradition of Voting by Mail. Oregon's Attorney General Dan Rayfield said "Oregonians have trusted vote-by-mail for more than 25 years because it works."

Here is a helpful website from the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) about Oregon: <https://www.lwvor.org/vote-by-mail>

In December 1995 Oregon became the first state to conduct a primary election by mail. Oregon sampled vote by mail elections from 1996 through 1999. Oregon elected to expand Vote by Mail to primary and general elections in November 1998. The initiative process was used to put the issue of Vote by Mail on the ballot in 1998 and that year Oregon became the first state to have more ballots cast by mail than at the polls.

In 1996 only 7.8% of the nation's voters used Vote by Mail. During the 2020 pandemic that percentage rose to 43%. In 2024 the national percentage of mail-in-votes was 29%. There is a wide variation among the states. In Oregon and Washington more than 95% of voters cast their ballots by mail. In Virginia and Tennessee fewer than 3% of voters do.

The United States Supreme Court has been blocking President Trump's effort to restrict voting through the post office. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has challenged those efforts. The case is called LWV of Massachusetts v Trump and here is a website for reference: <https://www.aclu.org/cases/league-of-women-voters-of-massachusetts-v-trump>

Susan Ban, Vice President

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Save the Date!
October 27, 2026
11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Marquis Assisted Living
555 Country Club Road, Eugene

We're excited to bring back our Speaker Series for the 2026–27 season!
Join us for an engaging program and an opportunity to learn, connect, and share ideas with fellow members.
Speaker information to follow.
Mark your calendar—we hope to see you there!



Celebrate 'Democracy at the Grange'

Mark your calendar for a day of history, community, and civic spirit! Join the League of Women Voters of Lane County and the Row River Grange on Saturday, October 3 (11am–5pm) for Democracy at the Grange — an official America 250 Oregon Commission event.

[Read more](#) at “The Grange”



September 22 Fall Luncheon
Unitarian Universalist Church
11:30am



Guest speaker **Marty Wilde** will talk about the healthcare situation in Lane County.

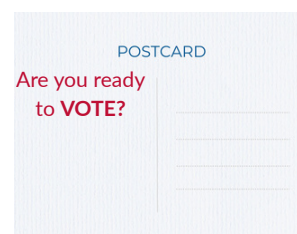
The 2026-2027 Speaker Series for the League of Women Voters of Lane County begins with the kickoff event on September 22. It will be held at 11:30am at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 13th and Chambers in Eugene. Free parking is available at the venue and on adjacent streets. Lunch will be served for any who are interested.

Lunch will be catered by the Glenwood Restaurant and will cost \$20. Beverage and dessert is \$5.

Members and guests are welcome to attend at no cost; lunch is optional.

Register for the event online: [Fall Kickoff](#) by email office@lwvlc.org or call 541-343-7917

Postcarding



We will have a postcarding writing party, on Sept. 14 at 2pm, at the League office in Springfield, 175 W. B St., Suite E2. If you are interested in participating, please email voterservice@lwvlc.org with your name.

Community Outreach: Join Us in the Community!

If you've been looking to get out and get involved, our Community Outreach events are a great place to get started. Shifts are two hours, and all new volunteers are matched with experienced partners. We also schedule regular orientations if you would like to learn more!

Contact volunteer@lwvlc.org for more info.

9/20/26 – Oakridge Community Farmers Market, 2pm – 5pm, registering voters

10/10/26 – Cottage Grove Library Volunteer Fair, 10am – 1pm

10/03/26 - Democracy at the Grange 11am-5pm, Cottage Grove

10/24-25/26 - Lane County Home Improvement Show, 2 hr shifts from open to close daily

Fruit and Nut Sale Fall 2026

Our annual Fundraiser, the Fruit & Nut Sale will be back this Fall, we anticipate taking orders in October 2026 through mid-November 2026 and orders will be picked up in early December 2026.

This is a wonderful way to not only support LWVLC but also a terrific way to prepare for gifting season with the purchase of premium apples, oranges, grapefruit and local hazelnuts!

As always, we will need at least 15 volunteers to assist with pick-up day at St. Thomas Episcopal Church which is a great deal of fun and merriment and possibly the most fun you can have with your clothes on!

Contact: volunteer@lwvlc.org



T Shirt Sales

BIG THANKS to
League
Member
Kelle DeForrest

for creating this fantastic artwork and handmade silk-screened t-shirt! If you are helping with Community Outreach Events or other public-facing League work and would like to step up your wardrobe, place your order by emailing: membership@lwvlc.org. Limited sizes and quantities available. Our "break-even" cost is \$10 per shirt.

Watch Your Mailbox

An updated and printed Membership Directory is in the editing phase. We hope to send it out soon. Please get to know each other and if you see someone listed in the Directory that you know, reach out. We are better together.

Want to help grow our community? You can now give a gift membership or send a link to a friend and invite them to join the League. Log into the LWV portal and open to see the options under "Grow Our Community."
It's a meaningful way to build our League. Think of your church friends, book club members, relatives, neighbors, etc.

<https://portal.lwv.org/home>

A screenshot of a web portal titled "Grow Our Community". It features a section for "Purchase a Gift Membership" with a "Gift" button and a small gift icon. Below this is a section for "Invite Someone to Join" with a radio button for "Any League" and a radio button for "My League". At the bottom, there is a URL: "https://portal.lwv.org/membership?referral_source=...".



Marj Maxwell
Unit Coordinator

A League member is an informed voter.

Unit Discussion Groups are a place where League members and their guests come to share fact-checked research, participate in respectful discussion, help give direction to League policy and influence future League actions.

Attend, even if the topic is not one that is not particularly on your radar. You might change the way you think or get someone else to look at the issues from a different perspective. Whether you enter into the discussion, ask questions or listen, you are better prepared to participate as an informed voter or give insight to informal discussions with friends, family or communities. Members can attend multiple unit locations each month, but vote only once each month. Guests participate in discussion but cannot vote.

Unit/ Discussion Group participation offers a chance to get to know other League members while learning more about how the League operates.



October Program: Ballot Measures

Briefing: Oct. 6 @ 2pm

Briefing is held in the League office and on Zoom.

Email: technologydir@lwvlc.org for a link

Unit Meeting Times & Locations

October Discussion Unit Topic : Ballot Measures

Tuesday 10am, Oct. 13 (in person)

Coburg / The Springs at Greer Gardens,
1282 Goodpasture Island Rd., Eugene
Discussion Leader: Linda Ferdowsian,
541-579-1866, Lferdowsian@yahoo.com

Wednesday 5:30pm, Oct. 14 (Zoom only)

Discussion Leader: Keli Osborn, 541-968-7628 (leader needed)
Zoom Operator: Rhonda Livesay, 541-228-4373, technologydir@lwvlc.org
Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87394925647>

Thursday 11am, Oct. 8 (hybrid: in person and Zoom)

Middlefield Oaks, 1500 Village Dr.,
Cottage Grove
Discussion Leader: Anna Strickland, 509-733-6034, Ledal@middlefieldoaks.com
Zoom operator: Linda Ferdowsian
Request Zoom link: office@lwvlc.org

Friday 10am, Oct 9 (in person only)

First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene
Discussion Leader: Diana Grandberry,
541-342-8402, 76music79@comcast.net

Friday 1pm, Oct. 9 (in person)

Cascade Manor, 65 W 30th Ave., Eugene,
in the Solarium
Discussion Leader: Merle Bottge, 541-434-4191

Monday 2pm, Oct 12 (in person)

Anne Best's home, 3433 Olive St.,
Eugene, 541-521-9136,
annieb49@gmail.com
Discussion Leader: Lori Barker,
loribarker@lwvlc.org

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Please give a sincere welcome to Carl Bjerre, Andrea Coles-Bjerre, Mary Jo Dierickx, Gale Fiszman, Donald Horgan, Tracy Kate and Grace Kim. Together we are better. Thank you for joining us to empower voters and defend democracy.

THANK YOU: A big dose of gratitude and appreciation to all the folks that are helping with our ongoing Community Outreach Events including The South Valley (Cottage Grove) and Springfield Farmer's Markets in August. Anna Strickland, Jimmy Schaper, Kelle DeForrest, Frank Lee, Debbie Christensen, Suzanne Schindler, Lenice Shaw, Holly Holtan-Archer, Sandy Belson, Lori & Mark Stern, Margot Zallen, Kate Ostergren, Camille Stewart and Kristy Sarconi! [It really takes a village!](#) At those two events, we had conversations with about 150 people, helped 25 folks check their online registration and accepted 5 paper registration forms. We also talked about the League's digital voters guide (VOTE411.org) and our upcoming event to celebrate America's 250th...."Democracy At The Grange". THANK YOU ALL!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: PORTAL.LWV.ORG

Your League membership keeps our work moving — and we'd hate to lose you over a missed email! Find out how the renewal process works, when to expect reminders, and how a quick login to the membership portal can save everyone some hassle. Plus: details on our sliding-scale dues, because we want renewing (or joining!) to be simple for every budget. [Read more](#)

Honor Your Loved One...with This Gift!

At its 57th biennial national convention in June, the League of Women Voters unveiled a new national effort, "Carry the Torch," to recruit, engage, and empower the next generation of civic leaders.

As part of this initiative, we encourage you to purchase a 1-year gift membership for a person in your life. Midterm elections are around the corner, and there is no better time to strengthen and sustain the future of the League by supporting future advocates.



With heartfelt sympathy for the loss of

Gail Newton—member since 1983



Nancy Mills
Voter Services Chair

Involving the Community in Voter Registration

Want to multiply our impact? The League is expanding voter registration efforts by training community groups to register voters themselves! Led by Peggy Dame, this new Zoom-based training program equips organizations with the tools and strategies to get their own members registered and involved — with groups like Third Act Eugene, Eugene 350, and Indivisible Eugene Springfield already signed on. [Read on](#) to learn how your community group can get trained, and how you can help us reach even more voters ahead of the upcoming election.



Morgan Vierheller
Advocacy Chair

Leading the Way for Choice

Protecting reproductive rights has a far-reaching impact on health care access, economic opportunity, and gender and racial equality. Since the U.S. Supreme Court upended the constitutional basis for abortion rights at the federal level, the State of Oregon has taken the lead to safeguard reproductive health care. Read more about Oregon's latest responses to emerging challenges—and how you can support these crucial personal rights. [Read more](#)



Charitable Donations

Are you 70-1/2 years old or older? You can make an annual distribution directly from your IRA Account as a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** to support the work of League of Women Voters of Lane County.

QCDs may be excluded from your taxable income and qualify toward your required minimum distribution. Contact your tax accountant for more information.



2026/2027 Board Members

President: Terry Parker

president@lwwlc.org

Co-VP: Beatrice McKenzie

vicepresident@lwwlc.org

Co-VP: Susan Ban

susanban@lwwlc.org

Advocacy: Morgan Vierheller

advocacy@lwwlc.org

Communications: Vacant

Development: Laura England Flanigan

development@lwwlc.org

Historian: Charlcie Kaylor

historian@lwwlc.org

Membership: Ruth Seeger

membership@lwwlc.org

Program Co-Chairs:

Sharon Amasha

program@lwwlc.org

Lori Barker

loribarker@lwwlc.org

Secretary: Jeanne Taylor

secretary@lwwlc.org

Technology: Vacant

Treasurer: Patty Sandoz

treasurer@lwwlc.org

Voter Services: Nancy Mills

voterservice@lwwlc.org

Off Board:

Office: Linda Ferdowsian

contact@lwwlc.org

Nominating Committee: Paula Grisafi

paligril@gmail.com

Technology: Rhonda Livesay

technologydir@lwwlc.org

Units: Marj Maxwell

units@lwwlc.org

Have a Question?

We list our board members names so that you may contact them directly.

Feel free to reach out with a question or a suggestion. The Board needs your feedback and to know your expectations. We are here representing **you**.

Have Something to Say?

We would welcome short articles to include in the Argus. If you would like to write an op-ed about a subject that is relevant to our community, we are interested in what our members have to say. The article can only be 100-200 words. That's not many, but it can still make an impact. Submit your article to argus@lwwlc.org.

Editors Note:

The Argus is produced using some assistance from Artificial Intelligence, mostly with design and headlines. Content of articles is totally produced by our members.

The Argus schedule has been off the past two months in the transition to the new format. We hope to have it back on schedule in October.

We are also looking for an Argus Reporter. This would entail looking for stories that would be of interest to our membership to further understanding of our Chapter, our community, our positions/programs for our members. If you are interested please contact technologydir@lwwlc.org

Membership Renewals continued: portal.lwv.org

If you have an email listed with the League, you will receive a notice 60 days before your membership renewal date. If you choose to wait, you will receive a second email 30 days prior to the renewal date.

These are all “auto-generated” messages from our national membership system. Locally, we try to reach out to folks who generally don’t use email and those who got busy and forgot to renew.

PLEASE - save us some work and log into the LWV membership portal to check and see if it is time to renew your membership. We don’t want to “lose” any of you from this important work or from our membership!

We also want to make it easy to join and renew. Dues are structured on a sliding scale with \$75 being the recommended annual rate, but any amount \$20 or over is great!

Reach out ANYTIME! Right now we have:

Past due memberships: 11 people
Expiring within 30 days: 25 people
Expiring within 60 days: 32 people
portal.lwv.org

If you don’t want to create a profile online and would like help checking your membership record, please call the office or **email our Roster Manager, Margaret Conover at mconover@lwvlc.org**. Margaret can also help you with a paper renewal form. Reach out, we are here to help!



Celebrate ‘Democracy at the Grange’

Join us for Democracy at the Grange, a celebration of Oregon’s democratic history, at the historic Row River Grange on **Saturday, October 3, from 11am to 5pm** at 34360 Row River Road, Cottage Grove.

The celebration will stimulate an appreciation of local history and civic learning to encourage citizen participation in a more inclusive democracy. The event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lane County in partnership with the Row River Grange’s annual Harvest Festival. It is designated as an official event of the America 250 Oregon Commission.

Included will be voter registration conducted by League volunteers, a chili feed, cider pressing, musical entertainment, vendor booths, and a silent auction to benefit the Row River Grange. The program is interspersed with free time to enjoy the chili and live music, support a local vendor, or put in a bid on silent auction items. The tentative program is:

11-11:45am Opening by League and Grange representatives

11:15-11:45am “Cottage Grove’s Native American Roots and the Applegate Settlers: Bridging the Divide”

1-1:40pm “1912 Suffragists Stop at the Grange”

1:50-2:05pm “Helping Voters Vote: A Look at League Resources”

3:40-4pm “The Row River Grange and How Oregon Granges Have Impacted Rural Communities”

All are welcome to come out to the Row River, support the Grange and democracy, and have some fun!

Involving the Community in Voter Registration - continued

Voter registration has been a high priority for the League of Women Voters. The Lane County LWV chapter has received inquiries from community groups to help them understand how to conduct voter registration. These partnerships offer a prime opportunity to expand our efforts to reach as many potential voters as possible in Lane County. If you are a member of a community group, consider whether that group might be interested in helping to register voters and check the status of their registration.

Peggy Dame, who is heading LWVLC's voter registration efforts, is creating the program for community training on voter registration by adapting the materials already well developed by the Community Outreach Committee for training our members. The training will occur by Zoom and will include both information on the registration process itself and suggestions for voter outreach depending on the interests of the community groups.

We will encourage organizations to have two or three of their own group members trained so they can support each other and design their own registration strategies. So far, we have been contacted by Third Act Eugene, Eugene 350, and Indivisible Eugene Springfield for information about the trainings.

To suggest other organizations that might be interested in doing voter registration, please have them contact Peggy at voterreg@lwvlc.org.

We must do everything we can to encourage voter involvement in the upcoming election!