

Calendar

Meet New Executive Director at Umpqua Valley Art Center • Jan. 22 at 11AM with AAUW
ChapterSpot begins in early February
LWVUV Board Meeting • Feb. 13 at 11AM • via Zoom
League & Oregon's Birthday • Feb. 14
Ford Family Foundation Lunch • Feb 26 at 11AM with AAUW
Children Safe Families • Roseburg Public Library • Feb. 26 @2PM
LWVUV Board Meeting • Mar. 13 at 11AM • via Zoom

Happy New Year, League Members!

It has been a very busy year end and beginning of 2025. And we are preparing for the big membership change to ChapterSpot – *The LWV Transformation Plan* – which will begin in just a few weeks. Details below.

Welcome to new members, Linette Torres and Phil Schad, Melissa Taylor Bowen, Jeanne Taylor, Larisa Czernowski, and Anne Kubisch. Thank you for joining our stellar group of men and women who care about our community and democracy! The League board is planning a 'Tea Social' for some time in the near future. This will be an opportunity to meet one another and learn about the League all at the same time. Watch for emerging details.

Big thanks to Lupe Preciado, an Umpqua Valley League member, for running for Senate District 1 on Nov. 5th. Congratulations for running in this tough race. It takes a brave and courageous person to enter in any race in Oregon, especially in southern Oregon. And you are that, Lupe!

Please bear in mind, all League members are welcome to join our board at board meetings whether or not you are officially on the board. We would love to hear what's on your mind and any suggestions you may have. Note the board meetings are scheduled for second Thursdays of the month. Board meetings are every month except in July and August via Zoom from 11AM to 12:30PM. [Email us](#) if you would like a link to any meeting. Or, let's meet in person if that is your preference.



Change is A Comin' at the LWVUS! This Change Affects ALL LWV Members!

In an effort to standardize LWV membership across the entire USA, **the League of Women Voters of the US will implement a new membership program**, nationwide, wherein ALL State and Local Leagues are required to participate, beginning February 3, 2025. The new membership program is called ChapterSpot. This is part of the *Transformation Plan*.

What does this mean for you?

- If you joined or renewed recently, you are a LWVUV member until July 1, 2026.
- Your local League, LWVUV, will no longer be sending out Membership Drive letters and forms. The new program, ChapterSpot, will do it **automatically!**
- You will be notified, electronically, 60 days prior to renewal, and again several times until 45 days past your due date, at which time ChapterSpot will 'assume' you do not want to renew. The good thing is there will be an *auto-renew option* as well.
- For those not on computers, LWVUV will have a process to send renewal notices and receive membership checks. Checks will be made out to LWVUS and given to LWVUV to mail into LWV. **Please notify us if you would NOT like to rely on electronic communication.**
- Standard Dues are \$75.00 per person. There will be a '**pay-what-you-can**' model, with a minimum of \$20.00.
- **Household** membership, defined as an additional person in the same household, will no longer be an option. For example, in the past, the first member paid \$60.00, and the second household member paid \$30.00.
- When paying online, you will have two options: **Pay by credit card or ACH** (an electronic payment using the numbers on the bottom of a check. LWV prefers ACH because they pay a lessor fee to process your payment).

Now, a second household member can, for instance, choose to pay half, based on the pay-what-you-can model. *The LWV recommended dues for two people will be \$150.00.

- There are higher tier renewal/join options too. For instance, \$150, \$250, \$500, etc. This allows others to pay less while maintaining organizational solvency.
- The **Pay-As-You-Can** model will remove or lessen one important barrier to participation by ensuring people can participate in LWV even if they lack the funds to join at a higher rate. Removing barriers drives greater participation. This new model will promote inclusivity and accessibility, by making it easier and affordable for groups who have been unable to join in the past.

- **Donations.** In the past, many have “rounded up” (thank you!) when paying membership dues. With ChapterSpot, the entire ‘single’ payment will go toward membership (divided between US, State & Local – see percentages below). **You will need to pay your dues and donations separately.** You will still be able to donate directly to LWVUV, on the second page of the renewal process, or through our website or via check directly to LWVUV.
- Under the new system the division of funds will be: **National 33%, State: 47% and Local: 20%.** Currently, many Leagues, including LWVUV, kept as little as 12% of member dues. LWVUV will come out ahead under the new membership system.
- **Access to ChapterSpot.** Each member will use their own, unique email address. For those who share an email, guidance will be available for setting up a second email address.

There will probably be many questions as we all navigate this new membership system, and more information to come as we understand the nuts & bolts better. Robin Wisdom (de facto President) and Sherry Couron (Treasurer) have been attending many ChapterSpot trainings and will find the answers for you through the LWV sources! Thank you to all our members!

LWVUS – Announced on 1/17/2025

“Women Defend Democracy” is the new programmatic focus for the League in 2025, centering people power and moving our country towards a stronger, multi-racial democracy.

Through the “Women Defend Democracy” campaign, the League will work to:

- Provide Democracy Education & Election Administration Support
- Restore and Defend Voting Rights Protections
- Abolish the Electoral College
- Protect Democracy Organizations & Institutions
- Fight for Reproductive Freedoms

This campaign kicks off for the first 100 days of the new administration and beyond. The League of Women Voters is well positioned to defend attacks on democracy in the coming months and years. Together, we believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.”

[Visit the site](#)

[Sign up to be on the mailing list](#)

LWVOR Study: Assessing the Recall Process in Oregon

The following is a list of Consensus Questions and how our League chose to respond to LWVOR regarding the Recall Study. This article was generated with Adobe Acrobat's AI assistant, but I have gone over this and added where we disagreed with statements made on the Consensus Questions form at our Recall Study Consensus Meeting held on Dec. 16, 2024. We agreed with all statements except those highlighted in **red**. Five members were present at this virtual meeting. We've sent in our form to LWVOR, and it has been received. ~ Robin Wisdom

This summary highlights the key points from the LWVOR study on the recall process in Oregon, focusing on election administration, grounds for recall, election timelines, succession, petition provisions, campaign funding, penalties for recalled officials, and potential civic consequences.

LWVOR Study: Assessing the Recall Process in Oregon

Election Administration

1. Ensure local and county elections have adequate funding and staffing.
2. All elected officials should be subject to recall.
3. Legislators should have the same six-month grace period as other officials.

Grounds for Recall

4. Recall petitions should state specific grounds like malfeasance or incompetence.
5. Grounds for recall should be limited to felony conviction or dereliction of duty. **On this point we disagreed:** We got hung up on the phrase "limited to". We didn't think it should be limited.
6. Grounds for recall should be defined in statute.

Recall Election Timeline

7. The 35-day timeline hinders ballot provision to overseas and service members.
8. The timeline complicates voter registration for new voters.
9. It makes it difficult to provide voter information and educational resources.
10. It inhibits engagement from advocates and officials.
11. Recall elections should be held on one of four specified dates.

Succession

12. Vacated seats should be filled by appointment for the shortest time practical.
13. Interim appointments are preferable to simultaneous recall and election. **Here we disagreed:** Simultaneous election works in California and could work in Oregon, saving time and money.
14. Recall petitions should detail how vacated seats are filled.

Recall Petition Provisions

15. The 15% signature threshold for recall petitions is appropriate.
16. Anyone can collect signatures, regardless of voter registration or residency. **We disagreed with this:** A petitioner should be registered in district where petition is circulated.
17. Extend the signature collection timeline to up to 270 days for statewide offices. **We disagreed here too:** 90 days is sufficient for collecting signatures.
18. Petition circulators should wear badges indicating if they are paid or volunteers.

Campaign Funding

19. Proponents and opponents should disclose campaign funds early and regularly.

20. Consider limiting separate recall-focused fundraising operations. **We could not come to consensus here:** Statement seems vague.

Penalty for Recalled Official

21. Recalled officials should never run for the same office again. **We disagreed with this.**

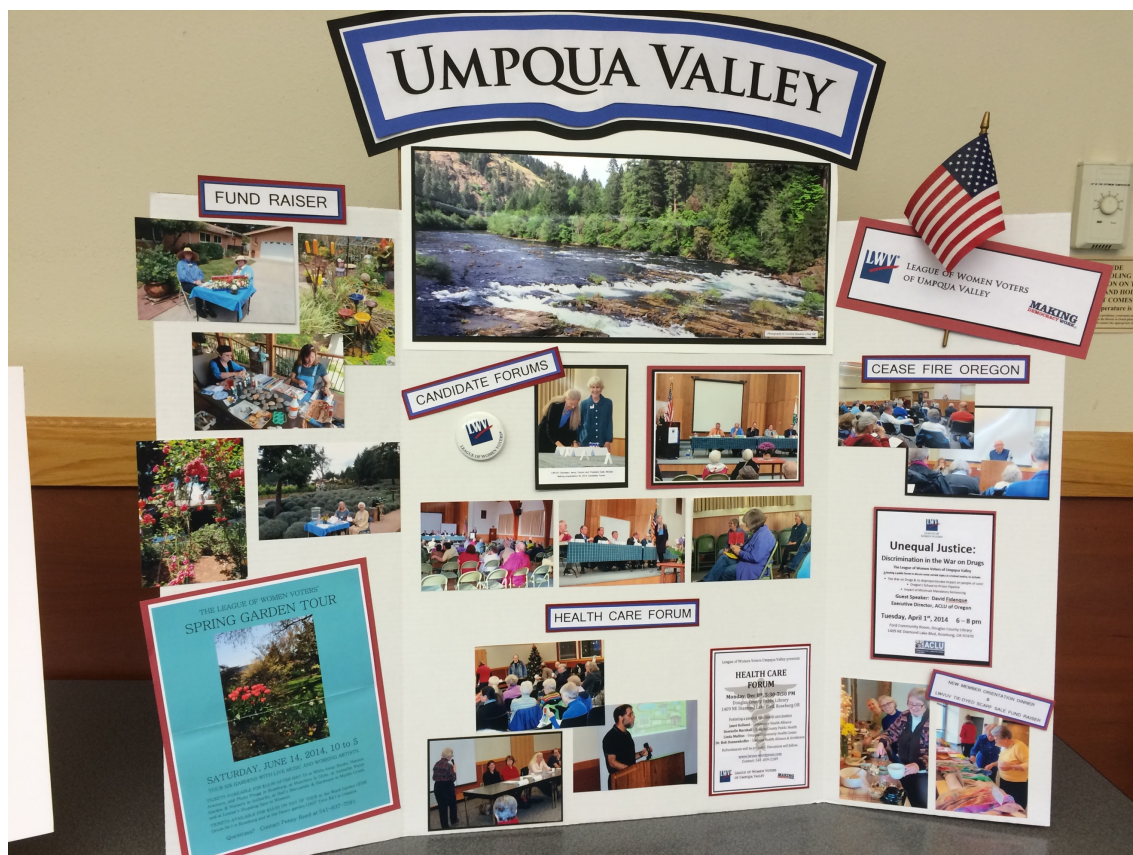
22. Alternatively, they should be barred from running for up to five years. **We disagreed with this statement.**

Potential Civic Consequences

23. Fear of recall could deter officials from compromising across party lines.

LWVOR Positions

24. Update the LWVOR position on recall to better characterize the election process.



Childcare Study Update Consensus

On 1/8/25, on Zoom, four members of the Umpqua Valley League agreed together on how to answer the consensus questions that LWVOR has requested. Our answers will be added to those of other Leagues, and then the consensus committee will propose position statements for advocacy around Oregon on behalf of children. The consensus positions will be voted on at the LWVOR Convention in May.

Here are the main points of discussion.

The 5 most important points:

1. **Establish a Coordinating Organization:** Oregon should create a coordinating organization for comprehensive planning to provide care and enrichment for children and youth during non-school time.
2. **Subsidized Funding for Programs:** Oregon should provide subsidized funding for afterschool and summer programs that include education, enrichment, and experience.
3. **Expand ERDC Eligibility:** The eligibility for the Oregon Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) federal program should be expanded to age 14.
4. **Evaluation of Quality:** Implement measures to evaluate the quality of care, such as adult-to-kid ratio, language development, improvement in school grades, and reduction in behavior problems.
5. **Equity and Cultural Respect:** Ensure that equity, respect, and the needs of diverse cultures are incorporated into planning and addressed to benefit all children.

What are the key recommendations for Oregon's programs and services?

The key recommendations for Oregon's programs and services to support children's learning and development are:

1. **Establish a Coordinating Organization:** Create an organization for comprehensive planning to provide care and enrichment for children and youth during non-school time.
2. **Licensing and Oversight:** Provide licensing and oversight for all programs involving children and youth aged 0-18 years, with consideration for not over-burdening smaller childcare facilities.
3. **Subsidized Funding:** Offer subsidized funding for afterschool and summer programs that include education, enrichment, and experience.
4. **Expand ERDC Eligibility:** Expand the eligibility for the Oregon Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) federal program to age 14.
5. **Evaluation of Quality:** Implement measures to evaluate the quality of care, such as adult-to-kid ratio, language development, improvement in school grades, and reduction in behavior problems.
6. **Equity and Cultural Respect:** Ensure that equity, respect, and the needs of diverse cultures are incorporated into planning and addressed to benefit all children.
7. **Space for Child Care:** Include space for childcare in planning for subsidized housing and new school buildings.
8. **Staffing and Training:** Ensure licensing and certification for staff are managed by one state office, conduct efficient background checks, compensate staff for training time, and offer training at accessible times and locations.
9. **Forgivable Loans for Education Majors:** Provide forgivable loans for students in education majors, with forgiveness based on working in underserved or high-poverty areas.

Voter Service

The next, and only, election date for 2025 is May 20. There will be special district races on the ballot. The League of Women Voters of Oregon will continue to provide voter information through the Vote411 website. Are you, or is someone you know, interested in serving the community in one of the special district positions? Contact the elections office in the basement of the Douglas County Courthouse for advice.

Other

Outgoing Surgeon General Vivek Murthy's prescription for the nation is three things, relationships, purpose, and service. Perhaps we can find these things in the League!

~Jenny Carloni

New LWV Mugs are In!

We ordered new "coffee mugs" with our logo on them. The logos are the currently accepted versions by LWV and are printed on both sides of the mugs, a new feature.

The mugs are now online here:
<https://lwwuv.org/join-or-renew/league-items-for-sale/>

We will charge a little more for these as prices have gone up since the last time we ordered.

These make great gifts, and hopefully we will continue to sell them to Leagues across the country as we have in the past.

Garden Tour Update

Happy New Year, Garden Tour fans! For those of you who are looking forward to another garden tour, I'm happy to let you know that we have a great one!

The variety and creativity never cease to amaze me. A garden might be big, or it might be small, on a hill, or in the trees, some are in a backyard, some in the front yard.

You'll see what I mean on Saturday, June 7th!

I am looking for new gardens for future years, and I need your HELP. If you have a lead on a potential garden, please let me know. If you don't have the gardener's contact information, an address will do, so that I and the Garden Tour Committee can make a "cold call" inquiry. (Either written or in person.)

Thank You for keeping the tour in mind.
It is our LWVUV's annual fundraiser.

~Nancy Farris, Garden Tour Chair
541 643 8113 (text or call)
nfarris73@icloud.com



From LWVOR ~

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) is a 105-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 for the common good across rural/urban and party divides. We promote respectful civil discourse. The League advocates on policy issues and never supports or opposes candidates or political parties. LWVOR Legislative Action is always based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. Please subscribe to our legislative newsletter at <https://www.lwvor.org/legislative-report>.

LWVOR Legislator Interview Resources

LWVOR offers resources for League members interested in interviewing their legislators. Please contact your local League leadership and tell them you would like to participate in these interviews. These interviews help build relationships with legislators, highlight the League's interest in key issues, and provide insights into legislative priorities for the upcoming session. In-person interviews are preferred but Zoom or phone meetings are also options.

If you share legislators with other Leagues, you are encouraged to coordinate to avoid duplication. We have posted several resources in the Members Section on our website to help you plan your interviews including:

- Instructions and Questions for Interviewing Legislators 2025
- Legislator Interview Response Form 2025
- Senators Shared By Leagues
- House Legislators Shared By Leagues

With the session starting January 21, 2025, aim to schedule your meeting soon. LWVOR appreciates your efforts and dedication!

Dear LWVOR Legislative Interview Volunteers:

Thank you so much for volunteering to meet with your legislator(s) and interview them on behalf of the LWVOR Action Committee. The purpose of these interviews is two-fold.

- They give you a valuable opportunity to meet personally with your legislators, to develop relationships, and to remind them of the League's interest in dealing with important local and statewide issues.
- The responses give the LWVOR Action Committee an initial idea of legislators' thinking as they head into the session and help prepare the committee for its advocacy efforts.



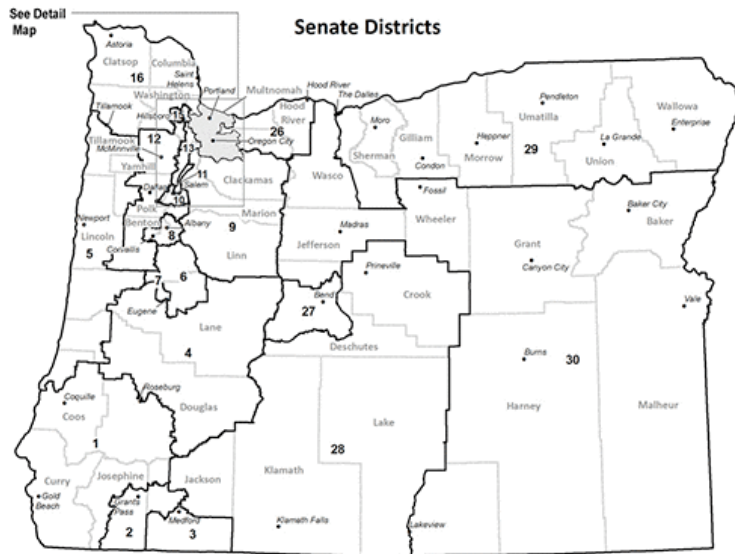
The best scenario is to conduct the interviews in person. If a personal interview is not possible, the next best option is Zoom. If you do not have a zoom account, please contact Abby at the League office for assistance at 503-581-5722 or lwvor@lwvor.org. A telephone call is also possible, but there is a strong preference for the personal contact that comes through in-person or zoom meetings. As a last resort, you can ask for email

responses, but there is a very strong preference for the personal contact that comes through in-person or telephone meetings.

We are attaching matrices showing which Leagues share legislative districts. In the same way that your League coordinated with one or more other Leagues to sponsor Candidate

Forums, please check with other Leagues so that legislators you share do find themselves repeating the same answers to different Leagues.

The session does not begin until January 21, 2025, so you stand your best chances of arranging a meeting if you schedule an appointment before then. Sometimes it is difficult to find a time to meet, so if you cannot schedule an interview before January 21, keep trying. LWVOR will be grateful for your efforts regardless of the timing.



Here are tips for a successful interview:

- Reach out to the legislator's office by email or telephone to schedule at least a couple of weeks ahead of the meeting. (Be polite with staff!!)
- Be sure to identify yourself as a constituent and as a member of the League
- Tell the purpose: for the League to learn their priorities as they head into the 2025 session
- Tell how many people plan to be there (ensure there is enough space if the meeting is in person)
- Send the questions in advance
- Arrive 5 minutes early
- Verify the time they can give you – often 15 minutes
- Tell them **their responses are “off the record”** and will not be published.
- Try not to take extensive notes during the meeting
- Send a “thank you” letter
- Take a picture with the legislator and post it on social media If you are comfortable with that
- As soon as possible after your meeting, submit a report of your meeting to the LWVOR office: lwvor@lwvor.org
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Thank you for taking on this important task. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Jean Pierce advocacy@lwvor.org

Questions for Legislators 2025

The following four questions should be asked of all Legislators that you interview. You are welcome to add questions about issues important to your League. NOTE: Questions and responses are NOT for public use. They are for internal LWVOR advocacy.

1. What do you think will be the three most important issues that will need to be addressed during the 2025 session of the Legislature?
2. What two top issues will you work on during the session?
3. What did the voters in your district say was the most important issue for the legislature to address?
4. How will you work with legislators from the other political party

Let your [LWVUV Board](#) know if you are planning or making arrangements to speak with a legislator! *Thank You!*

From LWVUS ~

X

11/21/24: LWVOR has received a few questions recently about the League's position on Twitter and whether it is advisable to leave the platform. You can [read the latest response from LWVUS on this matter](#):

Emerging Platforms

Since Elon Musk bought Twitter (now, X) in 2022, the LWVUS Communications Team has closely monitored the ongoing changes to the platform.

While we are aware that the platform has become a pay-for-play playground for mis- and disinformation, we believe that the League still has an important role as a trustworthy, nonpartisan, pro-democracy thought leader in the digital space, and LWVUS will continue to share our content across Twitter/X.

We understand if state and local Leagues choose to no longer prioritize Twitter/X in their communications, but we recommend that Leagues NOT deactivate their accounts. Deactivating League accounts leaves the possibility for bad actors to impersonate your League online. For Leagues that choose to deprioritize the platform in your communications, we recommend maintaining the Twitter/X handles but ceasing posting there.

The LWVUS Communications Team is also aware of the rising number of users flocking to [Bluesky](#), a social network with a Twitter-like user interface. While LWVUS is not currently posting on Bluesky or on Instagram's [Threads](#), we have safeguarded handles on these platforms and will continue to explore the possibility of building out a content strategy and engaging an audience on these emerging platforms.

We will continue to let Leagues know if our stance and recommendations changes on any of these social media platforms. Please reach out to the LWVUS Communications Team at communications@lww.org if you have any questions.

Thank you, Sarah Andrews, League of Women Voters of Oregon

Program Planning Meeting

On January 14, our board met, five of us, to discuss Program Planning. This is a topic that all levels of the League address in the month of January each year.

As requested by LWVOR, this year we discussed:

- Whether to retain, drop, restudy or update all positions.
- We perused a list of LWVOR studies and decided to retain all studies. We may consider suggesting an update of the Farmworkers study done in 2000.
- We discussed what it takes to produce studies both locally and statewide. You too can propose a study. Following this summary, see the article about how to propose a study.
- There is a Proposal for a K-12 Education Study that will focus on:
 - * Education of Exceptional Students
 - * Career and Technical Education
 - * Safety in Schools



Julee Wright, our very own secretary, has volunteered to participate on this statewide study. They will meet mostly by Zoom. Thank you, Julee, for representing our League on this study.

There are also five concurrences proposed by other state Leagues who have already achieved studies in their states:

- Assessment and high-stakes testing (Pennsylvania 2015)
- Attracting and retaining well-qualified teachers (New Mexico)
- Charter schools (Illinois 2015)
- Civic education (Kentucky)
- Public funds for private schools (New Jersey, 1995, 2007)

DEFINITION OF CONCURRENCE: An agreement with the exact wording of a statement that may be a position(s) held by another state or local League or a decision statement made by a League board or study committee. The membership must vote to approve a concurrence before we can use it to advocate. NOTE: The vote of 2/3 of the delegates is required at convention.



Bob Heilman spoke to 'Scary Times' on 10/23/24



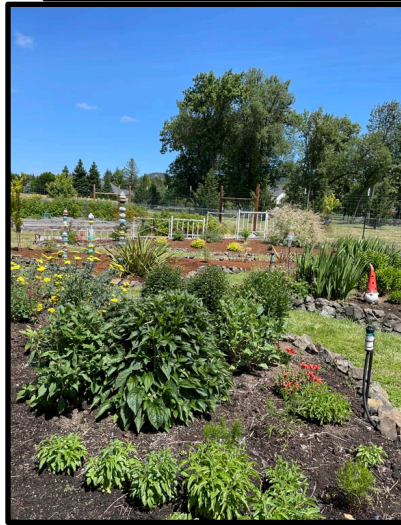
Lunch with Julie Woodworth on 11/19/24

Robert Leo Heilman, local author, spoke to "Living in Scary Times" based on his *News-Review* column on 7/16/24. We held a hybrid meeting in October and recorded his presentation which is located here:
<https://youtu.be/1pegAvL849o>.

A number of us met at the McMenamens meeting room in November with Julie Woodworth (second on the right in the photo), a young woman who was very injured in the shooting at Umpqua Community College on Oct. 1, 2015. She was only 19 when severely injured and is now 28. It was more than a heartwarming event with this lovely woman.



Garden Tour 2024 Photos



**Planning is now
underway for
2025!**



Need Sanity? *Connect with like-minded individuals!*

Contact Us!

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We would love to hear from you! Let us know your concerns, ideas, and of your willingness to contribute in some small way.

Douglas County needs you!

Your League needs You!

You need You!

