



Newsletter

Fall 2025

Calendar of Events

Through December 2025

Thurs, Sep 11	Board Meeting via Zoom
Thurs, Sep 18	UCC Voter Registration
Sat, Sep 20	Voter Registration
Thurs, Oct 9	Board Meeting via Zoom
Thurs, Oct 9	<i>The News-Review</i> Forum
Sat, Nov 1	Fall Workshop in Eugene
Thurs, Nov 6	Cybersecurity Forum
Thurs, Nov 13	Board Meeting via Zoom
Wed, Nov 19	Legislative Process Day
Thurs, Nov 27	Thanksgiving Day
Thurs, Dec 3	Meet & Greet Luncheon
Mon, Dec 8	Program Planning Zoom
Thurs, Dec 11	Board Meeting Zoom
Thurs, Dec 25	Christmas

Hello League Members!

We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful place, and I hope you are having a splendid autumn.

Our League has been busy throughout the year. The board had their annual retreat on August 19th at Sherry Couron's and Christine Hill's home, a lovely setting. We discussed possible events for you and the community and the inner workings of our League.

On Sept. 11 we had the great fortune to hold a public forum at which Jim McCarthy of WaterWatch of Oregon informed us of the situation of the Winchester Dam, which is of great controversy right now and is in a legal battle. We had invited the Winchester Water Control District (WWCD) to share their side of the story; however, they have declined the offer. We are still open to hosting a public forum with them. They just need to let us know.

When the WWCD cancelled our invitation, they sent us a several pages of information to post on our website. We did not post the entire letter because we feel they should tell the community themselves by agreeing to be a part of a public forum for Douglas County residents. See our [webpage](#) for WWCD's opening paragraphs emailed to us recently.

We have a new state League president, Mark Kendall. Read his opening remarks here: <https://www.lwvor.org/post/introductory-remarks-from-mark-kendall-lwvor-president>. He began his term on Sept. 1, 2025. LWVOR board terms are generally two-years long. He says, "This unconscionable transformation of our democracy must not stand. It is contrary to the League's core principles and adopted positions." I think we all share that sentiment.

On Thursday, Oct. 9 from 7PM to 8:30PM we heard from *The News-Review* Managing Editor Drew Winkelmaier at the Roseburg Public Library. Drew and Andrew Griffin, reporter, spoke at a public forum sponsored by our League. Drew and Andrew led a discussion about the First Amendment and its relation to community news. This is the first time ever that we have heard from representatives of the main newspaper in Roseburg. Soon the video recording will be available on YouTube.

Board members conducted Voter Registration at Umpqua Community College and downtown Roseburg at the Umpqua Watersheds' Brewfest on Sept. 20. Thanks go to Jenny Carloni, Elaine Brady and Julee Wright. If you would like to conduct your own Voter Registration, or for an organization, or have an idea of where to hold another registration, let us know. We can provide materials and help. This is a great way to show your patriotic stuff.

Thank you for speaking out during these trying times. The national League has joined the Oct. 18 protest rally No Kings 2. We'll see you in Roseburg on that date!

Thank you for being supportive!

Robin Wisdom, president
LWV Umpqua Valley

WaterWatch of Oregon Visits Roseburg

On Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025, at 6PM, Jim McCarthy of WaterWatch of Oregon addressed issues around the **Winchester Dam** at the Roseburg Public Library in the Ford Room. This was a public event, well-attended, and very informative. Link to the video recording of the meeting: <https://youtu.be/XZBxV1ICb9A>

Printed in the WaterWatch newsletter:

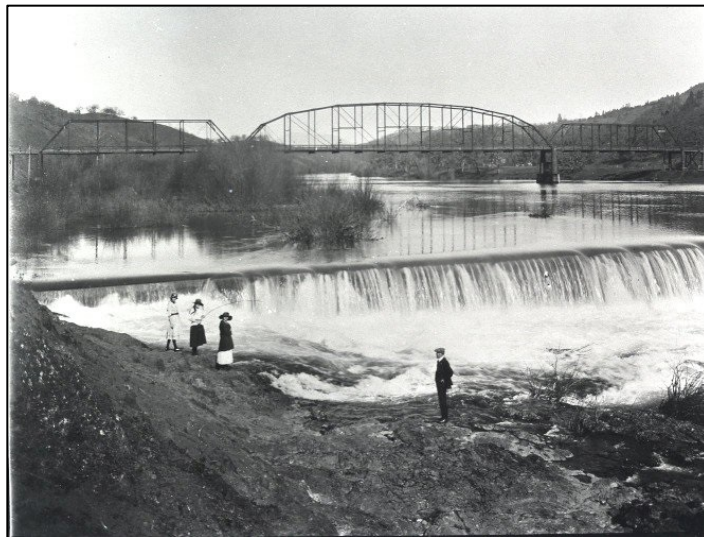


Jim McCarthy Shares Winchester Dam Update in Roseburg

The [League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley](#) welcomed WaterWatch Southern Oregon program director Jim McCarthy to their monthly meeting at the Roseburg Public Library last night for a presentation on the status of the WaterWatch-led coalition [effort to remove](#) the 135-year old [Winchester Dam](#), a privately-owned former hydropower structure commonly known as the biggest fish killer on the North Umpqua River. Jim discussed legal ramifications, next steps, and thanked board president Robin Wisdom.

Winchester Water Control District

The Winchester Water Control District board (WWCD) has declined speaking publicly about their side of the argument to keep the Winchester Dam operating as is. See our comment online at lwvuv.org. We encourage the WWCD to contact us to arrange a public meeting.



A photo of Winchester Dam taken around 1900.

Unite & Rise 8.5

Unite & Rise 8.5 is part of "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. <https://www.lwv.org/defending-democracy/women-defend-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

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. Since the Trump administration took office, we've seen [increased attacks](#) on our democratic systems and a failure by Congress to intervene. This came to a head in early



April, when the president [defied a Supreme Court order](#) to return the wrongfully deported Marylander Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia.

The following day, LWV CEO Celina Stewart and President Dianna Wynn released the following statement:

"We the people must fight back. That is why the League of Women Voters is launching a powerful new initiative, **Unite and Rise 8.5.**" Through Unite and Rise 8.5, we will engage and mobilize 8.5 million voters to protect and preserve our democracy.

On April 17, 2025, LWV CEO Celina Stewart and President Dianna Wynn released the following statement:

"From the flagrant disregard for congressional authority and governmental checks and balances to defying Supreme Court orders...one thing is abundantly clear: ***our country is in a constitutional crisis.***

"We the people must fight back. That is why the League of Women Voters is launching a powerful new initiative, **Unite and Rise 8.5.**"

Unite & Rise 8.5 aims to build a movement of 8.5 million individuals to unite and rise up against the anti-democratic actions of this administration. Launching in May 2025 and running until the 2026 midterm elections, this initiative is part of our [Women Defend Democracy](#) campaign.

Why 8.5? The number 8.5 million is the estimated number of voters it would take to bring about change through nonviolent

protest. This is based on the following finding from the Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights:

"Nonviolent protests are twice as likely to succeed as armed conflicts...and those engaging a threshold of 3.5% of the population have never failed to bring about change."

According to the University of Florida, approximately 245 million Americans were eligible to vote in the 2024 general election. According to the above research, if 3.5% of these eligible voters — 8,575,000 people — engage in nonviolent protests, we *will* bring about meaningful change.

Read more here:

<https://www.lwv.org/uniteandrise>



Elaine Brady at a League Voter Registration booth

WELCOME NEW LWVUV MEMBERS!

I am delighted with the prospect of your attendance at upcoming League events! We will be having two special events this League year. There will be a Meet and Greet on December 3rd, and the details will be coming out soon. We will be letting you know by email and a mailed invitation. Our League will also be hosting our second annual Tea Social on March 10th at the Umpqua Valley Arts Center! Last year's event was a great success and a lot of fun! Be sure to check out our great website and current newsletter, thanks to Robin Wisdom. We invite you to contribute to the newsletter as we do of all of our members. Let us all know what inspired you to join the LWVUV! We're always on the lookout for any skills or ideas that you as a new member would like to contribute. You are welcome to contact me anytime to meet for coffee to learn more about our League and to tell us more about yourself. Let me know if you would prefer to meet one on one or with others.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, nonprofit political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, local state and national and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Elaine Brady
elainebrady@gmail.com
(916)769-8636

Current LWVUV Committees

Nominating Committee – Elaine Brady, Chair, Julee Wright, and Connie Page.
Finance and Membership – Sherry Couron and Robin Wisdom
New Member Contact – Elaine Brady
Garden Tour – Nancy Farris
Voter Service – Jenny Carloni
Refreshments – Elaine Brady, Nancy Farris and Sherry Couron

Join a committee! It's always fun and satisfying to participate on a committee. Please contact us at info@lwvuv.org to find out more.



Umpqua Public Transportation District Meeting on 8/18/25

LWVUV spoke to the recent controversy regarding the primary election held in May, a Special Districts election.

The election results are now in a court battle between Todd Vaughn who ran for a board position on the UTD but lost the election, and Dan Loomis, the County Clerk, and the duly elected person Natasha Atkinson. The reason for the lawsuit is according to Mr. Vaughn is the election was fraudulent. He was ahead at midnight of the election eve, but votes came in during the week afterwards and he was outvoted. Atkinson won by 238 votes.

Before anyone gave comments at this meeting, the attorney of the UPTD told the board they should immediately install the new board member Natasha Atkinson for legal reasons.

Most of those in the audience objected to the cancellation of bus routes due lack of funds to support a large number of bus routes. The federal government had cut off funding for transportation services for local communities, and there was not much the district could do about it until more funds arrived.

Comments by LWVUV president at the UPTD meeting on August 18th at their downtown Roseburg office:

“I am Robin Wisdom, and I am here on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley.

Just to remind you it has been determined and verified by our Secretary of State that the local election is valid and there were no reasons to nullify it.

A ballot mailed on or before Election Day is *timely* so long as it is received by election officials within seven days of the election. (<https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/Directive-2024-04-Postmarks.pdf>) This is state law.

The League supports voting, and we support the legal counting of all ballots. Therefore, we support certifying the election of the candidate who was duly elected to fill a UTD board position, Natasha Atkinson. You should do this promptly.”

ORS 254.470 If the elector returns the ballot by mail, and a postal indicator is not present or legible, the ballot shall be considered to be mailed on the date of the election and may be counted if the ballot is received no later than seven calendar days after the election.

ORS 254.470 – Procedures for conducting election by mail

(6)(e) If the elector returns the ballot by mail:

- (A) The ballot must be received at the office of the county clerk not later than the end of the period determined under subsection (1) of this section on the date of the election; **or**
- (B) The ballot must:
 - (i) Have a postal indicator showing that the ballot was mailed not later than the date of the election; **and**
 - (ii) Be received at the office of the county clerk not later than **seven calendar days after the date of the election.**

LWVOR Fall Workshop November 1st

The state League's Fall Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 1 in Eugene. A number of us plan to attend. You can also. It's always a very interesting and informative event. Come and get to know other League members from around the state. Carpooling is available and our League will pay for your registration. Another possibility is attending virtually. Contact us if you are interested in attending either in person or online.

Legislative Process Day is November 19!

Save the date to join in for Legislative Process Day!

In-Person at the Oregon State Library and Hybrid Online

Learn about what is happening at the Oregon Legislature and gain insight into how you can get involved. We will be looking at how anticipated revenue will affect legislation in the



2026 session and how the legislature might take action in the face of federal cutbacks.

This will be a great opportunity to meet with our Action Team Coordinators! The event will be held virtually and in-person. Look for event information in your inbox soon!

This is Your Official Call to the 2026 LWV National Convention!

WHEN? The event will begin on **Thursday, June 25, 2026**, and end on **Sunday, June 28, 2026**.

WHERE? Convention 2026 will take place in **Columbus, OH**, at the Hilton Columbus Downtown.

REGISTRATION

Registration for Convention 2026 will **open in January of next year**. LWV has negotiated a special group rate at the hotel, and bookings will be open with the event's registration. Registration will be hosted on the official event website to be shared in the coming months. The event website will be the home for all event-related information, including but not limited to the agenda, hotel information, a robust FAQ page, information about the wares market, and more.

If you have any questions about Convention, feel free to reach out to the events team at events@lww.org.

We are planning an incredible Convention, and we look forward to seeing many of you in Columbus next summer!

LWVUV: Let us know if you would like to attend! We will pay for travel, hotel & registration.

First New Judge in 40 Years

SB 95 was signed by the governor on July 24 and went into effect immediately. The bill, carried by Sen. James Manning, Jr. (D-Eugene), increased the number of judges in Douglas County, which is the state's 16th Judicial District, from five to six.

Currently, the 16th Judicial District in Douglas County Circuit Court has a sixth jurist position filled by a Judge Pro Tempore, who is limited in scope to such duties as arraignments.

A Douglas County Circuit Court release said the number of elected judges in Douglas County has not been increased in at least four decades. A request that Douglas County receive a new judge has been included in proposed legislation consistently since 2017.

Presiding Judge Kathleen Johnson said at the time SB 95 was proposed, Oregon Judicial Branch's Judicial Workload Study showed that Douglas County needed three additional judges in order to properly adjudicate the number of cases being filed.

From the website listed below:

Douglas County was created on Jan. 7, 1852, out of the portion of Umpqua County lying east of the Coast Range. It was named Douglas County to honor U.S. Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois who was a congressional advocate for Oregon statehood. In the county seat of Roseburg, the Douglas County Courthouse was built in 1929, with additions in 1956 and 1977.

Judges

- Kathleen Johnson, Presiding Judge

- George Ambrosini, Circuit Court Judge
- Steve Hoddle, Circuit Court Judge
- Robert Johnson, Circuit Court Judge

- Ann Marie Simmons, Circuit Court Judge
- Jason R. Thomas, Pro Tem Judge

<https://www.courts.oregon.gov/courts/douglas/pages/default.aspx>

Running for Governor as of 10/12/25

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/CFSearchPage.do>

▲ Ballot Name	▲ Party	▲ Office	▲ Election
James Atkinson IV	Democrat	Governor	2026 Primary Election
David W Beem	Democrat	Governor	2026 Primary Election
Danielle Bethell	Republican	Governor	2026 Primary Election
David A Burch	Republican	Governor	2026 Primary Election
Kyle M Duyck	Republican	Governor	2026 Primary Election
Cal Kishawi	Democrat	Governor	2026 Primary Election
Patrick A Kopke-Hales	Republican	Governor	2026 Primary Election
Robert Neuman	Republican	Governor	2026 Primary Election
Paul J Romero Jr	Republican	Governor	2026 Primary Election
DeAngelo Leroy Turner	Republican	Governor	2026 Primary Election
Tim O Youker	Republican	Governor	2026 Primary Election
New Search		Printable Report	

Douglas County Candidates as of 10/12/25

COUNTY OFFICES	FILED CANDIDATES	QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED
County Assessor		County Assessor
County Commissioner Position 1	Tom Kress Lorrie Wick	County Commissioner
County Commissioner Position 2	Tim J Freeman Brandy Stone	County Commissioner
County Commissioner Position 3	Chris Boice Andrew John Rosales	County Commissioner
County Surveyor		County Surveyor

Find Out About Prospective Statewide Ballot Measures:

Visit “Initiative, Referendum and Referral Search”:

https://egov.sos.state.or.us/elec/web_irr_search.search_form

Fill out the Form:

- Enter the Election Year: 2026
- Select status of petition: All, Active, or Qualified to Ballot
- Check all that apply. You can check everything in the column on the right, or search selectively.
- Or you can search on ‘Approve to Circulate’ by checking off that box.
- And you can search for ‘Will Pay Circulators’ to find out which petitions that applies to.

Then at the bottom of the table, click on either Summary Results, Detailed Results, or Reset the form.

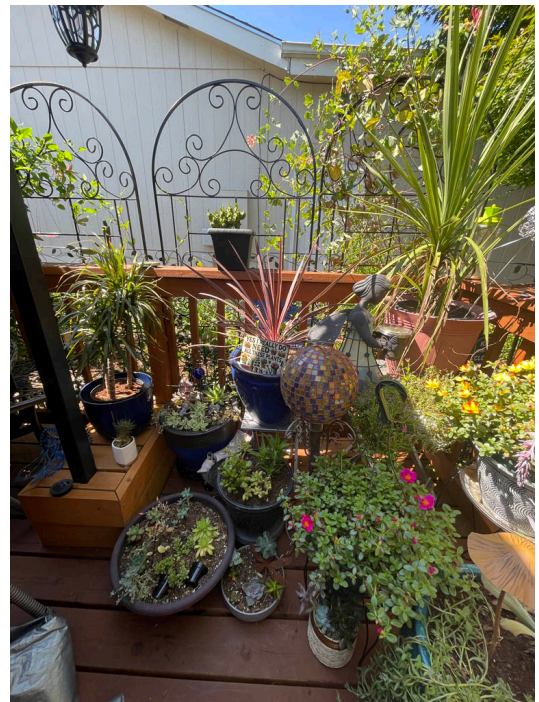
ANNUAL SPRING GARDEN TOUR 2026

The Garden Tour Team has lined up a garden tour for next summer. It will be Saturday June 13 from 10AM to 4PM. (Note the change in time.) Entrance fee is still \$15.

The 5 gardens on the tour are all located in the Littlebrook Community in the Green District. Littlebrook is a 55 and older, manufactured home neighborhood with a stately clubhouse which has community garden with water feature. Please take a look at: <https://www.littlebrookmhc.com/>

We will keep you posted with updates.

Nancy Farris, Garden Tour Chair,
nfarris73@icloud.com



Links to Famous Places

How to find different parts of LWVUS:

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidance/guide-lwvus-services-leagues#contact>

LWV – The national League LWVUV – Membership portal (where you pay your annual dues or donate to national) – <https://portal.lwv.org/>

LWVOR – the state League: <https://www.lwvor.org/>

Oregon State Legislature – <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/>

LWVOR's voter information site: <https://www.vote411.org/oregon>

Your Board of Directors

- President – Robin Wisdom – 541-784-8672
- Vice-President – Elaine Brady – 916-769-8636
- Secretary – Julee Wright
- Treasurer – Sherry Couron
- Voter Service Chair – Jenny Carloni
- Garden Tour Committee Chair – Nancy Farris
- Member at Large – Connie Page



Contact Us!

Email: info@lwvuv.org

Website: <https://lwvuv.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVUV>

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3yiitzQ>

Flickr: https://www.blickr.com/groups/lwv_umpqua_valley/