



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON

Legislative Report

August 21, 2013

Volume 23, Number 23

2013 Sine Die Legislative Report

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2013 77th Legislative Assembly Sine Die

Oregon's 2013 Legislative session adjourned *Sine Die* on Monday, July 8. The 155 day action packed session waded through nearly 2,679 bills with Public Safety and Education Programs taking the lead. The Governor signed 787 bills. To view the bills the Governor has signed click [here](#).

The League's Action Coordinators had their own flurry of activities keeping their eyes and ears focused on the movement or non-movement of more than 300 bills. They wrote testimony on nearly 100 bills and sent out 8 Action Alerts. They were at the Capitol every day, talking to Legislators, following the behind-the-scenes discussions, attending hearings and providing testimony. All their activities can be found in previous [Legislative Reports](#) on the LWVOR [website](#).

Our tireless Action team members have yet another task and that is to provide you with a final report on bills they followed, the 2013 *Sine Die Legislative Report*. Listed below are the Action team portfolios. Read their informed articles by clicking on the portfolio headings below or article headlines listed *In this Issue* in the column on the left or just sit back and enjoy reading the whole report.

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While the 77th Oregon Assembly enacted numerous laws of merit in the governance/public policy area, the persistent "lines drawn in the sand" posture of the two political party caucuses essentially denied a final agreement on a biennial budget that would have moved Oregon forward both fiscally and socially, as well as on changes in how Oregonians progress governmentally. This report looks at the issues of fiscal policy, elections/voting reforms, campaign finance, initiative reform, university governance, tax reform, Citizens Initiative Commission, and National Popular Vote addressed in the 2013 session.



*Kappy Eaton,
Governance
Coordinator*

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Fiscal Policy

The 2013-15 Legislatively Adopted Budget (LAB) represents the finale of a months-long struggle between the Ds (Democrat party holding a two-member majority in the Senate and an 8-member majority in the House) and the Rs (minority Republican party). After the Governor's and the Ways and Means Co-Chair's Proposed Budgets were presented, it was apparent that there was bi-partisan support for a significant increase in K-12 public school funding and the need for PERS (Public Employee Retirement System) reform. However, despite lengthy discussions, "behind the scenes" meetings, debate, and a "Grand Bargain" tax and further PERS reform plans, the Legislature settled for a biennial budget that is less than what could have been accomplished, and that was passed along party lines.

Early in the session, the Ds' PERS changes were enacted by reducing the annual cost of living benefits to retirees and cutting off out-of-state retiree colas (if the benefits are not subject to Oregon tax), without Rs' support. The "Grand Bargain" called for further PERS revisions, addressing the Systems' \$5 billion unfunded liability and the increased employee payments for local governments and school districts in the Fund. This was put forward by the Rs. In tandem, the Ds proposed a cut in personal income tax deductions for those with incomes above \$125,000/\$250,000, a means test for the senior medical deduction, a 10 cent tobacco tax increase, and an increase in corporate income taxes. If adopted, this plan would

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National Women's Equality Day

August 26
Celebrates the
1920 passage of
the 19th
Amendment,
granting women
the right to vote.



[Learn more](#)
about how this day came to be a
national day of celebration.

Take Action Tell Congress to fix the Voting Rights Act

This summer the Supreme Court weakened the Voting Rights Act (VRA) by removing fundamental protections against racial discrimination in voting.

Tell your members of Congress
to repair and restore the VRA
now!

[Learn More](#)
at LWVUS

They're Coming Back Again in February 2014

[HCR 37](#)

is an important bill because it establishes the limitations and deadlines for legislative measures for the next regular legislative session in 2014

The Legislative Interim Days

These are days that the legislature will meet between

have provided \$7 billion for public schools, additional millions for universities and community colleges, and mental health programs and services. At the final gavel, one side wanted some tax cuts for small businesses and the other side couldn't agree to more PERS cuts.



The Budget is comprised of three sections - resources, expenditures, and an ending balance. The final budget has planned expenditures of \$15.6 billion for the General Fund (GF), \$0.8 billion for Lottery funds, \$26.6 billion for other funds (fees, charges, contracts, charges etc.), and \$16.8 billion for federal funds. After the addition of more money, the net resources for the GF are \$16.775 billion, with expenditures of \$16.4 billion and a projected regular ending balance of \$179.1 million, and a supplemental ending balance of \$156.2 million. The total state budget for the biennium is \$59.8 billion. This represents a 4.6% increase over the 2011-13 LAB, excluding Oregon University System other funds and federal funds, which are no longer part of the state budget.

The LAB reflects the June 2013 projected revenue forecast. Lottery funds are split between regular lottery funds for education and economic development, and Measure 76 lottery funds that are dedicated to specific natural resources uses. The major expenditures include:

1. \$6.55 billion for the State School Fund (K-12 - an increase of \$1 billion over 2011-13);
2. \$1.9 billion for community colleges, universities and other education;
3. \$4.2 billion for Human Services;
4. \$2 billion for Public Safety; and
5. \$638.9 million for the judiciary.

For more details see [Summary of the 2013-15 Legislatively Adopted Budget](#).

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Local Government Finances

Our concerns about the functioning of local governments led us to follow the fiscal crisis in several Oregon counties over the past three years. Much of the problem has been caused by a combination of reductions in the federal timber payments (less logging on the O&C lands and the cutting off of the federal Secure Rural Schools

Sine Die and the 2014 session.

September 16-18, 2013
(Monday-Wednesday);
November 20-22, 2013
(Wednesday - Friday); and
January 15-17, 2014
(Wednesday - Friday)

If you want to find out what will likely be coming up in the 2014 session, this is a good way. The committees hold hearings and will cover issues that are of concern.

You can either attend the hearings at the Capitol, or listen in.

Mark your calendars
with these important dates

Oregon Revenue Forecasts

August 28, 2013
November 27, 2013

Revenue Forecasts provide the legislature with guidance in its budgeting process. Oregon's budget is required by law to be balanced between projected revenue and expenditures.

[click here](#)
for more information

Camping in State Parks may cost you more!



You have an opportunity to voice your opinion on this.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is proposing to raise state park camping rates for some types of campsites effective May 1, 2014.

Public comment on the proposal will be accepted until 5pm, August 30, 2013.

Here's how to make your voice heard:

Attending a public hearing::
8/22/2013, 7 pm, The Cove

payments) and the recession with lower property tax income. This lost revenue has led to serious cuts in public safety and human services programs. The reality of unsafe county areas caused the legislative action to establish a Special Committee on O&C Counties, to consider alternatives and to enact laws to protect the citizens in stressed counties.

Three measures offer relief, if not permanent solutions, to the situations.

- The major statute gives the Governor the ability to declare a county in fiscal crisis because it cannot provide a safe/secure level of public safety for its citizens. At that decision, a plan would be put together to provide funds for public safety and a way to pay for it, both with state and local means.
- A second statute provides the Secretary of State with the authority to take over the county elections function and provide for assessment and taxation procedures, considered essential under state law, if the county is declared fiscally insecure.
- The third measure continues the ability of impacted counties to use federal road dollars for sheriff patrols, first passed in 2012.

While there are some nine counties facing financial difficulties, Josephine, Curry, Lane and Douglas are considered potential candidates for state intervention.

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Elections, Voters and Political Campaigns

The Secretary of State pressed for several changes in voter registration with mixed results, and she personally thanked the League for our assistance in those efforts. The change in title for the "long-term absent elector" to "military or overseas elector" to conform to federal law was enacted. However, the modernization of voter registration by an electronic form through the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) of newly licensed drivers and the registration of 16 year olds, didn't make it through the Senate after success in the House. The League supported both of these bills, and there is the possibility that they will be reintroduced in 2014.

The proposal to require the state and all counties to provide voter information materials in other than English was revised and passed. A multi-

Palisades State Park, Crooked River Campground Program Area, 7300 Jordan Rd. Culver OR 97734

8/23/2013, 7 pm, Wallowa Lake State Recreation Area, Day Use Picnic Shelter, 72214 Marina Lane, Joseph OR 97846

Send an email to:

opr.d.publiccomment@state.or.us

Write a letter to:

Oregon Parks and Recreation
ATTN: Park Rates
725 Summer St NE Suite C
Salem OR 97301

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 2013 Legislative Session
It's exciting!
Contact the [LWVOR Action Team](#)

Awe and Respect!

LWV Lobbyists are Credible and Respected.

Observations from shadowing the 2013 LWVOR Legislative Action Committee

By Chris Vogel,
LWV of Marion/Polk County

There is a place for EACH of you who routinely read the *Legislative Report* to become more involved. From personal experience, in closely

demographic Task Force will be established on Minority Language Voting Materials to consider the costs, distribution and other issues, with a charge to report to the Legislature by October 1, 2014 for possible action in 2015.

In the interests of preventing voter fraud, the several session-delayed ballot security measure was finally approved. It calls for video scanning of all areas in every county elections office and provides a detailed process and time lines for destroying spoiled and unused ballots of all kinds. Several Election Division bills relating to initiatives and political campaigns were passed, including requiring chief petitioners to do criminal background checks of paid petitioners (now done by the Secretary of State), and requiring that any organization, individual or entity that pays petitioners must register with the Secretary of State and receive training in the process.



Also, in the campaign finance area, more transparency regarding independent expenditures for both candidates and initiatives will be required. Contributions made by individuals or entities apart from regular campaign committees must now be filed electronically and will be put on ORSTAR for public scrutiny. Since Oregon does not have any fiscal limits on contributions or expenditures, disclosure of those funds is very important, particularly in the grey area of who is providing independent support.

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University Governance

After a long and bumpy road, the proposal to allow Oregon public universities to establish local boards of directors was adopted. The University of Oregon and Portland State University were granted immediate authority and expect to have boards in place before the end of the year. Oregon State University initially declined to participate, but now has decided to establish a board by July 1, 2014. The four regional universities have the ability to move forward in the future (Western, Southern, Eastern and Technology).



The law allows the internal boards to:

watching the LWV Action Committee this year in Salem, I can testify that you are welcome in Salem. Or, you may contribute greatly from your home computer anywhere in Oregon by tracking a bill or an issue of interest to you for the Action Committee. Never underestimate how important YOUR VOICE is to YOUR SENATOR or to YOUR REPRESENTATIVE.

Early in the session, with two other Marion/Polk County LWV members, I interviewed Representative Berger and Senator Winters. They emphasized that many of the calls and emails they get in their office are from out of state "robo-calls" and automated emails. These are annoyances, not representative of their own district. Emails with an intro TAG line of the bill number and "I'm in your district", get a great deal of attention. Did you know that the Senators and Representatives say that the actual MAILED HANDWRITTEN LETTERS they receive these days are so rare that they really stand out and get attention? Your participation is welcome, I experienced that first hand! There is a lot happening between Legislative Sessions, so you can join in the Action now!

As members of LWV of OR, you may acknowledge pride in the AMAZING LEGISLATIVE ACTION TEAM that represents YOUR [LWVOR Positions](#) and [National Positions](#) at the state legislature that guide all lobbying on bills. I'm relatively new to Oregon, familiar with the legislative process in general-but personally unfamiliar with the Legislators, Legislative Staff, and others walking the halls of the Legislative building. So I "went to school" this session by shadowing members of the LWVOR Action Committee-wanting to build my knowledge to contribute in future Legislative sessions. At the risk of leaving someone out, let me sing the praises of those I shadowed and got to know this year.

LWVOR Legislative Administrator, KATHY Greysmith, keeps minutes at each Monday strategy meeting, formats the weekly Legislative Report, streamlines the Action Committee's process for written testimony to legislators and promptly distributes timely Action Alerts.

ALICE Bartelt and ROBIN Wisdom oversee the League Action work, making sure that lobbying and advocacy efforts align with League Positions and are representative of our membership. As head of the Action team, ALICE offers timely oversight, facilitates our weekly meetings, approves all Legislative Reports for the weekly newsletter,

1. set tuition rates, no more than a 5% percent increase per year, with approval of the Oregon Education Investment Board (or the Higher Education Coordinating Commission);
2. hire and fire presidents; and
3. use bonding authority for projects.

The board members, 11-15, will be appointed by the Governor (nominations by the individual schools). The Governor will also determine if the required faculty member has a voting right (a student must be appointed with a voting right), and if a staff member will be appointed ex officio. Campus members serve two year terms, and other board members, four year terms. Funding of the board, estimated up to \$100,000 annually, is the responsibility of the institution. Oversight of the University System (OUS), now in the State Board of Higher Education, has not been finally decided as the new, seamless education system, from birth to graduate school (0-20), is put together over the next year.

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Close Call and Disaster

At the last minute, the Ways and Means Committee finally sent the bill to continue the Commission for running the Citizens Initiative Review Panels to the Senate floor, where it passed. No reason was ever given as to why this privately funded entity continuation was sent to the budget committee in the first place, nor why the Local Government subcommittee didn't move it out earlier, despite a lot of lobbying. At this time, Healthy Democracy is planning funding for two panels in 2014. Other states are looking at replicating Oregon's model, and the independent analysis of the panel reviews has been very positive.

Despite passage in the House by a vote of 38-21, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact never received a hearing in the Senate Rules Committee. This was a missed opportunity for Oregon to be relevant during Presidential

elections, as well as moving toward the goal of abolishing the Electoral College. Considerable effort went into the work of lining up supporters prior to the legislative session, having two paid lobbyists in the Capitol talking with legislators, testimony by the League and Common Cause, among others, emails



and approves testimony to assure that it comports with studied LWV Positions.

PEGGY Lynch is easily recognized and respected in the natural resources coalitions. Sitting with her in a committee hearing recently, I saw that many others sought her opinion. She has earned her credibility and the LWVOR reputation as a neutral, credible, well-researched expert on land-use, environmental, and other natural resource areas. Many elected Representatives and Senators welcome her input, because of her ability to offer reasoned opinion.

THERESA Gibney shadowed PEGGY two years ago on energy issues. This year she had a LWVOR assignment as an advocate for League Positions in Energy and Conservation. She is the newest member of the Action Committee giving written and committee testimony for the League.

KAPPY Eaton is an amazing force, with decades of LWVOR involvement in the Oregon Legislature. I was amused one afternoon when conversing with her to see many elected Legislators "tip their hats" as they walked by. Several lobbyists stopped to say hello and offered thanks for her mentoring over the years.

PAULA Krane follows Public Access, continually working to assure that transparency and adequate time notifications occur, so that citizen advocates have proper notice and ample time to know when bills will be considered in the Legislature.

NORMAN Turrill works on Campaign FINANCE REFORM and REDISRICTING with LWVOR. He is on the LWVUS Board and is the chair of the upcoming AGRICULTURE STUDY that local Leagues will receive in the fall.

MARGE Easley has been following gun safety legislation-not always a "safe" advocacy position in Oregon, but soundly supported by LWV National Positions. When I asked why she'd stepped forward on this divisive issue, she said, "It is the right thing to do." Marge also works on some natural resources issues.

My major mentor this year was KAREN Nibler with a very large portfolio. I've been shadowing her throughout this legislative session, as she works primarily on Social Policy Legislation-Children at Risk, Public Safety and Prisons, Mental Health, Early Learning, Youth Development, TANF, Housing, and much more. What a huge area to cover within the Legislature and what a wealth of information she

and office visits by members, etc. But in the end, the public was shut out of any discussion. The goal of having enough states with the number of Electoral College votes to insure that the Presidential candidate with the most popular votes is elected is still reachable as other states are joining the Compact.

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Real Tax Reform

Hardly a day went by during the discussions in the House and Senate Revenue Committees about capturing or creating new funding sources that the words "We need a complete revision of the Oregon tax code" weren't thrown in by some legislator. Former Governor Barbara Roberts tried to get the conversation going in 1991. Five legislators came up with five different approaches in 1995, but the House Speaker wouldn't schedule hearings. Former Governor Atiyeh tried to break the partisan gridlock in the early 2000s, when even the mention of tax changes raised hackles. Proposals for various types of sales tax have been defeated nine times. However, even though it didn't fly, the 2013 Grand Bargain proposal started a new discussion. The current Governor is traveling around the state to stimulate continued conversations about PERS reform and how to rethink how Oregon funds its schools and state programs and services. The League needs to be ready to enter the arena.

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Social Policy

Are We Ready for Early Learning?

Creating Early Learning and Youth Development Divisions in the Department of Education was one of the boldest moves made by the Governor. The phase out of the Commission on Children and Families (CCF) was done over two years, with priority on maintaining local agencies and services in the second year. The League [supported](#) the concept of the Early Learning Division in [HB 2013](#), but was concerned about the



Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator

has provided from her years of experience. Perhaps by the next full session of the Oregon Legislature in 2015, I'll feel competent to hold responsibility for part of this portfolio with KAREN.

By being an observer during the 2013 Legislative session-not testifying on behalf of the League or writing testimony-I've gained a background that will contribute to my new position as Chair of the Children at Risk Study. I've gained a perspective on how a balanced study, carefully researched, considering a diversity of viewpoints, leads to a credible product respected by legislators from both Democratic and Republican parties.

I want to express great THANKS to each of the above LWVOR advocates and to others I am just getting to know. You all give numerous hours of your volunteer time and expertise to make Oregon a better place to live and work. And you demonstrate the historical value of the League of Women Voters in the Legislative process. I'm proud to know you!

Finally, I wish to express admiration and respect for the Legislative Staff and the Elected Legislators of Oregon. Our process allows for difference of opinions and results in better legislation through citizen involvement.

To contact any member of the Action Committee and volunteer your time and skills, please email lwwor@lwwor.org or call 503-581-5722.

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local impact on counties' loss of funding for prevention programs.

The CCF administration was disbanded as of June 30, 2013, but another bureaucratic organization has been set up at the state level. Will the administrative cost be lower under the Education umbrella? Will the regional administration of these programs be managed with a limit of 15% of the funds passed to the regions for local early learning services? A Request for Proposal application will be issued to regional agencies for a January 2014 starting date for seven regions in the first year, and nine more regions in the second year of the biennium.

The Relief Nurseries (RN) will be funded directly from the Early Learning Division to the local RN agencies. Federal Head Start programs were always funded directly from the Department of Education to local programs. The Early Learning Division will administer the Healthy Families programs for children 0-3, with staff within the state agency. The regional hubs will have limited state funds for early childhood literacy, parent education, pre-school education, and other local programs. The hub agencies may also apply for grant funds to support the regional programs.

The Office of Child Care has been moved from the Employment Department to the Early Learning Division (ELD), and it will continue to offer child care subsidies for low income parents. All of the employees in this state program were assumed under the ELD. The receipt of a Federal Race to the Top grant will enable the ELD to set standards and develop programs within this Early Learning division.

What's Next? The Youth Development Division (YDD) is the poor cousin with lower funding, and was not included in the regional hub bill. The YDD will operate using Intergovernmental Agreements with counties for programs funded with federal youth investment and juvenile crime prevention funds. It will continue Community Schools and Gang Prevention Programs in metro areas. We will watch for new adjustments within the next short session in 2014. A special appropriation has been reserved for YDD.

The League's [Restudy of Children at Risk](#) will gather more information on program structure and delivery in the next two years. The links with other human service and health programs should assist in serving at risk children. Child Welfare and Mental

Health programs have emphasized treatment of the child within the family.

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All About Health Care Reform



Since 2009 the legislature has been moving toward health care reform. The Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) in 15 regions have been evolving with the goal of treating Medicaid patients at a lower cost with better outcomes. The CCOs plan to treat chronic diseases in clinics to avoid more expensive emergency room visits, procedures and surgeries. The Medicaid eligibility will extend to all low income adults below 138% of the poverty level, and it may add 220,000 more patients. The Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid will cover the first 3 years of the expanded program. The CCOs will be required to have Advisory Councils that are open to the public and take public testimony at some meetings.

The Oregon Health Authority has established metrics to measure the outcomes of health care delivery for state and federal accountability. The League is most interested in following the reports on these reforms in the next sessions. The League supports the steps in health care reforms, even though universal health care is not within reach. The League supported the Coordinated Care Organizations and the Health Insurance Exchange in 2011 and 2012. This session, a study on sources of revenue for health care was passed in [HB 3260](#) at the end of the 2013 session.

Dental care has not been funded in this session. [SB 738](#) in 2011 established dental pilot projects, but they were not funded. The E-board has \$100,000 for staff for this purpose reserved until December. School based health centers were expanded in [SB 436](#) and [HB 2445](#) in order to treat Medicaid eligible children where they spend much of their time.

[Cover Oregon](#) has been developing the website and will take applications after October 1. The coverage is to begin on January 2014. Insurance options have been submitted already and will be entered into the website as customer choices. Subsidized options will be available for low income families. A work group will be established to recommend health outcomes and quality measures for the insurance exchange. A final report is due to an interim health care

committee by May 31, 2014.

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Public Health

Prevention of health problems involves this division in many areas. Tobacco cessation received more funding from the Tobacco Settlement this session. Lottery funds will pay for gambling prevention. Childhood disease prevention got a boost from [SB 132](#), which required health practitioners to give information to parents about immunizations. [SB 483](#) required that autism treatment be covered in OEBCB (Oregon Educators Benefit Board) and PEBB (Public Employees Benefits Board) benefit plans.

This Division has applied for federal grants for maternal mental health and youth suicide prevention, and will report back to the legislature before programs are implemented. Teen Dating Violence Prevention was proposed this session, but the funding mechanism was problematic. It was referred to Ways and Means but was not heard. Food programs for Women, Infants, Children and Seniors were approved in [HB 2992](#) in order to add fresh foods.

A Task Force on the Future of Public Health Services was set up in [HB 2348](#) to study regionalization and consolidation of public health services. The report is due in the 2016 session and the League will be watching for the conclusions in that report.

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Addictions and Mental Health

The League testified for the expansion of community treatment services for crisis incidents, short term hospitalizations, and supports for long term clients in this [HB 5030](#) budget. The Ways and Means Committee approved increased funding for youth mental health and higher residential treatment rates in this budget. The final budget bills added funds for the expansion of community mental health services. Budget notes requested follow up on specifics of program investments and on plans to serve seniors and people with disabilities. The League will monitor the agency reports on the numbers of clients served in the community.

The Oregon State Hospital provides very expensive care for court



committed patients. New community residential facilities will be available for patients to move to less intensive programs. Geriatric patients will also be moved to nursing facilities. The Junction City Hospital will be completed before the end of the biennium, and patients will be moved from the Portland and Blue Mountain facilities.



[SB 421](#) revised the civil commitment process for dangerous mentally ill patients, including supervision by the Psychiatric Review Board upon release back to the community. [SB 426](#) changed "mentally ill person" to "person with mental illness" throughout the statutes. The League [supported HB 2594](#), which provided an assisted outpatient treatment option for the commitment of at risk adults, which will allow two counties to operate intervention programs.

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Are We Meeting Human Services Needs?

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Budget [SB 5529](#) was seen as the best budget in the past 10 years. The agency had taken cuts since 2003, and most have been restored. The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families will continue with a five year limit. The Jobs program will be partially restored, along with Employment Related Day Care, to assist parents in returning to work, although the rate of parents finding employment has been low. Caseworkers will provide Family support to prevent family disintegration, and the number of staff will be increased. The League [testified](#) on elements of this large agency budget and the programs within its divisions.

Since Oregon has had a high percentage of children in child welfare, the policy has been to keep children with the parents and treat the family. [SB 964](#), in 2011, started this practice, and the legislature has requested information on contracts with private non-profit agencies and outcome data. If children are removed from the home, the priority placement is with relatives. A new community home model has been initiated by Catholic Charities, and youth ages 18 through 20 will be eligible for transition housing. Foster children were granted a



bill of rights in this session, and former foster children will be eligible for tuition and fee waivers in local community colleges or state universities.

The Aging and People with Disabilities Budget received rate increases for home and community based care starting July 1. The division also partially restored hours of daily living assistance for seniors and people with disabilities who remain in their own homes. Homecare workers compensation was increased to cover new duties. The Developmental Disabilities programs were restored up to 94%, including brokerage services. The Long Term Care Ombudsman program was expanded to visit and advocate for developmentally disabled and mentally ill residents in foster care or group homes. The final budget rebalance bill contained these allocations.

[SB 450](#) established a Task Force on the Delivery of Human Services in order to streamline case management and help persons seeking assistance to access and navigate the system. The Task Force shall submit a preliminary report no later than February 15, 2014 and a final report no later than February 15, 2016. The League will look for this first report in the 2014 session.

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Basic Food and Housing Services



The Oregon Housing and Community Services agency has administered the food banks, emergency shelter, housing assistance, and weatherization programs with federal and state funds. The functions of this department are under review, and the second year allocations have been held back pending the recommendations in 2014. The League supported the agency work in anti-poverty programs and anticipates further testimony in 2014 regarding these programs.

The agency will continue with Housing Preservation Projects, Neighborhood Stabilization and Foreclosure Mediation programs throughout the biennium. The Lottery Bond bill, [SB 5533](#), added \$5 million for preservation of affordable housing. Tax credits for Farmworker Housing projects were extended into new biennium. The Document Recording Fee was increased by \$5 in order to provide funds for Veterans Housing Projects. One of the last bills to pass will give landlords access to a mitigation pool to pay for damages to rentals, to encourage landlords

to accept renters with vouchers.

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Public Safety Policy and Practices

Oregon Judicial Department.

The League has consistently supported the



Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) as a separate branch of government, and supported the restoration of staff in Circuit Court Districts. The Chief Justice asked for a raise in judicial salaries, which was approved. The Public Defense Services Commission also requested salary increases for attorneys who represent indigent defendants, and their salaries were increased slightly in the agency budget.

The Criminal Fine Account allocations were assigned to training, crime victims programs, judicial facilities, alcohol and drug programs and domestic violence and sexual assault programs. The Budget Rebalance at the end of the session added funds for community corrections, local jails, and incentives to reduce recidivism and prison utilization. The bill contributed further funds for salary increases for defense attorneys and judges. The final bill filled other commitments made in other budgets too.

Death Penalty Bill. The House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on [HJR 1](#) to refer to the people of Oregon a constitutional amendment, which would not allow the imposition of a sentence of death in Oregon. The League testified and submitted a [letter in support](#) of the resolution. In spite of all the efforts, the bill died. At the 2006 convention, the national League adopted a position supporting abolition of the death penalty because of the exceptional costs, the possibility of innocence, the lack of services for family members of victims, and the unfairness of those targeted for death sentences, including the poor, mentally ill, and members of ethnic and racial minority groups. Governor Kitzhaber put a moratorium on the death penalty in November of 2011 and called on the legislature and citizens to debate the issue, which will be considered again in 2014.

The Committee on Public Safety considered policy revisions to the community and institutional correctional systems. The Committee held hearings for information and testimony on [HB 3194](#), the bill which contained the recommendations of the 2012

Commission on Public Safety. Then the members of the committee met in closed sessions to deliberate on the proposals in the bill. Amendments and decisions on the content of the amended bill were made away from the public eyes and ears. The final hearing of the committee voted on the agreed upon version with majority approval.

The bill contained revisions to drug and driving and property sentences, which decreased prison time and will save prison costs. This was a good outcome because it kept lower risk offenders out of prison. The bill did not make changes to sentencing juveniles in the adult system or to reducing sentences for three Measure 11 offenses, Assault II, Robbery II and Sex Abuse I, which can cover a range of situations and have mandatory sentences of 6 to 7 years. This was seen as sending violent offenders to prison, but risk assessments were not required and criminal history was not taken into consideration in mandatory sentencing for these crimes. In other words, injustice is still possible under M 11 sentencing.

Community Corrections funding for community probation and parole supervision and jail operations for local sanctions were increased in order to deter future crimes and prison



sentences. Recidivism from the state correctional institutions has been decreasing due to pre-release programs and community services for parolees. The legislature has invested more funds in drug treatment courts in order to treat drug offenders in the community and to prevent further progression in the criminal system.

The League supported the changes to the criminal system, but was disappointed that it did not include sentencing for juveniles and the three mandatory minimums offenses. The League also supported the Department of Corrections efforts in parole transition and community corrections programs. The Criminal Justice Commission provides data to the legislators and worked with legislative committees on these proposals. The office administers the Drug Court grants in Circuit Court Districts. The Oregon Youth Authority was also supported for its efforts to provide education and treatment for youth in the correctional facilities and in community supervision or residential programs.

Gun Safety Bills. The League lent support to the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Gun Violence in their hard-fought efforts to pass gun safety legislation this session. Legislators heard emotion-charged

testimony from both sides, but claimed that emails from gun supporters, far outnumbered those of opponents. Toward the end of the session the Alliance focused chiefly on passing the background check bill, rather than those bills that placed limitations on concealed weapon holders. However, legislative leadership decided to table all gun bills due to lack of votes. Stay tuned, since there is every indication that gun safety bills will resurface in the years to come.

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Natural Resources

Natural Resources Agency Budgets

The League was active, along with our partners in the Oregon Conservation Network (OCN), before the beginning of the session and throughout the session in advocating for the funding of environmentally sound agency programs. For years, our natural resource agencies have taken disproportionate budget hits-after all, they have been only about 1% of the total General Fund budget. 2013 was a year for restoration from \$129 million in 2011 to \$165 million in 2013.



*Peggy Lynch, Natural
Resources
Coordinator*

But it's not about the money. It's about the services the money buys. The League and its partners provided testimony on almost all of the 14 natural resource agency budgets suggesting priority programs-and we were heard. The Governor's recommended budget, the Co-Chairs' budget and the final Legislatively Approved Budget (LAB) reflected most of our funding priorities. Each agency's LAB is or soon will be on their individual websites

There were a few losses: The final Department of Land Conservation and Development budget included additional funding for the Southern Oregon Regional Pilot Project-we objected because we believe the project is not following the work required under the contract/work plan. That same bill ([HB 5008](#), known as the "rebalance bill" or "Christmas tree bill"), also provided \$1.5 million to study what seems to be a new version of the Washington County Westside Bypass.

Funding for a robust on-site septic inspection program failed (instead we got [HB 3172](#), a requirement that sellers of homes disclose more information about their septic systems). The League provided [testimony](#) in support of a robust septic inspection program through the Department of Environmental Quality during their rulemaking process.

A new water right management fee failed to gain support due in part to the lack of a clear message on the use of the fee to better manage water rights in Oregon. This idea will return in 2015.

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Land Use

During the last interim, the League participated in Work Groups where legislation was developed to try to make our land use system more efficient, while also focusing on helping support complete communities and saving our traded sector industrial farm and forestland (See [HB 2253](#) and [HB 2254](#)).



Marge Easley, Natural Resources Volunteer

As usual, we played defense during the session. We defeated many proposals to expand industrial lands where they are not needed instead of using currently zoned industrial lands ([HB 2255](#), [HB 3267B](#), [SB 250](#), [SB 845](#)). We worked to encourage that industrial lands are serviced, but not at taxpayers' expense. We will need to follow [SB 246](#) and [SB 253](#) to see if their plans to help with infrastructure planning and financing have positive or negative impacts on our state revenue.

We opposed bills adding even more uses on our valuable farmland ([HB 3098](#), [HB 3121](#), [HB 3439A](#), [HB 3536](#) and [SB 502](#)). [HB 3098](#) was transformed from a bill for one particular project (the expansion of Young Life, the former Rashneesh property) into a policy bill, where rules will be written to allow youth camps on low value non-irrigated farmland in Eastern Oregon. [HB 2898](#) ended up with a special carve out for a pet project in Columbia County to expand Portland Community College on currently zoned farmland without the regular public process. Some groups asked the Governor to "line item veto" that part of the bill. Although he did not veto, the Governor did provide a [signing statement](#) expressing his displeasure and stating he will only support

legislation consistent with his long-standing land use principles.

We followed [HB 2820](#) and others related to how many acres of farmland should be allowed to be used for solar energy projects. The final version allows up to 100 acres with only local jurisdictional review, 320 acres in other circumstances and also allows an array on Oregon Military property in Christmas Valley. This is an example of the conflict between the League's positions in support of farmland and renewable energy. The Legislature struggles with this conflict as well.

We were interested in [HB 3040A](#) that would have required a study of a variety of non-farm uses on farmland. In the final analysis, it was determined that the cost was too great and the workload of the Department of Land Use and Conservation too heavy for this session. Some of these issues may be a part of the Land Conservation and Development Commission's (LCDC) new Policy Agenda. The League will provide input into that document by September. See the League's [letter](#) to LCDC

Land use appeals continue to be a target for legislators. Too many see the land use process that allows all Oregon citizens to participate in the development of their communities as a barrier to development. As proposed, we opposed [SB 77](#), but supported the bill as passed, which will require the Land Use Board of Appeals to quantify appeals so that legislators have data rather than anecdotal stories upon which to base future legislation. [HB 3362](#) was also heard. It would have changed the rules about legislative hearings to be more in line with quasi judicial ones; the League opposes this approach. Although it did not pass, a budget note was added to direct the Department of Land Conservation and Development to convene a work group in the interim to discuss the problems brought to the legislature by the City of Bend with this bill.

The ongoing conflict between farming and aggregate mining was on display this session, with the League [weighing in](#) on the side of preserving Oregon's most valuable farmland. [HB 2202](#),



brought forward by the Oregon Farm Bureau, initially required an alternatives analysis before permitting a mine on Class I and II soils in the Willamette Valley. However, the bill in its final form allows deeper mining than current limits, with the

ostensible rationale being that less farmland will be disturbed. It is very disappointing that a true compromise solution was not achieved.

The Department of Land Conservation and Development has provided a [list](#) of 2013 Land Use Legislation.

On the Federal front, we signed on to a letter supporting an effort to complete land exchanges and consolidate public and private lands on Steens Mountain, a proposal being advocated by our Oregon Conservation Network partner, the Oregon Natural Desert Association.

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Water

As a participant in development of Oregon's first water plan, "The Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS)", we supported many bills that will begin implementing that plan. In all, legislation in support of at least thirteen of the IWRS recommendations passed. Remember, the IWRS project included many agencies. The Departments of Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife, Forestry, Water Resources and Environmental Quality all received additional positions to implement the IWRS. The Water Resources Department has provided a [report](#) of their work this session.

The League supported additional funding for this agency so that we might have accurate data upon which permits can be issued and any conservation and storage projects might be based; [SB 217 \(testimony\)](#) that did not pass and [HB 2259 \(testimony\)](#) that did pass. We supported packages in their budget to assure required reports are actually used and to collect groundwater and surface water data. Increased staff will coordinate this data collection and help the public engage in future decisions.

The legislature passed a substantial (\$10 million+) water storage/bonding bill: [SB 839](#). In 2009, we worked with others to assure that environmentally important flows be considered when allowing water withdrawals or storage. [SB 839](#) now sets parameters for "seasonally variable flows". League members will need to monitor the projects expected by this bill to assure we have water for both humans and fish. There is money for studies in the Deschutes, the Willamette



and projects in the Umatilla area. The actual bonding money for projects is included in a number of more general bills and in other agency budget bills, and includes another \$11 million + for the Umatilla basin and \$1.5 million for the WISE project in Jackson County: [HB 5008](#), [SB 5506](#), [SB 5533](#), [SB 5502](#), [SB 5520](#), [SB 5521](#), [HB 5013](#) and [HB 5028](#). League members may well see water projects in their areas and may want to monitor this work to assure it is both environmentally sound, as well as economically reasonable.

The League [opposed HJR 25](#), a bill that would have amended the Constitution to prohibit fees or taxes on water wells. It only received a committee hearing, but the issue of exempt wells will continue to be an on-going discussion, particularly as we see more rural housing development.

We [supported HB 3491A](#), directing the legislature to more closely follow the review of the Columbia River Treaty, one of the most important treaties between Canada and the U.S. Although the bill did not pass, the Water Resources Department budget included a note directing them to keep the legislature informed. The League has a volunteer, Philip Thor, helping to provide comments and follow this important treaty. For a brief overview of the Columbia River Treaty Review process through the remainder of 2013, please visit the [Treaty Review website](#).

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Energy/Climate Change

The Governor's Ten Year Energy Plan was significantly advanced in the 2013 session, even by bills not coordinated by the Governor's office. Bills passed included those designed to:

- make programs more efficient or make it easier to complete "hard to get" energy efficiency projects ([SB 692](#), [HB 2801](#), [SB 561](#) and [HB 2436](#)),
- simplify responsible siting and study financing of renewable and energy infrastructure projects ([HB 2105](#), [HB 2106](#), [HB 2203](#), [HB 2345](#), [HB 2694](#), [HB 2704](#), [HB 2820](#), [HB 2893](#), [HB 3086](#), [SB 230](#), [SB 261](#), [SB 605](#), and [SB 606](#)),
- accelerate the conversion of our transportation system to fuels and vehicles



*Theresa Gibney,
Natural Resources
Volunteer*

that have lower carbon emissions ([HB 2435](#), [HB 3301](#), [SB 536](#), [SB 488](#), [SB 583](#), and [SB 810](#)),

- accelerate the reduction of carbon emissions ([HB 2333](#), [SB 242](#), [SB 306](#), and [SB 844](#) (natural gas only), and
- incent R&D in energy efficiency and renewable energy technology ([SB 737](#) and [HB 5028](#)).

Interestingly, the Governor's Plan, which emphasizes a streamlined site approval process for renewable energy projects and electrical transmission lines on public lands, predated a similar plan recently released by the Obama administration. During the session, the League carefully watched [HB 3086](#), which established mitigation procedures for renewable energy installations that impacted sage grouse habitat.

The League actively [supported SB 692](#), a bill that expands energy efficiency standards to three new categories of appliances: TV's, battery chargers (small and large) and to some types of outdoor lighting. These standards should reduce energy use for new appliances by up to 75% when they go into effect in 2016.

The League's Oregon Conservation Network partners, Oregon Environmental Council, Citizens Utility Board and Renewable Northwest Partners, testified in support of the successfully amended [SB 306](#), a bill requiring a Task Force recommendation for a revenue-neutral clean air (carbon) tax by December 2014.

[SB 488](#), a bill intended to eliminate a sunset on the Clean Fuels Standard pilot program, failed on the floor of the Senate, even after being amended to merely extend the sunset. The League [supported](#) the bill, seeking to provide certainty to alternative fuel developers and fuel suppliers who make capital investments in a less carbon intensive fuel supply for Oregon.

The League joined other signers in asking the Governor to line item veto a last minute sweep of public purpose charge monies from Oregon Housing and Community Services Weatherization or Affordable Housing Programs, despite an also-good use of these monies for other energy efficiency programs. Allowing this potentially unconstitutional redirection of ratepayer money to taxpayer purposes would create a precedence that the League does not support. The Governor did veto the bill and is seeking alternate funding for Clean Energy Works of Oregon's statewide energy efficiency loan/retrofit

program.

Theresa Gibney has joined Deanie Anderson, who is active on the national level, in helping keep Oregon's Leaguers involved in climate change activities. Theresa has also agreed to be our representative to the NW Energy Coalition.

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Suction Dredge Mining

Suction dredge mining is a practice in which riverbeds are vacuumed up by a large machine in pursuit of precious minerals. Materials from the riverbed go through a sluice, allowing miners to more easily search for heavy precious metals, in particular, gold. Sediment is then discharged back into the river in long murky plumes and gravel is dumped in piles called tailings.



The League worked with others in [support](#) of [SB 401A](#) expanding our Scenic Rivers. After all, non-motorized boating has increased 138% from 1987 to 2002. Identifying a river or portion of a river as "scenic" provides a number of protections. When it was clear that the bill would not receive enough Senate votes, [SB 838](#) was offered. The final version caps the number of suction dredge mining permits at 2009 levels and asks state agencies to study and propose a comprehensive framework to regulate this kind of mining by 2015. If the Legislature does not pass a new framework by the 2015 session, a five-year moratorium on suction dredge mining in certain areas will take effect.

On a federal note, the Department of Interior has recently withdrawn 17 miles of the Chetco River from new mining claims for five years. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio are trying to pass a Chetco River Protection Act that would permanently bar in-stream mining along 80 percent of the Chetco.

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Oceans

There were but a few bills related to ocean policy since much work was done beforehand with the adoption of new chapters in the [Territorial Sea Plan](#)

upon which the League participated. For the most part, the League was an observer since the bills were being "worked" by our partners such as "Our Ocean" and the Coastal Caucus work was positive: See [SB 580](#), [SB 605](#), [SB 606](#), [HB 2694](#) and [HB 3451](#). [SB 737](#) establishes the Oregon Ocean Science Trust. The Trust is allowed to seek, and may provide additional resources for, marine science needs as supported by the League's new [Coastal position](#).

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Forests

On the forests front, we provided [testimony](#) in opposition to [SJM 10](#) that would have put the legislature in the middle of the work being done by our Congressional delegation in search of a solution to how to treat our Oregon and California timber lands. As per current news reports, that seems like a good move: the U.S. House and Senate seem to be working toward a compromise. [SJM 10](#) died in committee.

The Audubon Society shared information related to the [Elliott State Forest](#) and concerns about the potential sale of a portion of that forest. Then more recently, we have seen news reports that the project to kill barred owls in order to save the spotted owl may include some of these lands.



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Streamlining and Regional Solutions

The League closely watched and participated in discussions related to the strengthening of Regional Advisory Committees. [SCR 4](#) directs state agencies to participate-something that the Governor already has the power to do.

The League actively worked with Greg Wolf of the Governor's Office on [HB 2620](#). This bill now requires public engagement to develop a plan to align state economic and community development programs with regional and community based programs. Natural resource agencies are directed to participate as much as possible in these regional solution centers. We also shared [concerns](#) about [SB 251A](#), which did not pass. On a similar streamlining note,

the League shared [concerns](#) regarding [SB 300](#), which would have changed the way some agency directors and Boards and Commissions are appointed. We expect to work with the Governor's Office during the interim on this issue as well.

In [HB 5008](#), a \$900,000 Lottery Funds limitation and three limited duration Principal Executive/Manager F positions (3.00 FTE) were added to the Office of the Governor. These positions will focus on streamlining the permitting process for significant projects across all levels of government: federal, state, county and city. They will act as advocates for the applicant in dealing with multiple agencies and complicated permitting processes; to convene state, local and federal agencies early on in the permitting process to avoid unnecessary duplication and delay. Local Regional Solutions groups have been authorized \$2 million each to spend on their [list of priorities](#).

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Toxics

Our partners at [Beyond Toxics](#) successfully passed [HB 3364](#); state agencies are now required to look to alternatives to pesticides when dealing with pest management. This bill builds on their success in a previous session keeping toxic chemicals off our school grounds.



The Pesticide Stewardship Program between the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Quality received increased funding and staffing to help reduce pesticides in water bodies. The League supported this effort.

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State Fair

Our State Fair will become a public corporation under [SB 7](#). The fair itself has been self-sustaining the last few years, but the facilities are not adequately utilized year round, causing a drain on the parks budget. Parks will continue to be responsible for the debt service on the expo buildings and will help with a transition to this new entity. The hope is that a release from state contracting requirements will enable the facilities to

be better utilized, and at least break even. The new Fair Council is to be appointed by January 2014, with full transition targeted for December 2015.

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Policies March On GET INVOLVED!



Oregon Parks is also considering whether or not to accept a land trade between the Bandon State Natural Area, a 902-acre property composed of dunes and seasonal wetlands, and 6,100 acres of forest, prairie and riparian bottomlands in Grant County for use as a future state park.

Under the proposal, 280 acres of property closest to U.S. 101 would be traded to Bandon Biota, a corporation owned by golf course developer Mike Keiser. Bandon Biota intends to develop a 27-hole walking-only golf course on the property.

In exchange, Bandon Biota would pay at least \$300,000 for gorse control on nearby state park properties, transfer two land parcels near Bandon totaling 208 acres into the state park system, and pay as much as \$2.95 million to help purchase two other properties, including oceanfront property in Lincoln County known as Whale Cove.

According to a state rule approved by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission, property exchanges must provide an **overwhelming public benefit**.

Our partners, Oregon Shores Coalition and the Oregon Coast Alliance are following this project and have concerns. So far the League has not weighed in on the proposal, but individual comments received by Sept. 16th will be included in the [Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission](#) packet. They will hold a public hearing at their September 24-25th meeting when a decision may be made. **For details and to make comments [click here](#).**



On another matter, Oregon Parks has been instructed to work with county parks to develop a recommendation related to funding county parks. This is in lieu of the legislature not passing [SB 331A](#), which would have changed some funding sources for state parks in favor of county parks.



In southern Deschutes and northern Klamath counties, the Department of Environmental Quality has been working with local citizens on how to address the issue of nitrates contaminating drinking water and the rivers, in part due to the number of small lots with septic systems. The Groundwater Protection Committee has a [draft proposal](#) that includes allowing a Goal 11 "exception". Although this may be a local issue, the policy decisions behind the proposal could affect other areas in Oregon. [Read the details](#). You can provide comments to Baggett.robort@deq.state.or.us.



The League will seek to engage in the [HB 2893](#) study of solar incentive programs. We expect the study to include an Oregon challenge to the decades old concept of net-metering, as this is a challenge being advanced by utilities across the nation.



League members may also be a part of a number of rulemaking exercises by agencies seeking to implement legislation. We expect, in particular, to be involved in a number of Land Conservation and Development opportunities (see their [Agenda](#)) and Water Resources Department (WRD) Work Groups (Two Task Forces called for in [SB 839](#)). There will be a re-launch of the Willamette Basin Reservoir Study by WRD. Funding was included in the President's FY13 Budget to complete a Small-Scale Reallocation Study for 499 acre-feet of water in the Coast Fork Willamette River sub-basin.



We will continue to follow the work of the Department of State Lands as they consider how to streamline the [404 permitting process](#) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is reviewing its Air Quality Permitting Rules. There is an opportunity to participate in stakeholder meetings now. The League has provided preliminary comments and will formally comment in October when the rules will go out for final public review. Our partners, Neighbors for Clean Air, are interested in partnering with the League. See DEQ [Calendar of Meetings](#).



The League is still seeking a volunteer to serve on the [Drinking Water Advisory Committee](#) to follow our long-time volunteer Sarah Chaplan. The League

has a permanent seat on that Committee. We provide a "public" view on drinking water protection, safety and regulation.



Almost all agencies have Boards and Commissions that meet around the state. Having a League observer at these meetings, and sending back notes to Action, would be a great help. It is also a wonderful way to learn about agency processes and issues. If a particular agency work is of interest to you, ask to be on a listserv to receive their agendas and packets and read about their work from your computer.

There is plenty of work for all of us to do, so
GET INVOLVED!

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Public Access

Transparent Transparency

Transparency : *the quality or state of being transparent*

Transparent : *free from pretense or deceit; easily detected or seen through; readily understood; characterized by visibility or accessibility of information especially concerning business practices.*



Paula Krane, Public Access Coordinator

Because of all the efforts of the last several sessions that we have been putting into making sure we all have access to the legislative political process, success continues to be ours. Most of what we have been asking for was there as the session started. The leadership of the Legislature started by again incorporating into the rules many of the things we have been pushing for in past sessions. Any bill with a price tag had to go to Ways and Means. Also, many bills that had major policy implications ended up in Ways and Means since that committee continues to the end of session, while policy committees close earlier.

And because of this we, again this session, watched the Joint Ways and Means Committee more closely. In the past when they were discussing bills referred from other (policy) committees, they sometimes made changes and added amendments to the public policy without a public hearing or public input on

these changes. It is true that public hearings had been held in the policy committees, but sometimes these bills were totally changed and no public hearing was held on the changes. We had to continually monitor this and try and bring to the committee's attention when public policy was involved. We were not always successful. However, because of our past monitoring of budget notes, the committee tried to make sure that budget notes were not setting public policy, but only making sure that the agency was being accountable for their programs.

The Legislators have added more new technology and some old to allow and include the larger public in the process. You no longer have to go to Salem to testify. They have added the ability to phone in testimony at hearings (if you contact the Committee Administration and/or Committee Chair). And Skype was also used to allow people to testify from afar.



The biggest access problem this session was one of transparency or openness. There was much written about this and during most of the session there were always several diverse groups complaining about not knowing what was happening.

There was a lot of behind closed door activities this session. The unwillingness of both political parties to compromise this session only compounded the transparency problem. One example that occurred from time to time (especially later in the session) is that amendments or changes to bills were not available for review before a hearing. This can be a problem for everyone - legislators as well as the public. This session there was even voting on these bills without all the committee members having advance notice of the amendments or even seeing these amendments and changes. Twenty-four hours advance posting is nice, but amendments should be available one hour before a hearing at a minimum. Not sure how we can change this part of the political game because this is where compromise is achieved and that is equally important. As usual when we started into the closing days there was very limited notice of hearings and more amendments were voted on by the committee that no one had advance notice about. Attempts should be made for some access in the closing days, but if everything needed a three day notice they would never get home. However, one hour notice before the last day is really not allowing the public (only the lobbyists who are camped out at the capital) any input. We need to continue to work on a workable solution to this access issue.

If access was part of legislation then those bills will be covered in their subject matter. Because of all our hard work in previous sessions, and the knowledge that the League would be there watching, this Legislature was willing from the beginning to try and make the process more open and accessible. With each session our Legislators appreciate the need for the best possible access for the public. Working together over the last decade, many of the League's concerns have been met. However, there are still areas of concern, as well as making sure that we do not lose any of our hard fought gains. It remains our goal to gain even better access to the Legislature and the political process. We have taken giant steps (from the time we made this an important priority) in making the legislative process more accessible to the public, but there is more that needs to be done and we can never let our guard down - constant vigilance



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OLIS and You

Each year our legislature continues to increase public access to information. Instead of providing you with a list of all the bills that we commented on in 2013, we recommend you try your hand at accessing bill information on the legislative website, [OLIS](#). You can search Oregon's Legislative Information System (OLIS) to learn what a bill is about, who sponsored a bill, the final action of a bill, and you can also read a bill's summary or the testimony provided. You can even go back and listen to a particular hearing. If you can't find the information you'd like, please contact any member of the [Action Team](#) for help.

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