



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON

Legislative Report

June 24, 2015

Volume 25, Number 18

2015 Legislative Session

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Printer-Friendly Version

Volunteer Opportunity:

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**

Sine Die Approaches!

Target date is set for June 26. Constitutional Date is July 11.

Social Policy

Health Care in Ways and Means Human Services Committee

The **Oregon Health Authority (OHA)** bill, [SB 5526A](#), was scheduled for Work Sessions from June 10 to June 17 in the Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee. The OHA Budget total funds for 2015-17 is \$19.455 billion, which is 9.9 % higher than the 2013-15 budget. Federal funds are \$11.5 billion, Other Funds are \$5.8 billion and State General and Lottery Funds are \$2.123 billion.



Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator

The **Medical Assistance Program (MAP)** was the first piece of the Health Authority Budget to be considered. The total MAP Budget was \$13.685 billion, including Federal Funds of \$10.7 billion from the Affordable Care Act, \$1.1 billion in General Funds and \$1.9 billion in Other Funds, including hospital assessments, drug rebates and tobacco taxes. The ACA expansion is covering more Oregon citizens and now serves about one million people. The budget includes funds of \$3.7 million for Information Technology for a state insurance website, contracted with a Kentucky company, plus additional funds for a call center.

The **Public Health Program** was allocated a total budget of \$600.6 million, which is above the current service level. Federal Funds of \$356 million, General Funds of \$40 million and Other Funds of \$205 million



Transparency to the Redistricting Process.

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

[Read the LWVOR Redistricting Study](#)

[2564A](#)

would give Oregon communities the option to use inclusionary zoning in order to increase housing options for working families at all income levels

Contact your Senators now and urge them to support [HB 2564A](#)

[Find your Senator](#)

[HB 3089A](#)

LWVOR Natural Resource Coordinator, **Peggy Lynch**, gives critical testimony for implementing a study

are from the Tobacco Master Settlement, Medical Marijuana revenues and fees. The Public Health Division is in a transformation process due to [HB 3100A](#), and \$500,000 is committed to cover planning. Local public health authorities are required to participate in modernization and collaboration with regional health care delivery systems. [HB 3100A](#) passed full Ways and Means on June 16.

The **Addictions and Mental Health Budget** is 13.5% higher than 2013-15 at \$1.174 billion. General Funds are the major source of revenue, except Medicare, tobacco taxes and also lottery funds contribute. This budget covers the Oregon State Hospital and the Junction City Hospital, which will open 4 wards, with a total hospital capacity of 696 beds. The Community Mental Health system will receive additional funds to evaluate and treat Aid-and-Assist patients in the community, per [HB 2420 Enrolled](#) (signed by the Governor 05/21), and to treat addictions in Sobering Facilities per [HB 2936 C Engrossed](#). [Read testimony on SB 5526](#).

Tobacco Master Settlement Funds replace General Funds and M91 revenue is targeted for Addictions in this budget. A major investment has been made in Mental Health in response to community needs and federal regulators. The League has supported Mental Health Services in the Community. ([Click here to read testimony on SB 5504](#).)

[HB 2828](#), the **Health Care Study** bill, was approved by the Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee on June 23. [HB 2934 Engrossed](#), on Basic Health Care expansion, was signed by the Governor, but it will not be implemented this session. [SB 478 A](#), on chemical toxic agents in children's products was passed and funded in the OHA Budget in the Human Services Subcommittee, but it has not yet passed a Senate vote. [SB 698 A](#) seeks funds for a school nurse consultant in OHA. The position is included in the OHA Budget. At the present time, school nurses are supported in the Education Budget and a Task Force will consider options to get funding through the health system. The school based health clinic expansion bills were heard, but were not funded in the OHA Budget this session.

Public Safety Budgets

The Oregon Judicial Department Budget, [SB 5514](#), was passed in Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee on June 16. The LFO recommended budget is for \$541.5 million in total funds, a 4% increase over the 2013-15 budget. However, a reduction of \$9.9 million in General Funds was made due to carryover funds and the decrease in debt

in the controversial
Mining bill.

Read Peggy's Report

See LWVOR's Facebook for more info (including the report from Larry Meyer of the Eastern Oregon newspaper, the Argus Observer).

Social Policy

June 24 is the last day for Human Services in Ways and Means. The DHS and OCHS bills have passed. HB 5016 is scheduled for June 24.

ACTION ALERT **SJR 5**

Campaign Finance Reform

Your involvement is needed. Tell Senator **Senator Diane Rosenbaum** to move the bill forward. Senate Leadership is holding up a vote on this bill. **Read how you can help.**

HB 3470

ACTION ALERT **UPDATE: Work Session on HB 3470 Climate and Justice Act of 2015**

We need you to act now! to assist in achieving an affirmative vote on this Climate Stability and Justice Act - a Carbon Cap and

service payments. Other Funds supplied budget needs.

The completion of the **eCourt system** in all circuit courts is included in the budget, along with 22 staff to finish and support the system. Family law support staff is provided in administration. The trial courts will regain 14 positions lost in the last biennium and retain grant funding for treatment courts. There is no increase in judicial salaries, although there may be a possibility of funds in the final budget allocations. Two legislators voted no on the budget due to the judicial salary levels. **Read testimony on SB 5514** for the OJD Budget and **HB 2338 testimony to modify Judicial salaries.**

Capital Construction projects will not require new bonds. The Criminal Fines Assessments Account will pay for new projects at 7 county courthouses and carryover funds will pay for previously approved projects in Multnomah and Jefferson counties. The Supreme Court building will not be remodeled.

The **Public Defense Services Commission Budget, SB 5533A**, was passed at a Work Session on June 4. This agency received an e-board supplement of \$3.5 million in General Fund for this biennium. The 2015-17 Budget of \$276 million is above the Current Service Level in Professional Services for trial level rate increases and mileage reimbursements. The agency added a Deputy Counsel to oversee the parent-child representation responsibilities. The League supported the increase in defense attorney salaries in the last biennium.

The **Oregon Youth Authority (OYA)** bill **SB 5542A** was passed at a Work Session on June 8, with a \$339.4 million budget at the Current Service Level. The OYA facilities will have 8 positions restored in the Youth Reformation System and 6 additional positions in intake, treatment and transitions with cultural specialists. The loss of 18 residential program placements will save \$1.3 million. There were no reductions in Juvenile Crime Prevention or East Multnomah Gang programs. The League submitted a letter in support of the budget. (**Click here to read letter.**)

Capital Construction of \$49 million for new construction and new cameras on OYA campuses was recommended for bond funding in another committee. The OYA budget for 2015-17 includes construction projects of \$745,131. LFO attached a budget note regarding isolation reduction for behavior management and asked for an interim report to the Legislature before the February 2016 session.

Allocation Bill, HB 3470, in this session

[Click here to read LWVOR Action Alert.](#)

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**

More info can be found and followed through Twitter:

[#ordrought](#)

Important UPDATE:

Criminal Justice Commission Budget Passes Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Public Safety!

Read more in Karen's [Social Policy report](#)

Interim Legislative Days

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

The **Department of Corrections Budget, [SB 5504A](#)**, was considered on June 11 in Ways and Means Public Safety and passed by the Full Ways and Means on June 16. The LFO recommended budget is \$1.6 billion which is 7.6% higher than the 2013-15 approved budget. However, during the biennium, DOC returned to the e-board for additional funds for health care due to increases in drug costs. The budget includes 33 new correctional officers as a relief to present low staffing in prisons, and 7 positions in education and training, mental health and program evaluation. The prisons operate 14 health clinics, 12 dental clinics and 5 infirmaries to take care of prisoners. Three prisons serve mentally ill offenders with meds and treatment services. Electronic medical records conversion funds were requested and initial funds were granted. The League submitted a letter on the DOC budget earlier in the session. ([Click here to read testimony.](#))

[HB 3503 A](#), a Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program, was approved on June 18. The women's prison is near capacity and a new prison unit may be required in this biennium or next biennium. The cost for the pilot is approximately \$2 million with most of the funds spent on probation costs in DOC Community Corrections. The Department of Human Services - Child Welfare Division will receive funds for a program manager for the field offices. The cost of DHS services will be within program funds. The League recently submitted a **[letter of support on HB 3503](#)**.

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A Detour for [HB 3093B](#), Concealed Carry Reciprocity

[HB 3093B](#), the concealed carry reciprocity bill, was on its way to likely Senate passage on 6/15 when it was unexpectedly pulled and reassigned to Senate Rules. The League and others strenuously oppose the idea of concealed handgun license (CHL) reciprocity in Oregon, which is considered part of an NRA strategy to weaken gun laws nationwide. At the last minute Legislative Council was asked to find out which states' CHL holders would have reciprocity, and it was determined that due to the convoluted nature of CHL laws around the country, [HB 3093B](#), as currently written, would not allow any states to have reciprocity



Marge Easley,
LWVOR Action
Team Member

SHORT SESSION 2016:
February 1 - March 6

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.**

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.)*

Support the Action
Committee!



Please show your appreciation
of the Action Committee and
the Legislative Administrator

with Oregon. It is hoped that time will run out before
a fix is found for this bill.

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Children at Risk, Early Learning

Early Learning

HB 5022 the Oregon Education
Investment Board biennium
budget ([click here to view LFO
Education Budget
recommenations](#)) now includes

\$550,000 startup money to continue research for data
tracking from Preschool through College. This system
will maintain student privacy, yet provide important
information on key transition points in a student's
progress. The bill, with amendments, eliminates the
"Board" but extends the work of the Chief Education
Officer at least through 2019. Nancy Golden was
commended for due diligence in keeping the budget
lean and this bill was returned to wait in cue at the
Joint Ways and Means Committee (WM).

Also the week of the June 22, WM will hear **SB 217A**
relating to strategic education investments, **HB
5016**, the Department of Education budget, including
Early Learning and **HB 3380**, relating to preschool
programs.

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Governance

Retirement Savings Plan and First Partner

Retirement Savings Plan Offered
State Treasurer Ted Wheeler briefed
League members from across the
state last January about the
voluntary savings retirement plan for
Oregon workers whose employers
don't offer retirement plans. Wheeler
chaired the State Retirement Savings
Task Force which, was established
under **HB 3436 (2013)** to recommended legislative
action regarding increasing the percentage of
Oregonians saving for retirement or enrolled in a
retirement plan. **HB 2960B** creates a seven member



*Chris Vogel, Early
Education
Portfolio*



*Kappy Eaton,
Governance
Coordinator*

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 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.](#)

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

Oregon Retirement Savings Board under the State Treasurer/or designee and directs it to develop a defined retirement plan for people employed in Oregon. The bill passed both houses of the Legislature and awaits the Governor's signature.

First Partner becoming a Public Official

HB 2020, which officially defines "public officials" to include the governor's partner (spouse, man, lady, mate, etc. some choices referred to by Gov. Brown in her June 11 Senate Rules Committee testimony), passed the House 58-1 on June 3. It passed the Senate 28-0 on June 18. It is now headed to the Governor for her signature.

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Natural Resources

ODFW Budgets, Hazards, Mining, Aerial Spray:

The last natural resource agency budget moved from the Natural Resources Subcommittee last week. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife agency has struggled recently to pay for the services demanded. For years, hunters and anglers paid with licenses and fees, not only for services to assure their activities were supported, but also for staff for other public services. However, fewer Oregonians are hunting and fishing; instead, we are bird watchers and enjoyers of nature in non-consumptive ways where fees aren't required. The League was a part of a large group of stakeholders who worked during the interim and the session to find a balance of fees and General Fund monies to address their varied missions. We provided testimony on [SB 5511](#) ([read testimony](#)), the agency budget with a substantial increase in General Fund monies, [SB 247](#) (support stated in testimony above on SB 5511), the fee bill modified to address many fee payer concerns, [HB 3315](#) ([read testimony](#)) a bill instructing the agency to do time studies to determine, in the future, who should pay for services provided, and the Oregon State Police Budget ([SB 5531](#)) ([read testimony](#)), which provided \$5.2 million in General Fund monies to preserve 18 Fish and Wildlife trooper positions who were previously funded with license dollars. Also included in the



Peggy Lynch,
Natural
Resources
Coordinator

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](#)

[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 Coordinators.](#)



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

[League Links](#)

[LWVOR Action Team](#)

[LWV of Oregon](#)

package was [HB 2402](#), creating a Task Force addressing the agency's mission and alternate funding options. We are hopeful that this balanced approach will pass both chambers and that new answers will be considered by 2019.

Other bills moving that the League worked included [SB 266A](#), related to "place-based planning," where local communities can begin planning for future water needs. We now have 20 counties declared under a drought with our stream flows statewide at 40% of normal and the water temperature is higher than normal at this date (we're seeing fish die off); we cannot ignore this planning effort. We are hoping to see funding for local planning grants in [HB 5030](#). ([Read testimony on SB 266A.](#))

[HB 3225](#), addressing oil train safety, was significantly amended, but provides money to the State Fire Marshall to coordinate outreach, develop a spill response plan and for conducting exercises, training, and support for local public safety organizations. ([Read testimony.](#))

The Natural Resources Subcommittee held a public hearing on [HB 2633](#), which would have required rulemaking to address **land use Goal 7** and our natural hazards, such as flooding, ocean erosion, landslides, etc. The League provided testimony in support ([read here](#)), but the bill is not likely to move this session.

There was a public hearing Monday on [HB 3089A](#), related to the study of mining outside of the Willamette Valley. The League provided testimony opposing this bill a number of times. The [-1 amendment](#) would require the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) to report to an interim committee on the work and staff needed to perform such studies. A new A-5 amendment was submitted that would require the studies be confined to Eastern and Southern Oregon. Advocates are promising more bills in future sessions advocating for hard rock mining in Oregon. ([Click here to read testimony.](#))

[HB 3549A](#), addressing aerial spraying and the use of pesticides/herbicides, was amended in the Natural Resources Subcommittee and sent to the Full Ways and Means "do pass" with an amendment to fund the work, It calls for increased staffing at the Department of Agriculture and a hotline for reporting violations (paid for by an increase in pesticide fees) and would require a 60-foot buffer from residences and schools.

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Bills in House Rules we SUPPORT: [HB 3470](#) -- the Climate Stability and Justice Act 2015

Bills in House Rules we OPPOSE: [HB 2666](#) -- 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).

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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Are you ready for "The Big One"?

*Use **OPB's Aftershock** website for the seismic intensity and preparation needed. Put in your address and see the results.*

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