



VOTER

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THINK BEFORE YOU INK updated and reissued!

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Do you understand that petition? Not sure you support it? Just to “get it on the ballot”? The League of Women Voters of Oregon says, if not: ***Don't sign it!***

We *updated* our 2013 petition flyer since some information was no longer accurate. Please Recycle your old ones. We reprinted, delivered, [posted](#), and paid for new flyers, expanding it to cover referrals and referenda. We will have sent out over 23,000 copies, between English and Spanish, to our local Leagues and coalition partners. Here's a quick petition review:

- **INITIATIVES:** Registered voters can bring issues to the ballot, to change Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS), or to amend our state constitution.
- **REFERENDUMS:** With this category of petitions, registered voters can try to reject (veto) bills passed by the legislature by placing a referendum on the ballot.
- **REFERRALS:** The Legislature can refer an undecided bill or issue to voters for approval. Any bills that amend the Oregon constitution must be referred to voters. Only referrals *don't need petitions*.

We explain the difference in the number of required signatures, and how to evaluate whether or not to sign. This is relevant *right now, since petitions are circulating*. See the article on Initiatives, Referrals, and Referenda.

YOUR SIGNATURE IS VALUABLE



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LWVOR Mission

The League of Women Voters®
 of Oregon is a grassroots,
 nonpartisan political
 organization that encourages
 informed and active
 participation in government in
 order to build better
 communities statewide. The
 state League's purposes are to
 influence public policy
 through education and
 advocacy and to provide
 support for League members
 and the League organization.

Action Volunteers in Governance

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Volunteering for Action (lobbying) for the League can be like diving into the deep end of the pool! It is refreshing, can be really intimidating, and we make a difference! Governance includes revenue and taxation (League's 2017 top priority), ethics, elections, and "general governance", including lots of interesting side lights like audits, transparency and privacy in public records law, and cybersecurity. We responded to requests from legislators, the Secretary of State, and other advocates. Thank heavens, in League Governance, it has been teamwork!

We foster members developing their specific interests. Some topics now have "expert" League representation, like Marge Easley for National Popular Vote, and Norman Turrill for Redistricting and Campaign Finance Reform. For Revenue and Taxation, we formed a subcommittee, chaired by Alice Bartelt, with Claudia Keith, Chris Vogel, Jody Wisner, and I meeting weekly in the Capitol. I also appreciated mentoring from other League Action Coordinators, coalition members we met with regularly, and other lobbyists who shared issues.

Some work was done behind the scenes. Rick Bennet, a former Nevada legislator and AARP lobbyist, now in the Rogue Valley League, scoured bill releases and forwarded lists of those he deemed deserving of follow up. Given that there were thousands of bills proposed, that was extremely helpful. Ann Potter, with a PhD in Political Science from Stanford, now in the Portland League, reviewed Rick's lists. She gave them thumbs' up or down, relative to League positions, with incisive summary statements explaining their relevance. She wrote a five-page tutorial on the Electoral College. Helen Beardsworth, an attorney in the Lane League, reviewed and critiqued some complex public records testimony, very helpful since I lack legal training.

Some areas have gone lacking when League testimony has been requested, not just for lack of a studied "position", but for a lack of volunteers. Our Transportation and Housing volunteers needed help for various reasons. Volunteer backup and sharing can save the day! Please, let's talk about how we can put you to work with something that interests you, something you are concerned about. Even small-time contributions can make big differences, just follow your niche! We hope to hear from you!

Save the Date!

**Sat., Oct. 21, 2017
Fall Workshop 2017
Lane Community College**

A team of experienced and motivated members is developing interesting workshops and inviting knowledgeable speakers to the LWVOR Fall Workshop 2017. Please save the date and add it to your calendar.

Plan now to come to Eugene and visit Lane Community College for this event. Join us for lunch, topical speakers, and four workshops to choose from. Workshops include topics such as LWV Transformation, an update on elections in Oregon, understanding the changing media, and civil discourse.

The day's theme is "Mediating the Message – The League's Role in the 21st Century".

Idea for local Leagues: Offer to bring your new members by subsidizing their registrations or lunches. Or commit to bringing a friend who you know is interested in League issues.

Watch for more info soon! Registration will begin in a few weeks.

Initiatives, Referrals, and Referenda

Rebecca Gladstone, Voter Service, rebecca.gladstone@gmail.com

The 2018 election cycle is underway with 30 initiatives and two referenda currently filed in the [Secretary of State's IRR database](#). We suggest you research and don't sign unless you are sure you understand and support them. Some petitions are already circulating! The two referenda were filed by Legislators hoping to repeal legislation passed in the 2017 session. Here's what you need to know.

[Referendum #301, "Stop Healthcare Taxes"](#), the petition to refer to voters only the tax parts of [HB 2391](#), was filed late in the 2017 session in an effort to head off amendments to [SB 229](#). The League had initially supported SB 229, since it was presented as a normal elections' omnibus bill with numerous small corrections to various parts of election law. However, when many amendments were added, we particularly did not support ([our testimony](#)) the -7 amendment, which set up a possible January 2018 special election and required a legislative committee to write the ballot-title and explanatory-statement for only Referendum #301.

Referendum #301 proposes repealing only the tax portions of [HB 2391](#), a health care insurance premiums and hospital tax and budget bill, which passed the legislature, not uniformly on party lines. Referendum #301 does not affect other contentious parts of HB 2391, such as the "Cover All Kids" and abortion funding that the League supported, except that it removes their funding.

Representatives Julie Parrish, Sal Esquivel, and Cedric Hayden filed Referendum #301 intending it to be considered during a standard election cycle in November 2018, thereby possibly delaying or repealing the taxes for up to two years. Supporters of HB 2391 are hoping that Referendum #301 will not collect adequate signatures (58,789 required) and that the health care tax compromise will remain in place. However, supporters of the bill successfully passed SB 229 as amended, which provided for a January 2018 special election so that the legislature could respond during (Continue on page 4.)

Initiatives, Referrals, and Referenda ***(Continue from page 3)***

the February 2018 short legislative session to a possibly newly unbalanced health care budget from Referendum #301. If a vote were delayed until November 2018, then the funding gap would be much larger and matching federal funding may be forfeit ([press Op-Ed](#)). This followed [possibly the most contentious hearing of the session](#), held during the only Saturday time for the House floor.

Referendum #302, "[Say No to 719](#)", hopes to repeal [SB 719](#), calling for protection orders, from extreme risk of suicide or injury to others, prohibiting possession of deadly weapons. The League supported this gun safety bill.

The initiatives are saddled with the most compelling nicknames that could be mustered. Some will be related and distinctions may not be easily sorted, especially on your way home from work, juggling groceries, etc. There is a "Fair Work Week I" and a "Fair Work Week II", 10 pages of reading between them. Other nicknames are confusing too, like the two presented by the same sponsor as "Oregon Right to Vote Petition", the #10 filing, and "Oregon Right to Vote", the #11 filing. We have made progress since the days of "ballot title shopping", when 20 different initiatives might be proposed, hoping to choose the most appealing ballot title between them. We may need to streamline this process even further.

The Secretary of State announced a further [ballot title administrative rule change](#) after Sine Die. The ballot title process is usually administered through the Attorney General and it can take several months if titles are appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court. The Secretary of State's proposed rule change "removes a possible barrier to petition signature gathering", in the case of objections to petition titling. According to Dan Meek of the Progressive Party, cited in the Secretary's press release, this administrative change "will help prevent powerful special interest groups from delaying the opportunity to gather signatures for several months, whether or not the ballot title written by the Attorney General is accurate and impartial." The converse would be that voters might not know what they were signing, or might have to rely on an inaccurate title.

The League Remains True to Its Core Mission

Kathleen Hersh, State MLD Coordinator

Elizabeth McNamara, past President of the League of Women Voters, brought the message that the League is not changing its core mission "to work toward a perfect democracy" to MLD coaches and four generations of League leaders from Oregon and Washington who convened this weekend in northwest Portland.

Elizabeth, National MLD Coordinator Carol Reimers, and Shur Fellows Mary Wilson and Judy Golberg brought ideas—big picture and down-to-earth practical—to grow and strengthen our Leagues. They encouraged us to experiment and to discard things that aren't working, to not let process become ritual.

We had the chance to sit down with leaders from Leagues large and small to exchange ideas and find ways to engage our members and communities, to work together across the region, and to recommit to working towards a perfect democracy.

Talk to those you know who participated and find out what you can do.

LWV Members from Oregon and Washington at MLD Workshop



MLD Workshop Attendees

Coaches Panel
with Libby Medley, Linda
Mather, a Washington
member, and Robin Wisdom



Membership Panel
with Debbie Kaye, Hilly
Alexander, Mary Wilson (former
LWVUS President) and Carol
Reimers (LWVUS MLD
Coordinator)

President's Column

Norman Turrill, n.turrill@lwvor.org

Most League members understand that no news story is ever black and white, that there is always another side to any story.

We saw this in President Trump's reaction to the Charlottesville march and violence where he blamed the violence on "many sides" and said, "I am not putting anyone on a moral plane" and "Not all of those people were white supremacists." (See <https://www.nytimes.com/video/us/politics/100000005367125/trump-charlottesville-presidency.html> and many others.) It is clear to me that the President is not a racist as such, but he certainly and shamefully tolerates, defends and even encourages many varieties of "alt-right" people in his base of supporters.



I am certainly not defending the President, but I think he has a point, however inarticulately stated, that there is plenty of blame to be shared for the Charlottesville violence. Most of the blame should be on the neo-Nazis, KKK, the League of the South, Vanguard America and other neo-fascist and "alt-right" groups that showed up spoiling for a fight with Confederate flags, fascist symbols, weapons, helmets and plastic shields. But the Charlottesville police also share some blame for not keeping the opposing sides entirely separated. Charlottesville public officials share some blame for poor planning. Even the ACLU shares some blame for initially supporting the issuance of a demonstration permit when they should have questioned if violence was intended. And the "antifa" and anarchist groups certainly share some of the blame for being prepared for a fight when they confronted the "alt-right" demonstrators and were attacked.

My purpose is not to try to explain the Charlottesville violence, but to put a League perspective on it. From the League's point of view, violence or angry confrontation will never solve any problem. We now understand from Rick Shenkman's keynote presentation to our LWVOR Convention earlier this year that violence and confrontation just activate our brains' "fight or flight" reaction—in just milliseconds. This is a consequence of our evolutionary survival and success as a species. But it will not change anyone's opinions, just make them stronger by the "cognitive dissonance" psychological phenomenon.

A better way to deal with strongly held opinions is through civil discourse that appeals to a different part of our brains, the frontal lobes. This part of our brains takes much longer to make a decision, at least 15 minutes. Civil discourse does not always change opinions, but it is far more likely to do so than confrontation and violence.

At the LWVOR Convention in May, we adopted a new position by concurrence on Civil Discourse. We will be immediately implementing this new position with a Civil Discourse Committee and program led by Marge Easley. We will be asking each local League to include this program in their planning for local action and meetings. We also will be looking for opportunities to partner with other organizations on this program. Please give Marge and her committee your cooperation and support.

Volunteer now ** WORK LATER

Rebecca Gladstone rebecca.gladstone@gmail.com

WELCOME! Sign up now, new members, too! We need YOUR SKILLS*!

Choose a small, easy job like calling some County Clerks or transcription from your laptop. Maybe Ballot Measure Researcher, Speakers' Bureau, or a Committee Chair is for you. These are tight, sequential timelines, all "sprint", not "long-distance" commitments, during the 2018 primary and/or general election season. Can we rely on you? Email me to sign up. Let's chat if you have questions.

*Can you do some or any of these? Phone, email, copy and paste, use excel, manage deadlines and committees, research, speak in public, manage events? We need you! We're filling the slots below now to allow time for training if you need it. – Becky, rebecca.gladstone@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

- *A chair to represent each work group below:* Apply your group's campaign timelines, connect and share instructions provided, then ask for help if your group needs it.

Voter Guide 411 data collection:

- **Copy & paste to excel:* candidate and ballot measure info from city and county websites.
- **Phone:* city and county elections to collect any late-posted info.
- **Copy & paste from excel to web or print:* If you are skilled, to help format Voters' Guides, in English & Spanish, audio recorded and screen reader friendly, printed, etc.
- **Chair:* Phone, email comfy? Check-in with volunteers to make sure everybody's on track.

Ballot Measure Research:

- **Research:* This is a serious commitment with an intense timeline- measures are certified in early August. Follow guidelines to gather specific information. Fill the template, distilling prescribed primary sources so voters can make informed choices! Researchers become The League Go-To experts, resources for the League Speakers' Bureau during campaign season. They follow pro & con campaigns and news development to update Speakers Bureau files.
- **Coordinate (no local meetings needed):* Ideally, we want an experienced researcher to pair with a new researcher for each state ballot measure. Contact experienced researchers, ask for their measure preferences, then assign measures and connect new researchers and friends who want to work together
- *Editing Team and Chair:* This group distills research as needed for consistent and very concise Voters' Guides consistency. This is also forwarded as Speakers' Bureau information. They may welcome new members.

Speakers' Bureau:

- *Chair (editor):* Connect local League Speakers' Bureau volunteers. Review the Speakers' Bureau handbook. Email information from the Ballot Measure editing committee. Help researchers and speakers connect so audiences get reliable, current information.

Mock Election/ Civic ED

- This volunteer engagement will start early next year, stay tuned. Contact Toni Lampkin, tonilampkin@gmail.com, with questions.

Events:

- *Chair:* Connect with local Voter Service reps to coordinate timing for state-wide debates, etc. Consult the Voter Service Toolbox for event guidelines, coordination and support.

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