



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON

Legislative Report

April 22, 2015

Volume 25, Number 10

2015 Legislative Session

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[SOCIAL POLICY](#)

Printer-Friendly
Version

[HB 2666](#)

What is best for Oregon farmland?

The League strongly opposed the bill that would alter key criteria to allowing mines on EFU land and "shift balance and overly favor the mining industry."* League and other opposition were met with powerful Aggregate Industry interests wanting to push this bill through on the fast track.

[Click here to read presented testimonies for and against.](#)

[*Click here to read LWVOR testimony in OPPOSITION.](#)

**ACTION ALERT
HB 2666**

Governance

NPV, Ethics Bipartisan Effort, Women's Health and Wellness Update, Tax Credits Committee



*Kappy Eaton,
Governance
Coordinator*

National Popular Vote Launched

The House Rules committee took testimony on [HB 3475](#), the interstate compact for National Popular Vote, on April 15. Dr. John Koza, President of the NPV group, gave strong support and answered questions. Also in support were the League, Common Cause and the Bus Project. Opponents were several citizens expressing various concerns about voter fraud. Rep. Barnhart, a committee member, gave a good review of NPV and explained how his opinion had been changed from questioning to supporting after study. The committee chair had intended to move the bill for a House vote on April 20, but the Ways and Means Road Show schedule has delayed that until later next week. (See sidebar for remaining Road Show dates and locations.)

Ethics Measures: Bipartisan Effort

In discussing the D and R proposals for critical changes in Oregon's ethics laws, the Secretary of State indicated support both for the Governor's three bills and for seeking common ground with the Republican's six recommendations. The issues are important and need joint efforts of the two political parties in gaining back public support.

With regard to the above, on **April 27** the House Rules committee is hearing, with a possible work session, the five Republican ethics bills. Those with common ground are [HB 3505](#) and [HB 3043](#) on public records, and [HB 3043](#) on the public official

Marathon Gun Safety Hearing *today* with a work session April 22.

[Click here to read the Alert.](#)

Read Testimony by LWVOR Action Committee member Marge Easley. ([Click here](#))

Justice Reinvestment

[See the Action Alert](#) on [SB 5506](#),

Read about it in the article in *Street Roots*:

[Human investment: The politics of trying to keep people out of prison.](#)

Learn More at [Partnership for Justice and Safety](#).

Bills Supported by League move forward!

Recently, LWVOR Gun Safety Portfolio, Marge Easley, presented testimony on SB 941. ([Read the testimony here.](#))

[Read the Oregon Firearms Gun Safety Act press release](#)

In February, Debbie Aiona, LWVOR Affordable Housing Portfolio submitted testimony in Support of [HB 2564](#). ([Read the testimony here.](#))

[Read the Affordable Housing Press Release.](#)

status of the First Spouse. Also on the agenda are [HB 2790](#), which requires state agency heads to testify under oath; [HB 2791](#), which makes a crime of testifying falsely to a legislative committee; and [HB 3331](#), which allows the Legislature to appoint an independent counsel by joint resolution under certain circumstances. The bill to allow the Legislature to impeach a Governor has been heard. Its fate is unknown currently.

Women's Health and Wellness Update
[HB 2317A](#) **passed the House unanimously** on April 15. The measure extends the time for reporting a crime of rape, sodomy, unlawful penetration and sexual abuse from six to 12 years, and if the victim was a minor, anytime up to age 30. Many young girls or women cannot speak or discuss such crimes for an extended period afterwards, and this bill may encourage earlier reporting, or those who don't report to do so.

Tax Credits Update

The [Joint Tax Credits committee](#) held its first meeting for the purpose of organizing and establishing rules. The Policy committees, with organizations or businesses having tax credits on the sun-setting list, have been hearing testimony from those supporters and are to present recommendations for repeal, revision or ending the specific credits. The Joint Ways and Means committee has allocated \$14 million for those credits in 2015-17, the current value is \$64 million.

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Natural Resources

Deadlines: Bills Still Alive:

Monday, April 20 in Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee:
[SB 829 with -3 amendments](#), which **SUPPORT**, passed committee. It goes to the Senate floor with a do pass recommendation. The bill directs the Environmental Quality Commission to be involved in setting certain water quality standards. The League continues to be concerned that the proposed public process is just a means to delay adoption of new Environmental Protection Agency requirements for meeting Clean



Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator

And there's more!

Moving to work sessions are [HB 2633](#) (Natural Hazards Rulemaking). [Read the Leagues testimony in support.](#)

Another League supported win! [HB 246](#) the septic tank replacement loan program moves to Ways & Means.

The Action Team and Governor Kate Brown at the signing for the Motor Voter Bill.



Left to Right: Norman Turrill, LWVOR Governance Specialist, Gov. Brown, Kappy Eaton, LWVOR Governance Coordinator and Rebecca Gladstone, LWVOR Voter Service

[Governor Brown's Remarks as Prepared](#)

[Photos of Motor Voter Signing](#)

Ways & Means Hearings

Around the state.

[Click here to see Paula Krane's article in report #8 about attending.](#)

**Thursday, April 23
Springfield
6:30-8 p.m.**

Water standards.

[SB 716 with -5 amendments](#), which we **OPPOSED**, died in committee. It authorized the 3 Metro counties to designate one 150 to 500-acre industrial reserve outside of the regular public involvement. Proposed multiple amendments did not change the League's position.

Tuesday, April 21 in House Agriculture and Natural Resources:

[HB 3123](#), [3429](#) and [3434](#), a series of bills related to aerial spraying and pesticides, were considered. Although not as strong as the League would like, we expect one or more of these bills to go to Ways and Means for funding.

Tuesday, April 21 in House Rural Communities, Land Use and Water:

[HB 3474](#), a bill that would create a Commission to help determine how to address the Elliott State Forest, has the support of Treasurer Wheeler and Secretary of State Atkins. **League volunteer Jennifer Haynes** provided [testimony](#) at the 04-16 public hearing. (**SUPPORT**)

[HB 3417](#) (amendments may be proposed) to increase public access to Regional Solutions Advisory Committees. (**SUPPORT**)

[HB 2666](#) (amendments being proposed) is a "right to mine" bill and would increase mining on agricultural lands. There were many letters in opposition as well as a room full of people providing oral testimony against. ([Read the League's testimony.](#)) The aggregate industry was the voice in support. (**OPPOSE**)

[HB 3412](#) requires the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to provide natural hazards data. (**SUPPORT**)

Tuesday, April 21 in House Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness:

[HB 3315](#) with -3 amendment authorizes the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department to begin gathering information on the cost to provide a variety of services to other agencies to provide future legislatures with information as to whether this should be a General Fund cost or billed to the permit applicants in other agencies. (**SUPPORT**)

Tuesday, April 21 in Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness:

[SB 94](#) (may be amended) directs Land Conservation and Development Commission to do

**City Hall, Library
Meeting Room**

**Friday, April 24
Klamath Falls
5:30-7 p.m. - Oregon
Institute of
Technology**

**Saturday, April 25
Grants Pass
12:30-2 p.m.
Performing Arts
Center**

**ACTION ALERT
SB 680**

**National
Popular 
Vote**

**Your involvement is
needed. Senate
Leadership is holding
up a vote on this bill.
[Read how you can
help.](#)**

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Legislature's bills,
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rulemaking on tsunami hazards. (**Support**, although we believe that [HB 2633](#) is sufficient to address this important issue.)

Tuesday, April 21 in House Energy and Environment:

[HB 3470](#) Climate Stability and Justice Act 2015 had a public hearing on April 14. The League provided an Action Alert (details at: <http://www.lwvor.org/act-on-climate-stability/>). League volunteer Claudia Keith, who carries our Climate Change Portfolio, worked with many partners, including the Oregon Environmental Council and Oregon League of Conservation Voters to encourage attendance at the hearing and/or to provide written testimony. There were more than 200 people stacked into three hearing rooms and the Galleria from around the state-most were supportive of at least one of the three bills heard ([HB 3250](#), [3252](#) and [3470](#)). [HB 3470](#) is still alive. (**SUPPORT**)

Claudia is continuing to "work" the bill-meeting with legislators, contacting interested parties to help advocate for the bill. With our LWVUS resolution passed in June of 2014, she is leading a major statewide advocacy effort to ensure passage of carbon pricing legislation this session.

[HB 3415](#) imposes a 10-year moratorium on use of hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas exploration and production. Amendments are expected to narrow the bill slightly. (**SUPPORT**)

[HB 3225](#), the Rail Oil Safety Bill, is meant to address the concerns around the number of oil trains now traveling through our state. Amendments are expected. (**SUPPORT**)

Bills moved to Ways and Means:

[SB 246](#) with -2 amendment authorizes the Environmental Quality Commission to develop a loan program for failing on-site septic systems of low-income homeowners. It passed out of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on a 4-1 vote. Supporters are asking for \$4 million to begin the program. (**SUPPORT**)

SB 266 with -7 amendment allows the Water Resources Department (WRD) to assist in place-based planning, including offering grants to local jurisdictions. The bill passed out of Senate Environment and Natural Resources. WRD has asked for \$750,000 and 2 new staff persons in their budget. (**SUPPORT**)

[HB 3089](#) with [-1 amendment](#) requires the

[e-subscribe on OLIS](#)
[\(Oregon Legislature's Information System\)](#)
Also,
[Oregonian Bill Tracker](#)

This Session

Measures introduced: 2,745

Passed by House: 279

Passed by Senate: 221

Signed by Governor: 33

This Session

Measures introduced: 2,745

Passed by House: 279

Passed by Senate: 221

Signed by Governor: 33

Legislative Bill Work Session Deadlines:

04/21 - Deadline to hold 1st chamber work sessions

05/22 - Deadline to post 2nd chamber work sessions

06/05 Last day to hold work sessions for 2nd chamber.

League Links

[LWVOR Action Team](#)

[LWV of Oregon](#)

[LWV of the US](#)

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to conduct studies for the mining industry. The fiscal impact is indeterminate. (**OPPOSE**)

[HB 2633](#) with **[-4 amendment](#)** directs the Land Conservation and Development Commission to initiate rulemaking to ensure that local governments plan for tsunamis and earthquakes and climate change adaptation for wildfires, coastal and riverine flooding, coastal erosion, and landslides. The fiscal impact is expected to be at least \$50,000, but estimates are up to \$200,000. (**SUPPORT**)

[SB 830](#) with **[-3 amendment](#)** requires rulemaking on suction dredge mining. Senators Alan Bates and Brian Boquist attended the hearing and asked for more time to find a balance between protecting our rivers and allowing a limited amount of mining. The League reluctantly supported, although we noted that we do not like policy bills to continue to be "worked" in Ways and Means where only the costs of programs should be considered. (**SUPPORT**)

[SB 952](#) with **[-1 amendment](#)**: Task Force on Funding Natural Resource Agencies. The League worked with others, including the Governor's Office, to create a balanced membership and guidelines. (**SUPPORT**)

Bills that "died": **[SB 748](#)**, which authorizes exceptions to our statewide land use planning goals if the proposed development meets certain employment criteria, is yet another attempt to open up large portions of the state to unfettered development. (**OPPOSED**)

[SB 477](#), Coal to Clean Energy, would have transitioned Oregon away from coal to healthy, clean energy. (**SUPPORTED**)

[SB 359](#) would have limited the amount of appeals fees for certain land use actions. (**SUPPORTED**)

Budgets beginning to move:

This week the Department of State Lands (**[HB 5037](#)**), Land Use Board of Appeals (**[HB 5028](#)**) and the Columbia River Gorge Commission (**[HB 5010](#)**) budgets will be "worked" and probably moved to the House chamber for a vote. These are budgets with small General Fund allocations. The more complicated budgets will be considered later. The League provided testimony in support of these budgets.

Now that all the natural resource agency budgets have been heard a first time and the League has

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provided testimony in support of many of their programs and Policy Option Packages (new spending), we will be talking to Legislators to share our positions on these programs to convince them of the importance of funding these programs. In some cases, we may be recommending that certain programs not be funded.

Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator; Claudia Keith, Climate Change Portfolio; Jennifer Haynes, Forests and Pesticides Portfolios; Marge Easley, Land Use and Aggregate Portfolio

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Social Policy

Mental Health, Judiciary, and Public Safety

The Oregon State Hospital Budget in **SB 5526** was reviewed by Ways and Means Human Services on April 14.

The population of adults committed for evaluations of the ability to aid and assist in their defense for criminal

charges has doubled from 84 to 168 since 2010. In the 2013 session, bills attempted to limit aid and assist commitments to the most serious cases, but less serious offenders are still committed. A new bill requires county mental health staff to evaluate those charged to determine if they can be treated in the community. If outpatient treatment is required, those services have to be provided. The

Addictions and Mental Health Division is mapping the geographical availability of mental health courts and services. If this population continues to expand at OSH, a new ward at Junction City will be opened, but it may house those already found to be Guilty Except for Insanity. Another option is to move those who have improved to a lower level of care in the community, if placement can be found. The League submitted a letter in support of **SB 5526**, which covers these issues. ([Click here to read testimony.](#))



Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator

The **Psychiatric Security Review Board, SB 5532**, supervises those found to be **Guilty Except for Insanity** in community placements. The PSRB holds hearings to determine conditional release

[LWVOR Action Team](#)**State Bonding Capacity**

For the 2015-17 biennium, the maximum recommended General Fund capacity is \$974 million and lottery bonding capacity is \$161 million. Both are less than the requests. Although our bond rating is AA+, factors that affect our rating include the kicker law, the volatility of our personal income tax and our active initiative process. Capital Construction informational hearing was held March 20th.

Information on bond financing: [State Bond Financing in Oregon](#) from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

[Overview of the 2015 Debt Policy Advisory Commission Report](#)**From LWVUS: UPDATE**[Meeting Basic Human Needs Position](#)**Want to see how your legislators are voting?**

- [click on link below](#)
- [click on your legislator's name see how they voting in the 2015 session.](#)

[Oregonian Legislator website](#)

[Check out the National Website with blogs from around the U.S. Leagues:](#)

capacity. Currently 380 adults are living in the community with a recidivism rate of 0.64%. Bills this session were [HB 2556](#) to use sentencing guidelines for the length of jurisdiction, [HB 2557](#) to include recovery and reintegration as goals in addition to public safety and [HB 2562](#) to expunge the GEI finding from records after discharge from supervision.

Ways and Means Human Services had a hearing on Housing available in state agencies through the **Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), Addictions and Mental Health (AMH) and the Department of Human Services Aging and Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities.** All three agencies talked about housing programs for these special populations. Several bills have been considered for additional housing options. [HB 2547A](#) sets up a Task Force on housing with services projects to report back in December of 2015. Portland has a project now. The bill passed out of the House Human Services Committee on Friday and will be sent to the House floor for a vote. [HB 3420](#) directs OHCS to develop and administer Housing First Programs for individuals and families who are homeless. Albany and Eugene have pilot projects. It passed on 04-17 with a 9-0 vote. [HB 2198](#) asks the OHCS to report back to the Legislature by July 1, 2016 on Housing services provided. The bill is scheduled for a work session 4-20.

[HB 3132](#) requests that conduit bonds be approved for the construction of residential facilities for mental health and substance abuse clients, domestic violence victims, and people with disabilities. County governments can request bonds for non-profit agencies facilities, which will be paid back by the non-profits. This bill is congruent with the Department of Justice effort to encourage the development of community resources for the mentally ill. This bill passed the House floor with a 57-yes vote.

House Human Services - [HB 2194A](#) creates a general assistance (GA) pilot project administered by the Department of Human Services. The former GA program for very low income adults was closed in 2007, but the current proposal to reopen is a narrow project. An estimated 200 Medicaid-eligible adults can get housing and \$60 a month for incidentals. DHS plans to assist in the application for SSI disability. When the applicant receives the benefit, he or she can repay the state from the lump sum back payment. DHS is to appoint an advisory group to develop metrics and evaluation.

LWV of SW Missouri: Candi-Dating

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Read Kappy Eaton's Article on Honoring Abigail Scott Duniway and Chief Joseph in her Governance Report in LR #9.

The amended bill was passed out of committee by 6 yes and 3 no votes and was referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

HB 2219A proposes to set up a Work Group to simplify the DHS application process for services for financial assistance, food and child care programs. The bill passed on April 30 and was referred to Senate Human Services and Early Childhood. **HB 2232A** directs DHS to appoint an advisory committee for the delivery of services to runaway and homeless youth and their families. The bill was passed by the House on 57 Aye votes and was also referred to Senate Human Services.

Progress on Health Care: **HB 2934A** on Basic Health was passed by the House Health Care Committee on April 13 and is scheduled for a floor vote early this week. The bill asks the Oregon Health Authority to convene a stakeholder group to recommend policy and financial preferences in the design and operation of a basic health program. The group shall consider the findings from the independent study previously commissioned in 2013. The bill requesting funding for the study remains in Ways and Means.

The Public Health Modernization bill, HB 3100A, was amended again on April 17 and passed out of the House Health Care Committee. The bill was moved to the House floor with a subsequent referral to the Ways and Means Committee. The Chair reported that all parties were satisfied with the bill, but there will be a substantial financial investment over time in public health. A few committee members wanted to include mental health in the mix of public health services. Ways and Means Public Safety heard about the Justice Reinvestment Grants for Community Corrections in **SB 5506** from the Criminal Justice Commission staff on April 21. An Alert has been sent to LWVOR members to advocate for the continuation of these programs to decrease the prison populations and fund community corrections options for adult probationers and parolees. Be aware of the efforts in your county and contact your legislators about their support. (**Read the Alert.**)

Gun Safety bills were heard in Senate Judiciary. The League opposed **SB 170**, which asked for firearm safety class in schools. The League supported **SB 945**, which prevented minors from accessing firearms as well as the earlier **SB 941** on background checks for private gun sales. SB 945 was not on the April 20 agenda for a work session.



[Click here for the Oregon Historical Society's Statuary Hall Study Commission's Final Recommendation.](#)



[LWVOR UPDATES HEALTH CARE PAYER STATEMENT](#)
([click here](#))

[California looks to Oregon to adopt the Motor Voter Law.](#)
[Read the Statesman Journal article.](#)

[Read the U.S. Department of Justice information about the National VotersRegistration Act \(NVRA\) also known as the Motor Voter Act.](#)

[Voter Registration Lookup available online through the SOS office.](#)

Address changes can also be made at the SOS link above.

It's your right . . . It's your responsibility to vote.

House Judiciary has heard bills relating to Mental Health: **[HB 2420A](#)** asks county mental health staff to interview those charged with C Felony crimes or misdemeanors, who appear to be unfit to proceed on criminal charges, to determine if they can be treated in the community. The bill was passed out of committee and by the House floor with 59 aye votes. It was referred to Senate Judiciary.

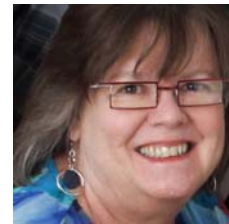
[HB 3249](#) proposed to expand the court's authority in Assisted Outpatient Treatment cases when a mentally ill person is mandated to comply with treatment in the community. If the person fails to comply with treatment, this bill requests the authority to commit to the Oregon State Hospital.. The bill was heard on April 9 but has not been scheduled for a work session. The consensus of parties was that work was needed before the issue could be resolved.

[HB 3503](#), which proposes a **Family Sentencing Alternative** to prison, was amended and passed to Ways and Means for funding decision. **[HB 2198](#)** on housing for families was heard on the same date, amended and sent to Rules without recommendation. Ways and Means for a funding decision. **[HB 3535](#)** on redesign to the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program was heard 4-20, amended and passed to Rules for further amendments. **[HB 3524](#)** on use of disposable state lands for affordable housing was amended and sent to the House floor with further work expected in the Senate committee.

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Social Policy on Education, Early Intervention, and Family

[SB 215](#), relating to a sunset on The Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB), had a hearing in February. This bill has been the subject of a large work group trying to reach consensus on amendment(s) to determine how authority and dollars are to be shared among OEIB, Department of Education, local school districts, and others. Amendment(s) were not available for the 4-17 work session in the Senate Committee on Education so the bill was moved to the Rules Committee without recommendation as to passage. **The yet unpublished amendment is expected to substantially change the operations of OEIB.** The Oregon Education Investment Board



Chris Vogel,
Education Portfolio



Budget Bill, [HB 5022](#), was heard in the Joint Ways and Means Sub-Committee On Education this week on 4-20 and 21.

LWVOR provided testimony in support of [HB 2016](#), relating to statewide education plans to develop and implement the plan for educationally disadvantaged youth. A **--2 amendment focuses on** "a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12, who is African-American or a member of a student group that has experienced disproportionate outcomes in education due to historical practices, as identified by the State Board of Education by rule." The Department of Education shall develop and implement a statewide education plan in consultation with Youth Development Division, the Early Learning Division and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. A work session is scheduled in the House Education Committee on April 20. ([Click here to read League testimony.](#))

[SB 890](#) creates a 16-member task force that focuses on addressing the needs of both vulnerable parents and children together to reduce poverty. It will study assets and the deficits associated with the poverty experienced by people of color, working class people, immigrants, and intergenerational families. It would include representatives from the Department of Human Services; Housing and Community Services Department; Oregon Health Authority; Oregon Business Development Department; Oregon Education Investment Board; Legislators; and community stakeholders. The bill was scheduled for a [work session on April 21](#) in the Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee. The bill was supported by LWVOR testimony ([Click here to read testimony.](#))

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