

LWVOR – Advocacy Positions

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) is a 99-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good across rural/urban and party divides. We encourage respectful civil discourse. The League never supports or opposes any individual candidate or political party. We do advocate on policy issues. LWVOR Legislative Action is always based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. Please follow our activities at <http://lwvor.org/home/take-action/>.

The LWVOR Legislative Action Team prioritized four key areas for the 2019 session:

- **ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE** by supporting Clean Energy Jobs legislation to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions fast enough to avoid serious damage to the global climate ecosystem. The League has been at the forefront of national efforts to protect air, land and water resources. The League’s position is to “Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment” with a focus on demanding pollution prevention.
- **INCREASE REVENUE** because the State of Oregon has insufficient income to support its current responsibilities in education, human services, environment, criminal justice, elections, and health care without significant tax changes resulting in stable increases in Oregon’s revenue. LWV believes tax policy should provide adequate and stable funding for essential services while promoting equity and progressivity. Any tax proposal should be evaluated with regard to its effect on the entire tax structure and the tax system should recognize responsibility for government services by broadly sharing the tax burden.
- **ADVOCATE FOR ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS AND HEALTH CARE REFORMS** to help low-income people move toward financial stability and assure Oregonians have access to adequate and affordable health care. This session we will advocate for: adequate Medicaid funding, increased housing to address rising homelessness, help for working families, paid family leave and additional gun safety. The League has a long-standing national position on meeting basic human needs, which promotes self-sufficiency for individuals and families and invests in social programs designed to prevent or reduce poverty.
- **PROTECT DEMOCRACY** with gerrymander-free redistricting, small donor elections, secure and efficient election processing, from candidate filing to voting hardware using contemporary technology, and the National Popular Vote

Interstate Compact. The League has been guided by its core principles, including the cherished belief that every citizen's voting rights should be protected.

CONTACT LWVOR: Norman Turrill, LWVOR President, and Alice Bartelt, Chair of our LWVOR Legislative Action team of volunteers, are available to provide clarifications on League positions. Call our office at 503.581.5722 or directly contact portfolio chairs in specific areas listed below. LWVOR Action team members are subject experts, but unpaid volunteers.

The LWVOR Legislative Action Team follows both Policy Committees and Ways and Means budgeting. Our advocates focus on the broad areas of **Climate Change, Tax Changes for Adequate Revenue, Social Policy, Governance and Protecting Democracy, Education, and Natural Resources.**

The six sub-categories of our positions are:



CLIMATE CHANGE: Advocates for a variety of policies and budgets around reducing the risks and planning for adaptation where needed related to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC and our support for Our Children's Trust lawsuits.

Climate Change Portfolio: Claudia Keith, ca.keith@comcast.net

- Climate Change: Cathy Frischman, Julie Chapman, Lynette Pierson, and Shirley Weathers



TAX AND REVENUE POLICY: Addresses fair, equitable, and stable tax and revenue policies to adequately fund services and functions critical to Oregonians.

Revenue Co-Coordinators: Chris

Vogel ChrisVogelVolunteerLWVOR@gmail.com and Maud

Naroll, MaudLWVOR@gmail.com

- Revenue/Tax research: Mary Sinclair, Anne Nesse



SOCIAL POLICY: Addresses adult corrections, judicial, public safety, gun safety, health care, mental health, housing, juvenile justice, foster care, social services and women's issues. Actively lobbies for anti-poverty programs to help low income and at-risk people move toward financial stability.

Social Policy Coordinator: Karen Nibler, niblerk@comcast.net

- Health and Human Services: Karen Nibler
- Housing: Debbie Aiona, Nancy Donovan
- Gun Safety: Marge Easley
- Death Penalty Repeal: Alice Bartelt
- Criminal Justice Reform: Barbara Ross
- Women's Issues: Debbie Runciman



GOVERNANCE: Follows governance issues including ethics, efficiency, citizen participation and access, public records law, and contemporary privacy and technology issues. Elections policies include: National Popular Vote, campaign finance reform, laws and administrative rules, and redistricting.

Governance Coordinator: Becky Gladstone, rebecca.gladstone@gmail.com

- Election, e-governance Issues: Becky Gladstone
- Campaign Finance Reform emphasizing small dollar elections: Norman Turrill
- Redistricting: Norman Turrill, Candalynn Johnson
- National Popular Vote: Marge Easley
- Public Records, Transparency: Josie Koehne
- Public Access Coordinator: Paula Krane



EDUCATION: Follows policy legislation and budgets for student success, early learning, career technical programs (CTE), and higher education. We advocate to minimize factors impacting education for children at risk or historically underserved and underachieving youth.

Education Coordinator: Chris Vogel, ChrisVogelVolunteerLWVOR@gmail.com

- P-3, K-12, P-20: Chris Vogel, Fran Dyke, Nancy Donovan
- Early Learning: Stephanie Feeney
- Higher Education: Alice Bartelt, Karan Kuntz



NATURAL RESOURCES: Works year-round on improved air quality, combating climate change, coastal management, clean energy, proper disposal of hazardous materials and solid waste, conservation, land use, parks, clean and abundant water supply for all, resource preservation, and budgets related to Oregon's 14 natural resource agencies.

Natural Resources Coordinator: Peggy Lynch, peggylynchor@gmail.com

- Land Use/Aggregate: Marge Easley
- Energy (Northwest Energy Coalition Rep): Theresa Gibney
- Air Quality: Susan Mates
- Columbia River Treaty: Phillip Thor
- Hanford/Nuclear Waste: Marylou Schnoes
- Drinking Water Advisory Committee: Amelia Nestler
- Coastal Issues: Peggy Joyce
- Natural Resource Agency Budgets: Peggy Lynch