



LWVUV CALENDAR

April – June 2026

Apr 11 League at the Farmers Market

Apr 18 League at Earth Day

Apr 21 Commissioner Candidates Forum

Apr 30 CD2 Candidates Forum Watch Party

May 11 Annual Dinner & Meeting

May 16 Beverly Paulson's Celebration of Life

May 16 LWVOR Council

May 19 Primary Election Day

Jun 13 Spring Garden Tour

Jun 25-28 LWV Convention

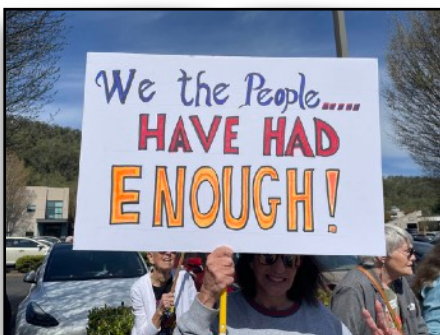
Welcome Spring: A Season of Renewal

Hello League Members! As we welcome Spring, let's embrace gratitude for our surroundings—even as we recognize the hardships faced by others. Living in Oregon and the Northwest offers us beauty, flourishing gardens, and supportive communities. By staying engaged and taking thoughtful action, both in our own gardens and in the wider political sphere, we can help shape a brighter future for all.

Thank you to all League Members for your faithfulness, and welcome to new members, Kira Lathrop, Corrine Smith, and Cheryl Cook.

Please look forward to upcoming events that will inform us, tickle us, and inspire us. Be sure to stay tuned to your email and check out our website for updates. Let us know if you have questions, comments, or feel the need to participate with us in some capacity, large or small. We are so glad you are with us. Thanks to you all, we are now 80 members strong!

Robin Wisdom, president of LWV Umpqua Valley



LWV and No Kings



LWVUV was proud to join No Kings as a national partner on Saturday, March 28. LWVUV was there in strength in a nonpartisan manner. It was a beautiful day, and Roseburg spoke out.



Observer Corps Buttons Are In!

We've been distributing the new Observer Corps buttons to members of the Observer Corps. They look great! And we have them for sale also. See our web page here:

<https://lwwuv.org/home-2/league-items-for-sale/#buttons>.

At all meetings attended by the Observer Corps, members will wear buttons and inform attendees of their purpose. We have also sent letters outlining their mission to organizers. Coverage includes Douglas County Commissioner, Roseburg City Council, and Umpqua Public Transportation District board meetings.

Thank you, Observer Corps members! Nancy Livers, Alice Lackey, Elaine Brady, Lorrie Wick, Linette Torres. You make us proud!

Douglas County Commissioner Candidates Forum

The League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley invites you to attend a Douglas County Commissioner Candidates Forum on Tuesday evening, April 21, 2026, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM in the Cascade Room of the Fairgrounds Conference Hall.

Come to hear 13 candidates who have filed and have been invited.

Here's the list of candidates. <https://www.douglascountyor.gov/181/Current-Candidates> This is a League event that will be moderated League members.

We will conduct the forum as usual with written questions from audience, screened by League members.

All Hands On Deck! League Members, we need your help with this event!

League members are asked to attend and assist. We need welcomers, ushers, a time-keeper, several members to hand out 3 by 5-inch cards for writing questions. ***Please be there!***

This event will be video recorded and posted on YouTube a day or two later.

For more information or questions, call Robin at

541-784-8672.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Your LWVUV needs YOU now to help with projects, events, joining/chairing committees, and more!

Join LWVUV For a **Watch Party** of LWV's Bipartisan District 2 Candidates Forum

Via Zoom, Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 6 pm

LWVUV has reserved the South Umpqua Room at the Library to hold a “Watch Party” on Thursday, April 30 th at 6:00PM to 7:30PM. The following nine candidates will participate. We can gather to watch the forum online and submit questions at this League meeting. Or you may choose to watch it from any other place that has wifi.

This forum will feature Republican and Democratic Congressional Candidates running in the May 19, 2026 primary. **Republicans:** Cliff Bentz incumbent (invited), Andrea Carr and Peter Larson. **Democrats:** Patty Snow, Dawn Rasmussen, Rebecca Mueller, Mary, Doyle, Peter Quince and Chris Beck.

Soon LWVUV will send out more information such as a Zoom link and more. This will be a moderated event hosted by LWVOR and five participating Leagues: Deschutes, Union County, Klamath, Rogue Valley and Umpqua Valley, all in the Congressional District 2 in Oregon. Oregon's 2nd Congressional District (CD2) covers all or part of 20 counties in northern, eastern, central, and southern Oregon. Major cities in this district include Medford Klamath Falls, Bend (partial), Hermiston, Pendleton, Grants Pass, The Dalles, and Ontario.

Key Counties Covered:

The district encompasses Baker, Crook, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, and Wheeler counties, along with parts of Deschutes and Douglas counties.

All League members are invited to attend. This is also open to the public.

CD2 is one of the largest congressional districts in the nation, covering 70,000 square miles and all or part of 20 Oregon counties. Much of the district relies on agriculture and natural economies, although several counties have diverse populations and economies. 38.7% of voters within the district are non-affiliated, and 7.4% are third party voters. Neither of these groups will have a vote in the primary for this Congressional seat, the governor's office, the Senate or state legislative seats.



Jacie Pratt Turned 90!

Longtime and active member Jacie Pratt is 90 years young. We celebrated on Thursday, March 12th at the Umpqua Valley Arts. It was lovely. There was a full house with friends and family who came to wish Jacie many more happy years and to express their love and high regards.

***Happy Birthday, Jacie.
Our community loves You!***



Photo taken at “No Kings” rally March 28, 2026. Jacie is on the left.

LWV’s statement concerning Unilateral Military Action in Iran

March 2, 2026

WASHINGTON, DC—The League of Women Voters of the United States issued the following statement on behalf of Celina Stewart, Esq., Chief Executive Officer, regarding the President’s military action in Iran:

The League of Women Voters is deeply concerned by the President’s decision to initiate unprovoked military action against Iran without prior congressional authorization.

“This is not about the character of any individual involved. It is about constitutional authority and the dangerous subversion of our system of checks and balances.

“The Constitution clearly assigns the power to declare war to Congress, an authority that was intentionally ignored. When a president goes around Congress to initiate military action, it is not a sign of strength. It is executive overreach and dangerous to Americans, both domestically and abroad.

VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

**An informed voter
is a powerful voter.**

Get nonpartisan candidate
information from a trusted source
at [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

Find more from the League of Women Voters
of Oregon at [lwv.or.org](https://www.lwv.or.org).

LWVUV Annual Dinner & Meeting

Monday, May 11, 2026 @ 5:30PM to 8PM

The Atom Bistro

19017 North Umpqua Highway, Glide, OR

Please join us at the Atom Bistro in Glide for this annual occasion that always promises to be entertaining and informative. This is the time of year we look back on what was accomplished, and we look ahead to the future. What did we do? What should we do next? We would like to hear from you. Please join us.

We are happy to announce our guest speaker will be Blake Norton, MA, Associate Professor: History & Political Science, teacher at Umpqua Community College. His topic is “Founding the Electoral College and Democracy Today”. This will be a very interesting subject that we all care about. LWV’s position is to abolish it.

Later this month you will receive via postal mail a program for the Annual Dinner with info about this past year in a nutshell. At this year’s event, we will have a raffle, Garden Tour tickets for sale, speakers, and a delicious dinner.

You will receive an email about all of this to which you can reply with your meal choices. We will need to know your choices a week in advance so that will be 5/4/26.

5:30PM Social time ‘Meet and Greet’

6:00PM Dinner

6:30PM Guest speaker Blake Norton, “The Electoral College”

7:00PM Business meeting with dessert and coffee

8 PM Event ends

Menu:

Main dish, your choice:

Chicken with Rice Pilaf or

Portobello and Sun-dried Rice Pilaf

Also

Honey glazed Carrots

Caesar salad

Dinner rolls

Chocolate and Cheesecake or Vegan Sorbet



Voters' Guides

Voters' Guides published by LWVOR will be mailed to us when they have been printed. We have ordered 300 English and 200 Spanish.

Thank you to Julee Wright to whom they will be mailed. Julee has volunteered for several years to help distribute the guides to all 12 libraries in Douglas County.

You will be sent an announcement when they have been distributed so you can get yours. If you would like to help distribute the guides, please contact us.

*Important Note About Dues

When paying your dues via the League portal, you can choose almost any amount. The basic amount is \$75 per person, although you can choose a greater or smaller amount.

If you want to donate to our League, please write a separate check made out to LWVUV and mail it to LWVUV, PO Box 2434, Roseburg 97470. Or you can donate online at

<https://lwwuv.org/donate/>



2nd Annual Tea Social a Tasty Success

The second annual Tea Social on March 10 was once again successful! About fifty people attended, League members and friends. The event was held once again at the lovely Umpqua Valley Arts Center.

The buffet served traditional tea sandwiches and sweet treats. Jenny Carloni gave a short talk about the history of the League and voter services by the League. Social events such as the Tea Social and the 'Meet and Greet' that was held in December provide a great social opportunity for members to get together and have fun visiting. We look forward to future social events.





League Member Beverly Paulson will long be remembered

Beverly Paulson, long time LWVUV member, passed away on February 16, 2026. She was a wonderful League member who always participated whenever possible. She was an outstanding advocate and we will miss her immensely. She was truly an activist in the League and in her community. Beverly is missed by many.

**A Celebration of Life will be held at 1pm at the Faith Lutheran Church on Saturday, May 16.
Remembrances may be made to the Faith Lutheran Church,
PO Box 2349, Roseburg, OR 97470.**

Read more about this wonderful person here, a lovely story of her life.

https://www.nrtoday.com/obits/beverly-paulson/article_bc4f85bc-2bf5-40ae-9596-575eb6dc304f.html

Photos above include, from left to right: Beverly as she offers her insights at a state League event in Salem, OR; Beverly greeting at a LWVUV Garden Tour; Beverly and Bob Allen enjoying a boat ride on the Umpqua River.

SPRING GARDEN TOUR 2026

Saturday June 13, 2026

New Hours: 10AM - 4PM

Same entry fee: \$15

As you may know, the Spring Garden Tour is the LWVUV's annual fundraising event. This year's garden tour is a very unique one, in that it is the first time we've held a tour within one neighborhood; a lovely, comfortable, 55+ community along the South Umpqua River. Gardeners will be sharing their side yard and/or backyard gardens with us. Local artists and musicians will be sprinkled around the tour as space permits.



Spring Garden Tour 2026 continued on page 8

Anthropic For Your Information

Perhaps you've heard about the controversy regarding Anthropic and our government.

This is Anthropic's definition: "Anthropic is an American AI safety and research company founded in 2021 by former OpenAI researchers, specializing in building reliable, interpretable, and safe AI systems.

As a public benefit corporation, Anthropic is best known for developing the Claude family of large language models (LLMs), including the 2026 Claude 4 family, which are designed for advanced reasoning, coding, and high-volume tasks. "

Feb 27, 2026 – A letter from Anthropic for your information

<https://www.anthropic.com/news/statement-comments-secretary-war>

An excerpt from Anthropic's comments:

"Earlier today, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth shared on X that he is directing the Department of War to designate Anthropic a supply chain risk. This action follows months of negotiations that reached an impasse over two exceptions we requested to the lawful use of our AI model, Claude: the mass domestic surveillance of Americans and fully autonomous weapons."

Spring Garden Tour 2026 continued from page 7

The Club House garden is a landscaped space with a water feature and large patio with seating as you enjoy coffee and bottled water (\$1 each,) Umpqua Sweets and Treats' specialties, and local musical talent.

In addition, we are happy to introduce MTL Nursery. They sell a nice variety of landscape plants, trees, pond plants, koi fish, and pond care supplies. Live music (Joe Ross Ensemble and others) on MTL's own stage, a local artist selling a variety of glass art, and we are hoping to have a lunch wagon there.

It's worth mentioning that MTL has begun a nonprofit vocational program for young adults: <https://www.mtlnurseryvocationalprogram.org/> Some of their students will be on hand that day.

Tickets go on sale mid-May and posters go up.

Buy your tickets ahead of time so you can decide how to "map out" your day.

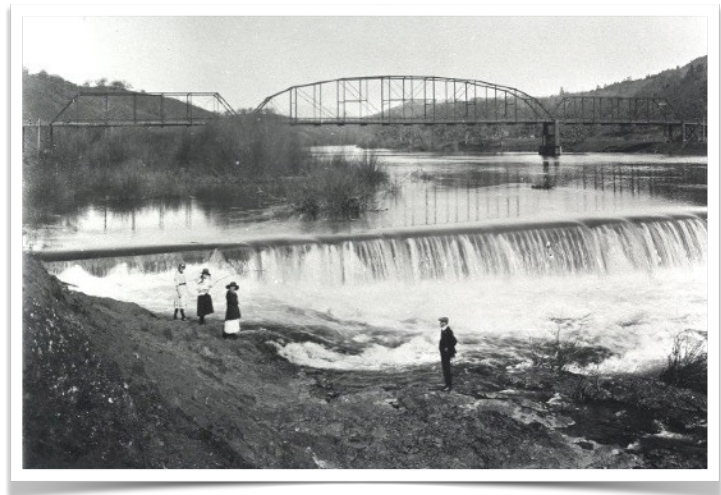
Any questions or comments, please contact Nancy Farris: nfarris73@icloud.com , 541-643-8113 (text or call)

Ruling on the Winchester Dam, 3/6/26

Judge Upholds \$77,767 in Fines Over Botched 2023 Winchester Dam Repairs Second Water Quality Enforcement Ruling in Fewer than Five Years Against North Umpqua's Biggest Fish Killer

Winchester, OR - Last week, river advocates welcomed the ruling of Oregon Senior Administrative Law Judge Elizabeth Jarry upholding \$77,767 in fines issued by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) against Winchester Water Control District (WWCD) and TerraFirma Foundation Repair, Inc. (TerraFirma) for water quality violations during summer 2023 repairs to the 135-year-old Winchester Dam on the North Umpqua River near Roseburg. WaterWatch of Oregon, Steamboaters, Native Fish Society, Umpqua Watersheds, and Oregon Wild had intervened in the case on behalf of the river, water quality, fish, and wildlife, and were represented by Crag Law Center.

The ruling marked the second time in under five years that a judge has upheld state fines for water quality violations during botched dam repairs attempted by Winchester Dam owner WWCD. The ruling is another victory for a coalition of local and statewide conservation, fishing, and whitewater advocates – including the intervenors in this case – who have worked for years to raise alarm bells with government



officials over the WWCD's chronic non-compliance with state and federal repair permitting, engineering, water quality, and dam safety requirements as well as their disregard for protections for fish and wildlife despite the essential habitat importance of the North Umpqua for salmon and steelhead.

Link to Ruling:

https://waterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/DEQ_Proposed_Final_Order_030926_1.pdf

Images of Concrete Spills at Winchester Dam:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1dgZckdkZjwbbIwzJRrQZKg5Gg07Vixz6>

“Ruling on the Winchester Dam” continued on page 10

2026 LWVOR Council Meeting

The 2026 League of Women Voters of Oregon Council Meeting is scheduled for a single day, Saturday May 16, at the Historic Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 661 in Salem, Oregon.

Battlefield Veterans Post Commander Rick Breen, Vice Commander Dean Howes, Women's Veterans Outreach Coordinator Margaret Estella Garcia and Veterans' Services Representative Rosy Macias will welcome those in attendance.

The Girl Scouts Color Guard, which may be joined by the Boy Scouts this year, have been invited. This is an important addition, since one focus of our new President Mark Kendall and Board Member Evan Tucker is to feature the importance of male members in our organization.

—We need someone from our League to attend. I am unavailable that day. If you would like to attend, let me know. It is always very informative and fun. We will register you. ~ Robin

“Ruling on the Winchester Dam” continued from page 9

Specifically, the judge upheld DEQ fines against WWCD and TerraFirma for violating 9 conditions of the 401 Water Quality Certification intended protect the river during repair work on the dam: 1) performing work that was inconsistent with the project description contained in the permit application materials submitted to the agency; 2) failing to develop an erosion and sediment control plan, failing to implement erosion and sediment control measures to prevent or control the movement of soil into waters of the state, and failing to maintain an adequate supply of erosion and sediment control materials at the construction site; 3) placing biologically harmful materials and construction debris (concrete) where they could enter waters of the state; 4) placing biologically harmful materials and construction debris (tire mats) where they could enter waters of the state; 5) operating equipment in the flowing channel of the river; 6) failing to report discharges of deleterious materials into waters of the state; 7) failing to remove all construction materials and temporary fill from the river bed before the expiration of the project's regulated work window; 8) failing to provide unobstructed fish passage for days after being told to do so; 9) failing to fully isolate the repair work area from the active flowing stream.

In addition, the ruling upheld DEQ fine enhancements due to the dam owners' "reckless" and "flagrant" conduct resulting in water quality violations.

Jim McCarthy, WaterWatch of Oregon

Explaining Top Two Open Primaries Amendments

HJR 201 - Proposing Top Two Open Primaries amendment to Oregon Constitution - Neutral
The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) has a position that strongly supports having primary elections in which all candidates run on the same ballot, and all voters vote that ballot.

The need for an ‘open primary’ clearly increases as the number of registered voters in Oregon who declare themselves non-affiliated rises. HJR 201 would accomplish that goal (as long as major parties do not remove themselves from the system as the bill allows).

Yet, the LWVOR remains neutral on this particular bill; which is similar to versions twice rejected by Oregon voters. The League has a position against what is commonly referred to as the “Top Two” election method, in part because it can result in two candidates from the same party being nominated to a general election, as has been seen in Washington State and California. In some areas, due to severe ‘vote splitting,’ the two on the general ballot have been from the opposite party of the area’s major party population.

When the final candidates are two of the same party, whether they represent the norm of the community’s registration status or the district’s minority viewpoint, it is a concern. Voters can be dismayed and feel they have no representative option on the general ballot.

Even if we were to nominate 4 or 5 candidates, we could still risk poorer representative outcomes without a system reform such as Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). The Alaska system mentioned in the hearing to support HJR 201 is not actually a Top Two plan. It is a “Final Four” system that advances four candidates to the general ballot and then applies RCV to determine the ultimate winner.

It has elected Democrats and Republicans alike. While legislators may be hesitant to consider RCV due to the recent measure for statewide offices being rejected, it should be noted that the ballot measure failed to include Open Primaries and failed to include legislative offices. Both points were found lacking by voters.

Supporters of HJR 201 testified that this does not need to be a Top Two system since the bill reads ... “The two candidates for each office receiving the most votes are nominated to the general election, except as provided by law for the advancement of more than two candidates for an office.” We fear that once adopted, such an inferior method would not easily be changed to accommodate the aforementioned advancements.

We understand the concept of not allowing the “perfect to be the enemy of the good,” and we recognize open primaries as a needed (and long overdue) “good.” However, the LWVOR would strongly encourage amendments that address some of the inevitable problems noted above. Both the states of Maine and Alaska have such systems to serve as models. Take this opportunity to avoid future issues and consider more inclusive amendments to HJR 201.

We would be strong supporters of such a bill. Currently, we remain neutral on HRJ 201 and thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation and possible amendments.

Barbara Klein, LWVOR Acting President
Chris Cobey, LWVOR Governance Co-Coordinator

P.S. This bill titled “Proposing an amendment to the Oregon Constitution relating to primary elections”, did not pass during this short session. More to come... rw

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

Links to Important Places

- **LWV – The national League LWVUV** – Membership portal (where you pay your annual dues) – <https://portal.lwv.org/>
- **LWVOR – the state League:** <https://www.lwvor.org/>
Legislative Reports – <https://www.lwvor.org/legislative-report>
- **Oregon State Legislature** – <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/>
- **LWVOR’s voter information site:** <https://www.vote411.org/oregon>

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/

