

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON



VOTER

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Winter 2018

Election Results Reflect LWVOR Positions

Alice Bartelt, Action Committee Chair

Measure 102 changed the Oregon Constitution to allow bonds to be used for housing without local jurisdictions having to own the housing. A second related measure allows Metro to issue bonds for affordable housing. This passed after the Leagues in the Portland area endorsed it.

Measure 103, which sought to exempt taxes on any business that was involved in the grocery business, failed and our position was to oppose it. Measure 104 sought to require a 3/5 vote in the legislature for any bill that would affect money coming into the state government, including fees charged for services by various state agencies, also failed. The League submitted op-eds in regard to both of these measures.

Measure 105, which sought to repeal a thirty-year-old law that prohibits law enforcement from notifying U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement when a person is released from jail. If the federal government does not have a warrant for that person's arrest, Oregon law enforcement jurisdictions are not allowed to notify ICE when the person leaves custody. The measure failed.

Finally, another measure to ban state funding for abortions, Measure 106, also failed. This measure was an effort to overturn the Reproductive Equity bill that was passed in the 2017 legislative session. There was also concern that the wording would have prohibited funding for abortions in health insurance policies that cover employees of the state. The LWVOR opposed this and it failed.

Another result of the election is that the Democratic party now has a supermajority in both houses of the Legislature. This means that the 3/5 majority requirement to raise taxes can be met without any Republican votes. It is unknown how this will affect the 2019 legislative session.

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VOTER Editor: Karan Kuntz

LWVOR Mission

The League of Women Voters®
 of Oregon is a grassroots,
 nonpartisan political
 organization that encourages
 informed and active
 participation in government in
 order to build better
 communities statewide. The
 state League's purposes are to
 influence public policy
 through education and
 advocacy and to provide
 support for League members
 and the League organization.

Convention 2019 in Ashland

Robin Wisdom & Barbara Klein

Be a point of light in our 'Beacon for Democracy' as we celebrate in Southern Oregon, recognizing 99 years of League. All League members are invited to attend the year's largest annual, statewide get-together. There is nothing quite like being there in-person. Plan for learning, sharing, fun and celebration with others who share your concerns and commitment to making our nation a more-perfect union.

All Leagues are asked to send delegates according to LWVOR's bylaws and policies. Conventions are an important part of membership. This is the time to voice your suggestions, ideas for the future, and to vote on issues that affect League actions and policies. And we plan to have some fun activities sprinkled in – maybe a reason to come EARLY.

Where – Ashland Springs Hotel

When – May 17 – 19, 2019

Theme – "A Beacon of Democracy ... for 99 Years"

Find out current info from around the state, get ready for the League's 100th Anniversary and the 2020 election cycle, meet new and old friends, and visit lovely Ashland, Oregon.

LWV Rogue Valley, our convention host League, welcomes all local League members, Members-at-Large, friends, and potential members to join us for our 99th year in Oregon and the nation. If you come early or stay later, our local hosts will be glad to help you with additional ideas for Oregon Shakespeare Festival, a great local hike, boutique shopping or a guided tour of Lithia Park.

Mark your calendar and plan to come!

Watch for the *First Call to Convention* in mid Feb. There will be time for local League sharing, and a Silent Auction will be held.

Come for facts and fun in Ashland!

Opportunities to Suggest Changes to LWVOR Program and Bylaws

Our year is quickly coming to a close. Program planning will occur in January, just 2 months from now. Any league may suggest new studies, or updates to studies. When making recommendations for studies, the league needs to have study committee members lined up to make the initial steps necessary for a study. This is very important to make sure that the study starts on time and is completed within a reasonable time frame. Any recommendations for studies or updates must be submitted to the LWVOR board by February 17, 2019.

If any league has some ideas about how the LWVOR bylaws should be amended. When submitting a proposed amendment, please provide a rationale for the proposed change. Once again, the deadline for the bylaws changes is February 17, 2019.

From Our 100 Years of History...

Jane Gigler, LWV Portland member and contributor to the 100th Anniversary Committee
In light of all the current turmoil over immigration in this country, it seems that the League struggled with this issue in its beginnings. Excerpted from the LWVOR board minutes of the April 18, 1928 meeting are these comments:

The New York League lobbied the Oregon League to support changes in naturalization policies to prevent the separation of families and to remove such discriminations between men and women as seem detrimental to the interests of the latter. These changes include the following points:

1. Declarants, whether men or women shall have the same rights and privileges as naturalized citizens with regards to bringing alien members of their families into the country.
2. Women who are naturalized shall have the same in rights and privileges as naturalized men with regard to bringing alien members of their families into the country.
3. Children resident in this country shall be nationals of this country if eityer (sic) parent is a national of this country.
4. Women who marry aliens ineligible for naturalization shall have the same status with regard to American citizenship as women who marry aliens eligible for naturalization.

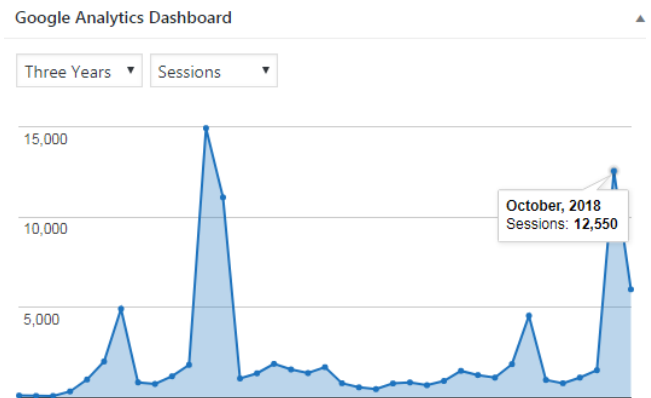
2018 Voter Service Report

Becky Gladstone rebecca.gladstone@gmail.com

www.lwvor.org usage

Overview

League Voter Service expanded dramatically this fall; volunteers, social media, and voters were depending on us! We spent just shy of \$15,000 for expenses not including staff and overhead, for this general election. Our social media/online presence was extremely effective. LWVOR covered all expenses for Voters' Guides distributed throughout the state by Local Leagues. Great work, members of the League of Women Voters of Oregon statewide Voter Service team members!



LWVUS Voter Service

Nationally, Leagues compared debate and social media policy as candidates resisted debating (e.g. [Op-Ed from Wisconsin](#), [LWVUS on unwilling candidates](#)). It was great to have our newly revised and adopted Voter Service policy for discussions of creative solutions to empty chair debates. A number of state leagues will be revising theirs now.

Thank you to our Volunteers!

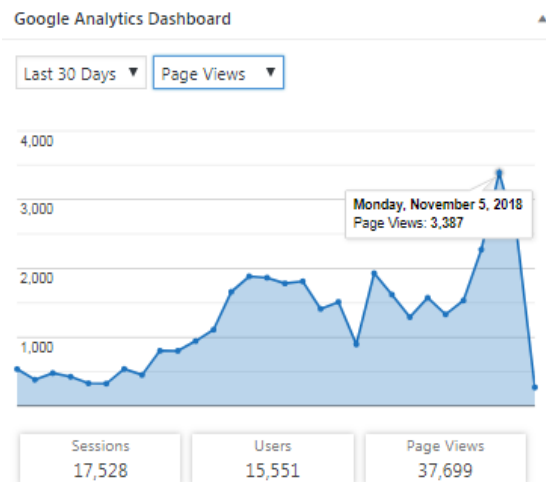
Kudos to our local League Voter Service volunteers, event managers, Voters' Guide distributors, video partners and managers. Thank you to our ballot measure researchers and editors. Thank you to our expanded Speakers' Bureau, with more than 30 speaking at multiple events in their communities around the state. Thank you to the State Library, TBABS and the State Elections Division for distributing our Large Print, Braille and Audio Voters' Guides. Thank you to Mary Sinclair for VOTE411 management, Peggy Bengry for covering it in Multnomah, and Sarah Andrews for taking on a big part of this, also our website coverage.

Social Media Report

LWVOR.org

Thank you, Sarah, our paid LWVOR Office Coordinator, for administering our website redesign and maintenance and for these graphs. She formatted all of our election information in web and mobile friendly formatting on the website.

(Continued on page 5.)



Voter Service (Continued from page 4.)

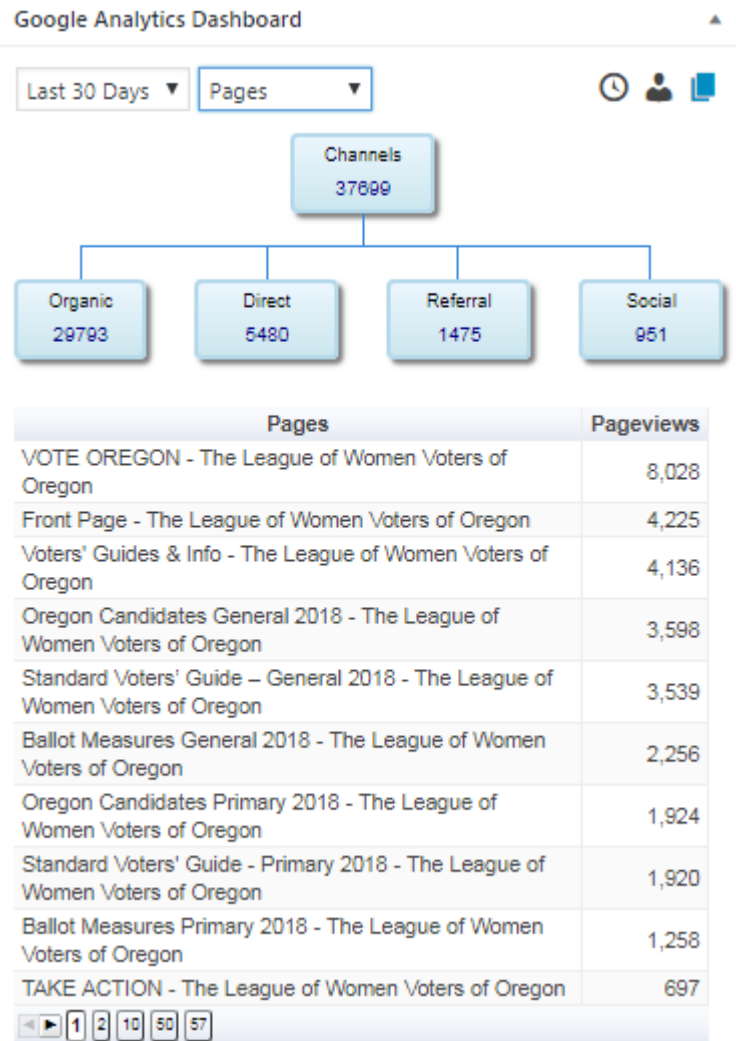
Facebook

Facebook statistics reports are extremely detailed! Basically, we reached over 62K the week before the election, over 150K during the month before the election. Click-through and reference rates are complicated but encouraging.

Vote411.org

Analytics are not yet available, though nationally our traffic was over a million higher than through election 2016. Preliminary numbers show LWVOR had 56,389 Vote411 visits this calendar year. For the same period in 2016, we had ~29,000.

- November 6, 2018 Election Google Search Word Ad Campaign, Kathleen Hersh purchased Google Search Word ads for the 2018 election cycle: Voter Information League of Women Voters *info* Ad www.lwvor.org
- Get balanced ballot measure information from the League of Women Voters of Oregon
- Voter Information | League of Women Voters *info* Ad www.lwvor.org
- Get nonpartisan candidate information from the League of Women Voters of Oregon



This shows usage of pages within our website.

Key words were: candidates, city council, commissioner, ballot measure, voters' guide. The campaign ran from October 17 to November 6. The ads ran in Oregon minus Multnomah County. (LWVPDX was running search word ads for their Voter Service web pages there.) The ad linked to our Vote Oregon page. The ads were shown over 108,000 times during that period. Over 4,300 people clicked on the ads. The cost of the campaign was \$2,071.12. (Continued on page 6.)

Voter Service (Continued from page 5.)

Voters' Guides

Our online presence continues to grow dramatically. The very popular print Voters' Guide production should continue for 2020. Grant funding allowing and because of their popularity, it would be nice to keep them, despite inability to correct errors and adapt to post-print developments. Print guides cover less than 10% of our information online!

The time crunch between filing deadline(s) and the election remains unmanageable. This work includes contacting our 240+ cities and all 36 county clerks repeatedly, inviting and reminding candidates and providing tech support for them. Entering and managing data in VOTE411 is lots of work.

It is labor-intensive to produce Voters' Guides. Feedback tells us that these guides are now reaching demographics for whom this information is utterly new! There are still some without computer access or skills to search for voter information. For example, the Vote411 data that we collect must be assembled into a preliminary administrative website, then formatted for translation, for our public www.lwvor.org/voteoregon/ website, final print format for Large Print, and prepared for Braille. The audio recording script is now used not only for those with vision challenges, but for an increasingly popular "podcast". It is reorganized and web-formatted, previously by County, Candidate, Office, and Measures pages online, now only by measures and a long candidate list.

LWVOR is able to pay for production and distribution of state printed Voters' Guides distributed through Local Leagues to libraries, county clerk offices and other locally identified distribution sites. LWVOR printed over 26,000 copies at \$0.30 for English and \$0.84 for Spanish. Here is a summary of basic cost, our donations to our local Leagues this fall for the print Voters' Guides, English and Spanish, not including extensive LWVOR office and staff labor costs for data input, website presentation, and printer coordination:

Clackamas	\$454.94	Lincoln	\$193.20
Coos	\$186.12	Linn	\$145.48
Corvallis	\$439.80	LWVOR	\$169.28
Curry	\$150.36	Marion	\$766.00
Deschutes	\$318.72	Portland	\$6,039.64
Hood River	\$187.40	Rogue Valley	\$228.38
Klamath Falls	\$191.60	Umatilla	\$87.88
Lane	\$518.28	Umpqua	\$93.60
		Washington	\$1,034.56

President's Message

Norman Turrill

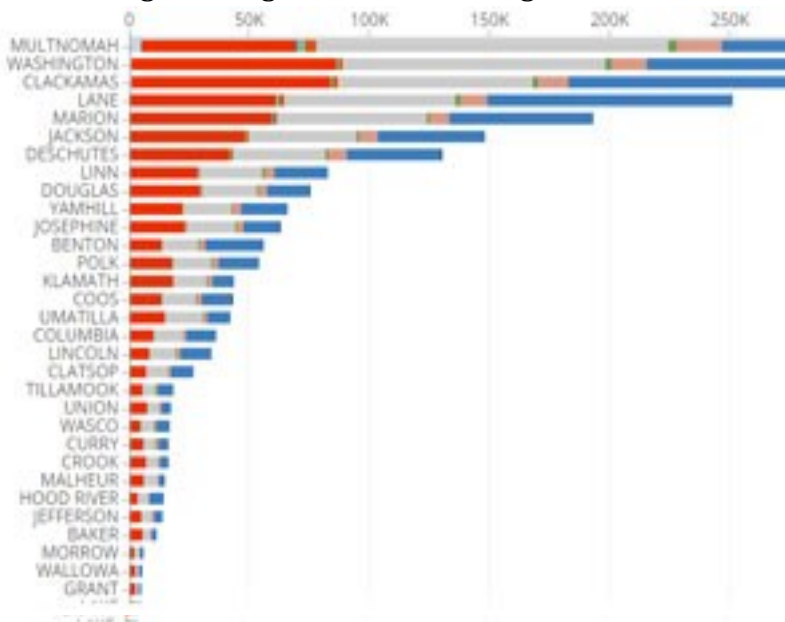
Democracy depends on voters being able to have confidence in the integrity of our election administration and election results. When public officials undermine that confidence with claims without evidence that election fraud has occurred, we are all damaged.



Just after election day, our president and the winning candidate for Florida governor both asserted without evidence that voting fraud had occurred, even though the polls had just closed and tens of thousands of absentee and provisional ballots had yet to be counted. The Republicans claimed that the Democrats were trying to steal the election; the Democrats claimed that not all ballots would be counted. Georgia was a similar situation with claims and counter claims about voter suppression. Shameful!

In Oregon we proudly had no such claims. We have a strong tradition of open and honest elections. With League leadership and with our vote-by-mail system, online voter registration, automatic voter registration, and now registration of 16-year-olds, we encourage everyone to participate. As a consequence, we had in this past election the **highest turnout as a proportion of the eligible citizens** in the whole country! We also have an election administration that gives all voters confidence in the results, and that our paper ballot votes can be recounted. The only criticism that I might have is that our current system of auditing the voting could be improved with a [statistical risk-limiting audit](#). Thank God that we are not Florida!

Our next big challenge will be reforming how we do redistricting in Oregon. Stay tuned!



Registered Voters by County:
 Red=Republican,
 Blue=Democrat,
 Tan=Independent,
 Grey=Nonaffiliated,
 others=minor parties

<https://data.oregon.gov/Administrative/Voter-Registration-by-County/ef2p-uir9>

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