



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON

# Legislative Report

April 29, 2015

Volume 25, Number 11

## 2015 Legislative Session

### In This Issue

[NATURAL RESOURCES](#)

[SOCIAL POLICY](#)

[GOVERNANCE](#)

**Printer-Friendly  
Version**

### **ODOT Rail Division schedules public meetings in Pendleton, Bend, Klamath Falls and Keizer**

*The meetings in May will provide the public with information and gather input from the public on updating and/or deleting current OARs while adopting new OARS to establish responsibility, communications and notifications of Oregon hazardous materials transport. ([Read hearing notice.](#))*

### **PUBLIC HEARING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS**

Blue Mountain Community  
College, Room ST200  
2411 NW Carden Avenue,  
Pendleton OR  
Tuesday, May 5, 2015  
3:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.

## Natural Resources

### **Breathe . . . Updates, Drinking Water Safety, Rail Oil Safety and more**



*Peggy Lynch, Natural  
Resources  
Coordinator*

**Time to take a Breath:** The Natural Resources Action Team has been working hard for you (and we can always use more help!). First, whenever you read about a bill in the Legislative Report that we support or oppose, please let your legislators know. Tell them why you think the bill is good or not so good. You are also encouraged to write personal letters to the Committee named in the report. We have moved to the "second half." Fewer bills, but louder voices needed!

### **Update from Last Week:**

**[HB 3470 Introduced](#)** Climate Stability and Justice Act 2015 was **[amended by the -1 \(HB 3470A\)](#)** and sent to House Rules for further consideration. The League continues to **SUPPORT** this important legislation to ensure passage of carbon pricing legislation this session.

**[HB 3415 Introduced](#)** would have imposed a 10-year moratorium on use of hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas exploration and production. The **[-2 amendments](#)** that were adopted significantly dilute the impact of the bill, and the bill was moved to Ways and Means. (Read **[HB 3415A](#)** Engrossed). The League is reviewing to see if we can still **SUPPORT** the bill.

**[HB 3225](#)**, the Rail Oil Safety Bill, addresses applicable safety regulation and funding for comprehensive prevention measures, preparedness

Deschutes Public Library,  
Brooks Room  
601 Wall Street, Bend OR  
Wednesday, May 6, 2015  
3:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.

Klamath Community College,  
Room H138  
7390 S Sixth Street, Klamath  
Falls OR  
Thursday, May 7, 2015  
3:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.

Keizer City Hall, Room Iris B  
930 Chemawa Road NE,  
Keizer OR  
Monday, May 11, 2015  
3:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.

*\*Rules to be adopted:* 741-510-0015, 741-510-0025, 741-510-0035, 741-510-0045, 741-510-0050

*\*Rules to be amended:* 741-510-0010, 741-510-0020

*\*Rules to be repealed:* 741-510-0030, 741-510-0040

***\*Read proposed rule text***

*For more details read the  
Portland Tribune article,  
***"State sets meeting on oil  
train rules"****

**League of Women  
Voters at  
Corvallis is  
co-sponsoring**



**"Nature's Trust"**  
with Mary Woods,  
University of Oregon  
Professor and crafter of  
"Atmospheric Trust  
Litigation"

**LaSell's Stewart Center**  
Oregon State University  
Construction & Engineering  
Hall

**Thursday, April 30  
7:00 p.m.**

related education, relevant equipment/machinery requirements, extensive training and other efforts to prevent and prepare for the public/environmental tragedy that can accompany oil spill accidents associated with existing insufficient standard vessel and rail transportation and associated storage practices. Although amendments were proposed, none were adopted and the bill was sent to House Rules without recommendation. **(SUPPORT)** In the meantime, the Oregon Department of Transportation is holding hearings around the state to consider new rules around this important public safety issue. See side bar and read the Portland Tribune article: [State sets meetings on oil train rules](#).

Although the comprehensive Public Health and Drinking Water Safety bill related to aerial spraying practices, [SB 613](#), is dead, [HB 3434](#) was amended by the -2s and was sent to Ways and Means. [HB 3123](#) and [HB 3429](#) died in Committee; however, Speaker Kotek has promised a new bill that has the content of the -2 amendments and from these other two bills. The new bill would be what came from a legislator work group during session. The League is reviewing to see whether or not to support these bills, since they don't really provide advance notice of spray events nor provide expanded buffers from schools, homes nor streams. The League did ask for funding for an expanded notification program in our [Dept. of Forestry budget testimony](#).

[HB 2666 Introduced](#) with [-4 amendments](#) ([read 2666 A](#)) was sent to House Rules for further consideration. This is a "right to mine" bill and would increase mining on agricultural lands. **(OPPOSE)**

[HB 3315 Introduced](#) with -3 amendments was sent to the House Floor "do pass". It authorizes the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department to begin gathering information on the cost to provide services to other agencies so future legislatures can determine whether this should be a General Fund cost or billed to the permit applicants in other agencies. **(SUPPORT)**

[HB 3412 Introduced](#) with [-1 amendment](#) (see amended bill in OLIS overview [HB 3412 A](#)) was sent to Ways and Means. It requires the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to provide natural hazards data. **(SUPPORT)**

[SB 94 Introduced](#) with [-1](#), [-2](#) and [-3](#) amendments directs the Land Conservation and

[Read more at the Corvallis League website](#)

[Click here to see poster being circulated.](#)

## 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](#).

### [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.](#)**

#### Updates on Bills Supported by League

Development Commission to do rulemaking on tsunami hazards. Amendments address equipment needs and collaboration in case of tsunamis. The bill was sent to Ways and Means. ([Click here to see the committee action on SB 94](#)). The League **SUPPORTS** the base bill, although we believe that [HB 2633](#) has the support of more parties and is sufficient to address this important issue.

[SB 829 \(introduced\)](#) with [-3 amendments](#) (click here for [SB 829A](#)): Directs 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 Water standards, but we are **Neutral** on this amended bill.

**Bills moved to Ways and Means we SUPPORT:**  
[SB 246 Introduced](#) with [-2 amendment](#), ([SB 246A Engrossed](#)), [SB 266 Introduced](#) with [-7 amendment](#), [HB 2633](#) with [-4 amendment](#) ([click here to read HB2633A text and overview](#)), [SB 830](#) with [-3 amendment](#), [SB 952 Introduced](#) with [-1 amendment](#).

**Bills moved to Ways and Means we OPPOSE:**  
[HB 3089](#) with [-1 amendment](#).

Bills that "died" last week: [SB 716](#), authorizing the 3 Metro counties to designate one 150 to 500-acre industrial reserve outside of the regular public involvement. -7 amendments were adopted that would have only included Clackamas and Columbia Counties and no more than 400 acres. The League still **OPPOSED**. The amended bill failed 3-2 in Committee. However, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee Chair Edwards stated that he was very disappointed. We may still see a "priority bill" filed. Each Senator and representative has a few opportunities to file bills at the last minute. They still have to go through the committee process, but there will be less time for the public to address them. If there's a bill with a "relating to" clause that he can use coming over from the House, it may get "gut and stuffed" with new language. Stay tuned!

[HB 3474](#), was a bill that would create a Commission to help determine how to address the Elliott State Forest. (**SUPPORTED**).

Instead [HB 3533](#) was sent to House Rules without recommendation that would allow sale of the Elliott

## as they continue to move forward!

At the marathon hearing on SB 941 LWVOR Gun Safety Portfolio, Marge Easley, pushed forward with additional testimony on SB 941. ([Read updated testimony here.](#)) Read about latest status of this bill in Social Policy.

### [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.](#))

**UPDATE: Passed the House. Awaits scheduling before Senate Committee On Human Services and Early Childhood**

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

## And there's more!

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

**UPDATE:** In Joint Ways & Means

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

***It's Not Too Late!***  
***If you missed the Ways & Means Road Show Hearings, you***

by removing a 1913 statute prohibiting same. The League did not weigh in on this bill but would **OPPOSE** as written.

[HB 3417](#), would increase public access to Regional Solutions Advisory Committees. (**SUPPORTED**) Rulemaking had begun setting criteria for the Infrastructure Finance Authority Regional Fund before this bill was filed. We have been promised that increased meeting notice will be part of that rulemaking.

**Budgets beginning to move:** This week the Parks and Recreation Department ([SB 5528](#)), Department of Land Conservation and Development ([HB 5027](#)) and the Oregon State Marine Board ([SB 5522](#) & [HB 2459](#)-fee bill) budgets will be "worked" and probably moved to Full Ways and Means. Last week's three budgets were amended and moved to the Full Ways and Means "do pass". You can find that information on OLIS.

We are continuing to talk to Legislators to share our positions on these programs-support or opposed--to specific funding requests. We are also beginning to share our position on policy bills that have been sent to Ways and Means for funding.

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

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## [Social Policy](#)

### **Public Safety Budgets, Human Services, House Health Care**

#### **Public Safety Budgets in Process**

The Criminal Justice Commission continues to play an important role in funding for specialty courts in state district courts. Ways and Means Public Safety

Subcommittee reviewed the programs this week. Currently there are 30 adult drug courts, 8 juvenile drug courts, 11 family courts, 13 mental health



*Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator*

**can still make your voice heard.**

**[Click here to email your written testimony or comments on bills in Ways and Means](#)**

When reading the articles be on the lookout for bills that have moved to W & M. (There are currently over 270 policy bills in W & M *now!*)

## **Revenue Forecast May 14, 2015**

Many bills in Ways and Means will not be acted upon until the Forecast from the [Office of Economic Analysis](#) is released.

Click here to Read the [February 19, 2015 Forecast](#)

## **Bipartisan Oregon**

Statistics shows that 65% of the bills signed by the governor were passed unanimously. This means these bills, now laws, were bipartisan supported. Another 31% had support from both Democrats and Republicans.

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

courts, 4 veterans' courts and 18 other court programs throughout the state.

The CJC passes \$13 million in General Fund to specialty courts. The **CJC Budget**, [SB 5506](#), includes a current service level of \$53 million in operating costs and a request for a program analyst, a research analyst and account technician for new programs. ([Read testimony.](#)) [HB 3017](#) asks for funds for a study of the efficacy of Mental Health Courts. The Judicial Budget contains a POP for 14 drug court coordinators at a cost of \$2.7 million. The requests for 3 additional judges and salary increases were passed to Ways and Means. The Oregon Judicial Department Budget will be reviewed again this coming week.

The implementation of [HB 3194 \(2013\)](#) continues to work on the reduction of the prison population and the provision of community corrections programs in the counties. The CJC is administering the grants to counties for services for adults on diversion from prison and parolees on transitional leave. LWVOR sent out an alert for local leagues to request support for their local programs and to send messages to legislators asking for support for these prison reduction programs. ([Read Alert](#))

Committees within CJC are monitoring five areas of implementation: outcomes based on recidivism, supervision and sanctions, specialty courts, policing excellence and juvenile task force. [HB 2907](#) considered revising the definition of recidivism in juvenile cases to match the adult recidivism stats. The bill did not progress due to disagreements, but a work group will work on this revision during the interim. [SB 366](#) on the definition of adult recidivism moved to the Senate floor.

### **Gun Safety**

[SB 941](#), requiring background checks on all gun transfers, is now headed to the House floor after a marathon hearing in House Rules on 4/22 that lasted over seven hours. League testimony in support of the bill was given prominent mention in this Statesman Journal article: [Oregon house panel hears hours of testimony.](#)

### **Human Services Half Session Decisions**

The Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee reviewed the Department of Human Services and its programs last week. The [HB 5026](#) Budget request was 7% over the last biennium. The Self Sufficiency part of the budget includes the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, assistance to prevent the need for TANF application, day care, and food programs. DHS



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](#)

**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.](#)**

**Legislative Bill Work Session Deadlines:**

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

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

***Bill Trackers***  
*Track Oregon Legislature's bills, committees and activities using*  
***e-subscribe on OLIS***  
*(Oregon Legislature's Information System*  
*Also,*  
***Oregonian Bill Tracker***

proposes to redesign TANF by adding staff for lower caseloads, provide the JOBS program, extend benefits for 3 months after starting employment, and pay a higher rate to child care providers. [HB 3535A](#), the implementation bill, was heard in House Human Services Committee on April 20 but it was passed to Rules for further work.

[HB 2198](#) was amended to add conditions for the Oregon Housing and Community Services report to the legislature. \$100 million was proposed for housing programs but the legislators wanted specifics on state priorities, such as housing for families with children and reducing the cost of construction. This comprehensive bill was sent without recommendation to Rules, so we will be watching House Rules Committee agendas. The Housing First bill, [HB 3420](#), was amended and moved to Rules. This bill includes priorities for housing families and chronic homeless persons. [HB 3424](#), giving non-profits first choice on the purchase of government lands for affordable housing, passed to the House floor with a do pass recommendation.

The **House Health Care Committee** sent bills to Rules on the last two days. [HB 2877](#) to evaluate the Coordinated Care Organizations, [HB 2878](#) to establish a task force on barriers to insurance, and [HB 2879](#) to establish a task force to study the financing and delivery of health care in this state. [HB 2828](#), on the Health Care Study, and [HB 2934](#), on the Basic Health Plan, remain in the Ways and Means Committee.

Two other bills of interest, [HB 3245A](#) and [HB 3347A](#), passed and were moved to the House floor. HB 3245A amended the tax credit for medically underserved areas and required treatment of Medicaid patients. [HB 3347A](#) redefined the definition of a person with mental illness "as dangerous to self or others, unable to provide for basic personal needs that are necessary to avoid serious physical harm in the near future, and is not receiving such care as is necessary to avoid such harm."

The Senate Health Care Committee passed [SB 660A](#), which directs OHA to develop a dental screening program for students and to apply dental sealants. Related bills that passed were [SB 672A](#) which created the office of oral health within the Oregon Health Authority; [SB 692A](#) on dental pilots under Medicaid, and [SB 696A](#), which covers a new treatment of Applied Behavior Analysis for Autism.

***This  
Session***

***Measures introduced:  
2,753***

***HOUSE  
Introduced  
Passed: 348***

***SENATE  
Introduced:  
Passed: 276***

***Signed by Governor: 43***

***[LWVOR Battle Front!  
Read the Issues on Social  
Policy, Governance and  
Natural Resources as  
captured by our LWVOR  
Coodinators.](#)***

**Support the Action  
Committee!**



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**State Bonding Capacity**

These bills will have a fiscal impact and will be sent to Ways and Means.

On the last day in the Senate Human Services Committee, [SB 832A](#) was amended and passed to provide grants for integrating mental health and physical health services in CCOs; the bill will move to the Senate floor and be referred to Ways and Means. [SB 890A](#) approved the 2-generation emphasis on services and will move to the Senate floor and Ways and Means.

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**Social Policy on Education, Early Intervention, and Family**

[SB 215](#), April 28-30 the Early Learning Division (ELD) of the Department of Education (DOE) shall present their portion of the Department of Education (DOE) budget bill [HB 5016](#) in "round two" detailed version before the Joint Subcommittee on Education. Pathway to Kindergarten Readiness and 3rd Grade Reading includes: full day kindergarten; early literacy investment to reach 95% literacy by 3rd grade; early learning investments in home visits, early intervention, pre-k to kindergarten partnerships; increased funding for early learning hubs; expansion of employment related day-care; culturally responsive teaching practices, including K-12 mentoring; expansion of district collaboration; and support for low-reforming districts. ([Click here to read LWVOR testimony supporting Age 3 to Grade 3.](#))



**Chris Vogel,  
Early Education  
Specialist**

On April 20 [HB 5022](#) the budget bill for the **Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB)** was presented, but the future of OEIB is in limbo. OEIB is charged with linking the Prenatal to Community College (P-20) timeline for students across historical barriers, especially watching these transition points: more kids ready to enter kindergarten; more 3rd graders reading at or above reading level; more 9th graders finishing strong without dropping out; higher high school and college graduation rates; and more Oregonians in satisfying careers. Presently there is a legislatively led task force working on the continued responsibilities of OEIB to avoid sun-setting, but limiting OEIB's power, [SB 215](#). [SB 909 \(2011\)](#) established the OEIB and Chief Education Officer to support the 40/40/20 education goal by 2025 and

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](#)

**[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.](#)**

to eliminate the education achievement gap seen in children of color and those living in poverty. The bill established the OEIB "for the purpose of ensuring that all public school students in this state reach the education outcomes established for the state," and cites that it will "accomplish this goal by overseeing a unified public education system that begins with early childhood services and continues throughout public education from kindergarten to post-secondary education." SB 215 amendments have not yet appeared at this late date, but are expected to extend OEIB for four more years with diminished responsibilities. The bill was moved to the Senate Committee on Rules to stay alive. LWVOR is intensely watching this bill and release of the amendments of this closed work group. No LWVOR position can be taken until the amendments are public.

Some Early Learning and Children at Risk bills that remain active at the "half way" point of the session are as of 4/24/15 are listed below. LWVOR testimony was based on prior Positions from LWVUS and LWVOR not on the present LWVOR-EF [Children at Risk Study](#). Early Learning Early Intervention that is in Consensus with Positions anticipated later this year. Bills include [SB 213 A](#) to develop metrics for funding Early Learning Hubs; [HB 3380 A](#) to administer voluntary preschool programs for children ages 3-5 of families whose incomes are below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines; [HB 2232 A](#) to appoint an advisory committee regarding delivery of services to run-away and homeless youth and their families; [HB 2016](#), to develop and implement a statewide education plan for educationally disadvantaged youth; [HB 2232 A](#), to build a more effective system for preventing children's behavioral, psychological and health problems; [HB 2015 A](#) to adopt rules for subsidy programs for employment-related child care (ERDC) that, at minimum, provide for one year of eligibility; and [SB 632](#) to administer a pilot program to improve outcomes for those in its custody or foster care.

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## Governance

[Campaign Finance Reform, NPV, Ethics, Women's Health](#)



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## and Wellness Update, Tax Credits Committee



*Kappy Eaton,  
Governance  
Coordinator*

### Campaign Finance Reform Update

The Senate Rules committee, on April 21, had its first 2015 "standing room only" hearing on the subject of campaign finance reform. The League testified in support of SJR 5, the proposed constitutional amendment to allow the Legislature and the public, by initiative, to set limits on candidate political campaign contributions. Few were in opposition, reflecting Oregonians (74% favorable polling) continued approval of limits, especially in this era of limitless dollars. Oregon had limits from the early 1900s until 1975, when the Legislature repealed them in favor of spending limits which were declared unconstitutional. No limits were in effect until 1994, when a successful initiative effort, co-sponsored by the League, was in place for the 1996 election cycle. Again, a lawsuit decision by the Oregon Supreme Court banned the limits. During the hearing support also was given by Common Cause Oregon and several citizens. [SB 75](#), a statute to establish limits, was also briefly discussed. The League does not support this proposal because its limits are too high.

### National Popular Vote Update

The Interstate Compact authorized by [HB 3475](#) and supported by the League, the Bus Project, Common Cause Oregon, and AARP, among others, is up for a work session this week. It is expected to be before the House for a vote on May 4. As soon as enough states to total 270 or more Electoral College votes have signed the Compact, the Presidential candidate who receives the majority popular vote across the 50 states and D.C. will be assured of winning the election. The count is now at 61% of the number needed to implement NVP.

### Ethics Issues Coming Forward

Both the Governor and the Republican (Rs) Leadership have drafted revisions to the state's Ethics laws. The House Rules Committee held a hearing on April 27 on the Rs proposals. [HB 3505](#) relates to public records statutes, which go back decades and are in need of revision, particularly to the provisions for public access. The bill would require retention schedules of certain materials and establish a three year retention requirement. Additions to the current law include legislative, electronic and social media, maximum fees for

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



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



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

**[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.**



**[League Links](#)**

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copying, and consequences for delays in providing the materials requested. [HB 2791](#) would require public agency testifiers to take an oath as to accuracy and truth of their information given to a committee. HB 2791 makes falsification of statements to legislative committees a crime.

[HB 3043](#) would require that the Governor provide identity information about the First Spouse to the Oregon Ethics Commission and set policies and procedures regarding the public role of the First Spouse, prohibiting policy-making or agenda-setting. [HB 3331](#) would allow the Legislature to appoint an independent counsel by Joint Resolution. [HB 4537](#) would require a member of the Legislature to file a statement of paid political activity with the Secretary of State if the member, or an immediate family member, serves as a paid candidate consultant. The League submitted Comments on these bills, particularly related to the need for public records laws to be revised, with fewer exemptions, better and faster responses to records requests, and retention limits.

The Governor's bills are [SB 9](#), which was discussed April 28, and [HB 2019](#) and [HB 2020](#). SB 9 is related to important ethics revisions, such as found in [HB 3505](#)(Rs). Policies regarding the First Partner as a public official are addressed in HBs 2019 and 2020. The League is encouraging both the House and Senate Rules committees to consider all of the proposals together and to seek common ground for amendments.

#### **Tax Credits Review**

Oregon's tax expenditures, consisting of credits, referrals, deductions and exemptions, account for \$38.7 billion in money the state doesn't receive. Each regular session of the legislature (odd-numbered year) is now required to review tax credits scheduled to sunset in the year following the session. There are 18 in that category for 2016. Together, they account for \$64 million. The former Governor recommended retention of all the credits; however the new Governor identified repealing about \$15 million. **The Joint Ways and Means Committee has proposed no more than \$14 million in appropriations for the credits under review.**

The Joint Tax Credits Committee has received the recommendations from the policy committees and held hearings on them this week. Their choices are repeal, revision or continuation, and they have \$50 million to cut. One new credit for employment-related household services and dependent care

[LWV of the US](#)

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expenses was included. Others include persons with severe disability, expenses in lieu of nursing home care, children with disabilities care, long-term care insurance premiums and contributions to the Office of Child Care (3). Decisions are not easy.

### **Women's Health and Wellness**

At the meeting of the Alliance April 21, the legislative issues concerning women were updated after the deadlines for hearings and work sessions passed. Several investments for women's health and safety are included in the proposed Department of Human Services budget, [HB 5026](#), now in Ways and Means and expected to pass. [SB 492](#), which allows use of sick or personal business days for employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, has passed the Senate. [SB 525](#), dealing with possession of firearms by a person subject to a restraining order or domestic violence conviction, is on the way to the Senate, and [SB 759A](#), which requires all public and private colleges and universities in Oregon to adopt written protocol for victims of sexual assault, has passed the Senate.

[SB 894](#), an omnibus bill on women's health and safety, has been moved from the 2015 legislative agenda and will be considered in 2016. [HB 2007](#), wage discussion transparency discrimination, has passed the House, but [HB 2006](#), **pay equity, has died**. Also, the minimum wage bills, [HBs 2008, 2009](#) and [2012](#), have been moved from the House Business and Labor Committee to the House Rules Committee, where their future is uncertain.

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