



News & Views



Kimberly Howard, *Suffragists Among Us* <http://centuryofaction.org>

Upcoming Events

February - Black History Month

March - Women's History Month

Feb 2 Fundraising Meeting

Feb 8 Board meeting

Feb. 14 Valentines' Day, Oregon's birthday (1859), League's birthday (1920) (all on same day years apart)

Feb 15 Redistricting meeting at the Library at 6PM

Feb 19 Presidents Day - Garden Tour Meeting 2pm

For March and other future dates, be sure to visit our [Calendar page](#).

IN MEMORIAM

ALICE BARTELT

Senate President Rob Wagner requested League support for a resolution commemorating Alice Bartelt, our recently deceased LWVOR President. The Resolution will be presented during the 2024 session.

Alice's memorial was held in Portland at the St. John the Baptist Church on Jan. 28. She had been instrumental on the LWVOR board and Action Team. She will be greatly missed.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE & REDISTRICTING-

The LWV of Oregon has endorsed and is actively circulating petitions IP 9 on Campaign Finance and IP 14 relating to Electoral Redistricting, the process of drawing electoral district boundaries.

Norman Turrill, a member of the LWVOR board and action team, will speak about IP 14 and IP 9 via Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 15 at a hybrid meeting to be held at the Roseburg Public Library, 1409 Diamond Lake Blvd, Roseburg at 6PM. You may attend in person or via Zoom. More information on Page 3.

ELECTION SIGNS FOR SALE

The LWV of Umpqua Valley has 3 different kinds of signs. They are double-sided, printed on sturdy paper, coated to make them rain-proof, and 18 inches by 12 inches (not self-standing). See [LWV Umpqua Valley](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION AND PHOTOS OF THE SIGNS:~

- 1) End Gerrymandering Now and on the back #Fair Maps
- 2) Vote411 and on the back Register to Vote
- 3) Voting is People Power and it's blank on the backside

The signs are \$5 each plus UPS shipping. Contact them at info@lwwuv.org.

Oregon 2024 Ballot Measures

As of September 24, 2023, **three statewide ballot measures** were certified for the [2024 ballot](#) in the state of [Oregon](#).



Highlights:

- Oregon will be the fifth state to decide on a ranked-choice voting ballot measure after the state legislature voted to refer an amendment authorizing its use to the ballot.
- Oregon has the only state legislature that cannot impeach state executive officials. The state legislature voted to send an amendment to voters that would authorize the impeachment process during the 2023 legislative session.
- The legislature voted to send a constitutional amendment to the ballot to establish an Independent Public Service Compensation Commission to determine certain public officials' salaries.

On the November ballot:

Type	Title	Description
LRCA	Impeachment of Elected State Executives Amendment	Allow the Legislature to impeach elected state executives
LRCA	Independent Public Service Compensation Commission Amendment	Establish the Independent Public Service Compensation Commission to determine certain public officials' salaries
LRSS	Ranked-Choice Voting for Federal and State Elections Measure	Establish ranked choice voting for federal and state offices

At least 45 other potential ballot measures are in the signature gathering phase. LWV of Oregon currently supports Initiative Petitions 9 and 14. The League advises, “Think Before You Ink.” If you support either of these two measures, visit LWVOR’s website to find out how you can sign the petitions. The process will require you to download a form, print it and sign it, and mail it in.

IP 9, Official Ballot Title: Limits campaign contributions; political advertisements identify largest contributors; campaigns disclose true funding sources; other provisions.

IP 14, Official Ballot Title: Amends Constitution: Repeals legislature’s redistricting process; creates redistricting commission; equal number Democrats, Republicans, others; requires 2025 redistricting.

Visit: <https://douglascountyor.gov/178/Elections> for more election information.

Campaign Finance and Redistricting

By Norman Turrill in the latest Legislative Report

The LWV of Oregon has endorsed and is actively circulating petitions IP 9 on Campaign Finance and IP 14 relating to Electoral Redistricting, the process of drawing electoral district boundaries.

You can participate by downloading a Petition, signing it and returning by mail from the [Honest Elections](#) website for IP 9 and the [People Not Politicians](#) website for IP 14. Both initiative petition filings are due to the Secretary of State by July 5, 2024. **Be sure to print both sides!*

Norman Turrill, a member of the LWVOR board and action team, will speak about IP 14 and IP 9 via Zoom on



Norman Turrill

President, LWV of Oregon
Advocacy Fund and Action
Committee Governance
Coordinator at LWV of
Oregon

Thursday, Feb. 15 at a hybrid meeting to be held at the Roseburg Public Library, 1409 Diamond Lake Blvd, Roseburg at 6PM. You may attend in person or via Zoom.

By attending in person, you can pick up signature sheets and instructions for circulating and submitting a petition and add your signature. You can also contact Robin Wisdom at

rwisdom@jeffnet.org. Attend to learn more, for refreshments and to connect with community members. This meeting is open to the public. This is the Zoom meeting link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87053802556>.

For more information, please visit our website at <https://lwwv.org/program/redistricting-matters/>

Join us February 15th at the Roseburg Public Library in the South Umpqua Room at 6PM!

900 South East Douglas Avenue
Roseburg



honest-elections.com

info@honest-elections.com

REDISTRICTING IN OREGON

[PeopleNotPoliticians](#), is a growing, diverse coalition of Oregonians from all parties and all walks of life, who believe our elected officials are letting us down. Your signature will help put Initiative Petition 14 (IP-14) on the November 2024 ballot, so Oregonians can stop partisan gerrymandering once and for all.

Robin Wisdom is the State League's point person for the collection of signatures in Douglas County to help insure that IP-14 is on November's general election ballot. Robin will send out email messages regarding times and places for volunteers to meet and collect signatures. A minimum of 150,000 signatures from around



the state are needed. Please keep an eye out and join in to help with this important matter. Contact Robin for more information by emailing her at info@lwwv.org or calling 541-672-6982.

[Link to the text of the IP14 petition.](#)

[Link to the PNP website.](#) From here you can download petition forms. Be sure to read all the instructions before collecting signatures.

To understand more about redistricting visit our website: <https://lwwv.org/program/redistricting-matters/>



OREGON CAPITOL CHRONICLE – October 2023

National report: Oregon gets C- grade for redistricting, cites lack of tribal input. Oregon fell in the middle of the pack, while California and Massachusetts received top marks. New Oregon legislative and congressional maps didn't adequately incorporate feedback from Oregon tribes, a report from a national coalition of advocacy groups found.

Overall, Oregon earned a C-minus on the [Community Redistricting Report Card](#) issued Wednesday by the Coalition Hub for Advancing Redistricting & Grassroots Engagement. Delaware, Rhode Island, Utah and Wyoming received the same grade, while California and Massachusetts received top marks and Alabama, Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin earned Fs.

The analysis looked at how all 50 states redrew congressional and legislative district lines after the 2020 census. In Oregon, like most states, the Legislature controls redistricting. Other states, including California and Washington, have independent redistricting commissions that handle drawing maps.

Read the full Oregon Capitol Chronicle article here: <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2023/10/11/national-report-oregon-gets-c-grade-for-redistricting-cites-lack-of-tribal-input/>



Join us in Woodburn on April 6th for the 2024 Rural Caucus and Strategy Session!

Rural Organizing Project by Robin Wisdom

What is ROP? **The Rural Organizing Project** has been defending democracy and standing against anti-democratic violence in Oregon for over 30 years. ROP works at the Capitol during legislative sessions as does our LWVOR Action Team. It's "mission is to strengthen the skills, resources, and vision of primary leadership in local autonomous human dignity groups with a goal of keeping such groups a vibrant source for a just democracy."

ROP began in 1992 when the Oregon Citizens Alliance targeted gay and lesbian Oregonians as second-class citizens. ROP's challenges earned them a national reputation and now has over 80 groups in 35 Oregon counties and one tribal community.

The Rural Organizing Project came to Roseburg on Jan. 23. I had the great pleasure of meeting Emma Ronai-Durning, an ROP Organizer. We had a fabulous meeting and created a new friendship. ROP's representatives scattered around the state the month of January to contact as many groups as they could, including other Leagues. We discussed League's concerns and ROP shared its interests.

ROP is hosting a "Rural Caucus and Strategy Session" on Saturday, April 6th from 9AM to 5:30PM in Woodburn, and is inviting many organizations to attend. ROP would like to help set the direction and priorities for our rural dignity movements in the upcoming year, a consequential election year. Organizations are encouraged to share stories about what they are working on and help decide on a plan of action for 2024 and work collectively with other groups.

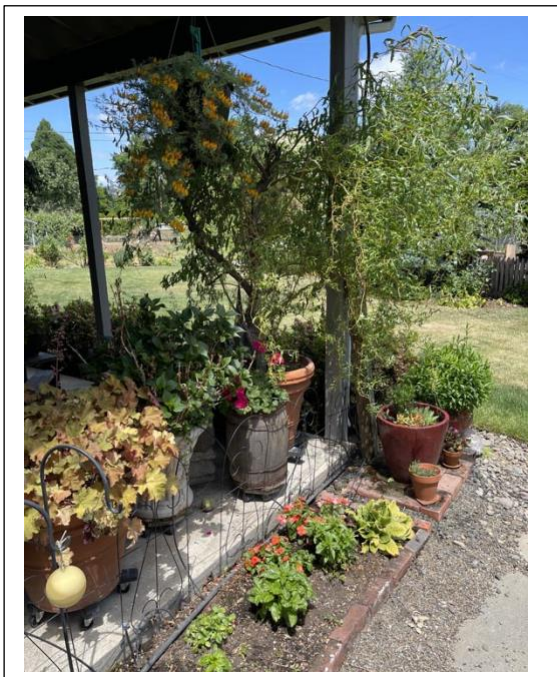
I am encouraging League members to attend the Caucus on April 6th and report back to LWVUV on the meeting sharing what was discussed, and how our League might participate with others around the state. If you are interested in attending the Caucus, please contact me:

Robin Wisdom
541-784-8672
rwisdom@jeffnet.org



GARDEN TOUR 2024

BY NANCY FARRIS, Chair



The Garden Tour Committee has begun putting together the details of our Annual Spring Garden Tour! The 2024 tour will be held Saturday, June 8th from 10AM to 5PM.

We've included one more garden since my last report, bringing our new total to six, mapped at just about 17 miles from the first to last garden in the Garden Valley Area. Tickets will go on sale a month prior to the event and will be \$15.

I thought you might like to know that among other things, the funds raised from the tour allows us to augment annual membership dues, and to host public forums during candidate races. We are very thankful to gardeners who volunteer to share their gardens with others so we can offer these community services!

Thank You to those of you who have emailed me with ideas or recommendations of potential gardens. PLEASE keep them coming, as we are still looking for enough gardens for the tour in 2025 and beyond. If you are interested in knowing how we select gardens, please go to our local league website, lwwv.org or to

our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LWVUV/>

All gardens are a work in progress, All gardens are unique. No garden is perfect.



“The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature.

To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body but the soul.”

~Alfred Austin



This full-day summit features interactive breakout workshops, engaging discussion topics, and dedicated time to build community connections, that will provide youth the opportunity to:

- Explore the importance of civic engagement in shaping communities
- Gain insight into various forms of activism and advocacy at every level
- Engage in dialogue with both community members and peers who are passionate about social change
- Develop practical skills for effective civic participation
-

The summit will be facilitated by the [League of Women Voters of Oregon \(LWVOR\) Youth Council](#), a dedicated team of high school and college students passionate about inspiring and guiding the next generation of change-makers.

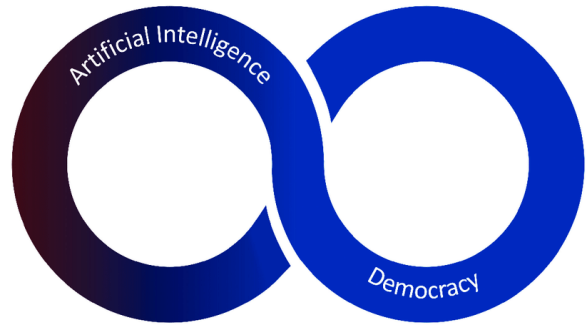
Date | Time: March 8, 2024

Location | Address: State Library of Oregon | 250 Winter St NE, Salem, OR 97301

[Register Here!](#)

There is no charge for attending this program. This program was made possible in part by a grant from Oregon Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Artificial Intelligence and Democracy



Artificial intelligence is the science of making machines that can think like humans. It can do things that are considered "smart." AI technology can process large amounts of data in ways, unlike humans. The goal for AI is to be able to do things such as recognize patterns, make decisions, and judge like humans.

Artificial intelligence is raising concerns about how technology could impact the 2024 elections. AI technology can generate, images, and audio and even build deepfake videos – misinformation can fuel an already polarized political landscape and further erode voter confidence in the country’s election system. It is important in these times to be diligent in deciphering and verifying information and sources. Our guidance is to keep yourself informed, check sources and authenticate information.

What we do know is this, the League of Women voters is a pillar for truth and a reliable source for accurate information. Contact the LWV with concerns and questions and we’ll do our best to assist you in finding the correct answers. For further information we offer the following links to explore:

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/ai-can-strengthen-u-s-democracy-and-weaken-it/> <https://www.rules.senate.gov/hearings/ai-and-the-future-of-our-elections>

The Media and Democracy

Yes, it impacts democracy. Yes, it impacts elections.

All forms of media are a means for influencing the voting public. In 2024 a favorite media topic is **Polarization** in the United States.

What are your thoughts? Here’s one perspective offering researched information.



[Polarization, Democracy and Political Violence in the United States: What the research says.](https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/09/05/polarization-democracy-and-political-violence-in-united-states-what-research-says-pub-90457)

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/09/05/polarization-democracy-and-political-violence-in-united-states-what-research-says-pub-90457>

The Source: The Carnegie Endowment – generates strategic ideas and independent analysis, support diplomacy, and trains the next generation of international scholar-practitioners to help countries and institutions take on the most difficult global problems and safeguard peace.

The Author: Rachel Kleinfeld <https://carnegieendowment.org/experts/699>

A famous quote by the widely respected broadcast journalist Walter Cronkite, once called the most trusted man in America, says it all: *“Freedom of the press is not just important to democracy, it is democracy.”*

2024 Primary Oregon Student Mock Election

Organized by
LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF OREGON

Student Mock Election Week: May 5-10, 2024
Final Voting Results due by May 10, 2024
We Want Your Vote in the Student Mock Election!



The League of Women Voters of Oregon will be hosting the 2024 Student Mock Election (OSME) in both May and November, with the help of a grant from Oregon Humanities. Oregon's Secretary of State Office has endorsed this nonpartisan educational activity. Educators who want their students to have the opportunity to participate in the May Primary mock election can register online at www.lwvor.org/mock-election, by providing the teacher name, school name and location, and the approximate number of students who will be voting in May. (Students are not registered by name.) Registration is open now and will close on May 5.

Students will have an authentic Oregon voting experience, including ballot races and measures taken from the official Oregon primary ballot. Student ballots can be cast anytime between May 1 and May 10. Voting results must be reported to LWVOR by the May 10 deadline. Final results will be shared with the public on May 17. Participating educators will receive the mock ballots, forms for submitting results, and two lesson plans with ideas and resources for teaching students about ranked-choice voting, the ten recognized Oregon political parties, and the implications of the closed primary on nonaffiliated votes. All educators also have access to the award-winning Civics Education Curriculum and a General Mock Election lesson plan available year-round at www.lwvor.org/mock-election.

One Medford educator said of his 2022 mock election participation, "My students had very diverse results. The week of lessons was wonderful and offered me one of my best weeks of teaching this year." A Morrow County educator said, "This was great, the ballot information was super, and the kids really appreciated having a voice. Thank you!"

In addition to public schools, LWVOR welcomes private, charter, and home school educators. The election is aimed at grades 6-12 but could be appropriate for younger students, as well. For questions, comments, or suggestions, contact the OSME Coordinator at mockelection@lwvor.org.

Our local League has a Voter Service Committee, and they are busy informing teachers about these resources. Do you want to help? Contact Jenny Carloni, jennifer.carloni@gmail.com or 541-672-1914.





The LWVUV membership renewal drive for 2024/2025 is complete! While anyone can join the League at any time, our membership renewal drive runs from October 1 to November 30, and the final tally is submitted to the LWVUS no later than January 31st. **Thank you to all who renewed!** We lost a few members who have moved out of the area and gained a few members who thought about joining for a while and finally made it a reality. Our total membership count today is 62 members. We encourage every member to be involved at their comfort level. The executive team appreciates anyone to apply their skills on one of our many committees and projects we have planned for 2024-2025. We encourage all members to read and enjoy the newsletter, emails and LWVUV website, and learn about the efforts to educate our voters. We

hope our members will join us at our monthly meetings, typically held at the Roseburg library. We look forward to engaging with each one of you. We have a lot of work ahead this election year and are thankful for all you! See you soon!

LWV Umpqua Valley’s Executive Committee & Board of Directors 2023-2024

- Sherry Couron.....couron121@msn.comTreasurer
- Julee Wright.....juleewright48@gmail.com
.....Secretary 541-999-7831
- Nancy Farris.....nfarris73@icloud.com
.....Garden Tour
- Jenny Carlonijennifer.carloni@gmail.com
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- Facebook<https://www.facebook.com/LWVUV/>

“We inform voters and inspire people to vote.”