



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON

Legislative Report

July 1, 2015

Volume 25, Number 19

2015 Legislative Session

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[Project Vote](#) says "The Word is Out!" See the report about the Roanok Rally.

Read the **[Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015](#)**
Visit LWVOR's Facebook



and the **[LWVUS website](#)** for more information on restoring the Voting Rights Act!

Sine Die Nears!

Read **[SCR 20](#)** regarding limitations and deadlines for 2016 Legislative Session.

Governance

Campaign Finance Reform

It is now clear that there will be no campaign finance reform during this session. **[SJR 5](#)**, a constitutional amendment which would have enabled contribution limits, and **[SB 75](#)**, which would have set contribution limits in statute, are both being held in Senate Rules. Even **[HB 2178A](#)**, a modest bill which would originally have required enhanced disclosure in OLIS of large campaign contributions late in a campaign period, has now been gutted and stuffed with a proposal for a Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform of 17 members, appointed by the Secretary of State, Senate President and House Speaker. The Ways and Means Committee made this change Tuesday on a largely party-line vote with the Republicans objecting to having their representatives appointed by Democratic public officials. The League would tend to agree with the Republicans on this point. However, the remarkable feature of this revised bill is that it requires for the Secretary of State to appoint a representative of the League of Women Voters to the Task Force. The League is the only organization explicitly named in the bill. This bill now goes to the House and Senate floors for consideration.



Norman Turrill,
Government Specialist, LWVOR President

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Volunteer Opportunity:

Natural Resources

Oregon Dept of Land
Conservation and Development

**Citizen Involvement
Advisory Committee
(CIAC)**

*seeks At-Large member.
Applications must be
received by July 31.*

**[Click here for more
information on this
opportunity & the
CIAC.](#)**

**HB 2974 Signed by
Governor.
LWVOR Works to
bring**



**Transparency to
the Redistricting
Process.**

Read [LWVOR testimony](#) by
Norman Turrill, current
President & Government
Specialist.

**[Read the LWVOR
Redistricting Study](#)**

***Drought information
links:***

**[Water Resources
Department
Drought Watch](#)
(includes weekly
reports)**

**Clean Fuels and
Transportation Package,
Mining**

It was an exciting week at the Legislature, but more drama than action for Natural Resources. The House Committee on Rules moved **HB 3470B (The Climate Justice and Stability Act)** with the A-8 amendment to Full Ways and Means. Almost 250 pieces of testimony were submitted to the Committee, including [League testimony by Climate Change Portfolio Specialist Claudia Keith](#) Pope Francis' encyclical on climate change and its effect on the poor helped explain the importance of this bill. With only another week or two left in the session, we'll see if it moves. If not, expect to see it in 2016.



Peggy Lynch,
Natural
Resources
Coordinator

Early in the session the League provided support for **SB 324A**: *"...the Clean Fuels Program is designed to reduce the life-cycle emissions of carbon from the fuel used in Oregon's transportation system so as to delay or reduce the negative impacts of global climate change and to reduce other emitted pollutants, including sulfur dioxide and volatile organic compounds (VOC's)."* ([Read entire LWVOR testimony.](#)) Clean Fuels had passed in a prior session, but that bill included a "sunset clause" meaning that the program would go away unless the 2015 legislature removed the sunset date. After passage of SB 324 in March of this year, the Republican members refused to consider a transportation package to fund additional maintenance, repairs and new road projects unless the bill was repealed. Governor Brown brought together a bipartisan group of legislators to attempt to find a pathway forward to get a transportation package. The result of that work was presented on June 24 at a hearing in front of a new committee (the **Senate Special Committee on Sustainable Transportation**) established by Senate President Peter Courtney for that purpose. Using **HB 2281B** with the B-7 amendments as the vehicle for the proposal, the bill would have repealed SB 324. ([Click here to see explanation of the bill.](#)) It cobbled together a set of actions meant to reduce carbon emissions at least as much as SB 324. And the proposal put together a gas tax increase and a group of licenses and fees to provide backing for about \$200 million of bonding for transportation projects. Among the carbon reduction proposals was changing the way that the public purpose charge (Energy Trust of

[**Oregon Emergency Management Facebook**](#)

Twitter: [#ordrought](#)

Next meeting of the Oregon Emergency Water Availability Drought Council is July 9.

From the Water Resources Commission Reports:

- **Detroit Lake is 60' below normal levels,**
- **Parts of Oregon are 3.5 degrees above average, highest since 1895.**
- **high temperatures of rivers are killing fish**



Are you ready for "The Big One"?

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Oregon funds) was expended, something the League could not have supported. **Testimony pointed out that taking away money from one program to add to another was not a reduction. Biofuel businesses testified that they were relying on the March legislative action to expand and the Oregon Lung Association testified that the proposed carbon reductions would not help with cleaner air as does SB 324.** After hearing from a variety of proponents and opponents, it was clear that the analysis regarding the proposed substitute for SB 324 to reduce carbon was flawed. The League in conjunction with other organizations opposed the repeal of SB 324 ([Click here to view the flyer.](#)) **The Governor and President Courtney chose to pull the proposal.** However, there is still interest in a transportation package so we expect to see either a Special Session or a new proposal in the 2016 session. We are hopeful that any new proposal be a stand alone transportation proposal.

Lastly, although we got good press for our testimony on [HB 3089A](#) related to mining, the bill was moved to Full Ways and Means on Friday. It is limited to a literature search of studies of mining potential in Eastern and Southern Oregon.

Bills in House Rules we OPPOSE: [HB 2666A](#) -- aggregate mining on farmland

Bills in House Rules we are WATCHING: [SB 534](#) --allowing public services to be extended to airports outside of cities

Bills in Senate Rules we OPPOSE: [HB 2938A](#) -- amended to preempt local control of annexation issues

Bills in Ways and Means we SUPPORT: [SB 246A](#) - onsite septic loan program, [SB 830A](#) - suction dredge mining, [SB 952A](#) - task force on natural resource agencies (both funding and efficiencies); [HB 3470B](#) -- the **Climate Stability and Justice Act 2015**; [HB 3549A](#), addressing aerial spraying and the use of pesticides/herbicides.

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**](#)

Interim Legislative Days

September 28-30, 2015
November 16-18, 2015
January 13-15, 2016

SHORT SESSION 2016:
February 1 - March 6

SB 939



Children of Incarcerated Parents Packet

[\(Click here to get detailed information.\)](#)

[\(Read the about activity on SB 939 in the Social Policy report.\)](#)

"Mining bill seeks study of Oregon mineral resources." [\(Click above.\)](#)

The Argus Observer reporter, Larry Meyer, quotes LWVOR Natural Recourses Coordinator Peggy Lynch, on her testimony during the June 22 public hearing on HB 3089

Health Care in Ways and Means Human Services Committee



Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator

The **Department of Human Services Budget, [HB 5026](#)**, was heard over 3 days within the past week. The Total Funds allocated are \$10.2 billion with \$7 billion in Federal Funds and \$2.7 billion in General Funds. This biennial budget is 8.37% over the last biennium and supports 2000 positions in the agency. The League submitted a letter ([read here](#)) regarding the budget programs on March 3, 2015.

The **Self Sufficiency Budget** is the highest cost at \$3.455 billion, which is 18.7 % higher than the last biennium. The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program caseload has declined but the program has been redesigned with \$30 million to meet federal requirements and to provide services for pre and post TANF clients. [HB 3535B](#) was passed to approve these changes. ([Click here to read letter](#)). This budget includes \$45 million in Employment Related Day Care to include more families and higher provider rates. [HB 2015A](#), the ERDC bill, was favored by the League but no letter was submitted. This Budget included \$450,000 for the Oregon Food Bank and \$1 million for staff training for the 211 referral service. 211 is an easy to remember telephone number for that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in their community.

The **Ageing and People with Disability program** received \$2.95 billion for an increase of 18% in total funds. The caseload growth in the older population caused the higher costs. More seniors qualify for the Affordable Care Act which brings in more federal funds. The Oregon Project Independence pilots were continued with \$6 million, and property tax relief for hardship cases received \$1.6 million. Hearing needs assessment will be contracted at \$200,000 and health promotion for seniors will cost \$1.25 million. Provider rates for services are expected to increase 2.5 %, and a special purpose appropriation will be held for future labor increases. The Program Design for APD has been decreased 42.8% to \$66.8 million, as the modernization efforts are phased out.

Intellectual Developmental Disabilities has been budgeted at \$2.1 billion, an 18% increase due to a higher caseload. Residential facilities are the largest

[\(Click here to read testimony.\)](#)



[Click here to read HB 3089A](#)

Support the Action Committee!



Please show your appreciation of the Action Committee and the Legislative Administrator by making a donation to [LWVOR](#)

It is your support that makes it possible to carry out this advocacy work at the Legislature



Volunteer to work on issues for the 2015 Legislative Session
It's exciting!
Contact the [LWVOR Action Team](#)

League Victory!

Governor Signs Firearms Safety Act, SB 941, into Law

This landmark legislation was made possible through the

costs, especially the staff level requirement. The Stabilization and Crisis Units received additional staff positions and an increase in retirement benefits through the PERS Police and Fire designation. The Fairview Trust Fund had \$6 million restored due to the closure of the Blue Mountain Mental Health Facility in the City of Pendleton.

The Child Welfare Program was budgeted at \$943 million, which was 2.8% above last biennium when Differential Response and Strengthening Families were implemented. Savings resulted from these programs to keep children in their own homes or placement with relatives with services. Subsidized Guardianships saved funds over foster placements. Adoptions increased and foster care decreased. New investments were made in shelter programs, at \$1.6 million for Runaway and Homeless Youth and \$250,000 for a Lane County shelter startup. [HB 2232 Engrossed](#) set up an Advisory Committee, which was supported by the League ([read testimony](#)). [HB 2297A](#) requested a Task Force for Prevention but has not passed out of Ways and Means. The League did not support the bill. [Read Karen's testimony](#).

Vocational Rehabilitation was funded at \$97 million, which represented a flat budget. The agency has been implementing the Federal Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act of 2014, which requires disabled clients be placed in employment rather than workshop settings. This has been a slow process and the agency has a Key Performance Measure (KPM) for the number of clients employed.

Shared business services with the Health Authority were budgeted at \$572 million, which were 8.4% higher. Facilities costs increased. Data analytics increased and fraud recovery was supported. Program Design was decreased down to \$66 million due to the phase out of DHS modernization efforts. The Oregon Housing and Community Service Budget, [SB 5513A](#) was decided on June 18 in the Ways and Means Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee. The total budget is \$1,182 million with 130 positions in the agency. The League supported the original proposed budget on Feb. 24, 2015. Link to letter.

The **Safety Net** services were retained in this budget with 8 staff and \$40 million in total funds, but the food programs with \$3,735 million were transferred to The Department of Human Services. The agency maintains Emergency Housing Assistance and Shelter Housing Assistance Programs at a \$3.5 million permanent biennial allocation. **Energy Assistance**

passion and hard work of gun safety advocates. The League's Action member, Marge Easley, is one who, with other volunteers and alliances helped make SB 941 law.

[Read Marge Easley's, LWVOR Action Team Member, testimony given during the marathon hearing on this bill.](#)

Quick Links to OLIS

[OR State Legislature](#)

[Legislative Audio and Video](#)

[View the Bills](#)

[Find & Contact your State Senator and Representative](#)

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



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

League Links

[LWVOR Action Team](#)

[LWV of Oregon](#)

[LWV of the US](#)

and Weatherization Programs were funded at \$124 million and 10 staff. **Multi-family Rental Housing** was increased 4% to \$180 million and 27 staff. A HUD grant added \$1 million and .75 staff.

Single Family Housing was decreased by 28% to \$8.3 million and 7 staff. Foreclosure counseling will continue through February 2016 and be discontinued. Home Ownership Stabilization was decreased 54%, with \$1.75 million in Other Funds and 10 positions, which will be phased out. The agency restructuring eliminated 9 positions. Central Services will cost \$30 million with 70 staff. The Court **Appointed Special Advocate** administrative support will remain with the Commission for Oregon Volunteers, but a **Budget note asks for a report on the status of a separation plan for 2017-19**. The Legislative Fiscal Office Budget Recommendation was adopted by the Subcommittee, and all these budget bills move to The Full Ways and Means Committee and the House and Senate for votes.

The housing bills considered by the Ways and Means Subcommittee have run the gauntlet by this stage in the session. **HB 2825A**, on housing with services for mentally ill, had a public hearing on June 22 in Human Services Ways and Means but has not returned for a work session. The bill asked for housing funds for the mentally ill, which the League supported. **Read League testimony. HB 2547A** set up a Task Force on Housing with Services and asked that the TF report back by December 2015. This bill did pass and will undoubtedly include the previous bill. **HB 2198 B** sought Q bonds of \$100 million for low income housing construction. The bill was passed by House Rules and sent to Ways and Means in late May, but there has been no hearing scheduled in a Ways and Means Subcommittee. Other Budget needs may be included in the final Omnibus bills in Ways and Means.

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Children at Risk, Early Learning

While the K-12 Education funding was the first to be moved forward and funded this legislative session, some of the last funding bills considered by Joint Ways and Means are those related to early learning and equity for historically underserved populations. **SB 213 A**, relating to Early



Chris Vogel, Early Education Portfolio

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Learning Hubs, passed Joint Ways and Means (JCW&M) 17-6. The slowness of the rollout in rural areas and the distance needed to travel in these rural areas were the focus of discussion. Passed by the W&M Subcommittee on Education, but yet to be heard by JCW&M, is [HB 5016](#), the Department of Education budget, including the Early Learning and Youth Development portions. Given limited funding, the priority recommendations were for birth to age five in the Joint Subcommittee for Education. The Early Learning Division was well supported in recommendations for additional funds for the 17 regional hubs, additional funds for existing programs in Healthy Families America, Relief Nurseries, Early Head Start and new funds for pre-kindergarten programs.

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