



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON

Legislative Report

April 9, 2015

Volume 25, Number 8

2015 Legislative Session

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Community Meetings

The Oregon State Legislature (The Joint Ways and Means Committee) will be holding a series of hearings statewide in the next couple of weeks.

They are asking the public to tell them which state programs they consider important and should be funded this biennium out of state funds. All of these hearings will probably have standing room only crowds. They will have very strict time limits both for individual testimony and total hearing time. **So if you want to testify make sure you get there early.** This is Ways and Means so if you have programs you wanted funded be sure and tell them how they should be funded because unfortunately there is not enough money to go around for everything people wanted. If you have ideas for additional revenue then let our Legislators know these ideas also. We feel that it is important that these hearings away from the capital are monitored. **We encourage local League members and friends to attend the hearing in your area and help by being the eyes and ears of the action team.** As of now the state League will not be testifying so all you need to do is listen and pick up any of the handouts (and send to the state office). A short written report of what occurred would be helpful.



Paula Krane, Public Access Coordinator

Ways & Means Hearings *Around the state.*

See Paula Krane's article about attending.

Friday, April 10
La Grande
5:30-7 p.m. - Eastern
Oregon University

Saturday, April 11
Boardman
12:30 - 2 p.m.
S.A.G.E. Center (Port of Morrow)

Tuesday, April 14
Lincoln City
6:30 - 8 p.m. -
Lincoln City Cultural Center

We encourage members to attend as individuals and express their opinions on any of the state funded programs that are important to you because it is your taxes they are spending. **If you wish to testify please leave your League pin at home but if you are just helping us as monitors wear your League pin for everyone to see.** If any local League would like to testify as the League

Thursday, April 16
Gresham
 7 - 8:30 p.m.
 Mt. Hood Community
 College

Tuesday, April 21
Portland (PCC
Rock Creek)
 7 - 8:30 p.m. - PCC
 Rock Creek

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

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

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



WYNNE JONES, OREGON STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, SALEM, OREGON
 Photo: Oregon Department of Parks, Recreation and Heritage

Common Cause
is asking you to
attend the

please [contact the state action team](#) for talking points and help with your testimony.

**See the sidebar for dates, times
 and locations.**

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[Social Policy](#)

Mental Health Budget, Public Policy and Health Care Costs



*Karen Nibler, Social
 Policy Coordinator*

**Ways and Means Human
 Services Subcommittee** has
 been hearing **SB 5526** on the
 Oregon Health Authority
 Budget for the past few weeks.

The Medical Assistance
 Program was first, the **Mental
 Health and Addictions**

Budget and Public Health Division followed.
 During the last session the Mental Health Division
 was given \$60 million for the community mental
 health system in response to objections from the
 public and the US Department of Justice. The funds
 were allocated for crisis services, crisis respite
 housing, jail diversion, supported housing, school
 based health centers, parent-child interaction
 therapy, wraparound services for children, young
 adult interventions, sex trafficking victims, and new
 services for tribes. **The League supported the
 continuation of these services in a letter last
 week.**

The Public Health Division presented reorganized
 priorities to prevent chronic diseases with the
 emphasis on tobacco use, substance abuse, obesity,
 oral health, suicide prevention and immunizations.
 Federal funds for prevention have decreased,
 although local public health will continue to
 investigate infectious diseases, HIV, STD and TB,
 and violations of environmental regulations. The
 maternal and child food, health and immunizations
 programs will continue, as well as breast and
 cervical cancer programs. **HB 3100** proposes
 reorganizations of county public health to allow for
 regional and shared service models. Legislators
 asked about the role of Coordinated Care
 Organizations in the provision of prevention

**April 21st hearing
ON SJR 5 at the
capital.**

**[Click Here for RSVP &
event information.](#)**

**Read the bill:
SJR 5**

*(constitutional
amendment limiting
campaign financing)*

**ACTION ALERT
SB 680
National Popular
Vote (NPV)
Your involvement is
needed. Senate
Leadership is holding
up a vote on this bill.
[Read how you can
help.](#)**

**Governor Brown has
published a new
website, [Meet the
Governor.](#)**

**Learn about her 25 plus
years of service with
important links for
accessing records.**

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services. The League has not yet responded to these proposals.

Health Care Bills: Cost control on hospital charges was the subject of 3 bills in the Senate Health Care Committee: **SB 665** would create a Hospital Rate Commission to review hospital charges by certain hospitals. While there was support from primarily consumer organizations, including SEIU and Oregon Education Association, The Oregon Association of Hospital and Health Systems, Cambria Health, and Providence Health Services, all opposed the bill. **SB 891** would require that health care facilities publish price data regarding health care services. **SB 900** would require the OHA to post health care price data for inpatient and outpatient hospital services. Consumer organizations favor **SB 891**, while Oregon Hospitals and Health Systems favor SB 900.

The Oregon Office of Rural Health testified in favor of **SB 757**. The bill would fund the data and analysis to determine if the current rural practice subsidies are effective. The bill would appropriate \$450,000. In a Work Session on 4/1/15 the Committee unanimously passed the bill to the Senate Floor for a vote and subsequent referral to Ways and Means.

HB 3352 requires OHA to contract with public or private entities for alcohol and drug treatment services to individuals who qualify for medical assistance. Only three individuals spoke in favor of the bill, stating that treating addictions early as a disease in the long run will save the State money with fewer hospitalizations, fewer incarcerations, and a decrease in the use of law enforcement and court time. A recommendation was made by the individuals who testified to fund one or two pilot projects if funding was an issue this session.

HB 2546A prohibited the sale of tobacco or inhalant delivery systems to persons under 18 years of age. HB 2546 A passed the House floor on a 56 yes to 2 no votes. Conflict was avoided in passage of **SB 415A**, which prohibited the sale of flavored tobacco products and eliminated reference to inhalants. This bill would impose a penalty of \$5,000 for violations. The bill has been referred to Senate Finance and Revenue.

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[Social Policy](#) on Education, Early Intervention, and Family

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Bill Trackers
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Legislature's bills,
committees and activities
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(Oregon Legislature's
Information System
Also,
[Oregonian Bill Tracker](#)

**California looks to
Oregon to adopt the
Motor Voter Law.**
**[Read the Statesman
Journal article.](#)**
**[Read the U.S. Department
of Justice information
about the National
VotersRegistration Act
\(NVRA\) also known as the
Motor Voter Act.](#)**

**OTC denies
funding for dock
proposal.**
***"The League was pleased
to read that the Oregon
Transportation
Commission denied
funding for the dock
proposal that would have
facilitated coal transport.
Testimony was provided in
July 2014 on this
important climate change
issue."***

Peggy Lynch, LWVOR
Natural Resources
Coordinator
**[Read the Portland
Tribune article](#)**

**Legislative Bill Work
Session Deadlines:**

Many bills relating to family safety nets and early childhood intervention cross over several state departments: Education, Health, Housing, Human Services and the Department of Corrections.

HB 5017 appropriates moneys to the Department of Education for State School Fund K-12, it requires about 40% of the TOTAL General Fund and Lottery Fund dollars. Upcoming hearings for **HB 5016** will appropriate limited General Funds to the Department of Education for early intervention services and early childhood special education programs. **HB 3380** with an **April 10 hearing** in the House Education Committee sets common, high-quality standards for preschool programs (including Head Start, community-based preschools and those in K-12 schools) and requests funding to reach more low-income children in a variety of settings. The Oregon Head Start Pre-K program has funding to serve only about 55 percent of eligible children. Seventy-two percent of 3- and 4-year-olds from low- income Oregon families - about 32,000 children - don't have access to high-quality preschool. Overtime the bill requires at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a field related to early childhood education for lead teachers, and provides lead preschool teachers with a salary that meets the minimum salary requirements established by the Early Learning Council.

SB 213 requires the Early Learning Council (ELC) to develop metrics for Early Learning HUBs and permits the ELC to require matching funds from Early Learning HUBs that receive funding. Future HUB contracting shall focus on community readiness, high capacity development and progress toward tracking child outcomes. HUBs will integrate efforts among education providers, providers of health care, providers of human services and providers of other programs and services in the community. It will be heard in the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood on **April 9**.

SB 902 requires Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) to develop a strategy and a plan for working with the Early Learning Council, Early Learning Hubs, the Youth Development Council and School Health Providers in each CCO region. It sets processes to evaluate the adequacy of the existing school-based health resources including school-based health centers and school nurses to meet the specific pediatric and adolescent health care needs in the community. A **hearing and possible work**

April 10 - Deadline to post 1st chamber work sessions

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

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

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

League Links

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



Left to Right: Norman Turrill, LWVOR Governance Specialist, Gov. Brown, Kappy Eaton, LWVOR Governance Coordinator

session is scheduled 4-14 in the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood.

HB 2015 was heard earlier in Human Services and Housing with subsequent referral to Ways and Means. HB 2015 will support Oregon's low income working families, as well as align with the state's early learning priorities and bring Oregon into compliance with the new federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) rules for child care subsidy. The **Employment Related Day Care Program (ERDC)** is a critical part of the state's set of supports for low-income working families. The program serves an average of 8,000 families per month. There is currently a waitlist for the program, with more than 1,650 families waiting. ERDC is vital for thousands of low-income working families who struggle with affording the child care they need to stay in the workforce.

Other bills still active in this session that impact children and youth are: **SB 150**, requiring the Department of Human Services, a child-caring agency and foster home to ensure the provision of a minimum of one extracurricular activity, where available at school or in community, to a child receiving care or services from department, agency or home. **HB 2414 Introduced** permits parents or guardians of minor adoptees or minor genetic siblings of adoptees to use and register with voluntary adoption registries. **HB 3231 Introduced** modifies laws regarding establishment of parentage of child to incorporate registered domestic partners and current medical procedures utilized for pregnancy. **SB 741 Introduced** directs the Department of Human Services to consider relatives and current caretakers as prospective adoptive parents, and that greater consideration be given to relatives and current caretakers. It had a **public hearing 4-7** in the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood.

Reported by Chris Vogel.

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Gun Safety Bills

The April 1 hearing on **SB 941** clearly showed the depth of passion on both sides of the issue of expanding background checks to all gun transfers in Oregon. The work session on



and Rebecca Gladstone, LWVOR Voter Service

[Click here for video link](#)

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

[Photos of Motor Voter Signing](#)

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

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](#)

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.

this bill, scheduled for April 2, was postponed until April 6, following the submittal of an amendment by Sen. Kim Thatcher to replace background checks with the inclusion of felony records on drivers' licenses. She later withdrew her support for the amendment and submitted another to replace background checks with placing full legal liability on sellers during a private gun transfer.

We are also keeping a close eye on two other gun safety bills [SB 525](#) (taking guns from domestic abusers) and [SB 945](#) (child access prevention), but hearings have not yet been scheduled.

Meanwhile, six other gun bills will be heard on April 8 in Senate Judiciary, including a rather disturbing one. [SB 170](#) requires school districts to provide firearm safety courses beginning in kindergarten.

Marge Easley, Action Committee

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Governance

TAX CREDITS, REDISTRICTING, CAMPAIGN FINANCE & MORE

Tax Credits Abound

The Joint Ways and Means Committee's proposed 2015-17 Budget eliminates \$50 million from the tax credits up for sunset this session. These credits total \$64 million in lost revenue for the state, so the Tax Credit Committee has only \$14 million to allocate for continuing, revising or repealing them. In the meantime, almost 30 new tax credit proposals are working their way through the House Revenue Committee which seems intent on positively hearing most of them. With the impending deadline of April 21 for chambers to schedule work sessions on bills to move forward, which tax credits might survive on the House floor will be enlightening. Those that do will face challenges in the Senate Finance Committee.



Kappy Eaton,
Governance
Coordinator

Redistricting Proposals

Although our bond rating is AA+, factors that affect our rating include the kicker law, the volatility of our personal income tax and our active initiative process.

Capital Construction informational hearing was held March 20th.

Information on bond financing:

[State Bond Financing in Oregon](#)

from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

[Overview of the 2015 Debt Policy Advisory Commission Report](#)

From LWVUS: UPDATE

[Meeting Basic Human Needs Position](#)

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legislators and staff.**



The 2015 Legislative Guides are available in Room 59 for only \$3.00.

The Guides provide pictures and information about each legislator, as well as information about Committee Staff.

[SB 331](#) has been sent to the Senate floor by the Senate Rules committee. It is an important piece in the discussion of redistricting reform. The bill requires the Department of Corrections to determine the home county of all prisoners so that the population count of that county will include the prisoners rather than the county where they are incarcerated. This proposal is supported by the League, Common Cause, AARP and the City Club of Portland, among others.

[HJR 29](#) received a hearing in House Rules March 30. This legislation would create an independent Redistricting Commission comprised of three retired judges and sets up a plan for designing the new formation of state legislative and congressional districts. Testimony in favor of consideration of revision of the state's redistricting process, but not in support of the proposed bill, was presented by the Redistricting Matters Coalition. The League is a member of the Coalition which is chaired by the Portland City Club Redistricting Committee.

Campaign Finance Discussion

Two proposals affecting campaign finance regulations finally have been scheduled for hearings. A hearing on [HB 3397](#) was held before the House Rules committee on April 8 and SJR 25 will be heard in Senate Rules on April 21. [HB 3397](#) is a statute adding to the definition of "political committee", which would include the League, and limits to \$500 any contribution to a measure within 60 days of a primary or general election. In working with the bill's sponsor, we have requested an amendment for clarification. We have been advised that there will be an amendment before the hearing, but it had not been received as of April 6. ([Click here to read League Testimony.](#))

[SJR 25](#) is the constitutional amendment to allow the Legislature or the people to limit campaign contributions. The League can support this proposal at the hearing on April 21. If moved by both chambers, it would be on the November 2016 ballot.

Other Measures Update

The House Rules committee meeting on March 25 was cancelled. [HB 3500](#) which would provide major party ballots to all nonaffiliated voters was scheduled to be heard.



Voter Registration
Lookup available online
through the SOS office.

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

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



LWVOR UPDATES HEALTH
CARE PAYER STATEMENT
(click here)

Representative Buckley testified on his bill, **HB 2961**, on March 24, before the House Revenue committee. The proposal would appropriate one percent of the General Fund and Lottery allocations for the next biennium to the Rainy day and Education Stability Funds. No action was taken.

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Natural Resources

Deadlines: Good Bills/Bad Bills/Lots of Bills!

In our climate portfolio, Claudia has a number of bills needing your support. The League is providing testimony on **HB 3470**, the **Climate Stability and Justice Act 2015** that requires the Environmental Quality Commission to adopt by rule statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits with a review every 5 years; and an action plan and a timeline for adopting rules under provisions of the Act because the effects of global warming and ocean acidification caused by greenhouse gas emissions threaten to have significant detrimental impacts on public health and the economic vitality, natural resources and environment of this state. This bill could be considered a "**cap and trade**" bill. The hearing is scheduled for April 14 in House Energy and Environment.



Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator

Also on her list is **HB 3415**, which imposes a 10-year moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas exploration and production. **The League provided testimony** April 7 before the House Committee on Energy and Environment. This issue has been addressed by the New York, Pennsylvania and California State Leagues. (See news article http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/02/fracking-california-water_n_6997324.html).

The League will **provided testimony** on **HB 3225**, the Rail Oil Safety Bill on April 9 in House Energy and Environment. Unfortunately, we have heard that **SB 477**, Coal to Clean, will not get a Work Session and is probably dead for this session.

Say NO to SB 716

There have been many questionable land use bills this session, but the League has mostly just monitored them to see where we might best spend our time. Unfortunately, a really bad bill received a hearing on April 6 in Senate Environment and Natural Resources. **SB 716** would authorize Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties each to designate one large-lot industrial reserve of 150 to 500 acres! For League members in the Metro area this is incredible! They have just spent years reviewing lands in these three counties, have seen Urban Growth Boundary expansions and designated a series of urban and rural reserves expected to address needs for urban growth and provide stability for the agricultural community for the next 50 years. Not so if the Legislature adopts this legislation! **Your voice is needed to defeat this egregious overreach. Call Chair Edwards, other committee members, YOUR Senator and Senate Leadership and ask them to respect those local decisions.**

One of the priorities for the League this session is to see the Dept. of Land Use and Conservation work with the Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries, local jurisdictions and others to address planning for natural hazards. We have **provided testimony** on **HB 2633** and **SB 94**. We may also speak on **HB 3447** and **HB 3412** related to this important issue.

We continue to await a hearing on **HB 3417**, a bill that would increase the notice for Regional Solutions Regional Advisory Committee meetings, so that the general public can plan to attend and/or prepare comments at these important meetings, where economic development projects are discussed and state monies sometimes allocated.

We want to provide a follow up on **HB 3089, 3090, 3096 & 3269** requiring the **Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)** to spend precious dollars to conduct studies on behalf of the mining industry. Although **the League provided testimony**, the discussion focused on the revenue potential of increased mining production in Oregon. Specifically mentioned were tellurium mining in Josephine County and two proposed gold mines: the Calico mine in Malheur County and a placer mine in Baker County. Since extracting gold from rock uses cyanide and substantial water, these mines are of serious environmental concern.

We provided testimony last week on [SB 5511](#), [HB 3315](#) and [SB 5531](#) related to funding for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife agency (with a nexus to the Fish and Wildlife state troopers as well). [HB 2401](#) creates an excise tax on wild bird feed and directs 50 percent of revenues from the tax to a new Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Fund and 50 percent of revenues to a new Wild Bird Conservation Fund. Although the League will not be taking a position on this bill, members can consider whether or not they support such a tax and share with your representative or committee members. The bill is being heard in House Rural Communities on April 7. We are serving on Work Groups related to the future of ODFW, including a discussion of the value of creating an interim Task Force (contained in [HB 2402](#)).

The natural resource agency budget this week is for the Water Resources Department, [HB 5042](#). The League will be supporting this budget using our water quality and quantity positions. With the Governor expected to declare drought emergencies in Crook, Harney and Klamath Counties this week-joining previously declared Lake and Malheur Counties and Baker and Wheeler Counties to follow in another week, the work of the Water Resources Department is critical to the health and well-being of Oregon citizens and the economy.

We continue to watch [SB 829](#) related to procedures that DEQ uses to process certain water permits. We have participated in a one work group meeting and continue to have concerns about proposed amendments. We are still hopeful that [SB 266 w/-2](#) amendments will pass out of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. It will provide direction to the Water Resources Department to go forward with "place-based planning", yet another of the recommendations from the Integrated Water Resources Strategy where communities can work together to develop long-term plans for clean abundant water for all. With our changing climate and increasing drought, planning for the future is critical.

Watch List: **Water:** [SB 266w/-2s](#), [HB 3169](#). **Rulemaking:** [HB 2497](#), [SB 100](#) & [101](#), [HB 2975](#) & [3273](#). **Natural Hazards:** [HB 2633](#). ODFW Budget Issue: [HB 3315](#). **Solid Waste:** [SB 412w/-3s](#). **Land Use:** [HB 3214](#), [HB 3282](#), [HB 3215](#), [HB 3431](#), [SB 716](#). **Fees:** [HB 2975](#). **Suction Dredge:** [SB 830](#). **Onsite Septics:** [SB 246w/amendments](#). **Regional Solutions:** [HB 3417](#).

For information about these bills, please read them at the Oregon Legislature website or contact Peggy Lynch: zuludar@aol.com

Climate Watch List: **Coal to Clean:** [HB 2729](#) or [SB 477](#). **Carbon Pricing:** [HB 2082](#), [HB 3176](#), [HB 3250](#). **Vessel/Rail Oil Transport:** [SB 262A](#), [SB 271](#), [HB 3225](#). For information about these bills, please read them at the Oregon Legislature website or contact Claudia Keith: ca.keith@comcast.net

Forestry and Toxics Watch List: [SB 257](#) & [SB 613](#), [HB 3428](#), [HB 3123](#), [HB 3434](#), [HB 3429](#), [HB 3430](#) & [HB 3482](#). **Elliott Forest:** [HB 3474](#) & [SB 806](#). **Toxic Free Kids Act:** [SB 478w/-8s](#). For information about these bills, please read them at the Oregon Legislature website or contact Jen Haynes: Jennifer.A.Haynes@comcast.net

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