What a month March has been and April promises to be extremely challenging. Please let me assure you that our League work is continuing! The COVID-19 pandemic affects every aspect of our goals, networking, and communication. The LWVUS had a small meeting last week of leaders from states using Vote by Mail, querying details to coordinate recommendations, outreach etc., as we try to protect voting for public health reasons. Oregon is definitely in the game and we're pulling our weight to help. Our Cybersecurity Study continues to be timely, most recently with discussions weighing legal privacy concerns of cellphone geolocation tracking and public health covid-19 contact tracing. A President’s message was sent to League Leaders in mid-March and our VOTER will come out shortly, emailed and sent to members with more in-depth information on our many efforts.

I hope all of you and your loved ones are managing well through these trying times! Fewer are sharing April Fools’ jokes this year. We are busy with the evolving official advice to wash hands, to mitigate exposure by “social distancing”, and now to “Stay Home, Stay Safe”. Aside from the concerns of the day, it is a beautiful spring and we have a very serious election coming. Thank you for your dedication to our shared mission and please keep reading for:

- **Remote Meetings**: advice and updates on LWVOR Council, LWVUS Convention, Voter Service Debates, Unit and Consensus question meetings
- **Voter Service 2020**: Voters’ Guides, Video Voters’ Guides, Initiative Petitions, and debates (above)
- **Our 100th Anniversary**: local League grants and events, the March 7th “Century
Remote Meetings

League leaders and staff around the country have been comparing and sharing notes and retooling as quickly as possible to facilitate online discussions, to adapt to large online meetings, voting for our upcoming virtual state Council, and ramping up our varied online Voter Services. For some, it is not clear that these meetings fulfill bylaws requirements so we shared ours. Please see Community Building During the Coronavirus, on our website for remote meeting help and coronavirus information.

Our next focus will be to welcoming the very newest of users, at the most introductory, user-friendly level. I consider this a broad-reaching service to all of our members who are able to connect in this way since it seems likely that we will be able to use these tools in many contexts. I'm sorry that the change is stressful during this already stressful time.

LWVOR Council

The board has voted to cancel our in-person Council meeting. Our bylaws require that we meet to conduct board elections, approve the annual budget, and tweak a few positions adopted in Convention. Our Lincoln County league hosts in Newport had planned speakers, caucus meetings, and dine-arounds. We are hoping these events, aside from the business segments, can be rescheduled.

LWVUS Convention

We are standing by for developing news from LWVUS on the June Convention in Washington DC. All three of our requested caucuses were approved:

1. Making Climate Change a LWVUS Program Priority
2. International Immigration caused by Climate Change
3. Privacy and Cybersecurity study Presentation

Voter Service Debates

The current state declarations against in-person meetings directly affect our debate plans. We cannot conduct in-person debates now so we are researching and learning about remotely attended meetings as quickly as we can. See LWVOR Staging Remote Events. We do recommend practicing and adding features as you gain traction with the basics.

Unit Meetings

Unit meetings and consensus question discussions for the new study would be a perfect way to practice your remote meeting connections with friends in the League. This is covered in our “Virtual Meetings” advice. The advice for first-time users should be posted soon.
Voter Service: Oregon
Primary 2020 and beyond

Please sign up to get online information from our social media. Click the icons in this newsletter and stay in touch. We will be posting reminders for voter registration, ballot delivery, Vote411 and Video Voters’ Guides. These are not subscriptions; you can check in at your convenience to catch up.

Please remember that we hope to have ballot measure research during the summer. Now fewer petitions may successfully reach required signature threshold numbers given restrictions in public gatherings and current business closures. We cannot collect signatures for our Redistricting work yet.

Voters’ Guides

Our Voters’ Guide production is underway, to be posted online in English, Spanish, as podcast-style recordings, in large-print, with candidate videos, and with Vote411 built right in to see what will be on ballots, searchable by address. These guides continue to cover only the state candidates and measures, less than 10% of the complete information we provide. The printed versions will have a much-reduced distribution this spring since many of our usual drop-off sites are closed.

Video Voters’ Guides

Three Leagues regularly contribute to our collection of candidate interviews in the Video Voters’ Guides: TVCTV in Beaverton, CCTV in Salem, and MetroEast in Gresham. They are offering expansions on remote recordings so more voters will be able to “meet” candidates.

Initiative Petitions and Ballot Measures

Our redistricting petitions, IPs 57, 58, and 59, our coalition work for campaign finance reform, SJR 18, and others are evaluating ways to shift from in-person signature gathering to e-petitions. In early March, we discussed contagion risks of sharing clipboards and pens in person with Elections Director Steve Trout and with gubernatorial staff. We followed up with a rulemaking petition requesting a clarification in filing electronic petition requirements. The Elections Division clarified the requirements for submitting printed petition signature sheets by mail. These can be downloaded from websites and then printed, signed, and mailed. The clarification is that the full text of initiatives would not need to be printed and included in the mailing. This is important because these can be dozens of pages long and could be a burden to mail.

Our 100th Anniversary

More information will come in the VOTER for the status of local League grants and so forth. Many local events are currently on hold since we cannot yet predict when we might safely schedule them, or predict how the course of the next phase of the disease spread will alter event planning and so forth.

The “Century Celebration”

Our deep gratitude to the committee working on the memorable 100th Anniversary Gala and to those who produced the video and slide show shared on March 7th. A very large
thank you to our staff, which worked for hundreds of hours in the background, administering committee work, reading e-mails, processing vendor and attendee accounts, etc. The luncheon itself seems distant in some ways but the contract was signed in July 2018! The entire event was video recorded and portions will be available soon for viewing.

**The Portland Rose Parade**
The Portland League has been invited to march to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the 19th Amendment, now postponed, perhaps to August.

**LWVOR Cyber Study News**

What are You Reading? Some actually do have a little more time to *read* right now! Our committee found the material fascinating, complex and challenging! It will take time to grasp.

The Study Committee encourages you to peruse the study and the related materials, with a League presentation video for Privacy and Cybersecurity Today. The study is not a “book” but there is a Recommended Reading list that we found fascinating in the course of our research. We deeply appreciate the Portland League’s attention to this study and hospitality in sponsoring the recent program and recording. Thanks to LWVPDX, you can see a video presentation (stills below) of the study, so helpful since our numerous scheduled presentations have been cancelled.

Many of our members chose to opt-out of requesting a printed, mailed copy. Printing for the remainder is underway and a copy will be mailed to those member households.
Study Consensus timing
Remember that our original cyber study timeline called for consensus meetings in April and May. Your responses are still very welcome in the original time frame. The board considered how busy our Leagues would be by May, distributing Voters’ Guides and conducting voter service events for the primary and offered the option of delaying consensus replies until after the fall general election. Now with "stay home, stay safe", some members may have more time to read and discuss the study. Some Units might feel that devoting time now would still be preferable.

Action
The 2020 Legislative session ended a few weeks ago, not with the usual Sine Die, but as we noted, just with a sigh, with regrets across the board for what could have been accomplished. In case you missed it, take a look at that final 2020 Interim Legislative Report. Action is still “active” since the shorter 2020 session concluded:

- **The third congressional COVID-19 economic relief package.** We successfully petitioned LWVUS to send a letter supporting numerous features.
- “**Call to Action to Stop Hate Crime**” from the Oregon Department of Justice related to the pandemic. We have signed, expect release soon.
- **Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response.** We requested improved transparency in posting documents discussed, hundreds within the first day.
- **State agency budgets** and many advisory announcements are being addressed and we’re standing by for a possible Special Legislative Session of only a day or so.

Post script
Many of us are now attending numerous “distance meetings” every day, ZOOM, some Microsoft Team and Skype, and others. There is information on these also in our pages linked above. If this bingo card (just for fun) below doesn’t make sense yet, it may soon and we hope you find humor in it. 😊

![Bingo Card](image)

Thank you for reading and please keep in touch!
A printable version of this newsletter can be found on our website [here](#).