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OUR MISSION

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON (LWVOR) IS A GRASSROOTS, NONPARTISAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION THAT ENCOURAGES INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO BUILD BETTER COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE. LWVOR’S PURPOSES ARE TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY, AND TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR LEAGUE MEMBERS AND THE LEAGUE ORGANIZATION.

LWVOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2019

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REBECCA GLADSTONE, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT
ALICE BARTELT, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT
SALLY HOLLEMON, SECRETARY
RUTH KISTLER, TREASURER

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KATHLEEN HERSH, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
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LUIS NAVA, OUTREACH CHAIR
KARAN KUNTZ, PROGRAM CHAIR
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NORMAN TURRILL, PRESIDENT

This will be my last communication with you as your outgoing President, so I would like to make the most of it.

I would first like to outline the accomplishments that we have done together over the last 4 years, then we can talk about the future of the Oregon League. I have listed these accomplishments in five categories: Administration, Voter Service, Development, Membership and Action.

WE PERHAPS MADE THE MOST IMPROVEMENT UNDER LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION.

1. As started by Robin Wisdom and at the direction of the 2015 state Convention, we completed the consolidation the regular and education fund corporations into the LWVOR, a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational corporation. This has been a great boon and advantage for the financial and administrative health of the Oregon League.

2. Likewise, we supported several local Leagues in their conversion from 501(c)(4) to 501(c)(3) organizations.

3. We used frequent email, phone and video meetings so that any League member anywhere in Oregon can serve on the Board or on committees without hardship.

4. We provided an electronic spreadsheet for expense vouchers.

5. We consolidated and updated all Policies, Procedures and Guidelines into one document.

6. We purchased an updated financial accounting system that could be shared with the staff.

7. We expanded our staff from one to three members to better support our volunteer members and programs.

8. We raised the staff wages so that they could afford medical insurance, which we could not buy for them.
9. We updated all our office computer, printer, network, and internet systems.

10. We applied for and received a free G-Suite package of applications and services from Google for nonprofit organizations.

11. We rebuilt our website and made it mobile device friendly and more accessible to people with disabilities.

**UNDER VOTER SERVICE**

12. We provided Voters’ Guides, VOTE411 and other voter services at no cost to local Leagues to strengthen the cooperation between state and local Leagues.

13. We expanded our VOTE411 to at least list every candidate for any office in the state. This was an enormous job! We are now trying to get the legislature to allow electronic filing for all offices in the state, which will make this job for VOTE411 much easier.

14. We expanded our Spanish Voters’ Guides translation and distribution.

15. We expanded and moved our award-winning Mock Elections program to a new vendor. Some of these same educational materials started being used for English literacy and citizenship programs under our Spanish outreach program.

16. We completed a Who Represents You demonstration website putting contact information for almost 7100 elected officials online. This was another enormous job! We are now trying to get the legislature to provide this service for everyone.

17. We completed studies for Children at Risk, Election Method Update, Postsecondary Education, and Hard Rock Mining.

**UNDER LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT**

18. We revived the Development Committee and completed a very successful large donor Legacy Campaign, raising tens of thousands of dollars.

19. We applied for and received several large financial grants and bequests.

20. We created a 100th Anniversary Committee, which is now planning a huge gala event for March 2020.

21. We created and implemented a new investment policy and committee to ensure the financial health of the Oregon League long into the future, perhaps another 100 years!

22. As a result of these efforts, we now have substantial reserve funds.

23. We expanded the membership some 20% (with the inspiration of a candidate in the 2016 election) and we formed three new State Units.

24. We expanded and improved our communications with local Leagues with a nearly monthly President’s Message to replace the old Board Packet.

25. We successfully sent delegations to all national League Conventions and Councils.

26. For the first time, we held a Joint Council meeting with the LWV of Washington State.

27. We successfully had a Board member visit nearly all local Leagues for their annual meetings.

28. We purchased a new membership and donor database system that has been implemented during summer 2019. The plan is to offer to share this system with all local Leagues in Oregon.
UNDER ADVOCACY AND ACTION

29. We expanded our Action Committee to some 20 members, publishing a Legislative Report every week during legislative sessions.

30. We completed a thorough updating and reformatting of our Issues for Action publication.

31. We expanded our involvement and membership with various advocacy coalitions, formally and informally.

32. League members were appointed to represent the League on formal state task forces on campaign finance and redistricting, on the Drinking Water Advisory Commission and the Electronic Portal Advisory Board. League members also served on informal task forces and workgroups.

33. We signed onto an Amicus Curiae brief together with the LWVUS in support of the Our Children’s Trust federal and state lawsuits, with the support of a donation from a generous League member.

34. We publicly supported with advertisements a tax ballot measure which lost, but we achieved great visibility and perhaps notoriety in the process.

35. We completed a successful Great Schools education campaign.

36. We completed a successful redistricting education campaign and organized the Redistricting Matters Coalition, which we will hear more about later this year.

I have listed some 36 major accomplishments from the last four years. These were not my accomplishments! I only delegated and supervised the great volunteer work of too many dedicated members to recognize at this time!

So how can we continue these accomplishments into the future? We must continue to expand our membership by welcoming every person who shows interest in the League, then find out what they want to do (not what we want them to do).

We must use the DEI program (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) to expand our membership.

We must continue to be visible in our communities with great programs, forums and partnerships with other organizations. We must not be afraid to be a bit controversial! Controversy attracts visibility, which attracts new members.

We must continue our advocacy and action programs, since these also enhance our reputation, influence, and visibility.

Lastly, we must maintain the financial health of the League, creating a legacy for the next 100 years.

In short, we must continue Making Democracy Work™ in Oregon.

Thank you for listening to my thoughts!
## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

A look at the financial health of LWVOR over the last biennium.

### FINANCIAL REPORT 2017-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>FY 17-18</th>
<th>FY 18-19</th>
<th>FY 17-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member dues/fees</td>
<td>28,902</td>
<td>32,183</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member cash contributions</td>
<td>32,433</td>
<td>35,074</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-member cash contributions</td>
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<td>23,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biennial Report contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-cash contributions</td>
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<td>Meetings, workshops</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
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<td>From Endowment Fund</td>
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<td>Legacies and Bequests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Matching Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$193,064</strong></td>
<td><strong>$458,161</strong></td>
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### EXPENSES

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<th>FY 17-18</th>
<th>FY 18-19</th>
<th>FY 17-19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Support and Office</td>
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<td>70,613</td>
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<td>Development</td>
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<td>Membership support / meetings</td>
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<td>34,112</td>
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<td>Newsletter</td>
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<td>Advocacy activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lobbying</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>5,228</td>
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<tr>
<td>Studies: Research &amp; publications</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,422</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voter Service</td>
<td>18,465</td>
<td>27,462</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$120,678</strong></td>
<td><strong>$173,941</strong></td>
<td><strong>$294,619</strong></td>
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VOTER SERVICE REPORT

REBECCA GLADSTONE, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

As we approach our 100th anniversary, heading toward another important Oregon election, we are gearing up to address expanding and urgent outreach and voter service needs. After the 2016 presidential election, interest in our League voting materials and election events grew dramatically.

EVENTS

Our election events are evolving. We updated our Voter Service policy to clarify our old “empty chair policy”. Leagues around the country have noticed a growing trend as candidates cancelled debate appearances, possibly hoping to prevent opponents from gaining exposure to voters. We do not hold events for individual candidates since that could promote their campaigns. We’re still conducting debates and issue forums, now also adding candidate and issue fairs and “candi-dating”, where voters can meet a number of candidates running for different offices. The League partnered in sponsoring the 2018 gubernatorial debate shown above, a single-issue event, with children from around Oregon posing questions about issues important to them.
VOTERS’ GUIDES

League “Voters’ Guide” is becoming a generic term for our complete candidate and ballot measure coverage, for all state and local candidates, all state and local ballot measures. We list all candidates and ballot measures online, do not charge fees to be included. Online voting information is in English and Spanish, and is mobile-friendly. We include everything voters need to know, from registration to dropbox locations, to an embedded Vote411 box on our website to look up specific ballot candidates and ballot measures by address.

PRODUCTION

The time crunch between candidate filing deadline(s) and the election remains extremely challenging. We contact our 241 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.

ONLINE VOTING INFORMATION

We continue to partner with the State Library, Talking books and Braille Service, to provide audio recordings and information for Braille Voters’ Guides. The audio recordings are posted on our website, increasingly popular, with a podcast-like menu for the state ballot measures and candidates.

Our “Video Voters’ Guide” range is limited by partnerships with local studios who cover only their local candidates. Nevertheless, we ran 82 interviews and events for the fall 2018 season. Our website use continues to grow.

We had an active presence in social media, tweeting and posting at least daily on Facebook, gradually adding Instagram. We purchased Google ads for the first time with ads seen 108,000 times, and over 4,300 engaged clicks, costing $2,071. On Facebook, we reached over 62,000 the week before the election, over 150,000 the month before the 2018 general election.
Several of our county parties exhausted their 2018 printed Voters’ Guides orders within the first weekend! We printed 21,000 in English and almost 5,000 in Spanish. Those orders were expected to be ample for the entire 2018 election season. We anticipated reducing our print distribution but feel we must fill the popular demand. We seem to be reaching voters new to our services and are sensitive to some without computer access or skills to search for voter information. Our printed guides only cover state measures and candidates, less than 10% of our collected information. Once printed we cannot update or correct them.

**NONPARTISANSHIP**

LWVOR Voter Service is totally nonpartisan and does not advocate for or against any party, candidate, policy, or ballot issue. Statements, Voters’ Guides, reports, and presentations under the auspices of Voter Service reflect balanced issue analysis and research of pros and cons. We do not favor particular positions.

Both LWVOR Voter Service and Action are nonpartisan. Neither ever supports any political candidate or political party.
During this biennium, the 80th Oregon Assembly enacted numerous laws of merit.

The Governor signed several bills of significance to the League. New funding for schools, the Student Success Act, was passed by adding a new tax on businesses. The Legislature referred to the 2020 general election ballot new tobacco and vaping taxes and a constitutional amendment that will allow campaign contributions to be limited. Another success was our effort to pass changes in housing laws that will allow for more availability, especially for lower income folks. Much of our members’ time was spent watching and testifying about revenue and the budget. Having enough money to fund government services continues to be a challenge, even with the passage of the Student Success Act.

Also during the interim between legislative sessions, some of our members are serving on task forces and work groups. We have representatives serving on a number of state and multistate organizations.

It remains our goal to gain even better access to the Legislature and the political process. Each year our legislature continues to increase public access to information. A person 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 read a bill's summary or the testimony provided. One can even go back and watch or listen to a particular hearing or floor session.

A very positive factor in the ability of the Legislature to function was the series of interim committee meetings, which League members faithfully attended. This enabled the discussion of important issues and the development of legislation.
The Action Team was privileged to have many new volunteers. Our Action Committee membership tripled during this biennium! There are seven coordinators who oversee the volunteers in their issue areas. This allowed more in-depth coverage for several areas, such as climate change, housing issues, gun safety, education, and criminal justice reform.

To help members and others understand issues and how to influence legislation, we conducted action workshops, including Legislative Process Day in January 2019 and Day at the Legislature in April 2019. These were both very well attended. In addition, a Legislative Report is published every week. This documents activity in every area. This is a huge task for volunteers and staff alike.

**ABOUT THE LEAGUE IN ACTION**

Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) has a membership of more than 1,100 volunteers, women and men. LWVOR Voter Service provides candidate and ballot measure information. We reaffirm our commitment to provide nonpartisan, scrupulously balanced and neutral information to help Oregonians understand vital public issues.

LWVOR Action may take stands on issues based on League comprehensive, thorough, balanced studies. LWVOR researches, then our members discuss and agree on advocacy positions based on study results. Our membership is open to men and women from all political parties and those not affiliated with any party. We work with elected officials from all parties.
DEVELOPMENT REPORT

CHRIS VOGEL, DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

In the past few years the League of Women Voters of Oregon has experienced financial stability, thanks in large part to a generous gift from the Frenkel family, both long term League members active in Natural Resources and Conservation issues. We have also experienced a surge in membership at the state and national level. That hasn’t always been true. In fact, just prior to this past national presidential election, membership was waning and LWVOR’s board searched for new ways to operate with dwindling financial resources. What a difference a few years have made!

As our non-profit celebrates 100 years in Oregon in 2020, we recognize that we’ll experience ups and downs in the future as we have in the past. If you (League members and friends of the League) appreciate our work and have intended to make a financial donation while living or to remember LWVOR in your will, please take the time to do so, in writing, so others will know your intention to contribute to “The League of Women Voters of Oregon” now or in the future.

Certainly, it is a rarity that a huge sum such as the Frenkel family gift of $117,030.93 provides a bonus for operations, but together we are mighty. Your $500 or $1,000 gift can make a huge difference today and tomorrow!

We thank those of you who have made contributions, many of whom wish to remain anonymous.

If you are at least age 70 ½ you may make a qualified distribution up to $100,000 per year directly from your IRA to a qualified charity. Be sure to check with your tax adviser. The distribution typically comes out of the IRA without the withdrawal tax consequences that would otherwise apply.

"We thank those of you who have made contributions."
CONSOLIDATING FUNDRAISING FOR LWVOR
501(C)(3) AND 501(C)(4) BRANCHES

The Development Committee and LWVOR Board recognized the value of consolidating our 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations as approved at Convention in 2015. In doing so, the LWVOR-Education Fund and the League of Women Voters of Oregon now operate as one unit, a 501(c)(3). This was possible because the primary work of League is to educate; so our actual expenses for lobbying fall well within the IRS restrictions for a 501(c)(3). In the past only contributions to the Education Fund were tax-deductible to donors. Now all donations to the LWVOR typically qualify under IRS rules.

GRANTS RECEIVED BY LWVOR IN 2018-2019

LWVOR is extremely grateful to three external sources of funding, used primarily for voter service activities:
- David and Christine Vernier, $6,000 in 2018 and $3,000 in 2019
- Carol and Velma Saling Foundation, $41,500 in 2018 and $50,000 in 2019
- LWUS, $7,500 for education forums on redistricting

LWVOR continues to be most appreciative to the Carol and Velma Saling Foundation; the League addresses one of the Foundation’s charitable purposes of informing citizens of governmental issues and participation in the democratic process. We are most grateful for this grant that may be used for ongoing operating expenses.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

KATHLEEN HERSH, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

The LWVOR Board adopted a diversity policy: “The League of Women Voters of Oregon is an organization fully committed to equity and diversity. We actively value differences and recognize that people from different backgrounds and experiences can bring valuable insights to the organization and the work we do. LWV of Oregon strives to be an inclusive organization, where diversity is valued, respected and built upon. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the LWV of Oregon on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, age, sexual orientation, culture, religion or belief system, disability, political perspective or affiliation.”

There has been continued growth in membership but it has been uneven with some local Leagues growing and others struggling to stay even.

The MLD (Membership and Leadership Development) program has continued with experienced leaders coaching League leaders. The Shur Fellows have shifted emphasis to Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity.
OREGON STUDENT MOCK ELECTION

The fall of 2020 will bring a flurry of activity as students around Oregon engage in mock elections. LWVOR is researching partnerships that will provide the best opportunities with in-class and electronic ballots. Our student ballots will list Oregon statewide candidates and ballot measures with background information, culminating with a statewide tally for participating schools. Many thanks to the Multnomah Bar Foundation for their support of these activities.

CIVICS EDUCATION

LWVOR online curriculum is available to all students and teachers in Oregon. Our materials have been used from elementary schools through community college classes. We have recently added resources dealing with the timely topics of Voter Suppression and Women’s Suffrage.

HARVARD CASE METHOD STUDY PROJECT

Case method teaching has been the core pedagogy at Harvard Business School for decades. This methodology has recently been expanded to support topics in history and civics. With the help of local leagues, LWVOR was able to facilitate 13 Oregon teachers attending this fabulous professional development opportunity in Boston this summer. We were proud and excited that ours was the largest state group to attend! As a follow up activity to the training, teachers and leagues will be sponsoring community events to showcase this strategy.

Watch for a presentation near you! We look forward to an even greater participation in the program in the 2019-2020 academic year.

2020 CENSUS

The League is fully committed to supporting Census 2020 activities. The success of this count will determine the level of funding and services that communities in Oregon receive for the next ten years. Plans are being developed for a partnership between LWVOR and local libraries to help with the online count. Stay tuned for ways in which you can support this very important work.

The Statistics in Schools program provides free activities to educate students about the value and everyday uses of Census Bureau data, including the data collected during the 2020 Census. Whether you’re teaching pre-K students or high schoolers, there are many ways to incorporate census data into lessons. Teachers can access free activities that incorporate this data into subjects such as math, geography, history, sociology, and English language arts.
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Your continued support makes our work possible. Please contact our state office for complete donor lists.

GET INVOLVED

Learn more about joining the LWVOR Action Committee, becoming a member of your local league or donating to the league at LWVOR.org.

Contact the League of Women Voters of Oregon at LWVOR@LWVOR.ORG or at 503-581-5722.